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HARDING, LEWIS A.

HISTORY OF DECATUR COUNTY,

INDIANA







HISTORY  
OF  
DECATUR COUNTY  
INDIANA

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

v. 2

LEWIS A. HARDING

Editor

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Diplomacy of the Spanish-American War," a study in international  
law, "The Call of the Hour," "A Few Spoken Words," etc.

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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# THE HISTORY OF INDIANA

BY  
J. H. HARRIS

CHICAGO, ILL., 1898

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

1898

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

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## JOSEPH PATTERSON.

Of the many retired farmers living in Greensburg, Indiana, who have been successful in their life's vocation, mention must be made of Joseph Patterson, a native of County Antrim, Ireland, who was born on July 12, 1839, the son of Roger and Mary Jane (Hall) Patterson.

Roger Patterson, after immigrating to America, in 1845, to find a home for his family, located in Clinton township, Decatur county, Indiana, where he rented land for a short time, and, in 1847, the family, consisting of a wife and two sons, John and Joseph, joined the husband and father. Roger Patterson died when he was thirty-seven years old, in 1855, leaving a wife and two children, who, at that time, were living in Clinton township. John was killed in the second battle of Bull Run. The mother, who was married again to Michael Ryan, had three children by the second marriage, Mrs. Sallie Meek, William and Mrs. Katie Lanham, all of whom are living at Greensburg, Indiana. The mother of these children died at an advanced age.

During the Civil War, hogs sold for a considerable period for ten dollars a hundredweight, and it was during this time that the venerable Joseph Patterson purchased his farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He raised a great many hogs, and, being successful with them, was soon able to pay for his land. Beginning with nothing, he took advantage of the opportunities offered and soon made good, prior to which time he had rented and for several years in Clinton township. His farm is now well improved and very valuable. In 1905 Mr. Patterson moved to Greensburg.

In September, 1857, when he was eighteen years old, Joseph Patterson was first married to Mary Bird, the daughter of William and Maria Bird, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively, who moved to Decatur county, Indiana, in the late twenties. They reared a family of eight children: Harvey, who married Sarah Lowe; Mrs. Martha Anna Johnson; Benjamin, who married a Miss Small; Henry, who married a Miss Davidson; Edwin, who married Charlotte Powers; Harriett, the wife of William Sefton; Mary, the wife of a Mr. Patterson, and Minerva, who first married Jacob Hickman and had four children, Luna, William, deceased; Martha, the wife of Charles S. Reed, who lives in Washington township, and Mrs. Ottawa Baumgarten, who lives in Greensburg. Mrs. Mary Patterson was born on July 31, 1839, and died on May 1, 1908. Four years after her death, Mr. Patterson was again married to Minerva, the sister of his first wife, the marriage taking place on December 9, 1912.

To Joseph and Mary (Bird) Patterson were born seven children, all of whom are still living, Mrs. Maria Jane Robison, who lives near Adams and has one child, Millicent; Harriet Elizabeth, who is the wife of J. L. Hamilton and has one child, Cora; Mrs. Nora Olive Ford, who lives at Greensburg and has one child, Mary; John William, of Clinton township, who married Lou Hazelrigg and has three sons, William, Van and Daniel; James, who married Margaret Goddard and lives on the old home place; Charles, of near Adams, who married Dessa Guthrie and has one child, Charles Guthrie, and Mrs. Ina Anderson, of Greensburg. Mr. Patterson died on May 19, 1915, at the age of seventy-six years.

Although Mr. Patterson was a Republican all of his life, in 1912 he voted the Democratic national ticket, supporting the Democratic candidate, now the President of this country, Woodrow Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg.

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#### WILLIAM M. MCCOY.

William M. McCoy, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, who removed from his farm one and one-half miles southeast of Greensburg, in September, 1914, to that city, was born on January 16, 1832, in Washington county, Indiana, and is the son of Alexander and Prudence (Armstrong) McCoy, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively, the former of whom was born on October 18, 1794, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of whom was born on November 2, 1809, and who died, January 31, 1857. Alexander McCoy, a representative of the third generation of the McCoy family in America, removed with his parents to Bourbon county, Kentucky, from Washington, Pennsylvania, when a small child, and there was reared, coming to Decatur county, Indiana, from Washington county, Indiana, December 25, 1833. He died on his farm near Kingston, June 1, 1877. He was married to Prudence Armstrong, January 4, 1831, in Washington county, Indiana, where he was a charter member of the Kingston Presbyterian church, and at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of this church was the only surviving charter member.

Alexander and Prudence (Armstrong) McCoy had nine children, the names of whom follow in the order of their birth: William M. McCoy, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest child born to his parents and first saw the light of day at Salem, in Washington county, Indiana; Leander Aretas,

who was born on March 14, 1834, died on August 7, 1900; Sarepta, June 20, 1836, married William Franklin Cox, a soldier in the Civil War, and they lived at Montrose, Illinois, both are deceased; Daniel Judson, August 8, 1839, was killed in the battle of the Wilderness; James Burney, August 8, 1839, a twin of Daniel Judson, died on October 17 of the same year; Philonadus, June 3, 1843, deceased, lived in Indianapolis, Indiana; Orpheus, January 8, 1846, died on March 3, 1904; Milissa, March 29, 1849, died on July 17, 1851; Cassius C., July 25, 1852, lives at Greensburg, Indiana. Two children, therefore, out of this family of nine, are still living.

Alexander McCoy, who, for the purpose of this sketch, may be designated Alexander II., was the son of Alexander McCoy I., the latter of whom was born in Scotland, in 1753, and who married Nancy Campbell, in 1780, eight years after coming to this country. He and his wife had six children born in Pennsylvania, and five children born in Kentucky. Those born in Pennsylvania were John C. William, Daniel, Angus C., Margaret and Alexander. In 1794, the family removed to Bourbon county, Kentucky, and after their removal, there were born, Jane, Mary, George, James and Campbell.

Alexander McCoy I. was the son of William McCoy, the founder of the family in America, who was born in Sutherlandshire, Scotland, in 1730, and emigrated to America, settling on the east shore of Maryland in 1772, and later removed to Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania. His remains are buried at Ruddles Mills cemetery in Bourbon county, Kentucky.

William Martin McCoy, the subject of this sketch, was married on November 2, 1871, to Mary Jane Jones, who was born on December 25, 1844, in Cincinnati, and who is the daughter of Roland and Catherine (Hughes) Jones, natives of Wales, who came to this country from Cardingshire before their marriage in 1840. They lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the father was a stationary engineer, and where he lived and died. He was born in 1820, and died in October, 1875. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Catherine Hughes, was born in 1822, and died in 1850. They had three children, John, of Bellevue, Kentucky; Mrs. Mary Jane McCoy, and Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, of Hyde Park, Cincinnati.

To Mr. and Mrs. William M. McCoy have been born three children, Minnie Prudence, Ralph Evans and Robert. Of these children Minnie was born on October 10, 1872, and married Carl Hendrick, who was born on November 22, 1870. They had three children, Ralph, who was born on November 12, 1899; William Boland, December 11, 1901, and Rose Eualine, October 29, 1904, at Terre Haute, Indiana. They reside in Indianapolis; Ralph Evans, who was born on June 20, 1878, lives on the home farm east

of Greensburg. He married Daisy Barnes and they have one child, William Frederick; Robert, who was born on April 16, 1880, was a civil engineer until his death, October 30, 1914.

After his marriage, Mr. McCoy settled at McCoy Station, where he rented one hundred and forty acres of land for two years. At the end of this period he purchased one hundred and sixty acres near Kingston, and lived there for nearly two years, when he moved to another farm one and one-half miles southeast of Greensburg, consisting of ninety-six acres of well-improved land. In September, 1914, Mr. and Mrs. McCoy removed to Greensburg.

William M. McCoy is a Republican in politics, and Mr. and Mrs. McCoy are both members of the Presbyterian church, as are the other members of their family. They are well known and highly respected not only in Greensburg, but in Decatur county.

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#### DAN S. PERRY.

Among the strongest financial institutions in the city of Greensburg is the Greensburg National Bank, of which Dan S. Perry has been cashier for several years, having entered the bank in July, 1900, at its organization, as assistant cashier. The Greensburg National Bank began business with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, but on November 5, 1906, its capital was raised to seventy-five thousand dollars, and it now has a surplus of twenty-five thousand dollars, undivided profits of seven thousand dollars, and average deposits of three hundred thousand dollars. James M. Woodfill has been president since its organization. Mr. Perry, who was the original assistant cashier, succeeded J. B. Kitchum as cashier in 1904. The other officers are Will H. Robbins, vice-president, and A. J. Lowe, assistant cashier. Messrs. Robbins, D. A. Myers, C. P. Miller, Oliver Deem, J. B. Kitchin and John H. Deniston constitute the board of directors. The correspondent banks are the Fifth-Third National, of Cincinnati; the Indiana National, of Indianapolis; the National Bank of Commerce, of New York City, and the Federal Reserve Bank, of Chicago, the Greensburg National being a member of the Federal Reserve Associated Banks.

The popular and efficient cashier of the Greensburg National Bank is descended from an old family of this section, his grandfather, Dan S. Perry, having settled in Washington township, Decatur county, in 1824. Here



he purchased land, and after clearing a small tract, erected a log cabin. Dan S. Perry, who was a soldier in the War of 1812, and who had moved from the ancestral home in Virginia to the state of Kentucky, was the son of Frederick Perry, a member of the personal body-guard of General Washington during the Revolutionary War. Dan S. Perry is, therefore, descended from Revolutionary ancestry and is himself of militant and patriotic stock. Born in July, 1873, on a farm in Decatur county, Dan S. is the son of Leonard and Cinderella (Boyce) Perry, the former a native of Kentucky, who had come with his father, Dan S. Perry, Sr., from Kentucky to Washington township, Decatur county, in 1824, and the latter of whom was a native of Indiana, and reared in Decatur county. Leonard Perry, who lived on the ancestral farm for sixty years, was born in 1824, and died in February, 1909. His wife, who died in 1873, left a family of nine children, as follow: Dina P. Craig, of Greensburg; Will L. and Louisa, of Greensburg; Squire D., who lives on a farm east of Greensburg; George S., who lives on the old home place; Mrs. Chester Edkins, of Greensburg; Allen M. and Pierce, deceased, and Dan S., the subject of this sketch.

Dan S. Perry during his youth and early manhood enjoyed the educational advantages which the schools of Decatur county afforded. After having finished the course in the country schools, he attended Greensburg high school, and when eighteen years old became a student in one of the leading Cincinnati business colleges. After finishing the course in the business college, he returned to Greensburg and studied law in the office of D. A. Miers for six years. Two years of this period he served as court stenographer. Upon the organization of the Greensburg National Bank, in 1900, Mr. Perry became assistant cashier, and four years later succeeded to the office of cashier, a position which he has held ever since, a period of eleven years.

Mr. Perry was married on November 30, 1893, to Elsie Russell, daughter of Richard Russell, of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Perry have had one son, Russell Myers, who is now twenty years old, and who is a student in the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Missouri.

A Republican in politics, Dan S. Perry has never been prominent in political work, although he has always maintained a keen interest in good government and in the election of capable men in public office. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

As a banker, Dan S. Perry is regarded as a man with few peers and no superiors in Decatur county. The growth and present prosperous condition

of the Greensburg National Bank are due to the wise and efficient management of its board of directors and especially its officers. Mr. Perry has never been found wanting in any test which has been imposed upon him. He has safe-guarded the interests of the bank, and at the same time his cordial relations with the patrons of the bank have brought substantial increases in business year by year. Honorable and upright in all of the relations of life, private and public, he possesses the confidence of the people and enjoys their respect as a private citizen.

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### JOSEPH W. GARRISON.

The late Joseph W. Garrison, the son of David and Mary (Fugit) Garrison, was descended on his mother's side from the very first settlers of Decatur county, Indiana. His grandfather, Judge John Fugit, who was born in the mountains of Russell county, Virginia, in 1770, came in March, 1819, with Guffy Griffiths and Elias Janett from Franklin county to Decatur county, Indiana, and settled one mile east of the present site of Clarksburg at the forks of the road. John Fugit, after his marriage, had moved to Floyd county, Kentucky, from Virginia and from Floyd county, in 1808, to Hamilton county, Ohio. Two years later the family had moved to Cedar Grove, Franklin county, Indiana, where they lived until 1818, when, owing to the hostility of the Indians, they were compelled to seek safety in the old fort eight miles west of Brookville. The next year they came on to Decatur county, Indiana.

The Fugit family was one of considerable achievements and note in the pioneer history of Decatur county, several members of the family having held important positions of trust and responsibility. Judge John Fugit, who had been a justice of the peace in Franklin county before his removal to Decatur county, or what was then called the "New Purchase," brought with him his commission and docket and acted as justice of the peace up to the time the county was organized, when he was elected one of the first associate justices of the circuit court. In 1825, the Fugits moved to Turner's Corner in Clay township, where they lived until 1839, when John Fugit moved to Milford, where he died in 1844.

It was a daughter of John Fugit, Mary (Fugit) Garrison, the mother of the late Joseph W. Garrison, who was known, during her time, as "the washerwoman for all Decatur county," there having been at this time only



JOSEPH W. GARRISON.



three families in the whole county. The Fugits were noted not only for the important positions of trust and responsibility which they held in the early history of the county, but they were also noted for being the tallest family in this county, each member averaging over six feet in height. The children of David and Polly (Fugit) Garrison were John Q. A., Silas W., James L. F., Isaac N., Joseph W., Jesse F., Benjamin F. and David G.

Four children among the six sons and three daughters born to Judge John Fugit and wife, are: Mrs. Mary Garrison; Isaac W., of St. Paul, Minnesota; Mrs. Rachel McCallister, of Windfall; Mrs. Celia Wilson, of Boone county, Indiana, and James, of Greensburg. These children are deceased as are the remainder of the family.

The late Joseph W. Garrison, who was born on January 19, 1838, and died in December, 1909, served three years in Company H, Thirty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Among the severe battles in which he was engaged, were those of Stone's River, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Peachtree Creek, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain and Picket Hill. He was also engaged in the Atlanta campaign and in many minor engagements. Becoming sick in the latter part of the war, he was assigned to the commissary department and was thus connected when he was mustered out of the service.

On February 16, 1865, just after the close of the Civil War, Mr. Garrison was married to Martha E. Tanner, who was born on February 15, 1840, and who recently celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday, the neighbors gathering at her home in large numbers. Mrs. Garrison was born in Washington township and is the daughter of Simpson and Callie Mattie (McGannon) Tanner, natives of Virginia and Kentucky, respectively, who came to Decatur county in 1835. Her father died in Greensburg, Indiana. They had several children: James Elza, Lucy Jane, Ira, Mary, Maria and Zachariah, twins; Annabel and Laura Belle, twins; Lucius, Achsa, Sara E. Simpson Tanner had been twice married. Mrs. Garrison's half-sister, Mrs. Sophia Deere, lives at Franklin, Indiana.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Garrison lived for one year on the Tanner farm and then on the David Garrison farm for two years, after which they rented Mr. Garrison's brother's farm for one year and then purchased a farm of their own in Washington township, where they lived for three years. Eventually, they sold their farm and purchased the one where Caleb Wright now lives, living here for several years, when they moved to Greensburg, where they lived for twenty-one years. The present farm was pur-



chased some time after 1900 and in December of 1902, Mr. and Mrs. Garrison moved to the farm. It comprises one hundred and twenty acres and is a beautiful country home, well-kept with splendid out-buildings and attractive grounds.

The late Joseph W. Garrison was a Republican in politics. He never held office nor was much interested in this phase of political activity. He was a member of the Baptist church and assisted in the building of the church. Fraternally, he was a member of Pap Thomas Post, No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic and of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and a charter members of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Garrison and daughter are charter members of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Garrison is a charter member of the Greensburg chapter, Women's Relief Corps. She and daughter are also members of the Rebekahs at Greensburg. Mr. Garrison was a city councilman of Greensburg. E. F. Roszell was married on December 6, 1905, to Minnie Garrison, daughter of the subject of this sketch. Mr. Roszell has had charge of the farm for nine years. Mr. Rozell is a stand-pat Republican and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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### EVERETT HAMILTON.

The descendant of a family which was prominent in the state of Kentucky during the last half of the eighteenth century, Everett Hamilton, a retired farmer of Decatur county, who lives in a comfortable home at Greensburg, Indiana, has been for nearly three-quarters of a century a prominent citizen of Decatur county. Given educational advantages, surpassing by far the privileges of most farmers of his day and generation, he was considered a leader in the political and educational life of Fugit township, where he owned a fine farm and where he spent practically all his life, until his removal to Greensburg.

Born on October 16, 1841, on the old homestead farm near Kingston, in Decatur county, he is the son of Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in 1800 in Kentucky and who died in 1879. Coming to Decatur county, in 1821, with four brothers, James E., Cyrus, Thomas and Robert Marshall, he settled on a farm near Kingston in Decatur county. All of the four brothers, after coming to Decatur county from Kentucky, and all of whom were the sons of Robert Hamilton, occupied farms between Kingston and Greensburg. In time Cyrus Hamilton came to be a large

landowner in Decatur county, and at one time owned as much as four hundred acres, which he had cleared and improved. He resided upon the farm until his death. His wife, Mary McCoy, who was a native of Kentucky, was born in 1799, and died in 1881. They had six children, only three of whom are now living: William M. is deceased; Mrs. Melissa Nyce is deceased, and Orlando died in the spring of 1914. Mrs. Cordelia Donnell lives near Clarksburg; Chester lives on a farm in Decatur county, the old homestead farm, and Everett Hamilton is the subject of this sketch. A prominent member of the Whig party and a free-soiler until its disintegration and the formation of the Republican party in 1854, Cyrus Hamilton was a prominent Abolitionist also, and one of the leading advocates in this section of the state of the Abolitionist cause. He was well known as a debater, especially on the subject of slavery, and a devout Presbyterian and member of the Kingston church, which he helped to build.

Educated in the common schools of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, and in the old Northwestern Christian University, now Butler College, of Indianapolis, where he spent one and one-half years, Everett Hamilton began farming for himself in 1864, at the age of twenty-three, near Kingston, in Decatur township, on eighty acres of land given to him by his father. At the same time he purchased eighty acres of land, on which he never lived, but which he farmed before his marriage. In 1866, he exchanged this farm for one hundred and sixty acres near Clarksburg, to which he moved, and which, in time, he increased to four hundred acres. This farm he cultivated until 1911, when he removed to Greensburg, after erecting a modern residence on East Main street. During his life he was engaged in general farming and stock raising, and was considered to have made a splendid success of his life's vocation.

In 1870, Mr. Hamilton was married to Mary Jane Hopkins, who was born in 1843, on a farm in Fugit township, who is the daughter of Preston E. and Eliza (Donnell) Hopkins, the former of whom, a native of Kentucky, came to Decatur county with his father at an early day. To this union three children were born: Paul, Edwin S. and Frank. Paul is engineer of track and roadway for the Big Four railroad, and has his office in Cincinnati; Edwin S. is a farmer on the old homestead, and Frank is an attorney of Greensburg, Indiana.

A Republican in politics, Everett Hamilton served as trustee of Fugit township for two terms, and also as a member of the board of county commissioners for one term, from 1886 to 1889. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are members of the Kingston Presbyterian church, in which he served as trustee for many years.

Everett Hamilton is one of the best-known and most highly respected citizens of Decatur county. As a farmer and citizen of Fugit township he was well known and as a public official he was recognized as capable, earnest and scrupulously honest in all his relations. In his declining years he has the satisfaction of knowing that his three sons are following the footsteps of their father, and that they themselves are on the way to similarly honest and useful lives.

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### WILLIAM C. PULSE.

Any work purporting to give a review of the industrial and other conditions of Decatur county must, at the very outset, take into account the great plant built up and controlled by the enterprising firm of Pulse & Porter, general building contractors at Greensburg and Hope, Indiana. These two plants carry a weekly pay-roll that runs as high as six thousand dollars, and at times more than five hundred men are employed by the firm, which is generally recognized as being the most active and energetic firm of building contractors in Indiana, its operations being easily the most extensive of any firm thus engaged in southern Indiana. This concern, which was organized in the year 1888, by the association of William C. Pulse, William R. Porter and Alexander Porter, has grown until it now is not only the largest employer of men in the building trades in Indiana, but which maintains the heaviest retail stock of lumber and building material in the state of Indiana. In a biographical sketch relating to Alexander Porter, one of the members of this firm, presented elsewhere in this volume, reference is made to the many large building contracts executed by this company, and it will not be necessary to enter into that phase of the concerns's operations here, but it is fitting to set out here something regarding the general extent of the plant maintained by the company. In Greensburg, the company operates an extensive planing-mill and sash-door factory, manufacturing, so far as possible, all material entering into the building trades, with particular reference to special work, most of the stock work used in the extensive building operations of the concern being bought outside. In addition to operating the factory at Greensburg, which utilizes the services of about fifty hands on an average, the firm maintains a general supply house at that place, carrying pretty much everything required in the building trades. The company has pleasant and well-equipped offices in connection with the retail building, the planing-mill and lumber yard being situated near the railroad. The Hope plant, which

has one of the best-equipped and most modern sheds in Indiana, with a capacity of from thirty to forty carloads of building material, employs from fifteen to twenty men and has a saw-mill, a ten-ton ice plant and a complete double electric lighting system in connection therewith, using exhaust steam for heating purposes. This plant is maintained for both public and commercial uses and carries building material of every description.

William C. Pulse was born in a farm home in the woods in Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, on September 30, 1859, the son of David G. and Rebecca (VanCleave) Pulse, both natives of Hamilton county, Ohio, who were born and reared near Cincinnati at a time when the now proud Queen City was but a village. The Pulses and the VanCleavees were among the prominent families of the Cincinnati neighborhood and were associates of the Tyler Davidsons, the Nicholas Longworths and others of the leading families of Cincinnati in that day. At that period the country around Cincinnati was an unbroken forest and Mr. Pulse's parents often recalled in later years the fact that there were but few houses in the neighborhood of their childhood homes and the wild deer still frequented the "licks" which were so common thereabout. It was customary for the families to go to market in big wagons, camping over night on the way.

David G. Pulse, who was born in 1819, and who died in this county in March, 1889, was the son of a Virginian, of Pennsylvania-Dutch or High German extraction. He was united in marriage in Hamilton county, Ohio, to Rebecca VanCleave, and in that county the first three children of this union were born. About 1847, the Pulses moved to this county, buying a farm of about one hundred and twenty acres in Salt Creek township, hill and forest land, the forest being gradually cleared and the hills brought under cultivation. David G. Pulse was a man of large influence in the community in which he made his home and he and his wife were regarded as among the leaders in that neighborhood. Both were persons of excellent education, and it is undoubted that their influence had very much to do with bringing about better social and economic conditions in that now well-established farming region. Mr. Pulse was a Democrat and his first vote was cast for James K. Polk for President. For many years he served the township as justice of the peace, and his judgments always were regarded as equitable by his neighbors. The Pulses were Methodists and were leaders of the meetings which were conducted by the "circuit riders" thereabout in those days.

To David G. and Rebecca (VanCleave) Pulse were born five children: Olney E., who enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service in behalf of the Union

during the Civil War, and was killed in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain in June, 1864; John, who died in November, 1900; Oscar L., who now is living in Belle City, Missouri, to which place he moved in 1892; James C., who died in Paragould, Arkansas, in October, 1901, and William C., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. In January, 1889, the Pulses retired from the farm and moved into the city of Greensburg, where Mr. Pulse died the following March, his widow continuing to make her residence there until the time of her death, twenty-four years later, June 17, 1913, she then being eighty-nine years, six months and seventeen days old.

William C. Pulse received his elementary education in the district school of his home neighborhood, which he supplemented with a course in Harts-ville College and a course in the university at Valparaiso, Indiana, lacking but half a year of finishing in the latter institution. In 1883, he resumed his studies, taking the regular scientific course. Mr. Pulse earned his way through college by teaching school in Decatur county, having taught for nine years, in which profession he was very successful, his well-recognized qualifications giving him the choice of positions in the county. Between terms of teaching, Mr. Pulse farmed or operated a saw-mill until the year 1888, when he engaged in the contracting business. The history of the well-established firm of Pulse & Porter is the story of the success of Mr. Pulse since that time.

On January 10, 1894, William C. Pulse was united in marriage to Ida E. Black, of Anderson, Indiana, a daughter of McFarland and Mary (Wood) Black, both of whom now are deceased, to which union two children were born, William McFarland, on August 17, 1895, died on August 17, 1896, and Mary Rebecca, January 17, 1897, died on August 14, 1900.

Mrs. Pulse is a member of the First Methodist church of Greensburg, and is active in its work. Mr. Pulse is a Republican and for years has been a leader in that party throughout this section of the state. In 1910, he was the party's candidate for joint senator for the district comprised of Bartholomew and Decatur counties, and was defeated in this Democratic district by a majority of but sixteen votes, the stress of his personal business preventing his close application to his campaign. He stands high in Masonry, having reached the thirty-second degree, and three times serving as the master of the Greensburg lodge of that order, of which lodge he was a trustee; a member of the grand lodge of Indiana and grand marshal of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Indiana; a thirty-second degree Mason, and a member of the Shriners at Murat Temple in Indianapolis, and has taken everything in Masonry, both York and Scottish Rite. He also is a charter



member and past exalted ruler of the Greensburg Lodge No. 475, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and past chancellor commander of Greensburg Lodge No. 188, Knights of Pythias. Mr. Pulse is one of the directors of the Sterling Fire Insurance Company, of Indianapolis, which has a paid-up capital of eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with assets of one million, six hundred thousand dollars, including surplus and reserves. For six years he was a member of the directorate of the Indiana Retail Lumber Dealers' Association, which association he served for two years as president and one year as vice-president. He is active in all movements having to do with the development of the best interests of his home community, both in material, moral and civic way and he and Mrs. Pulse also take an active interest in the social affairs of the city, none there being held in higher regard than they, where they own a beautiful home. Mr. and Mrs. Pulse live on East Washington street.

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#### WALTER B. CORY.

How fitting and proper it is that here and there in the pages of this history there should be presented memorials to certain aforetime residents of this county who performed well their respective parts in the life of the community, and then passed on, leaving behind them pleasant memories of work well done, duties faithfully performed; having bequeathed to those near and dear to them the priceless heritage of a good name. Among all these memorial tributes there is none better deserved than that which here is paid to the memory of the man whose name is noted above, Walter B. Cory, a one-time well-known young farmer of Washington township, whose home, situated about three miles west of Greensburg, was a great source of pleasure to him during his life.

Walter B. Cory was born in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Joseph and Lenora (Deem) Cory, both natives of this county, whose parents were among the earliest settlers thereabout. The genealogy of the Cory family, together with an extended biographical sketch of Joseph Cory, will be found on another page in this volume. Walter B. Cory was reared on the paternal farm, receiving such education as the district schools offered in the days of his boyhood, and two years in Greensburg high school and a business course at Danville, Indiana, and on February 6, 1894, was united in marriage to Louisa Lynch, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Bentley) Lynch, the former of whom was born in Franklin county,

Indiana, in 1823, and died at his home in this county in 1902, the latter of whom was born in this county in 1834, and died in 1900.

Benjamin Lynch came to this county from Franklin county as a young man and here he was married. He opened a store at the hamlet of Letts, which he conducted quite successfully for some years. Later he bought a farm near the village of Adams, and, in addition to operating the same, engaged extensively in the business of stock buying. It was on this farm near Adams that Mrs. Cory was born. Benjamin Lynch was the son of Pierce Lynch, a native of Pennsylvania, who emigrated to Indiana in an early day, locating in Franklin county, where he spent the remainder of his life, coming to be one of the most influential residents of the community in which he lived. Benjamin Lynch retired from the farm when encroaching years made impossible his further active labors, moving into the town of Adams, where he died in 1902. His wife had preceded him to the grave by two years, her death having occurred in the year 1900. She was the daughter of William and Sarah M. (Howe) Bentley, pioneers of this county. For additional details of the genealogy of the Bentleys, together with a history of that family in this county, the reader is referred to the sketch of Alexander Bentley, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Benjamin and Sarah (Bentley) Lynch four children were born, as follow: Mrs. Anna Wooley, who died at Lebanon, Indiana; Olive, who married Professor George L. Roberts, a member of the faculty of Purdue University, and lives at Lafayette, Indiana; Perry, who lives in Oklahoma, and Louisa, the widow of Mr. Cory.

For two years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Cory resided in the Lynch home near Adams, after which they engaged in farming on their own account, buying a fine tract of land about three miles west of Greensburg. This farm recently was sold by Mrs. Cory, who since then has been making her home in Greensburg. In addition to operating his farm, Walter B. Cory also operated a threshing outfit and was one of the best known men in the county.

To Walter B. and Louisa (Lynch) Cory two children were born, Cecil L. and Ernest J., both of whom are still at home with their mother, and the latter of whom is still in school. Mr. Cory was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is his widow, and these children have been reared in the faith of that church. Mr. Cory's death in September, 1909, was a grievous blow to his family and was lamented also by his large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county the fact that he was

removed from the scene of earth's activities in the very prime of his vigorous manhood making his passing all the more to be regretted.

Mr. Cory was a Republican and took a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county though not what might be called a particularly active worker in politics. He, however, took an earnest interest in good government and was deeply interested in all measures designed to improve the general conditions of society. He was a good man and the community sustained a real loss when he was called away.

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### JOHN NICOLAS WALLINGFORD.

John Nicholas Wallingford was one of the few men who have had the good fortune to step into a business already established. He escaped all that anxiety which usually attends the building up of a new enterprise, and even after tiring of the life of a merchant, fortune continued to smile upon him, holding open for him the door to a continued successful life, from a financial standpoint. His sterling qualities were recognized by the United States government, as he was rewarded with a very responsible position, the duties of which he performed with honest loyalty.

John Nicholas Wallingford, deceased, a merchant of Greensburg, Indiana, was born on March 31, 1840, and died on August 13, 1907. He was a son of Hiram and Hannah (Morris) Wallingford. He succeeded his father in the dry goods business, upon his retirement, and continued the business until 1885, from which he also retired later on, and was for eight years in the employment of the government, serving four years as deputy internal revenue collector, and then storekeeper gauger until his death.

Hiram Wallingford was a native of Kentucky, and came to Rush county directly after the Civil War. He finally located in Greensburg, where he conducted a mercantile business, and where he spent the last years of his life. His children were: Mary, Alicia, Eliza, John, Kate, Fannie and William. Mary became Mrs. Tully, and is now deceased; Alicia lives in Decatur county; Eliza, deceased; Kate became the wife of a Mr. Grove, and is now deceased, as is also Fannie; William lives at Farnham, Nebraska.

John Nicholas Wallingford was twice married. First, about 1866, to Alice Foster, a native of Pennsylvania, who died about 1893, leaving three children: John Devol, who lives in Des Moines, Iowa; William, who died at Des Moines, and Morris, also deceased. His second marriage took place on

November 17, 1897, with Mary Louise Snodgrass, who was born in Ripley county, and is a daughter of William Harrison and Mary (Wood) Snodgrass, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively. Mr. Wallingford was a Republican, and a member of the Christian church. Mrs. Wallingford survives her husband.

William Harrison Snodgrass, father of Mrs. Wallingford, was born in 1818, and died in 1900, his wife, Mary, was born in 1823, and died in 1905. Mr. Snodgrass was a son of John Snodgrass, of Kentucky. He lived in Ripley county until 1884, and then came to Greensburg, where he retired from business, and where his last days were spent. Capt. William Harrison Snodgrass, of the Eighty-third Indiana, enlisted in Decatur county, and served throughout the Civil War. He was captain of Company A, and enlisted as second lieutenant, advanced to first lieutenant, then captain and brevet major. His children were: Josephine Callahan, who died in 1900; Emma Hatch, now a widow; Hester Dennison, deceased; Worth, deceased; Melissa Dennison now living at Greensburg; Mary Wallingford, and Dea Jenks, deceased. They were all members of the Christian church.

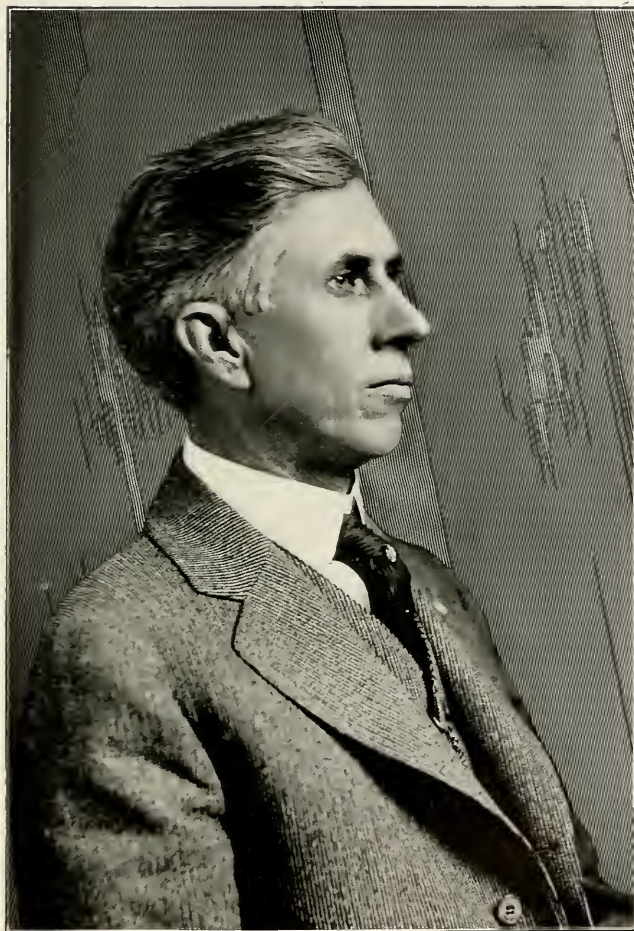
John Snodgrass, paternal grandfather of Mrs. Wallingford, was a native of Kentucky, and located in Indiana, in 1821, where he bought government land, the deeds to which were signed by John Quincy Adams.

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#### LUTHER D. BRADEN.

Luther D. Braden, the editor and publisher of the *Standard*, a family newspaper established at Greensburg, Indiana, in 1835, by John Thomson, is descended on his father's side from Irish ancestry, and on his mother's side from English ancestry.

Mr. Braden was born in Clay township, Decatur county, on November 5, 1861, the son of Robert and Pamela (Anderson) Braden. William Braden, the paternal grandfather, was a native of County Tyrone, in the north of Ireland. He emigrated to the United States in 1795, and after settling temporarily in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, removed to Scott county, Kentucky, and, in 1822, removed to Clarksburg, Decatur county, where he died in 1825. He married Ufama Jackson, a native of Ireland, and they had nine children. Robert Braden, the father of Luther D., was born on July 11, 1814, in Scott county, Kentucky, and was eight years old when brought to Decatur county, in 1822. In 1839 he located in Clay township, where he



LUTHER D. BRADEN.





became an extensive farmer. He was a man of very aggressive disposition, and a leader in the community where he lived. A charter member of the Milford Christian church, founded in 1842, and a Republican in politics, he died in 1887. In 1838 he had married Pamela Anderson, the daughter of Joseph Anderson, who laid out and named the town of Andersonville, Franklin county, Indiana. They had four children: Joseph A., a veteran of the Civil War, a justice of the peace and an insurance and real estate dealer at Rossville, Illinois; Jane, the widow of Thomas A. Shirk; Jeremy A., a retired farmer, of Greensburg, and Luther D., the subject of this sketch.

Born and reared in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, Luther D. Braden entered Hartsville College in 1878, and after spending four years in that institution, began teaching in 1882. In the meantime he studied in the Northern Indiana Normal at Valparaiso. From 1889 to 1891, he served as county superintendent of Decatur county, and from 1891 to 1893, he was principal of St. Paul's school.

In 1893, Mr. Braden came to Greensburg, and for one year was a member of the firm of J. C. Pulse & Company, wholesale grocers. In October of the following year, Mr. Braden purchased the *Standard*, the oldest paper in Decatur county, and one which was established in 1835 by John Thomson, the grandfather of Mrs. Braden. It is a family newspaper.

On December 17, 1890, Luther D. Braden was married to Ella Thomson, the daughter of Orville Thomson, of Greensburg. To this happy union has been born one child, Marie.

Mr. Braden is a Republican in politics, and a very active worker in the Christian church, of which he is an elder. He is a member of the official board of the Greensburg congregation and was superintendent of the Sunday school for seven years. Fraternally, he is a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons; of Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Masons, and Greensburg Council No. 74, Royal and Select Masters. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

As a man who exerts a silent and unostentatious influence for good, Luther D. Braden has no superior in Decatur county. Not only does he possess the confidence and esteem of his fellow townsmen, but of the people wherever he is known. He is an eminently worthy citizen of this great county.

Mr. Braden has taken great interest in collecting early historical data of Decatur county, and his paper for the past twenty years has presented many valuable facts that otherwise might have been lost to posterity. Since

the death of Orville Thomson, in 1910, he is generally conceded to be the best-informed person in the county on all matters pertaining to its general history.

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### WILLIAM F. SMILEY.

William F. Smiley, a retired farmer of Decatur county, who, after completing an educational course of training as was exceptional for his generation, began farming in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on a farm of eighty acres presented to him by his father, increased the acreage from time to time until he now owns two hundred and forty acres and is regarded as one of the most successful farmers of the county. The Smiley family, which was established in Decatur county early in 1849, was founded here by William Smiley, who became, during his career, as a farmer, one of the most prosperous and extensive landowners and stockmen in this section of the state.

William F. Smiley, now a resident of Greensburg, Indiana, and a retired farmer of Decatur county, was born on November 21, 1848, in Butler county, Ohio, the son of William and Mary Ann (Kinney) Smiley, natives of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, respectively, the former of whom was born in 1814 and died on June 6, 1893, and the latter of whom was born in 1817 and died in 1906. William Smiley was the son of Patrick Smiley, a gentleman of Irish descent, who lived in Pennsylvania, from whence the son moved to Butler county, Ohio, and, after being married there, in 1835, came, when seventeen years old, to Decatur county, arriving in February, 1849. Settling in Clay township, he purchased land and became a prosperous farmer. Starting with eighty acres of land which was purchased with a capital of three hundred dollars, inherited by his wife, he returned for his family and drove through from Ohio to Decatur county with an ox team. From time to time he bought more land and owned, at the time of his death, one thousand acres. A large farmer and stockman, he was also an ardent Democrat and a member of the Primitive Methodist church. He and his wife had nine children, four of whom are deceased. The names of the children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Mrs. Parmelia Henry, deceased; Mrs. Caroline Sefton, the wife of Ed. Sefton, of Greensburg; George Washington, who died in 1907; Harvey, who died on January 8, 1915; Thomas K., a farmer near Hartsville, Indiana; Mary, who died on August 16, 1914; William F., the subject of this sketch; Sov-



ereign P., a hotel proprietor in Texas; and Mrs. Margaret Johnson, of Greensburg.

Educated in Hartsville College, Mr. Smiley has always farmed. He began with a tract of eighty acres given to him by his father and, after locating upon this farm, which is situated in Clay township, he built a new house and, upon his marriage, settled there, residing on the farm from 1878 to 1897, after which he moved to Greensburg for one year and then moved to Burney, where he lived until 1911. He later returned to Greensburg and now resides in this city. In the meantime, Mr. Smiley has increased the acreage of his farm to two hundred and forty acres and has two sets of farm buildings. He is one of the most extensive raisers of cattle and hogs in the county.

On October 29, 1878, William F. Smiley was married to Jennie Ewing, who was born on July 20, 1857, in Milford, Decatur county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Joshua and Alice (Russell) Ewing, natives of Decatur county, the former of whom was born in 1833 and who died in March, 1891. Joshua Ewing, who was the son of Patrick Ewing, a native of Maryland, was one of a large family and was also one of triplets, born to his parents. The other two children born at the same time were Putnam and Abraham.

The Ewing family is of Scotch-Irish extraction, Patrick Ewing, the founder of the family in America, having immigrated from Ireland before the Revolution, a son, Putnam, being born on the voyage to America. Patrick Ewing settled at Elkton, Maryland, and became the father of four sons, Samuel, Joshua, Nathan and Putnam. The first three sons settled in Virginia. Putnam Ewing married Jennie McClelland, the daughter of a Doctor McClelland, of Maryland, and moved to Bourbon county, Kentucky, in 1806, settling in Bath county, where he died. Eleven children were born to Putnam and Jennie Ewing, Robert, Patrick, Joshua, Polly, Samuel, Jennie, James, Eliza, George, McClelland and Andrew Jackson. Of this family, Patrick, the immediate ancestor of Mrs. Smiley, was born in 1803 in Cecil county, Maryland, and was married to Lydia Morgan, September 5, 1827, who was a native of Montgomery county, Kentucky. Patrick and his wife, the former of whom was the captain of the militia during his residence in Kentucky, came to Decatur county in 1827 and settled in Clay township, where they reared a family of fifteen children, Sarah J., Mary, Eliza, Putnam, Abel, Joshua, Robert, Cortez, Samuel H., Lydia, James K., George M., Martha C., Morgan J. and Alice J. Of this family, Sarah J. was first married to John G. King, and after her death, he married her sister, Eliza; Mary married Jesse Howard. Of the three sons, Putnam, Abel and Joshua, triplets, Putnam

married Mary DeArmond and after her death married Sarah A. Hackleman; Joshua married Alice Russell and they were the parents of Mrs. Smiley; Abel married Nancy J. G. Patton; Robert married Sallie King; Cortez, an attorney-at-law, married Elizabeth H. Matthews; Samuel H. married Mahala Braden; Lydia married James W. Barclay; James K. is referred to elsewhere in this volume; Martha C. is the wife of James C. Davis, and Alice J. is the wife of James M. Hiner.

Alice Russell, who became the wife of Joshua Ewing and the mother of Mrs. William F. Smiley, was born in 1841, at Milford, the daughter of Robert Russell, a pioneer citizen of the county. She died in 1905. Of the seven children born to Joshua and Alice (Russell) Ewing, Jennie married the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Lydia Russell lives at Flat Rock, Indiana; Mrs. Hessie Arnold, who lives one-half mile from Burney, is the wife of a music dealer, and Mrs. Lucy Alley lives five miles south of Burney on a farm.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Smiley have had no children. Mr. Smiley is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Smiley are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Smiley is a member of the Department Club, the Afternoon Lecture Course, the Art Circle and the Music Circle. Mr. Smiley is a member of Burney Lodge, Knights of Pythias.

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### WILLIAM C. WOODFILL.

As the senior member of the firm of J. M. Woodfill's Sons, of Greensburg, William C. Woodfill has contributed his quota to the progress and development of the town. If it were true that the commercial interests of a locality form the foundation upon which its other civic life rests, and around which its activities are built, then, the honest, upright merchant is an important factor of that community. He helps largely in the formation of public sentiment, and his views and opinions are generally looked upon as being worthy of respect and consideration. William C. Woodfill has been, in this sense, conspicuous in the commercial affairs of Greensburg. He is a native of this town, having been born here on May 8, 1870, and is a son of James M. Woodfill, president of the Greensburg National Bank.

The store now owned by W. C., C. M. and J. V. Woodfill was established by their grandfather, Gabriel Woodfill, in November, 1830, this being carried on in connection with a banking business made necessary because, at that time, there were no banks. It will thus be seen that the business instinct

has been strong in this family for several generations back, but it has also been connected with high moral principles and an ethical consciousness, for Greensburg's first banker assisted in building the First Methodist Episcopal church. We shall have occasion to refer more definitely to Mr. Woodfill's ancestry later on in this sketch.

William C. Woodfill graduated from the Greensburg high school, and then took a course in a business school in Cincinnati. Returning, he began work in his father's store, then known by the firm name of Hittle & Christian. As the sons in this family came of age, they were given an interest in the store, and William was no exception to the rule. From that time on, he has taken a keen interest in the management on good business principles of the oldest merchandise store in Greensburg, and as its leading merchant, has attained an enviable place in the community.

On October 4, 1893, Mr. Woodfill married Miss Elizabeth Donnell, daughter of Seth Donnell, who is deceased. Her mother, Mrs. Donnell, still lives in Greensburg. To this union the following children were born: James Donnell, a student of Purdue University; William Stewart, of Bowdoin College, Maine; Elizabeth and Margaret, both of whom are attending school at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodfill have taken deep interest in educational matters, and the former is at present a member of the city school board. Aside from his own business establishment, Mr. Woodfill has identified himself with other commercial activities of the town, and is now the president of the Greensburg Building and Loan Association.

Mr. Woodfill is a Republican, and his personal influence has given strength to the local party. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, the Knights of Pythias, the Free and Accepted Masons, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

As the merchandise store founded by his ancestors has formed such an integral part of his life, a brief sketch of its history will not be inappropriate. The store now supplies the public with clothing and men's furnishings. It succeeded the firm of J. M. Woodfill & Sons in 1897, this having been the firm name from 1895. It was known as Woodfill & Byers from 1890 until 1895, as Christian & Woodfill from 1888 until 1890, which succeeded Hittle & Christian, who, in turn, succeeded John P. Hittle, founder of the original store. There was a close alliance between business and family relations, as J. H. Christian was a nephew of J. M. Woodfill, and son-in-law of John P. Hittle.

Mr. Woodfill's strength of character, as well as his energy and marked

business ability, have been of signal value in the history of the community in which he and his family have lived for several generations. While building up his commercial interests, he has not neglected those personal and civic duties which assume the form of obligations in the life of every man, for, like his distinguished ancestors, he has been public-spirited, and has placed the good of his town and county next to that of himself and his own family. It is such men that form the bone and sinew of any people.

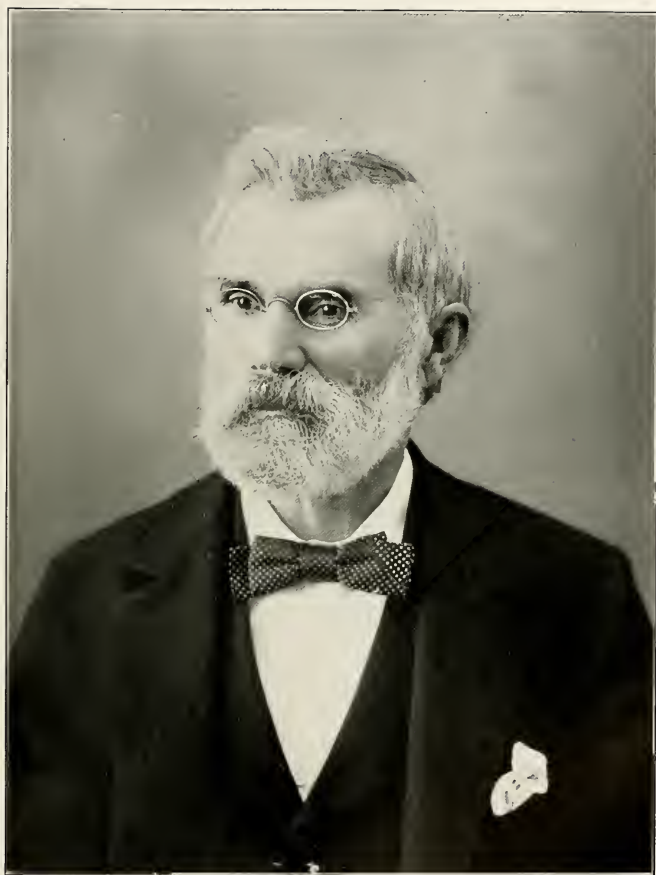
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### JOHN HENRY METZ.

One of the splendid pioneer citizens still living in Decatur county, Indiana, and one of its wealthiest farmers, is John Henry Metz, of Fugit township. His present condition of affluence is in bold contrast to his financial condition, when he arrived in this country more than sixty years ago, after a long and tedious voyage on an immigrant ship with nine hundred others, when he had only twenty-five cents in his pocket at the time he landed in New York city. The story of his rise to fortune and success as a farmer, devoid of the romance and hardships which he suffered in pioneer times, is the story of the most rigid personal economy and consistent and increasing savings. His is a record to make the cheeks of the young men of the present generation, whose lives are being spent in wanton living, burn with shame, and his life ought to be an example to every young man of worthy and commendable ambitions, a command to follow, in the fundamentals at least, the career of this honorable and distinguished citizen.

Born on July 10, 1832, at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, in Prussia, John Henry Metz came to America in 1854, at the age of twenty-two and, after two years in Ohio, in 1856 came on to Decatur county. The son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Kolb) Metz, farmers by occupation, John H. Metz was reared on the farm in his native land. He left home, family and friends to seek his fortune in a new country with a single companion. The voyage to America, which required forty-six days, was made on the ship "Milhausen."

On arriving in Decatur county, Indiana, Mr. Metz was employed by James and, later, by William Bonner, for five dollars a month, and out of these earnings, he was able to save money and purchase his first land in Salt Creek township. Later, he bought forty acres and still another forty and began to raise hogs. In fact, this has been the secret of his success and fortune. He also made great profits in the early days by growing wheat.



JOHN H. METZ.



For many years he has been accustomed to raise one hundred and fifty head of hogs a year, and to sell at least one carload of cattle every year. He now owns six hundred acres of land in Fugit and Salt Creek townships, upon which are located three sets of buildings. All of this land is either farmed or managed by members of his family. Not many years ago he remodeled his farm house and now has a handsome and comfortable residence, the equal of any to be found in Fugit township.

Six years after coming to America and four years after arriving in Decatur county, John Henry Metz was married, February 14, 1860, to Louise Huber, who was born in Franklin county, Indiana, July 16, 1836, and who was the daughter of Gottfried and Margaret (Zeigler) Huber, natives of Germany. After rearing a large family of children, Mrs. Metz passed away on July 10, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Metz had eight children: Leona, George W., Mary Elizabeth, John H., Jr., Edward L., William G., Charles Frederick and Maude Louise, the latter dying in 1912. Leona married Chester King and lives in Clinton township, near Williamstown; they have six children, Mary Elizabeth, the wife of Fred Caldwell; Florence, John H., Jr., Stella, Elendore and Edward. George W. married Catherine Ravenstein, of Cincinnati and is a merchant at Newpoint, where he was postmaster for sixteen years. Of his nine children, Amanda married McClelland Wolfe and has two children; Neola Maurine died on March 30, 1915, age two years, and Orin Keith, lives in Delaware, Ohio; Elma Marie married Howard Starks and has two children, Bessie Metz and Audrey Louise; Christina, William M., Anna L., Margarete, Cora May, George H., Catherine. Mary Elizabeth is the housekeeper for her father. John H., Jr., lives at home. Edward L. married Louisa Moulton and has two children, Edward Albert and Temperance Louise. William G. married Luella Dravis, Fugit township. Charles Frederick is at home.

Mr. Metz's sons are extensive breeders of Aberdeen Angus cattle and ordinarily have from eighty to one hundred head on the farm. A Republican in politics, John Henry Metz has never been active in the councils of his party, even though he is, and has always been, a leader in his community. He is a member of the Kingston Presbyterian church, as was his good wife during her life. John Henry Metz is a fine type of the German gentleman, who has attained success from the humble start which he had in this country. He is well-read, intelligent and hospitable and one of the few really old settlers left in Decatur county. He has reared a fine family of industrious sons and daughters and his home is decidedly one of the best in the state



of Indiana. That he is a good farmer and that his sons, who have taken up his work, are also good farmers, is amply proved by the fact that in a dry year, 1914, they raised from sixty to eighty bushels of corn per acre on their land. It is unfortunate that every community cannot have within its boundaries men of the same character, capacity and ability, as John Henry Metz.

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### GUY E. KITCHIN.

We can scarcely think a man thoroughly appreciates his privileges and independence, when he arrives at the point of owning a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres of good farm land, in a well-settled district. It becomes such a habit with him, that he loses sight of the fact that he is indeed fortunate in these days of high-priced real estate. If he could but read the thoughts of the man bending over the books in a city office, with his hands and feet practically chained to a desk, he would know that nothing but the acreage price keeps this man from freeing himself from his mental drudgery, and going forth, with a glad heart, to where he can get a fresh breath of air, and live an independent life. Nor is he alone in his thoughts. There are hundreds of thousands of men and women whose views would not vary a hair's breadth in this direction.

Guy Kitchin, farmer, Fugit township, was born on October 7, 1882, in Fugit township, on their home farm. He is a son of Frank B. and Clara (Robbins) Kitchin. He first attended the public schools at Kingston, and when eighteen years of age, entered Purdue University, remaining there one year, 1899-1900, after which he returned home and farmed for a short time, and then went to Kansas and Oklahoma for his health in 1908. He remained in Oklahoma four years, and then returned to Decatur county in the fall of 1912. In politics, he has always voted the Republican ticket, and is a member of the Kingston Presbyterian church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. The fine farm, of three hundred and twenty acres, stands as a witness to his ability, as well as to his thrifty habits.

Frank Benjamin Kitchin, father of our subject, was born and reared on the home farm in Decatur county, where he farmed until his removal to Indianapolis in the spring of 1912. He owns five hundred acres in Fugit township, covering three well-improved farms. He does general farming, and is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle. To Frank Kitchin and his wife were



born six children, as follow: Clyde, Guy, Coza, Grace, Thomas and Frank Barnard. Clyde lives in Rush county; Coza lives in Indianapolis; Grace is the wife of Harry Moore, and lives at Alexandria; Frank Barnard lives in Indianapolis.

In December, 1908, Guy Kitchin was married to Joy Thompson, daughter of Edgar Thompson, of Jennings county. They have one child, Edgar, born in November, 1911.

Guy Kitchin has lived on his present farm since 1911. The father bought this tract of land about 1887, known as the Donnell farm. Guy Kitchin buys cattle and feeds on an average about seventy-five head during the year. On his farm he raises diversified crops and feeds all the grain and hay he can produce. Aside from this he buys a good deal of grain and feeds to carry him through the season.

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#### WILLIAM SKEEN WOODFILL.

The Woodfill family have been prominently identified with the history of Decatur county since 1830, when the first members of the family came to Greensburg. In everything which goes to make a community better in the essentials which advance civilization, the family have acted well their part. Succeeding generations of the Woodfills have been characterized by those sterling qualities which marked the members of the family who have gone before them.

The late William S. Woodfill was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, on November 16, 1825, the son of Gabriel and Eleanor (Pullman) Woodfill. The family trace their ancestry back to Welsh and English progenitors and have found that the first members of the family located in Pennsylvania in the early colonial days. Reverend Gabriel, the great-grandfather of William S. Woodfill, emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky and settled in Shelby county early in the history of that state. He was a pioneer in Methodism in Kentucky and upon locating in Jefferson county, Indiana, became one of the earliest Methodist ministers of the Hoosier state. He was a man of large influence in his community and his labors in the Master's vineyard proved of inestimable benefit to his widely scattered neighbors.

Andrew Woodfill, the son of the good old Methodist circuit rider and the grandfather of William S. Woodfill, was born in Pennsylvania, but spent most of his life in the vicinity of Madison, Indiana. He entered government land in Jefferson county, married a Miss Mitchell and reared a family of

twelve children, eight of whom lived to maturity. The last of the children to die were Mrs. Ellen Greene, of Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Sarah Maish, of Illinois, and Mrs. James Woodfill, of Texas.

Gabriel, one of the sons of Andrew, and the father of William S., was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, in 1800. Later he moved with his parents to Jefferson county, Indiana, but after reaching manhood returned to Kentucky, where he engaged in farming and merchandising. On November 16, 1830, he located in Greensburg, Indiana, and immediately began to take a prominent part in the commercial and fraternal life of the town. In the same year he opened a store and the business which he established in Greensburg, eighty-five years ago, is now in the hands of William W. Woodfill, at the corner of Washington street and Broadway, a grandson of the old pioneer merchant. Gabriel also carried on a banking business in connection with his store, and was easily the foremost man in the business life of the town. He was an ardent Whig and when the Republican party was organized he gave it the same hearty support. He was an earnest member of the Methodist church and was one of the organizers of the First Methodist church, and later of the Centenary church. He was twice married. His first marriage was with Eleanor Pullman, and to this union were born three children, Andrew; William S., a life-long merchant of Greensburg, and Mary, who became the wife of Henry Christian. Upon the death of his first wife, Gabriel Woodfill married Elizabeth Van Pelt, a daughter of Joseph Van Pelt, and to this second union were also born three children, John, deceased; James M. and Catherine, the deceased wife of Rev. James Crawford.

William Skeen Woodfill was five years of age when the family came to Decatur county in 1830 and spent the remainder of his life in Greensburg. Receiving a good common-school education, he early in life began to work in his father's store, which, by the time he had reached manhood, was the leading mercantile establishment of the town. Later his father made him a partner, the firm being known as Woodfill & Son until January, 1863. On that date the father retired from active business cares and the firm was changed to Woodfill Brothers, the three brothers being William, John and James. This arrangement continued until February, 1869, when the death of John caused the firm to be changed to W. S. Woodfill & Company. In 1882 the style of the firm was changed to J. M. Woodfill & Company, but this change lasted less than a year. On January 1, 1884, James retired and from then until the death of William S., July 25, 1899, the firm was known as W. S. Woodfill & Sons. Since the year 1899 the firm has been known as W. W. Woodfill's Sons, although W. W. Woodfill is now the manager of the establishment.

The Greensburg Gas and Electric Company was organized by William S. Woodfill in 1875 and he was president of the company from the time of its organization until his death, in 1899. In addition to his extensive commercial and industrial interests in Greensburg, he owned four valuable farms in Decatur county.

On November 18, 1857, William S. Woodfill was married to Sarah A. Talbott, the daughter of H. H. Talbott, the first clerk of the Decatur county circuit court. To this union were born four children, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Rev. J. W. Turner, of Decatur county; William Wirt, a merchant of Greensburg; Harry Talbott, superintendent of the Greensburg Gas and Electric Light Company, and Web, secretary-treasurer of the same company.

The wife of W. S. Woodfill died on October 31, 1898. She represented the highest type of womanhood and her whole life was a benediction to those who came in contact with her. Devoted to her husband and children, she fulfilled, in the truest sense, the noblest mission of womanhood.

William S. Woodfill was an earnest Republican, but never an office-seeker, his extensive business interests demanding all of his time and attention. He was a charter member of Greensburg Lodge No. 102, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, organized in 1851, and lived to be the last survivor of the charter members of the lodge. He was also a member of the encampment at Evansville, Indiana. For twenty years he was a member of the Centenary church of Greensburg and took an active part in furthering all worthy causes proposed by his church.

Such, in brief, is the life of one of Greensburg's most influential citizens of the past century. His life was always above reproach and he never shirked his duty as a citizen of the commonwealth in order to avoid responsibility. Such men give stability to any community, and such a man, in the highest sense of the word, was William S. Woodfill.

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#### WALTER AND ROBERT SCOTT.

The founder of the Scott family in Decatur county, Indiana, who was William H. Scott, was the son of Robert and Nancy Scott, of Butler county, Ohio, who were married in 1824. On the paternal side of the family the Scotts of Decatur county are descended from Scottish ancestry. William H. Scott came to Indiana before the Civil War and in 1865 was married to Emily L. Logan, and to them were born six children, of whom Walter and Robert are the subjects of this sketch.

Walter Scott, who owns eighty acres in Fugit township and who is also farming one hundred and sixty acres, was born on May 5, 1881, on the Scott homestead, located on the Donnell pike. He was educated in the Kingston schools and at Tarkio College, but has always been engaged in farming. For a number of years he was associated with his brother, Fred, in farming the Logan estate and, in the fall of 1907, purchased his present farm, which he has greatly improved, especially by the erection of a beautiful country house in 1910 and a large barn, forty-four by forty-eight feet. Mr. Scott was married on October 26, 1910, to Hazel Walker, who was born in Adams on June 7, 1887, the daughter of John Lee and Stella Walker, natives of Indiana, who reside in Adams. To Mr. and Mrs. Walker Scott have been born two children, Harold Walker, on May 10, 1912, and Miriam Edith, February 1, 1915. Politically, Mr. Scott is a Republican and is a member of the township advisory board. He and his wife are members of the Kingston Presbyterian church.

Robert Scott is a well-known farmer of Fugit township, who owns eighty acres of land and who is farming another eighty acres belonging to Margaret J. Logan, was born on March 16, 1884, on the Donnell pike. Mr. Scott grew up as a farmer in Decatur county and was married on October 16, 1908, to Anna Martha McCall, of New Concord, Ohio, a sister of Reverend McCall, and daughter of Marshall and Anna McCall. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have had two children, Marshall Logan, born on October 27, 1909, and Margaret Jane, December 14, 1911.

Of the father of these two successful farmers, it may be said that William E. Scott was born on March 3, 1839, in Ohio, and died, June 20, 1885. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Emily L. Logan, was born on July 27, 1844, on the Logan homestead and died on the old farm, March 20, 1913, in the same room where she had been born and where she was married.

The late William H. Scott was a soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company K, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for three years. He was mustered out of service on October 27, 1864, after having served in many severe engagements, among which were the battles of Huntsville, Alabama, Chattanooga, Stone's River, Murfreesborough, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain and all of the battles of the Atlanta campaign.

Of the six children born to William H. and Emily L. (Logan) Scott, two are deceased, Edward Thomas, born in 1866, and Edith Margaret, in 1868, both dying in infancy. The living children are Fred G., born in 1871,

who is a farmer in Decatur county; Nannie Lillian, in 1878, who is the wife of Samuel Goddard, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Walter and Robert, the subjects of this sketch.

Emily Logan was the daughter of John E. and Eliza (Kerrick) Logan, the former of whom was twice married, the first time to Hattie N. Anderson, a sister of "Uncle Billy" Anderson, who was born in 1812, in Kentucky, and who bore him three children, George Douglas, who died in infancy; Margaret J., in 1837, who resides with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott, and Mary Anderson, in 1839, and died in 1872, who was the wife of John W. Gillespie, a well-known merchant of Greensburg, now deceased.

Margaret J. Logan, who was educated in the Springhill schools, received an academic education and taught school for twenty-four years. Her school was a famous one on account of the many skilled teachers who presided over it. She also taught for seven years at College Corner. Miss Logan, who is now "seventy-seven years young," is a bright and capable woman and is well known in this community.

The second wife of John E. Logan, who was born in 1812, and who died in 1899, was Eliza Kerrick. She was born in 1816 and died in 1893. Born near Lexington, Kentucky, John E. Logan was the son of George Logan, who was born in Pennsylvania about 1780 and whose wife, Margaret Robinson, was also born in Pennsylvania. George Logan and wife emigrated to Kentucky and their son, John E., after a time, left Kentucky and emigrated to White county, Illinois, from whence he came to Decatur county, Indiana, purchasing a farm in Fugit township in 1833. He bought one hundred and sixty acres of land for six hundred dollars, but eventually owned three hundred and twenty acres, which became the Logan homestead. By his second marriage, there were born six children, Mrs. Emily Scott, the mother of Walter and Robert Scott; Nancy Ann, born in 1847, died in 1876; James H., in 1849, died in 1851; Lillian Esther, in 1852, died in 1889, who was the wife of Rev. J. A. Thomson, the president of Tarkio College; Charles E., in 1858, died in 1859, and Rev. William W., in 1860, who now resides in Louisville, Kentucky, where he is pastor of a Presbyterian church.

Of Robert Scott it may be said further that he was educated in the Kingston schools, the Clarksburg high school and Tarkio College, where he spent one year. He has been farming in this neighborhood since he quit school. In 1913 he moved to his present farm and has established in this community an excellent reputation of a farmer and business man. Politically, he is identified with the Republican party. He and his wife and family are members of the Springhill United Presbyterian church.

## JOHN H. ALEXANDER, M. D.

It is an honor of no mean importance to have become, in point of years and service, the oldest physician in Decatur county, a distinction which belongs to John H. Alexander, M. D., a veteran of the Civil War, the son of a well-known pioneer physician of the Middle West who is descended, on his mother's side, from an old and distinguished English family which established itself in America during the early part of the eighteenth century. Having come to Indiana some time before the breaking out of the Civil War, he has practiced his profession continuously, in this state, at Milford and Greensburg, until within three years ago, when he practically quit the more active practice.

John H. Alexander was born on November 7, 1828, at Palestine, Illinois, and is the son of Dr. John C. and Nancy (Wilson) Alexander, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively. The former, who was born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, on August 1, 1797, became a student at Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky, and began the practice of his profession with his old preceptor, Doctor Walker, of Mt. Sterling, when twenty years of age. Locating in Palestine, Illinois, in 1822, eleven years later he was appointed registrar of the land office at Danville, Illinois, and held that office until his death, August 7, 1841. A successful stump speaker, during General Jackson's two campaigns he traveled throughout the entire state of Illinois as a campaign orator and, as a reward for his services to the Democratic party, was elected and served three terms as joint representative from Crawford, Clark and Lawrence counties in the Illinois General Assembly. As a delegate to one of the Illinois state conventions, he introduced Stephen A. Douglas, as a speaker, when the convention was being held at Vandalia. In fact, Dr. John C. Alexander was a staunch friend of Mr. Douglas. Professionally, he was regarded as a very successful man. His wife, who was Nancy Wilson before her marriage, was born in Harding county, Virginia, on March 26, 1802, and died, January 24, 1884, at Clifty, Illinois, at the residence of her son, Dr. John H. She was the daughter of James Wilson, who was born in Hardin county, Virginia, in 1768, and who, on October 1, 1815, left Virginia for Ohio. At Brownstown, in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, he bought a flat-boat for one hundred dollars and sent his goods and family down the river by boat, he and his wife taking the six horses overland. Arriving in Hamilton county, the latter part of the month, where James had purchased a farm on a stream known as Dry run, they established a home. Mrs. Nancy Alexander's father, James Wilson, was the son of Moses Wilson,





DR. AND MRS. JOHN H. ALEXANDER.







a native of the north of England, born near the Scottish line, who married Anna Blackburn. Their children were, Nancy, Mary Ann, Vastine, Benjamin, James Harvey, Elizabeth, Isaac Newton, Presley C., Jeretta and Marie.

Dr. John C. Alexander and Nancy Wilson were married, August 27, 1822, and were the parents of seven children, Angeline, born on May 10, 1823, who married Rev. Erastus Thayer; John H., David Wesley, March 4, 1830, died in September, 1863; James Wilson, Jr., May 12, 1837, died on January 2, 1854; Nancy Jane, October 16, 1832, who married Jacob Harness; William Fethian and Guy Smith, twins, at Danville, Illinois, December 4, 1839. William F. died on October 7, 1847, and Guy Smith became a lawyer and, during the Civil War, was second lieutenant in Company F, Sixty-second Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Subsequently, he was promoted to first lieutenant, captain and major and was mustered out of the service as inspector-general, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, November 30, 1865. At this time he was not twenty-one years old.

Educated in the country schools of Illinois and at Danville, that state, after his father's death, Dr. John H. Alexander moved to Palestine, Illinois, where he attended the Parrish Academy and later the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati. In these times the schools were very crude, especially the buildings in which they were housed. He crossed the plains to California in 1850, by mule team, during the gold fever and spent eight years in the West. Locating in Decatur county, July 7, 1858, for the practice of his profession, four years later, on September 27, 1862, he enlisted in the Twenty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Col. Silas Colgrove, and was promoted to surgeon, July 15, 1864, having been commissioned assistant surgeon, September 27, 1862. He was mustered out of service on November 4, 1864.

In December, 1860, Doctor Alexander was married to Mary Tarkington, who was born on February 25, 1834, in Greensburg, Indiana, a daughter of Rev. Joseph Tarkington, a well-known pioneer minister of the Methodist church. Mary Tarkington attended Mrs. Larabee's school for young ladies at Greencastle, Indiana, from 1848 to 1851, in which latter year she graduated. Mrs. Larabee was the wife of Prof. William Larabee of Asbury College, now DePauw University. She is an aunt of the well-known Indiana author, Booth Tarkington. Dr. and Mrs. Alexander have had two children, John T., who lives in Greensburg, and Joseph H., a traveling drug salesman of Springfield, Illinois. John T., who also is a traveling salesman, married Claudia Hill. Joseph H. married Myrilla Anderson and they have one child, Margaret June.

A practicing physician in Decatur county ever since the close of the Civil War, Doctor Alexander served fourteen years as secretary of the board of pension examiners. A Republican in politics, he served as secretary of the county board of health for over ten years. He was a member of the county and state medical societies and also a delegate to the American Medical Association in 1882. He was also in charge of the Odd Fellows' home for six and one-half years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined that order in 1874, and is a charter member of Milford Lodge. Doctor and Mrs. Alexander are prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg, where the Doctor has lived in his present fine home since 1892.

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#### HUGH THOMAS McCRACKEN.

Hugh Thomas McCracken is one of the well-known, thrifty and successful farmers of historic old Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns two hundred and forty-five acres of well-cultivated land, well located, fertile and highly productive. He is, in the most exacting interpretation of the term, a twentieth century farmer, and one who, because he knows how to farm, has always been satisfied to live in the country and to enjoy life in the open with his wife and children for his nearest and closest companions. Having built a comfortable home many years ago, the McCracken family is well situated to enjoy all the comforts and conveniences of country life, and they are among the most intelligent, up-to-date and progressive people of a township, which in pioneer times has furnished the bone and sinew that has made Decatur county famous in the Hoosier state.

Hugh Thomas McCracken was born on November 22, 1843, on the farm where he now lives, the son of John James and Sarah Ann McCracken, the former of whom was born on October 6, 1820, and who died in 1878. He was a son of James and Sally (Meek) McCracken, and was brought to Decatur county, Indiana, by the parents when three years old. James McCracken, who was born on November 6, 1787, in Kentucky, who married Sally Meek, born in August, 1784, settled on land in the neighborhood of his grandson's farm, was a tanner by trade and learned to write by marking on leather. An elder in the Social Reformed Presbyterian church, he was well known during his day and generation. He and his wife had seven children, Hugh T., born on December 19, 1810, died in infancy; Thomas,

April 12, 1812, married Nancy Patton; Elizabeth, March 12, 1814, married Samuel L. Anderson; Martha, May 12, 1815, became the wife of John Kincaid; Sally Ann, September 26, 1817, married Thomas Meek, October 4, 1838. John J. was the father of Hugh Thomas McCracken; Adam R., May 30, 1824, and married Mary J. Rankin, March 13, 1851.

Reared on the pioneer farm of his father, John J. McCracken eventually settled on the farm and lived where James Maxwell now lives. He was widely known, especially as one of the foremost Democrats of Decatur county, and as a member of the Social Reformed Presbyterian church. John J. and Sarah Ann McCracken had ten children, William David died in 1913; Hugh Thomas is the subject of this sketch; Martha is the wife of Samuel Stewart, of Rushville, Indiana; Mary died in youth; Benjamin B. lives in Rush county; James, who was twice married, by his second marriage to Mary Spillman, had four children; Newton Jasper lives in Shelbyville; John Wilson and Gilbert Gordon live in Alabama; Mrs. Myrta Ann Foley lives in Greensburg.

Educational facilities were considerably limited during the boyhood and youth of Hugh Thomas McCracken, and his education was confined to a limited attendance at Springhill and Mt. Carmel schools. As soon as he was old enough, he assisted his father with the farm work on the old homestead farm and when he was married moved into the old house standing on his farm. By purchasing his sister's interest, he received eighty acres of his father's land, which by diligence and careful management and long and arduous toil, he has increased to two hundred and forty-seven acres. He now owns practically all of the old home place.

On October 27, 1864, Mr. McCracken was married to Martha L. Kincaid, who was born on May 24, 1841, in Fugit township, and who is the daughter of John and Priscilla (Alexander) Kincaid, natives of Kentucky. The latter, who was reared in Rush county, Indiana, was the daughter of John Alexander, who was born in 1813, and who died in April, 1895. It was a son of John Kincaid who entered the Kincaid land in 1821, and established a home in 1829. By his first marriage, John Kincaid had two children, Mrs. Martha L. McCracken, and Mary, deceased, the wife of David Martin, deceased; another child, John Alexander, born to this first marriage, had died in infancy. The mother dying in 1844, John Kincaid was married, a second time, to Nancy Alexander, sister of his first wife, who bore him seven children, John Andrew, deceased; Mrs. Priscilla Jane McCoy, of Fugit township; Rhoda Margaret, deceased; John Andrew, who died at

the age of twenty-one; William Jasper, of near Springhill; Gilbert Gordon, who lives on the home place, and Cyrus, deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCracken four children have been born, Cynthia Ann, the wife of Rufus Moore, who has four children, Lillian Ellen, Walter Thomas, Mary Ann; Ellen Moore married Thomas Kitchin, of Fugit township, and they have one son, John Robert; Sarah Helen married the Rev. Fred Schmunk, of Moorefield; Mary E. married Fern Power, who is now deceased, and who left one child, Ruth; Wilma Orta married James Maxwell, and lives on the old homestead in Fugit township; they have one son, William Thomas.

Politically, Mr. McCracken is a prominent leader in the councils of the Democratic party in Decatur county, and especially in Fugit township, where he lives. Mr. and Mrs. McCracken and family are members of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill.

The career of Hugh T. McCracken, it must be conceded, measures up well with the services of his distinguished ancestors, who were pioneers in this county, since he has, with somewhat better opportunities than were enjoyed by his forefathers, established a comfortable home, and reared a family of children to equally honorable and useful lives. From the standpoint of service the enterprising thrifty cultivation of his farm in Fugit township is sufficient to entitle him to honorable mention as a citizen of this great county.

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### SAMUEL L. JACKSON.

One of the most picturesque farms and one of the most magnificent country homes to be found anywhere in Decatur county, is located in Washington township, and comprises four hundred and eighty acres of fertile land, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Jackson, well-known citizens of this county. With a thoroughly modern home and beautiful, well-kept grounds, shaded by giant trees, especially neat and attractive driveways, this attractive farm bespeaks the intelligence, industry and fine appreciation of country life by its owners and proprietors. Descended from two of the very oldest families of Decatur county, they not only are among the most prosperous and influential people to be found anywhere in the county, but the family is living up to the ideals of the worthy progenitors, who during their day and generation were also leading citizens of the county.

Samuel L. Jackson, who was born on February 2, 1846, at Cincinnati,

Ohio, is the son of William and Amelia (Hillman) Jackson, natives of Virginia and Maryland, respectively, the former of whom was born on October 13, 1797, and who died in 1869, and the latter of whom was born on January 31, 1805, and who died, March 6, 1882. They were married, July 19, 1823. Left an orphan at a tender age, William Jackson left his southern home, and made his way to Cincinnati, where he arrived in 1831. Here for a time as a protegee of Nicholas Longworth I, he worked at the tailor trade and also engaged in teaming. While living in Cincinnati, he met with an accident in which he lost his left leg below the knee. One of his boyhood ambitions having been to own a farm, in 1846 he settled on a tract of land in Fugit township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, and two years later sold it and moved to a farm near Milford. Here he prospered beyond any expectations of his boyhood, and beyond any dreams or fancies of his early life, reaching a position of influence in the community, and passing away, June, 1869, at the age of seventy-two, rich in experience and rich in possessions of this world's goods. Of the thirteen children born to William and Amelia (Hillman) Jackson, only one, Samuel L., the subject of this sketch, and the youngest child of the family, is now living. The children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Mrs. Sarah Ann (Porter) Alden, born on February 20, 1825; James Henry, April 26, 1827; William Thomas, October 3, 1828; Rebecca Frances, April 9, 1830; Henry Jackson, February 11, 1832; Mary Elizabeth, October 3, 1832; Mrs. Christe Ann Woodward, June 30, 1835; Mrs. Amelia Priscilla Marlow, March 14, 1837; Mrs. Louisa Layton Clark, October 28, 1838; John White, April 7, 1840; Mrs. Mary Hester Porter, March 24, 1842; Henrietta, May 21, 1844, and Samuel Latta, February 2, 1846.

That Samuel L. Jackson's progress and prosperity as a farmer are just rewards of his generous and unselfish kindness to a mother and children of a deceased sister, cannot be denied. Educated in the country schools, he lived with his mother until forty years old, and in 1886, the same year his sister, Mrs. Porter, died, he brought his mother and three sons of his departed sister to the farm, two miles west of Greensburg.

Later on in the same year, September 9, 1886, Mr. Jackson was married to Mary Hamilton, the daughter of Robert Marshall and Mary (Morgan) Hamilton, who was born on October 8, 1848, and who at the time of their marriage was two years her husband's junior. After his marriage, Mr. Jackson moved to the farm owned by Robert Marshall Hamilton, the old home place.

Robert Marshall Hamilton was born on November 17, 1811, and died

on August 6, 1901. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Morgan, was born in January, 1811, and died, February 3, 1884. They were married, September 26, 1834. He was the son of Robert Hamilton, who, in turn, was the son of William Hamilton. Robert Marshall Hamilton, who was born in Kentucky, came to Decatur county, Indiana, when twelve years old and lived in Washington township all his life. During his life he erected a large brick house on the Clarksburg turnpike in Washington township, and it is this house which has since been remodeled, until it is now one of the most beautiful and attractive farm homes in Decatur county. Of the five children born to Robert Marshall and Mary (Morgan) Hamilton only three are now living, Charles C. and Gerard are deceased; Thomas Woodson, the eldest child, lives in Greensburg; Mrs. Sarah Rankin lives in Washington township; Mrs. Samuel L. Jackson is the other living child. A very energetic man, Robert Marshall Hamilton provided well for his family, educated his children and amassed a fortune, owning at the time of his death, thirteen hundred acres of land. First an Abolitionist, then a Republican and still later a Prohibitionist, he was a man of pronounced views. It is an interesting fact that his home was an important station of the underground railway, and that he sheltered many runaway slaves during his life, narrowly escaping trouble and damages on several occasions. A member of the Presbyterian church, in the latter part of his life he gave freely of his wealth to various educational institutions, and during his day and generation had, perhaps, more to do with the educational progress of this county than any other man.

To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Jackson have been born three children, all of whom are living at home with their parents, Robert Hamilton, on January 29, 1889; Louise, November 29, 1892, and Amelia, February 12, 1894. These children attended the district schools and finished their school work in Purdue University and Oberlin College.

All the members of the Jackson family are identified with the Kingston Presbyterian church. Mrs. Jackson is a member of the Independent Club, and her daughters of the Department Club and of the Kingston Progress Club. Robert Hamilton, the only son, is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Jackson joined the Greensburg Lodge of Odd Fellows No. 103, when twenty-one years of age, and has been a member all his life. Formerly a Republican in politics, he identified himself with the new Progressive party at its formation and has been active in its councils in Decatur county. All the members of the Jackson family are well known and prominent socially in Greensburg and Decatur county. They are among the most hospitable citizens to be found anywhere in the county and well deserve the high social



regard and esteem bestowed upon them by the people of this county. Highly educated, cultured and refined, the Jackson family has added much to the wholesome community spirit and life of Washington township.

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### THOMAS J. KITCHIN.

Like his brother, Guy Kitchin, whose sketch is found elsewhere in this volume, Thomas J. Kitchin is one of the highly respected and influential citizens of Fugit township, and is deserving of all the good things that come to him in this life. He is a man who attends strictly to his own affairs, and believes in letting others have the same privileges that he requires for himself. He is broad-minded, full of sympathy for those in distress, and is generous in doing his part, when charity calls upon him.

Thomas J. Kitchin, of Fugit township, was born on September 11, 1890, on the home place, and is a son of Frank Benjamin Kitchin. Thomas J. is a farmer, and is proud of his vocation, in which he takes the utmost interest. His education was obtained, first at the public schools of Kingston, after which he spent two years at the Greensburg high school, and later attended the Central Business College, at Indianapolis. He began farming on August 1, 1912, on the one hundred and sixty acres of land belonging to his father, which he has improved with a new dwelling house, and a fine barn. He is a Republican, and a member of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill.

Frank Benjamin Kitchin, father of subject, was a native of Decatur county, and lived there all his life, until his removal to Indianapolis. His present address is Indianapolis, where he is in the stock business.

Thomas J. Kitchin was married on June 19, 1912, to Miss Lillian Ellen Moore, who was born in Fugit township. She is a daughter of Rufus and Anna (McCracken) Moore. Rufus Moore was born in Covington, Kentucky. He now lives in Fugit township. Mrs. Kitchin graduated from the Greensburg high schools in 1911, and attended Monmouth College at Monmouth, Illinois, for one year, at the end of which time she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Kitchin are members of the United Presbyterian church, where twelve families meet once a month for the purpose of discussing matters of general interest in the community in which they live. They have one son, John Robert Kitchin, born on April 30, 1913.

Rufus Sanford Moore was born on January 24, 1866, at Covington,

Kentucky, and is a son of Joseph W. and Mary Ann (Stevens) Moore. He was employed, when quite young, in a tin shop at Clarksburg, and later in a bank at Delphi, Indiana. After his marriage, he farmed for fifteen years in Rush county, and then came to Decatur county, and now resides on the McCracken farm. His wife is a daughter of Hugh McCracken, an old resident of Fugit township. They were the parents of the following children: Lillian Ellen (Kitchin), born on February 11, 1891; Walter, who is now farming, and Mary Ann, who is at home.

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### JASPER COBB.

One of the well-known retired farmers of Decatur county, Indiana, and one of the veterans of our great Civil War, is Jasper Cobb, who was born on August 5, 1847, in Washington township on a pioneer farm, and who is the son of Dyar and Elmira (Tremain) Cobb, the former of whom was born on August 6, 1807, died in 1900, and the latter of whom was born in 1810, and who died in 1885. Dyar Cobb was a native of Greensburg, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and the son of Joshua Cobb, of Colonial ancestry and of Welsh descent.

In 1818 Joshua Cobb and family came down the Ohio river by boat, and, after remaining for two years in Dearborn county, on account of the dry seasons, came on to Decatur county, where only two houses could be seen from the farm he entered, to which place, in the spring of 1821, he brought his family. Here on the Michigan trail, in Marion township, Joshua Cobb pre-empted land, blazing his way through the forest from Napoleon in Ripley county. He put up a brick shack against a huge poplar log for his first home, and then felled logs and built a cabin. A large and vigorous man, he died in 1860. His wife, who was a Miss Crawford before her marriage, died in 1864. His eight children, Willard, Dyar, John, Percy, Elkenah, Mrs. Maria Christy, Helen and Mrs. Martha Terhune, are all deceased, the last named dying in Illinois.

When Dyar Cobb attained his majority he cleared a farm on the Michigan road, and there reared his family. The owner of three hundred acres of land, he was prominent during his day and generation, but declined official preferment. He was a member of the Universalist church and a Republican in politics, casting his first vote, however, for the Whig candidates in 1828. Early in life he had learned the brick-burning trade, and followed





MR. AND MRS. JASPER COBB.



this trade occasionally. Of the twelve children born to Dyar and Elmira (Tremain) Cobb, all but four died in youth or infancy. Mrs. Nancy Hazelrigg, the eldest, died in 1905. Among the other children were: Mrs. O. C. Elder; Mrs. Martha Stewart, of Illinois; John, Nancy, Joshua, Harvey, Mary, Newton and Jasper.

At the age of sixteen years, Jasper Cobb enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in 1864, under Captain Joseph Drake and under Colonel Gavin, serving one hundred and twenty days. He enlisted, however, for only one hundred days. Mr. Cobb eventually came into possession of the old Cobb homestead of three hundred acres, but disposed of two hundred acres of the farm in 1906. He still has one hundred acres left. Until February 14, 1898, he was actively engaged in farming, and then removed to Greensburg.

In March, 1873, Jasper Cobb was married to Ann Eliza Montgomery. They had one child, Robert, who died at the age of four and one-half years. Mrs. Cobb, the daughter of John G. H. and Sarah (Shadrick) Montgomery, the former of whom was born on August 14, 1819, in Kentucky, a farmer by occupation, and one who was well educated and a natural genius. Mrs. Montgomery was born on May 8, 1813. In 1849 John G. H. Montgomery purchased a small farm, one and one-half miles southeast of Greensburg, and there established a home, increasing his acreage until he owned five farms. He is now deceased, having passed from this life in 1894. He and his wife reared a family of eight children. Of these children, Nancy Jane was born on November 1, 1840, married N. S. Potter, and died on April 8, 1870; Sarah E., January 25, 1842, who married Leonard McCune, died on March 5, 1874; Mary F., in 1844, married J. C. St. John, of Greensburg; Henry H., in 1846, was a soldier in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He lives in Zirich, Montana; Robert W., in 1848, died in Oregon on October 1, 1911; Ann Eliza married Mr. Cobb and is a talented and gracious woman; John Q., September 26, 1853, lives in Grants Pass, Oregon; George, in 1854, owns and operates a garage in Greensburg.

Of Mrs. Cobb's remote ancestry, it may be said that her great-grandfather, Hugh Montgomery, was born in 1760, in Ireland, and settled in Pennsylvania, and that he and his brother William were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. William was lost. A half-brother, George, also disappeared. Hugh Montgomery married Eva Hartman in 1784, a native of Germany. They had thirteen children, among whom were Mary, the wife of Alexan-

der Ganst; Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson; Thomas; Henry; Margaret; William; Sallie, and Hugh, Jr., the grandfather of Mrs. Cobb, who was born on August 29, 1797. While on a visit to Kentucky, he fell in love with a distant cousin, Elizabeth Montgomery, and married her, October 14, 1818. They resided in Shelby county, Kentucky, until 1830, when they came to Indiana, settling two miles north of Greensburg. Here they purchased a farm one mile southeast of Greensburg. The wife died, December 4, 1859. When Hugh Montgomery was sixty-six years old he enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, but was refused admission in the army on account of his age. He died, April 22, 1872. His son, John G. H. Montgomery, the father of Mrs. Cobb, who married Sarah Shadrick, died in 1898.

Of Mrs. Cobb it may be said that she is a talented woman, and one who is well known in this section for her beautiful poem, the "Old Homestead." She also is the author of that portion of the Montgomery genealogy which deals especially with the Montgomeries of Decatur county, Indiana. Mr. Cobb is a Republican, a member of the Baptist church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is also a member of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, at Greensburg, Indiana. Mrs. Cobb is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Lone Tree Chapter, of which she has been active as a charter member and she was the second treasurer of the chapter.

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### THOMAS DUFFEY.

Not very far from the city of Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, and located in Washington township, is a beautiful farm of two hundred and four acres, known as the Prairie View farm, and where the passerby may see, sitting well back from the much-traveled thoroughfare, a large frame barn, of modern construction, and an old-time brick house. Since February 18, 1910, this has been the home of Mrs. Anna (Koors) Duffey and children. The buildings are set well within a wide and spacious lawn with numerous trees to break the monotony of the landscape and to furnish abundant shade during the hot days of an Indiana summer.

This farm was purchased by the late Thomas Duffey three years before his death. During his life, Thomas Duffey was one of the best-known farmers and stockmen of Decatur county. He was born on October 10, 1857, and died, September 23, 1907, having almost reached the half century

mark. His parents, Patrick and Bridget Duffey, natives of Ireland, emigrated to Decatur county, and settled on a farm, their son being reared here and educated in the schools of Decatur county, especially in the Milhausen neighborhood. At one time Patrick Duffey kept a grocery in Cincinnati, but later removed from Cincinnati to the Milhausen neighborhood, two miles from Milhausen, where the late Thomas Duffey was reared and where he was married.

During his lifetime, Thomas Duffey owned several farms. He first purchased a farm of eighty acres in the Milhausen neighborhood, and after living there for eight years, removed to Milhausen and engaged in the live stock business for two years, when he moved to the McCoy farm, where he lived for eight years, finally purchasing the farm. He then bought the Hazelrigg property, near Greensburg, and lived there from 1898 until 1907, the time of his death. In cultivating his various farms and from the live stock business he was able to save considerable money and was regarded as a very successful man.

At the time of his death, the late Thomas Duffey left a widow and six children. His wife, Mrs. Anna (Koors) Duffey, to whom he was married, February 12, 1884, was born in Cincinnati on March 28, 1862, the daughter of Barney and Anna (Fernerding) Koors, natives of Germany. Mrs. Duffey's father, a cooper and mill-wright by trade, removed to Decatur county and settled in the Milhausen neighborhood in 1865, farming there for eight years. The mother died in 1873, and after her death, her husband operated a mill and a mercantile store in Milhausen, until the mill burned. He kept the store, however, until his death, December 20, 1907, when he was seventy-eight years old.

Of the six children left by Thomas Duffey at the time of his death, the Rev. Charles Duffey is the assistant pastor of St. Anthony's parish, at Indianapolis; Bernard, who was born on April 2, 1888, is managing the Prairie View farm; Alfred, October 25, 1890; Hilda, December 6, 1893, is at home with her mother; Clarence, February 12, 1896, died on June 18, 1909; Robert, the youngest child, January 2, 1900.

After removing to the Washington township farm in 1910, Mrs. Duffey and her sons erected a magnificent fine barn in 1911, and in 1914 they erected a modern silo. The Prairie View farm is one of the best to be found in Decatur county—the best, not only from the standpoint of its general appearance, but from the standpoint of the fertility of the soil. In 1914 the forty acres of corn raised on the farm produced two thousand bushels. Mrs. Duffey and her sons feed and sell seventy to one hundred and fifty head of hogs every year, and about a carload of cattle. Every bushel of grain raised

on the farm is fed to live stock, and last year it was necessary to buy one thousand bushels to feed out the stock. One might search the length and breadth of Decatur county and still fail to find young men who are more progressive in their notions and methods of agriculture and more enterprising and thrifty than the sons of the late Thomas Duffey. At the time of his death, he was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic church, and Greensburg Council No. 1652, Knights of Columbus. In fact, the Duffey family are all members of the Catholic church, and loyal and devout in this faith.

With earnest purpose and a sense of the responsibility, Mrs. Duffey and her children have taken up and carried forward the work of the deceased husband and father, a man who, by his industry, energy and good management, was able to provide well for his widow and children. A man of most loving disposition, his memory is revered not only by the members of his immediate family, but by those who knew him as a successful farmer and stockman, and by those who had any relations with him in a business or social way. His passing was a distinct loss to the citizenship of this county.

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#### THOMAS H. STEVENSON.

The late Thomas H. Stevenson, who was well known as a business man in Decatur county, Indiana, and who was a leader in the political circles of this county, was a man who, as far as he was able to do so, lived by the Golden Rule.

The late Thomas H. Stevenson was born on August 11, 1854, the son of Thomas and Eliza (Abrams) Stevenson, and died on December 16, 1914. His father, the son of Scottish parents, lived and died in Dearborn county. In 1871 Thomas H. came to Greensburg as deputy internal revenue collector under the late Will Cumback, and held this position for eleven years, or until 1882, when he resigned to enter the produce commission business in Cincinnati with Gilette Stevenson, who was a former revenue collector. After being in Cincinnati for three years, he returned to Greensburg in 1885 and took charge of the Emmert Flouring Mill, relieving his father-in-law, the late John Emmert, whose health had failed. After being in charge of this mill until it changed owners, he engaged in the brokerage business, his own health having failed. In this latter business he was very successful and at this time his widow and son own the old Wooley farm in Decatur county, a farm which consists of one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved and highly productive land.

On January 13, 1879, Thomas H. Stevenson was married to Elizabeth Emmert, who was born on July 10, 1855, in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and who is the daughter of John and Catherine (Seitz) Emmert, natives of Mannheim, Germany, and Alsace-Lorraine, respectively.

There were three eventful years in the career of John Emmert. In 1845 he came to America with his parents and located at Trenton, New Jersey, and eight years later, in 1853, he located in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where he married Catherine Seitz and thirteen years later, in 1866, he moved to Greensburg, Indiana, where most of his fortune was acquired. During his life at Greensburg, he built and operated the Garland mills. He was an excellent miller and understood not only the business phase of milling, but the technical and manufacturing end as well. A Democrat in politics and for some time a councilman in Greensburg, John Emmert was an influential man in Decatur county, public-spirited, progressive, industrious and, in his later life, very wealthy. He was also prominent as a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Catherine Seitz had come to America with her parents when four years old in 1838, when they first located at Hamilton, Ohio, but her father, Christopher Seitz, later moved to Dearborn county, where he became a farmer. John Emmert died in 1882, his wife surviving him many years and passing away in 1909.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Stevenson was born one son, Emmert C., who was born on May 21, 1891, and who was educated in the Greensburg public schools, the Greensburg high school and Purdue University at Lafayette. After graduating from the electrical engineering department of Purdue University, he returned to his home in Decatur county and is now manager of the home farm.

During his entire life, Mr. Stevenson was more or less actively identified with Republican politics in Decatur county and the fourth congressional district. During very late years, however, he was inclined toward the new Progressive party. In this section of the state, he was known as a far-seeing political leader and manager, although he personally never sought office, but he looked after the interest of his party in this section of the state and it was well known by state leaders that his pledges of support and promises of services could be depended upon absolutely. A member of the Greensburg lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, he was very prominent in this organization, and if any man who has lived in Decatur county within recent years has followed the Golden Rule as a model for the relationship of life, it was the late Thomas H. Stevenson.



## JAMES A. MYERS.

Of the many magnificent farms to be found on the widely traveled highway, a few miles southwest of Greensburg, is one of eighty acres owned by James A. Myers, one of the well-known farmers of Washington township.

James A. Myers, who was born on July 22, 1847, on Sand creek, in a log cabin in the wilderness, is the son of William H. and Elizabeth M. (Annie) Myers, the former of whom was born on August 6, 1824, and who died, August 8, 1904, and the latter of whom was born on June 29, 1827, died May 1, 1900. Born in Kentucky, the late William H. Myers was a son of George and Margaret (Harmon) Myers, also natives of Kentucky, the former, who came to Decatur county about 1832, took up a tract of timber land on Sand Creek, and there cleared a place for a house and established a home. He died at the age of eighty-nine years. Reared in a pioneer settlement, the late William H. Myers lived with his father for many years after his marriage. In 1857 he sold the farm situated on Sand Creek and purchased the farm now known as the Davis homestead, near Horace, where he lived for several years, eventually selling out and removing to Kansas, where he lived for fifteen years. At the end of this period he returned to Decatur county and there died.

William H. and Elizabeth (Annis) Myers had ten children, two of whom are deceased. Of their children, James A. is the subject of this sketch; George M. lives in Sand Creek township; John Thomas, born on October 21, 1851, lives in Clay township, Decatur county; William R., July 24, 1854, died in infancy; Mrs. Alice B. Sanderson, July 21, 1857, died on September 11, 1897, near Forest Hill; Eliza L., February 21, 1859, lives in Webb City, Missouri; Harvey M., October 18, 1861; Merritt E., November 25, 1864, lives in Oklahoma; Mrs. Ida M. Johnson, September 11, 1867, lives in Indianapolis, as does her sister, Mrs. Nancy N. Berry, born on September 26, 1871.

Starting out in life for himself at the age of twenty-one, James A. Myers was married, October 21, 1868, to Martha E. Wynkoop, daughter of James and Barbara (Hedrick) Wynkoop, of Sand Creek township. Mrs. Myers was born on July 24, 1848, near Laurel, in Franklin county, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Myers have had two children, Jennie F., who was born on November 3, 1869, married William N. Gartin, the son of Zack Gartin, October 22, 1899, and Effie B., October 31, 1877, married Norman Eubanks, of Greensburg, and they have one child, Gilbert Dale, aged nineteen.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers owned thirty-five acres of land in Clay township.

where they lived until April, 1869 (after their marriage), when they removed to Sand Creek township and there lived until 1903. At that time they sold out and purchased a farm near Greensburg, comprising eighty acres of land, where they have now lived for twelve years.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Myers comes from a long line of ancestors who have been prominent Democrats in the respective communities where they have lived. Although a Democrat in national and perhaps state politics, Mr. Myers is not a hide-bound partisan and votes independently in local affairs. He served two terms as justice of the peace of Sand Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Myers are members of the Baptist church at Liberty. They are active workers in church affairs. Here in the neighborhood where they have lived these many years, they are highly respected citizens, honored for their quiet and unassuming manners, for their native intelligence and sympathetic interest in the welfare of the community as a whole. Mr. Myers is a man of sterling integrity, scrupulous in all the dealings of life, and well known in different parts of Decatur county.

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#### FRANK C. STOUT.

In selecting his life work, Frank C. Stout chose something that would give pleasure to his friends, as well as to himself. He might have had in mind, also, the fact that music, more than any other factor in life, has a charm, toned with sweetness, harmony and rhythm to a degree understood by everyone, and to a great measure helpful and uplifting not only to the toiler but to the artist as well. While the traditional writer has said that "music hath charms to soothe the savage breast," it might have added, "and draw all men together in a state of peace and happiness." However, the success with which Mr. Stout has met, is sufficient proof of his efficiency as a piano tuner, and his ability as a musician, a combination which has brought him in good returns.

Frank C. Stout, piano dealer and tuner, of Greensburg, Indiana, was born in that city, in June, 1878, the son of Wiley J. Stout. Subject was reared and educated in the public schools of Greensburg. In young manhood he studied medicine, thinking to follow that profession, but his artistic nature outweighed this desire and, about 1905, he began tuning pianos, and later opened salesrooms in Greensburg, where he handles a fine line of the French & Sons and Busch & Geits pianos, in which he does a thriving business. His store is one of the most attractive of its kind in the city.

Wiley J. Stout was born in Decatur county and died about 1895. He was a son of Harvey P. Stout (see Stout genealogy in the sketch of John F. Robbins, elsewhere in this volume). At an early age, Wiley J. Stout learned the carpenter trade, in which he became very skillful, and at which he worked all his life. He was united in marriage to Octavia Lloyd, who is also deceased. Frank C. Stout is their only child now living. He is a strong advocate of the principles of the Progressive party, is an exceptional musician, and is especially proficient on the piano. His host of admiring friends, who have done their part in aiding him to build up his business, speaks well for his popularity.

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### JAMES CARTER McLAUGHLIN.

The offspring of a pioneer family of Decatur county, Indiana, the late James Carter McLaughlin, a veteran of the Civil War and a well-known farmer and stockman of this county during his life, gained almost national fame as a breeder of trotting horses which were especially well known throughout the state of Indiana. Not only was he a successful farmer and stockman, but he was well known as a citizen and public-spirited man of affairs. He lived to rear a large family of children, who were given the very best educational advantages and who, now that he is gone, revere the memory of a loving and kind father.

The late James Carter McLaughlin, proprietor of Ash Grove stock farm in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, and later of the old homestead farm of three hundred acres, was born on January 27, 1831, in Decatur county, and passed away, January 4, 1894, the son of George and Sarah (Carter) McLaughlin, who were born and married in Mason county, Kentucky, and who, after their marriage, in 1827, came the same year to Decatur county, where they entered government land.

George and Sarah (Carter) McLaughlin, the former of whom was an intelligent and highly respected citizen, progressive in spirit and successful in business, were the parents of eight children, only four of whom grew to maturity. Of these children, James C. is the subject of this sketch; Mary Frances, deceased, was born on February 1, 1829, and married Zachariah T. Riley, April 13, 1853; Elizabeth Ann was the wife of Thomas M. Hamilton, deceased, who now lives on North East street, Greensburg, Indiana, and Casper Wooster died in the state of California.

The father of these children was an ardent Republican during his life.

He spent his declining years at the home of his son, the late J. C. McLaughlin. The father was born on September 24, 1802, and died, October 29, 1885. His wife, Sarah (Carter) McLaughlin, was born on August 18, 1804, and died July 20, 1873. They were married, April 10, 1827.

After living at home on his father's farm and performing the work ordinarily falling to the lot of the average country boy during the earlier years of the history of this county, James Carter McLaughlin enlisted in 1861 in the Wilder battery, later the Independent battery, and served four years as a soldier in the Civil War. At the siege of Knoxville he was taken seriously ill and was unable to serve for some time. He was in many battles and sieges, including those at Somerset, Kentucky, and Harpers Ferry, where the battery was captured. James C. was later exchanged at Indianapolis. Afterward the battery saw active service in Kentucky and Tennessee, and was on the firing line until the close of the war.

Immediately after the close of the Civil War, Mr. McLaughlin was married, March 14, 1866, to Louisa Davidson, who was born on December 25, 1839, in Decatur county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Isaac and Jennie (Miller) Davidson, natives of Nicholas county, Kentucky, and Monroe county, Virginia, respectively. Isaac Davidson, who was born in 1802, and who died in July, 1855, came to Decatur county, Indiana, when a young man, and worked for seven and one-half dollars a month. Coming here in 1827, he eventually owned a fine farm in Clinton township. Mrs. Jennie (Miller) Davidson, who was born in 1809, and who died in 1905, at the age of ninety-six years, was the daughter of John Miller, who came to Decatur county in 1814, and after settling near Clarksburg, was engaged in burning brick. He had come down the river on a flat-boat, and at the time he passed Cincinnati, it was a mere hamlet. His nearest neighbors at the time were seven miles away. Indians were very numerous in the country. At this time his daughter, Jennie Miller, was only five years old, and she had accompanied him to this county.

Isaac and Jennie (Miller) Davidson had eight children, Mary, who married Sol Sharp, died in 1860; John, in 1833, resides on a farm near Hartville, Kansas; Elizabeth, who was born in 1835, became the wife of Henry Bird, deceased, and resides on Hendricks street, Greensburg; Margaret, in 1837, married Thomas Draper, who died in 1910, in Kansas; Louise, the widow of the late James Carter McLaughlin; Jane, February 2, 1841, always lived with her mother on Walnut street; Rhoda died at the age of twelve years, and Taylor died in his youth.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Carter McLaughlin six children were born, all

of whom are living, except one, Mary, who died at the age of thirty-eight years. The names of the children are as follow: Blanche, Orion D., Mary, Della, James Barton and Frances. Of these children, Blanche, a graduate of Indiana State University, lives on Lincoln street, Greensburg, Indiana; Orion D., a farmer, resides on East street. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of land; Della, a graduate of Purdue University, is the wife of W. H. Silver. They live at West Newton; James Barton, who lives on the old homestead, is a graduate of Purdue University, and married Margaret Miller. They have two children, James C. and William Graham; and Frances, a graduate of Purdue University, is the wife of S. W. Shirk, a well-known farmer of this county.

James Carter McLaughlin was a Republican, although he never took much interest in political affairs, while his good wife during her active life, was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

As an enterprising man of business, a farmer and breeder, James Carter McLaughlin contributed materially to the progress and prosperity of Decatur county. He was a man necessarily of large vision, who could foresee large opportunities, and he possessed the executive skill, the capacity for details to carry out preconceived plans. He was the very soul of honor, loving and kind in the home, cordial and genial in all the relations of life, private or public.

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### WILLIAM SMILEY.

Among the early settlers of pioneer days, in the second decade of the nineteenth century, with but few advantages, a sturdy native of the Keystone state, whose ambition was to cut out of the concrete of life something more than a mere pittance and who, like many another lad, had but a few hundred dollars with which to make a start, drinking at the fountain of perspective, was William Smiley, a man of unusual thrift, whose unflagging courage and persistence led him through the many vicissitudes of life to a field of prosperity and plenty. With an ambition to see that his posterity were well provided for, he was a man of keen perception, wrought out of the fact, no doubt, that he was self-educated, broad-minded and a man of sound judgment. It is pleasing, indeed, under all conditions in life to see any of the younger generations forge to the front, and even more so when the freshness of youth knows no failure and recognizes no defeat. As such an one, it is a pleasure to point to the life-work of William Smiley

with a sense of pride, as a man having utilized the opportunities as they came to him, molding them into a great success.

William Smiley, was born in February, 1814, and migrated with his parents from Pennsylvania to Butler county, Ohio, where they settled on a farm on which he grew to manhood. He was married in Butler county and, in the year 1849, came to this county, locating on a farm in Clay township. He became very prosperous, in time coming to own hundreds of acres of choice land in this county. Beginning life in Decatur county with a few hundred dollars as his capital, he managed his affairs so wisely and so prudently that he became one of the wealthiest men in the county. To each of his children he gave farms, in addition to which his daughters received nice sums of money upon reaching eighteen years of age. Despite the fact that he continued giving away his property, he left an estate of about sixty thousand dollars, an evidence of his ability as a financier. Mr. Smiley had few advantages in his youth and was a self-educated man, acquiring, by close observation and the constant exercise of his remarkable native talents, a fine general knowledge. He was an uncompromising Democrat and ever took an interest in the county's political affairs, long being recognized as one of the most active workers in his party in this county, a veritable "wheel-horse," in fact; his sound judgment and keen common sense giving large weight to his counsels in the deliberations of the party managers in Decatur county. He was a splendid horseman and it is still recalled that, on gala occasions, it was his wont to turn out, driving ten or a dozen horses in a team. In his later years he left the farm and moved to Greensburg, where his last days were passed in comfortable retirement, his death occurring on June 30, 1893, his widow surviving until July 8, 1896.

To William and Mary A. (Kenny) Smiley were born ten children, as follow: Mrs. Permelia Henry, deceased; Mrs. Caroline Sefton, widow of Edward B. Sefton, of Greensburg; George W. and James M. (twins), the former of whom died in 1907, and the latter of whom died in infancy; Harvey K., who died in January, 1915; Thomas K., a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county; William F., who resided in Greensburg; Mary, who died on August 17, 1914; S. P., who lives at El Campo (Texas) Hotel, and Margaret, widow of William A. Johnston.

Mrs. Margaret L. Johnston was born on a farm in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on January 18, 1857, the daughter of William and Mary A. (Kennedy) Smiley, pioneers of this county, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter a native of New Jersey.



Upon her marriage to William A. Johnston in 1877, Mrs. Johnston moved from the paternal farm to Greensburg, where she ever since has made her home. Mr. Johnston was born in the town of Franklin, Johnson county, Indiana, on February 1, 1854, and died in February, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnston three children were born, Cora S., at home; Walter married Elizabeth Bates in 1910 and lives at Greensburg; and Raymond K., stenographer with the Big Four Railroad Company at Indianapolis.

Mrs. Johnston is held in the highest esteem in the social circles of Greensburg and is deeply interested in the general welfare of the entire community. She formerly was an active member of several local clubs.

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#### NELSON M. TEMPLETON.

Nelson M. Templeton, a retired citizen of Greensburg, Indiana, and one of the prominent and well-known men of Decatur county, was born on October 22, 1845, on a farm in Franklin county, the son of John and Elizabeth (Barnard) Templeton, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom died in September, 1899, and the latter of whom the daughter of David Barnard, of Pennsylvania, died on August 20, 1896. John Templeton was an early resident of Franklin county, the son of David Templeton, a pioneer settler of southeastern Indiana. The Templetons built a cabin on the east fork of the White Water, in Franklin county, or on Templeton's creek. In 1865 the family settled in Washington township, Decatur county, and here owned a good farm, comprising three hundred acres of well-improved land, located two miles south of Greensburg, which is known to this day as the Templeton farm, where both parents died. John Templeton was a Republican and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of the eight children born to John and Elizabeth (Barnard) Templeton, two are now deceased; Catherine is the wife of George Fiscus and resides one and one-half miles south of Greensburg, Decatur county; Nelson M. is the subject of this sketch; James W., who was born on December 22, 1847, died on May 1, 1901, at the age of fifty-two years, and had married Frances Stout, daughter of Joab and Rebecca Stout, who bore him the following children, Flora, Ella, Grace, Harry and Elizabeth; Robert and Edward were twins, the former of whom is deceased, and the latter resides south of Greensburg; Laura is the widow of Griffith Gartin, deceased; John lives



west of Greensburg in the Emington neighborhood, and Oliver married Ida Taylor, and is the proprietor of a machine shop.

Upon leaving home at the age of twenty-seven years, Nelson M. Templeton farmed near Adams for three years, and in 1875 moved to Letts Corner and purchased a farm, where he lived for ten years. Not liking this place, however, in 1885 he moved to Lebanon in Boone county, and purchased a partnership in a planing mill and builders' supply firm. In September of the next year, he returned to St. Paul and from there moved to Clifty, or Milford, and from Clifty to Franklin, Johnson county, where he remained for six years, during which time he was engaged in the carpenter trade. After his mother's death he removed to the old place, where he lived for three years, and rented a farm east of Greensburg for three years, subsequently removing to that city. During one and one-half years' residence in Greensburg, he purchased a part of the home estate of eighty-one acres, erected a house and barn, and moved his family to the farm. In 1909 he sold out and moved back to Greensburg.

On November 21, 1873, Nelson M. Templeton was married to Rachel Stark, who was born on November 4, 1852, in Decatur county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Aden Boone and Eliza (Wallace) Stark, natives of Oldenburg, Kentucky, and Rockbridge county, Virginia, respectively. The former was the son of Caleb Stark, who married Anna Boone, a cousin of Daniel Boone. Caleb Stark, in fact, was a follower of Daniel Boone, and the son of Capt. John Stark, a soldier in the Revolutionary army. Caleb Stark was a member of the Decatur county board of commissioners when the court house was built. A number of the famous characters in the "Hoosier Schoolmaster" were modeled on members of Caleb Stark's family.

Aden Boone Stark, who was born on October 21, 1815, in Olden county, Kentucky, moved with his father to Decatur county in 1825. He was married to Eliza Wallace, September 7, 1837, and by her had nine children, among whom are the following: Percis Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Joseph Braden; John Caleb, of Clifty, Decatur county; Mary Ann, the wife of Cyrus Moore, of Clifty; Hannah Elizabeth, deceased; Charles, deceased; Mrs. Rachel Templeton; William, a farmer in Bartholomew county; and two children who died in infancy. Aden Boone Stark died on April 19, 1890. In this connection it is worth while to mention the fact that five of the eleven children born to Caleb Stark were natives of Kentucky, their names being Aden, George, Willett, Percis and Lovina.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson M. Templeton are members of the Baptist church. He is identified with the Republican party. A man well known in this sec-

tion, he is highly honored and respected by all who have come in contact with him, and especially his fellow townsmen in the city of Greensburg.

Nelson M. Templeton and wife have two children, Nellie, at home; and Perry William, a decorator at Indianapolis, who married Margaret Erhardt, and they have two children, Howard and Elizabeth.

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### JAMES PORTER.

Not many families in Decatur county have created a more distinct impression upon its affairs than has the well-known Porter family. This family has been represented in Decatur county since the early days of the settlement of this section of the state and wherever its members have been found, there they have been doing well those things toward which their energies were being directed. In the agricultural life, the industrial life, the religious life and the professional life of the community they have been active, the family having produced several notable leaders in these several departments of human endeavor. Prominent in good works, faithful in whatever service they were called upon to perform, either in public or private stations, the Porters have acquitted themselves in such fashion as to merit the continued confidence and esteem of the entire community, and it is a pleasure on the part of the biographer to bring to the attention of the reader at this point something regarding the beginnings of this family in Decatur county. For further details relating to the family, the reader is respectively referred to brief biographical sketches of the careers of Alexander Porter, the well-known contractor, and Dr. Edward A. Porter, brothers of the subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume.

James Porter was born on the farm on which he still is living, three and one-half miles southwest of the city of Greensburg, in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, on March 7, 1871, a son of Matthew E. and Clarissa (McKinney) Porter, both members of pioneer families of this county. Matthew E. Porter was born in the year 1836, his birth occurring in a log cabin which still is standing on the east half of the farm now owned by James Porter. He was the only son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Elder) Porter, the latter of whom was a daughter of the venerated Rev. Nathan Elder, a pioneer minister of the Baptist faith who exerted so strong an influence for good in pioneer days in this section of the state. Rev. Nathan Elder, a native of Kentucky, was a "circuit rider" of the old

school and his ministrations were extended far and near throughout this section of Indiana. He built the first church in Union county, Indiana, and for many years preached the gospel with a devotion that made his name and his works widely known.

Alexander Porter was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1799, the son of a Virginian, who, with his wife, penetrated the wilderness of Indiana Territory in an early day in the settlement of this section of the same. Upon reaching manhood's estate, Alexander Porter married Elizabeth Elder, who was born in Kentucky in 1813, and the pioneer couple went to housekeeping in the log cabin in which Alexander Porter was born, moving to this county in the year 1830 and establishing a new home in the then wilderness of Washington township. To this couple but two children were born, Matthew E. and a girl child, the latter of whom died at the tender age of four years. Matthew E. Porter succeeded to the home farm and lived there all his life, during which time he made but one change in residence, that being when he moved from the original eighty acres entered by his father to the west half of what now constitutes the fine Porter farm of two hundred and fifty-seven acres, owned jointly by James, Alexander and William R., grandsons of the original entrant. This move was made in 1892 and Matthew Porter died in 1908. Matthew Porter was an industrious and progressive farmer and was quite successful in his operations, at his death leaving a fine estate, wholly unencumbered. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Martha A., who married John McConnell and lives six miles south of Greensburg; Alexander, of Greensburg, member of the well-known firm of Pulse & Porter, building contractors, further mention of whom is made in this volume; John, deceased; William R., of the firm of Pulse & Porter, who has charge of that firm's extensive plant at Hope, Indiana; Elizabeth, deceased; James, the immediate subject of this sketch; Andrew, who is living retired in the city of Greensburg, this county; Barton, who died just as he was entering upon what gave promise of being a singularly successful career as a lawyer, and Dr. Edward A., the well-known and popular physician, of Burney, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

James Porter was reared on the home farm and has made the same his home all his life. He is a progressive farmer, having early discovered the value of adopting up-to-date methods in the operation of his extensive farming interests, and has prospered; now being recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in the county. His farm, which formerly was covered

with hard timber, walnut and maple predominating, is gently rolling and is under excellent cultivation. Mr. Porter gives much attention to the raising of fine hogs and in this branch of agriculture has been quite successful, his hogs ever bringing "the top of the market."

On July 20, 1899, James Porter was united in marriage to Mary L. Woodward, daughter of Isaac L. and Christina (Jackson) Woodward, members of prominent pioneer families of this county, and to this union two children have been born, Raymond G., who was born in 1903, and James Iver, who died in infancy.

Mr. Porter is a Democrat and takes such part in the political affairs of the county as is becoming in all good citizens, but never has been included in the office-seeking class, preferring to devote his time and his talents to his own extensive farming interests, rather than to the public service. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is warmly interested in the affairs of his home lodge. He and Mrs. Porter are prominent in the good works of their neighborhood and are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

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### FRANK HAMILTON.

For nearly a century the Hamilton family have been prominent in the civic and political life of Decatur county. The founder of the family in this county was Cyrus Hamilton, who was born in Kentucky, July 4, 1800, and who was married, February 22, 1822, to Mary McCoy, having come to this county immediately after his marriage, and in this early day having become one of the prominent advocates of temperance and an opponent of slavery. Cyrus Hamilton was a prominent man in his day. Long before the issue of slavery was fought out on the bloody battlefields of the Civil War, he maintained a station of the "underground railroad" at his Decatur county home, and assisted scores of slaves to escape north from their southern masters. Of Scotch-Irish descent, he inherited all the sturdy traits of this racial combination, and, although he never held office, he was prominent as a debater of public questions, well read and well informed, as well as being very popular. During his life he was a member of the Sand Creek Presbyterian church and influential in that organization.

Frank Hamilton, a well-known attorney of Greensburg, Indiana, and member of the firm of Osborn & Hamilton, who was born on April 2, 1883, in Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, is the grandson of the well-



FRANK HAMILTON.



known Cyrus Hamilton and the son of Everett Hamilton, the youngest son of Cyrus Hamilton's family. Everett, who was born on October 16, 1841, and who received an excellent education in the Hartville (Indiana) schools and in Butler College at Indianapolis, at one time owned a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Decatur county. He sold it some years ago and is now living retired in Greensburg. On November 10, 1870, he was married to Mary J. Hopkins, daughter of Preston E. Hopkins, of Fugit township, by which marriage there were three sons born. Paul, the eldest son, was born on October 5, 1871, and is engineer of track and roadway for the Big Four railroad system and is stationed at Cincinnati; Edwin S., the second son, who was born on August 23, 1873, lives on the home farm in Fugit township; Frank is the youngest member of the family. Everett Hamilton, the father of these children, has also been prominent as a citizen and farmer in Decatur county, having served as trustee of Fugit township at one time and having for many years been a prominent and influential member of the Kingston Presbyterian church.

Reared on the Fugit township farm and educated in its common schools and later in the Clarksburg high school, where he spent three years, Frank Hamilton no doubt inherited from his father and his grandfather his strong tendency for a professional career. Although neither the father nor the grandfather may be said to have been professional men, yet in their relations of life they exhibited a marked tendency in this direction. Having left the Clarksburg high school after spending three years there, Mr. Hamilton pursued his education in Butler College at Indianapolis, where his father had attended school, and later spent three years in Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. During the first year he was a student in the literary department of the university, and during the succeeding two years was a student in the law department. Later, however, he was graduated from the Indiana Law School at Indianapolis, with the class of 1905, and immediately began the practice of his profession in Greensburg.

Upon receiving his degree from the Indiana Law School, Mr. Hamilton spent a year in the law office of Tackett & Wilson, and from 1907 to 1912 was engaged in the practice of law with Judge James K. Ewing, the senior member of the firm of Ewing & Hamilton. In 1912 he became a member of the firm of Osborn, Hamilton & Harding. Later, however, Mr. Harding withdrew from the firm and for two years Mr. Hamilton has been associated with Mr. Osborn under the firm name of Osborn & Hamilton. Having been appointed deputy prosecuting attorney under the administra-



tion of Prosecutor Albert W. Phillips, of Columbus, Indiana, in 1907, for two years he had charge of all of the work of the prosecutor's office in Decatur county. In 1912 he became county attorney.

Within a short time after establishing himself at Greensburg in the practice of law, Mr. Hamilton was married to Mary F. Isgrigg, of Greensburg, daughter of W. H. Isgrigg. The marriage took place, December 14, 1907. One son, William Everett, who was born on January 24, 1909, is the fruit of this marriage.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Hamilton has been prominent in the councils of the party in Decatur county for many years. During 1910 and 1912 he was secretary of the Decatur County Republican Central Committee. Fraternally, he is a member of Clarksburg Lodge No. 124, Free and Accepted Masons, and is past chancellor commander of Greensburg Lodge No. 148, Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, deputy grand chancellor for the fifteenth district, during 1913 and 1914; past exalted ruler of Greensburg Lodge No. 475, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and a member of the Grand Lodge of Elks.

It must be remembered that Frank Hamilton is a comparatively young man, that he has no more than just begun his career as an attorney in Decatur county. Nevertheless, he is today well established in his profession and his firm enjoys a lucrative practice in this county, a condition for which Mr. Hamilton himself is in no small way responsible. He is not only learned in the law, a wise counselor and a successful practitioner in court, but he is a man of engaging personality and extremely popular in this county.

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#### ADAM MEEK.

While an investment in land does not pay the largest returns upon the money invested, it is, however, the safest investment which any man can make, and while few of the great fortunes have been made from farming, when one considers the risk entailed in speculative financial adventures, the soil remains as the ever present inducement to those who are satisfied with reasonable profit. Industrial and financial stocks may rise or fall in value, but the price of land in this country, generally speaking, has fluctuated in only one direction. Its value has constantly increased from the time our forefathers dugged out the first stump and plowed the first furrow to the present period with no appreciable exception. It is refreshing to know that

a considerable number of our citizens are willing to give the weight of their genius to the cultivation of the land and to accept the normal and steady profits which the ownership insures. Adam Meek, who began life with a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land, started in life by making farming his vocation, and has ever since been engaged in it. He now owns a magnificent farm of three hundred and seventy-five acres, all in one tract, and has devoted his life energy toward increasing its production to the maximum point. He is not only one of the most capable farmers of Decatur county, but he is one of its best citizens.

Adam Meek was born on August 30, 1850, in Clinton township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of John and Jane (Montgomery) Meek. John Meek, a well-known farmer and capitalist of Decatur county, of a past generation, was born in 1826, and passed away in 1908, at the age of eighty-two, after having lived in this county practically all his life. His wife, who before her marriage was Jane Montgomery, was born in 1827 in Decatur county, and died in 1892. They had ten children, one of whom, the youngest, Lola Frances, is now deceased. In the order of their birth the children are as follow: Robert S., of Greensburg; Margaret, the wife of J. B. Robinson, of Greensburg; John T., of Greensburg; Martha Louise, the wife of Capt. John A. Meek, of Kansas; Adam, the subject of this sketch; Jethro C., of Greensburg; Mary, the wife of A. C. Brown, of Rushville; Theresa Lavina, the widow of Robert Innis, deceased, lived in Rush county, Indiana, and Mrs. Anna Pleak, of Greensburg. John T. Meek and wife spent a considerable part of their life in Rush county.

Reared on a farm in Clinton township, the first recollection of Adam Meek dates back to the time when he was twelve years old and when he was engaged with his father in breaking up and plowing a new clearing. He was taken to the clearing by his father and shown by him how to hold the handles of the plow. In the meantime he was attending school at the old Foster subscription school about six months in every year. At the age of twenty-seven years he removed to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township, which his father had given to him and which was already improved. Additional improvements, however, were made, including the erection of a house, barn and other outbuildings. Here Adam Meek resided for fifteen years, and in 1892 removed to Greensburg, where he has since lived, and from which place he has been engaged in directing the cultivation of the farm. Mr. Meek has always raised a large amount of live stock, including about one hundred head of hogs every year.

On November 27, 1878, Adam Meek was married to Adelaide Patton,

the daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Duncan) Patton, and who was born on December 21, 1849, in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana. To this marriage has been born one child, Clifford Patton Meek, May 1, 1882. He was married, October 18, 1904, to Ethel Braden, daughter of Jeremy Braden, and she has been the mother of two children, Harold, born on July 8, 1906, and Majorie, on February 11, 1909. Clifford Patton was educated in Greensburg high school. He was in the hardware business for about ten years in Greensburg, but is now a traveling salesman.

Mrs. Adam Meek's father, Nathaniel Patton II, was born on April 9, 1810, in Adams county, Ohio, and was married, May 21, 1835, to Elizabeth W. Duncan, who was born on April 2, 1813, and who died, January 10, 1894. Nathaniel Patton II, died, November 24, 1888. He and his wife had nine children, William C., whose life history is recounted elsewhere in this volume; John S., who was born on October 23, 1838, died on September 29, 1840; Mary E., September 18, 1840, was married, September 18, 1860, to Alexander M. Stuart; he died on July 2, 1866, and Mrs. Stuart now lives in Greensburg; Eska J., April 5, 1842, married, January 26, 1864, to Robert S. Meek, who died on February 16, 1879; Melissa Ann, July 26, 1844, married, June 18, 1895, to Robert S. Meek, after the death of her sister, Mr. Meek's first wife; Martha E., August 8, 1846, married, September 1, 1868, to Chalmers McDill, who died on July 16, 1879; Mrs. McDill lives in Indianapolis; Adelaide, December 21, 1849, the wife of Adam Meek, the subject of this sketch.

Nathaniel Patton II, the father of Mrs. Adam Meek, was the son of Nathaniel Patton I, who was born on February 22, 1776, and who was married, August 3, 1797, to Polly Robinson, of Rockbridge county, Virginia. She was born on March 10, 1775, and died on January 5, 1847. He died on July 3, 1844, and both are buried at Springhill, in Decatur county. The other members of the family of Nathaniel Patton I, and Polly (Robinson) Patton, were John S., Peggy, James R., Patsy, William, Polly, Nancy, J., Eliza, Samuel W., Rebecca B. and Mary A.

The father of Nathaniel Patton I was John Patton, an emigrant from the north of Ireland. He married Martha Sharp (or Steele), the daughter of a Presbyterian minister from Glasgow, Scotland. Nathaniel Patton I, left Virginia in 1806, and emigrated to Adams county, Ohio, settling there in the early twenties. About 1814 he removed to Rush county, Indiana, not far from Springhill, and died in 1844. The founder of the Patton family in America, John Patton, is believed to have been born about 1754. He had eight brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Meek are a genial and companionable couple, who have always enjoyed life in the fullest measure. He is affiliated with the Progressive party and he and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill. Liberal, enterprising and broad-minded, Adam Meek shows every evidence of the distinguished stock from which he is sprung. This may also be said of his good wife.

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### WILLIAM GODDARD.

Among the worthy farmers and good citizens of the last generation was William Goddard, who was born in 1820 in Kentucky and who died in April, 1897, a son of Thomas Goddard, a native of Kentucky, whose parents came from Virginia, originally.

Reared in Kentucky and educated in the pioneer schools of that day, the late William Goddard was first married in Kentucky to Emily Hazelwood, who died after his removal to Decatur county, Indiana. They had five children, of whom only one, Joseph, a carpenter in Indianapolis, is living. The deceased children are Thomas, who was a soldier in the Civil War; James Wesley, John and Mary.

Before coming to Decatur county, Indiana, the late William Goddard taught school for many years in his native state, and was considered, for a man of his generation, to be well educated and well informed. His breadth of information naturally made him a leader, not only in his native community in Kentucky, but also in Decatur county.

After the death of the first Mrs. Goddard on December 6, 1866, William Goddard married as his second wife Mary Elizabeth McKinney, who was born in 1832 in Washington county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Margaret (VanCleve) McKinney, natives of Kentucky, who were early settlers in Washington county, and who, in 1837, removed to Decatur county, Indiana, settling in Washington township, where they owned a large farm, and became prosperous and well-to-do citizens. Altogether John and Margaret (VanCleave) McKinney had a family of eight children. James Alexander, who died at the age of seventy-seven; Mrs. Sarah Porter, William Rankin and Mary Jane, all deceased; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Goddard; Martha Lovina; Mrs. Rebecca Porter, and Mrs. Emma Pulse, the last three of whom are deceased. Mrs. Goddard, who also survives her husband, is the only member of her parents' family who is still living.

By his second marriage to Mary Elizabeth McKinney, the late William Goddard was the father of five children, all of whom are living. Of these children, Samuel, who is an automobile salesman in Boston, Massachusetts, married Lillian Scott, and they have one child, Blanche; William R., who lives on the home farm, married Margaret Talbott, and they have three children, Miles, John William and Dorothy; Margaret lives at home with her mother; Mrs. Lou Emmert, the wife of Leonard Emmert, lives four miles southeast of Greensburg, and they have three children, Louis, Mildred and Mary Catherine, and Mrs. Bertha Dowden lives in Greensburg and has one child, Margaret Ellen.

Mr. and Mrs. Goddard lived on the farm of a hundred and sixty acres, located about two miles from the Greensburg corporation limits, until Mr. Goddard's death, when Mrs. Goddard removed to Greensburg. William R., the second born of the family, lives on the home farm. A Republican in politics, the late William Goddard served for many years as a justice of the peace. Although Mrs. Goddard and the family are members of the Presbyterian church, Mr. Goddard was a member of the Methodist church, and for many years was prominently identified with the Odd Fellows lodge. Mr. Goddard, whose memory is revered by his loving widow, his children and the host of friends he left behind, was a hard-working, painstaking and successful farmer, who at the time of his death left his family well provided for. He was highly respected in the community where he lived.

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### GILBERT GORDON KINCAID.

Gilbert Gordon Kincaid is among the best known farmers of Fugit township, and he is also one of its most extensive farmers, owning three hundred and seventy-five acres of good land which is in an excellent state of cultivation. He has a splendid country home, beautifully set in elaborate and well-kept grounds; the large white barn appearing in the background is the most striking evidence of Mr. Kincaid's thrift and prosperity.

Born on November 6, 1857, on the farm where he now lives, Gilbert Gordon Kincaid is the son of John and Nancy Helen (Alexander) Kincaid, the former of whom was born in Kentucky in November, 1813, and who died in May, 1894. He was the son of John W. Kincaid, a native of Tennessee, who emigrated to Kentucky and who brought his family to Decatur county in 1831, shortly after the settlement of this county began.

He was preceded to Indiana, however, by his two sons, Joseph and Andrew, to Decatur county where he entered government land and eventually came to own a large tract of land in Fugit township. John W. Kincaid had married a Miss English.

Gilbert Gordon Kincaid is the son of his father by the third marriage. The father was first married to Martha McCracken, no children having been born to this marriage. Later he married a Miss Alexander, a sister of his third wife. By this marriage there were two daughters, Mrs. Martha Helen McCracken and Mrs. Mary A. Martin. He then married Nancy Helen Alexander, to which third union there were six children, three of whom are deceased. The names of the children in the order of their birth, are as follow: Priscilla, who married Sutherland McCoy; Rhoda M., deceased; John, who died at the age of twenty; William, of Decatur county; Gilbert Gordon of this sketch, and Cyrus, deceased.

It was the good fortune of John Kincaid, whose home was northwest of his son's place and who also owned a house north of his son's farm, that he prospered as a farmer and became the owner of several farms and extremely wealthy. A Democrat in politics, he always took an active interest in the councils of his party and was regarded as one of its leaders in Decatur county. The family were always active in the Springhill Presbyterian church.

Educated in the Clarksburg schools and the New Neighborhood school, Gilbert Gordon Kincaid farmed at home with his father for many years, residing with him and caring for him until his death. At different times his father gave him land, and he also purchased at various times tracts of land in the neighborhood where he lived, until now he owns, as heretofore stated, three hundred and seventy-five acres of land in Fugit township. Mr. Kincaid has come to be an extensive breeder of mules, and ordinarily has from forty-five to fifty head on the farm where he also raises a great number of horses and cattle, and keeps only the very best grade of live stock.

On November 9, 1898, some years after the death of his father, Gilbert Gordon Kincaid was married to Grace McWilliams, daughter of Ephraim McWilliams. The marriage ceremony was solemnized at Mrs. Kincaid's grandmother's home, near Greensburg, the grandmother being Mrs. Sarah Meek. Four children have been born to this marriage, one of whom, the eldest, Mary Helen, died at the age of ten years. Of the others, Helen Mildred, who was born on February 9, 1904, is now eleven years old; John Alexander was born on May 20, 1909; William Gordon, Jr., was born on May 18, 1914.



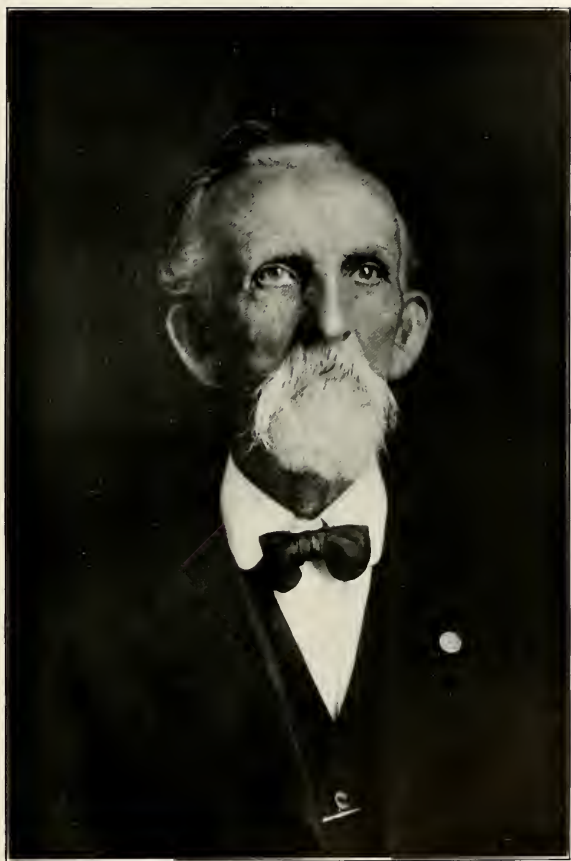
As a Democrat, Mr. Kincaid has always been interested in politics to some extent, but has never been a candidate for any office. Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid and family are members of the Springhill Presbyterian church. From any standpoint it must be admitted that he is a worthy son of one of the pioneer farmers of Decatur county, a worthy son of his noble mother, Nancy Helen (Alexander) Kincaid. As a farmer and citizen, he is living up to the worthy example set by his grandfather, John W. Kincaid, and his grandfather, John Alexander, who came from other states to found pioneer homes in the Hoosier wilderness. Any man who is industrious, economical and thrifty, good to his family and interested in public enterprises, deserves to be considered as a good citizen. Gilbert Kincaid is such a man.

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#### GLANTON G. WELSH.

In the annals of Decatur county, no name stands out more prominently than that of the late Col. Merit C. Welsh, a veteran of two wars, a lawyer of ability, a faithful officer of the county in which nearly his whole life had been spent, and a man who had been found faithful to every trust. A fluent and eloquent speaker, Colonel Welsh was a powerful factor in the civic life of this county for many years, and the memory of his exceptional services to the public long will be fondly cherished. Colonel Welsh was a cousin of Edward Eggleston, through the Lowry connection, his mother having been a Lowry, and it is undoubted that the high character of the Colonel had much influence in shaping the lofty ideals of the genial and well-loved author of "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," "The Annals of a Quiet Neighborhood," and other works which have made so strong an impression upon American letters. It is related that Edward Eggleston was most devotedly attached to Colonel Welsh, holding the latter as his ideal of a man and a hero, and this affection found reflection in Eggleston's great story, "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," in the pages of which book the colonel is fondly mentioned. In attempting a biographical sketch of the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch, Glanton G. Welsh, son of the late Colonel Welsh and for years the well-known assistant cashier of the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg, this county, the biographer is mindful of the obligation under which this community rests with relation to the memory of Colonel Welsh, and a brief summary of the salient points in the active life of that distinguished soldier and brilliant lawyer will be incorporated in the same.





COL. MERITT C. WELSH



Glanton G. Welsh was born near the village of Milford, in Clay township, this county, on July 10, 1867, son of Col. Merit C. and Elizabeth (Hanks) Welsh, the former of whom was born in Ripley county, this state, on May 22, 1825, a son of Oliver and Lucy H. (Lowry) Welsh, and the latter of whom was born in Owen county, Kentucky, on July 19, 1831, a daughter of Sydney D. and Mary (Graves) Hanks, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers in this county. Sydney D. Hanks was born in Kentucky in 1793, son of Benjamin Hanks, a Virginian, who married a Dale in the latter state and emigrated to Kentucky, where he became prominent in pioneer affairs. His family is the same as that from which Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, sprang. Sydney D. Hanks married Mary Graves, who was born in Woodford county, Kentucky, in 1796, her mother having been a Cave, and came to Decatur county in the early days of the settlement of this region, his death occurring at Milford, this county, in the year 1855, her death occurring on November 28, 1886, in Greensburg.

Oliver Welsh was born in the state of Maryland in 1794, his father a native of Ireland and his mother a native of Scotland. He married Lucy H. Lowry, who was born in Scott county, Kentucky, in 1800, the daughter of Samuel Lowry, a native of Scotland, her mother having been a native of Ireland, who came to Indiana, locating first in Switzerland county, at a place near Vevay, the home of the Eggleston family. Shortly before the birth of Merit C., the Welshes moved to Ripley county, where they remained until 1828, in which year they came to Decatur county, locating in the Milford neighborhood, where they spent the rest of their lives, the death of Oliver Welsh occurring on June 16, 1840, his widow dying on June 6, 1832.

Merit C. Welsh was born on a farm two and one-half miles east of the village of Napoleon, in Ripley county, on May 22, 1825, a son of Oliver and Lucy H. (Lowry) Welsh, and when three years of age came with his parents to this county, locating in the Milford vicinity, where he grew to manhood. His father died when he was fifteen years of age, and, having lost his mother when he was seven years old, he was left an orphan, indeed. While his opportunities for receiving an early education were limited to six months of actual schooling, Merit C. Welsh possessed an extraordinary mind; was a clear and direct thinker, far-seeing and broad-minded, and by the time he had attained his majority was a very well-informed man. He sedulously cultivated his remarkable native ability to recognize opportunities which men of lesser caliber would not have seen at all and early came to be recognized as a coming power for good in the community.

At the outbreak of the Mexican War, Merit C. Welsh volunteered for

service and was attached to the regiment led by Col. Jim Lane. He served through that war, having been present at the battle of Buena Vista and other notable engagements of the campaign, in which Lane's regiment was engaged. At the close of the war, Merit C. returned to Milford, where he engaged in the grocery business, in which he was quite successful, becoming a very influential citizen and a leading factor in the early development of the community in which he lived. After three years spent in operating a grocery store at Milford, Mr. Welsh sold the store and engaged in the live-stock business, in which, for fifteen years, he was very successfully employed. When Lincoln's first call was issued for volunteers to put down the rebellion in the Southern states, Merit C. Welsh was one of the first to tender his services, being attached to the Second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for the first ninety days' service. Before this regiment could be reorganized for the three years' service, Mr. Welsh was made captain of a company which had been recruited in this county, most of the members of which had enlisted from the Milford neighborhood. This company was assigned to the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, being designated D company, and it was with this regiment that this distinguished soldier served for three thrilling and perilous years. At the Battle of the Wilderness, Captain Welsh was made major of the Seventh Regiment, by promotion on the field. At a later moment in this same battle, Col. Ira G. Grover, commanding the Seventh Regiment, was put out of commission by reason of a serious wound received on the field, and Major Welsh, as the ranking officer, assumed command of the regiment, being thereafter recognized as colonel of the same. On September 20, 1864, the Seventh Regiment was mustered out of the service, its three years having expired, and Colonel Welsh, in March, 1865, was appointed colonel of the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war in command of that regiment. It is a notable and singular fact that, although Colonel Welsh performed valorous service in both the Mexican and the Civil Wars, being in the very thick of many of the bloodiest engagements of those two wars, he never received a scratch on the field of battle. He was a fearless soldier and capable officer and was greatly loved and respected by the men under his command, all of whom were devotedly attached to him. For several years before his death, Colonel Welsh was the sole surviving field officer of the Seventh Regiment.

Colonel Welsh was a lawyer of force and ability and was admitted to the bar of the Decatur circuit court about the year 1875. He was a pleasing and eloquent speaker and was known as a powerful pleader before the court.

In 1884 he was elected sheriff of Decatur county, and in that year moved to Greensburg, where he spent the rest of his life. Before the organization of the Republican party, Colonel Welsh was an ardent Whig, but upon the formation of the former party, gave his undivided and unswerving allegiance thereto, and for many years was one of the leaders of the party in this county and throughout this section of the state.

On October 19, 1848, Merit C. Welsh was united in marriage to Elizabeth Hanks, of the family from which descended Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, as set out above, and to this union there were born four children, namely: Ardry, who lives at Anderson, Indiana; Glanton G., assistant cashier of the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; S. Dale, of Greensburg, and Mrs. Clara Martin, of Lawton, Oklahoma. The mother of these children died on December 15, 1910, after which time Colonel Welsh made his home with his son, Glanton G. Welsh, in Greensburg, until his death, February 17, 1913.

Glanton G. Welsh was reared in Adams, receiving his elementary education in the schools of that town, supplementing the same by a course in the Greensburg high school, from which he was graduated with the class of 1889. Following his graduation, he taught school for ten years, at the end of which valuable term of public service he entered the Citizens National Bank at Greensburg and has been continuously connected with that sound old financial institution since 1899, during the past nine years of which time he has occupied the responsible position of assistant cashier.

On December 28, 1892, Glanton G. Welsh was united in marriage to Alice McConnell, daughter of James M. and Elizabeth (Hardy) McConnell, both members of old families in this county, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Mabel Elizabeth, born on March 19, 1894.

Mr. and Mrs. Welsh are members of the Baptist church and take an active part in all good works in Greensburg, being regarded as among the leaders in all movements designed to elevate the social and cultural life of the community. Mr. Welsh is a Republican, one of the local leaders in that party. In 1892 he was elected city clerk of Greensburg and served in that important capacity until 1899, giving the city most excellent service. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these two popular fraternal societies. Mr. Welsh is known as a progressive business man of sound judgment in financial and commercial matters and he is held in the highest regard in business circles in Greensburg and throughout the county. He and Mrs. Welsh take an interested part in the social affairs of the city and are very popular in their large circle of friends.

## WILLIAM G. SMILEY.

To have inspired sufficient confidence in the breast of shrewd men of affairs, who constitute directorates of banks, to insure one's election to the dignified and responsible position of president of a bank at the age of thirty-six years, is no small distinction. When, upon turning to the formal statistics covering banking affairs, one finds that there are but two other men in the United States who have been elected to a bank presidency at an earlier age, this distinction seems all the more notable. Upon the organization of the Burney State Bank, at Burney, in Clay township, this county, in the year 1913, the directors of that now well-established and substantial financial institution, in their search for a president who would inspire the confidence of all, turned, as by common consent, to William G. Smiley, whose successful management of his own extensive personal affairs in that neighborhood had excited the admiration of older men in the community, and Mr. Smiley was unanimously elevated to that position; a singularly happy choice on the part of the bank's directorate, which neither that body nor the citizens at large ever have had occasion to regret. Mr. Smiley is one of the large landowners of Decatur county and the enterprise and energy which he had displayed in the operation of his extensive farming interests gave assurance that the same wise judgment and energy would be brought to bear upon the management of the affairs of the bank, and this conclusion on the part of the directors of the Burney State Bank has been amply verified by time, the bank having been unusually successful for an institution so recently organized, there being now more than four hundred depositors patronizing the same, a list of pleased customers that is constantly growing.

William G. Smiley was born on the old Smiley homestead in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on January 20, 1877, son of George W. and Eliza (Blackmore) Smiley, both members of old and prominent families in this county. George W. Smiley, who died in 1907, was the son of William and Mary Ann (Kenny) Smiley, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania on March 14, 1814, the son of Irish parents. Upon arriving at manhood, William Smiley moved to Butler county, Ohio, where he married Mary Ann Kenny, about the year 1836, and on January 7, 1849, came to Decatur county, locating in Clay township, on what is now known as the Smiley homestead, and by the exercise of energy and a display of enterprise that made him one of the foremost men in his community, presently became one of the most extensive landowners in the county, he being at one

time the owner of nearly one thousand acres of land. As they advanced in years and as their children arrived at manhood and womanhood, William Smiley and his wife divided the home acres among the children and moved to Greensburg, where for nearly twenty years they lived in quiet retirement, his death occurring in 1893, she surviving him by three years, both dying at the age of seventy-nine. In a biographical sketch relating to William G. Smiley's uncle, T. K. Smiley, presented elsewhere in this volume, there are additional details regarding the genealogy of this interesting family, to which the reader is respectfully referred for further information.

William G. Smiley was reared on the paternal farm, his father always having remained on the old Smiley homestead, and received his early schooling in the excellent local schools. This he supplemented by a course in the Hartsville Normal College, which he further supplemented by a comprehensive course in a business college at Hope, this state. He entered upon the life of a farmer amply equipped to give to his vocation the most thoughtful attention and from the start he brought to bear upon his extensive operations the most approved methods of modern agricultural schools. Mr. Smiley is the owner of seven hundred acres of fine land, three hundred acres of which lies east of the village of Burney and four hundred acres of which lies south of that town. He gives much attention to the raising of thoroughbred stock, horses, mules and hogs being his specialties, he paying little attention to the breeding of cattle. He annually ships about one hundred head of mules to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Southern market and usually ships from five to six hundred hogs each year. "Fred S.," bred on his farm, was the first horse bred in Decatur county to step a mile in 2:07½. "Burney Patch," also bred on Mr. Smiley's farm, has a record of 2:12¼. Mr. Smiley also is an enthusiastic corn grower, giving particular attention to the raising of Yellow Dent and Volger's White corn and is locally noted for his fine crops. Since being elected to the presidency of the Burney State Bank, Mr. Smiley has given much attention to that rapidly growing institution and is now recognized as one of the foremost bankers of the county, his sound judgment and excellent executive ability giving to his conclusions regarding questions of conservative investment much weight among his business associates.

At the age of thirty years, William G. Smiley was united in marriage to Martha Inez Ardery, daughter of William Ardery, who died on March 11, 1913, leaving one child, a son seven months of age, since which time Mr. Smiley has made his home with his widowed mother in Burney. It is not too much to say that in the thirty-eight years of his life, Mr. Smiley has



accomplished remarkable things in the way of successfully conducting the affairs under his immediate direction, and his associates very properly rank him among the leading men of affairs in Decatur county. He is a member of the Methodist church at Burney and is devoted to all good works affecting that neighborhood as well as to the best interests of the county at large and is held in the highest esteem in his large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### LINTON W. SANDS.

Almost without exception the world is willing to do honor to those to whom honor is due. Men who have lived long and useful lives in a community, who have borne their share of the public duties and who have discharged worthily their obligations as citizens in a free country, seldom go without their reward. The Republican party of Decatur county was not slow to recognize the superior merit and large personal worth of its present county auditor, Linton W. Sands, who during a long term as deputy auditor discharged capably the duties of that important office. Appointed deputy in 1904, he remained in this responsible position for eight years, and in 1912 he was elected auditor for a term of four years.

Linton W. Sands was born in Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, and is the son of James P. and Eliza Ann (Williams) Sands, the former of whom was one of the early settlers of Decatur county, having come here from Ripley county where he was a wagon maker. He settled at St. Maurice in Fugit township, and later removed to Springhill, and the latter was a native of Ohio, who came to Indiana in pioneer times, living here with her aunt, her mother having died when she was a small child.

In 1861 James P. Sands enlisted in Wilder's Battery, and served throughout the war. Three weeks from the day, however, when he left home, he was taken prisoner at Harpers Ferry, but was soon paroled and, after a short furlough home, returned to his regiment with which he remained until the close of the war, when he was mustered out of service. He saw a great deal of hard service, but fortune seemed to smile upon him, and during the long war he was neither wounded nor in the hospital. His first duty was to carry ammunition for the cannon, but afterward he was promoted to the position of artificer. He was an intense patriot at heart, loyal to his country and loyal to his flag. At the close of the war he came home to Decatur county and resumed his trade as a wagon maker. He was

a well-known and highly respected citizen in this community. Shortly after coming back from the front, he moved his family to Fugit township, settling in Springhill, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days. He was an ardent Republican, and he was also a member of the United Presbyterian church. Early in her life she was a school teacher and was engaged in teaching school while her husband was a soldier in the Civil War. She taught for twenty-five or thirty years altogether, and was a cultured and highly educated woman. Her father was a dairyman in Cincinnati, Ohio, during his prime, and owned the largest herd of dairy cattle in the state of Ohio. He was one of the wealthiest and most substantial citizens of Hamilton county, Ohio. Few men of his day and generation living in Hamilton county, Ohio, surpassed him in capacity for business or in business accomplishments. To James P. and Eliza Ann Sands were born one daughter and one son, Mrs. Clara C. (Sands) Henry, the wife of James Henry, is a resident of Fair Haven, Ohio, and Linton W. Sands, a resident of Greensburg, Indiana.

Educated both in the common and high schools of Springhill, Linton W. Sands, after leaving the latter, became a telegraph operator at New Point in Decatur county, and when he had mastered telegraphy, took a position at that place in the railroad office there and remained for twenty-three years.

Mr. Sands' wife before her marriage was Mrs. Anna E. (Wise), whose father was a soldier in the Civil War and was killed in the service.

After quitting service in the railroad office in 1904, Mr. Sands came to Greensburg as deputy auditor and served eight years, or until 1912, when he was himself elected county auditor. He is still holding this office. Mr. Sands has been a stanch Republican all his life, and each campaign he has been on the firing line, and his personal efforts have had much to do with the success of the Republican party in Decatur county.

Mr. and Mrs. Sands have two children, Mrs. Cora M. Clouds and Mrs. Grace M. Gray, the former of whom lives in Indianapolis, and the latter of whom lives on a farm in Decatur county.

Linton W. Sands is a member of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill, while Mrs. Sands is a member of the Baptist church at Rosburg. Mr. Sands is a liberal contributor to the support of religious enterprises, as well as all other public movements. His election to the important office he now holds is a forcible testimonial to his popularity as a citizen and his standing as an honorable, upright and conscientious man. He is a very worthy citizen of this great county.

## ABRAM HENDRICKS TALBOTT.

The history of the Talbott and Hendricks families is closely intertwined with the political, social, agricultural and commercial development of Decatur county. Henry H. Talbott, the father of Abram Hendrick Talbott, having, as deputy clerk of Jefferson county, Indiana, come to Decatur county as one of the organizers. It was his wife, Eliza Hendricks, who was the daughter of Thomas Hendricks and the cousin of Governor Thomas A. Hendricks, whose father, Major John Hendricks, was a brother of Governor William Hendricks, the second governor of Indiana. Thus is the prominence of the two families, from which Abram Hendricks Talbott is descended, apparent. Himself a merchant for many years of Greensburg and Decatur county, he is one of the best known men in this section of the state. Although now retired, he was engaged in the drug business at Greensburg for a period from 1869 to 1912, during all this time being actively interested in the farming development of Decatur county, in which county he purchased his first land in the year 1885, owning at the present time a splendid farm of two hundred and nineteen acres, two miles east of Greensburg.

Abram H. Talbott was born on May 26, 1837, in the old home on the north side of the public square at Greensburg, and is the son of Henry H. and Eliza (Hendricks) Talbott, the former of whom was born on March 25, 1800, in Kentucky and who died in 1872.

The son of Richard C. and Drusilla (Grover) Talbott, who moved from Kentucky to Indiana and settled in Ripley county early in the nineteenth century, Henry H. Talbott was reared by a relative and served as deputy clerk at Madison, Jefferson county, Indiana, for some time, acting in this capacity when he helped organize Decatur county, of which he was the first county clerk, serving for a period of thirty-seven years and eight months. He was also recorder of Decatur county for a period of twenty-eight years, or until the Legislature enacted a law prohibiting one man from holding two offices. Previous to the act of the Legislature he held both the office of county clerk and county recorder at the same time. For many years engaged in business as a partner with his father-in-law, Thomas Hendricks, he became well-to-do, and especially a large landowner. A Whig and a Republican in politics, he was also a member of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church. During his life he was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. His wife, who before her marriage was Eliza Hendricks, was born on September 4, 1802, at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Thomas Hendricks, who was an uncle of Governor and Vice-president



ABRAM H. TALBOTT.



Thomas A. Hendricks. They were the sons of Major John Hendricks and grandsons of Abram Hendricks, a descendant of the Huguenots, who immigrated to New Jersey and thence to Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War. Abram Hendricks served four terms in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, first in 1792, and the last in 1798. Abram Hendricks was not only the father of Major John Hendricks, but he also was the father of William Hendricks, the second governor of Indiana, who preceded his brother in removal from Ohio to this state. Major John Hendricks, prior to 1829, resided with his family at Zanesville, Ohio. His wife, whose maiden name was Jane Thompson, and a niece were the only members of the Thompson family who came West. Shortly after their marriage, Major John Hendricks and wife moved to Muskingum, Ohio, where they lived for some time in a rude house, in which were born two sons, Abram and Thomas A. The next year, 1830, Major John Hendricks moved with his little family to Madison, Indiana.

The first wife of Thomas Hendricks, the father of Mrs. Eliza Talbott, was a Miss Trimbull, who died young. After her death, he married a Miss Paul. Thomas Hendricks was born in 1774 and died on March 31, 1835. He came down the Ohio river by flat-boat to Madison, and from there to Greensburg, bringing with him a load of iron and casting for trade and barter. A successful merchant in the early days, he purchased and shipped live stock in great quantities, driving hogs and cattle to Madison, Cincinnati and Lawrenceburg and shipping from these points by boat. By his first marriage, Thomas Hendricks had four children: Mrs. Silas Stuart, Mrs. Jacob Stuart, Mrs. H. H. Talbott and Rachel. By the second marriage, there were two children, Eunice and Elizabeth, both deceased.

To Henry H. and Eliza (Hendricks) Talbott were born eight children: Rachel, deceased; Sarah Ann, who married W. S. Woodfill, both now deceased; Drusilla G., who is now eighty-six years old and the mother of Cortez E. Moss and six other living sons, resides with her son on the farm; Abram H., the subject of this sketch; Richard C., in 1831 and now deceased; Thomas H., January 13, 1835, died on May 26, 1836; Henry H., retired, who lives in Greensburg, and Mrs. Mary Eliza King, of Indianapolis.

Reared in Greensburg, Indiana, Abram H. Talbott attended the local schools. For many years he assisted his father in the county clerk's office, and in 1861 engaged in the hardware business with his brothers, his father having set him up in this business, which was conducted under the firm name of Talbott & Sons. During a part of this time he also operated a dry goods store in this city. Selling out both stores in 1867, he clerked for several

years in a drug store, and after saving enough money to purchase an interest in his uncle Abram Hendricks' store, he formed a partnership with his son Thomas, and three years after the partnership was formed bought out Thomas Hendricks and remained in business for thirty years. This store is now owned by Joe Moss. In 1912 he retired from business after a long and busy career, a career which had been crowned with unusual success.

In 1880 Mr. Talbott was married to Clara Armington, the daughter of Dr. William Armington, an early physician of this county, who practiced here for many years, but who was a native of New York state. He died during the early part of the Civil War, at the age of fifty-two. Mrs. Talbott was born on June 13, 1847, and died on February 15, 1914.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Talbott has never been active in the councils of any party. He recalls that the first courthouse built in Greensburg was a double log structure with a driveway in the middle. It was built by Thomas Hendricks, his grandfather, during the early part of the nineteenth century. Abram H. Talbott has been a generous man during his entire life. He has always entertained great respect for the opinions of others, and if one differed from him in any subject he has always been kind, courteous and considerate, and has never engaged in needless debate nor fruitless controversies with those who held contrary opinions. Generous to a fault, he has never sought to deprive those with whom he has come in contact from acting and thinking along their own lines and in their own way. He has been a just man and has never exacted in friendship or business more than he was willing to grant or allow. He has believed that the weakest arm is strong enough when it strikes with the sword of justice.

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#### EDWARD C. LOWE.

Among the early settlers of Decatur county, Indiana, were James and Cyrus Hamilton, who came in 1822. The Donnels, McCoys, and Hopkins came in 1823. William Custer, who lived about a mile south of the old Lowe homestead at Kingston, Indiana, is supposed to have preceded Seth and Rebecca Lowe, the founders of the Lowe family in Decatur county, and from whom is sprung Edward C. Lowe, a prominent manufacturer of Greensburg, and the grandson of Seth and Rebecca Lowe. It may be said truly that this worthy representative of the third generation in Decatur county from the standpoint of industry, intelligence and citizenship is living



up worthily to the example of his progenitors, who blazed the trail into this county, and here established the ancestral home.

Edward C. Lowe, who was born on May 6, 1866, at Kingston, is the son of Alfred and Isabelle (Quigley) Lowe, the former of whom was born on May 7, 1826, and who died on September 5, 1887, and the latter of whom was born on May 9, 1835, and who died on December 22, 1910. The latter was the daughter of Thomas and Catherine Quigley, who was left an orphan when a small child. Alfred Lowe was the son of Seth and Rebecca Lowe, the former of whom was born in Glenwood, Wilkes county, North Carolina, on December 22, 1787, and who died in Mills county, Iowa, in May, 1871, in his eighty-fourth year. In 1879 he had moved with his father's family to Fayette county, Kentucky, not far from Lexington, and after living there for some years, had moved to Montgomery county, where, in 1810, he married Rebecca Ryan, who was born in Virginia, October 22, 1790, and who died on February 5, 1865, in her seventy-fifth year. They had seven children, Polly, Matilda, Jackson, George, Eliza, Franklin and Alfred. Eliza, born in 1819, died in her second year, and Franklin, the only survivor of this family, who was born in 1816, is now living in Carson, Iowa.

Seth and Rebecca Lowe, having come to Indiana, and settled in Dearborn county, in 1819, two years later removed to Kingston, Decatur county, and there entered land. On his trip to Decatur county, Seth Lowe was accompanied by two of his children, who after he had done some deadening, went back to Dearborn county for the remainder of the family, leaving the children in the care of two men who were assisting him in the work.

Among the first pioneers of this county to plant an orchard, was Seth Lowe and people came great distances to get apples from his orchard. He was truly a temperance man and never used tobacco or intoxicating beverages, and never used profane language. A public-spirited man, he was ardently favorable to public improvements, such as pikes and railroads, and gave his land upon which to build churches and schools. He was among the first citizens of the county to introduce improved breeds of stock, importing choice animals from other states. His worthy wife was remembered long after her death. The Lowe house became known far and near for the generous hospitality accorded strangers and men weary after a long day's ride in a wagon or on horseback found shelter from storm and darkness in the Lowe home. Although they were not members of any church, they believed in the kind of Christianity as set forth and practiced

by the lowly Nazarene, and the Reverend Mr. Stogdel is said to have preached in the Lowe home.

In an unbroken forest was performed the arduous toil upon which the family fortune was builded. Alfred Lowe was a farmer upon the old homestead until his father's death. He was crippled when twenty-one years old, while assisting in the construction of the Kingston church, while working on the frame of the church, he fell and broke a leg. Later he spent one year in the West after the homestead was sold, accompanying Seth and Jackson, who were pioneers in the state of Iowa. He, however, went to Kansas, and after a time returned to Indiana, and lived in the village of Kingston until his death. Alfred and Isabelle (Quigley) Lowe had eight children, as follow: Theresa Jane Ardery, wife of David A. Ardery, of Washington township; Seth Samuel, of Greensburg; Charles, of Kansas; William Walter, deceased; Edward C., the subject of this sketch; Catherine Ella, wife of Thomas M. Hamilton, of Kingston; Marsh, of Greensburg, and Arthur J., the assistant cashier of the Greensburg National Bank.

Born and reared in Decatur county, Indiana, and educated in the Kingston schools, Edward C. Lowe has had a most interesting career. After learning the blacksmith's trade early in life, he worked at the trade for one year in Greensburg, and then worked for the National Fireproofing Company, of Jersey City, New Jersey, for one year, after which he worked six months in the Philadelphia car shops, and was engaged for four years in the restaurant business at Brooklyn, New York. Returning to Greensburg in 1907, he engaged in the shoe business for five years, and then established the Rex salt business, the product of which is now manufactured by the Styers Mercantile Company, organized in 1912, with a capital of ten thousand dollars. This company manufactures and sells stock and poultry remedies, as well as One Minute Brand insect powder. The company president is Lemuel P. Dobyns, and the secretary and manager is Edward C. Lowe, Fred Styers, who was originally a member of the firm, retired, the interest having been purchased by Mr. Lowe. The firm does a business of more than five thousand dollars annually, and has its own brick building.

On May 18, 1902, Edward C. Lowe was married to Florence Heislier, of Philadelphia, the daughter of Mrs. Mary Heislier. To this happy marriage have been born two daughters and one son, Edna, Irma and William Alfred.

Mr. Lowe is a Republican, as was his father before him. He is also a Presbyterian, which was the faith of his father, the latter having been, during practically all his life, a member of the Kingston church. Edward

C. Lowe is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Greensburg, and also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

When Edward C. Lowe's grandfather blazed his way through Decatur county over Flat Rock with two hired men, the country was all under water, and when he reached the high knoll in Fugit township, the present site of Kingston, the Indian camp-fires could be seen in the distance. Instead of the great trees and unbroken forest, there are now green pastures and fields of grain that feed the people in the uttermost parts of the earth. The wilderness of this pioneer country has been made to blossom as the rose. If the pioneers could have had the forward vision to see what nature has hidden in the air and earth, if Seth and Rebecca Lowe could have foreseen the comfort and convenience of their children and grandchildren, it would have been to them like an Oriental dream. The life career of Edward C. Lowe is a worldly realization of the aims and ideals of his pioneer grandparents in this county.

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#### CLIFFORD F. JONES.

One of the enterprising younger industries of Greensburg, Indiana, is the Jones Lumber Company, which has built up a large trade in lumber, building material of all kinds and coal. This firm was organized by Clifford S. and Clifford F. Jones on February 1, 1910, at which time it succeeded the Greensburg Lumber Company. Following the death of Clifford S. Jones, H. C. Kofoid became a partner in the enterprise. Mr. Kofoid sold out his interests on March 29, 1915, to the Jones Lumber Company, who have a well-equipped plant which covers one and one-half acres and does an excellent business in Greensburg and Decatur county.

Clifford F. Jones, the present head of the firm, who was born on September 30, 1886, in Chicago, Illinois, is the son of Clifford S. and Delia (Flageole) Jones, natives of Canada and Illinois, respectively. The former was born in 1865 and died, August 18, 1912. Until 1897 he was engaged in the lumber business at Chicago, and in that year located at Stanford, Illinois, where he was engaged in the lumber business until February 1, 1910. At that time he located in Greensburg and engaged in the lumber business, first under the firm name of C. S. Jones Lumber Company, but upon his death, the change in the firm, heretofore referred to, was made. A very successful business man and highly respected in the various communities where he was engaged in business, he was a member of the Demo-

cratic party, the Christian church, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His wife, who before her marriage was Delia Flageole, was born in Illinois in 1864, and was of French descent. Clifford F. Jones was the only child born to this union.

Educated in the public schools of Chicago and Stanford, Illinois, and especially in the Stanford high school and the Eureka College at Eureka, Illinois, Clifford F. Jones enjoyed exceptionally fine preparation for a business career. With the exception of two years, 1907-1909, during which he was located in Colorado, and there engaged in operating a lumber yard, he was with his father continuously from the time he arrived at maturity until the father's death.

Mr. Jones was married, July 10, 1910, to Litta Woodson, a native and resident of Phillips, Nebraska. To this union have been born two children, Forbes and Gail.

Clifford F. Jones is a member of the Christian church. He is a Democrat and is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Popular in Decatur county, Clifford F. Jones has made many friends, since moving to Greensburg with his father in 1910. Not only has he established a reputation as one of the enterprising young business men of the city, but he is a man of so agreeable a personality that he has naturally attracted to himself friends in large numbers.

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#### GEORGE N. REED.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Decatur county within the pages of this book, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of the county and whose interests are identified with its progress. Hundreds of persons have contributed to the well-being of its various communities and among them should be mentioned George N. Reed, a successful farmer of Washington township.

George N. Reed was born in St. Paul, Decatur county, Indiana, on November 9, 1873, the son of E. R. and Mary E. (Neff) Reed, the former of whom was born near North Vernon, Indiana, and who is now sixty-seven years old and living retired in Adams. His father, Reasonable E. Reed, was an early settler of Indiana and a brick-mason by trade. Reasonable E. Reed was also one of the successful contractors of pioneer times in Decatur

county and built several of the best brick houses now standing in Greensburg. He was a member of the Methodist church and a staunch Democrat throughout life. His son, E. R., the father of George N., also was a Democrat and a member of the Methodist church. Mary E. Neff was a native of Decatur county, born in old St. Omer, and died twenty-six years ago on a farm near her birthplace. Her father, William Neff, was a native of Pennsylvania, and of German extraction. Her mother was of Irish extraction and a devout Christian woman and noble character. At the time of his mother's death, George N. Reed was only fourteen years old, and one of a family of seven children. His mother was a woman of gentle disposition and a firm believer in principles of right living. Her memory has been long cherished by the family of children she left and she is honored today for the noble part she bore in the early trials of married life.

George N. Reed lived in St. Paul until seven years of age when the family moved to a farm north of St. Paul, where they remained until he was thirteen, when the family moved back to St. Paul and, after remaining two or three years, moved to a farm north of St. Omer, living there until George N. Reed was nineteen years old. At this time he purchased a livery stable at Adams in partnership with his uncle, George T. Reed, and continued in this business for about two years, when he sold out his interest to his uncle and began working for C. E. Shields, buying grain and selling implements for three or four years. After this time Mr. Reed rented a farm near Adams known as the Griff Adkins farm and cultivated this for ten years.

In 1909 Mr. Reed went to Oklahoma, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in what was known as Comanche, but what is now known as Tillman county. He owned eighty acres of this tract two and one-half years and the remainder three and a half years. As a result of his speculation in Oklahoma real estate, he made a great deal of money and upon coming to Decatur county in 1909 purchased a farm east of Greensburg, known as the Henry Duncan farm of ninety-four acres. Later he sold this farm at a profit and bought the land where he now lives, about three-quarters of a mile from Adams, situated in Washington township.

Before Mr. Reed rented the Adkins farm, he was married to Nora Wright, who was born in August, 1872, in Bartholomew county, and who is a member of the famous Wright family, the genealogy of which is given in the sketch of Caleb Stark Wright, found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Reed were married on September 12, 1896. Mrs. Reed's father, John Wright, has been deceased for fifteen years and was seventy-five years old at the time of his death. He was born in Virginia and came to Decatur

county, Indiana, when twenty-five years old and engaged in farming, at which occupation he was very successful. He was a shrewd, capable business man and a student of public affairs and politics, a man who loved to read the Bible and who took a great interest in public movements.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed have had four children, as follow: Florence, Francis William, Orloff, who died in infancy, and Arthur. Besides rearing their own children, Mr. and Mrs. Reed have reared Mr. Reed's sister's son from the age of four to the age of fourteen. This nephew was Henry C. Lowe, who died in Oklahoma.

Mr. Reed for several years has made a specialty of raising hogs, corn and clover. His farm consists of level land. There is not a foot of waste in the entire tract.

George N. Reed is a Republican. He has never aspired to office and has never been especially prominent in political affairs. He is a man, however, who is well-respected by the people of his neighborhood.

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#### ANDREW S. WILLEY.

One of the "top-notch" farms of Decatur county is that of the late Louis Willey, pleasantly situated on the Michigan road, about two and one-half miles northwest of Greensburg, in Washington township. This farm of two hundred and thirty-five acres, all in one tract, was purchased by Louis Willey about half a century ago and is now being very successfully operated by his son, Andrew S. Willey, who remains on the old home place with his widowed mother, Mrs. Mary S. Willey.

Louis Willey, who was born on February 25, 1826, died at his home in Washington township, this county, on July 23, 1911, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, the son of Horace and Anna (Tate) Willey, the former of whom was born in Massachusetts on February 13, 1792, emigrated to Ohio as a young man, locating in Hamilton county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Horace and Anna (Tate) Willey were married, March 7, 1822. His wife, who was Anna Tate, was born in Pennsylvania on June 16, 1792. Horace Willey, a very substantial citizen of Hamilton county, Ohio, died on March 3, 1880. Louis Willey was a Whig until the organization of the Republican party in 1856, in which year he allied himself with the latter party and remained stanchly loyal to the principles of the same the rest of his life. During the last year of the Civil War he enlisted in behalf



of the cause of the Union and served in the ranks of the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, until that regiment was mustered out of service at the close of the war.

Louis Willey was reared on the paternal farm in Hamilton county, Ohio, and when a young man came to Decatur county. For a year he remained in the city of Greensburg, at the end of which time he settled on a tract of land in Washington township, which his family still owns and occupies. That was about fifty years ago, since which time the farm has been brought to a high state of cultivation, being one of the most productive and valuable farms, according to its acreage, in the county. It is unusually well improved, the farm house and outlying buildings being of a rich and substantial character, everything about the place indicating thrift, industry and good management. The Willeys have their own gas well on the place and the fuel and light question is thus quite easily disposed of by them. Louis Willey was an excellent farmer and a successful stock raiser and became known as one of the most substantial and enterprising farmers of the county. His methods were progressive and were consequently attended by good results, the Willey farm being regarded as a model throughout that section of the community. The methods so successfully adopted by his father have been followed by Andrew S. Willey, who is now managing the place, everything about the farm being kept up in first-class condition.

On April 26, 1863, Louis Willey was united in marriage to Mary Sefton, who was born on April 19, 1840, the daughter of William and Catherine (Shuck) Sefton, prominent residents of this county, the former of whom was born in 1805 and died on October 29, 1868, and the latter of whom was born on May 15, 1806, and died on October 15, 1869. William Sefton, who for years was familiarly known in this county as "Ohio Billie" Sefton, was born in Butler county, Ohio, his father having been a native of Ireland. William Sefton married Catherine Shuck, also a native of Butler county, and came to Decatur county, settling on a farm in Clinton township, the farm now owned by Samuel Shirk, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, becoming recognized as among the most influential of the pioneer residents of that neighborhood. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Henry T., who went to Colorado some years ago and died in 1914; Eliza Ellen, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Michael, deceased; Isaac, a well-known resident of Greensburg, this county; Edward, deceased; Mary, who married Louis Willey, still living on the Willey farm; Sarah, who lives in Greensburg, and William W., retired, who lives in Kokomo, Indiana.



To Louis and Mary (Sefton) Willey were born three children, as follow: William Henry, who died in infancy; Andrew S., born on September 12, 1865, lives on the home place with his mother, and Frank W., born on June 30, 1869, who is a cement contractor, doing business in the city of Greensburg, this county, where he has achieved a pronounced success in business. He married Bert Douglas, October 15, 1903, to whom was born one daughter, Pauline, on January 21, 1905.

Mrs. Willey is a member of the Methodist church and for many years has been regarded as among the leaders in all good works in the community in which she lives, being held in the highest regard by all within the circle of her acquaintance. She and her son have a very pleasant home, which is the center of much genial hospitality, and they enjoy the highest esteem of all. As noted above, Andrew S. Willey is a progressive and enterprising farmer and is looked upon as one of the substantial citizens of the county, being held in the highest repute by all who know him. Mr. Willey's farm is called the Forest farm, owing to the great forest trees which still remain upon it.

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### ERNEST D. POWER.

No more attractive farm can be found in all Decatur county than the tract of one hundred and ninety acres in Fugit township, owned by Ernest D. Power, an enterprising young farmer and regarded as one of the most successful in that county. Not only efficient, industrious and progressive in agricultural methods, but the same things may be said of him as a citizen, and this is not at all strange when we remember that personal habits and personal methods apply quite as much to one's rank and value as a citizen as they do to one's rank and value as a farmer, lawyer or business man. Of course, his father before him, who is now living retired, was a successful farmer, the son learning the fundamentals of correct farming from the father. His success in agriculture is due partially to the fact that he has been able to combine stock raising with crop raising and as a mule, hog and cattle raiser has no superior in this county.

Ernest D. Power, farmer and stockman of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, was born on November 1, 1871, in Milroy, Rush county, Indiana, and is the son of George and Lurissa (Crawford) Power, natives of Rush county, and now living retired. The father was the son of the late John Power, a native of Kentucky and an early settler in Rush county.

Georgè and Lurissa (Crawford) Power have had three children, May, who lives at home; Ray C., who is a farmer near Milroy, and Ernest D., the subject of this sketch.

Immediately after finishing his education in the schools of Milroy, Indiana, Mr. Power purchased a farm in Rush county, in 1894, consisting of two hundred and five acres, and thirteen years later, in October, 1907, removed to Fugit township, Decatur county, purchasing his present farm at that time. He has been living in Decatur county, therefore, for about eight years, and has come to be well known in Fugit township, and in fact throughout all Decatur county, being related by marriage and otherwise to some of the oldest families in Decatur county.

Mr. Power was first married, in 1895, to Mary McCracken, the daughter of H. T. McCracken, an old settler of Fugit township. By this marriage he had one child, Ruth, aged fifteen years, who is a student in the Clarksburg high school. Mrs. Power died in October, 1910, and in October, 1911, Mr. Power was married again to Lella Logan, the daughter of Nathan M. and Rebecca (Martin) Logan, the former of whom was born on September 27, 1857, in Decatur county, and the latter of whom was born on December 29, 1860, in Decatur county.

Mrs. Power, who is the eldest child of her parents, was born on May 31, 1882, and graduated from Monmouth College in 1908. She has been the mother of one daughter, Carmen Georgia, born on August 13, 1913.

Of Mrs. Power's ancestry it may be said that her father, who owns a beautiful home of ninety acres of land in Fugit township, and one hundred and sixty acres of land in Jackson county, Oklahoma, was born in a brick house erected by his father, Joseph A. Logan, in 1855. Joseph A., who was born on January 9, 1821, and who was brought to Indiana, on horseback, at the age of six months, by his father and mother, Martin and Mary (Rankin) Logan, was married in 1842 to Mary Jane Straney, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, born on May 12, 1824. She died on May 26, 1888. They had eight children, of whom all are deceased, except Nathan M., the father of Mrs. Power. The deceased children were as follow: Mrs. Nancy M. May, born on March 9, 1844, died in 1909; Mrs. Mary A. Cork, October 14, 1845, died in 1911; Mrs. Margaret F. Manlove, August 13, 1847, died on August 5, 1889; John H., November 8, 1849, is deceased; Leander, February 9, 1853, died in 1911; William R., August 20, 1855, died in 1857; Luna A., October 23, 1865, died on January 3, 1891.

A hard worker and an industrious citizen, Joseph A. Logan resided on the farm, in the house he built in 1855, the greater part of his life, the only

exceptions being short residences in Oxford and Rushville. In the latter years of his life he lived with his children. He died in 1913 at the age of ninety-four years. His father, Martin, who was born in 1800, and who died on December 18, 1870, and his mother, who before her marriage was Mary Rankin, who was born in 1799, and who is now deceased, lived on the farm, now included in the limits of Lexington, Kentucky, on the site now occupied by the college. In 1821 Martin Logan journeyed to Decatur county, Indiana, and settled on a government tract of one hundred and sixty acres at a time when wolves and panthers were plentiful. This farm is now occupied by Ezra Kirby. Martin Logan was one of the founders of the Richland United Presbyterian church. He had four children, Joseph A.; Mrs. Jane McClurkin, deceased, of Iowa; Carrie, who married Hugh Logan and who is the mother of Mrs. C. M. Beale, the wife of Dr. C. M. Beale, and Dr. John Beale, a graduate of Oxford University, and for some time a student with Doctor Johnson at Clarksburg, and now residing in Kansas. Martin Logan at one time walked from his home in Decatur county to College Corner, Ohio, in one day. It was an interesting fact that the coming of the Martins, Kincaids and Logans to Decatur county was occasioned by the reports given by Uncle Billy Anderson, who returned from the battle of Tippecanoe to his home in Kentucky through Decatur county, and here saw the fine land, and told these Kentucky families about what he saw.

Nathan M. Logan's wife, to whom he was married on May 24, 1881, and who before her marriage was Rebecca Martin, is the daughter of David and Mary (Kincaid) Martin, the former of whom was born in 1833, and who died in 1896, in Decatur county. David Martin was the son of David Martin, Sr., of Kentucky, who came to Fugit township in 1821. Mrs. Ernest D. Power, who, as heretofore stated, was the eldest child born to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan M. Logan, is one of three children. The others are Luther Martin, born in 1887, and who died on January 29, 1902; the third child, Mary, who was born on August 18, 1893, was graduated from Monmouth College in 1915, the same institution as that attended by her sister.

Both the Power family and the Logan family are members of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill. Nathan M. Logan, who has been a Republican and Prohibitionist is now identified with the Progressive party, and votes for the best man at the polls. Ernest D. Power is independent politically. No prettier nor more attractive spot can be found in Decatur county than the Fugit township farm of Ernest D. Power. Mr. Power is proud of this farm, as he has every right to be, and the people of Fugit township are also proud of it, as they also have a right to be. Not only do

they point with pride to the beauty of this farm, but the people of this township admire the rugged honesty, well-rounded efficiency and genial personality of its owner and one of their foremost citizens.

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### JOHN C. POWNER.

John C. Powner is entitled to rank among the conservative and honorable farmers of Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, and owns a farm consisting of fifty-two acres, two miles southwest of Greensburg.

Born in 1855 in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, John C. Powner is a son of John H. and Jane (Wynkoop) Powner, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1824, the son of John C. Powner, Jr., who was born in 1788, probably in Pennsylvania, and who came from sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. The grandfather came to Franklin county, Indiana, in an early day, and in the early fifties came from Franklin to Decatur county, Indiana, with his son, John H. Powner. They settled in Jackson township, and engaged in the mercantile business in Sardinia for about two years. In 1853 they sold this store and rented a farm near Sardinia, but lived there only one year, after which they purchased one hundred and twenty acres north of Forest Hill, in Clay township, and here the elder Powner lived until his death, in May, 1905.

John H. Powner, the father of John C., was one of the substantial citizens of Clay township, and a man who took great interest in his church. He was very successful in his business, liberal and broad-minded in his views, and a keen student of public affairs. He was a staunch and true Democrat, and not only was a Democrat politically, but was a Democrat in his personal manners and habits, and known far and near for his generous hospitality. His wife, who before her marriage, was Jane Wynkoop, was born in Franklin county, Indiana, about 1834, and died in February, 1905. John H. Powner and wife were the parents of four children, Mrs. Mary (Black) Helde, a resident of Alabama; John C., the immediate subject of this review; Dewitt Clinton, of Greensburg, and Mrs. Jennie M. Wilson, deceased.

John C. Powner was born in 1855 in Jackson township, and lived at home with his parents until his marriage to Frances Eubanks in 1875. Mrs. Powner is a daughter of George and Catherine (Wright) Eubanks, who were natives of Virginia. George Eubanks first moved to Decatur county and afterward became a farmer in Clay county, Indiana, where he died in

1876. Mr. Eubanks died in Washington township at the home of a daughter, Nancy C. Templeton. Mr. and Mrs. Eubanks were members of the Liberty Baptist church. They were the parents of four children.

After his marriage, Mr. Powner lived on his father's farm until 1877, when he purchased fifty-two acres of land near the Liberty church, where he and his wife lived for four or five years, tilling the land at a profit, and purchasing what was known as the David Ward farm of eighty acres. After remaining on the latter farm for a period of five or six years, Mr. Powner moved to a farm north of Greensburg, renting land for a short time, afterward moving to Greensburg, where he purchased property at Forest Hill. Still later the family moved to a farm owned by Mr. Powner's father, and in 1902 purchased the land where he is now living.

John C. Powner is one of Decatur county's representative farmers and citizens. He is practically retired from farm life at the present time, but still takes an active interest in the operation of his farm, which he rents to others. He is a Democrat, but is more thoroughly a patriot than a partisan, and is liberal and broad-minded in his views of men and things. He is a good farmer, a good neighbor and a good citizen. Mrs. Powner is a member of Liberty Baptist church.

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### AARON L. LOGAN.

The name of Aaron Logan stands out conspicuously among the residents of Decatur county as that of a successful farmer and a valuable citizen. All of his undertakings have been actuated by noble motives and high resolves and are characterized by breadth of wisdom and strong individuality. His success represents only the result of utilizing his native talents. At the present time he owns a productive farm of two hundred and fourteen acres, three-quarters of a mile west of Greensburg, on Columbus pike.

Aaron Logan was born in 1841, on the old Logan homestead, about one mile from Greensburg, west, and is the son of Samuel and Susannah (Howard) Logan, the former of whom was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1795, and who came to Decatur county with Colonel Ireland from Ireland and Colonel Hendricks, and entered land one mile from Greensburg, now known as the Logan farm. Susannah Howard was born on Paddies run in Ohio in 1805. Samuel Logan first came to Decatur county and entered land and then returned to Pennsylvania. On his way back to Indiana

from Pennsylvania he stopped in Ohio and was married, and then finished his trip with his young bride. Here they lived the remainder of their lives, he dying in 1879. They were members of the Presbyterian church and he was a life-long Democrat, a man of strong character and high-minded conviction. Accustomed to hunt bears in the region around Greensburg, Samuel Logan and Colonel Hendricks killed a bear on the spot where the Greensburg waterworks is now situated. He and his wife started in life very poor, but Samuel Logan was a money-maker. He accumulated a considerable fortune. On his way across the Alleghany mountains from Pennsylvania, having started with a wagon and one horse, he traded with various people along the way until, upon his arrival, he owned six horses.

Samuel and Susannah (Howard) Logan had nine children, James, John, Mrs. Martha Anne Hitt, Mrs. Jane Deen and Mrs. Rachel Hobbs, are deceased; the latter was the wife of Alvin I. Hobbs, of Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Hamilton, the wife of Morgan Hamilton, is also deceased. Those living are Samuel Logan, Jr., who lives at Letts in Clay township; Aaron, the subject of this sketch, and Frank, of Topeka, Kansas.

Aaron Logan began life for himself after having reached his majority, and for about three years was engaged in cultivating the old home place. After this he purchased ninety-two acres of land out of what was known as the old Hillis farm, which is now owned by William Holcher. Later, however, Mr. Logan sold that farm and purchased the land where he now lives. He has always made a good living for himself and family and has always enjoyed the best things of life. In fact, there are few people living in Washington township who enjoy life more than Aaron Logan. He himself says that he gets more enjoyment out of what he can buy with a dollar than in keeping the dollar itself and for its own sake.

Mr. Logan was married early in life to Susannah Simmons, who lived near Greensburg, and who is the daughter of Edward and Polly (Howard) Simmons, both natives of Ohio, and of Scotch-Irish descent. Mr. and Mrs. Logan have had two children, Walter Scott Logan, who died at the age of thirty-eight, was an engineer on the Big Four railroad for fifteen years, and Sherman married Cora Patten, who is deceased, and by her had one child, Clyde L., born in 1901, who lives with his father.

The Logan family have been Democrats for the most part for several generations, and Aaron Logan is no exception to the rule. He is in fact a loyal and faithful Democrat, interested in the welfare of his party. Mr. Logan is well known in Washington township, and has always enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens. Mrs. Logan is a member of the Christian church.



## CHARLES I. AINSWORTH.

Decatur county has few institutions of which it is prouder than the Odd Fellows Home at Greensburg, Indiana. It happens that it was one of Greensburg's well-known citizens who had a commendable and active part in the erection of this splendid home, and who for seven years was on the managing board of the home during the period of its construction. Charles I. Ainsworth, who is a member of Decatur Lodge No. 103, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and who has passed all the chairs in this fraternity, personally superintended the erection of all but the first building, and it was his genius, coupled with his keen and abiding interest in the fraternity as a whole, that has resulted in the erection of the buildings which make up this splendid institution. In most every large community there are, in fact, men who are willing to devote their time and energy and genius to such worthy public enterprises, and these are the men who leave the mark of their individuality upon the community where they have lived and labored. Mr. Ainsworth is a man of this type.

Charles I. Ainsworth, whose paternal ancestry, three generations back, came from England, a veteran of our greatest war, a man who, as a school teacher and farmer, has had many interesting experiences in life, is a native of Kentucky. He was born in Nicholas county on August 5, 1843, the son of Tillman and Nancy (West) Ainsworth, the former of whom was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1815, came to Decatur county in 1855 and died in 1887. Upon coming to Washington township he rented land and engaged in operating a stone quarry two miles south of Greensburg, in which connection he also operated a grist-mill, and after being engaged in this business for fifteen years, in the fall of 1863 he moved to Illinois and engaged in the mercantile business at St. Elmo, where he died. He was the son of Charles Ainsworth, a native of England. His wife, Nancy West, who was also born in Kentucky, in 1817, died two years before her husband, in 1885. They had three children: Charles I., the subject of this sketch; Mary A., deceased, and Andrew M., who lives at Yuma, Arizona.

It is to be remembered that Charles I. Ainsworth was only twenty years old at the time of his removal from Decatur county with his parents to St. Elmo, Illinois. In the meantime he had received such education as the schools of Washington township, Decatur county, afforded at that time. During this period the Civil War was being fought between the Northern and Southern states, and two years after going to Illinois, in February, 1865, Mr.





CHARLES I. AINSWORTH.



Ainsworth enlisted in Company F, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, at St. Elmo, in that state. After serving three months, he was discharged, the war having come to a close. During the period of his enlistment he was on detached service and suffered from illness a considerable portion of the time. Returning from the seat of war, he located at Springfield, Illinois.

After teaching in the Illinois public schools for some time, Mr. Ainsworth worked in a store in Vandalia for one year and then engaged in farming one hundred and eighty acres for two years. He moved back to Decatur county and settled in Jackson township in the spring of 1867, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres with the money he had received from the sale of his one-hundred-and-eighty farm in Illinois. After living two years in Jackson township, he purchased a farm two miles south of Greensburg in Washington township and resided on this farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres from 1870 to 1911, a period of forty-one years. In 1911 Mr. Ainsworth moved to Greensburg and purchased splendid residence property on North Michigan avenue, where he now lives.

On September 13, 1865, after the close of the Civil War, Mr. Ainsworth was married to Rachel M. Kitchin, who was born on October 15, 1843, in Decatur county and who is the daughter of Thomas and Sarah L. (Boone) Kitchin, natives of Ohio and Kentucky, respectively. The former was a son of Joseph Kitchin, a native of Pennsylvania, who migrated to Ohio, coming thence to this county in an early day. Joseph Kitchin was a farmer and blacksmith and also a pioneer minister in the Methodist church. He was born in 1770 and died in Decatur county in 1858. His children were: Thomas, John, Bryce, Sarah and Maria. Thomas Kitchin, who was born in Ohio in 1818, immigrated to Decatur county with his brothers in 1839. He spent a part of his life in that county and a part in Boone county, dying in 1904. His wife, who before her marriage was Sarah Luffborough Boone, was a daughter of Brumfield Boone, a native of Kentucky and a son of Thomas Boone, a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The children of Thomas and Sarah L. Kitchin were Mrs. Charles I. Ainsworth, Joseph B. and Frank B. On her mother's side Mrs. Ainsworth is a relative of Daniel Boone.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Ainsworth have had eight children: Dr. Charles Bruce, a veterinary surgeon of Greensburg; Ira M., a rural mail carrier of Greensburg; Clara Ellen, who married Watson Gilmour and lives two miles east of Greensburg on a farm; Hattie Antoinette, the wife of Dr. C. B. Weaver, of Henry county; Jessie Pearl, the wife of Jacob Sherer, who

lives two miles east of Greensburg on a farm; Frank K., who lives on the home farm; Mrs. Grace Edkins, who lives one-half mile south of Greensburg, and Wayne T., who lives on the home farm.

An independent Republican in politics, Charles I. Ainsworth has never been an office-seeker, and has served only in minor positions, having been a member of the township advisory board at one time. Mr. and Mrs. Ainsworth and family are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg, in which he is a trustee. Fraternally, he is, as heretofore mentioned, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in this order, largely because the Odd Fellows Home was erected at Greensburg, and because of the large part he had in its construction, he has devoted most of his interest and attention during recent years to this home. Mr. Ainsworth is also a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge No. 36, and of Pap Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, No. 75. Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Ainsworth are held in high regard and esteem by the people of Greensburg and Decatur county. They have reared a large family to honorable and useful lives, but, more than this, Mr. Ainsworth has never found the cares of his private business so great that he could not take a worthy interest in commendable public enterprises. His greatest public work, perhaps, is the Greensburg Odd Fellows Home, which will stand as a monument to his memory long after he has departed this life.

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#### MILLARD A. HUDSON.

Among the citizens of Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable personal and real property, few have attained a higher degree of success than Millard A. Hudson, who is the owner of one hundred and forty-one acres of land, two and one-half miles from Greensburg, on the old Michigan road, and in that section of Decatur county noted for the fertility of its soil. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of mastering, and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made an exceptional success in life, and also has the gratification of knowing that the community where he resides has benefited by his presence and his counsels.

Millard A. Hudson, who was born at Napoleon, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1858, is a son of Charles W. and Nancy (Becraft) Hudson, the

former of whom was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, in 1833, and who came to Decatur county in 1853, where he married, settling on a farm near Napoleon, and remained for five or six years, and then moved to Greensburg, where he engaged in the shoemaker trade until about three or four years prior to his death, when he removed to a farm which he had purchased from his savings, and where he lived with his son until his death in 1878. The grandfather of Mr. Hudson was born during the War of 1812, in Virginia, and died at the age of seventy-five years in Decatur county. Charles W. Hudson was a soldier in the Civil War, serving during the latter part of that great struggle as a member of the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was a staunch Republican in politics after the formation of that party, while before that time he was an ardent Whig and later in life a Democrat. He was a great student of philosophy. Mr. Hudson attended the Christian church, and few men in his neighborhood knew as much about the Bible as he. Nevertheless, he was liberal in his views, broad-minded and charitable.

At the beginning of his career, Millard A. Hudson was engaged in farming for five years for Zell Kirby, and afterward engaged in the business of photography in Greensburg, owning the leading gallery in the city. After conducting a successful business in this line for a number of years, his health failed, when on this account he was compelled to return to the farm. He then farmed on shares for Miss Kirby until her death, when he purchased the farm of one hundred and forty-one acres, where he is now living and where he makes a specialty of raising corn, cattle and hogs. He has on the farm a splendid vitrified tile silo, which, as much as anything, proves the progressive spirit with which he farms. When Mr. Hudson purchased the farm he paid eighty-seven dollars an acre for the land, incurring an indebtedness of ten thousand dollars, for which he was compelled to pay five and one-half per cent. interest. In less than ten years he has succeeded in entirely discharging this indebtedness. So thoroughly did Mr. Hudson enjoy the esteem and confidence of the people of his community that he was able to borrow money on his own note without security. Now that the farm is paid for, Mr. Hudson intends to build a modern home, thoroughly equipped with every modern device and for every modern process in farming.

Millard A. Hudson has never married. His sister Alice supervises the home and they are now living in happiness and comfort on the farm. Mr. Hudson is a fine type of citizen, and has made good in the face of adversity, as men who start with nothing and who, by their industry, economy and

good management, gather up fortunes, deserve far more credit than those who are favored with inheritance or other aid. Millard A. Hudson deserves the very highest credit for his accomplishments and his achievements. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Greensburg, is a strong Prohibitionist and attends the Christian church at Greensburg.

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### ISAAC W. WHITE.

Isaac W. White, a retired citizen and property owner who has lived in Greensburg for more than half a century, is one of the highly respected citizens of Decatur county. A veteran of the Civil War, he performed valiant service in behalf of the American Union. While he was successful in business, he perhaps did not accumulate as much property as some other men.

Isaac W. White, who was born in Delaware county in 1842, is the son of John D. and Louisa (Earls) White, the former of whom was a native of Dearborn county, born in April, 1818, and the son of John White, a native of Virginia, whose father was born in Ireland, and who came to America some time before the American Revolution. John D. White was a prosperous farmer of Delaware county, to which he moved in about 1867, and where he lived until his death in 1895. He accumulated considerable property and was a respected citizen. He was identified with the Democratic party but, being a strong Union man, voted for Abraham Lincoln. After the war, however, he returned to his former party allegiance, and remained loyal until his death. He was a member of the Baptist church and a liberal-minded man. His wife, who before her marriage was Louisa Earls, was born in Kentucky, the daughter of a shipbuilder, who lived at Falmouth, thirty miles above Cincinnati. He died of cholera at his home in 1832. The Earls were an old and prominent family of Kentucky, probably of English origin. It is said of Grandmother White that she molded bullets while the men shot the Indians.

In May, 1862, Isaac W. White joined the Fifty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served three months. After his discharge, he joined the Fifty-fourth again and, after a year's service, joined the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, recruited at Greensburg and commanded by Colonel Gavin. He served until the end of the war and after his discharge, came home and worked in a grocery

store for one year, after which he began working at his trade as a painter and interior decorator and enjoyed an extensive patronage.

In August, 1865, Isaac W. White was united in marriage to Martha Ann Lloyd, daughter of Creath Lloyd, to which union one child was born, who died in infancy. Mrs. White died on September 8, 1866, and Mr. White married, secondly, Mary Johnson, daughter of Charles Johnson, a native of Kentucky and a highly-respected citizen of this county, to which union three children were born, namely: Laura B., wife of William Kiener, of Paducah, Kentucky; Charles, a well-known resident of Greensburg, this county, and Lulu, who died young. The mother of these children died in 1875 and on January 22, 1878, Mr. White was united in marriage to Nannie J. Lloyd, a cousin of his first wife and the daughter of Carter and Nancy (Cooper) Lloyd, natives of North Carolina, to which union eight children were born, as follow: John D., who lives at Connersville, Indiana; Jesse C., also of Connersville; Nellie, who married Albert Lacy, of Greensburg, this county; Isaac W., who is a soldier in the United States regular army, now stationed at Tientsin, China; Albert F., who lives at Greensburg; Mary, who married James Ray, of Greensburg; Thomas, deceased, and one who died in infancy.

Mr. White is a well-respected citizen of Decatur county. He is a progressive, broad-minded citizen and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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#### JAMES N. ANNIS.

Among the veterans of the Civil War and retired citizens now living in Greensburg, Indiana, is the venerable James N. Annis, who was born in Grant county, Kentucky, in 1844, the son of Charles and Permelia (Kidwell) Annis, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, born near Culpeper. He was a son of William Annis, also a native of Virginia and the Annis family were among the first settlers of that state, coming of English stock. Permelia Kidwell was a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Leonard and Ann (Stafford) Kidwell, both of whom were born and reared in North Carolina. They also were probably of English origin and were an old family in the state of North Carolina.

Charles Annis was brought by his parents from Virginia to Kentucky when he was about eight years old, where he grew to manhood and was married, living and dying in that state, in which he became a farmer and a stonemason. He was a Whig until 1856, when the Republican party was



organized, and then became identified with this party, remaining loyal to it until his death in 1879. He and his wife had thirteen children, of whom J. N., the subject of this sketch, was the eighth and the only one now living.

The venerable J. N. Annis grew to manhood in Kentucky and when the Civil War broke out, enlisted in Company G, Eighteenth Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Col. W. A. Warner, in which company and regiment he served until the close of the war. This regiment, which saw very hard service, was attached to the Army of the Cumberland under Generals Thomas and Rosencrans. The first battle in which it participated was at Richmond, Kentucky, on August 30, 1862. They then went to Fort Donelson but arrived too late for serious service in that battle. From Fort Donelson the regiment went to Carthage, Tennessee, and thence to Murfreesboro and Hoover's Gap, Tennessee, and were then engaged in various skirmishes with Bragg's army. Through Tennessee the army marched to Georgia and engaged in the battle of Chickamauga, after which the regiment fell back to Chattanooga and there they were besieged by General Bragg's army and almost starved out. Subsequently, the battle of Mission Ridge was fought and this, indeed, was a fierce engagement. Shortly afterward, the regiment was attached to Sherman's army and marched with him from Atlanta to the sea. At the battle of Chickamauga, during a lull in the fighting, Mr. Annis and two or three of his comrades were standing in line when a rebel sharpshooter stepped from behind a tree and fired at a distance of about four hundred yards. The bullet plowed up the dirt at Mr. Annis' feet. Instantly the sharpshooter was killed. Late in the war, Mr. Annis was taken sick with the measles and confined in the hospital only eight days. On April 4, 1865, he was mustered out of service at Goldsboro, North Carolina, when he proceeded to Washington, where he was paid off and discharged on April 14, 1865, the same day on which President Lincoln was assassinated.

After the close of the Civil War, Mr. Annis returned to his Kentucky home and about a year later, on March 8, 1866, he was married to Nancy J. Powell, the daughter of James and Cynthia (Barnhill) Powell, and began life on the farm. He was engaged in farming in Kentucky until 1875, when he and his family came to Decatur county, Indiana, settling on a farm in Jackson township, where they lived for about fifteen years and then moved to a farm in Washington township, where they lived for two years. Subsequently, they lived in Clay township for five years. In 1897 they moved to Greensburg, where the family is still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Annis are the parents of two children, Mrs. Mary Ketner, of Bartholomew county, and Charles, of Lafayette.

Mr. Annis identifies himself with the "Joe Cannon" Republicans. He is a patriotic citizen and greatly interested in political affairs, has always been prominent in the councils of his party and is on the firing line in most of its campaigns. Mr. and Mrs. Annis are members of the Christian church. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Royal Arch Masons, the Union Veterans' League and other societies. He is a highly respected citizen of this city and a man who is well known throughout Decatur county. Honorable and upright in all of the relations of life, he is highly respected.

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### DANIEL DAVIS.

Greensburg, Indiana, has the distinction of counting as one of her citizens the oldest living veteran of the Civil War in Indiana. This venerable patriot and citizen is Daniel Davis, who is now living retired in this city, and who is now ninety years old. Born in 1825 in Hamilton county, Ohio, the venerable Daniel Davis is a son of Evan and Margaret Davis, the former of whom was a native of Wales and who came to America when a young man and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. Later he came to Decatur county and settled on a farm. He was one of the first tanners in Decatur county and died in 1828.

Daniel Davis began early in life to hustle for himself and from a very early age was compelled to depend upon his own efforts and his own resources. He was bound to a man by the name of Clark in Ripley county and, when twenty-one years old, did not have a single dollar. He began life for himself by working out on a farm for sixteen dollars a month in Ripley county.

On May 25, 1850, Mr. Davis was married to Matilda Jennings, a daughter of John Jennings, a native of England, who settled in Ripley county. Mrs. Davis was born in 1826 and died in August in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Davis had two children, Edward L., and William H., a clerk in the postoffice, both of Greensburg.

In May, 1861, the venerable Daniel Davis enlisted in the Sixteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Col. P. A. Hackleman and Major Wolf. Attached to the Army of Western Virginia, he served until 1863, when he was discharged for disabilities and came home.

Shortly after the end of the Civil War, in 1867, Mr. Davis moved to Greensburg, Indiana, and engaged in the dairy business. A Republican in politics, he cast his first vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, and for many years was on the firing line of the political campaigns of this county. He has always been a drummer and has the oldest drum in the state of Indiana. He is a member of the Baptist church, the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Masonic lodge at Greensburg. He owns land in Florida, near Jacksonville, but has never looked after the land personally. He is still a man of vigorous mental poise and well preserved for his years.\* For thirty years he has supplied the people of Decatur county with all kinds of plants and is well and familiarly known as "Uncle Dan."

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### JASON B. HUGHES.

The late Jason B. Hughes, who represented the second generation of the Hughes family in America and who was a resident of Decatur county for more than a half century, was a Welshman by birth. His father, John Hughes, who was born on March 15, 1795, in Aberystwith, Cardiganshire, South Wales, sailed from Carnarvon, North Wales, in 1817, to Baltimore, from which place he came to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and assisted in building the first bridge over the Monongahela river. After a time John Hughes came on to Cincinnati and located on a farm near Miamitown, where he was married to Anna Jane Sefton in February, 1826. Six years later he came on to Decatur county, settling in Washington township, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Jason B. Hughes, who is now deceased, was a native-born citizen of this great county, having been born on the old Hughes homestead on April 2, 1844, which homestead had been established by his father, at McCoy Station, in Washington township, and here Jason B. Hughes lived from the time of his birth until his death, March 4, 1902.

John Hughes, the father of Jason B., who lived a modest, quiet life far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife, was a pioneer in this section, having died at the age of ninety-three years, August 25, 1888. He was always possessed of a keen and intelligent mind and was known as a great reader, a man who maintained his faculties and energies in a high state of efficiency up to the time of his death. His early life had been filled with interesting experiences, which he liked very much to relate during his declin-



JASON B. HUGHES.



ing years. In the meantime, he had become very prosperous, owning three hundred and twenty acres of land, most of which he had cleared with his own hands. Noted for his kindly, charitable disposition, he is remembered today with pleasant feelings by those who knew him. He was a man who always inquired after his neighbors' welfare and assisted them in every possible way to get on in the world.

Of the seven children born to John and Anna Hughes, Jason B. was the youngest. The others were William, David, Sarah, Oscar, Thomas and Franklin. Oscar left two sons at the time of his death, Thomas and Chalmer. Thomas also left two sons, Frank and John.

Jason B. Hughes received his education in Decatur county. He received a portion of the old homestead farm, comprising eighty acres, at the time of his father's death, and, before his own death, increased this farm to one hundred and seventy-two acres. He was known far and wide as the inventor of the American Corn Shuck Compressor, an invention and device which enjoyed a phenomenal success.

The late Jason B. Hughes was married on December 25, 1878, to Lou E. Stewart, who was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, on January 16, 1855, the daughter of John W. and Keziah (McCullough) Stewart. Her mother was a widow, who had one child by a former marriage to James McLaughlin, Maria, and who, by her second marriage, had one daughter, Mrs. Hughes. Her husband, John W. Stewart, was also twice married, and by his first marriage there were eleven children. He died in 1860. The widow and daughter moved to Hartsville, where Mrs. Hughes was graduated from the Hartsville College. After her graduation, she and her mother moved to Greensburg, where the latter died, February 1, 1900, at the age of eighty-one years. Mrs. Hughes and her sister are members of the Christian church. Maria McLaughlin married Robert Mitchell, who died on December 15, 1892.

All the children of the venerable John Hughes, a pioneer of Decatur county, are now deceased. Among his grandchildren are Mrs. Lon Innis, a farmer, of Milroy, Indiana; Wilbur McCoy was postmaster for many years of Guthrie, Oklahoma; Frank McCoy, an attorney at Omaha, Nebraska, and the children of Sarah McCoy.

The late Jason B. Hughes was not only a fine type of the intelligent, industrious and self-made citizen, but he was a man of strong religious instincts, and throughout his life a devout member of the Presbyterian church. He never took much part in politics, but always cast his vote for the Republican candidate and in behalf of Republican principles. At the time of his death he left, besides his family, a host of friends in Decatur county to mourn his loss.

## OLIVER C. ELDER.

Oliver C. Elder, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, is a veteran of the Civil War and one who has an exceptionally splendid military record, even though he is very modest in accepting this record, a man still sturdy and strong for his age. On the first day of the battle of the Wilderness, while serving as orderly sergeant, he took the place of the lieutenant in command. All of the commissioned officers of his company, having been killed, he retained command of the company until just before the battle of Petersburg. One of four brothers who served in the cause of the Union during the Civil War, he is the grandson on his paternal side of a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His brother, James, was captured and held as a Confederate prisoner in Andersonville, Florence, Salisbury and Charleston for a period of nine months.

Oliver C. Elder, who is one of the highly respected older citizens of this county and a native of Washington township, was born on November 27, 1843, one mile south and two miles east of Greensburg, the son of William M. and Sarah S. (Sellers) Elder, natives of Kentucky, who moved to Decatur county in 1826, shortly after it was open for settlement. Born in January, 1802, William M. Elder entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Decatur county, after coming here in 1826 and later purchased an eighty-acre tract from his brother. He had four brothers, Matthew, James, Andrew and Robert. Leaving the farm in 1863, he moved to Greensburg because four of his sons were engaged in the service of their country in the Civil War and he had no assistance with which to operate the farm. Of his ten children, three died in infancy and seven lived to maturity. Five of these seven children, Mrs. Mary C. Vawter, Mrs. America Gray, Mrs. Sarah Taylor, George and Henry are now deceased, and the living children are Oliver and James Marshall. The last four served in the Civil War. James Marshall resides at Highland Center, Iowa. The mother of these children having died in May, 1855, the father was married again to Eliza Ford and by this second marriage had two children, Mrs. Serena Hamilton, of Iowa, and Mrs. Zerura Griffey, of Indianapolis. The father died on April 8, 1875.

After living at home with his parents until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he was eighteen years old, Oliver C. Elder enlisted on August 25, 1861, in Company E, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Col. E. B. Dumont and Capt. Ira Grover, serving until Sep-



tember 20, 1864. He was in the principal battles of 1861-62 in western Virginia and Shenandoah Valley and the Army of the Potomac during 1863-64.

After the war, Mr. Elder returned home and engaged in farming until 1903, when he moved to Greensburg. Beginning with two tracts of land, comprising two hundred and forty acres and one hundred and fifty-four acres, Mr. Elder now owns two hundred and thirty acres in one tract and sixty acres in another.

On January 28, 1868, four years after his return home from the army, Mr. Elder was married to Sophronia Cobb, the daughter of Dyer Cobb and a granddaughter of Joshua Cobb, one of the very first pioneers in Washington township, Decatur county, Joshua Cobb having settled in Decatur county in the fall of 1820 on the old Michigan trail, married Almira Tremain, of New York state.

Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Elder, two are deceased. The three living children are, Orris Clifford, who lives on the home farm; Mrs. Edna Meek, the wife of Edmund L. Meek, of Clinton township, and Jessie A., who lives at home.

Mr. Elder is a Republican. He and his wife and family are members of the Christian church. He is a member of Pap Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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### SAM V. LITTELL.

One of the established institutions of Greensburg, Indiana, which has become famous throughout Decatur and adjoining counties, is the lunch room and grocery conducted by Samuel V. Littell. The fame of this historic old bakery, lunch room and grocery rests partly upon a famous pie, which was invented and baked here for a long time. The lunch room comprises from eight to ten tables, and on gala days from fifteen hundred to two thousand people take their meals there. There is scarcely a man living in Greensburg or Decatur county who does not recall some interesting experience or incident connected with the Sam Littell grocery and lunch room. Thirty years ago the famous "Washington" pie was first made. This pie consisted of meat, bread, cakes, fruit, spices and New Orleans molasses, and was baked in huge pans. During the last few years, however, pie baking has been discontinued, the volume of the business having become so great

that it was necessary to either discontinue pie baking or enlarge the quarters of the store.

Sam V. Littell, well-known restaurant keeper and grocer of Greensburg, was born in Ripley county in 1859, the son of Benjamin and Jane M. (Vanzandt) Littell. At the age of two years he was brought to Greensburg, Indiana), by his parents, where he grew up and was educated in the common and high schools.

At the end of his school days in 1876, Mr. Littell began clerking in the grocery store of which he is now the owner and which was then owned by his brother, B. F. Littell. Here he served his apprenticeship, lasting about eight years, and learned the business. Later he purchased a half interest in the business with another brother, William T. Littell. This arrangement continued for four years, when he sold out and entered the partnership with another brother, James S. Littell. This partnership continued six years and was discontinued when Sam took over the entire business. It is now occupied exclusively by Sam V. Littell. He has been in business for himself for about twenty years, and has been very successful. His volume of business is equal or superior to that of any other grocery or lunch room in Decatur county. In point of years, he probably has been engaged in this business as long as any other man in Indiana. He entered the store, of which he is now the proprietor and sole owner, when sixteen years of age, and with the exception of eight months, when he was in the hospital, has never been out of this store.

In years gone by the Littell grocery and lunch room has fed as high as two thousand people in a single day. Mr. Littell likes the business, and especially the lunch room. In the past he has probably fed more people than all the hotels and lunch rooms of Greensburg combined.

In September, 1887, Sam V. Littell was married to Lida Howard, a daughter of Jesse and Mary (Ewing) Howard, the latter of whom was the daughter of Patrick Ewing, the founder of the famous Ewing family in this county, whose life and works are recounted elsewhere in this volume, and who has many descendants living in Decatur county today. Mr. and Mrs. Littell have had two children, Mary, who was born in 1888, and Howard, in 1892.

Sam V. Littell has always been identified with the Republican party and has always taken a commendable interest in politics, especially as a good citizen. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

It will be many long years before the life and career of Sam V. Littell will be forgotten by the people of Greensburg and Decatur county. Here in this city his place of business is one of the most famous and he has always enjoyed a large patronage and a profitable and successful trade because he knows the business and the wants and needs of the public. He has been honest and fair in all the relations of life, and no man living in this county is more popular than he.

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### REUBEN SMALLEY.

In the city of Greensburg, Indiana, lives a distinguished citizen and veteran of the Civil War, who today carries a medal of honor for distinguished services in several battles, which was presented to him by an act of Congress during Cleveland's administration. This valiant and brave soldier, a veteran of our greatest war, is Reuben Smalley, who was born in 1839 in Steuben county, New York, the son of Elias and Rozelphia (Hawkins) Smalley.

Reuben Smalley was but about twenty-three years of age when, on August 15, 1862, he joined Company F, Eighty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and leaving his wife and two small children, answered his country's call for volunteers. After drilling for six weeks at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, this regiment joined Grant's army at Cairo, Illinois, and here boarded a steamboat and proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee. From Memphis they went to Azoo swamp in Mississippi, where they attacked the Confederate forces, having later taken eight thousand prisoners at Arkansas Pass. Immediately after this the Fifteenth Army Corps built the Butler canal. In the following spring they took part in the Vicksburg campaign. This fortress they surrounded on May 19, 1863, and it was in this siege that Mr. Smalley first distinguished himself. The siege of Vicksburg lasted from May 19, until July 4, and on May 22, Grant called for volunteers to lead the way into Vicksburg, where Mr. Smalley was promoted for gallantry. Mr. Smalley was one of the one hundred and fifty to volunteer. At Fort Pennington, he distinguished himself for bravery and wears the badge of honor for services in that battle, a medal of which he is very proud.

After the surrender of Vicksburg, the army started to march to Jackson, Mississippi, and met General Joe Johnson's army at Black River, Mississippi, which they defeated and followed him into Jackson, where they defeated him again. Later they came back to Memphis, Tennessee, and from there

marched to Chattanooga, which march was marked by skirmishes with Forster's cavalry. At Chattanooga Mr. Smalley took part in the battle of Missionary Ridge, at which time he was acting as first sergeant. After pursuing Johnson for some time, the army went into winter quarters and in the spring Grant's army joined Sherman's. Then followed the famous campaign of Sherman, with which every one is familiar.

Reuben Smalley was with his army throughout this campaign and marched with it from Atlanta to the sea. He was once taken prisoner, but, as he says, no one could hold him in those days, and as his captor had not taken the precaution to disarm him, he relates that after marching along quietly for about three hundred yards, he decided it was time to do something and the time had come to determine whose hide was the tougher. In the struggle, his gun somehow came in contact with the rebel's head and—well, Reuben Smalley joined his command. He never missed being in any battle which it was possible to engage in. Fort McAllister was the last hard battle in which he was engaged. Finally he was present at the surrender of Johnson to Sherman, which was one of the incidents marking the close of the war.

Of Mr. Smalley's parentage, it may be said that his father was a native of France who came to America, and, after arriving in this country, settled in New York state. He died when Reuben was a lad of three years. When he was seven years old, he came to Jennings county, Indiana, with an uncle, with whom he lived until seventeen, at which time he began the business of life for himself. Two years later, at the age of nineteen, he was married to Martha Ann Johnson, the daughter of Elijah and Nancy (Bowley) Johnson, the former of whom was a native of Decatur county, Indiana, and the latter of whom was a native of Vermont. Married in Ripley county, July 23, 1859, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Smalley lived in that county until the beginning of the Civil War.

After the war, Mr. Smalley came back to Ripley county and, after two years, he and his wife, his two children having died while he was fighting for the cause of his country, immigrated to Decatur county. Mr. Smalley has been employed on railroad construction work for several years as a stationary engineer. He has been a shrewd business man and successful in life.

An enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Reuben Smalley is a man of remarkable vitality and striking personality. He is well known and highly respected in this community and in surrounding counties. The medal of honor, which he wears for distinguished services and bravery at the siege of Vicksburg and elsewhere, is something of which

he is extremely proud and for which he has every right to be. In 1914 he was elected constable on the Republican ticket by a majority of three hundred and fifty-two votes. Several years ago he had been elected to the same office. Mr. and Mrs. Smalley are a pleasant couple. She is seventy-three and her husband is seventy-six. With the exception of occasional heart trouble, both are still vigorous in body and mind and take a keen delight in living.

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### JOHN W. BECK.

The art of photography has reached such a state of perfection that it would seem there is little to be desired. The work, although accompanied by a certain amount of uncertainty in each instance, up to a given point, gives the operator more solid enjoyment, than most any other we know of.

John W. Beck, photographer, of Greensburg, Indiana, was born on March 30, 1865, in Jay county, Indiana, and is a son of Isaac and Millicent (Reeve) Beck. He was reared and educated in Columbiana and Mahoning counties, Ohio, including the schools at Canfield, Delaware, and Ohio Wesleyan Universities. While attending the latter place, he was offered a position in Indiana, and came west, taught school for four years, and then became interested in photography at McKeesport, where he spent three years. He then came to Indiana, and has been here ever since. After living for a time at Osgood, Knightstown, Carthage and Kokomo, he permanently settled at Greensburg, where he has built up a prosperous business and a large circle of warm friends. His political views are along the independent line, and in religion, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He began his career as a photographer in 1885, his present place of business having been established in 1911, is known as Beck's studio. He has a fully equipped place and is prepared to do all kinds of inside and outside photography, of the highest quality.

Isaac and Millicent (Reeve) Beck, parents of our subject, were pioneers in Jay county, Ohio, settling there at a time when the ground was wet and mushy, and where the former died, in 1865. The mother then took her five children back to the old home in eastern Ohio, where she was reared. Her children were, Jonas Marion, Ellen, Anna May, Isaac Edwin and John W. They were Quakers, and wore the Quaker garb. Their ancestors were "Friends" for several generations back.

John W. Beck was married, December 25, 1891, to Dollie Smith, of Decatur county. They have had two children, Adene and Serlett.

## JAMES B. ROBISON.

The late James B. Robison, of Greensburg, Indiana, not only was a successful farmer and stockman, but he was a prominent citizen of Decatur county, whose voice was respectfully heard in any council, because it was always raised in support of the right. While his most conspicuous service, perhaps, was performed as a member of the Indiana General Assembly, of which he was a member for two sessions, 1881 and 1889, yet his most important public service was performed in the community where he lived so long and where he was so well known. Broad-minded in his views, liberal in spirit, simple and kind-hearted in his charity, he was loved by the people of Decatur county, and today his memory is revered, not only by his widow and his two living children, but by the host of men and women who knew him, for his goodness of heart and for his unselfish generosity.

The late James B. Robison was enterprising as a private citizen, it is true, but he was public-spirited, which is even more important. More men of his type and spirit are needed today.

As a skillful farmer and a shrewd and far-seeing business man, especially in the purchase and sale of live stock, the late James B. Robison had no superiors and few equals in Decatur county. Born on June 12, 1834, in Fugit township, and the son of Andrew and Polly (Donnell) Robison, he passed away quietly on his golden wedding anniversary, May 19, 1913. His father, a native of Pennsylvania and a tanner by trade, came to Decatur county during the early twenties, and lived and died on his farm in Fugit township. After his death, his son, the late James B. Robison, took charge of the homestead farm when he was only nineteen years old.

James B. Robison was married, May 19, 1863, to Margaret Meek, who was born on December 25, 1844, and who is the daughter of John Meek, of the Springhill community, and the great-granddaughter of Thomas Meek, a pioneer in the state of Kentucky, whose descendants have lived to populate Decatur county with many of its most enterprising citizens, its successful farmers, bankers and mechanics. Mr. and Mrs. Robison had three children: William E., who was born in Fugit township on July 31, 1864, married Clara Taintor, December 31, 1887, in Sterling, Illinois, the daughter of George L. and Martha (Hughes) Taintor. They live on the old Robison homestead in Decatur county, and have three children, Mary, Margaret and Mildred; Stella, December 10, 1870, married Alva M. Reed, of Greensburg, January 21, 1891, and they now reside in Greensburg. They have one son,



JAMES B. ROBISON.





Rollin Reed; Clara J., November 25, 1875, was married, April 2, 1902, to George Davis, and on October 30, 1909, she died in Alberta, Canada.

One of the largest farmers and one of the most extensive stockmen of Decatur county, in 1896 the late James B. Robison removed from the farm to Greensburg, leaving his son, William E., in charge of the homestead. Later, however, he bought a farm near Greensburg, and personally superintended it until the time of his death.

The late James B. Robison was not only a member of the Indiana General Assembly for two terms, but, from 1906 to 1912, he served as a member of the Greensburg city council. In this office he used his best talents and energies for the promotion of enterprise, industry and wholesome living in this city. For more than a half century he was a well-recognized factor in all phases of life and was especially devout as a member of the Presbyterian church, having been an elder in the Kingston church from 1886 until the time of his death. To this church he not only gave his best personal services, but he also gave liberally of the means of which he was possessed, and which appeared without any apparent effort to grow from year to year. He regarded himself as a steward merely of the fortune which had come into his hands, and dispensed it with a liberality of one gifted with a patriotic heart.

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#### GEORGE W. SEFTON.

George W. Sefton, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, is one of those men who, at the first call for volunteers at the breaking out of the Civil War, enlisted in Company E, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a reorganized regiment, and served for three years. In many hard-fought battles of the war, the only discomfiture he suffered, excepting the privations and hardships in the military service, was an attack of the measles. His brother, John, died of the measles while serving in the same regiment. Attached to the First Brigade of the First Division of the First and Fifth Army Corps, Mr. Sefton contracted rheumatism as early as January, 1862, and was confined in the hospital at Cumberland, Maryland, on account of measles. After his recovery, he brought his brother's body home and then rejoined his command at Winchester, Virginia. He was discharged at Indianapolis on September 20, 1864. During his services, he was engaged in the battles of Greenbrier, Winchester, Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg,

Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Mine Run, Wilderness, Campaign of 1864, Port Republic, Siege of Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Antietam, South Mountain, Chancellorsville and many others. This is an honorable and valiant military record of which the subject of this sketch has reason to be very proud.

George W. Sefton was born on October 10, 1841, in Clinton township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Henry and Sarah (Brown) Sefton, natives of Ohio and Fountain county, respectively. The former, who was born in 1808 and died in 1878, was the son of William Sefton, a native of Ireland, who came with his parents to Ohio, where he was reared. From Ohio he moved to Indiana and settled in Decatur county near Sandusky. Henry Sefton came with his parents and was reared in this county in the early twenties, and eventually settled in Clinton township, where he became a successful farmer. By his first wife, Sarah Brown, to whom he was married in 1848, he had six children, five of whom are now deceased. The only living child is George W., the subject of this sketch. The deceased children were: Preserve O.; William; John, who died of measles in the army; Elizabeth and Jane. By his second marriage to Sarah Stine, Henry Sefton had two children, Mrs. Rachel Wilkinson, of Sandusky, and Isaac Stine, who lives on the home farm in Clinton township. Until March, 1903, George W. Sefton was engaged in farming. He owns one hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township.

Mr. Sefton has been married three times, the first time on October 1, 1866, to Julia Lanham, who was born in 1843 and who was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lanham. She died in 1869, leaving two children, Monnett O., born on September 5, 1867, who lives in Rush county, and Julia E., on June 27, 1869, who married John Frank Deem, of Adams township. By his second marriage, April 25, 1871, to Elizabeth Brock, who died in 1875, there were two children, Mrs. Emma M. Brown, of Indianapolis, who was born on May 4, 1872, and Mrs. Mary E. Walker, of Newpoint, on October 7, 1873. By his third marriage to Harriett Weed, September 19, 1876, one child, Mrs. Stella Waters, of Indianapolis, was born on September 18, 1878.

Mrs. Harriett (Weed) Sefton was born on July 16, 1847, near Milroy in Rush county and is the daughter of Alvin and Jane Ann (Ross) Weed, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1810 and died in 1896, and the latter was born in 1814, died in 1886. Alvin Weed was the son of a well-known pioneer citizen who was drowned while traveling down

the Ohio river in a flat-boat in 1812. Alvin Weed died in Howard county at the home of his son. His wife, who before her marriage, was Jane Ann Ross, was the daughter of Alexander Ross, a native of Ireland. Alvin and Jane Ann Weed had a large family of children, as follow: James Hiram, deceased; Eliza, deceased; Robert Thomas, deceased; Mrs. Lucinda Webster, of Hope, Indiana; Oliver, who died in infancy; Charles William, of Kokomo, Indiana; Mrs. Harriet Sefton, of Greensburg; Mrs. Melissa Margaret Dilman, of Howard county; Mary Frances, deceased; Mrs. Alice Root, of Indianapolis; Alonzo and John Lincoln, deceased.

George W. Sefton cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln and since that time has always voted the Republican ticket and upheld vigorously Republican principles and Republican candidates. Fraternally, he is a member of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Sefton is a member of the Christian church. George W. Sefton is one of the honored and highly respected citizens of Greensburg and Decatur county and a man who is well known and well liked by his neighbors and fellow townsmen.

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### HENRY THOMSON.

Among the well-known citizens of Decatur county, Indiana, and among the veterans of the Civil War living in this county, is the venerable Henry Thomson, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, who was born on December 16, 1840, in Washington township on a pioneer farm, and who is the son of William Henry and Eliza Jane (Hopkins) Thomson, the former of whom was born on January 11, 1803, and who died in August, 1840, and the latter of whom was born on March, 1809, in Kentucky, and who died, December 26, 1864.

Henry Thomson had just reached his majority at the time of the breaking out of the Civil War, when he enlisted on September 5, 1861, in Company G, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving until May 5, 1864, when he was wounded in the first day's battle of the Wilderness. Seriously wounded in the right leg, the effects of which are felt to this day, he was not dismissed until September 6, 1864. During his service as a soldier in the Civil War his principal engagements were those at Green Briar in 1861, Winchester in 1862, where he was wounded in the right shoulder, the second battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Virginia, Gettysburg, Manassas Gap and the Wilderness. In 1910 Mr. Thomson and

his good wife took an automobile trip over many of the battle scenes of the Civil War, taking along a complete camping outfit, and remaining away for several weeks. Starting on August 14, 1910, they did not return until September 11, and during this period visited nearly all of Mr. Thomson's old battlefields.

The father of Henry Thomson died before his son Henry was born, and the latter was reared in the home of his grandfather Hopkins. His father, who was born in Kentucky, was the son of James Henry Thomson, who was born on April 2, 1778, and who in turn was the son of James and Mary (Henry) Thomson, the former of whom was born in 1731, and the latter of whom was born in 1736. They had three children, as follow: William Henry, who was born in 1743; Elizabeth Davis, in 1750; James Henry, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, April 2, 1778, and who was married to Sarah Henry, in 1776.

James Henry and Sarah (Henry) Thomson had eight children, as follow: Almira, who was born in 1800, and who married the Reverend Mr. Lowry, the first pastor of the Presbyterian church at Kingston; William Henry, January 11, 1803, the father of the subject of this sketch; John Davis, April 7, 1805, and who married Susanna Howe; James Henry, October 26, 1807, and who married Nancy Ann McLeod; Alexander Brown, January 8, 1810, who first married Johanna S. Howe, September 1, 1815, and for his second wife, Elizabeth R. Carson; Samuel Harrison, August 26, 1813, was a professor at Hanover College for twenty-five years, and married Magdalena Sophronia Clifton; Preston Wallace, January 17, 1816; married Mary Ann Ashman; Mary Elizabeth, the last born, who first saw the light of day, June 2, 1818, married George F. Whitworth.

William Henry, the father of Henry, was married to Eliza Jane Hopkins, who was the daughter of John and Jane Hopkins, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Washington township, Decatur county. John Hopkins became a judge of the appellate court, and was a man of ability and great power. It was Judge John Hopkins who practically reared Henry Thomson, the subject of this sketch. Judge Hopkins died in 1852, and his wife in 1854, two years later. Mrs. Eliza Jane (Hopkins) Thomson died in 1864, on December 26.

After the Civil War, Henry Thomson entered Hanover College, where he was a student for some time, but he later returned to the farm in Washington township, and was actively engaged as a farmer until 1903, when, after a trip to the West, including the National Park, the Pacific coast,

Oregon, the Pacific coast cities, New Mexico, Arizona, and the Grand Canon of Colorado, he and his wife settled at their present home in Greensburg, Indiana. The one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm, with which he started life, in the meantime has been increased to one hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Thomson still owns this farm, which is well improved.

On December 15, 1881, Mr. Thomson was married to Laura Alice McCracken, who was born on January 31, 1852, and who is the daughter of Adam and Mary Jane (Rankin) McCracken, natives of Kentucky. Adam was the son of James and Sallie (Meek) McCracken, and was born on May 20, 1824, and died in 1901. His wife was the daughter of Adam and Hester (Logan) Rankin, natives of Kentucky, who settled at Springhill in Decatur county in the early twenties. Here they homesteaded a farm and it was here that the mother of Mrs. Thomson was reared. Adam McCracken and Mary Jane Rankin were married in 1851. The latter was born in 1827. Mrs. Thomson is one of three children born to her parents. The others were James Logan, who was born on January 9, 1858, and who lives at Watseka, Illinois, and Whilma, November 7, 1864, died, July 24, 1889.

An ardent believer in temperance and in the suppression of the liquor traffic, Henry Thomson has been an active and influential member of the Prohibition party. Mr. and Mrs. Thomson are members of the Presbyterian church. Henry Thomson is a member of Pap Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Greensburg, Indiana.

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## JOHN WESLEY DEEM

John Wesley Deem, a retired farmer and merchant of Greensburg, Indiana, whose active life dates back to the pioneer history of the Hoosier state, is a native of Preble county, Ohio, his birth having occurred on November 22, 1831. He is a son of Thomas and Sarah (Sayler) Deem, natives of Kentucky, whose family came originally from Virginia, and who removed from Kentucky to Ohio in an early day, and from that state to Indiana, settling in Decatur county in 1834, where they purchased land and Thomas Deem became a large landowner, possessing at one time five hundred acres. He was born on May 30, 1796, and died on September 24, 1853. His wife was born October 20, 1809, and died March 3, 1895. The Deem homestead, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, was pur-

chased from Ella and Elizabeth Warriner, December 3, 1834, for nine hundred dollars. The deed was recorded on September 24, 1835.

Thomas and Sarah (Sayler) Deem were the parents of ten children, whose names in the order of their birth are as follow: Mrs. Mary Ann Heaton, who was born on December 10, 1826, died on March 6, 1915; Mrs. Eliza A. Stewart, April 11, 1828, died in December, 1911; Mrs. Catharine Dailey, the widow of E. G. Dailey, of Greensburg; Mrs. Elizabeth Hoodlow, of Topeka, Kansas, in 1829; Mrs. Lenora Corey, November 22, 1830, lives on the old homestead; John Wesley, the immediate subject of this review; Lemuel, in 1836, is now deceased; Oliver, in 1840, lives in Greensburg; William Henry, in 1844, died in the service of his country during the Civil War, and Thomas Harvey, in 1847, died in 1864, and was also a soldier in the Civil War.

After his father had purchased the homestead farm, John Wesley Deem assisted in clearing the land, and did his share toward the improvement and cultivation of the home farm. The family lived at this time in a hewed log house, and experienced all the privations and hardships, as well as the joys of true pioneer life in southern Indiana. When he was twenty-four years of age, in 1855, John W. Deem removed to Shelby county, Indiana, where he lived for two years. During this period he and his wife lived in a round log cabin which was notched, daubed and chinked with mud. It consisted of one room, eighteen by fifteen feet, with one window and a door on the opposite side from the window. The chimney was built of mud and sticks with mud jambs and a clapboard roof. It was a typical pioneer's cabin, the door having a wooden latch with a string on the outside, which could be locked by pulling the string on the inside. Mr. Deem sawed lumber at night during the winter season, by the use of the water-mill, four miles away, and in this way secured lumber enough to build a new house. His father had built what is believed to have been the first brick house in Decatur county. After two years' residence in Shelby county, Mr. Deem returned with his family to Decatur county, and here he engaged in the mercantile and grain business at Adams, where he remained for six years. He operated a saw-mill for a number of years and then moved to his farm in Adams township. At one time he was the owner of four hundred acres of land, but has sold the greater portion of this land and now has two hundred and fifty acres. In 1894 Mr. Deem retired from active farm life and moved to Greensburg, where he engaged in the hardware and implement business, in which he continued for a period of eighteen years. On account of the



poor health of Mrs. Deem, he retired from business at this time and cared for his wife until her death.

John Wesley Deem was married on September 20, 1855, to Margaret Jane Logan, who was born on November 9, 1832, in Decatur county, the daughter of Samuel Logan and wife. Mrs. Deem died on September 28, 1903. John W. Deem and wife were the parents of six children, Sarah Susanna, who was born on August 11, 1856, was married to Arthur Doggett, March 4, 1875, and died ten years later on October 17, 1885, leaving two children, Mrs. Sarah Alberta Brockelmeier and Otis; Samuel Logan, February 15, 1858, married Flora King; Kate, March 25, 1860, died on December 20, 1865; William Henry Ellsworth, August 13, 1862, died August 22, 1863; Mary, October 13, 1864, married J. C. Bird, December 21, 1881, and on May 29, 1895, her death occurred, leaving two children, Mrs. Ethel Koester, who is a resident of Cincinnati, and has two children, Robert and one unnamed, and Harry Bird, a resident of Greensburg; John Franklin, who was born on March 29, 1871, lives on the home place. He married Julia E. Sefton, December 24, 1890.

John Wesley Deem, during his lifetime, has been an ardent believer in Republican principles and has always voted the Republican ticket. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but on account of defect in hearing, cannot enjoy attending. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, in which he is deeply interested.

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#### IRA CLARK.

Of pioneer descent, the gentleman whose name is here noted, maintains in his own life and manner of living all the sterling traditions of a stalwart and vigorous race of God-fearing, home-loving, temperate and industrious forbears, men and women who wrought well during the early days of this section of the state and who, upon passing, bequeathed to their posterity the priceless legacy of a good name. Born and reared in this county, Mr. Clark has created at Greensburg, the county seat, a business which aids very materially in carrying the name of that pleasant city to distant parts of this country. The beautiful flowers which are cultivated in the famous green-houses of Ira Clark & Company at Greensburg are shipped to cities at far distant points, being one of the most delightful contributions this county makes to the commerce of the land. Roses and carnations are the special

products of this well-known greenhouse and a wide territory is supplied from the Clark houses, shipments of the standard and best varieties being made to points as far west as Denver, as far north as Toronto and as far south as Atlanta and New Mexico. In addition to these select varieties, Mr. Clark also cultivates a general line of florist's goods and has a place which is one of the show places of the town, carrying on a business in which all the people in and about Greensburg take a very proper pride. Ira Clark & Company's greenhouses cover twelve thousand square feet of surface, comprising eight large houses, hot water and steam heated, and are otherwise fully equipped according to all modern requirements.

Ira Clark was born on a farm near the town of Clarksburg, this county, on June 5, 1870, the son of Hezekiah E. and Catherine J. (Miller) Clark, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in 1827 and died at his home in this county in 1896, and the latter of whom was born in Franklin county, this state, on June 1, 1840, and is now residing in the city of Greensburg.

Hezekiah E. Clark was the son of William Clark, who founded the town of Clarksville, Pennsylvania, in the year 1817, and who, with his brother, gave a church to the town. Just ninety-eight years later, on February 14, 1915, this historic old church was profusely decorated with flowers shipped from Greensburg by Ira and Nellie M. Clark, grandchildren of William Clark. William Clark and three brothers came to America from Scotland in the eighteenth century, one of the brothers locating in Pennsylvania, another in New Jersey and the other in South Carolina. William Clark later moved to Ohio, in which state his last days were passed. His son, Hezekiah E., came to Decatur county, Indiana, in 1854, settling in the village of Clarksburg, where he married Catherine J. Miller, who was born on June 1, 1840, the daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Lewis) Miller, and who now is residing in Greensburg. Jacob Miller, a native of Virginia, was the second person to settle in Fugit township, this county, and was one of the men who organized the township. He came to this county about the year 1821, following a "blazed trail," and quickly established himself here, being one of the most potent forces in the creation of a social order in the then wilderness. His wife, Rebecca Lewis, was a cousin of "Davy" Crockett, she and the immortal hero of the Alamo having been reared children together. The Lewises and the Crocketts left Virginia together, but parted at Cinch mountain, the Crocketts going on into Tennessee and the Lewises coming to Indiana. Jacob Miller, who was born in the year 1800 and died in 1872, first settled on Salt creek, in Franklin county, this state, where he married Rebecca Lewis, later coming to this county and settling in Fugit township where he

and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Hezekiah Clark moved from Fugit township to Clinton township, this county, and died on the farm in that township, one of the most highly respected men in the county. Both the Clarks and the Millers were of a hardy, self-respecting, upright race, stanch Methodists and firm in the expression of the courage of their convictions. The Millers entertained John Wesley when that great apostle of Methodism made his historic tour into Virginia. These two families were ardent temperance advocates and practiced what they preached, even in a day when the drinking of strong drinks was a common practice. In the old "log rolling" days, when it came time for Jacob Miller to invite his pioneer neighbors to such a fete, he declined to furnish whisky to the participants in the arduous labors of the day, notwithstanding the time-honored custom of the period; being so strictly temperate in his own habits that he would not consent to putting the intoxicating glass to his neighbors' lips.

To Hezekiah E. and Catherine J. (Miller) Clark were born seven children, five sons and two daughters, namely: Jesse M., who died on April 9, 1898; Tillman, who lives in Howard county, Indiana; Mrs. Clara Draper, who lives on a farm east of Greensburg, in this county; Emmet, a well-known farmer of Adams township, this county; Nellie M., who is associated with her brother, Ira, in the florist's business in Greensburg; Ira, the immediate subject of this sketch, and A. Burl, who lives in the state of Oklahoma.

Ira Clark received his early education in the schools of Sandusky, this county, and was graduated from the school at that place. To this course of schooling he added a course in the Central Normal School, at Danville, Indiana, from which he also was graduated, after which, for ten years, he taught in the schools of Sandusky and St. Paul, this county, being the assistant principal in the latter school. He then, in the year 1901, engaged in the florist's business in Greensburg, he and his partner conducting the business for a year under the firm style of Hedges & Clark, the concern in 1902 becoming known as Clark & Company. The beginning of this business was on a comparatively small scale, but Mr. Clark later bought out the greenhouses of Henry Bentlage, combining the two greenhouses under the present efficient management, and has been quite successful.

In 1897 Ira Clark was united in marriage to Carrie Bell-Vandament, a well-known and popular teacher in the Sandusky schools, the daughter of J. C. Bell, a prominent resident of that village. To this union two children have been born, Wayne, who now is sixteen years of age, and Lewis, now twelve years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark are members of the First Methodist Episcopal

church and are active workers in the congregation to which they are attached, Mr. Clark being one of the church stewards. Following the example of his pioneer forbears, Mr. Clark is a strong temperance advocate and is one of the leaders in all the good works of the city in which he lives. In his political views he is quite independent, believing that it is the duty of a good citizen to support the ablest and most conscientious men for positions of public trust and responsibility, regardless of the party with which candidates for office are affiliated. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these two popular fraternal orders.

Mr. Clark is an energetic business man and public-spirited citizen who has the entire confidence of the community in which he lives and he and Mrs. Clark are held in the highest regard by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

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### CORNELIUS MESSLER.

Cornelius Messler, a well-known retired citizen of Greensburg, Indiana, belongs to a family which served its country most valiantly during the trying days of the Civil War. Four Messler brothers, of whom Cornelius was the second, hazarded their lives on the battlefields of the Civil War for the preservation of the American Union. It is doubtful whether there are any families in Decatur county, which can show a more patriotic record than this. A member of Company H, Third Indiana Cavalry, and in the service of his country nearly four years, a participant in at least twenty-five severe battles, including the battles of Corinth and Pittsburg Landing, Cornelius Messler was taken prisoner at Soloman's Grove, North Carolina, on March 10, and held until the latter part of 1865, a period of sixty days in all. Two brothers, James and John, were members of the One Hundredth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and one brother, Henry, was a soldier in the Eleventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. This country is enthusiastically and reverently proud of the splendid service which was performed by the heroes of 1861-65. It is not only proud of the service they performed during this troubled period, but it is likewise proud to number among its citizens in these days of peace the battle-scarred veterans of that war, among whom is Cornelius Messler.

A resident of Greensburg, Indiana, Cornelius Messler lives in a comfortable home, and was born on September 23, 1832, in Hamilton county,

Ohio, the son of John S. and Sabina Messler, the former of whom was a native of New Jersey, born on August 2, 1797, and who died on September 30, 1840, the latter of whom was born on April 13, 1809, and died on June 11, 1849. John S. Messler, who came west from Philadelphia, died in Union county, Indiana, and his wife passed away in Salt Creek township, Decatur county. They had six children, William F., James, Cornelius, John R., Henry, and Mary A.

When twelve years old, Cornelius Messler was employed to drive a team along the old White Water canal, from Cincinnati to Cleavestown, and thence by the way of the Wabash & Erie canal to Toledo, a distance of three hundred and eighty miles. In 1842 the family came to Decatur county, where Cornelius lived for one year, and then returned to the state of Ohio, and was engaged as a stage-driver in that state for a period of sixteen years. In the meantime he worked at various occupations, coming to Decatur county, Indiana, to live permanently in 1897.

Mr. Messler has been twice married, the first time to Sarah A. Hannan, who was born on November 5, 1828, and who died on February 2, 1883. She was buried in Taswell county, Virginia. She was the mother of five children, three of whom, Mary A., John and Anna, the youngest, are now deceased. The two eldest, William, who was born, October 3, 1855, and James H., on June 8, 1859, live near Frankfort, and Hartford City, respectively.

Many years after the death of Mrs. Sarah A. (Hannan) Messler, Mr. Messler was married again, April 21, 1898, the second time to Sarah Elizabeth Bell, who was born on the Bell homestead on April 11, 1840, and who is the daughter of Henson S. and Ann (Marlin) Bell, natives of Woodford county, Kentucky, and Monmouth county, New Jersey, respectively, the former of whom was the son of Daniel and Nancy Bell. Henson S. Bell, who died on November 30, 1890, at the age of eighty-one years, was a mere boy when he came from Kentucky to Indiana. For some time he and his wife lived in Laurel, but they later moved to a farm, just before the death of his wife in 1841. In 1850 he removed to Oregon, driving overland, but returned in 1873, and lived on his farm until his death. In the meantime he had traveled over Oregon, Washington and California. He had two children, Nancy Jane, deceased, who was born in 1837, and who died in 1856, and Mrs. Cornelius Messler. Daniel Bell, the father of Henson S. Bell, died on April 28, 1875, at the age of ninety-five years. His wife, Nancy Bell, died on February 8, 1883, at the age of ninety-five. They had come to Decatur county in 1822, and homesteaded on government land. On their

trip to Decatur county they were accompanied by their son, Henson, the father of Mrs. Messler. Before returning home they planted a patch of corn, and upon coming back to Decatur county found out that the squirrels had eaten up the corn. The ten children born to Daniel and Nancy Bell, John, Louisa, Henson, George, Thomas, Mary, Nancy, Tarlton, James and Julia, are all deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Messler have a farm of eighty-one acres in Fugit township, the old Bell homestead, although they have for several years resided in Greensburg, where, in October, 1902, they bought a home. They are known as among the most delightful people living in the city of Greensburg. Mr. Messler is a man who has enjoyed a variety of experiences, and who is rich in anecdote of former times, a charming conversationalist, a genial, broad-minded citizen, who is revered by his fellow townsmen and honored by all with whom he has ever come in contact. Mrs. Messler is a woman of most gracious personality, refined and cultured, interested in all worthy public movements, and who for many years was a leader among her sex in this county. Eminently worthy as both Mr. and Mrs. Messler are, they well deserve the respect and esteem of the people of Greensburg and Decatur county. Mrs. Messler is now and has been a member of Mt. Carmel Methodist Episcopal church since 1855.

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### HARRY H. MOUNT.

Harry H. Mount, of Greensburg, Indiana, formerly a school teacher and banker, now a farmer, who owns two hundred and forty acres of land near the Shelby county line, is one of the best-known citizens of Decatur county. For several years he has been an extensive breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle, and for the past two years has raised only registered cattle. His herd consists now of forty-four head, eight of which are registered stock.

Mr. Mount was born on December 28, 1875, on a farm in Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, two miles west of Clifty, or Milford, the son of Thomas J. and Nancy (Thornburg) Mount, natives of Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, the former of whom was born on August 24, 1846, and who died on October 10, 1910, and the latter of whom was born on July 6, 1844, and who died on September 2, 1894, many years before the death of her husband. The late Thomas J. Mount was the son of Matthias



and Margaret (Marsh) Mount, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1823, and who died in 1893. Coming to Shelby county, Indiana, with his father when a mere lad, he eventually succeeded to the land his father entered from the government, and it is this land which is now held by the Mount family. His wife, who before her marriage was Margaret Marsh, was born in 1825, and died, three years before the death of her husband, in 1890. They had ten children, six of whom lived to maturity, Thomas J., was the father of Harry H.; Mrs. Martha Hanks died on February 23, 1913; Amos died in March, 1894; Hannah is deceased; Sarah died in 1881; and Mrs. Emma Blackmore lives on the old home place.

Thomas J. Mount, a successful farmer and stockman, removed to Greensburg in November, 1884, from which place he looked after his farming interests, living there until 1908, when he returned to the farm, and there died. In 1896 he purchased a farm from Frank Butler on the Shelby and Decatur county line, a part of which was in Clay township, Decatur county, and a part of which was in Shelby county. He owned four hundred and fifty acres in all, and at one time was an extensive breeder of Poland China hogs. He exercised his right of franchise as a Republican. He and his family were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The late Thomas J. and Nancy (Thornburg) Mount had only two children, Harry H., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Elmer E. Wooden, who lives in Greensburg. Mrs. Nancy (Thornburg) Mount was a native of Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, and the daughter of Thomas and Maria (Berry) Thornburg, who were in turn natives of Pennsylvania, and Ohio, respectively. They migrated to Shelby county, Indiana, in the late thirties.

Educated in the country schools of Decatur county and in the Greensburg high school, Harry H. Mount attended the State University at Bloomington, Indiana, pursuing his studies in the scientific course. After teaching school for two years in Clay township at the Hiner and Brown schools, he resigned in 1899 to take a position as bookkeeper in the Third National Bank, and from December 1, 1899, to May 1, 1912, a period of thirteen years, he was bookkeeper and teller at this institution. Since 1912 Mr. Mount has been devoting all of his attention in directing the work on his two-hundred-and-forty-acre farm on the Shelby county line.

On June 7, 1905, Harry H. Mount was married to Daisy E. Gartin, of Hartford City, Indiana, who is the daughter of Griffith and Laura E. (Templeton) Gartin, formerly residents of Decatur county, Indiana. The father now lives in Muncie. Mrs. Mount was born on September 27, 1876, in Decatur county. Her father, who was born in this county on October



26. 1854, is the son of Griffith Gartin, Sr., a native of Virginia, and an early settler in Decatur county. Her mother, who before her marriage was Laura E. Templeton, was born on February 13, 1853, and died on June 25, 1882, in Franklin county. She was the daughter of John Templeton, who came to Decatur county in an early day. Mrs. Mount is the only child born to her father's first marriage.

A Republican in party politics, Harry H. Mount is a member of the Greensburg city council, and is giving efficient service to his fellow townsmen as a public official and an enterprising and public-spirited citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Mount are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 148, at Greensburg, and for seven years has been keeper of records and seal. Mr. and Mrs. Mount live in a modern home, and both are well educated and highly refined. Mrs. Mount is treasurer of the Department Club at Greensburg, and both take an active part in the social life of the city.

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### SAMUEL H. STEWART.

The Stewart family in Decatur county was founded by Adam L. Stewart, a native of South Carolina, born in 1811, and who died in 1896. From South Carolina, he immigrated with his father, James Stewart, to Ohio, and it was here that he was reared. From Ohio he came to Rush county about 1832, and one year later moved to Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, where he settled. Here he married Isabella Hood, the daughter of Samuel and Isabella (Lee) Hood, whose grandfather, John Carson, of Virginia, was a soldier in the American Revolution. Isabella Hood was born in Kentucky in 1816 and died in 1888. She was brought to Decatur county by her father, Samuel Hood, who came in 1827. In 1852 Adam L. and Isabella (Hood) Stewart moved to a farm in Clinton township, consisting of eighty acres and here they lived until their deaths.

Samuel H. Stewart, who is one of eight children born to Adam L. and Isabella Stewart, and who is a prominent stock dealer and farmer of Greensburg, now living retired, is the subject of this sketch. Samuel H. Stewart was born on January 26, 1837, in Fugit township. He was the eldest child born to his parents, the others being James, who died at the age of thirteen; Mrs. Sophia Weed, deceased; Eliza, who died in 1868; Mrs. Nancy Amanda Foley, a widow who lives in Greensburg; John, of Kansas City; Margaret, who died in April, 1914, and Mary, who died at the age of two years.

Samuel H. Stewart, who responded to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, enlisted in Company F, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in 1861 and served three months, being mustered out in July, 1861. He was in the first battle of the Civil War at Philippi, Virginia, and also served throughout the Cheat river campaign.

On November 9, 1865, Mr. Stewart was married to Hannah Donnell, who was born on August 9, 1837, in Fugit township, and who is the daughter of Samuel Addison and Mary (Lowe) Donnell, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1808 and died in 1870 and the latter born in 1810 and died in 1858. Samuel Donnell, whose wife was Hannah Quiett of Kentucky, settled in Decatur county in 1823. He was the son of James Donnell, a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer settler in Kentucky. James Donnell married Catherine Gibson, a native of Virginia. Six children were born to Samuel A. and Mary (Lowe) Donnell, as follow: Mrs. Hester Jane Rankin, of Greensburg; Luther, who died in Fugit township; Hannah; Seth, deceased; Thomas R., of Greensburg, and Mrs. Rebecca Angelina Miller, of Franklin, Indiana. The Donnell family is a very large one in this section of the country. Mrs. Mary (Lowe) Donnell, the mother of these children, was a daughter of Seth and Rebecca (Ryan) Lowe, the latter of Virginia. He was the first settler in the Kingston neighborhood, the Hamiltons and McCoys coming in 1823, he preceding them by two years. Although a member of the Baptist church, he attended the Presbyterian church and was a man of charitable and benevolent disposition. He reared several children beside his own family, and was known during his day and generation as a noble character.

After Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were married, they settled in Clinton township and in 1871 moved to Greensburg, where he engaged permanently in the live stock business. This business, however, he had really begun in 1855. During his life, Mr. Stewart has bought and sold thousands of cattle and hogs. In the early days he shipped from three to fifteen carloads of cattle and the same number of carloads of hogs, at one time. He shipped to Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, principally. Although Mr. Stewart has owned as high as two hundred and fifty acres of land, he now owns only sixty acres in Clinton township. His farm of two hundred acres which he owns, three miles south of Greensburg, he is now selling off from time to time. After selling the farm, Mr. Stewart leased it for a period of twenty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Stewart have been the parents of four children, Mary, who is the wife of Charles J. Erdmann, of Greensburg; Edna.

who is employed by the State Life Insurance Company, at Indianapolis; Anna, who is employed on the *Greensburg Review* and who was formerly a school teacher, and Kate, who lives at home.

An independent Republican in politics, Mr. Stewart is a great admirer of President Wilson. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian church as is Mrs. Stewart also. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic.

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### REV. JOHN ADAM URICH.

Decatur county has been the home and the scene of the labors of many men whose lives should serve as a lesson and an inspiration to those who follow them upon the stage of life's activities—men who have been of larger usefulness to the community than in clearing the wilderness or amassing great personal fortune. The honored and esteemed Rev. John Adam Urich, pastor of St. Mary's church at Millhousen in Marion township for the past eleven years, is a man of well-rounded character, sincere, devoted and loyal. Standing as he does today at the head of one of the more important Catholic churches in Decatur county, it is fitting that a brief summary of his life and work be given in this volume.

Born on February 16, 1863, at St. Joe, Vanderburg county, Indiana, he is the son of Bernard and Barbara (Wiedner) Urich, the former of whom was born January 1, 1818, and who died on April 5, 1887, and the latter of whom was born in 1820 and died on June 27, 1909. Both were natives of Hambach, Bavaria, Germany, and were born, reared and married in their native land. With their children, Barbara, Mary and Peter, they came to America in 1854, locating in the Catholic settlement at St. Joe, near German township, Vanderburg county, Indiana, a distinct German emigrant neighborhood. The father became a well-to-do citizen, who owned one hundred and eighty acres of land and who died in good circumstances in his old home in Vanderburg county. A brother of his wife, having urged him to locate in America, he and his wife being of sickly natures, on their doctor's advice, came to Indiana. They had seven children, of whom John Adam was the youngest. The other children were: Mrs. Barbara Nurenbern, of Vanderburg county; Mrs. Mary Rallet, of Evansville; Peter, who lives on the old home place; Joseph, of Vanderburg county; Mrs. Margaret Czteller, deceased; Regina Czteller, of Evansville.

After having studied at Tentopolis College in Illinois for two years, the Rev. John Adam Urich entered St. Meinrad College, in Spencer county, Indiana, where he remained for eight years, finishing the theological seminary course. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis S. Chatard, at Ferdinand, Indiana, on June 19, 1886, and was assigned the pastorate of St. Anne's church in Jennings county, where he remained until June 15, 1904, when he was placed in charge of St. Mary's church at Millhousen.

During the Rev. John Adam Urich's pastorate of St. Mary's church all of the parish buildings, including the church, school house, the priest's house and the sisters' house, have been painted and reroofed. Three altars, costing two thousand dollars, have been purchased. The interior of the priest's house and the sisters' residence have been renovated, cement walks have been installed, school grounds have been graded, and a wire fence has been erected around the entire property. Gas lights have been installed inside and outside of the church and many other minor improvements have been made. There can be no doubt that the pastorate of the Rev. John Adam Urich has been a distinct success. This is a large parish and comprises altogether one hundred and sixty families.

The Rev. Father Urich is not only successful in his pastoral duties, but he is an eloquent and forceful preacher, a man well learned in the historic foundation of Christianity and a man who is able to inspire his parishioners with love of the Christian church.

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#### GEORGE MENZIE.

Probably there is no man in Decatur county who has a wider acquaintance in the county than the gentleman whose name the reader notes above. One of the most extensive buyers and shippers of live stock in this section of Indiana, he is known to every farmer hereabout and is popular with them all. There is hardly a day in the year that George Menzie does not ship from his yards in Greensburg from one to four cars of cattle, his business aggregating more than five hundred cars annually. In the operation of this extensive business he distributes thousands of dollars throughout the county and is recognized as one of the most active and energetic men in this part of the state. No review of the activities of this county would be complete without a proper reference to Mr. Menzie's part therein, hence it is very fitting that the following biography be set out here.

George Menzie was born in the city of Greensburg, Indiana, on January 6, 1871, the son of John and Mary (Luther) Menzie, the former of whom was a native of Switzerland and the latter of whom was born in Greensburg, this county, both of whom are still living, enjoying their latter days in quiet retirement at their pleasant home in the county seat.

John Menzie was born in Switzerland on December 12, 1837, the son of Jacob and Verina (Snaille) Menzie, the former of whom was a shoemaker. During his early boyhood, John Menzie worked for his uncle in a saw-mill and at the age of sixteen years decided to seek his fortunes in the land of opportunities across the sea. Coming to America, he proceeded to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, at which place his brother, Jacob, had located some years previously. Shortly after his arrival at Lawrenceburg he and his brother went to Chicago, with a view to possible permanent location there, but not finding things just to their liking, returned to Indiana. John went to Greensburg, where for a short time he worked for Charles Zoller in a meat market, later taking occupation as a farm hand in the Springhill neighborhood, in this county. After two years of this form of experience, he returned to Greensburg and entered the butcher business, working for Harvey Anderson and George Menzie, presently becoming the sole owner of this business, in which he became quite prosperous, gradually enlarging the scope of the same to include general dealing in cattle and hogs, becoming an extensive shipper. His shop was located on the corner, which he then owned, but is now occupied by the I. O. O. F. building. In 1905 he turned the business over to his sons, John and George, since which time he has been retired from active business cares.

At the outbreak of the Civil War John Menzie sold out his butcher shop and enlisted in Company F, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. After three months of service, however, he was seized with a serious illness, which so incapacitated him that he was discharged. Returning to Greensburg he found his invalidism did not properly respond to local treatment and took a trip to Europe, finding his health greatly improved thereby. Upon recovering his wonted health, Mr. Menzie returned to Greensburg and resumed the butcher business, success attending him from the very start.

On September 29, 1861, John Menzie was united in marriage to Mary Luther, who was born in Greensburg on October 8, 1844, the daughter of Caleb and Elizabeth (Nice) Luther, natives, respectively, of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Caleb Luther was a contractor and builder who located in Greensburg in the early days and was an active builder there for years.

In 1856 he bought a small farm near the city and there spent the rest of his life. His wife, Elizabeth Nice, was the first teacher in the old seminary in Greensburg, a woman who exerted a very wholesome influence upon the youth of that day in and about the county seat and whose memory still is kept green in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Luther were the parents of four children, Mrs. Abbie Whipple, who died in Iowa; Mrs. Frances Gilchrist, who also died in Iowa; Edward, who died in Leavenworth, Kansas, and Mrs. Menzie. To Mr. and Mrs. Menzie were born two sons, John and George, both of whom live at Greensburg. Two daughters died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Menzie are members of the Presbyterian church and are held in the highest esteem in the city in which they live. Mr. Menzie is a Democrat and formerly took much interest in political affairs. He is a member of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, and a member of the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Knights and Ladies of Honor lodges in Greensburg, in all of which he is very popular.

George Menzie was educated in the local schools at Greensburg and at the age of fifteen went to Cincinnati where he remained for three years, learning the butcher business. At the end of this time he returned to Greensburg and for one year worked for Charles Zoller, after which he and his brother, John, engaged in the butcher business for themselves, continuing this association for ten years, at the end of which time, in 1912, John sold his interest to his brother, George, having conducted the business alone since that time, being the exclusive buyer and shipper of live stock in the city of Greensburg, his shipments amounting to as much as five hundred carloads of cattle and hogs annually.

On December 25, 1892, George Menzie was united in marriage to Mollie Rader, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Rader, of Greensburg, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Elizabeth, on July 12, 1894, who is bookkeeper and stenographer for the Sal-Tone Company, of Greensburg.

Mr. Menzie is a Democrat and is particularly active in the lodge circles of the city in which he lives. He entered the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias lodges when he was twenty-one years of age; has passed through all the chairs in the encampment of the former order and is past chancellor commander of the local lodge of the latter order. He also is an active member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is a prime favorite in all these lodges. Mr. Menzie is a busy, energetic man, public-spirited and progressive and is regarded as one of the leaders in the busy life of his home city.



## JAMES B. LATHROP.

James B. Lathrop, the president of the Citizens National Bank at Greensburg, Indiana, who is still active in business at the age of ninety years, has had a most interesting career as a pioneer citizen of Indiana. Born of patriotic stock, he represents the second generation of a family which has lived in Decatur county practically ever since the town of Greensburg was laid out in 1822. For thirty-one years a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, he perhaps served as pastor of more cities in Indiana than any other living man. Few men, living or dead, have had more to do with Indiana Methodism than he, having served as pastor in fifteen or twenty Indiana cities, and having in less than twenty years after he began his career as a minister of the Gospel, become a presiding elder in the Methodist church. For many years, however, he has been retired from the ministry, and has been engaged in business in the city of Greensburg.

The Lathrop family had its original home during the fourteenth century in northeastern Yorkshire, England, in what was known at that time as Lothroppe College Rectory, a church and school. The founder of the family in America was the Rev. John Lathrop, a Congregational preacher, whose church in the city of London was raided under the Archbishop of the English church and all of the congregation, including the minister and sixty-six men, thrown into prison. The Rev. John Lathrop was released after having been kept in prison for five years, and took the first vessel for America, landing at Plymouth Rock, where he was greeted by forty of his old congregation. For four years he served as pastor of the church at Scituate in what is now Plymouth county, and was then appointed chaplain to the governor at Boston, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was accustomed to write the annual Thanksgiving proclamation for the governor of Massachusetts.

The next member of the Lathrop family in line of descent from Rev. John Lathrop was Erastus Lathrop, a native of Connecticut, who moved to Canada, and whose property was confiscated by the crown during the War of 1812. He returned to this country and settled in Vermont, where he owned a fine farm on the St. Lawrence river. A brother of Erastus, Ezra by name, served during the War of 1812. Erastus himself was a captain in the home guards, a company which was called out at the battle of Lake Champlain. He was a well-known Baptist minister in his day and generation. On his father's farm, located near the St. Lawrence river in Canada, Ezra Lathrop, the father of James B., was born in 1803. Ezra was a native





REV. JAMES B. LATHROP.



of Canada and was reared in that country. During the year of 1812 the family refused to take the oath of allegiance to the British crown. About 1822, the year in which the town of Greensburg was laid out, Ezra Lathrop came west to Decatur county, Indiana, with his father. They selected one hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining the site of the county seat, and also another one hundred and sixty acres north of the present site of Greensburg. Erastus, having returned home to bring back the family, died of typhoid fever. Ezra, the brother, came to Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1817, and grew to manhood, the hired man having, in the meantime, made a camp out of the bark of a poplar tree. During the winter of 1812 they lived on the site of Webb Woodfill's present residence. They cleared ten acres of land and in the spring returned for the mother and her other children.

Ezra Lathrop married Abi Potter, a member of the pioneer family of Huguenot descent, who fled from France, and who settled first in South Carolina, and later migrated to North Carolina. Nathaniel Potter, the father of Abi Potter, lived near where the battle of Cowpens was fought, and he had four brothers who were soldiers in the American Revolution. Subsequently he moved into Kentucky and from there moved to Decatur county, where he purchased several tracts of land. He gave each of his eight children eighty acres, and retained for his own use one hundred and sixty acres east of town. He was an important man in his day and generation and was considered extremely wealthy. Ezra Lathrop inherited considerable land from his father. During the first few years of his residence in Decatur county he did odd jobs, and during the second year he got a contract with another man for the building of the brick school house in Fugit township. The partner, however, absconded with all the profits, and Ezra got nothing. Eventually, however, he became a successful contractor and a manufacturer of brick, building many houses in Greensburg. He served as justice of the peace, having jurisdiction over the entire county, and held this office for a period of twenty years. A dry goods merchant, he also loaned money. The old home farm, adjacent to the town of Greensburg, two miles north, and upon which a part of the present city of Greensburg is built, he sold for two hundred and fifty dollars per acre. After having reared a family of two children to maturity, Ezra Lathrop died in 1894. Six children, however, were born to himself and wife, four of them dying in infancy. Levi, one of the sons who grew to maturity, died in 1884, and the other son is James B., the subject of this sketch, who was born on November 24, 1825, in a one-story brick house, which stood in the

second square from the court house on East Washington street, and which Ezra Lathrop had built probably in '1823.

The venerable James B. Lathrop received an extraordinary education for his day and generation, having been instructed in the pioneer schools of Greensburg, and at Indiana University. Immediately after leaving college he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church. Beginning in 1847, at the age of twenty-two, he served almost continuously as pastor of some church for thirty-one years. He was first called upon to fill a vacancy on the Martinsville circuit. Later he was transferred to Greenville, having in the meantime eighteen appointments in school houses, homes and churches. At Vincennes, Indiana, he had a very hard field, but was able to establish two new churches. From Vincennes he was transferred to Point Commerce on the Wabash river. From Point Commerce he went to Franklin, Indiana, a very poor church, which had only fifty members as late as 1851. Among other charges he was pastor of the church at Connersville, Vevay, Madison, Brookville, Columbus, Rushville, Aurora and Adams. When he went to Adams, there were only sixteen members, and within two years during his pastorate the church had increased to one hundred members and a new building had been dedicated. The Greensburg church had the best village Sunday school in Decatur county.

After a brief absence from the ministry, during which he was engaged in business with his brother at Greensburg, he returned to Connersville in the fall of 1864, and became presiding elder, a position which he held for two years, having jurisdiction over the Indianapolis district, and completing the balance of the six-year term on Moores Hill district, as the result of having traded districts with Elder Holliday, of Moores Hill. He was presiding elder of the Lawrenceburg and Moores Hill districts for six years each.

At one time Reverend Lathrop was in charge of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church in Indianapolis, but on account of the death of his brother and the aged parents, he returned home and served as pastor within the Milroy circuit for four years.

On the death of his brother in 1884, Mr. Lathrop became guardian for his children, and had charge of his deceased brother's estate. Subsequently, he became guardian for two girls left fatherless, and served in this capacity for five years. The father having been a mill owner, Mr. Lathrop operated the mill for the children for one year, selling the mill to a company. He operated the mill for the company for five years. He has been connected with the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg for many years, and on his father's death became manager of his estate, assisted by Lewis

E. Lathrop, which position he held until 1884, when he turned the estate, amounting to a hundred thousand dollars, over to his children.

In this connection it may be said that Mr. Lathrop's career as a minister ended with a final period of four years during which he was a junior preacher on the Milroy circuit.

On November 28, 1848, James B. Lathrop was married to Mary C. Butler, who was born in Bloomington, Indiana, and who was the daughter of F. T. Butler. Mrs. Lathrop was born in 1830 and died in 1897. She was the mother of six children, two of whom died early in life. Levi died at the age of twelve years, and William died at the age of two years. The other children are Mrs. Ella Gavin, wife of Judge Gavin, of Indianapolis; Lizzie, who lives with her father; Harry, the secretary of the Business Men's Association of Greensburg, and Mrs. Margaret Shannon, wife of John Shannon, who lives one and one-half miles northwest of Greensburg.

James B. Lathrop has been a life-long Republican. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is a Knight Templar, being a member of the Baldwin Commandery at Shelbyville, Indiana.

Possessed with a genius for public service, the influence of James B. Lathrop will live when he is gone. As his career is nearing a close he may enjoy the satisfaction of looking back on a life which has been spent in his Master's vineyard. Having carried the Christian Gospel to the people of this state at a time when it involved a greater sacrifice than at present, and having been a true servant, it is not too much to believe that his work will be approved by the One he has served in these well-known words,

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Mr. Lathrop became a stockholder of the Citizens Bank at Greensburg, Indiana, in 1873. He has served as president of the bank for several years.

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#### ANTHONY HABIG.

Among the thriving businesses in Decatur county, Indiana, is that of the Habig Real Estate Agency, established in 1897 by Anthony Habig. This firm not only deals in farms and city properties in Indiana and Ohio, but also has a large loan business and deals in lands in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Canada and Oklahoma. The company has handled a considerable acreage of land during its existence, Mr. Habig buying and selling thousands of acres principally upon the commission basis.

Although Anthony Habig is not a native of this county, he has resided

here now for twenty-five years and is naturally well known. He was born in Cincinnati on December 5, 1870, the son of Joseph and Theresa Habig, natives of Cincinnati, who moved to Indiana in 1880 and located on a farm one mile east of Shelbyville. They later resided in Greensburg and he was engaged in the milling business until 1897, when they moved to Indianapolis, where they died in 1905.

Mr. Habig has resided in Greensburg since 1890. From 1890 to 1897, he was employed in the office of the mill operated by his father. In the latter year he engaged in the real estate business and has been continuously engaged since that time.

In 1891 Mr. Habig was married to Ethel Fromer, of Greensburg and to them have been born two children, Marguerite and Velma.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Habig has never taken a special part in the councils of his party. He has never held office nor has he ever aspired to office, devoting his time almost exclusively to his own private business. Fraternally, Mr. Habig is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of St. John and is prominent in both organizations. The Habig family are all members of the Catholic church and are liberal contributors to its support.

Anthony Habig is a man, who, in his dealings with the public, has established an enviable reputation for honorable and square dealings. In his business especially this is an important asset and it is responsible largely for the splendid clientage which he today enjoys. He also handles old line fire insurance, Hanover Fire Insurance Company, New York City; Aachen and Munich, New York City; also has a rent-collecting department.

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#### BERNARD H. BLANKMAN.

In the history of our country, the schoolroom has led directly to many positions of trust and responsibility, and many of our celebrated statesmen today are men who began their active careers in life as teachers in the public schools. Bernard H. Blankman, the present surveyor of Decatur county, Indiana, who began teaching at the age of eighteen, was engaged continuously in this profession for fourteen years. He is a man who is well known to the people of Decatur county, and who, having given a satisfactory measure of service during his first term as county surveyor, was triumphantly re-elected in the fall of 1914 to serve a second term.



MR. AND MRS. BERNARD H. BLANKMAN.





Bernard H. Blankman, the county surveyor of Decatur county, was born on October 28, 1877, at Millhousen, Indiana, where he now resides. He is the son of Henry and Mary (Goldschmidt) Blankman, the former of whom was born on December 6, 1849, in Cincinnati, and the latter of whom was born in 1857 in the same city. Nine children were born to Henry and Mary Blankman; Bernard, the subject of this sketch; Edward, Frank, August, William and Mrs. Clara Vaske, all of whom reside at Bigelow, Minnesota; Mrs. Josephine Ruhl, who lives in Millhousen; John and Theodore, who still live at home.

Henry Blankman was the son of Bernard H. and Angela (Lueken) Blankman, both of whom were born in Germany, although not in the same state. They came to America when still young people, met and were married in Cincinnati, Ohio. They moved to Millhousen, Decatur county, when their son, Henry, was six year old. Mr. Blankman's maternal grandparents were John Bernard and Elizabeth (Brinkers) Goldschmidt, who were also born in Germany. They moved to Millhousen, Decatur county, when Mr. Blankman's mother was eleven years old. Henry Blankman and Mary Goldschmidt were married in Millhousen.

Bernard H. Blankman attended the parochial school at Millhousen until fourteen years of age, and was then a student in the district school, No. 6, in Marion township, being graduated from the district school at the age of seventeen. Subsequently, he attended the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana, during the summer of 1895, preparatory to teaching. He has learned surveying by home study and by practical work. Mr. Blankman taught school for fourteen years, having begun at the age of eighteen. He taught until 1913, when he assumed the duties of surveyor, having been elected to the office in November, 1912. This office was wholly unsought, as Mr. Blankman is in no sense of the word a politician. He gave such excellent service that he was re-elected in 1914. During the three years that he has held the office he has had no trouble and during this period has had charge of all land surveys, the building of macadamized roads and all bridges in Decatur county. Mr. Blankman has one hundred acres of land—well improved farm—which he rents out. He, however, still lives on his farm.

On June 7, 1905, Mr. Blankman was married in Millhousen to Clara M. Hardebeck, who was born at Millhousen on December 4, 1885, and who is the daughter of Henry and Rebecca (Funke) Hardebeck, the former of whom was born near Marion, Indiana, on January 27, 1840, and who died on October 10, 1913. The latter was born in Germany on February 2,

1845. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Josephine Steltenpohl; Mrs. Mary Butz; Mrs. Cecelia Ronnebaum; Frances, at home; Theodore, a farmer of Marion township; Louis and Henry, also at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Blankman have had five children: Cyril, who was born on December 14, 1907; Paul, August 20, 1909; Alvin, May 17, 1911; Laura, October 21, 1913, and Orval Theo, June 20, 1915.

Fraternally, Mr. Blankman is a member of the Knights of St. John. He and his wife and family are members of the Catholic church and he is identified with the Democratic party. He owes his nomination and election as county surveyor to this party.

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### HARRY EMMERT.

An enterprise of which the people of Greensburg are very proud, and one which finally passed under the control of local capitalists, is the Greensburg Water Company, which supplies water to the citizens of Greensburg from thirty driven wells by the latest compressed air system. The Greensburg Water Company, of which Harry Emmert is vice-president and general manager, has one of the finest plants in Indiana, and one which is entirely adequate for a much larger city. The new system, which was installed in 1915 after two years' work at a cost of forty thousand dollars, makes it possible to pump water to a radius of one and one-half miles. Although this company was organized in 1888 by Samuel R. Bullock, a few years later it was owned by the Prudential Water Company, of Rochester, New York, and in 1901 passed to the control of residents of this city. For almost twenty years Harry Emmert has been the general manager of this plant, and its splendid success is so closely intertwined with his career as a business man, that it seems fitting here to emphasize its importance to the comfort and convenience of the city of Greensburg. The present president of the company is David A. Myers. Mr. Emmert is vice-president and general manager. James B. Kitchen is secretary and treasurer. These officers with W. W. Woodfill and W. H. Robbins comprise the board of directors. The company, which is capitalized at one hundred thousand dollars, employs ten people.

Harry Emmert, who has been general manager of the Greensburg Water Company since 1896, was born on October 6, 1868, in Greensburg, but is the son of native-born German parents, John and Catherine (Seitz)

Emmert. The former, who was born in Mannheim, Germany, came to this country a poor boy, and attended night school after coming here to obtain an education. Coming to Greensburg, Indiana, in 1866, he built the Garland mills, and operated these mills until his death. Before coming to Greensburg he had lived in Lawrenceburg, to which place he came in 1853. He not only was engaged in the milling business, but he was a miller by trade, as was his father before him, and no doubt his technical knowledge of the business was, in a large measure, responsible for his great success. During his life John Emmert was an influential man in Decatur county. A Democrat in politics, he served as councilman of Greensburg for a number of years, and was public-spirited, progressive, industrious and became very wealthy. A member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for many years, he was prominent in that organization. There were three eventful years in the career of John Emmert. In 1845, when he came to America with his parents and located at Trenton, New Jersey; in 1853, when he located at Lawrenceburg, where he was married to Catherine Seitz, and in 1866, when he came to Greensburg, Indiana, where the most of his fortune was acquired. His wife, who before her marriage was Catherine Seitz, was born in Alsace-Lorraine, and was brought to America with her parents when four years old, in 1838. They first located in Hamilton, Ohio, but her father, Christopher Seitz, later removed to Dearborn county, where he became a farmer. John Emmert died in 1882, while his wife survived him many years, dying in 1909.

Harry Emmert grew up in the milling business of his father, having worked in his father's mill from the time he was a small lad. In the meantime he received a liberal education in the public and high schools of Greensburg, and when finishing high school was reasonably well equipped for a business career. At the age of twenty-eight he became manager of the Greensburg Water Company, and with the growth of this company he also has grown as a business man, having become, in the meantime, president of the Citizens Gas Supply Company, a fifteen thousand dollar corporation, president of the Sand Creek Gas Company, a five thousand dollar corporation, which supplies natural gas to the Citizens Gas Supply Company, besides being extensively interested in other important local enterprises.

Mr. Emmert has never married. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Presbyterian church. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Water, as we all know, is a public utility and a public convenience and

necessity, and the man who is responsible for furnishing pure, clean water to the people of a city, performs a greater service than a man can perform in almost any other way. Mr. Emmert is a skilled manager, and being supplied with the best equipment, he naturally is in a position to maintain cordial relations with the public. In the city of Greensburg he is very popular..

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### NELSON MOWREY.

Decatur county has produced men who have risen to distinction in many different fields of endeavor, but it is safe to say that no man has made a more pronounced success of agriculture than Nelson Mowrey. Born in this county more than eighty years ago, he has made it his life-long residence and has never cared to exchange it for any other home. Decatur county has been good enough for him.

There is probably no other occupation which yields the certain returns that may come to the farmer, and the striking success which has attended the efforts of Mr. Mowrey are ample evidence that he has applied his energies in such a way as to produce maximum results. Starting out in life with only a small competency he has labored to the end that he has accumulated more material wealth from the soil than any other farmer who has ever tilled the soil in the county.

But it is not mere wealth which makes a man. If it were, there would be no outcry against the men of wealth in this country today. It is the use of the wealth once gained which marks the true American citizen, and it is in this particular that Mr. Mowrey stands high in the estimation of his fellow citizens. More than one church in the county can testify to his generosity; more than one congregation in the county today is doing the Master's work better and more efficiently because of the broad philanthropic spirit of Mr. Mowrey. The crowning act of Mr. Mowrey, however, which shows his worth as a public-spirited citizen was his gift to the city of Greensburg which made the magnificent new Young Men's Christian Association building a possibility. This was erected in 1915, solely through the munificence of Mr. Mowrey and will stand as a monument through many generations yet to come. Thus it may be seen why Mr. Mowrey merits the title of the "Grand old man of Greensburg."

Nelson Mowrey, the son of Joel and Priscilla (King) Mowrey, was born on July 30, 1832, in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana. His

father, a native of Kentucky, was a thrifty citizen for his day and generation and when he came from Kentucky to Decatur county in the early twenties, he at once set about to carve a place out of the primeval wilderness. Here he and his good wife lived until their death, he passing away in 1834, when Nelson was only two years of age. The mother was left with a family of four children, Nelson being the youngest. The other three children, John L., Malinda Jane and Thurza Ann, are deceased. Nelson was born in a log cabin which is still standing. His mother lived to a ripe old age, dying at the age of seventy-eight in 1880.

Educational opportunities were exceedingly meager in the boyhood days of Mr. Mowrey. The old-fashioned log school house was still in vogue and the only school was what was known as the subscription school and was in session seldom more than three months in the year. It is a well-known fact that the long nine months' vacation often caused the youngsters of that day to forget practically all that they had learned in the short three months that they were permitted to attend during the winter season. Nevertheless, Mr. Mowrey got a good knowledge of the elements of the "Three R's" in such a school and this was supplemented by wide reading in later life so that he became a well-informed man. He continued to reside on the home farm with his mother and the other members of the family until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he was given his share in the paternal estate, which amounted to fourteen hundred dollars, and with this small amount he started out to make his way alone in the world. It is not the purpose of this brief summary of Mr. Mowrey's life to follow his career in detail through the long years which have followed. Only the larger landmarks in his career will be noticed.

On March 1, 1857, Mr. Mowrey moved to a farm one and one-half miles south of the old home place and six miles west of Greensburg. This farm of eighty acres was soon increased by the purchase of one hundred and forty-five acres, and on this farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres, he lived until 1887. In the meantime he had been buying land in other parts of the county and in 1887 he moved on to one of his eighty-acre farms in Clay township. Year after year saw his acreage increase until he had accumulated twenty-eight hundred acres of land in the county.

The acquisition of such an extensive estate could only come about by the closest application and the widest foresight. Much of the wealth of Mr. Mowrey has come about by the natural increase in the value of his land, much of which has increased several fold in value since he acquired it. Mr. Mowrey continued in the active management of his extensive farming

interests until his marriage in the fall of 1907, since which time he has made his home in Greensburg.

Mr. Mowrey was married on October 2, 1907, to Carrie F. Seitz, who was born in Patriot, Indiana, a daughter of Michael and Sophia Seitz. Her parents were natives of Germany and first located in Switzerland county, Indiana, upon coming to this country. A few years later they settled in Dearborn county where they made their home the remainder of their lives.

The career of Mr. Mowrey has been altogether too active as a farmer and financier to permit of any participation in politics. He has always been identified with the Republican party and given it his hearty support at all times. While he leans to the Christian church, yet he has been a generous contributor to all denominations. Fraternally, he has been a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Milford for many years.

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#### WALTER W. BONNER.

The life of every man is influenced by two factors, heredity and environment, and no one can say which of these two factors has the most to do with determining the career of a man. Fortunate, indeed, is the man who has good blood in his veins, for undoubtedly, as the old adage says, "Blood will tell." However, there are too many exceptions to the statement that heredity counts for everything; too many men of the Lincoln type have risen to fame to believe that heredity accounts for all our eminent men. Environment must be given credit for many things and he who says that one or the other factor makes a man assumes a knowledge of men which the facts will not warrant. The career of Walter W. Bonner happily illustrates a combination of heredity and environment and in his case both factors have united in such a manner as to make him a man of the highest type of American citizenship.

Starting in life as a lawyer, Mr. Bonner soon left the profession to enter banking and has made this his life-long work. For more than thirty years he has been identified with the Third National Bank of Greensburg.

Walter W. Bonner was born near Springhill, Decatur county, Indiana, on July 30, 1860, a son of William H. and Narcissa E. (Elliott) Bonner. His father was born in Wilcox county, Alabama, a son of James and Mary P. (Foster) Bonner, who came with his parents to Decatur county in 1836.



The father of James Bonner was a Scotch Presbyterian and left his home in the north of Ireland toward the end of the eighteenth century. He came to America and settled on a plantation near Anderson, South Carolina, not far from the historic old plantation which was destined in after years to become the home of John C. Calhoun, and there James Bonner was born. The latter was reared near Abbeville, South Carolina, and there married Mary P. Foster, whose father, James Foster, was born in the north of Ireland, and who became a farmer after his migration to South Carolina and in 1837 came to this county, settling on a farm in the Springhill neighborhood, where he spent the rest of his life. Two years after his marriage James Bonner moved to Wilcox county, Alabama, where he dwelt for sixteen years, owning and operating a large plantation, the work of which was performed by slaves. Coming to hate the institution of slavery, he sold his slaves in a body to his brother and, in the spring of 1836, came to this county, becoming a large farmer in Fugit township, where he died at the age of fifty-five. Mary, the wife, died in 1837, where he was married a second time. James Bonner was the father of six children, two daughters who died in early womanhood, James F., Dr. John I., William H., father of the immediate subject of this sketch, and Robert, who died in childhood.

William H. Bonner was reared on the home farm near Springhill and was a farmer all his life. He became a man of large influence in the county and in 1868 was elected representative from this county to the state Legislature. He served one term in a manner very acceptable to his constituents, but declined a re-nomination. Hon. William H. Bonner for many years was one of the leaders of the Republican party in this part of the state and was influential in all good ways. He was a member of the United Presbyterian church and served for many years as a ruling elder of the local congregation. He was twice married, his first wife having been Elmira L. Hamilton, a sister of Thomas M. Hamilton. Upon her death, he married, secondly, Narcissa E. Elliott, to which union there were born two sons and one daughter, Henry E., a farmer of this county; Walter W., with whom this biography directly treats, and Mary F. The Hon. William H. Bonner died on August 12, 1874.

Walter W. Bonner was educated in the district schools of Fugit township and in Indiana University at Bloomington. In the year 1881 he began studying law in the office of Miller & Gavin, in Greensburg, and in 1882 was admitted to practice at the bar of the Decatur circuit court. He did not practice law very long, however, for when the Third National Bank was opened at Greensburg he entered that institution as a bookkeeper and

in 1884 was promoted to the position of assistant cashier, being advanced to the responsible position of cashier on February 3, 1887, which position he since has held, his services having proved most satisfactory to the directors of this excellent financial institution.

On September 15, 1884, Walter W. Bonner was united in marriage to Libbie Donnell, of Springhill, to which union there was born one child, a daughter, Ruth, who married Homer G. Meek and has one child, Mary Lois.

Mr. Bonner is one of the best-known and most successful financiers in this part of the state. To his excellent direction of affairs undoubtedly is due much of the strength of the sound financial institution with which he is connected and he has the utmost confidence of all business men throughout this part of the state.

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### THOMAS KNOX SMILEY.

Nearing the three-score-and-ten mark along the highway of life, calm and serene, at peace with the world and a lover of all mankind, there is one man in Decatur county to whom the incidental worries and vexations that at times beset most mortals mean very little, for his philosophy of life contains no room for the word "worry." Living nearly half a century on the farm on which he still makes his home, he is known to everyone in the part of the county in which he resides, and, as he is a friend of all, all are friends to him, few persons thereabout having a wider personal popularity than he. Jovial, genial, sunny-tempered and full of the joy of living; prosperous and well-circumstanced, possessed of a fine farm of two hundred and thirty-eight acres of choice land in Clay township, on which he lives a life of quiet ease, enjoying the evening of his life as he well deserves to enjoy it, T. K. Smiley, better known to his neighbors and friends as Knox Smiley, is regarded by many as a most fortunate man. A good citizen, a kind and generous neighbor, public-spirited and enterprising, Mr. Smiley has done his part in the advancement of the best interests of the community of which he so long has been a part, and it is a pleasure on the part of the biographer to here present a few of the salient points in his life.

Thomas Knox Smiley was born in the state of Ohio on May 30, 1846, the son of William and Mary Ann (Kenny) Smiley, both of whom were of Irish descent. William Smiley's father emigrated from Ireland to this country and settled in Pennsylvania, where he reared a family and spent the remainder of his days. Mary Ann Kenny was born in New Jersey.



THOMAS K. SMILEY.



Her mother was a Boston woman, and from a nearby hill was an interested spectator of the battle of Bunker Hill, the presumption being that her husband, in common with most of the patriots of that city, was a participant in that historic struggle. Later the Kennys moved from New Jersey, to which latter state they had emigrated from Massachusetts, to Ohio, where the parents of Mrs. Smiley spent the rest of their lives.

William Smiley was born in Pennsylvania on March 14, 1814, the son of Irish parents, and upon reaching manhood's estate moved to Ohio, where he married Mary Ann Kenny about the year 1838, and on January 9, 1849, came to Decatur county, settling in Clay township on what is now known as the Smiley homestead. He bought land at that time for ten dollars an acre that now is worth more than ten times that price. William Smiley was a man of strong character, a stanch and upright citizen and an excellent farmer. He was energetic and enterprising and speedily began to prosper, eventually becoming the owner of nine hundred or one thousand acres of land in Clay township and gaining the reputation of being one of the shrewdest business men in that part of the county. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Smiley was an ardent Democrat and took an active interest in political affairs. In one election years ago he was the candidate of his party for the office of county commissioner from his district, and despite the fact that the county at that time returned an overwhelming Republican majority, he was defeated by but two votes, a circumstance which attested unmistakably his popularity throughout the county. As their children grew to manhood and womanhood, Mr. and Mrs. Smiley divided their large land holdings among them and for nearly twenty years lived a life of pleasant retirement in the city of Greensburg. Mr. Smiley died in Greensburg in June, 1893, at the age of seventy-nine years. His widow survived him just three years and she also died at the age of seventy-nine. They were a most estimable old couple and the memory of their wholesome lives and good deeds lives long after them.

To William and Mary Ann (Kenny) Smiley were born the following children: Permelia, deceased, who was the wife of James L. Henry; Caroline, who married Edward Sefton; George W., deceased, father of William G. Smiley, who died in 1907, on the old Smiley homestead and was a very successful farmer, being the owner of seven hundred acres of fine land; Harvey K. married a daughter of John E. Robbins and died in 1915; Thomas Knox, the immediate subject of this sketch; William F., who lives

in Greensburg, this county; Mary, who died in August, 1914; Sovereign Patrick, who lives in Texas, and Margaret, the widow of William Johnson.

Thomas Knox Smiley has always lived the life of a bachelor, and makes his home with Frank Jalop and wife on the old Smiley homestead, three and one-half miles southwest of the village of Burney, on the Greensburg and Columbus road. He is a member of the Methodist church at Hartsville and was one of the charter members of the Knights of Pythias lodge at the same place. He is a Democrat and takes an earnest interest in political affairs, but has never sought office. He became the owner of a goodly farm in the distribution of the home acres, but to his share he has added one hundred and twenty acres, acquired by his own industry, and is very well circumstanced. Though still giving careful attention to the general details of his extensive farming operations, Mr. Smiley for the past ten years has lived practically retired from the active duties of the farm and is taking life easy. The good cheer which he brings into his intercourse with his neighbors, makes him a prime favorite in the neighborhood and no one thereabout is more popular than he.

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### JAMES FRANCIS HAMILTON.

A noted Hoosier historian has said, "There is but one end in life that is worth while, and that is to conquer adversity, pain, envy, regrets, ambitions, and the varied obstacles that are put in our path to develop our fortitude, our courage and our brains." If this be true, the life of the man whose name appears above has been eminently worth while, for he has graduated from the "University of Hard Knocks." He knows the joys of success, the bitterness of misfortune, and has the mental poise to meet both like a man. When but a lad he was called upon to face disappointment, to give up his own education that he might help a bereaved father to care for six younger brothers and sisters, but this he did without a murmur, and thus perhaps were forged the elements of character which later contributed to his success as a man, and in relation to society. James Francis Hamilton, the well-known merchant and undertaker of Westport, was born on August 17, 1869, in the town in which his past and present home is located.

Mr. Hamilton's grandfather on the paternal side came from Kentucky to clear and enter the land which became the homestead of this noted family.

This man, James F. Hamilton, was of the stalwart nature of which pioneers are made, and was an ancestor of whom any descendant might be proud. He was born in 1803, and passed away at the age of seventy years. It was in the early thirties when he and his bride, formerly Judah Owens, came to Decatur county, and began planning for the home that was destined to remain in the family for the next thirty-five years. This land was situated one and one-half miles northwest of Westport. The brave wife of this sturdy pioneer, who was a native of Virginia, was born on December 14, 1799, and died on June 20, 1898. One of their children was George W., who later became the father of the subject of this brief biography. George was born on May 10, 1837, and died on July 29, 1899. His wife, Mary Jane Conwell, who was born on February 3, 1847, belonged to one of the most prominent families in the state. Her Western progenitors formed part of that brave band of pioneers whose courage and heroism in opening up a new and rugged country has made it possible for us to live in peace and plenty. George, of course, was born on the farm of his parents, and after the meager school course then provided, he managed a store in Gaynorsville for four years beginning in 1869. He then became a salesman for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, engaging in this occupation until 1883, when his health became broken and he retired. There were seven children, the eldest of whom was only a lad in short trousers. The children thus early deprived of a father's care were: James Francis, our subject; Clara Maude, who died in September, 1895; Clem E., a farmer of Marion township; John C., of Greensburg; Charles L., who later became a railroad man with headquarters in Indianapolis; George C., employed in a furniture store, and Mary V., who lives in Westport with her mother.

After May 20, 1882, James had to assume duties heavy for the shoulders of thirteen summers, and there followed days of toil and nights of dull weariness that tested the courage of the manly little fellow. He attended school until his thirteenth year, and then was obliged to put his books on the shelf and to go on errands for a storekeeper, moving to Westport that he might be near his work. The qualities that afterward made him a prosperous merchant and bank official early began to assert themselves, and his weekly earnings were soon a very substantial increase to the family budget which was to shelter, feed and clothe six little brothers and sisters. James remained an employee of the storekeeper until he went into business for himself, which happened when he was twenty-three years of age. Then he became a merchant in the flour and feed business, continuing this for five years. On January 20, 1897, he had an opportunity to buy



out an undertaking establishment, which he did, adding to this, two months later, a furniture store. So rapidly did his business grow that new quarters became necessary, and on May 13, 1914, ground was broken for a handsome two-story brick structure, forty-two by seventy feet. While the whole building, including two floors and basement, is used for store purposes, it is so conveniently arranged that there are two separate departments for the furniture and undertaking business, respectively. The cost of the house was over twelve thousand dollars. Thorough in everything that he does, Mr. Hamilton has spared no pains in the construction and equipment of this handsome business block, which is one of the finest in southern Indiana. A private office, a casket display and dressing room comprise the undertaking department, which maintains two funeral wagons and an ambulance besides a splendid team which is owned and kept by Mr. Hamilton. The basement is appropriately built and arranged for the display of rugs and draperies, while the third floor is taken up with furniture. The building has a modern elevator, and its own electric light and water plant. The owner carries stock valued at ten thousand dollars.

The wife of Mr. Hamilton was formerly Mary M. Link, a daughter of John Link, of Milhousen. The marriage occurred on November 22, 1893. Their only daughter, Leona J., who is nineteen years of age, having been born on May 6, 1896, is a graduate of the Westport high school, being a member of the class of 1914.

Mr. Hamilton is one of the "live wires" of Decatur county. He first plans out carefully a course of action, and, having determined upon what ought to be done, he does it. In business he is alert and progressive, as is evidenced by the fact that he believes in advertising, and spends large sums of money for this purpose. As an illustration of his energy and will-power may be cited the fact that when he was ready to build, a dwelling which stood in the way was unceremoniously removed, although it had stood firmly on one spot since 1838.

No higher honor can be paid to a business man by any community than to make him president of its chamber of commerce. This mark of esteem has been bestowed upon Mr. Hamilton because of his merit. Besides being the head official of the Westport Chamber of Commerce, he is vice-president of the First National Bank of that town, and in this capacity has added influence to the community.

As it seems impossible to classify a man before we know what he believes as to politics and religion, it may be of interest to note that Mr. Hamilton is an ardent Democrat, and a member of St. Denis's Catholic

church. He is also active in the Knights of Columbus, Council 1042. Here, as in business circles, his business acumen, as well as the qualities which go to make up the sort of man we respect, make him a leader. He becomes a power in whatever organization or movement to which he gives his name.

In all of the activities of her husband Mrs. Hamilton has been perhaps a silent, but a potent partner. In the conflicts and problems of a strenuous life, it has been her pleasure to co-operate, and in making their home a real home to lighten the burdens and cares of the outside world into which every man is forced to go.

It is impossible to close this summary of a man's life without paying to him a tribute not only for his character as an individual, but for his public service. It means much to a community to have within itself men who are stanch and true to their convictions as to right and wrong; men who, while building up their own fortunes, are not unmindful of the needs and misfortunes of others, and, most of all, men whose lives are guided by high moral principles and purposes. Such is the man we have endeavored to describe.

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### SMITH B. BUSSELL.

Smith B. Bussell belongs to that large colony of retired farmers of Decatur county now living in Greensburg and is himself the owner and proprietor of a highly productive farm of two hundred and sixty acres, situated in Clay township near the Liberty church. It is only during his later years that he has been engaged in farming, his earlier years having been devoted largely to mechanical pursuits and especially to contract building, in which he was very successful.

Smith B. Bussell was born on November 29, 1849, in Hamilton county, Ohio, the son of Moses and Eliza (Garrison) Bussell, natives of Florence, Kentucky, and Hamilton county, Ohio, respectively, the former of whom was born in 1800 and died in March, 1857, and the latter of whom was born in 1820 and died in 1864. Moses Bussell was the son of a native-born English gentleman, who settled in Virginia, the Bussell family having been related on the paternal side to the mother of General Washington. From Virginia the family moved to Kentucky, and here the parents of Smith B. Bussell lived and died. Eliza Garrison was the daughter of Jonas and Priscilla Garrison, early settlers in Hamilton county, Ohio. The great-grandfather of Mr. Bussell, Joseph Garrison, entered land where the court

house now stands. Finding this land very wet and flat, he later moved to higher land. Moses and Eliza Bussell had a family of seven sons, three of whom, Joseph, the eldest; John, the third, and Thomas, the sixth, are deceased. The others are Erastus, of Wichita, Kansas; Smith B., the subject of this sketch; George, who lives in Greensburg, and Ezra, who lives in Cleves, Hamilton county, Ohio.

Being only eight years old at the time of his mother's death, Smith B. Bussell grew up among strangers and was compelled to shift for himself. Coming to Decatur county in 1870, having learned the mechanic's trade in Cincinnati, he worked as a builder until 1880, a period of ten years, and then engaged in general contract building until 1900, a period of twenty years, specializing during this period in the construction of foundations. For six years he was superintendent of the Greensburg Limestone Company. Since 1900 Mr. Bussell has been engaged in farming. In the meantime, he has invested his savings in farm real estate, and now owns two hundred and sixty acres near the Liberty church in Clay township, where general farming and stock raising are carried on.

Mr. Bussell has been twice married, the first time in 1872, two years after coming to this county, to Mary Foster, of Greensburg, who was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, and who died in February, 1911. She was the mother of three children, two of whom died in infancy. William, the first-born, died in April, 1912, about one year after his mother's death, at the age of thirty-nine, he having been born in 1873. At the time of his death he was a member of the Decatur county board of commissioners and a large farmer. He left a widow, who before her marriage was Margaret Emmert, and one daughter, Helen Catherine. Harry and Louis, the other two children born to Smith B. and Mary Bussell, died at the age of four months and six weeks, respectively. In September, 1912, Mr. Bussell was married again to Gertrude Kerr, a native of Greensburg and the daughter of David R. Kerr.

Mr. Bussell has always been actively attached to the principles of the Democratic party and its candidates. For sixteen years he served as a member of the Greensburg city council. He is a member of the Baptist church, while fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Bussell is well known in this county and he commands the confidence and respect of his fellow townsmen and is universally liked not only in private, but in public life. His success in business was founded upon sterling integrity, a scrupulous code of right dealings with his associates.

## WILLIAM G. UPDIKE.

It is one of the primary purposes of this volume to give fitting recognition to those representative men who, by their force of character, have aided in the advancement of the city or town or county in which they live, and by so doing, have made such place better and more attractive for the homes of others. Based upon this premise, the man whose name heads this article is entitled to consideration, for his life has been an integral part of the community, and his energies have been directed to those measures which make for the common good. It is the altruism of such men that advances civilization, and that helps to make life worth while for the masses. William G. Updike, who belongs to one of the oldest families in America, was born on April 29, 1850, in Franklin county, and came with his parents, to Decatur county when he was eleven years of age.

As a successful farmer, a county commissioner and township trustee, Mr. Updike has filled an unusually prominent place in the community. He is the son of Elijah and Matilda (Gilbreath) Updike, the former having been born on August 4, 1818, and died on May 10, 1893. Peter Updike, father of Elijah and grandfather of William G., was a native of Pennsylvania, and early in the country's history, packed his household goods in wagons, and brought his family to the rough timber lands of Indiana, looking into the uncertain and dangerous future with faith in himself and in the God of his fathers. Nor was that faith disappointed, as the after years have proven. It was in Franklin county that Elijah began his life on earth, and when he had reached manhood, he married, and made his home on a farm two miles north of Westport. His wife, whose maiden name was Matilda Gilbreath, was twice married, and was, at the time of her marriage to Elijah Updike, the widow of a Mr. Luse. She had a daughter, Nancy J. Luse, now deceased. Matilda Updike was the daughter of James Gilbreath, whose enterprising spirit and ambition brought him from Bonnie Scotland to this country when he was still a young man. He had a reputation in all the country round for his honesty and integrity, and his good business ability. His daughter, Matilda, was born in 1834, and passed away on July 1, 1889.

The farm on which Mr. and Mrs. Updike, Sr., settled in 1861, became their life-long home. Their children, four in number, were William G., the subject of this sketch; Mary Ann, wife of Isaac Shera, of Westport; Frank M., of Butler county, Ohio, and John Reiley, who died, when two years of age, in Franklin county.

The father of this notable family believed that children should be brought up with industrious habits, and practical training, and with the help of his faithful wife, taught them the principles of good farming, as well as their application. Thus it was that the first-born, William, came to love the farm, and made it his home for fifty years. After the death of the senior Updike, the homestead was divided, and one hundred acres became the share of William. These lands he continued to improve until his became one of the most prized farms in the county. As a country home, also, it was most attractive.

On the 20th of December, 1883, Mr. Updike was united in marriage to Louisa Armstrong, daughter of Robert Armstrong, and a sister of F. D. Armstrong. Her birth date was on June 17, 1862, and the place, Sand Creek township. To these parents two children were born, Charles C., the eldest, is now a resident of St. Paul, Indiana, where he teaches in the high school. After graduating from the Letts Corner high school, he studied at the Terre Haute State Normal, showing in all of his work a high grade of scholarship, and a special adaptability to the teaching profession. Charles Updike was born on February 23, 1885, and will graduate at Danville, Indiana, in the class of 1915, and will teach at Milroy, Indiana, and Mabel, who is attending the Westport high school, was born on August 5, 1900.

Farm work is rather strenuous for one in good health, and when there is any impairment of the physical organism, it may become a burden. Finding that his health was not equal to the duties of farm life, Mr. Updike left the country in 1912, and, with his devoted wife and family, took up their residence in a beautiful, modern home in Westport, later selling their farm. Since his removal, Mr. Updike has enjoyed comparative freedom from activity, and has given part, at least, of his time to those pursuits to which his tastes attracted him.

Always interested in whatever would advance the well-being of his home town, Mr. Updike creditably filled the position of township trustee, serving for a term of five years. He then was elected to the office of county commissioner, his term expiring on January 1, 1909. When his official duties were completed, there was general regret, for it was recognized that the affairs of the township and county had been handled in an admirable way, and that his duties had been discharged with honor and efficiency. Mr. Updike is a Republican. Both Mr. and Mrs. Updike are members of the Baptist church, and here as elsewhere, both have been not only nominal members of the organization, but adherents to the faith in reality, for they have contributed in many practical ways to the welfare of the church.

Mrs. Updike, by her devotion to her home and family, has been a real inspiration to the efforts of husband and children, and has had a share in their success. Mr. Updike is a prominent member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and of the Knights of Pythias.

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### W. T. STOTT & COMPANY.

The department store of W. T. Stott & Company is one of the conspicuous places in the business section of Westport, and since its establishment by the honored father of the present owners has added much to the commercial prestige of the town in which it is located. While the careers of both William T. and J. C. have been interesting, they may be better understood by a perusal of the life of their father, the late Capt. William T. Stott, than whom Westport has never had a more enterprising merchant nor a more loyal citizen. As a tradesman he was just, honorable and kind, and as a man his influence transcended the usual limitations, for he was called upon to serve his country, which he did with an honor and bravery well worthy of emulation. William Taylor Stott, Jr., was the second son born to Capt. W. T. Stott and his wife, Caroline Bennett. Captain Stott was born in October, 1840, in Jennings county, and died in August 8, 1912, in Greensburg, having lived a life of signal usefulness. He was the son of Christopher and Elizabeth (Daily) Stott, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively, who early came to Jennings county to make their future home. About the year 1846 they removed to Decatur county, where they began farm life in Sand Creek township. But this was interrupted later by the call to arms which took the young man into many battles, for he enlisted in Company B, Fifty-second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for four years, becoming captain of his company. He distinguished himself in many battles and engagements. At the close of the Civil War, Captain Stott engaged in the drug business, continuing until about 1875, his store being in Westport. Then he was appointed deputy internal revenue collector, a position which he filled with credit for a number of years. Elected sheriff of Decatur county in 1896, and re-elected two years later, he served in that capacity until the end of his term, and then bought out the well-known firm of Davis & Littell and took his sons into partnership with him. Captain Stott was by nature a politician, and took great interest in politics, being a Republican and a leader in his party. He



was honest and fair, and an advocate of clean political standards. A member of the Christian church, although he lived a busy life, he found time for worship, and he and his wife brought up their children to respect matters pertaining to religion. An ardent patriot, he was prominent in the Grand Army of the Republic post, of which he not only was commander, but whose offices he filled at various times. He was also a member of the Westport Free and Accepted Masons, joining the Masonic lodge when he was only twenty-one years of age.

Captain Stott's wife, who was before her marriage Caroline Bennett, was his helpmeet and inspiration in all matters of interest to him, and while he was active in the outward world of affairs, she looked after the home and the happiness of her family with devotion and true womanly unselfishness. She was born in 1845 and died in February, 1877. Her birthplace was in Decatur county. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Stott, Sr., were four in number, Charles A. became a farmer and lives in Sand Creek township, one mile south of Westport; the second son was William Taylor, born on May 20, 1870, to whom we shall again refer; Elizabeth is the wife of Jacob Binninger, of Greensburg; James Clarence, November 26, 1875, and was reared in Westport. He, like his father, is a Republican, a member of the Christian church and of the lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. He was married on July 17, 1895, to Mary Elizabeth Brown of Decatur county, and to them were born seven children, namely: Paul T., Christopher, Benjamin H., Gertrude and Gladys, twins, born in 1904, Dorothy and Verd.

Since going into business with their father in 1902, both W. T. and J. C. Stott have put into practice those principles which cannot fail to bring success. Their large department store carries an immense stock of general merchandise to meet the demands of the trade, which has become especially heavy since the store has occupied the two-story brick block into which the goods were placed in 1910.

Much of the success of this firm is due to the energy and ability of its senior member, William T. Stott, who is considered one of the representative business men of Westport. He, like his father, is a man of sterling honesty, fair and just in his business relations, and equally fair and just as a friend. He has identified his interests with those of his native town, and has been one of the leading public-spirited men of the community. He is a Republican, a member of the Christian church and a prominent member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

The ability of the members of the firm of W. T. Stott & Company



has given them a distinctive place in the commercial life of the town in which they were born and reared, and the sons, who are now the owners, by their strict adherence to principle, and by their honorable, upright dealing, have been a decided impetus to the community to which their family has contributed in no small degree.

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### FRANCIS M. ALLISON.

When the family of Francis M. Allison, a well-known and prosperous retired farmer of Adams township, this county, gather about the hospitable board at his pleasant home in the village of St. Paul, there are fifty there assembled. He is the father of thirteen children, all of whom are living, well and strong, and who, with their respective wives and husbands and their children and grandchildren, constitute the even half hundred when gathered with their father, who also is a great-grandfather. This undoubtedly is the largest collective family, all living and in good health, ever reared in Decatur county, a distinction of which Mr. Allison, naturally enough, is quite proud. The mother of these children died in 1908 and since 1911 Mr. Allison has been living somewhat retired in the village of St. Paul, though still giving close attention to the operation of his excellent farm. Both he and his wife were of excellent pioneer stock and their numerous progeny gives assurance to the future that this stock long will persist in this county, to the no small gain of the community at large.

Francis M. Allison was born at old St. Omar, this county, on November 16, 1847, the son of John and Elizabeth (Zeigler) Allison, the former of whom was born in March, 1913, and died in August, 1882, and the latter of whom was born in 1816 and died in December, 1881. John Allison was born in Washington county, Virginia, the son of Matthew Allison, who was born and reared in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where he married, emigrating thence to Virginia, later going to Knoxville, Tennessee; emigrating from that point in 1822 to Indiana, locating in Orange township, Rush county, on the banks of Big Flatrock. He also owned land over the county line, in Adams township, this county, which he sold in 1834. His wife, who was a Mrs. Cline, died in 1822. Elizabeth Zeigler was born in Butler county, Ohio, the daughter of Peter Zeigler, who came to Decatur county in 1819 or 1820. He first entered land on Michigan road in Washington township. On this tract he built a log cabin and proceeded to clear the timber away. Upon improving this tract he sold the same and then entered

another tract just west of St. Omar, on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1874. His grandson, James W. Allison, now owns the farm originally entered by Mr. Zeigler in this county in 1821.

John Allison was reared on the paternal farm in Rush county and, upon finishing his schooling, taught school for three years. He bought a farm two miles west of St. Paul, which, in 1861, he sold, moving to the state of Iowa, where he remained until 1866, in which year he returned to Decatur county, locating in the village of St. Paul, where he spent the rest of his life. To his union with Elizabeth Zeigler there were born the following children: Charles, who was killed by an accident at the age of eleven years; Mrs. Salina Courtleyou, who was born on February 24, 1836, lives in Des Moines, Iowa; Francis M., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Alice McCain, of St. Paul, this county; James W., who lives at Essex, Illinois; Mrs. Jessie Wilson, of St. Paul, this county, and Mrs. May Kurr, also of St. Paul.

Francis M. Allison received his education in the district schools and was reared to the life of the farm. In 1871 he bought a farm of sixty-eight acres in Adams township and in 1874 bought a small farm on Flatrock creek. From 1876 to 1882 he lived on a farm of eighty acres in Orange township, Rush county. In 1881 he bought the old William A. Pearce farm of two hundred and seventeen acres in Adams township, which was entered from the government in 1821, and in 1912 sold this farm to his brother, James W. Allison. For one year he then owned the old Jonathan Paul farm at the edge of the village of St. Paul, which he sold and in September, 1914, bought a farm of two hundred and two and one-half acres on Little Flatrock, which he still owns and which he is operating very successfully, though not occupying, he having made his home in St. Paul since the year 1911.

On October 5, 1870, Francis M. Allison was united in marriage to Mary A. Garrett, who was born in Orange township, Rush county, Indiana, on August 1, 1848, the daughter of Wesley Garrett, who died on December 5, 1908. To this union there were born thirteen children, as follow: Dr. Charles D., a physician of South Bloomington, Illinois, on August 10, 1871, was graduated from Indiana Medical College in 1896, married Mary Mina Apple, of Adams township, this county, and has four children, Nina, Mary, Charles and Caroline; Elizabeth, January 17, 1873, married Albert A. Green, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and has two children, Earl and Helen; Mary, April 4, 1874, married Daniel Apple, a farmer living east of St. Omar, in this county, and has six children, Ethel (who married Livy

Adams), George, Gladys, Charles, Forrest and Caroline; Katy, November 2, 1876, married Otto Owen, of Reddick, Illinois, and has four children, Scott, Russell, Helen and Mary; Myrtle, September 2, 1878, married Otis Doggett, of Adams township; Dr. Francis M., July 13, 1880, a graduate of Indiana Medical College, practicing medicine at Gardner, Illinois, married Mayne Allison and has one child, Francis; Anna, April 27, 1882, married Ernest Tevis, of Adams township and has one child, Francis; Fannie, September 25, 1883, married George Burtscher, of Chicago; Ernest W., who operates the home farm in Adams township, May 23, 1886, married Nellie Shelhorn and has two children, Mabel and Caryl; Dorthy, April 23, 1888, married Cleve Archie, of Mt. Victory, Ohio, and has two children, James Francis and Robert Allison; Ethel, December 2, 1890, married Orba Land, of Adams township, and has one child, Carlos Allison; Bessie, February 17, 1892, married Walter Tonyes, of Richland township, Rush county, and has one child, Mary Elizabeth, and Marguerite, February 8, 1893, who is her father's housekeeper in their pleasant home in St. Paul.

Mr. Allison is a friend of all churches and does his part toward the promotion of the best interests of his community. He is a stanch Democrat, as was his father before him, and is regarded as a leader in the ranks of that party in Jackson township. He was elected township trustee in 1886 and was re-elected in 1888, his service in that connection having been of large benefit to the township. He is active in lodge work, being a member of the Masonic lodge at Waldron; of the Knights of Pythias lodge at St. Paul and of the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Greensburg, in all of which lodges he is very popular, his genial disposition making him friends wherever he goes.

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### JACOB EMMERT.

The conspicuous success which has come to the venerable Jacob Emmert, a retired farmer and miller of Clarksburg, Indiana, is by no means a matter of accident, since he has from the beginning of his career approached the problems of the farm and the problems of the milling business with the scientific insight of one who knows that the smaller the cost of operation the larger the profit. His methodical precision in mastering the details of business seems to have been a natural endowment. Personal successes frequently can be explained on no other hypothesis than that the

individual is possessed of a superior ability. It is not difficult to explain the success of those men who were favored by inheritance or accidental good fortune, but Jacob Emmert does not belong to this class of successful men, since he came to Clarksburg as a poor man and has become a wealthy citizen by his own individual and personal effort.

Jacob Emmert was born seventy-six years ago, on April 19, 1839, in Bavaria, Germany, the son of Christopher and Elizabeth Emmert, who seven years after the birth of Jacob came to America and located on a farm in the state of Maryland. From Maryland they removed to Wilmington, Delaware, where Christopher worked in a mill. Eight years after coming to America they removed to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and the father, who worked in a flour-mill, died in that city. Although this part of Jacob Emmert's career may appear uneventful to the superficial observer, nevertheless it probably was the most eventful period of his life, since about this time he was learning the business in which he was to become so prominent in later life. One of a family of eight children, it is quite natural that Jacob had to begin to shift for himself at an early age. Three of his brothers, Peter, John and Fred, and his two sisters, Elizabeth and Catherine, are deceased. He has one living brother, Philip, who has been a merchant in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, for sixty years.

Leaving home at the age of sixteen years, in 1855, Mr. Emmert first operated a mill at Harrison, Ohio, for two years, and during the succeeding two years was engaged in operating another mill two miles north of Elizabethtown, Ohio. This was a water-mill. During the first two months of 1859 he was engaged in operating a steam-mill at Guilford, and for a short time later was at Greensburg. From Greensburg he removed to Dearborn county, and there operated a water-mill for John Emmert at Dillsboro for two years. In 1862 Mr. Emmert went to Fairland in Shelby county, Indiana, and was engaged in the milling business there for two years, when he returned to Greensburg, where he remained until the fall of 1869, at that time purchasing a mill which had been owned by a company of men who had failed. Purchasing the plant at an assignee's sale, for nearly fifty years he has been engaged in manufacturing flour, grinding grain and sawing lumber. The mill, which is operated for custom and local trade, is now run by Mr. Emmert's son, Clinton Buell Emmert. It is equipped with all the latest machinery and operated by a gas engine at a cost of five cents an hour. The roller processes are employed, and two well-known local brands of flour, the "White Loaf" and "Blue Ribbon," are manufactured.

When Jacob Emmert came to Clarksburg he first purchased sixty-five acres of land for which he went into debt. Later he purchased one hundred and forty acres for credit and subsequently eighty acres additional. He now has one of the most fertile farms in Decatur county, and by crop rotation and intelligent farming he has developed the land to a very high state of productivity. Practically all of the land was very much run down at the time he purchased it. The previous owners had grown great quantities of corn year after year and had robbed the land of its fertility. By farming the land systematically and rotating his crops, Mr. Emmert has had a splendid success. He followed a three-year rotation plan until the wheat grew so tall that it was necessary to raise corn two years in succession. Land which had grown thirty-five to forty bushels of corn to the acre, and yielded fifteen bushels of wheat to the acre, under Mr. Emmert's care and management now produces from sixty to eighty bushels of corn to the acre and from twenty to thirty bushels of wheat. At the present time he has two hundred and sixty-four acres of land which is operated for the most part by his son, John Leslie. The farm is equipped and well supplied with all necessary outbuildings. In 1913 he fed sixty-nine head of cattle and two hundred head of hogs. He also sold fifty-four head of mules in the home market and sold his cattle in Buffalo, New York. At the present time he has forty-four head of cattle, sixteen head of young mules and one hundred and fifty head of hogs. Mr. Emmert's neighbors, who have followed his methods in farming, have all prospered, and many owe much of their success to the example he has set in this community.

On November 27, 1861, Jacob Emmert was married in Greensburg to Catherine Hauk, the daughter of William and Margaret Hauk. Born on October 3, 1841, Mrs. Emmert passed away in 1901, leaving a family of six children, five of whom are living. Of these children, Carrie is the wife of Luther D. Hamilton and was born on October 12, 1862; Clinton Buell, who is now engaged in operating the Emmert mill, was born on July 14, 1864, and on May 17, 1893, he was married to Allie Patterson; they have one child, James Allen, who is a student at the Sweetwater military school; Mrs. Sylvia Senior, April 12, 1867, has one child, Merlin; Ellison, March 8, 1869, died on December 17, 1888; John Leslie, April 30, 1871, was married on November 27, 1895, to Ada Thornton Dobyns, and they have one child, Mabel, and Ruby Leona, September 18, 1886, lives at home and is keeping house for her father.

Jacob Emmert has been a life-long Republican. Four years, from 1888 to 1892, he served as trustee of Fugit township. A member of the

Presbyterian church, he has filled all the offices in the local congregation. Fraternally he is a member of Clarksburg Lodge No. 124, Free and Accepted Masons. He became a Mason at Fairland in Shelby county, fifty-three years ago, transferring his membership from Fairland to Greensburg and from thence to Clarksburg. For ten years he served as treasurer of the Clarksburg lodge.

Decatur county has few citizens who have been more industrious and more enterprising than the venerable Jacob Emmert. His acquaintance extends not only throughout Decatur county, but he is well known in all of the adjoining counties, and occupies an enviable place in the hearts of his neighbors and fellow townsmen. While he has lived an industrious and honest man, he has in many ways contributed to the happiness and comfort of the people with whom he has come in contact and is honored by them today as a kind and generous friend.

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#### WILLIAM M. ANGLE.

In Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, where the venerable William Angle has lived for nearly sixty years, or since he was sixteen years old, he is known far and wide for his unaided and heroic struggle for personal success. It is natural that he should be well known in this township on account of his long residence, but he is especially well known on account of the large measure of success which fortune has visited on his efforts. Every one who is at all familiar with history knows that money is far easier to obtain now than it was a half century ago. Most every one knows further, that not one young man in fifty has a thousand dollars which he himself earned and saved at the time of reaching his majority. Yet, the venerable William Angle, who attained his majority early in 1861, had by that time saved out of his own earnings fifteen hundred dollars, which he had given to his father. No one is able to say that William M. Angle has neglected his personal or immediate duties in his race for a fortune. Before his career as a farmer and financier had really begun he not only made a handsome gift of his earnings to his father, but he had cared for him in his declining years, when he was compelled to lean upon the stronger shoulders of his son, and, at his death, had paid all of the bills incurred during his last and fatal illness. More than anything else, this noble act proved what manner of man William M. Angle is. It shows that the successes of his



career were founded upon a just and fair realization of his nearest and dearest duties. It is no wonder, therefore, that he occupies a position among his neighbors and fellow citizens as a man who has worthily discharged his obligations in all the responsible relations of life.

The venerable William M. Angle, retired farmer of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, is a native of Laurel, Kentucky, having been born seventy-five years ago in February, 1840. His parents, William and Eby (Sutherlin) Angle, were both natives of southern states, the former of Tennessee and the latter of Kentucky. Believing that they would find greater opportunities in the newer land north of them, they emigrated in 1856 to Indiana and settled east of Clarksburg, where they lived until their deaths. Several of their fourteen children died in infancy, leaving only eight who accompanied them to Indiana. Of these eight children, William, the subject of this sketch, and his sister, Priscilla, of Fairmount, Indiana, are now the only ones living.

In the first three years of the last half of the nineteenth century, agricultural conditions did not compare with conditions today, especially from the standpoint of getting quick returns for one's labor. Nevertheless, William Angle, who began life on his own account when twenty years of age, rented land in Decatur county, and saved most of the money left after the expenses of farming were paid. During this period of his life he found it a pleasant task to care for his aged father and in giving his father fifteen hundred dollars which he earned before he was twenty-one years old.

In 1870, when he was thirty years old, Mr. Angle purchased his first tract of land, paying one thousand dollars in cash and agreeing to pay twenty-eight hundred dollars additional as fast as he was able to make and save the money. In eight years he was able completely to relinquish the debt, so that by 1878 he was well started on the road to fortune. In February, 1909, he purchased a ninety-five-acre farm in Rush county, paying nine thousand dollars in cash for this land. His home farm in Fugit township consists of fifty-three acres, so that he owns altogether one hundred and forty-nine acres in Decatur and Rush counties. Aside from this land, which is conservatively estimated to be worth fifteen thousand dollars, Mr. Angle owns five thousand dollars' worth of stocks and bonds, which are gilt-edge in every respect and which pay him handsome dividends and interest. It is fair to say that he is today worth not less than twenty thousand dollars, every cent of which he has made himself, and saved out of his own personal earnings. This is a splendid record and one of which he has every



reason to be proud. In fact, his neighbors in Fugit township and the people with whom he has come in contact during life are likewise proud of him and his achievements.

On March 17, 1875, when he was thirty-five years old, William Angle was married to Mary Ann Evans, who was born on December 9, 1845, and who is five years his junior. Mrs. Angle is a native of Franklin county and the daughter of James Evans, who married Lydia Weston. They also were natives of Franklin county, and the son and daughter of old families of this section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Angle have no children.

It could hardly be expected that William Angle, in view of his large success as a farmer and financier, and in view of his busy life, has ever been able to devote very much time to political affairs. However, he is a Republican in politics, but contents himself with voting the ticket of his party and leaving such matters as organization and the management of campaigns to others. Mr. and Mrs. Angle have long been members of the Presbyterian church, and are devout in this faith.

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### THOMAS N. SHAW.

Retirement from business does not necessarily indicate an inactive life. It often means that the mind released from strenuous business cares can turn its attention to other matters equally worth while, and often more important to the public good than the amassing of wealth. To be a representative farmer among other successful farmers, a man must possess many forceful traits of character, and the fact that he begins life as the son of a wealthy landowner does not, as in the present case, detract one iota from the credit due him as a financier. In these days of sharp competition, it is quite as difficult to retain a fortune as to make it, and therefore, while Thomas N. Shaw may be considered more than ordinarily fortunate, it would seem, nevertheless, that commendation is due. Nor has he been unmindful of the needs of others. Thomas N. Shaw, retired farmer of Westport, was born on January 6, 1855, in Jackson township.

Mr. Shaw's father, whose name also was Thomas, was brought up by his grandfather, for his own father died when the younger Thomas was an infant. The latter, who was Thomas N. Shaw's paternal grandfather, was born on December 3, 1789, and his wife, Sarah Shaw, was born on October 5, 1792. Their children were as follow: Elizabeth C., born on July 15,

1814; John, February 23, 1816; Sarah, December 1, 1817, and others, including Thomas, the father of Thomas N. The birth of the latter occurred on July 3, 1821, and he passed away in 1905. He was a native of Franklin county, going to Decatur county when only a young boy. In early manhood, he married Margaret Ann Wilson, who was a native of Indiana, and died in November, 1904. Thomas Shaw, Sr., was the owner of a splendid farm in Jackson township, consisting of three hundred and eighty acres, and of one hundred and eighty acres in Sand Creek township, and was one of the large landowners of the entire county. Thomas N. Shaw had two brothers and two sisters, as follow: John S., who lives in Greensburg; Martha E. Swope, of Fowler, Indiana; Samuel S., deceased, was a farmer, and Mary E. McInwain, also dead. Thomas N. Shaw, Jr., was the youngest of his family.

His boyhood home was at the northeast corner of the home section of Jackson township, while his own farm is in the southwest corner of the same section. In July, 1875, he was united in marriage to Louisa, daughter of Eli and Catherine Risley Bake, a wealthy landowner of Decatur county. Besides Mrs. Shaw, their other children are, Lewis S., Amanda J., Clarissa, Cordelia, Olive P., Lorinda, Martha A., William H., Pearl, wife of Dr. Will E. Thomas, of Clarksburg, who became the parents of two children, Richard Shaw and Mary Louise.

Upon their marriage, the father of Mr. Shaw presented him with one thousand dollars, and his wife received a similar amount from her parents, and with this they purchased the land upon which they lived until 1912. The original tract consisted of ninety acres to which they later added seventy acres, which farm is so well equipped in every way that it easily attracts the attention of travelers, and is considered one of the finest in the county. It now contains a splendid house, which they built in 1884, although when the young people first moved in, they occupied a one-room log cabin. It was necessary to go in debt, but that encumbrance has long ago been paid off. A large, two-story brick house replaces the primitive log cabin, and a spacious barn is modern in every respect. In 1912, the owner added to its attractiveness as well as to its intrinsic value by enclosing the grounds, within four hundred rods, with wire fencing, braced by substantial stone posts. In this year, also, the family removed to Westport, desiring this progressive little town as a place of residence.

Mr. Shaw has always been interested in the affairs of the Republican party of which he has been a life-long member. He and his wife and

daughter have a great many friends, and theirs is considered one of the important and hospitable home of the community.

Relieved from active participation in the arduous labors of farm work, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw can enjoy a leisure deserved by reason of their years of service to their family, and it is hoped by their many friends that many more years will be spared to them, years that may be fruitful in both pleasure and achievement.

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### DANIEL JEFFERSON BALLARD, M. D.

For many years a practicing physician in the pleasant village of St. Paul, Decatur county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, active in church and lodge circles and a leader in the fast diminishing ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic in this part of the state, there are few men in this county who have a wider acquaintance or better friends than the venerable Doctor Ballard, whose name the reader notes above. Of fine old pioneer stock, Doctor Ballard ever has sought to maintain the best traditions of his sterling ancestry, and has been for many years regarded as a leader in that section of the county in which he has lived since boyhood. Doctor Ballard's wife, who is a daughter of the oldest man in Adams township, also is of stalwart pioneer stock and has been a most efficient factor in the development of the best interests of her home town. For many years she has been a registered pharmacist and has assisted her husband in the operation of a drug store at St. Paul. Previous to taking up pharmacy, Mrs. Ballard had been a school teacher, and in that capacity her influence was such as to leave a lasting impression upon the cultural life of her home vicinity.

Daniel Jefferson Ballard, M. D., was born on a farm in Orange township, Rush county, Indiana, not far over the line from Decatur county, on October 8, 1841, the son of Madison and Sarah Ann (Tevis) Ballard, the former of whom was born on March 13, 1814, and died on March 15, 1888, and the latter of whom was born on February 25, 1822, and died on January 18, 1883.

Madison Ballard was born in Virginia, the son of Elijah Ballard, born in 1777, who came to Indiana in 1825, settling in Rush county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Madison Ballard became a well-known and influential farmer in Rush county, where he made his home until 1877, in which year he moved to St. Paul, this county, where his last days were spent. By his marriage to Sarah Ann Tevis six children were born, Daniel

J., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Catherine Raynes, who lives in Illinois; John Durbin, who lives in Shelbyville, this state, and Mary Elizabeth, Sarah Helen and Mellender, the last three named of whom are deceased.

Being the eldest of the family and it being necessary for him to aid in the work of the farm during the days of his youth, Daniel J. Ballard received little schooling in his boyhood, his attendance being limited to about three months in a year during the winter seasons. He was not twenty years of age when the Civil War broke out, but on September 18, 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service in that great struggle between the states. In 1862 he was transferred to the First Battalion, Pioneer Brigade of Engineers, in which service he was engaged for two years, and was discharged with his regiment on October 26, 1864. Though engaged in some of the fiercest battles of the war, Doctor Ballard never was wounded, though on numerous occasions bullets passed through his clothing. Among the notable battles in which he participated may be mentioned Stone's River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta and Jonesboro. Doctor Ballard was discharged with the rank of corporal.

At the close of the war Doctor Ballard determined to pursue the studies which he had been compelled to neglect in his boyhood, and he attended school at St. Paul and at Shelbyville, after which for a few years he taught school in St. Paul, beginning as primary teacher and ending as principal. Thus fortified, he took up the study of medicine and, after a period of preparatory reading, entered the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, from which institution he was graduated in February, 1876. He immediately entered upon the practice of his profession in the village of St. Paul and for forty years has been thus engaged, during the past twenty-one years of which time he also operated a drug store in the village.

On September 18, 1867, Doctor Ballard was united in marriage to Anna E. French, who was born in Liberty township, Shelby county, this state, on February 15, 1846, daughter of Joseph R. French, a native of that county, who was born in 1825, the son of Daniel French, who settled in Shelby county in 1820. Joseph R. French enjoys the distinction of being the oldest citizen of Adams township, this county. Since 1856 he has resided in the village of St. Paul, having always lived in the neighborhood, with the exception of four years spent at Moores Hill, when his son was attending the college at that point. Mr. French was a saddler during his active year, and in his old age turned his attention to the cultivation of

raspberry slips and other hothouse plants, but is now retired. Mr. French's wife was Catherine Zeigler, a member of a pioneer family of this part of the state, who was born in 1824 and died in November, 1902. To their union five children were born, namely: Anna E., who married Doctor Ballard; Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Plymate, who lives at Acton, this state; Mrs. Amy Celeste Derbyshire, of St. Petersburg, Florida; Harriet Jane, who died in girlhood, and William Henry Harrison.

Anna E. French began teaching school when she was thirteen years of age and taught until she was twenty years of age, at which time, following her marriage to Doctor Ballard, she took up the study of chemistry, with particular reference to pharmacy, and for twenty years has been a registered pharmacist, being an invaluable aid to her husband in the operation of the drug store at St. Paul.

To Dr. Daniel J. and Anna E. (French) Ballard three children have been born, only one of whom is living, namely: Harry W., an artist, who resides in St. Paul, married Fannie Floyd and they have one child, a son, Jack Floyd; Daniel Arthur, who died on April 10, 1879, at the age of two years and five months, and Joseph Clarence, who died in a St. Louis hospital on March 2, 1902, at the age of twenty-three years, three months and twenty-seven days. Joseph C. Ballard was graduated from Purdue University and at the time of his death was engaged as a chemist in a steel plant at St. Louis.

Doctor and Mrs. Ballard are members of the Methodist church and are active in the good works of the community in which they so long have labored. Doctor Ballard was a Republican until the year 1912, in which year he transferred his political allegiance to the Progressive party. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias lodges at St. Paul and a leader in the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Formerly he took an active part in the affairs of the medical associations to which he was attached, but of late years is gradually relaxing some of his aforetime activities. He was a member of the Decatur County Medical Association and the Indiana State Medical Association, in the affairs of both of which societies he took an earnest interest. Mrs. Ballard also formerly was active in the work of the Pythian Sisters and of the Daughters of Rebekah, having filled all the chairs in the local lodges of those orders and served as delegate to the grand lodges of the same. Doctor and Mrs. Ballard, by reason of their useful lives in and about St. Paul, are held in the highest esteem thereabouts, being regarded with the greatest respect by the entire community.

## CYRUS D. HARWOOD.

Cyrus D. Harwood, for fourteen years secretary and treasurer of the St. Paul Gas Company, was born on May 20, 1860, in Dearborn county, Indiana, the son of Ebenezer and Caroline (Sumpter) Harwood, the former of whom was a native of Dearborn county. He and his wife were successful farmers in that county.

Cyrus D. Harwood, who died on August 15, 1913, came to Decatur county when a small lad, probably five or six years old. They settled in Shelby county for a short time and then moved to Adams township, Decatur county, settling near St. Omer.

In 1863 Ebenezer Harwood enlisted in the Union army and served until June 27, 1864, when he died at Knoxville, Tennessee. He was a brave and efficient soldier, and was one among the thousands of patriotic citizens who gave up their lives in the cause of human freedom. At his death he left a wife and five children, the names of four of whom are herewith given, Mrs. Susan Pope, of Milford; Mrs. Mary Wilson, of Milford; Thomas, of Illinois; James of Bloomfield, Missouri; and Cyrus D., the subject of this sketch.

The late Cyrus D. Harwood grew to manhood at St. Omer and when about fifteen years of age his mother married again, after which time Cyrus D. went to Illinois, where he took a position with a mining company, which he held for several years. He became postmaster at Bartly, Illinois, and for some three or four years was engaged in the mercantile business at that town.

About 1887 Mr. Harwood, after a trip west made in order to regain his health, came back to Decatur county and was married to Julia Short, March 29, 1888, a daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Gulley) Short, the former of whom was born on Flatrock river, Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, and where he lived until his death on February 26, 1911. Nancy (Gulley) Short was born in Shelby county and came to Decatur county when a child and lived here all of her life, where her father was a farmer. Her father and mother died within three weeks of each other, the mother on February 5, 1911, and the father on February 26, 1911. Her father was a Republican and a member of the Baptist church. During the Civil War he was a corporal in Company D, Seventy-sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a patriotic citizen and a man popular in the neighborhood where he lived.



After his marriage Cyrus D. Harwood entered business at St. Omer, but a short time after that they moved to St. Paul, where he engaged in business. During a period of about fourteen years he was secretary and treasurer of the St. Paul Gas Company. He was also a notary public and a man of unusual ability, possessed of a genial disposition, and had many friends in this county. He took a great interest in public improvements, and especially in the improvement of his own town, where Mrs. Harwood, his widow, lives at her home with her adopted daughter, Zelman, who is now a student in high school. Mrs. Harwood, who is a strong believer in education, is trying to give her adopted daughter the very best educational advantages. Mrs. Harwood taught school for six year previous to her marriage and is a cultured and refined woman. She has a wide circle of friends in Adams township.

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#### MORGAN L. MIERS.

Emerson, in his great essay on Character, recalls the indignation of an eloquent Methodist at the kind admonition of a Doctor of Divinity—"My friend, a man can neither be praised nor insulted," and, indeed, in this age when the superlative is shrieking throughout the land, it would seem that even the common acceptance of the term praise had outworn its wonted use, for everything whose praises the promoters are shouting from the housetops is either the greatest this or the greatest that that ever was. What with "the puff direct and the puff collateral and the puff oblique" of the old time magnified by the megaphonic methods of the modern advertiser, praise—if, despite the eloquent Methodist whom Emerson cites, praise be possible—has overshot itself. When everything has become alike superlative, there are no superlatives and the promoter's adjectives are regarded askance by those whose ears are assaulted by the tumult of his cries. However, there is such a thing as proper and due praise, the modest meed that merit claims, and it surely is not ill-timed or unfitting that on such a page as this a few words be said in passing regarding the life and the personality of Morgan L. Miers, one of the most influential men in Decatur county, the owner of fourteen hundred acres of land in Clay township and president of the Third National Bank at Greensburg, than whom no man in the county is more widely known or regarded with higher favor by his neighbors. Mr. Miers is a man of quiet, unassuming manner, of genial disposition and a philosophic turn of mind; qualities which bind his friends to him as "with hoops of



steel," and it properly may be said that no man in this part of the state has firmer or more devoted friends than he. Mr. Miers' grandfather, Thomas Miers, was one of the early settlers of Decatur county and for three generations members of the Miers family have been prominent in the affairs of this county, their influence ever having been exerted in behalf of the welfare of the whole community. A brother of Mr. Miers, the Hon. Robert W. Miers, of Bloomington, this state, represented this district in Congress for eight years and in all ways the family has stood for good government and decent living; being faithful and true in all the relations of life.

Morgan L. Miers was born in the year 1855 on the farm on which he now lives, one and one-half miles south of the pleasant village of Burney, in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Thomas S. and Mahala (Braden) Miers, both members of pioneer families in that section of the county. Thomas S. Miers came to this county when about seven years of age with his parents, his father, Thomas Miers, emigrating from Ohio at an early day in the settlement of this county and entering from the government a tract of land in the Burney neighborhood, in Clay township, where the rest of his life was spent, his death occurring not many years after he came to this county. Thomas S. Miers was reared in the pioneer home in Clay township and upon succeeding to the ownership of the farm prospered largely, gradually increasing his holdings until he became the possessor of more than six hundred acres of fine land, the larger part of which he had brought under an excellent state of cultivation. Though laboring under the many and manifest disadvantages of his day and generation, Thomas S. Miers displayed much executive ability and a keen business foresight, becoming one of the foremost factors in the development of that part of the county in which he lived. He was a farmer of unusual skill and his farm became very profitable to him, his chief source of revenue being derived from feeding hogs, he finding that the value of the extensive crops of corn that he raised was thus largely enhanced. Thomas S. Miers was a member of the Episcopal church, a Democrat and a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. He was active in the good works of his community, influential in local politics and interested in the affairs of his lodge. Of a singularly optimistic nature, he radiated cheer wherever he went and was exceedingly popular throughout that part of the county. Ever ready to help others, he never forgot a kindness directed toward himself and it is said of him that he would go as far as anyone to accommodate a friend.

Thomas S. Miers married Mahala Braden, a member of one of the pioneer families of the county, and to this union there were born seven children,

namely: Mary, who married Isaac Sefton, of Greensburg, this county; Robert W., of Bloomington, Indiana, former member of Congress from this district, now judge of the Monroe county circuit court; Mrs. Emma Gilmore, deceased; Morgan L., the immediate subject of this sketch; Willard A., a well-known farmer of the Burney neighborhood, who owns three hundred and twenty acres of choice land in Clay township, is a well-known breeder of fine horses, having some time ago sold one of his trotters, "Little Snapp," for twenty-five hundred dollars; Nevada, wife of William A. Minor, of Clay township, and Maggie B., who married Frank Stapp and lives at Hope, Indiana.

Morgan L. Miers was reared on the home farm in Clay township, receiving his elementary education in the local schools, which he supplemented by a course of four years at Indiana University and was graduated from the law department of that excellent institution. Upon completing his education he devoted his time to the development of the growing farm interests of his father, giving his particular attention to the raising of live stock, soon becoming known as one of the heaviest shippers in the state. Recognizing the growing value of land in the neighborhood of the home acres he gradually bought land as he prospered and now owns fourteen, hundred and sixty acres of choice land, all of which lies in Clay township. Much of this land, purchased for fifty dollars an acre, is now well worth one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre, and Mr. Miers maintains that if he had had the acumen to have extended his purchases during the days of cheap land thereabout he now would be a millionaire. However, he is a man of remarkably optimistic nature, as was his father before him, and he is not worrying because of this lack of foresight years ago. In fact, he makes it a point never to worry, his genial temperament placing him above the petty worries that sometimes afflict less optimistic individuals. Though giving his chief attention to his great estate, Mr. Miers has found time to extend his activities in other directions and is interested in numerous enterprises in this and adjoining counties. Since the opening of the Third National Bank of Greensburg, thirty-four years ago, Mr. Miers has been a director in that sound old financial institution and for the past two years has been president of the same; a position of prominence in the financial circles of southern Indiana exceeded by few therein. His sound judgment regarding values and thorough acquaintance with commercial and industrial conditions in this part of the state give to his opinions in connection with investments a weight of well nigh dominant force hereabouts and few financiers in southern Indiana have a higher standing in banking circles than

he; his enterprising spirit being sufficiently well balanced by a native conservatism to give to his decisions that unerring quality which business men in this section have learned to appreciate and value so highly in consultations regarding investments.

Thirty-three years ago Morgan L. Miers was united in marriage to Gail Hamilton, of Clay township, this county, daughter of G. M. and Mary Susan (Logan) Hamilton, members of pioneer families in Decatur county, the latter of whom was a daughter of John Logan, and to this union two children were born, a son and a daughter, Roy, now twenty-three years of age, and Mary, now aged sixteen, the latter of whom is attending school in Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Miers met her death in an automobile accident on October 20, 1914, a tragedy which plunged the entire community into mourning, for she was a woman of exceptional strength of character and for years a leader in good works in the vicinity in which her gentle influence so long had been exerted in all good ways.

Mr. Miers is a member of the Methodist church and he and his son, Roy Miers, are members of the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Miers is a Democrat and takes an earnest interest in the political affairs of the county, state and nation, though he never has been included in the office-seeking class, his extensive personal interests being sufficient to engage his undivided attention. He is a constant exponent of good government and all measures looking to the advancement of the public welfare find in him an ardent champion. Energetic and public spirited, Mr. Miers is a powerful factor in general affairs hereabout and no man in the county is held in higher esteem.

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#### GEORGE M. MEEK.

Of the private soldiers who belonged to the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, recruited during the latter months of 1861, no one living or dead had a more valiant record in the service of his country than the venerable George M. Meek, a well-known farmer of Fugit township. Having enlisted on September 13, 1861, in Company G, which was for two years commanded by his brother, Capt. John Meek, and under him Lieut. Orville Thomson, he served altogether three years. In the battle of the Wilderness he was wounded by a shot through the right breast, a wound which has bothered him all of his life. Few soldiers participated in a greater number of severe battles than George M. Meek, who fought at

Greenbrier, Winchester, Port Republic, the second battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Slaughter Mountain, Virginia, and in the Wilderness campaign. After serving in every battle in which his company and regiment was engaged, he was mustered out of the service on September 20, 1864, full of honors yet weighted with the terrible burden of military service and disabled by the ghastly wound he had received in the Wilderness.

The venerable George M. Meek, who was only eighteen years old at the time of his enlistment, was born on May 3, 1842, three miles northeast of Greensburg, the son of Adam R. and Nancy (Logan) Meek. Adam R. Meek, a native of Kentucky, was the son of Thomas Meek, and came to Decatur county in 1825, just after the settlement was beginning in this section. He was twice married. Among his eighteen children were Taylor, of Greensburg; John, of Kansas; Mrs. Jerusha Patton, of California; Mrs. Mollie Donnell, of Missouri; Samuel; Mrs. Minerva Bonner; Tirza McIlvane; Mrs. Rebecca Henry; William N., deceased; Thomas; Mrs. Laura Kincaid, deceased, and Josiah, deceased.

After becoming one of the largest landowners in Decatur county, Adam R. Meek divided his land among his children, presenting each child with eighty acres in fee simple.

George M. Meek, who now owns three hundred and thirty acres of land in Fugit township, settled, after his marriage, on the eighty-acre farm given to him by his father. After his marriage, he purchased the old Logan or Patton farm and in 1887 built his present farm home. A few years ago he also built a home for his son.

On November 26, 1883, Mr. Meek was married to Charlotte Miller, who was born on November 28, 1860, at Clarksburg, and who is the daughter of Louis C. and Elizabeth (Barneman) Miller, natives of Ohio and Germany, respectively. They were married in Ohio and moved from that state to Decatur county in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. George M. Meek have had three children, the youngest of whom died in infancy. The two living children are Thomas, a well-known farmer of this county, who married Daisy Carroll, and Mrs. Fredericka Smith, who lives near Williamstown on a farm and who has one child, Carmen.

As a farmer Mr. Meek feeds a large amount of live stock, and it is principally from live stock that he has made his greatest profits in farming. During his twenty-nine years of experience in the business of farming he has made a close and careful study of its methods, and few men living in Decatur county today are better informed regarding its various phases than

he. Mr. Meek understands first the cultivation of the soil; he recognizes the importance of good seed and the preparation of a good seed bed. Moreover, he believes in frequent and careful cultivation. He is not a man who sells a great deal of grain, practically everything raised on the farm in the way of grains or cereals being fed to the stock.

The venerable George M. Meek comes from a distinguished family and one which has been intimately identified with the history of the county since pioneer times. If nothing more, his valiant service as a soldier in our great Civil War would be sufficient to entitle him to rank as one of the foremost citizens. But as a careful, enterprising, thrifty farmer, he is quite as much a hero of peace as he was a hero of war.

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### JOHN H. LOGAN.

John H. Logan, a successful farmer and breeder of Fugit township, who passed away in Oklahoma, where he had gone to recover his health, on March 28, 1908, was one of the best-known citizens living in this part of Decatur county.

The son of Joseph A. and Mary Jane (Straney) Logan, John H. Logan was born on November 8, 1849, on the farm where he spent the most of his life. He was the son of Joseph A. Logan, as heretofore noted, who was born on January 9, 1821, and who married Mary Jane Straney, a native of Kentucky. Joseph A. was the son of Martin Logan, a pioneer in Fugit township, and a native of Kentucky. He married Nancy Martin and died in 1888. Joseph A. Logan entered the land where Ezra Kirby now lives in 1821. His father filed the papers for this farm, which afterward passed into the possession of his son, Hugh, and is now owned by Ezra Kirby. Mrs. Mary Jane (Straney) Logan, who was born on May 12, 1824, was the daughter of Jane Brown, who was born on December 27, 1748, and who had also two other children, John Brown Straney, born on November 9, 1825, and Sarah Agnes Straney (Mayne), August 20, 1827.

Joseph A. Logan was only nine months old when his father removed from Kentucky to Decatur county, Indiana, and settled on the old homestead, where the widow of his son, John H., now lives. He and his wife had eight children. Of these children, Nancy Martin was born on March 9, 1844, married a Mr. May, now deceased; Mrs. Mary Ann Cook, October 14, 1845; Mrs. Margaret (Findley) Manlove, August 13, 1847; John

H., is the subject of this sketch; Leander, February 9, 1853, deceased; William R., August 20, 1855, deceased; Nathan McDill Logan, September 27, 1857, and lives in Fugit township, Luna Ames, October 23, 1865, died on January 3, 1891.

After his marriage the late John H. Logan and his wife purchased the old homestead, consisting of one hundred and nineteen acres, and later bought sixty-six acres more, making in all one hundred and eighty-five acres. Upon this farm they erected a splendid modern home in 1900, and from time to time excellent outbuildings. He was a large stock raiser and feeder, and made a specialty of road horses with which he was very successful. In 1908 Mr. Logan went to Oklahoma for the purpose of regaining his health, which was fast failing, and died six years afterward. At the time of his death he not only left to his widow and heirs the farm in Fugit township, but also a farm where he lived at the time of his death of one hundred and fifty acres southwest of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. An energetic and honorable citizen, a good business man and farmer, he was also a splendid type of the man who practices the Christianity which he professes. If John H. Logan had any enemies at the time of his death, he did not know about it, since he lived according to the Golden Rule, and never had trouble with anybody. A Republican in politics, he was a loyal and devoted member of the Springhill United Presbyterian church.

On October 10, 1888, the late John H. Logan had been married to Jennie Carson, who was born on September 26, 1865, in Tipton county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of John and Helen (Picken) Carson, natives of Brown county, Ohio, and Scotland, respectively. The former was the son of Irish parents, and died in Tipton county in 1884. His wife died later in Indianapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Logan had four children. Of these children, Harry Carson, born on June 22, 1890, was educated in the Clarksburg high school, and after leaving high school, spent two years in a military school in Tennessee; Ruth, December 11, 1891, is a student at the Bradley Institute at Peoria, Illinois, having taught school for two years; Jessie, December 22, 1893, was a student in the Bradley Institute until her graduation in 1915, and William, April 2, 1902, is attending the Clarksburg school.

At the death of her beloved husband, Mrs. John H. Logan was left well provided for, and out of their combined earnings and savings she may enjoy all the comforts of life, and the conveniences which her beloved husband meant her to have. His memory is revered not only by the widow and children he left here, but by the host of friends he gained during a long and active life in this county.



## WALTER T. BOLING.

Among the enterprising business men of St. Paul, Decatur county, Indiana, may be mentioned Walter T. Boling, the proprietor of a feed and grain business at that place. Born in 1887, in Franklin county, Indiana. he is the son of William and Hannah (Humphrey) Boling, the former of whom was born in 1828 and died in 1899. Hannah Humphrey was the second wife of William Boling, the first wife having been a Miss Sloan, who bore him one child, Josephine, now deceased. By his second marriage there were twelve children, of whom Alice, the eldest and Jasper, the fifth born, are deceased. Mrs. Alice Wheeler died in February, 1914, at her home in Laurel. The living children are, Mrs. Martha Jane Carr, of Frankfort; Mary, who is the housekeeper for George Logan, of Clay township; Albert, who is the treasurer of Decatur county; Mrs. Ada Wright, the wife of Wilbur Wright, of Adams; George W., who is engaged in the hardware business in St. Paul; W. T., the subject of this sketch; Clyde, Elmer, Owen and Edna, all of whom reside in Indianapolis.

Walter T. Boling, after spending his boyhood days on the farm, and receiving his education in the common schools of the county, left home at the age of seventeen and afterward worked on a farm in Decatur county until 1901, when he came to St. Paul and was employed in the grain elevator of William Nading, for whom he worked for six years. At the end of this period, he purchased an interest in the St. Paul Hardware Company, where he remained for three years. Later he sold out and purchased his present business in which he has been engaged ever since. Mr. Boling handles and sells many thousands of bushels of corn each year as well as all kinds of feed and flour. He has been successful in business and now owns the mill and building. At the present time he is building a strictly modern up-to-date home in St. Paul and is spending in the neighborhood of two thousand dollars in its construction.

In October, 1904, Mr. Boling was married to Gertrude M. Wynkoop, of Sand Creek township, the daughter of Isaac Newton and Mary Elizabeth (McGee) Wynkoop, the former of whom was born on February 24, 1850, in Franklin county, Indiana, the son of James and Barbara (Herrick) Wynkoop, and the latter born on April 8, 1854, in Sand Creek township, two and one-half miles from her present home, the daughter of Ralph and Sarah (Jones) McGee, the former of whom was born on January 8, 1827, and the latter born on April 12, 1832. Ralph McGee died on June 20, 1909, and his wife on February 3, 1906. Ralph McGee was the son



of John McGee, a native of Ireland, who came to Butler county, Ohio, in 1810, and who was a soldier in the War of 1812. He married Jane Cassell. Mrs. Boling's paternal grandparents, James and Barbara (Herrick) Wynkoop, were natives of Pennsylvania, the former having been born on July 19, 1817, died on February 27, 1893, and the latter born on January 23, 1817, died on November 30, 1903.

Having started in life with five cents in money, it cannot be denied that Mr. Boling has made a wonderful success in his business. He has succeeded by dint of great nerve and a philosophy all his own. He is a well-known citizen in the county and is highly respected wherever known.

He is a stanch Democrat and for many years served as precinct committeeman. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 148, at Greensburg, and has been a member since he was twenty-one years old. Mrs. Boling is a member of the Baptist church, while Mr. Boling is a member of the Presbyterian church.

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### JOHN E. OSBORN.

The legal profession has claimed many of the brightest minds of Decatur county and from the beginning of the county's history in 1822 the bar of the county has included men of high standing. From the bar of this county men have gone out to become congressmen, members of the highest courts of the state and lieutenant-governors. In whatever position they have found themselves they have acquitted themselves with credit. One of the younger members of the Decatur county bar is John E. Osborn, the senior member of the firm of Osborn & Hamilton. Without those advantages which so many of the younger lawyers of today have, he has arisen to a high place in his community through the sheer force of his personality and enjoys the utmost confidence of both bench and bar in this section of the state.

The Osborn family is of English ancestry and were early settlers in the state of New Jersey. It was in that state that Albert I. Osborn, the father of John E., was born on February 3, 1831. Albert I. Osborn was only four years of age when he came with his father, John Osborn, to Dearborn county, Indiana, later locating in Decatur county. In this county he grew to manhood, married, reared his family, and is still living. He is now in his eighty-fifth year and makes his home at Newport.

John E. Osborn, the youngest child of his parents, was born on August



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John E. Osborn



25, 1872, near Newpoint, Decatur county, Indiana. Reared on the farm and educated in the public schools at Newpoint, Rossburg and Mechanicsburg, he reached man's estate without any other than a solid common-school education. He remained on the farm until he was nineteen years of age, and desiring to become something else than a farmer, he began the study of law by himself. So rapidly did he master the rudiments of the legal profession that he was admitted to the bar in May, 1897. However, he had previously been appointed deputy county auditor, receiving the appointment at the age of nineteen, and had served as deputy auditor under his brother-in-law, John J. Puttman, from December 7, 1891, to March, 1896.

The professional career of Mr. Osborn was begun in partnership with Elmer E. Roland, but six months later he resigned from the firm to become the partner of Hugh Wickens, the present circuit judge. After the election of Mr. Wickens as judge of the ninth judicial circuit, Mr. Osborn was in partnership with Lewis A. Harding, the firm being known as Osborn & Harding from November, 1910, to January 1, 1912. On the latter date Frank Hamilton became a member of the firm, which was then changed to the firm of Osborn, Hamilton & Harding. This partnership continued until November, 1912, when Mr. Harding was elected prosecutor of this judicial district and withdrew from the firm. Since that time Mr. Osborn has been associated with Mr. Hamilton.

John E. Osborn has now been practicing before the bar of this county for nearly twenty years and has had many important cases in the county, district and state courts. His practice has constantly increased and he has had the management of many interesting cases. So successful has he been that in his several firm changes he has been able to take with him the personal business which he had acquired as a member of these respective firms. The career of Mr. Osborn has not altogether been confined to his legal business. He has branched out in industrial and commercial enterprises with the same degree of success which has marked his progress in his chosen field of law. He is a stockholder and a director of the American Cooperage Company of Helena, Arkansas; the Columbia Cooperage Company of McGehee, Arkansas; the Arkansas Cooperage Company of Jennie, Arkansas, and is a partner with John T. Meek in a plantation in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, near Natchez. He and Mr. Meek own forty-four hundred acres of land on which they raise rice, cotton and considerable live stock. They also have a saw-mill on the plantation.

On July 17, 1900, John E. Osborn was married to Grace Gullefer, the

daughter of Dr. Thomas B. and Louise (Hederick) Gullefer, to which union one son has been born, Wendell G., born on October 23, 1905.

Mrs. Osborn's father, Dr. T. B. Gullefer, was born eight miles from Indianapolis, Indiana, on March 12, 1851, a son of Stephen Gullefer, also a native of Marion county, Indiana, who died on his farm in that county in 1901. Stephen Gullefer was a son of Aaron Gullefer, a native of Wayne county, Indiana, an early settler of Marion county, where he acquired a farm of six hundred and forty acres. The wife of Stephen Gullefer was Emily Bowers, born in Salem, Indiana, in 1824, who died in July, 1853. Dr. T. B. Gullefer is the only child born to this union now living. After the death of his first wife Stephen Gullefer married a second time and had six children by his second marriage, three of whom are dead, those living being John N., who owns the home farm; Eliza A., who resides with her brother John, and Judson, a resident of Indianapolis.

After receiving a common-school education in the schools of Marion county, Doctor Gullefer spent one year in Butler College and then became a student of DePauw University for three years. After leaving college he taught school in the rural districts for six years. In 1879 he entered the medical college at Indianapolis and was graduated with the class of 1881, later taking a post-graduate course in the Chicago Homeopathic College, from which he was graduated in 1891. Doctor Gullefer practiced in Plainfield, Indiana, for five years; in North Vernon, Indiana, for two years, and has been in continuous practice in Greensburg, this county, for the past twenty-five years.

Dr. Thomas B. Gullefer was married in 1873 to Louise Hedrick, who was born in Gallatin county, Kentucky, in 1851, daughter of John and Charlotte Hedrick, to which union two children were born, Grace and Bessie. Grace is the wife of Mr. Osborn and Bessie married John Horning, Jr., a grain merchant of Greensburg. Mrs. Gullifer passed away on July 5, 1915.

Doctor Gullefer is a Republican in politics and has served as coroner of Decatur county for eleven years; six years as secretary of the county board of health, and four years as secretary of the city board of health. He also served as United States pension examiner for one year, and is the present medical examiner for the government civil service in the fourth congressional district. He is a member of the Indiana Institute of Homeopathy.

John E. Osborn made his first start in Democratic politics immediately after reaching his majority and has taken a keen interest in political affairs ever since. As member of the Democratic state central committee from the

sixth congressional district from January, 1908, to January, 1912, his wise and judicious management of Democratic affairs was largely responsible for the election of many Democrats to office. When Finley Gray was elected to Congress in 1912, he was the first Democrat to go to Congress from this district for twenty-five years. Mr. Osborn deserves no little share of the credit for bringing about the election of this Democratic congressman.

Mrs. Osborn is an active member of the Christian church of Greensburg. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn are prominent in the various activities of the community which go toward making it a better and happier place in which to live. Their influence is always cast in behalf of all humanitarian and benevolent projects and in this way they have earned the commendation of all those with whom they come into contact.

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#### GEORGE W. BOLING.

During a period of nearly a century, various members of the Boling family have been prominent in the agricultural, industrial, commercial and political life of Decatur and adjoining counties. The family was founded in this section of Indiana by Benjamin Boling, an interesting pioneer citizen of this region. William Boling, the father of George W., and the son of Benjamin Boling, owned a farm just over the line from Decatur county in Franklin county, and spent all of his life on this farm. It is now owned by Albert Boling, a brother of George W., and the present county treasurer.

George W. Boling, who is best known in Decatur county for his interest in the St. Paul Hardware Company, of St. Paul, Indiana, was born on September 14, 1873, in Franklin county, Indiana. His parents were William and Hannah (Humphrey) Boling, the former of whom was born in 1828 and who died in October, 1899. Hannah Humphrey was the second wife of William Boling and now lives in Adams in this county. His first wife was a Miss Sloan, who bore her husband one child, Josephine, now deceased. By the second marriage there were twelve children, of whom two, Mrs. Alice Wheeler, the eldest, and Jasper, the fifth born, are deceased, the former dying in February, 1914, at her home in Laurel, Indiana. The living children are, Mrs. Martha Jane Carr, who lives at Frankfort; Mary, who makes her home with George Logan in Clay township, and is his housekeeper; Albert, who is the present treasurer of Decatur county; Mrs. Ada Wright, who is the wife of Wilbur Wright, of Adams, Indiana; George

W., who is the subject of this sketch; Walter T., who is in the feed and grain business and operates a mill at St. Paul; Clyde; Elmer; Owen, and Edna, all of whom are in Indianapolis.

Although a member of a large family, George W. Boling was not denied the very best educational advantages and, after completing the common school course of Decatur county, was a student at the Danville Normal school and the Indianapolis Business University. He was employed by various firms in Indianapolis after graduating from the business college, particularly the William B. Burford Printing Company, the Erie Railroad and the American Express Company. In 1901 he came to St. Paul, Indiana, and for two years operated the William Nading elevator. In 1903 Mr. Boling entered the hardware business under the firm name of Leffler & Boling at St. Paul. This arrangement continued until in October, 1903, when the firm became Mobley & Boling. This firm continued until 1905, when Elmer Upjohn purchased Mr. Mobley's interest when the St. Paul Hardware Company was organized. In 1908 C. F. Thompson purchased the interest of Mr. Upjohn and he is now a member of the firm. The company has a storeroom, thirty by eighty feet, and a wareroom adjacent in a brick block. They also have a garage in the Red Men's building, forty by forty feet, which is used as a storage room for automobiles. The company handles general hardware, agricultural implements, the Johnson line of implements, Oliver plows and other standard lines, cream separators, Fehring buggies, manufactured at Columbus, Indiana, standard makes of wagons, guns and ammunition, stoves, kerosene and gasoline. The company is also the local agent for the Studebaker Automobile Company, and the agent in Shelby, Rush and Decatur counties for the Hercules car. Incidentally, they handle automobile supplies and automobile tires. They sell gas and gasoline engines, washing machines, install furnaces, water systems and plumbing. The company is well equipped to fit up a residence in a most modern way, so far as heating and water systems are concerned.

George W. Boling is connected with the St. Paul Building and Loan Association in the capacity of secretary. This company has its offices in Mr. Boling's store and was organized in 1886. It has done more to build up St. Paul than any other concern in the township, particularly in enabling laborers and quarrymen to erect homes in this community.

In May, 1901, George W. Boling was married to Nona B. Burner, the daughter of William Burner of Greensburg. To this union has been born three children, Mildred Louise, Vivian Avalon and Clara Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Boling and family are members of the Methodist Epis-



copal church. Fraternally, Mr. Boling is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is identified with the Republican party, but has never held office.

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### JAMES N. BUSH.

James N. Bush, a veteran of the Civil War and formerly a stone quarry superintendent and bridge builder of Adams township, was born in 1842 in Owen county, Kentucky, and is the son of Pleasant and Drusilla (Smoot) Bush, both of whom were natives of Kentucky. Their parents came from Virginia to Kentucky. The Smoot family came originally from Scotland.

Pleasant Bush was the son of Joseph and the Bush family came originally from England, and Joseph Bush's wife, who before her marriage was a Miss Duncan, was of German extraction. Pleasant Bush, himself, was born, lived and died in Kentucky.

In 1869 James N. Bush came to Decatur county with his wife, to whom he had been married in 1866, in Kentucky. They had one child at the time. Catherine (Smoot) Bush, the wife of James N., was born in Kentucky and was the daughter of George Smoot, a native of that state. Born in 1842, she died in Decatur county in 1908. They had a family of six children, three of whom are still living at St. Paul, William, who is a blacksmith; A. M., who is a restaurant keeper, and C. L., who is a partner with A. M. They have erected many fine buildings in this part of the county, including a fine concrete business building in St. Paul.

When Mr. Bush came to Decatur county he began cutting stone. He followed this trade for about a year, when he was employed by W. W. Lowe, for whom he worked for twenty-one years as superintendent of stone quarries. He afterward leased and operated for himself a stone quarry and, in the meantime, was engaged in bridge building.

In 1863 Mr. Bush enlisted in Company E, Thirtieth Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, which was mounted and commanded by Colonel Alexandria. This regiment was attached to the army of General Stoneman. Mr. Bush saw hard service and was detailed to scout work mostly, his regiment having operated chiefly in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. He served until the close of the war, being mustered out of service on April 18, 1865. On one occasion his division engaged the army of General

Breckenridge at Saltville and was badly defeated; in fact, almost annihilated. However, they returned to Saltville with four thousand men and there engaged General Breckenridge and defeated him. Saltville was an important point, since it was the source of salt for the Confederate army. The Union army destroyed the salt works and the available supply of salt. Mr. Bush had many thrilling escapades in scout duties. He was possessed of wonderful zest and courage which served him well on many occasions. He was a brave and resourceful soldier and is today very proud of his military record, which he has every right to be.

For many years James N. Bush has been badly afflicted with rheumatism, but nevertheless is a man of cheerful disposition. In his life he has made considerable money and had a comfortable competence laid by to last him the remainder of his life. On account of sickness and death in his family his fortune is somewhat depleted. After the death of his wife he divided his property among his children and went to live with his son, a business man of St. Paul.

Mr. Bush is a man of strong convictions, which have always been a good guide for his actions. Reared in one of the strongest rebel counties of Kentucky, where all of his neighbors and practically all of his relatives joined the Confederate army, Mr. Bush himself believed in the cause of the Union and chose to support the stars and stripes. He believed that slavery was wrong and human freedom was right, and cast his lot accordingly. No citizen is more highly respected in Decatur county than the venerable James N. Bush.

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### JOHN R. KANOUSE.

The late John R. Kanouse was a well-known merchant and farmer of St. Paul, Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana. He was a man of large mental mold and of prodigious physical energy, one who by careful application to his personal business built up a large patronage in this community and who held, at the time of his death, the respect and confidence of the host of friends he had made during his life.

The late John R. Kanouse was born in 1844 in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of George and Isabelle (Sumpter) Kanouse, the latter of whom was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Sumpter, natives of Iowa, and relatives of General Sumpter of Civil War fame. George Kanouse himself was a soldier in the Civil War. In 1871 John R. Kanouse was

married to Courtney McCoy, a daughter of Isaiah and Mary (Short) McCoy, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, born in 1815, and who died in 1909. After coming to Decatur county with his parents, William and Nancy (Waple) McCoy, when seven years of age, he settled with them on a farm in Adams township. William McCoy was a miller on Clifty creek and a soldier in the War of 1812. He died in Kentucky. Isaiah McCoy was a Decatur county farmer and a very successful business man, who started in life with nothing and who by his shrewdness, industry and good management accumulated considerable property. He owned several hundred acres of land at the time of his death. A Republican in politics, he was a man of strong convictions as well as of good moral character. He died in 1909, leaving a family of seven children. John, Benjamin and Mrs. Nancy Lawhead are deceased; Mrs. Eliza Garrett is the wife of Lewis Garrett, of Adams township; Mrs. Julia Bright is the wife of John Bright, of Adams township; Courtney married Mr. Kanouse, and Mrs. Arminda Boicourt is the wife of George Boicourt, who lives near Letts in Sand Creek township.

Mrs. Courtney Kanouse was born in 1850 in Adams township and educated in the common schools of Decatur county. She grew to womanhood at home and there lived until her marriage in 1871. She is a woman of keen business judgment, well able to care successfully for the business with which she was left at the time of her husband's death. She is a member of the Christian church at St. Paul, of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Rebekahs.

After their marriage in 1871, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Kanouse started in life at St. Omer in Decatur county, where he was engaged in the mercantile business. He was very successful there, but after two years, in 1880, he and his wife removed to St. Paul, where he engaged in the mercantile business and in which he continued until two years before his death.

An unusually successful business man, the late John R. Kanouse owned, at the time of his death, not only the large store in St. Paul, but three hundred acres of land as well.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Kanouse had eight children, seven of whom are now living, as follow: Roy K. is a merchant in Greensburg; Mrs. Daisy Bewley lives in California; George is in the automobile business in Indianapolis; Mrs. Rose Hill, wife of Oscar Jay, prosecuting attorney of Elkhart, Indiana; Mrs. Nellie Hill is the wife of James Hill, of Westport; Mrs. Edna Wolf is the wife of Carl Wolf, of St. Paul; Frank lives at home.

No duty, public or private, was neglected by the late John R. Kanouse.

A man of deep religious convictions, he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he was identified with the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias. He was also a Red Man. His acquaintances and friends were not confined to Decatur county. He had a host of friends in Shelby county as well. His beloved widow is a woman of refinement and of splendid Christian character. She has a beautiful home in St. Paul, where, with her son and his wife, she is living.

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### JOHN T. PAVY.

No family in the western part of Decatur county has exerted a more widely marked influence for good throughout that section than has the Pavy family, which has been active in the good works of the Milford and the Burney neighborhoods for the past four or five generations and is one of the most substantial and well-established families in this part of the state. The late John T. Pavy, whose death at his home in Burney on March 21, 1914, was widely mourned throughout the section of the county in which he so long had been one of the leaders in the religious and social life thereabout, was an able, upright and influential citizen; a man who created a distinct impress upon the life of his time in the community in which for years he had gone about doing good, and it is but fitting and proper that in a history of the county covering the period of his activities here, there should be presented a modest sketch of his useful career, together with some of the salient points relating to his interesting family. Though a quiet, unassuming man, John T. Pavy ever was foremost in the good works of his neighborhood and none therein was held in higher esteem and respect than he. Generous and kind-hearted, he ever was willing to lend a helping hand and many there are in the part of the county to which his labors were devoted who have cause to cherish his memory with feelings of gratitude and warmest admiration. A devout Christian, he imparted to all his relations with his fellow men a spirit of sincerity that left no doubt regarding the noble and disinterested motives that animated his course of action. In his daily walk and conversation, John T. Pavy was frank and direct, open and aboveboard; and all men knew where he stood on questions affecting the general welfare. Being one of the most substantial farmers in the western part of Decatur county, he very naturally and by proper right took his place among the leaders of

thought and sentiment thereabout and his judgment on local issues or on questions of right and policy exerted a fine and enduring influence upon the neighborhood. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith, the family being among the most active workers in the various beneficences of the church. He was an ardent Republican, though not of the office-seeking class, and his sound judgment and keen knowledge of affairs gave to his political opinions no light weight with the managers of the party in this county. He was an ideal husband and father, his invariable and unswerving devotion to his family having been beautiful to see, and his death created a vacancy in the family circle which time does not fill, his widow and children being devoted to his memory, cherishing the same as a priceless legacy, for he left a stainless name; the record of a blameless life, than which there can be no more fitting phrase used in eulogy.

John T. Pavy was born on a farm in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, a short distance west of the village of Burney, in the year 1848, a son of J. J. and Nancy (Deem) Pavy, both members of pioneer families in this county, further details of the genealogy of this family being presented elsewhere in this volume, these families having been prominent and influential in the days of the county's early settlement. Reared on the home farm, receiving the most careful training in the rudiments of agriculture, a vocation to which he was destined to devote his life, John T. Pavy attended Hartsville College for a time and completed his education at Franklin College. He entered upon his life as a farmer with characteristic energy, giving to the details of the farm a studious attention which was productive of results and he became quite successful, leaving a valuable estate at the time of his death.

On March 28, 1878, at Milford, Decatur county, Indiana, John T. Pavy was united in marriage to Anna Jackson, who was born on a farm in Clay township, this county, daughter of William T. and Margaret (Miers) Jackson, the former of whom was the son of William D. and Amelia (Hillman) Jackson, who settled in this county in 1840. William D. Jackson was a Virginian and his wife was a native of Maryland. Shortly after their marriage they located in Cincinnati, where William D. Jackson became a prosperous real estate dealer. In 1840 they came to Decatur county, settling on a quarter-section of land in Fugit township, removing thence, in 1847, to Clay township, where they lived until 1853, in which year they moved to a farm two and one-half miles west of the town of Greensburg, where they spent the rest of their lives. An interesting story of the life

of this pioneer family is presented elsewhere in this volume in the biographical sketch relating to William E. Jackson, a brother of Mrs. Pavy.

William T. Jackson was about eighteen years of age when his parents moved from Cincinnati to this county. He married Margaret Miers, daughter of Thomas Miers, one of the most substantial of the pioneer farmers of Decatur county, and to this union were born eight children, namely: Anna, the widow of Mr. Pavy; James, deceased; Edwin, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county; Benjamin J., deceased; Adelaide, who married Henry Barnes; William E., a prominent farmer of Washington township, this county, who married Alta Moore; Charles J., who died in infancy, and Harry, who lives in Colorado. William T. Jackson died at the age of sixty years and his wife died at the age of sixty-eight.

Anna (Jackson) Pavy was born in a log cabin on what is now known as the Miers farm in Clay township, then owned by her father, previously by her grandfather. She was educated in the schools at Milford, this county, and at the old academy at Danville, Indiana, her father having been for a time engaged in the dry goods business at Danville. Upon her marriage, in 1878, to Mr. Pavy she entered seriously upon the life of farming and was an earnest and devoted helpmeet of her husband. When she was married she was a member of the Methodist church, but changed her church affiliation to the Baptist in order to conform her faith to that of her husband, he having been reared in the Baptist faith, and for years they were among the most active and influential members of the congregation to which they were attached. A woman of broad mind and sterling character, Mrs. Pavy has always been an influence for good in the Burney neighborhood and her home in the pleasant village of Burney is a center from which radiate only the blindest and most salutary promptings.

To John T. and Anna (Jackson) Pavy were born two children, a son and a daughter, Harry, who was born in 1882, is operating a part of the home farm, and Lena, who married Ewing Arnold, lives on the William F. Smiley farm, one and one-half miles south of Greensburg. Beside his wife and children, John T. Pavy left several brothers and sisters to mourn his death, to his parents having been born the following children: Susan, who lives on the old Pavy farm south of Burney; Elizabeth; Dorcas, who married Felix Gartin, a prominent live stock dealer of this county, died in 1915; Matilda, who lives on the home farm; John T., deceased, the subject of this sketch; James, a farmer of the Forest Hill neighborhood; Rev. William A., pastor of the Baptist church at Waldron; Nannie, who



married Daniel Harker; Mary J., who married John Templeton, and Minerva, who was born blind and who is living at the old home. Minerva Pavy was educated in the Indiana school for the blind at Indianapolis and became a proficient musician, being not only a fine singer, but an accomplished pianist, having supplemented her course in the state school by a finishing course in the Indianapolis Conservatory of Music. She is a woman of much charm and grace of manner and of a highly cultivated mind. Despite the affliction which has shut her out from a sight of all the beauties and the wonders of the world, she is possessed of a charmingly cheerful disposition and is a great favorite with her many friends.

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#### OTTO F. DIETRICH.

Among the prosperous and well-established enterprises of Burney, Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, is the saw-mill, owned and operated by Otto F. Dietrich, which was established in 1902 with an invested capital of three thousand dollars. This mill has a capacity of eight thousand feet daily and Mr. Dietrich, while he does some commercial custom work, is largely engaged in cutting and sawing his own timber. He buys timber in large tracts, has the logs cut and saws them in his own mill. He employs the minimum of six hands and sometimes as many as twenty. The mill consists of the very latest equipment.

Otto F. Dietrich was born on April 8, 1876, in Germany, and is the son of Ferdinand and Marie (Weber) Dietrich. On May 9, 1888, Otto F. Dietrich, at the age of twelve years, arrived in America with an aunt, Pauline Dietrich. For some time he resided with an uncle, Charles Dietrich, in Tipton county. Although he had received a liberal education in Germany, he attended school for four years after coming to America and mastered the English language. For five years he worked as a farm hand in Tipton county, Indiana. In 1893 his parents and brothers and sisters came to Bartholomew county, Indiana, and began farming one and one-half miles west of St. Louis. They purchased a farm near Hartsville and there the father died in 1895. After his death, the mother and sisters moved to Cincinnati, where the mother purchased a home.

Mr. Dietrich, however, remained in this state and engaged in farming and in saw-mill business. He took charge of the old mill at Burney and in 1905 tore out all of the old machinery and installed new. Mr. Dietrich



rents land extensively on which he raises crops to feed the horses which he uses in the mill and for hauling logs to the mill.

On October 8, 1902, Mr. Dietrich was married to Lillie Aton, who was born on a farm, one and one-half miles southwest of Hope in Bartholomew county. They have had two children, Frank, who died at the age of nine years in the fall of 1913 of diphtheria, and Paul, who is now six years old.

Mr. Dietrich is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Loyal Order of Moose. Formerly, he was a member of the Knights of Pythias.

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### ANTHONY B. MULROY.

Anthony B. Mulroy, a substantial citizen and business man of Decatur county, Indiana, and a resident of St. Paul, was born in 1859, in this town, the son of Richard and Bridget (Barrett) Mulroy, the former of whom was a native of County Mayo, Ireland, born in 1825.

On the day that Richard Mulroy was twenty-two years old, he took passage on a sailing boat, "Star of the North," for America, landing in New York city after an eventful voyage in 1847. When the ship on which he came to America was three days out of port, a terrific storm was encountered and the experiences of all on board was something to be remembered during their entire lives. For three days the ship was completely lost, and at times those on board almost gave up hope of ever seeing land. However, the "Star of the North" was a good, seafaring boat and successfully withstood the severe storm. When Richard Mulroy landed in New York city, he was without funds or friends. Starting out in life in the new world, he obtained employment on a farm in New York state, and after working a year there removed to Pennsylvania, where he remained for three years. He made three unsuccessful attempts to enlist as a soldier in the Mexican War.

After three years in Pennsylvania, Richard Mulroy left Pittsburgh and came to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, by boat. From Lawrenceburg he walked to Indianapolis where he remained for four or five years, during which time he was engaged in railroad construction work, making Indianapolis his headquarters.

In 1857 Richard Mulroy was married to Bridgett Barrett, who was

born in 1823 in Ireland in County Mayo within forty miles of the birth-place of her future husband. Born on the west coast of Ireland, she came alone to America in 1856, and after landing in this country came direct to Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, where she had a sister living, Mrs. John Riley, with whom she made her home until her marriage in 1858.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mulroy came to St. Paul in 1858, where her husband lived until her death in 1906. He died on June 2, 1915, at the age of ninety years. During his entire active life he had been engaged in railroad construction work and in stone quarries. He had been retired only five years. In fact, in 1914, at the age of eighty-nine, he planted and cultivated a large garden. He was a staunch Democrat in politics, and a member of the Catholic church, as was his good wife also. They had four children, Anthony B., the subject of this sketch, of St. Paul; Edward, of St. Paul; Anna, who lives at home, and Margaret, who died in infancy.

Anthony B. Mulroy, who was born in St. Paul one year after his parents removed to this town, was educated in the common schools and when he was thirty-two years old, engaged in stone quarry work. At this time he was married to Henrietta Avey, the daughter of Daniel Wilson and Melissa (Pence) Avey, natives of Shelby county, Indiana, and old, well-established and highly respected citizens of this section.

As late as 1914 Anthony B. Mulroy was engaged in railroad construction and stone quarry work. In October of 1914 he purchased the grocery and mercantile business of William Kelso, of St. Paul, and is today engaged in business for himself. He handles a complete line of dry goods and general merchandise. Within a comparatively short time he has built up a large trade in this community. Mr. Mulroy is a popular citizen and one with whom the people of this community naturally like to trade. He has been honorable and upright in all his relations with the public, and upon this basis his business has grown since he took possession.

Mr. and Mrs. Mulroy have had one son, John A. Mulroy, who was born on January 1, 1899. He was born on Sunday morning, the first day of the week and the first day of the year. Luck seems to have been with him, as he has never been sick a day since his birth. He is a young man of rare promise and is popular in this community. Having graduated from the common schools in 1914, he is now a student in the freshman year at the high school at St. Paul.

In a beautiful residence of St. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Mulroy have their home. Formally speaking, Mr. Mulroy is a Democrat, but he is not quite so staunch a Democrat as was his father in his earlier years. Mr. Mulroy

places the welfare of his country above the success of his party. He is a progressive citizen of the substantial and solid type and has a host of friends in this community. All his life has been spent in St. Paul. As a consequence of his industry and good management he has accumulated a substantial competence and now owns considerable property in this section.

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### JAMES B. DAVIS.

An enterprising and successful farmer of Decatur county, Indiana, who lives three miles southeast of Burney, now living retired, and who has succeeded in life as a consequence of his own persistent industry and good management, is James B. Davis, a man who believes strongly in principles of right and justice, and who during his long life in this county, has been regarded as one of its very best citizens.

James B. Davis, who was born in 1848, in Union county, Indiana, is the son of Isaac and Martha (Barr) Davis, the former of whom was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1803, the son of James Davis, Sr., who married Mary Taylor. They were natives of New Jersey. Mary Taylor was of Scotch-Irish origin, and James Davis was of German parentage. They were among the earliest settlers in Union county, Indiana, and lived the greater part of their lives in that county. They were very prosperous farmers, and at the time of his death, he owned approximately one thousand acres of land. They had eight children, of whom Isaac Davis, the father of James B., was the seventh child. He was born in Butler county, Ohio, and about 1803, when Isaac was born, the family removed to Union county, and there entered land, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Isaac Davis was a successful farmer and owned several hundred acres of good land at the time of his death. Until 1856, when the Republican party was organized, he was a Whig, and he affiliated with the party of Lincoln, and remained loyal to it all the rest of his days. He was more of a patriot than a partisan and always had at heart the best interests of his country.

Isaac and Martha (Barr) Davis had eight children, of whom James B. is the fifth child. The father died in 1858. James B. Davis lived at home and worked on the farm until he was twenty-two years of age, when he removed to Decatur county, Indiana, and purchased a farm in Jackson township. In 1873 Mr. Davis was married to Martha C. Ewing, who was the daughter of Patrick and Lydia (Morgan) Ewing.

The Ewing family is one of the oldest and most prominent in Decatur county, and is descended from one Patrick E. Ewing, who emigrated to America from Ireland some time during the War of the Revolution. On the voyage a son was born, and on account of kindness shown to him by General Putnam, he was named for the general and to this day the name has been kept in the family. On Patrick's arrival in America, he settled in Maryland, near the Susquehanna river, some forty miles from Baltimore, where he died. His family consisted of four sons, Samuel, Joshua, Nathaniel and Putnam. The first three settled in Virginia, where they became prominent citizens. Their descendants have since migrated to Tennessee and Missouri, and have attained considerable prominence in different states. Putnam Ewing remained in Maryland until some time after his marriage to Miss Jennie McClelland, the daughter of Doctor McClelland, of that state, and then came to Bourbon county, Kentucky, in 1806. Subsequently, he settled in Bath county and there lived and died. He had ten children, namely: Robert, Patrick, Joshua, Polly, Samuel, Jennie, James, Eliza, George McClelland and Andrew Jackson. It was the Patrick Ewing of this family who was the father of Mrs. James B. Davis. He was born in Cecil county, Maryland, in 1803, and was three years old when brought by his father to Kentucky. He remained on the farm in Kentucky until after his marriage to Lydia Morgan, of Montgomery county, Kentucky. He was a member of the state militia of Kentucky and was married in September, 1826, to Miss Morgan. About 1827 he came with his wife and infant daughter to Decatur county. He was a hardy son of illustrious ancestors and was a man of exceptional native ability. He accumulated a large tract of land in this county.

Mrs. James B. Davis is a woman of rare intelligence and one whose conversation sparkles with wit and humor. She had only the meager advantages of the pioneer public schools as far as an education is concerned, but she is a woman of great native ability, and one does not have to listen to her conversation long before discovering this wonderful native ability. Her children can be justly proud to have for their mother a woman of her intelligence.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Davis, they lived in Jackson township on a farm until 1883, when they sold out and purchased the farm they now live upon, three miles southeast of Burney. In the early years of their married life they had the usual experiences of the pioneer citizens. They lived in a log cabin for the most part, and both remember keenly the hardships of this early life.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have had three children, George was born in 1874, and is a farmer in Decatur county; William, in 1875, and is engaged in farming with his brother, George, and Della is the wife of Samuel Hanks, who lives three miles northwest of Burney and who is a prosperous farmer. Della has one child, Mary C. Hanks. George and Will Davis lived on the farm at home until George was twenty-eight years old, when he decided to begin life for himself. At that time the parents gave to the sons, George and Will, a farm of one hundred and twenty acres with an incumbrance of some two or three thousand dollars. This was no small load, even for mature shoulders, but by industry and shrewd management they cleared the farm of indebtedness in sixteen months' time. They have prospered proportionately ever since, and are now large dealers in live stock. Their home is called "Bachelors' Hall."

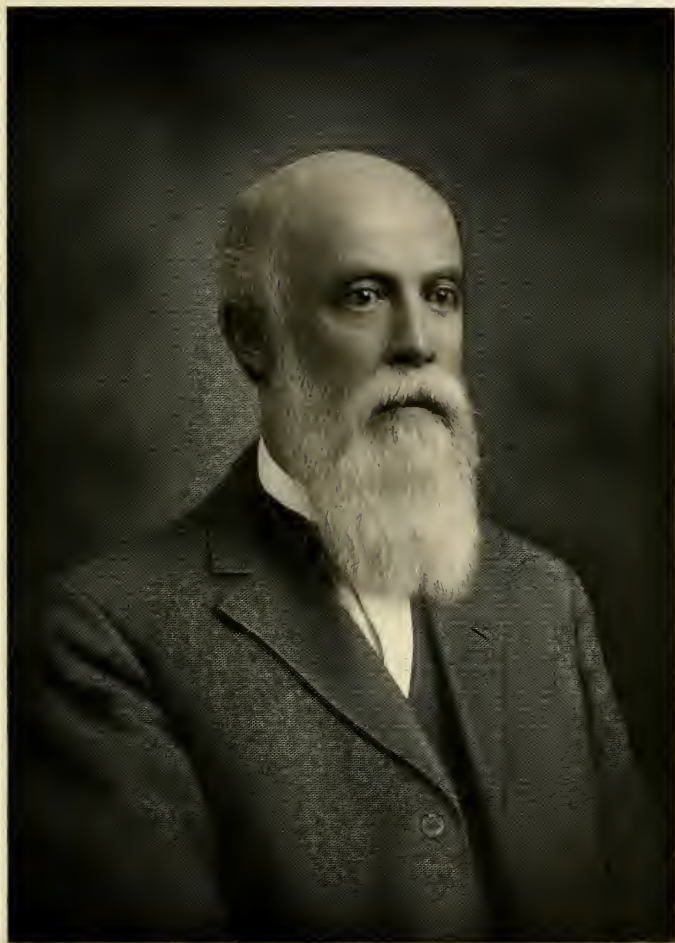
James B. Davis had always been identified with the Republican party until 1912, when the new Progressive party was formed, with which he affiliated. He is a man who is little impressed by political parties or party emblems, but believes it is his duty, as a citizen, to support superior men and superior measures, rather than to cast his vote blindly without regard to platforms or principles, or the moral standing of the party's candidate. The sons are like their father in this respect. They are well respected in this community and favorably known.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have lived honorable and upright lives and have set a worthy example for their children and for their friends in this community. No word of suspicion has ever attached to the character of James B. Davis. He is a manly man and a true Christian gentleman.

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#### GEORGE S. CRAWFORD, M. D.

In the historical and biographical annals of any section, a review of the lives of leading physicians is interesting not only because of the professional service which this honorable body of men perform, but because, as a general rule, physicians attain the rank of leadership in public movements and public enterprises. This may be true because, aside from their professional education, their standard of intelligence and their breadth of information and sympathy are such as to uphold ideals which the various members of the community emulate. No one can ever take the place of the physician in the affection of the family or in the home, neighborhood, town or



*George S. Crawford M.D.*





city. To some extent the physician is the arbiter between life and death and upon his skill depends frequently the very endurance of human life. When the art of the good physician fails and life flows out, he, nevertheless, remains as the comforter of loving and dear friends in times of sorrow and distress. No one can measure his influence, since it is of a most intimate and personal kind. Dr. George S. Crawford, a well-known physician of Milford, this county, who has practiced his profession forty-one years in this community, is the very type of man to attain a position of proud eminence in the community life. Day by day, week by week and year by year, he has gone about the homes of Clay and adjoining townships doing his duty in a professional way; but, what is far greater and grander, doing his duty as a sympathetic-minded friend and man.

George S. Crawford was born, on December 23, 1852, in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, the son of Rev. James and Hannah F. (Robinson) Crawford, natives of New York and Madison, Indiana, respectively. When Doctor Crawford was an infant only three days old, he was bereft of the loving tenderness and care of a fond mother by her untimely death, and he was taken in charge by Mrs. Owensby, who had just lost her baby by death, and was reared by her until he was two years of age, the Owensby's home having been in Crawfordsville, this state. Subsequently, Rev. James Crawford remarried, his second wife having been Kate Woodfill, a sister of James M. Woodfill, of Greensburg, and after his death his widow made her home with Doctor Crawford, in Milford, for twenty-five years. Rev. James Crawford was a pioneer Methodist minister, had a large circuit in this section of the state and, during his life, filled many appointments. He was a man of noble and generous impulses, whose life seemed to be devoted to the service of his fellowmen.

When he was old enough George S. Crawford attended the typical Hoosier schools and there obtained the rudiments of a liberal education, later pursuing his education in Moores Hill College. At the age of twenty-one he was graduated from the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis, and upon his graduation, came to Decatur county, locating at Milford, where he established himself in the practice of his profession. There he has remained for forty-one years, during which time he has built up one of the largest practices of any physician now living in Decatur county.

Doctor Crawford was not married until rather late in life. His wife, to whom he was married on July 6, 1898, before her marriage was Frances Olive Blackmore, who was born on October 19, 1867, on a farm five miles

west of Greensburg, the daughter of Lawrence O. and Frances W. (Wallace) Blackmore, natives of Shelby county, Kentucky, and Rockbridge county, Virginia, respectively, the former being the son of Owen W. Blackmore, of Shelby county, Kentucky, who came to Decatur county, Indiana, in 1835. Mrs. Crawford's wife's mother was the daughter of John and Jane (Quigley) Wallace, natives of Virginia, who moved to Decatur county in 1837 and settled in Washington township. This was only two years after the coming of the Blackmores, who lived only a mile east of the Wallace farm.

Doctor and Mrs. Crawford have had no children. They are prominent in the social life of Clay township and both are well known in Greensburg and popular there. Both are members of the Presbyterian church at Greensburg. Dr. Crawford is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined this lodge at Milford many years ago. He is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society and the Indiana State Medical Association. He is a Republican and one of the most uncompromising of men as far as his political belief is concerned. He believes in the principles of the Republican party and believes that this party is best equipped from tradition and from its record of past usefulness to administer the affairs of this government. A man who believes this as strongly as does Doctor Crawford is naturally well settled in his political belief. He is a grand and useful figure in the community where he has lived and worked so long and enjoys the universal confidence and esteem of the people.

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### JAMES M. SHORTRIDGE.

Among the better known and older citizens of St. Paul, Indiana, is James M. Shortridge, formerly a well-known hardware merchant of this community, who is now living retired. However, he devotes considerable time to the business of W. W. Townsend, a dealer of this place, and acts as a bookkeeper for him.

James M. Shortridge was born on November 6, 1849, in Johnson county, Indiana, the son of John and Ellen (Smock) Shortridge, the former of whom was born in 1822 and who died in 1899. The father was a native of Wayne county, Indiana, the son of George Shortridge, Sr., a native of Kentucky and an early settler in Wayne county. The parents of Ellen Smock were also natives of Kentucky. Her mother died in 1885 at the age of over ninety years.

The parents of James M. Shortridge moved to Greenwood and retired late in life and there died. The farm located near Greenwood, Johnson county, was purchased by James M. and his brother, George, and was farmed by the latter until his death. There were three children in the Shortridge family, George, now deceased; Mrs. Vandelene Washard, of Greenwood, and James M., the subject of this sketch.

When a lad of twenty-two years, James M. Shortridge became a brakeman on the Pennsylvania railroad and followed this occupation for four years. He then took up carpentering and house building in his home locality and also worked for the railroad as a carpenter. He was for four years employed by the Lake Erie & Western railroad as a bridge carpenter.

On November 26, 1879, Mr. Shortridge was married to Allie Martin, of St. Paul, the daughter of Ralph Martin, an early settler of Decatur county. After his marriage, Mr. Shortridge engaged in the hardware business. He bought out the store owned by John Buell and remained in business for thirty years, having been very successful. In 1909 Mr. Shortridge sold out the business. He has extensive real estate holdings in St. Paul, owning a two-story brick building on Main street, a one-story stone building and residence property. He also has two lots and fifty-five acres of farm land, beside other personal investments.

Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge have had four children, Elmer, who is a motorman on the Indianapolis & Cincinnati Traction line and is a machinist by trade; Mrs. Hazel Clark, of Indianapolis; Irene E., who is a teacher in the public schools and lives at home, and Helen, who also lives at home and is a student in the high school.

James M. Shortridge was reared a Republican as was his father before him, but late in life the father voted the Prohibition ticket. Mr. Shortridge voted for Horace Greeley and was a Democrat until 1896, when he refused to subscribe to the free-silver doctrine of the Democratic party and voted the Republican ticket, which he has voted ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge are members of the Christian church, in which he is a trustee. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and is a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Indianapolis and also the Murat Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Indianapolis. He is a member of the Baldwin commandery and the Knights Templar at Shelbyville. In May, 1915, he attended the golden jubilee of the Scottish Rite Masons at Indianapolis. In addition to these fraternal relations, Mr. Shortridge is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 475, at Greensburg.

Of Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge's children, Elmer married a Miss Hess and has one child, Priscilla. Mrs. Hazel Clark also has one child, June Ellen.

It will have to be admitted that the life of James M. Shortridge has been a distinct and unqualified success, that he has accomplished a reasonable measure of the things he set out to do, and that, in his declining years, he may enjoy the comforts of life without the necessity of the toil which characterized his earlier years.

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### JOHN JOHNSON.

The Union soldier during the great war between the states builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and wasting hardship, through the horrors of prison-pens and amid the shadows of death, he laid the superstructure of the greatest temple ever erected and dedicated to human freedom. One of Decatur county's highly respected citizens who had a part in this memorable struggle is the venerable John Johnson, a retired farmer of Burney. He remembers very well the Polk and Tyler campaign.

John Johnson is the son of Richard and Fannie (McKee) Johnson, the latter of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1805. Richard Johnson was born in Kentucky in 1799, and, after emigrating to Indiana, settled near Vevay, Indiana, in Switzerland county, the home of Colonel Welsh and Edward Eggleston. He died in 1857 in Decatur county, Indiana, thirty-two years after coming to Decatur county, where he entered land near the town of Burney. He made the trip with an ox team in a covered wagon, camping in the woods on the way. At the side of a giant poplar tree he and his wife built a log cabin, where they lived when John Johnson was born. Decatur county was an unbroken forest at the time, there being no roads and scarcely any paths. Such as were used and passable were designated by marked trees. The wolves were thick in this county at the time and many a time chased the father of John Johnson into his cabin. On one occasion a deer came up to the Johnson cabin with the cows.

At the outbreak of the Civil War the venerable John Johnson tried to enlist under Colonel Welsh in the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, but was rejected on account of his eyesight, being blind in one eye. He then joined the Seventy-sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry,

by resorting to a trick. In order to get past the inspection officer he changed sides with a man next to him and was successful. The Seventy-sixth Regiment performed valiant service in Kentucky. Mr. Johnson for the most part performed scouting and picket duty.

After the war, Mr. Johnson came back to Decatur county, and resumed farming on the old Johnson homestead, entered from the government by his father. This tract, originally comprising one hundred and sixty acres, was later enlarged by the addition of forty acres, making two hundred acres in all. He has always been a farmer and very successful in a business way. At the present time he is living with his youngest daughter.

In 1871 Mr. Johnson was married to Sarah Jones, a daughter of the Rev. Preston Jones, and a native of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had two children, namely: Mrs. Lilly (Johnson) Miers, the wife of Willard Miers, and Fannie, a teacher in the Burney schools, who lives with her father.

Mr. Johnson's father was a Whig politically, but upon the organization of the Republican party identified himself with that political organization. John Johnson, who was formerly a Republican, now is a Prohibitionist. For many years he has been prominent in the fraternal circles of this section, being a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford and a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney, Indiana. On March 4, 1913, Mr. Johnson had the misfortune to lose his wife, who passed away quietly, and whose remains are buried at Milford. At the present time he is in fair health only, but nevertheless his mind is clear and active and he has a vivid and accurate memory of the many stirring incidents of his life. He has been a useful citizen in this county and a man who well deserves the respect, which, in his declining years, is showered upon him by the people of Clay township.

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### JOHN T. CUSKADEN.

John T. Cuskaden, postmaster at St. Paul, Decatur county, Indiana, farmer, school teacher and real estate dealer, prominent Democrat and public-spirited citizen, was born on July 6, 1858, in Clay township, south-east of Milford, the son of George W. and Charity (Bartley) Cuskaden.

The paternal ancestry of John T. Cuskaden came to America from Ireland. George W. Cuskaden was a native of County Donegal, Ireland, who came to America about 1850. He landed in New Orleans, and after some wandering located in New York city, where he became an Irish linen

peddler. This was the foundation of his business fortune, which has been one of more than ordinary success. After peddling and walking across the country he finally landed in Greensburg, where he abandoned his pack and went to work on a farm for Hi Alley, for whom he worked some one or two years, after which he was married to Charity Bartley in Jasper county, Illinois.

After his marriage George W. Cuskaden purchased eighty acres of land in Illinois. He came back to Decatur county and began the usual life of a man on a rented farm in Clay township. After renting land for about two years, he purchased a farm just west of Milford, comprising one hundred acres, and located on the Shelby county line. Here he lived for about ten years, when he sold out and moved to Oregon. After remaining in Oregon a year, he came back to Indiana and purchased a large farm in Shelby county, Indiana. A few years before his death, which occurred in March, 1914, he traded the Shelby county farm for city property in Shelbyville, where he lived the last years of his life.

George W. Cuskaden was a prominent Democrat in Shelby county, and was honored with four terms as county commissioner of that county. He was a man of keen perceptions and had a broad knowledge of human nature. He was a member of the Episcopal church. His good wife, Charity Bartley, was a native of Shelby county, born near St. Paul and the daughter of Jonathan and Elsie (Allen) Bartley, of Shelby county. The Allens of Shelby county are descended from early settlers in this part of the country who came from Massachusetts. They brought with them from old England considerable pewter plate which was later molded into bullets for self-defense. The present Cuskaden family has in its possession only one plate of this original collection. George Washington is supposed to have been served on this plate while in Trenton, New Jersey, some time during the Revolutionary War, by Mrs. Cuskaden's Grandmother Allen.

John T. Cuskaden grew to manhood in Shelby county, and was married in 1880 to Orpha Wright, a daughter of John Wright, who was an emigrant from Derbyshire, England. Her mother, Annie Ridlen, was a native of Shelby county. After Mr. Cuskaden was married he and his wife lived on a farm in Shelby county until about sixteen years ago, when he removed to St. Paul. Mr. Cuskaden taught school for twenty-two years. He has always taken an active interest in politics and is allied with the Democratic party, a stanch and true adherent of this party. He was appointed postmaster of St. Paul on August 1, 1914.



Mr. and Mrs. Cuskaden have had two children, Charity Ann, who was born on August 30, 1881, and who married Charles F. Mitchell, of Shelby county, has four children, Mildred M., Allen Wright, John William and Malcom F., and Ora Wright, on October 26, 1887, married Dora E. Roberts, of Shelby county, and they have one child, Clarice Winifred.

There is no doubt that Mr. Cuskaden, who has always been prominent in public affairs in Shelby and Decatur counties, owes much of his success to the splendid equipment he was permitted to obtain in the common schools of Shelby county and later in the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. It was at the latter school he prepared for teaching. It was there that he developed his native capacity for learning and became a student of history and politics. John T. Cuskaden is a good man and a good citizen.

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#### LONDA WRIGHT.

Londa Wright, one of the prominent farmers and citizens of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, now living one and one-half miles north of Westport, was born on the old Richard Wright homestead in Clay township, near the Liberty church, and is a son of Richard and Luvica (Stark) Wright, the latter of whom was a daughter of Caleb and Anna (Boone) Wright. The genealogy and family history of the Wright and Stark families may be found in the biographical sketch of Caleb Stark Wright, contained elsewhere in this volume. Richard and Luvica (Stark) Wright had a number of children, of whom Londa was the youngest.

Born on the old Wright homestead in 1864, Londa Wright lived at home until he reached the age of twenty years, at which time his father died. He supplemented the education he received in the common schools of his home township in Decatur county by some fifty weeks spent at the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. From the time he was twenty years old until he was twenty-three, Mr. Wright was engaged in teaching school.

In 1888 Londa Wright was married to Minnie May Smiley, a daughter of Harvey and Serilda (Robbins) Smiley, who was born on May 17, 1870, in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana. Her father was a native of Franklin county, Indiana, and when a lad came to Decatur county, where he became a prosperous farmer. He was a son of William Smiley, whose family history is contained elsewhere in this volume.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Wright began life together on a



farm of one hundred and eight acres, one and one-half miles north of Horace, in Sand Creek township. His present farm, which comprises two hundred and seventeen acres of fine land, is known as the old Robert Armstrong farm and is one of the best to be found in Sand Creek township.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright are the parents of five children, Arthur, born on April 5, 1890; Robert C., December 13, 1891; Lois Victoria, December 11, 1894, and Marshall and Margaret, twins, April 26, 1906.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Wright is progressive in his political ideas and principles, and is in no sense a hide-bound partisan. Both he and his good wife are members of the Baptist church at Westport. Formerly he was a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Greensburg, and during his membership there, passed through all the chairs, but some time ago dimitted on account of his inability to attend lodge meetings.

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### JOSEPH CORY.

In the history of the agricultural life of Decatur county, Joseph Cory, the proprietor of "Sulphur Springs Farm" of one hundred and sixty-eight acres, four miles from Greensburg on the Vandalia pike, occupies a conspicuous place. During almost a half century he has been one of the representative farmers of Decatur county, progressive, enterprising and persevering. Such qualities always bring a satisfactory reward. While Mr. Cory has benefited himself and the community in a material way, he has also been an influential factor in the educational, political and moral life of Washington township.

Joseph Cory was born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on December 26, 1845, a son of James and Martha (Dorton) Cory, the former of whom was born in 1817, coming to Decatur county about 1844, at which time he purchased the farm now owned by George Logan, where all of his children, except the eldest, were born and grew to manhood and womanhood. Mrs. Martha (Dorton) Cory, who was born in 1822, and whose parents came from New Jersey to Union county, Indiana, where their children were born, died in June, 1899. James Cory owned two hundred and forty acres of fine land in Decatur county, and was a Republican in politics. He was a successful farmer and a stockman of ability and promise. Mrs. Martha Cory's brother and sisters were John, Matthew, Ann and Belle.

James Cory was a son of Joseph and Nancy (Baker) Cory, the former



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH CORY.



of whom, born in New Jersey, in December, 1788, came to Ohio on horseback in young manhood. The Cory family is of Scottish and English origin. Nancy (Baker) Cory was a daughter of Daniel and Hannah (Westfield) Baker, the latter of whom was a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Halsey) Westfield. Daniel Baker was one of eight children born to Nathaniel and Abigail (Hendricks) Baker. Nathaniel Baker was born in Scotland in 1716, and came to America in 1735. He died on January 17, 1786, in his seventieth year, and his wife died on October 3, 1775, in her fifty-sixth year.

At the age of twenty-one years, Daniel Baker, who had enlisted as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, attracted the attention of Gen. George Washington, and served on his personal staff. It was Daniel Baker who piloted General Washington through the British lines to a silversmith for the purpose of having the general's field-glasses repaired. Daniel and Hannah (Halsey) Baker were the parents of nine children, Rhoda, Mary, Jacob, Joseph, Patrick, Philip, Elizabeth, Hannah and Nancy. In 1814 Daniel Baker and wife, with their children, came west to Ohio, where his death occurred in 1830, and there was inscribed upon his tombstone the following words: "A companion of Washington."

To James and Martha (Dorton) Cory six children were born, those besides the subject of this sketch being: Ephraim, who is a resident of Missouri; Henry, living in Iowa; Mrs. Sarah Carter, widow of Elijah Carter, living at Alexandria, Indiana; James, a resident of Clay township, living south of Burney, and Mrs. Belle Pleak, wife of Charles Pleak, living in Iowa.

Joseph Cory lived at home on his father's farm until his marriage on November 14, 1871, to Leanora Deem, the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Riner) Deem. Thomas Deem was born in Ohio in 1796, and came with his family from Ohio to this county, about 1831, locating on the farm where Joseph Cory now lives, where he died in 1853. His family remained there until about 1865, when they removed to Adams, where Mrs. Deem, widow of Thomas, died in 1895. Of their ten children five are still living, namely: Mrs. Catherine Daily, the widow of A. G. Daily, living in Greensburg at the age of eighty-five years; John W. Deem, of Greensburg, is eighty-four years of age; Mrs. Elizabeth Whitlow, wife of John Whitlow, a resident of Topeka, Kansas, eighty-one years of age; Oliver Deem, seventy-four years of age, a resident of Greensburg, and Mrs. Joseph Cory, the wife of the subject of this review. The deceased children of Thomas Deem and wife were Mrs. Eliza Anne Steward, who was the wife of Barney Steward, both of whom are now deceased; Lemuel, deceased; William

Henry, who died while in the service of his country during the Civil War; Thomas Henry, also a soldier of the Civil War, who died while in the service, and Mrs. Mary Anna Heaton, widow of Thomas Heaton, who died on March 6, 1915. The mother of these children, who, before her marriage, was Sarah Riner, was born, on October 20, 1809, in Virginia, and removed with her parents to Butler county, Ohio, in 1846. She was married to Thomas Deem in 1825, and they removed to Decatur county in 1833.

To Joseph and Leanora (Deem) Cory two children have been born, Walter B., deceased, and Irma, who married John M. Douglas, a native of this county, who is farming the old home place for Mr. Cory.

"Sulphur Springs Farm" in Washington township, consists of a fine quality of soil, which is gently undulating, and there general farming and stock raising are carried on. The farm is beautifully situated and the buildings are kept in a first-class state of repair. Hogs, corn and clover are the chief products of the farm, and Joseph Cory has always been rated as a successful farmer and business man.

The part which Joseph Cory has played in the agricultural development of Decatur county, Indiana, cannot be overestimated, but he has been no less prominent as a farmer than as a business man and citizen, and today, surrounded with all the material comforts of life, he enjoys the respect of his neighbors and the esteem of everyone with whom he has ever come in contact.

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#### WILLIAM H. MOBLEY.

In Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, one mile east of Harts-ville and about five miles southwest of Burney on the Columbus and Greensburg pike, lives William H. Mobley, a distinguished citizen, farmer and mule dealer, who it may be truthfully said, had he been born and reared under the shadow of and influence of Wall street, would certainly have become one of America's foremost captains of industry and millionaires. A comparatively young man but a man who is today known in all of the leading mule markets of the world, he could, if he decided to convert his personal property into cash and liquidate whatever indebtedness he has, have, besides his twelve hundred and eighty-five acres of rich farming land in Decatur county, at least twenty thousand dollars in cash. He is one of the largest horse and mule dealers in the Middle West and buys from all parts of the United States and ships to all of the leading markets of this

country, mules worth at least a half million dollars every year. Although he has expended great muscular and physical energy in his work, he has made his brain do most of the work and this is one of the secrets of his large success.

A man who is not yet forty-five years old and who has never had a single dollar given to him, his wealth today probably amounts to over two hundred thousand dollars. In 1894 he bought forty acres of land and in 1901 he had accumulated four hundred and ten acres which had cost him fifty-five dollars an acre and upon which he had a loan of twenty thousand dollars. Since then he has bought and sold several farms and has now twelve hundred and eighty-five acres.

William H. Mobley, who was born in 1871, is the son of John Henry and Mary Ann (Burk) Mobley, natives of Pennsylvania and of Scotch-Irish descent and who came to Indiana about 1842 and settled in Bartholomew county on a farm. His father was a successful farmer and business man and died in 1897 at the age of seventy-five years. He was a strong Republican in politics and leader in the councils of his party during his life. Mrs. Mary Ann Mobley was the daughter of Hunter Burk, who married a Miss Hunter, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Mobley lives in Bartholomew county with her youngest son. She and her husband had a family of ten children, Lyman, who lives in Kansas; Mrs. Emma Wilson, of Bartholomew county; Randolph M., who is a resident of North Dakota; Theodore, who lives in Bartholomew county; Mrs. Margaret Wright, who lives in California; Mrs. Ella Loose, who died in Iowa; Loren, who died in infancy; Arthur, who died in infancy; William H., the subject of this sketch, and James Hunter, who resides in Bartholomew county.

Large successes generally have small beginnings. It was so with the career of William H. Mobley. Beginning in a small way, his rise to fortune has become a matter of remarkable interest to the people of this county. The home farm and outbuildings are well kept and present a pleasing home appearance, nevertheless, an air of large and important business. The sale barn is eighty by one hundred and thirty-two feet and the cattle barn, fifty by eighty feet. Mr. Mobley holds auction sales attended by buyers from all parts of the country. The size of the buildings on his home farm and the business-like appearance of the establishment, suggest the auction barns of the large cities. Besides the two large barns on the farm, there is also a blacksmith shop and a garage. The owner of this great business enterprise has been offered one hundred and fifty dollars an acre for his home farm,

comprising four hundred and fifteen acres, and, according to the tax duplicates of Decatur county, is the highest-priced land to be found in the county. Mr. Mobley thinks real estate, and especially farm real estate, is the best investment in the world. The annual sales of the Mobley farm amount to between thirty and forty thousand dollars for every sale and at least one sale amounted to sixty-one thousand dollars. William H. Mobley buys one carload or ten carloads of mules in as many minutes and makes a thousand or two dollars quite as quickly. The expenses of his business are enormous for an enterprise of this kind. Ordinarily his telephone rent amounts to fifty dollars a month and he pays high wages to all of his employees. One man worked for him for ten years and received sixty dollars a month during the entire time. There are six tenant houses on the farm and the tenants rent land for one-third of the annual production. Men regularly employed on the farm, however, live at Hartsville. On September 25, 1914, the date of Mr. Mobley's annual sale, five hundred mules were sold. He has from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head of mules on hand at all times of the year and raises about two hundred head of cattle every year.

As a matter of fact, the large capacity for business with which William H. Mobley is endowed is not surprising when it is remembered that his deceased father was a large speculator, having the same active instinct regarding business.

In 1903 Mr. Mobley was married to Grace Pearl Myers, of Decatur county, the daughter of George M. and Mary Alice (Taylor) Myers, the former of whom lives one mile east of Forest Hill on a farm of one hundred acres, and who is a son of William Myers. Mary Alice Taylor was the daughter of George and Hannah (Wise) Taylor. To Mr. and Mrs. Mobley have been born two children, Mary Florine, in 1904, and Franklin Wayne, in 1908.

William H. Mobley has made good because he has given strict attention to his business. His striking personality has been no small factor in his success. He believes in taking chances and, moreover, he believes in taking big chances. To begin with, he is a man of highly progressive ideas. His mind is always at work. Although he received a good common school education and additional training in Hartsville College, there is nothing in his educational experience which would account for his magnificent success in life. While talking to you he leaves the impression of a man who knows what he wants and how to get it. He has always been a heavy borrower of money and is a stockholder in the Burney State Bank and a director of the Hope State Bank. He is a firm believer in his home county and believes in



investing in land in this county rather than in other states. Everything that Mr. Mobley buys, he buys at home, if it is at all possible to do so.

Although a Republican, he is interested in politics only as a citizen, and would not have the best office within the gift of the people if it were offered him. Any community is indeed fortunate to have as one of its citizens a man of the temper and ability of William H. Mobley, who is widely and favorably known.

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### CLARENCE E. GREELEY.

The Greeley Stone Company of St. Paul, Indiana, is one of the large and flourishing enterprises of Decatur county and one in which the people of this county have every reason to take great pride. This enterprise is the conception of a father and two sons, the latter being Clarence E. and R. E. Greeley, both of whom have been residents of St. Paul since the beginning of the industry in 1908.

In the first place, the Greeley Stone Company, which was incorporated in 1908, with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars, is the largest plant of its kind in Decatur county, employing twenty-five men and producing twelve hundred carloads annually of stone for road building and concrete work. The plant is located on sixteen acres of land on the bank of Flat-rock and has a capacity of one thousand tons per day. The stone is excavated to a depth of thirty feet and elevated for grinding. The crusher which is of the Gates design, breaks the stone into different sizes and delivers the product into waiting cars on a special track owned by the company. The plant is operated by a one-hundred-and-fifty-horse-power engine, which derives its power from two hundred-and fifty-horse-power boilers. Besides crushing all sizes of stones for road purposes, the company crushes and pulverizes limestone dust for fertilizer. This dust is obtained by screening and is a by-product of which about one carload daily is produced. By chemical analysis it shows about ninety-four per cent. calcium carbide and magnesia, and is valuable for fertilizer and is extensively used in this section. The pay roll of the company is from eight hundred to one thousand dollars per month and in 1914 amounted to nearly sixteen thousand dollars.

The geniuses who are behind this industry, actively, are Clarence E. Greeley, secretary and treasurer, and R. E. Greeley, general manager. Albert Greeley, of Muncie, Indiana, the father of Clarence E. and R. E., is the vice-president of the company. Clarence E. Greeley is a native of

Warren county, Ohio, being born on the Little Miami river in 1879, the son of Albert and Tena Greeley, both of whom were born in Ohio. Albert Greeley was engaged in the saw-mill and flour-milling business at Foster Crossing, Ohio, until the beginning of the gas boom in Delaware county, Indiana, when he moved to this state. After moving to Muncie, Indiana, he engaged in the lumber business, in which he has been very successful. He is now rated as one of the substantial business men of Delaware county. In 1908 the Greeley Stone Company was incorporated and another industry added to the interest of the Greeley family. Albert Greeley was president of the Indiana Lumber Dealers' Association and is, at the present time, one of the directors of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Indiana.

Born in Warren county, Ohio, Clarence Greeley was educated in the public schools of Muncie, Indiana. When twenty-four years of age, he engaged in the lumber business at Selma, a small town east of Muncie, and there he was very successful. From Selma, he moved to Illinois, where he was also engaged in the lumber business. He sold out in 1908 at the time of the organization of the Greeley Stone Company.

Clarence E. Greeley was married to Louise Bantly Kirk, a native of Muncie, Indiana, and the daughter of John and Bertha Kirk, also natives of Muncie. Mr. and Mrs. Greeley have one daughter, Helen, who was born in 1903.

R. E. Greeley, who is the general manager of the Greeley Stone Company, was born in Ohio in 1881 and was educated at Muncie, Indiana, and at Culver Military School. Before the organization of the Greeley Stone Company, he was also engaged in the lumber business. In 1901 H. E. Greeley was married to Velma Keltner, a daughter of Dr. F. M. and Rebecca Keltner, of Muncie. Mr. and Mrs. Greeley have four children, Mildred, thirteen years old; Robert, ten years old; Francis, seven years old, and Virginia, six years old.

Both Clarence E. and R. E. Greeley have been active in politics since coming to Decatur county. They are ardent and active Republicans as is their father also. R. E. was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Muncie, but has since transferred his membership to the Greensburg lodge, and R. E. Greeley is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

Here in Decatur county, the Greeley brothers have come to be recognized as among its most aggressive and capable young business men. The industry which they helped to establish and which they manage, has brought thousands of dollars to this county and the people here are highly pleased with their great success.

## JOHN W. BURNEY.

The careers of men who have been successful are instructive as guides and incentives to those who are just beginning life. The examples which successful men furnish, patient purpose and consecutive endeavor, strongly illustrate what each and every man may accomplish. John Burney, a model citizen of Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, is a man whose life is a conspicuous example of industry, courage as a citizen, wise and frugal living, cordial relations with the public generally. As a farmer he has enjoyed a large measure of success. He owns two large tracts of land, one a farm of two hundred acres, two miles northwest of Burney, and another of two hundred and eight acres, three and one-half miles southwest of town on the Columbus and Greensburg pike. The latter is known as the Graham farm.

John W. Burney was born on the old Burney homestead now owned by Edward Jackson, son-in-law of S. M. Burney, in 1849. He is the son of S. M. and Sarah (Pumphrey) Burney, old citizens of this county. S. M. Burney was born in 1814 in North Carolina, and came to Decatur county with his parents in pioneer times when Clay township was nothing but a howling wilderness. The family settled on the farm that Edward Jackson now owns, and which is known as the old Burney farm. The parents of S. M. Burney spent the remainder of their lives in Milford, the mother having died at the home of her son, S. M. He was a very successful farmer and owned several hundred acres of land in this county. He gave five hundred dollars to the town of Burney when it was founded and purchased stock in the railroad when it was built. Burney was named for him. A progressive, broad-minded man, his word was as good as his bond. A public-spirited citizen, he donated several hundred dollars to the building of the Methodist church at Milford and at Burney. He was a stanch Democrat and true to his party. While he never asked for office, he always held at heart the welfare of his party and country. He left the impress of his character and influence upon the life of this community, and died full of honors as only a private citizen who has done well his duty can die. He passed away in 1901 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Edward Jackson. The Pumphreys are an old family in this section.

John W. Burney began life for himself when about twenty-five years old. He had a small start from his father, but has accumulated most of his land and property by his own efforts.

In 1875 Mr. Burney was married to Mary Sharp, daughter of James

Sharp, a native of Decatur county, and an old and well-established family in Sand Creek township. The Sharps were early settlers here, and prominent in the social and agricultural life of the county.

Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John W. Burney, of whom Samuel, Annie, Opal and Orli are deceased; Lula, Clara, Arthur, Clifford, Bertha, Mattie and Ethel. Arthur lives in Adams; Bertha is the wife of Charles Gilliland, of Hope; Mattie married Clarence Thompson, of Burney; Ethel lives at home; Clifford married Blanche Horner. Although Mr. Burney is a staunch and true Democrat, he is, nevertheless, a progressive thinker, and is somewhat independent in his political thought and action. In 1890 he was elected trustee of Clay township, and gave a most efficient and satisfactory administration. He is a man well respected in this community and well known. Fraternally, Mr. Burney is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney. He is a charter member of this organization.

Mr. Burney's success as a farmer he attributes to raising corn and hogs, because from these he has derived his greatest profits.

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### ALBERT BOLING.

The ancestral history of the Boling family in Decatur county goes back to the time when Benjamin Boling, a native of Virginia and the scion of a very old family of the Old Dominion, emigrated to Decatur county in 1818, four years before the city of Greensburg was laid out, and here homestead a farm of eighty acres, now owned by Albert Boling, the present treasurer of Decatur county. The Boling family have been prominent property owners in Decatur county for at least three generations and they have also been prominent in the civic and political life of this section. No case can be cited where they have ever failed to discharge worthily the sacred trusts imposed upon them by their neighbors and fellow citizens. Albert Boling has conscientiously and faithfully performed the duties of treasurer of Decatur county, and the efficiency and honesty with which he has managed this office were rewarded in 1914 by his election to a second term.

Albert Boling, who was born on October 4, 1867, on a farm near the Decatur and Franklin county line, is the son of William W. and Hannah (Humphrey) Boling, the former of whom was born on October 8, 1828, and

died in 1898, and the latter of whom was born in 1857 and is still living at Adams, in this county. William W. Boling was the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Boling, natives of Virginia, who, after coming to Decatur county in 1818 and homesteading the farm of eighty acres now owned by Albert Boling, lived in an Indian wigwam for a time, or until they could clear a place for and erect a house. Benjamin Boling died at the age of twenty-eight, a few years after coming to Decatur county. His widow, who lived to be ninety-two years of age, died near Crawfordsville, Montgomery county, Indiana. William W. Boling spent the whole of his life on the ancestral farm.

To William W. and Hannah (Humphrey) Boling were born five daughters and seven sons, two of whom, Alice, the first born, and Jasper, the seventh born, are deceased, the former dying in January, 1914. Of the surviving children, Mary lives in Clay township; Mrs. Martha Carr lives at Frankfort; Ada is the wife of Wilbur W. Wright, of Adams; Edna lives in Indianapolis; Albert is the subject of this sketch; George is engaged in the hardware business at St. Paul, this county; Walter also lives in St. Paul; Clyde, Elmer and Owen live in Indianapolis, where the latter is an attorney.

Educated in the district school of his neighborhood, located near the Decatur and Franklin county line, and in the Stubbs high school, Albert Boling was engaged in farming until he was thirty years of age. He then engaged in the grain business at Adams, and remained there for seventeen years, or until his election as treasurer of Decatur county in the fall of 1912. Having been re-elected in the fall of 1914, he is now serving his second term. Mr. Boling owns the old home farm, which now comprises altogether a hundred and twenty acres, city property in Indianapolis, and in Adams, where he owns a large grain elevator and residence. He is therefore entitled to rank as one of the well-to-do farmers, business men and citizens of this county.

Albert Boling was married in April, 1893, when he was twenty-six years old, to Carrie Harrison, daughter of Robert Harrison, an early settler of Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana. To this union two children have been born, Dorothy and Robert, both of whom are attending school.

For three generations the politics of the Boling family has been decidedly Democratic. Benjamin Boling was a Democrat, William W. Boling was a Democrat, and the son and grandson, Albert, the subject of this sketch,

is and has always been an ardent and enthusiastic Democrat and has been for years a leader in the councils of his party. Mr. and Mrs. Boling and family are members of the Christian church, and the former is a member of St. Paul Lodge No. 368, Knights of Pythias. Honorable in all the relations of life, private as well as public, Albert Boling has a host of friends in Decatur county, men who have stood valiantly at his side and fought the battles waged for the political success that is now his. He is a man who never forgets and never fails to cherish his obligations to a friend and to those who have stood by him in a common thought and for a common cause. He well deserves the confidence of the people of the citizenship of this county.

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### RICHARD T. STOTT.

That the Stott family was among the first to settle in the state of Indiana is proved by a tax receipt now owned by the venerable Richard T. Stott, of near Westport, Sand Creek township, Decatur county, which shows that his father, Louis Lunsford Stott, in 1813, paid taxes in Indiana for the years 1810, 1811 and 1812. Of course this was before Indiana was admitted to the Union, and before in reality it was a state at all. The family was founded in America by the great-grandfather of Richard T. Stott, who emigrated from Germany to Scotland, and from Scotland came to America. Raleigh Stott, the grandfather of Richard T., was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, who migrated from one of the Eastern states to the Middle West. Raleigh Stott's son, who was Richard T.'s father, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and Richard T. Stott was a soldier in the Civil War, so that with the possible exception of the Mexican War, members of this family have fought valiantly in behalf of individual and personal freedom in all of our great wars.

Richard T. Stott, who was born on November 14, 1842, in Jennings county, three miles south of Westport, is the son of Louis Lunsford and Sallie (Stewart) Stott, the former of whom was born in 1780 and who died in 1856. Louis Lunsford Stott had first married Miss Allen, who bore him eight children, all of whom are now deceased and the names of whom were as follow: Christopher, the father of Capt W. T. Stott, a former sheriff of Decatur county; Mrs. Hulda New, Allen, Mrs. Polly Griffin, Mrs. Mariah Kirtley, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Frances Marian and Mrs. Sarah Jane Gaston. By the second marriage there were three chil-



dren: D. W., who is deceased; Richard T., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Susan Newsome, who lives at Azalia, Indiana.

After removing to Decatur from Bartholomew county, when Mr. Stott was four years old, his mother died, and he was taken by an uncle, Willis C. Stribbling, who lived near Sardinia, Decatur county, to be reared, together with a sister. Here he lived until he grew to manhood, attending, so far as possible, the pioneer country schools of the time and receiving a limited education. After the breaking out of the Civil War, Richard Stott was only nineteen years old. Nevertheless he enlisted on July 8, 1861, in Company H, Nineteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served three years, three months and eleven days. Having been assigned to the commissary department on detached service, he was under fire in nearly all of the battles and especially was on the firing line in the second battle of Bull Run, the battles of Fredericksburg, South Mountain, Antietam and Gettysburg, as well as the Wilderness campaign.

Returning home at the close of the Civil War, Mr. Stott began farming in Jackson township on rented land, and late in 1865 was married. During the earlier years of his married life he lived in Decatur and Bartholomew counties, spending two years in Illinois later on, in 1881 and 1882. For seven years he lived in Edinburg after his removal to Decatur county, in March, 1907. He now owns a farm of twenty acres adjoining Westport.

In 1865 Mr. Stott was married to Eliza Ann Chaille, who was born on April 3, 1844, in Jennings county, Indiana, near Butlerville, and who is the daughter of William D. and Hulda A. Chaille, the former of whom was a native of Indiana, born on December 26, 1814, and the latter of whom was born on February 19, 1806. William D. Chaille was the son of John and Jane (Duncan) Chaille, natives of Maryland, who came to Indiana after their marriage. A brother of Jane (Duncan) Chaille was a soldier in the Revolutionary army and was held a prisoner by the British for seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Stott have six living children, as follow: Dora C., who lives at Richmond, Indiana, has one daughter, Leota, by his first wife, who was a Miss Davis; his present wife is Birdellia (Rose); Hulda Elizabeth is the wife of William A. Knight, who lives near Sardinia, and has four sons, James R., Wallace L., George Taylor and John F.; William Preston lives near Auburn in the state of Washington; Louis Eldridge, of Indianapolis, married Rosa Smeiser, and they have three children, Louis Graves, Beryl Taylor and Russell Payne; John Franklin, of Colorado, married Mary Wilds, and they have one child, Martha Emily;



James M., of Edinburg, married Ethel Russell, and they have one child, Loring Russell.

Politically, Mr. Stott is a Republican. He and his good wife are members of the Baptist church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men at Edinburg, and of the Knights of Pythias at Westport. He has filled all of the chairs in the Red Men's lodge. Mr. Stott is also a member of Fred Small Post No. 531, Grand Army of the Republic, at Westport.

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### HUBER C. MOORE.

Perhaps no county in the state is on a sounder basis as regards its banking and financial affairs than is Decatur county. In the hands of safe, conservative men, the banks of the county are noted for their solidity and for the careful manner in which the money entrusted to their care is handled. For the most part, the men engaged in banking in this county have had special training for their work and the mere technical side of banking is conducted with a degree of accuracy and a proper regard for the most conservative forms of investment, insuring to depositors a feeling of safety. Among the banks of more recent origin in this county, few, if any, have made larger strides in public confidence than the Burney State Bank, of Burney, the pleasant village in Clay township, which in late years has made such rapid progress in industrial, commercial and civic development. This bank, which was opened for business on December 22, 1913, had a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars, and has enjoyed an unusual degree of success. Surrounded by rich farming territory, peopled by substantial stock raisers and shippers, the opportunities for modern banking methods were awaiting the coming of the gentlemen who organized the Burney bank and these opportunities have been promptly and properly utilized, the number of depositors of the bank growing from the very first day of the opening of the bank, until they now number more than four hundred and are increasing daily. The officers of this bank are as follow: William G. Smiley, president; John W. Corya, vice-president; Huber C. Moore, cashier; the other directors being John Gartin, Frank Alexander, W. F. McCullough.

Huber C. Moore was born at Morgan, Kentucky, in 1890, a son of James P. and Sarah J. (Green) Moore, both natives of Kentucky, the latter of whom was born in the city of Lexington, a daughter of John Green. Mrs. Moore died some years ago and Mr. Moore continues to make his home in

Kentucky, being one of the prominent and wealthy citizens of Pendleton county, that state. James P. Moore is one of the best-known bee breeders in the country, his apiary supplying a demand for queen bees in all parts of the world. He has been in the business of bee culture for the past twenty-five years and has been very successful, the variety of bees of which he makes a specialty having created a wonderful demand.

Huber C. Moore received his elementary education in the schools of Falmouth, Kentucky, following his graduation from the high school at that place with a course of one year at the Kentucky State University, after which he pursued a thorough course in a business college at Lexington. Thus equipped for a business career, Mr. Moore entered the employ of the Citizens State Bank, of Falmouth, Kentucky, as assistant cashier, remaining with this bank for two years, at the end of which time his services were secured by the Indiana National Bank, of Indianapolis, and he moved to the Indiana state capital, remaining with the Indiana National Bank at that place for a period of four years, at the end of which time his services were solicited as cashier of the newly organized bank at Burney, this county. Mr. Moore accepted this proffer and upon the opening of the Burney State Bank was installed as cashier, a position which he since has occupied, his skilled and efficient service having proved most satisfactory, not only to the directors of the bank, but to the customers of the same.

On December 25, 1910, Huber C. Moore was united in marriage to Olive Ruby Williams, of Whiteland, Indiana, daughter of Dr. Luke P. V. and Sarah Jane (Woollen) Williams, the former of whom is a native of Kentucky and the latter of whom is a native of Ohio. Dr. Luke P. V. Williams was born in 1862, son of Luke P. and Elizabeth P. (Simer) Williams, both natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was of Welsh descent and the latter of whom was of German descent. Sarah Jane Woollen was the daughter of John W. and Mary C. Woollen, who moved from Ohio to Kentucky in 1883, they also being of German descent.

Dr. Luke P. V. Williams, who is a direct descendant of Roger Williams, "that noble champion of religious liberty," of whom Milton thus sang, the founder of Rhode Island, who came to America from Wales in 1636, was a member of the last Kentucky constitutional convention, having represented the counties of Bath and Rowan in that historic gathering. He was reared in Kentucky and from the days of his young manhood took an active part in the affairs of his community. He is a man of tremendous energy; in fact, a veritable "human dynamo," as some of his friends characterize him. He early began to take a prominent part in Kentucky politics and,

besides the distinction of being a member of the constitutional convention, above noted, served as an elector on the Democratic ticket from his district in the second Cleveland campaign. Some years ago he moved to Indiana, locating at Whiteland, in Johnson county, where he organized the Whiteland National bank. He also was active in the organization of the Jonesville State Bank, of Jonesville, this state, and was one of the principal promoters of the organization of the Burney State Bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore are members of the Baptist church at Burney and are active in the good works of the community. Though comparatively recent additions to the society of that pleasant village, they have entered into the social life of the town with characteristic energy and are among the most enthusiastic promoters of the various and rapidly growing interests of the village. Mr. Moore is a Democrat and takes an intelligent and proper interest in the political affairs of the county, being an ardent advocate of all measures along the line of good government. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and at present is much interested in the plan which is being promoted for the erection of a fine new two-story Pythian hall in Burney. He is an enterprising and energetic young man and his native love for the intricacies of business and financial life has given him an interest in his life's work which rapidly is bringing him to the front as one of the most prominent young financiers of Decatur county, he having displayed an ability in this direction that has inspired in the breasts of his business associates the utmost confidence and respect, they having the highest regard for the ability he has displayed in conducting the difficult transactions which confront him in connection with his important position in the bank.

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#### HENRY CHRIS BOWMAN.

Henry Chris Bowman, an enterprising farmer of Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns one hundred and sixty acres for which he has worked and for which he has himself paid, is a splendid type of the self-made American citizen and his career forcibly illustrates what industry, economy and good management may accomplish. There is no man living in Decatur county who deserves more personal credit for what he has accomplished than Mr. Bowman, since he has by his own hard toil and by his systematic and methodical saving, built up his own fortune and obtained for himself and his good wife all the comforts which they now enjoy.

Henry Chris Bowman was born on March 9, 1867, in Franklin county, Indiana, the son of Henry and Johannah (Thesin) Bowman, natives of Germany, who were married after coming to this country. Henry C. Bowman left home at the age of twenty-one and came to Decatur county, working for twelve years for William Warder Hamilton, a pioneer mule dealer of Decatur county. At the end of twelve years' hard toil, he had saved fifteen hundred dollars and out of this he paid one thousand dollars down on the farm he purchased at this time and used the other five hundred dollars to stock the farm. His father, who was born in 1825, was killed in 1870 while working as a carpenter on the Enochsburg church. He had come to America in 1841.

Henry, Sr., and Johannah Bowman had three children, Mary, who is deceased; Lena, who married Clem Rowling, a dairyman, who lives near Cincinnati, and Henry C., the subject of this sketch. After the death of Mr. Bowman, the mother married again, this time to Martin Frichtman, and they had eight children, George, who lives in Decatur county; John, of Washington township; Matthew, who lives on the Robinson farm; Kate, the wife of Joseph Mincke, of Cincinnati, who died in October, 1914; Lizzie, the wife of George Lampe, of Shelbyville; Sophronia, the wife of William Oberlein, of St. Louis; Rosa, who married Chester Luther, of Shelbyville, and Celia, of Indianapolis. The mother of these children died in Shelbyville, Indiana, at the age of seventy-eight years, in 1908.

At the time Henry Chris Bowman purchased his farm in Washington township, the farm was very much run down. He and his good wife lived in an old house on the place until they were able to erect a handsome, modern farm residence. The house sets back from the road and leading down to it is a large, well-kept farm. The barn, which is sixty-four by sixty feet, was built in 1908, and a corn-crib built in 1911 cost five hundred dollars. Altogether about eight thousand dollars has been spent in various kinds of improvements, including fencing and tiling. When Mr. Bowman first purchased the farm, he sold hogs at three dollars a hundred. He has had a hard time to get on in the world and has always been a hard worker. One of the secrets of his success, perhaps, is that he never sells any grain, but feeds all that he raises to hogs and cattle, selling a hundred head of hogs and from twelve to fifteen head of cattle every year.

On September 2, 1884, Mr. Bowman was married to Bridget Woods, who was born on December 4, 1864, in County Clare, Ireland, and who is the daughter of John and Bridget (Kerivan) Woods, who came to America in 1880 and located on a farm three miles from Zenas, Indiana. It is a matter of interest to note here the St. Denis's church was named after Denis Woods,

Mrs. Bowman's uncle, who gave ten acres of ground for the church. Mrs. \*Bowman's father died in 1889 and her mother in 1890, one year later. John and Bridget Woods had six children, Mrs. Marie Slattery, who lives in Ireland; John, who died in Jennings county, in 1913; Sarah, the wife of William Vansickle, of Kansas; Thomas, of near St. Denis, who married Margaret Duffy; Denis, who died in 1888, and Mrs. Bowman.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Bowman have been born four children, Florine, the wife of Samuel Ardery, of Washington township; John, who lives at home on the farm; Rosa, who died at the age of twenty-three years, on April 6, 1912, and Sophia Lillian, fourteen years of age, is a student in the Greensburg high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Bowman have at their command practically every convenience which is available to anyone who lives on the farm. They are fortunate in having at their disposal a natural gas well, located on the farm, and also an artesian well. They have most comfortable and convenient buildings located on magnificent grounds which are always well kept, and they themselves are the people who most deserve to enjoy these conveniences. Although Mr. Bowman owns an automobile along with the other comforts of life, yet he still works very hard and he and his good wife deserve great credit and praise for what they have accomplished. Genial and hospitable by nature, they are popular in the community where they reside. Mr. Bowman is a Democrat. The Bowman family are all members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Greensburg.

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### JAMES B. THROP.

Settlement was just beginning in Decatur county, Indiana, in 1821, when Thomas Throp, a native of New Jersey, who had immigrated to Warren county, Ohio, in 1817, came on west to Decatur county, Indiana, and purchased the northeast one-quarter of section 23, township 11, range 10, comprising one hundred and sixty acres and located in what is now Fugit township. The deed for this farm, which was signed by James Monroe, was dated on December 17, 1821, and this worthy pioneer had previously entered the farm where a daughter, Margaret J., now resides, an entire section which he purchased at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. It was Thomas Throp, the father of the late James B. Throp, who established the family in Decatur county. When he came to Decatur county, the land was covered

with heavy timber, but he cleared a place for a home and later built a log cabin. His granddaughter, Margaret J. Throp, lives in the first brick house which he erected.

The late James B. Throp, who at the time of his death was one of the wealthiest farmers in Decatur county, owning six hundred and eighty acres of well-cultivated and fertile land, the son of Thomas and Ellen (Emily) Throp, was born on December 22, 1815, in Monmouth county, New Jersey, and died April 6, 1864. His father, who was born on October 17, 1776, was married on November 29, 1800, to Ellen Emily, who was born on November 30, 1784, and who died on August 12, 1859. They had ten children, William F., who was born on August 7, 1802; Bethany, December 15, 1804, who married Daniel Eden, of near Adams; Jane, March 4, 1807, who married James Freeman, a merchant of Greensburg; John I., March 15, 1810; Mary Ann, December 23, 1812, who married a Mr. Gilham; James B., the subject of this sketch; Eleanor, February 10, 1818, who married Granville Kindred; Margaret Finley, April 26, 1820, married a Mr. Clark; Charles C., December 6, 1822, and Wesley, November 29, 1825. All of these children erected homes in the vicinity of the old home on the Throp land.

The late James B. Throp was six years old when his parents moved from Warren county, Ohio, to Decatur county, Indiana, and when he was twelve years old, he moved with his parents to a brick mansion erected about 1827. In this house he lived continuously until his death, on April 6, 1884. Owning six hundred and eighty acres of land, during the latter years of his life, and being one of the most extensive farmers in Decatur county, he was naturally well known.

The wife of the late James B. Throp was Mary Kerrick, who was born near Fairfield, in Franklin county, Indiana, on August 15, 1830, and died in 1907, at the age of seventy-six. She was the daughter of Thomas and Phoebe Kerrick, of Loudoun county, Virginia. The Kerricks comprised an old family of the Old Dominion state and included many teachers and preachers. Mrs. Thomas Kerrick's mother was a prominent member of the Quaker church. Thomas Kerrick taught a subscription school in Franklin county and was paid partly in supplies and partly in cash. He had come from Virginia to Ohio, and finally to Franklin county, Indiana, in 1857. After purchasing land in Decatur county, he moved here. Rev. Nimrod Kerrick, a son of Thomas and the brother of Mrs. Throp, was for many years a prominent teacher and minister in Decatur county. He was the eldest child and the others were James, Walter, Armisted, Mrs. Mary Throp, Joanna, Hugh and Stephen, fourth child.



The late James B. Throp and wife had three children, Ella, the wife of Marshall Newhouse, who died in 1907; Phoebe A., the wife of George Wirt, who lives in Fugit township, and Margaret J., who lives on the old homestead and who owns one hundred and sixty acres of this farm and one hundred and eighty acres of her mother's original old home farm, a total of three hundred and forty acres. She is an active member of the Mt. Carmel Methodist Episcopal church.

Not only was James B. Throp a prominent farmer, but he was also prominent in fraternal and religious circles in his community, being a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Clarksburg and a regular attendant at the services of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he was an ardent Republican, who believed strongly in the principles of Abraham Lincoln and the principles of the party which Lincoln helped to found.

No volume purporting to set forth the historical annals of Decatur county would be complete which did not contain a record of the life and works of James B. Throp, a well-known citizen and farmer during his day and generation, one who had a large part in the pioneer development of this splendid county now in a high state of development. James B. Throp belonged to a family which has never failed to measure up to the opportunities and obligations of their time. The Throp family has performed well its duties in all the multifarious relations of human existence.

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### WESLEY THROP.

The late Wesley Throp, of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, belonged to one of the oldest families of the county, his father, Thomas Throp, a native of New Jersey, who had come to Warren county, Ohio, in 1817, having emigrated to Decatur county and entered a tract of land from the government in 1821, at a time when the settlement of Decatur was just beginning. Since 1821, therefore, a period of nearly a century, the Throp family have been prominent in the agricultural, political and civic life of this section, and in all of this period have contributed materially to the progress and prosperity of Decatur county. It was so with the original Thomas Throp, and also true of the family he left at the time of his death.

The late Wesley Throp, who, during his lifetime, was a well-known farmer of Fugit township, and who owned two hundred and forty acres of land at the time of his death, land which is now in the possession of a son, Bruce, and a daughter, Miss Jennie, himself was born on December 29, 1825,



the son of Thomas and Ellen (Emily) Throp, the former of whom was born on October 17, 1776, and who was married, November 29, 1800, to Ellen Emily, who was born on November 30, 1784, and who died on August 12, 1859. Of their ten children, William was born on August 7, 1802; Bethany, December 15, 1804, and married Daniel Heaton, of near Adams; Jane, March 4, 1807, married James Freeman, a merchant of Greensburg; John I., March 15, 1810; Mary Ann, December 23, 1812, and married, first, a Mr. Miller, and second, Talbert Gillam; James B. was an extensive farmer of Fugit township during his life, December 22, 1815, and married to Mary Kerrick, who was born on August 15, 1830, and who died in 1907, and died on April 6, 1884; Eleanor, February 10, 1818, and married Granville Kindred; Margaret Finley, April 26, 1820, and married Richard Clark; Charles C., December 6, 1822, married, first, Kate Roberts, and second, May Sneiderger, and Wesley, the subject of this sketch, November 29, 1825. All of the children erected homes in the vicinity of the old homestead and owned the Throp land.

The subject of this sketch, who was the youngest child born to his parents, was a native of Decatur county, born after the removal of the parents from Warren county, Ohio, to Indiana, and he spent all of his life in this section. After his marriage, in 1855, he and his wife began housekeeping in a log cabin on his farm, and a few years later removed to a new frame house which he built, now occupied by his daughter, Jennie, and his son, Bruce. Here the parents lived until their death. Eventually, he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land, adding to his original tract as he was able to do so, and this entire farm is still intact and is still owned by members of his family.

On September 4, 1855, Wesley Throp was married to Nancy M. Ardery, who was born on January 22, 1835, in Fugit township, the fifth child born to her parents, Thomas and Martha (McKee) Ardery, the former of whom was born in 1801, and who died in 1846. The latter was a daughter of Daniel McKee. Thomas and Martha (McKee) Ardery were natives of Kentucky, who were married in that state and who came with their family to Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1830. Their children were Mrs. Jane Wallace Smith, deceased; Mrs. Mary Alexander Walters, deceased; Mrs. Martha Thomas Thomson, deceased; Mrs. Eliza Archibald Spear, of Rushville; David A., a well-known farmer of Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, and John William, who died in youth.

Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Throp, three are now deceased. The living children are Bruce, the eldest child, born on November 22, 1856, and lives on the old home farm with his sister, Jennie, April 4,

1873, the sixth child; Mattie, April 11, 1867, who was the fifth child in her parents' family, married William R. Pleak, and lives at Culpeper, Virginia. The deceased children are Luna, Omer and Bessie. Luna was born, February 4, 1859, and died on April 25, 1862; Omer, February 10, 1862, and died on October 7, 1863; Bessie, January 24, 1865, married William Schomper, and died on November 23, 1890. She left one son, Ralph, born on November 21, 1890. He lives in Tipton county, Indiana.

The father of all these children, who passed away quietly at his home in Fugt township on August 18, 1881, was a Republican in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian church at Kingston at the time of his death. He was also a charter member of Clarksburg Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons. His wife survived him many years, dying on February 3, 1914.

The only male descendant of the late Wesley Throp is his son, Bruce, who is unmarried, and who lives on the home farm with his sister, Miss Jennie. In fact, these two members of the family of Wesley Throp are the only ones who now reside in Decatur county. Miss Throp is a member of the Kingston Presbyterian church, and for many years has been active in church work. Wesley Throp was a man who was highly respected during his life, a man of honorable and humane impulses, kind to his family and cordial to his neighbors, one of the empire builders, whose work and labors live on, even though the author of the work and labors has passed away.

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### MAX RUHL.

It is a distinction of no mean importance to have lived to become the oldest living native-born settler of the township of one's residence. This distinction belongs to the venerable Max Ruhl, a retired farmer of Marion township, now living in Millhousen, himself the son of native-born German parents, who settled in this township three-quarters of a century ago. While it is a considerable distinction to have attained the rank of the oldest living native-born citizen of a township, it is a further distinction to have lived an honorable and useful life in this community and this also belongs to the life works and career of Max Ruhl.

The venerable Max Ruhl, a pioneer citizen and farmer of Marion township, now living retired in Millhousen, was born on February 15, 1843, on a farm in this township in a log cabin, built by his father, the late Gehardt Ruhl. This farm, which now comprises two hundred acres all in one tract,

is a productive body of land, which, in recent years, has been maintained in a high state of cultivation. A magnificent house sets back a quarter of a mile from the main road and is reached by a well-kept driveway. Gerhardtl Ruhl, who was born in Germany, came to America when a young man and, after working in Cincinnati and Franklin county for some time, in 1840 settled in Marion township, one mile north of Millhausen. It is literally true that his farm was cut out of the virgin forest. Here he cleared in all one hundred and twenty acres of land and, in the meantime, built a comfortable home. He passed away at the the age of sixty-six on February 8, 1875. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Ann Peters and to whom he was married at Oldenburg, Franklin county, died on March 10, 1872. They reared a family of ten children, seven of whom are now living and three deceased. Mrs. Caroline Fischer, who was the eldest; Christ, the fourth born, and Catherine, the youngest. The living children are, Max, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, who lives in Cincinnati; Mrs. Mary Henneker, who lives in Millhausen; John, of Minnesota; Grefor, who lives on a farm near Batesville; Adam, of Indianapolis, and Anthony, of Cleveland, Ohio.

When Max Ruhl was a young man, he worked in various parts of the country and, for a considerable period, was engaged in driving a team for a miller at Millhausen, Indiana. After his marriage, in 1872, he came back to the home farm and eventually purchased the interest of the other heirs to his father's and mother's estate in the home farm of one hundred and twenty acres and has since added eighty acres to the original tract, making in all two hundred acres. When we consider that practically the entire value of this two hundred acres has been created by its present owner and that he has had little assistance of anybody, we can understand his real work as a citizen, since this value could not have been created and this farm could not have been paid for and increased without hard and laborious efforts, unflinching determination, frugal living and careful management, all of which are distinctive marks of worthy citizenship. This venerable pioneer citizen deserves inexpressible credit for his many sturdy qualities of head and heart.

On January 7, 1872, he was married in the state of Ohio to Rosa Spander, who was born on February 15, 1850, and who has been the companion in all of his struggles, trials and tribulations of his early life and the triumphs and comforts of his later years.

In one respect Mr. and Mrs. Ruhl have been exceptionally fortunate, since every one of the six children born to them is still living, is married and rearing a family of his or her own. The names of the children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Mary, William, John, Clara, Anna and Law-

rence. Mary married Joseph Zapfe, of Jennings county, and has eight children, Luella, Esther, Harry, William, Edward, Olivia, Lawrence and Raymond. William, who lives on a farm in Marion township, first married Rosa Herbert. After her death, he married a Miss Roszczell and has two children, Leo and Herbert. John, who lives in Kokomo, in Howard county, Indiana, married Julia Ann Zapfe and has two children, Esther and Albert; Clara became the wife of William Fry, of Marion township, and has three children, Alfred, Olivia and Ferdinand; Anna, who is the wife of Harry Leuken, of Marion township, has four children, Luella, Edna, Frank and Walter, and Lawrence, who married Josephine Blankman, lives on the home place.

Max Ruhl has never been an office seeker nor has he ever been active in the councils of the Democratic party, with which he is affiliated in Marion township, since he has always preferred to devote his time and attention to his home, his family and his farm. The Ruhl family are all members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhausen.

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#### WILLIAM HARRISON ISGRIGG.

In the industrial field there are few names better known in Decatur county than that which the reader notes above. One of the most prominent building contractors in southern Indiana, a form of activity to which he turned his attention very naturally, following the footsteps of his father, who was one of the best-known builders and decorators in this part of the state, Mr. Isgrigg has made a name for himself which must be enduring in this region, for the buildings which he has erected hereabout stand as impressive testimonials of the substantial character of his work.

The firm of W. H. Isgrigg & Son, for Mr. Isgrigg's son, Isaac J. Isgrigg, is associated with him, does a business of not less than one hundred thousand dollars to two hundred thousand dollars annually, employing a large number of workmen. This firm has made a specialty of erecting school buildings and is well known in this field, having in the last few years completed twelve high and grade schools. They have also completed many other buildings, such as churches, passenger stations, factories, etc. At the time this is being written, the firm is erecting the Young Men's Christian Association building in Greensburg.

Mr. Isgrigg also has done work in Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Wichita, Colorado City, Ft. Scott, Dodge City and other cities in Iowa,

Michigan and Nebraska and in Arkansas City and other cities in the West and South. He started contracting in 1873, operating under the firm style of Isgrigg & Brown and later under the firm style of Isgrigg & Tumulty, then for a time he again operated alone, in 1904 taking his son, Isaac J. Isgrigg, into partnership, since which time the firm has been W. H. Isgrigg & Son and has been very successful.

William Harrison Isgrigg was born in the city of Greensburg, Decatur county, on April 16, 1853, the son of Jefferson and Martha Rebecca (Morris) Isgrigg, natives, respectively, of Ripley and Dearborn counties, this state. Jefferson Isgrigg, who was born on November 4, 1828, and died on July 8, 1859, was the son of Elijah Isgrigg, who came to America with his father, Daniel Isgrigg, from England when nine years of age and settled in Ripley county, this state. Jefferson Isgrigg was reared in Ripley county and learned the trade of plasterer and stucco worker, becoming very proficient in that line of work. On February 29, 1852, he married Martha Rebecca Morris, who was born six miles north of Lawrenceburg, in Dearborn county, on December 28, 1833, daughter of Isaac and Matilda (Fitzgerald) Morris, natives, respectively, of Wayne county, Virginia, and Newcastle, Kentucky. Matilda Fitzgerald was a daughter of Joseph Fitzgerald, a native of Ireland, who fought in the War of American Independence under General Wayne. Isaac Morris was a son of Amos and Rebecca (Tyler) Morris, the latter of whom was a sister of John Tyler, tenth President of the United States.

On March 1, 1853, a little more than a year after his marriage, Jefferson Isgrigg came to Greensburg to perform the ornamental work on the Decatur county court house, which was being erected at that time, and liked the town so well that he remained, making Greensburg his headquarters the rest of his life, although his work required him to travel extensively over the country. To Jefferson and Martha Rebecca (Morris) Isgrigg were born three children, Mrs. Nellie Throp, William Harrison, the subject of this sketch, and Sarah, who was born on January 26, 1856, and died on September 29, 1857.

William H. Isgrigg was educated in the schools of Greensburg and early devoted himself to the building trades, following in the footsteps of his father. With a view to learning the business literally from "the ground up" he began at an early age to learn the bricklayer's trade under William Dyer and Mr. J. W. Stites. At fourteen years of age he started to carrying the hod and served his apprenticeship of three years. Upon completing his trade, he started out as a journeyman workman, going westward through Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. After acquiring some very practical experience by this

method, he returned to Greensburg and engaged in contracting on his own account. He later was associated with others in the same line of business, as noted above, and in 1904 made his son, Isaac J. Isgrigg, a partner in the business, since which time the firm has been known as W. H. Isgrigg & Son, one of the most successful and energetic firms of building contractors in the state of Indiana.

On December 10, 1882, William Harrison Isgrigg was united in marriage to Vira Byrum, of this county, and to this union two children have been born, Isaac J., on December 5, 1883, who married Lela Gayette Burke and has two children, Lela Florine and William Shelton, and Mary, July 18, 1885, married Frank Hamilton, a well-known attorney, of Greensburg, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and has one child, a son, William Everett.

Mr. Isgrigg is a Republican and gives due attention to the political affairs of his home county. He is an active, public-spirited citizen and is deeply interested in the cause of good government, throwing his influence invariably in behalf of such measures as are designed to uplift the common cause of the people. He is a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 136, Free and Accepted Masons, and is warmly interested in the affairs of that order. Starting at the very bottom of the ladder, so to speak, Mr. Isgrigg has created for himself a very distinct position in the industrial life of this part of the state and is honored and respected by all who know him or with whom his extensive building operations bring him in contact.

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#### DR. CHARLES B. GROVER.

Very likely there are no physicians practicing in Decatur county who have had a more general experience in the practice of a profession than Dr. Charles B. Grover, the proprietor of the Grover Sanatorium, which is located in the Everhart block, city of Greensburg, and which is fitted up especially for treating patients in emergency cases. The hospital has twelve beds and two attendant nurses during all hours of the day and night. It is quite natural that Dr. Charles B. Grover should be a successful physician, since he is descended from a family of medical experts, both his grandfathers having been physicians in New Hampshire, the state of his birth.

Born and reared on a farm in the state of New Hampshire, Dr. Charles B. Grover is from every standpoint a self-made man. The parental home, which was located near the new Hampshire and Vermont state line, was the





CHARLES B. GROVER, M. D.





scene of his early labors and the place where his early ambitions began to shape themselves. He was born, May 21, 1851, the son of Andrew T. and Laura (Kimball) Grover, who were intelligent, progressive and broad-minded people, and successful farmers.

The career of Dr. Charles B. Grover is a striking example of the young man, who is led away from home ties and home influences successfully to seek his fortune in the outside world. At the age of seventeen years he left home, parents and friends, and eventually arrived in Boston, where for three years he worked at various odd jobs, doing any sort of work which presented itself. A man of splendid physique, and powerful build, able to perform the most arduous labor, after three years in Boston he was lured by the opportunities for work in the Northwest, and for two years was engaged in various kinds of labor in the state of Minnesota. In the meantime, however, he had devoted his spare time to the study of medicine, and had spent almost two years continuously in grounding himself in the fundamentals of medicine and surgery. When scarcely past twenty-two years of age he returned to his New Hampshire home, and was there engaged in the practice near his old home for seven years. During this period he was associated with a well-known physician of that community, Doctor Weeks. Subsequently, however, he went from New Hampshire to Chicago, and for a short time was there engaged in the practice with a Doctor Wilson. Later he practiced medicine for seven years at Frankfort, Indiana, with a Doctor Saylor, and during all of this period was improving his medical education and enlarging his information by home study. He had come to be known by the medical profession in the various communities where he had practiced as a profound student of medical science.

In 1894 Doctor Grover came to Decatur county, locating at Greensburg, and one year later established the Doctor Grover Sanatorium, which had met with a very satisfactory measure of success. He is known today as one of the hardest-working physicians in Decatur county, and one who practices medicine for the love of the work, rather than for the desire of gain. Patients are welcome to his office and to his sanatorium. No questions are asked regarding their ability to pay for the treatment they receive. Fitted up with the latest appliances, devised for present-day practice, the sanatorium is especially equipped for the successful treatment of tubercular patients, and many of them have been cured under Doctor Grover's care and treatment. A self-made and a self-educated man, not only in medicine, but along broad and general lines of information, his entire evening periods are now devoted to the acquisition of the latest knowledge available to practi-

tioners of the medical profession. Genial, whole-souled, and indifferent to pecuniary success, Dr. Charles B. Grover has established for himself a place in the hearts of the people of the county seat, which no one is likely very soon to take away. Earnest and sincere in his life's vocation, he deserves to be classed among the citizens of Decatur county as one of nature's own noblemen. Doctor Grover is not only a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, and of the American Association of Progressive Medicine, but formerly he was a member of the American Medical Association.

In 1909 Dr. Charles B. Grover was married to Ethel Clemons, daughter of Henry Clemons, a well-known citizen of Greensburg, to which union two children have been born, Gladys and Laura Margarette.

A member of the Christian church since 1885, Doctor Grover is one of the leading members of the Greensburg congregation, and takes a reverent interest in the affairs of the church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Faribault, Minnesota. A Republican in politics, he has been honored by the people of this county to election as county coroner of Decatur county, and served four years in this office, from 1908 to 1912. During his residence in Clinton county he was deputy coroner there for eight years.

Men of Doctor Grover's type are so few that a community which numbers one among its citizens is fortunate indeed. When his work is finished he will have what money cannot buy, the respect and esteem of this county.

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### EDGAR EARL HITE.

The lawyer's training is vastly different now from what it was a generation ago. Today the best law schools are within the range of opportunity of every young man who aspires to the legal profession. Most of the younger lawyers have been trained efficiently in the standard law schools of the country. One of the well-known younger attorneys of Greensburg, Indiana, who enjoys the advantages of a splendid preparation for the law and a splendid training in the law, is Edgar Earl Hite.

Mr. Hite was born on October 3, 1881, on a farm near Clarksburg, in Decatur county, the son of Lewis E. and Elizabeth (Miller) Hite, the former of whom was born in 1849 in Rush county, and the latter of whom was born in 1851 in Fairfield, Franklin county, and who died in 1904. Lewis E. Hite

is the son of Nicholas Hite, who married Sarah Fisher. The latter was born in 1819 in Pennsylvania, and came overland with her parents from that state in 1830. She died in 1913. The former is a native of Virginia, and was an early settler in Rush county. Nicholas Hite, who was born at Staunton, Virginia, owned a large tract of splendid farming land on the Rush and Decatur county line. Edgar Earl Hite is one of three children born to his parents. The others are Albert M., a farmer, and Charles C., who is fifteen years old.

Edgar E. Hite, after having received a common school education, and having been graduated from the Clarksburg high school, spent the year 1900-01 in Butler College at Indianapolis, and then three months at the Indiana Law School at Indianapolis. Subsequently, he spent four years in Indiana University, from which he was graduated in 1905 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. From 1905 to 1906 Mr. Hite was associated with Judge Douglas Morris, now on the Indiana supreme court. Coming to Greensburg in October, 1907, he began the practice of law here, and served one year as deputy prosecuting attorney.

Since 1910 Mr. Hite has served as city attorney of Greensburg, having been elected by the city council of that year for four years. He was re-elected in 1914 for a term of four years. In 1904 he was a candidate for prosecuting attorney of Decatur and Bartholomew counties, and has always been active in politics. Recognized as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in this county, he served for two years as secretary of the Democratic central committee in Rush county, from 1905 to 1907. From 1908 to 1914 he was secretary of the Democratic central committee of Decatur county. He has also been secretary of the Democratic city committee since living in Greensburg.

Edgar E. Hite was married on October 19, 1908, to Eva M. Cartmel, daughter of Joseph A. and Susan Cartmel, formerly of Clarksburg. Mrs. Hite's father is now deceased. She is the mother of one daughter, Hazel Ione.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar E. Hite are members of the Christian church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He is at present chancellor commander of the Greensburg lodge, Knights of Pythias, and exalted ruler Greensburg Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

A young man of affable and agreeable personality, well learned in the law, Edgar E. Hite not only enjoys a comfortable practice in Decatur county, but is a highly respected citizen of the county, and one who enjoys to the fullest degree the confidence of the Decatur county people.

## GEORGE M. SCHEIDLER.

All success in this life represents progress, and those who laid down their burden in the dangerous days of the wilderness, planted the seeds that have, by careful pruning and scientific grafting, grown into trees whose fruits have benefited, not only the new country, for which they braved the perils of the seas to reach, but have reached far beyond our own shores, back to the homes of their native soil, and in fact over the entire civilized world, in many instances. For those of us who are interested in evolution and scientific progress, it is a matter of deep regret that we cannot know what will be accomplished along these lines after we are put away under our six feet of ground. The prosperous looking farm wagon of today bears but little resemblance to the oxen-drawn wagons of pioneer days.

George M. Scheidler, wagonmaker, of Marion township, was born on December 1, 1853, in Cincinnati. He is a son of John and Kunigunda (Steger) Scheidler. At the age of fifteen, he began to learn wagon making and repairing and machine repairs, and now conducts a general machine and repair shop at Millhousen, Marion township, which was established in 1862 by his father, and now is operated as the John Scheidler estate. He is a staunch Democrat, was elected trustee in 1908, and served six years. He was justice of the peace from 1878 to 1898, twenty consecutive years, and was notary public from 1898 to 1908, and is a member of St. Mary's church at Millhousen. His present farm covers two hundred acres of land in Marion township.

John Scheidler was born in Waldthurn, Bavaria, on June 19, 1826, and died on December 18, 1898. His wife, Kunigunda (Steger) Scheidler, was born on November 6, 1831, in Bavaria, Germany, where she was reared to young womanhood. He learned the wagon maker's trade in Germany, where he served three years as journeyman wagonwright. He came to America in 1849, and was married at Cincinnati in 1850, to Kunigunda Steger, who had come over with her parents. John came with his two sisters, Mrs. Hager, of Marion township, and Mrs. Anna Haubner, who lives near Cincinnati. In 1862 John came to Millhousen and established the business now carried on by his sons. Of their children there are only five who are now living, Adam died at the age of sixty years, at Earl Park; George, subject; John is a blacksmith at Millhousen; Catherine, Michael and Joseph died in infancy; Louis is a blacksmith; Joseph is in the employ of Herbert & Son, millers, at Millhousen; Herman is a farmer and lives in Ripley county; Edward, Francis and Anthony are all dead. John established his shop and dwelling in a little

farm building still standing in Millhousen. The business grew to considerable proportions, and in 1870 Mr. Scheidler erected a brick wagon, blacksmith and general machine repair shop, as well as a handsome brick dwelling, in the town, and in addition to this, he owned several pieces of valuable town property. The shop is yet the property of the estate. Mr. Scheidler is a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen. He was drafted in the Civil War, but paid a substitute to take his place.

George M. Scheidler was twice married, first to Catharine Koelker, on June 4, 1878. She died on September 10, 1883, leaving one daughter, Olivia (Heidlage) Oldenburg, who has a son, Victor. Mr. Scheidler's second marriage, on May 26, 1885, was to Josephine Huber, who died in April, 1895, leaving three sons, namely: Paul L., Lawrence J., and Carl R. Paul L. is married to Clara, daughter of Joseph Herbert, and has two sons, Norbert and Urban. He is a farmer; Lawrence attended the Terre Haute College, and graduated in 1915, and married Anna Moorman. He is a teacher in the high school, and Carl R. is in a clothing store at Greensburg.

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#### MICHAEL HEGER.

Few farmers living in Marion township deserve greater credit for their achievements and their accomplishments than Michael Heger, the largest individual land owner in Marion township, and a man who has earned every dollar of his wealth by his own indomitable energy, frugal living and careful management of his agricultural interests. The Heger estate comprises four hundred and thirty-five acres of which one hundred and fifty acres is creek bottom, and very rich soil. The remainder of the land is fairly level, and is an ideal farm, taken as a whole, for mixed farming, and stock raising. As the passerby approaches Cobb's Fork there may be seen, overlooking the wide valley and situated on a prominent eminence, the Heger homestead, which is reached by a gravel driveway one-fourth of a mile from the road. The spacious lawn surrounding the house is bounded by a large stone wall built in 1911. This wall also surrounds the spacious barnyard, where there has been erected a large bank barn, forty-four by fifty feet, and which is thirty-two feet to the eaves. Equipped with two sets of buildings and this large acreage, the farm is admirably adapted to the purposes and methods of its owner and proprietor. Not only is he the largest individual landowner in Marion township, but he likewise takes a very high rank among the farmers

of this township in the number of head of live stock raised and sold on the farm.

Michael Heger was born on January 5, 1859, in Oldenburg, Franklin county, Indiana, the son of Michael and Josephine (Scheidler) Heger, the former of whom was born in 1826, and who died on January 26, 1899, and the latter of whom was born in 1831, and who now lives at Millhausen. Both natives of Germany. Michael Heger, Sr., after coming to America, settled in Cincinnati, and when a young man married there, and removed to Franklin county, where he engaged in farming and manufacturing brick. Michael, Jr., was a mere child when the family moved to the Millhausen neighborhood. He is one of a family of nine children born to his parents, of whom eight are herewith named. John lives in Decatur, Illinois; Michael is the subject of this sketch; Jacob is deceased; Joseph lives in Missouri; William lives in Oklahoma; Frank died in infancy; Mrs. Wanner lives in Millhausen, and Mrs. Margaret Hardeback lives in Kokomo, Indiana.

Patience it may be said is the keynote of Mr. Heger's success. Until he was thirty-two years old he lived on the old home farm of his parents, and then invested first in the S. T. Lowe farm on February 2, 1891. From his savings since that time he has invested in additional land until he now owns four hundred and thirty-five acres, the largest single farm in Marion township. And with the able assistance of his good wife and his family he has personally earned all the money which has been invested in this large tract of land.

On October 30, 1880, Michael Heger was married to Cassilda Witt, who was born on April 10, 1858, in Decatur, Illinois, and who is the daughter of Xavier and Marian Schott, natives of France, who died in Decatur, Illinois. They had been farmers by occupation. Mr. Heger journeyed to Decatur, Illinois, to meet and to marry his wife.

The parents of Michael Heger, Jr., having been natives of Germany, and the parents of Mrs. Heger having been natives of France, the Heger children combine the sturdy character of their Germany ancestry with the quick, adaptable and keen intelligence of their French ancestry on the maternal side. Mr. and Mrs. Heger have had six children, as follow: Mary Josephine, who was born on August 29, 1883, married William Cahill, of Indianapolis; Francis Xavier, who was born on December 6, 1884, lives at home on the farm; Mary Conacunda, who was born on September 16, 1886, married Albert Fry, a son of Henry Fry, and since their marriage in the fall of 1914 they have lived on a farm in Marion township; Mary Philomena,



who was born on October 16, 1888, died on July 11, 1891; John Anthony, December 27, 1890, lives at home; Ruth Cassilda, May 13, 1894, also lives at home.

Mr. Heger has been identified with the Democratic party during his entire life. The Heger family are members of St. Mary's Catholic church, and are active in the affairs of this denomination.

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### GEORGE S. PERRY.

George S. Perry, a well-known farmer of Washington township, who owns one hundred and fifty acres of land three miles east of Greensburg, which was entered in 1825 by his grandfather, was born on April 6, 1866, and is the son of Leonard and Cinderella (Boyce) Perry, the former a native of Kentucky, who had come with his father, Dan S. Perry, Sr., from Kentucky to Washington township, Decatur county, in 1824, and the latter of whom was a native of Indiana and reared in Decatur county. After settling in Decatur county, Dan S. Perry, Sr., cleared a small tract and erected a log cabin. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, who had moved from the ancestral home in Virginia to the state of Kentucky, and it was his father, Frederick Perry, who was a member of the personal body guard of General Washington during the Revolutionary War. Leonard Perry, who lived on the ancestral farm for sixty years, was born in 1824 and died in 1909. His wife, who died in 1873, left a family of nine children, all of whom except George S., are residents of Greensburg, Mrs. Dinah P. Craig; Will L. and Louisa; Squire D., farmer; Mrs. Chester Edkins; Allen M. and Pierce, deceased, and Dan S., Jr., the cashier of the Greensburg National Bank.

George S. Perry was born on the old home farm where he now lives and where both his father and his grandfather had lived and died. Educated in the McCoy schools, he has been engaged in farming the ancestral farm of the Perrys his whole life. He raises a great number of cattle and hogs and specializes in Poland China hogs and Shorthorn cattle.

On August 16, 1892, George S. Perry was married to Retta Brodbeck, who was born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. They were married in Los Angeles, California, and have one child, Jean, who was born on January 16, 1895, and who is now attending a girls' seminary at Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Perry is a Democrat. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of

Elks. He is a worthy citizen of Decatur county, a capable farmer and one who has added new distinction to the family whose name he bears. Mr. and Mrs. Perry are popular socially in Washington township and in Greensburg, where they are so well known.

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### JOHN W. DEMOSS.

In every community may be found men who are especially deserving the respect and admiration of their neighbors on account of the severity of the struggle they have had for success and on account of the large measure of attainment which has attended their efforts. John W. DeMoss, the present sheriff of Decatur county, is a man who belongs to this class of citizens. Left an orphan at a tender age by the untimely death of his father while serving as a soldier in the Union army, he has had to make his own way in the world practically since he was ten years old. By the hardest kind of labor, by diligent and intelligent application to this labor, by economical living, consistent saving and careful management he has attained a position of high influence in this county, and no better evidence of the respect and admiration he enjoys can be cited than his election in 1912, and his re-election in 1914, to an office which was practically unsought.

John W. DeMoss was born on August 27, 1856, in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Benjamin Lewis and Harriet (Masters) DeMoss, the former of whom was born in 1832 and died in 1863, and the latter of whom was born in 1840 and died in 1901. Benjamin L. DeMoss, the son of William and Elizabeth DeMoss, early settlers in Decatur county, came with his parents to this county in the late thirties of the last century. His wife, who was the daughter of John and Hannah (Byrum) Masters, was a native of Kentucky, and her parents also settled in Decatur county, with a colony of citizens, in the early thirties.

Enlisting in the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, at the breaking out of the Civil War, despite his physical weakness, because he believed it was his duty to go, Benjamin L. DeMoss became ill and died of pneumonia at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He left a widow and three children, John W., Edward Wallace, now deceased, and Belle, who married Andrew Martin, of Marion township. The widow and children had a hard time to get along after the death of the father and husband. With the kind assistance of the children's grandparents and the neighbors, however,



JOHN W. DEMOSS.



they were able to live. Eventually, the mother married again, her second husband being E. E. Goodwin, and to this second union one child was born, Cortez, who is a carpenter.

John W. DeMoss has always worked hard. He began earning his own way in the world at a tender age, taking employment in a stone quarry when ten years old, carrying water for the men, and gradually worked himself into a good position. He saved his money and, from doing ordinary day's work has bought and paid for two hundred acres of excellent land in Sand Creek township. A highly qualified and skillful superintendent during his employment at the Harris City quarries, he used not only his muscles, but his brain as well, and this combination of muscular and mental energy is largely responsible for his success. In 1904 he began devoting himself to farming, choosing this rather than the foremanship of the quarries.

On April 12, 1877, John W. DeMoss was married to Martha A. Jackson, of Sand Creek township, daughter of William B. and Amanda Jackson, who was born on October 4, 1856, in Kentucky, her parents having come to Indiana during the Civil War times. To this union three sons and three daughters have been born. Of these children, Benjamin, a farmer, is operating the home farm. He married Euphemia McFarland and they have six children. Mrs. Bird Borden lives in Sand Creek township and has three children. Her husband is foreman for the contracting firm of Craig & Son, of Greensburg. Mrs. Della Styers has four children. Her husband owns a farm in Sand Creek township. Grover, who married Lena Hamer, and has one child, is the deputy sheriff under his father; Mrs. Belle Vandiver lives on a farm in Jackson township, and has three children. Irdo is a farmer in Sand Creek township.

In the fall of 1912 Mr. DeMoss was elected sheriff of Decatur county, and was re-elected to the same office in the fall of 1914. The office was practically unsought and came to him largely as a reward for his service in the past in behalf of Democratic principles and Democratic candidates. Sheriff and Mrs. DeMoss and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic lodge, which he joined in 1896, and the Knights of Pythias, which he joined in 1887.

Many men who have the advantage of a good start in life achieve a large measure of success, but the man who starts with nothing and who acquires a comfortable home, a competence in life, and rears a family of children, is undoubtedly entitled to the very greatest praise. Sheriff John W. DeMoss is a man of this character. Naturally he is very popular in Decatur county where he is so well known.

## JOSEPH B. KITCHIN.

That there are enormous differences in the casual power exerted by different minds, depending on their place of vantage in the social system, is, of course, true. Most men merely echo the prevailing opinion or swell the general tide of passion. Even so, such men in the aggregate give to opinion its tendency to prevail, and to passion its tidal and overwhelming power. But the contribution of a single member of the mass is not comparable with that of the individual who occupies a place of prominence or authority. Such a mind operates at a source, coloring all that springs from it, or at a crucial point where every slight deflection is enormously magnified in the consequence. There are not a few such men of initiative in Decatur county, one of the best known of whom is Joseph B. Kitchin, secretary and treasurer of the Greensburg Water Company and a man of very wide influence for good in the community in which his whole life has been spent, the subject of the following interesting biographical review.

Joseph B. Kitchin was born on a farm in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, on December 29, 1850, the son of Thomas and Sarah L. (Boone) Kitchin, natives, respectively, of Ohio and Kentucky, the former of whom was a son of Joseph Kitchin, a native of Pennsylvania, and who migrated to Ohio, coming thence to this county at an early day in the settlement of this section of Indiana. Joseph Kitchin was a farmer and blacksmith as well as a pioneer minister of the Methodist church. He came to this county from Pennsylvania after his sons had established homes here. He was the father of five children, Thomas; John; Bryce, who is still living at the age of eighty-six, making his home at Arkansas City, Kansas; Sarah, who married Michael Shera, a merchant of the early days in Greensburg, and Maria, who married James Munns and became a pioneer settler in the state of Iowa.

Thomas Kitchin, who was born in Ohio in the year 1818, emigrated to Decatur county with his brothers in the year 1839 and settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land, two miles south of Greensburg. To this farm he added, by purchase, until he had three hundred acres in one tract. He sold this and for a few years made his home in Greensburg, later moving to Lebanon, Indiana, where he resided for seven years, at the end of which time, in 1902, he returned to Greensburg, where his death occurred in 1904. Thomas Kitchin married Sarah Luffborough Boone, a daughter of Brumfield Boone, who was born in Kentucky, a son of Thomas Boone, a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, and to this union seven children were born, Rachel, the wife of Charles I. Ainsworth, of Greensburg; Joseph B., the

immediate subject of this sketch, and Frank B., formerly a farmer in a large way in this county, who lived in Greensburg until it became time to give his children the advantages of higher education, when, some years ago, he moved to Irvington, at Indianapolis, the seat of Butler College; the remaining four died in infancy.

The Boones are of Norman origin, the name at the time of the Norman invasion of England having been spelled Bohnn. The first family of the Bohnns to cross the channel into England settled in Lincolnshire and afterward some of the same name settled in Devonshire. It is from this latter family that the American Boones are descended. The Bohnn coat-of-arms was used before the fourteenth century, probably having been granted by an Anglo-Norman king. Not until the sixteenth century are the names Bohnn and Boone found in the same document. The first of this family to come to America was George Boone, who was born about 1670 at the old family seat, Brodwick, about eight miles from Exeter, England. There he married Mary Mauridge, by whom he had nine sons and two daughters. The entire family emigrated to America, landing at Philadelphia on October 10, 1717. George Boone purchased a tract of land in what is now Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and called it Exeter, in memory of the town in England from which he had emigrated. In this review it will be necessary to name but two of the sons born to the union of George and Mary (Mauridge) Boone, Joseph and Squire. Joseph Boone was the father of Thomas Boone, Mr. Kitchin's Revolutionary ancestor, and Squire Boone was the father of Daniel Boone, thus establishing the relationship of Thomas Boone and the immortal Daniel Boone, showing indeed that they were first cousins.

Thomas Boone served in the Revolutionary War as a private in Capt. James Murray's company of the Tenth Battalion of Lancaster County Militia, state of Pennsylvania, Robert Elder, colonel; having enlisted on April 12, 1781. He was born in the town of Reading, Pennsylvania, on August 21, 1759, and married Susannah Brumfield, a Pennsylvania Quakeress, being compelled to elope with her on account of the objections raised by the Quakers at that time to any of their number marrying outside the faith. After the war, he moved to Upper Sandusky, Ohio, where he lived for a short time, after which he moved to Limestone, which is now Maysville, Kentucky, and in the year 1791 moved to Bryant's Station, entering the blockhouse there, where Brumfield Boone was born in the same year. In 1794 Thomas Boone moved to a point on the little Miami river, just above Cincinnati, where, for a time, he operated a tavern, later going to Cincinnati. The Boone and Kitchin families still have old deeds showing Thomas Boone's ownership of property



in what is now the Bay street section of Cincinnati and some of the property owned by him is still in the possession of the family. In 1807 Thomas Boone moved to Oxford, Ohio, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, their bodies now resting in the old Baptist cemetery, four and one-half miles south and a little west of Oxford, near what was the old Boone farm.

Joseph Brumfield Kitchin was reared on the home farm in Washington township, this county, receiving his education in the home schools. Upon reaching manhood's estate he began farming on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in the same township, near the town of Greensburg. He prospered and as the years passed he increased his land holdings and also became actively interested in other enterprises. He now owns two valuable farms near Greensburg and has other extensive investments. Mr. Kitchin aided in the organization of the Greensburg National Bank in 1900 and for five years served this excellent financial institution in the capacity of cashier, still retaining a directorship in the bank. He is president of the Workingmen's Building and Loan Association and for some time has been secretary and treasurer of the Greensburg Water Company.

On July 26, 1871, Joseph Brumfield Kitchin was united in marriage with Nancy Elmira Robbins, a daughter of John E. and Nancy (Hunter) Robbins, a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families in Decatur county. Mrs. Kitchin also is of Revolutionary descent, tracing from William Robbins, a distinguished soldier in the war which secured to America the independence for which the patriots fought seven long years. William Robbins married Bethiah Vichery, who was born on December 1, 1760, and to this union there were born three children, Abel, Charity and Benjamin. The father of these children was killed in the Revolutionary War soon after enlisting in the service of the patriots and his widow subsequently married the second William Robbins, the scene of the wedding being in Guilford county, North Carolina. To this latter union there were born nine children, namely: Elizabeth, on February 5, 1788; Marmaduke and John, twins, May 15, 1789; Polly, April 9, 1791; Nathaniel, April 5, 1793; John, February 8, 1795; William, August 6, 1797, and Dosha, May 20, 1804.

The father of the children above named was born in Randolph county, North Carolina, on October 21, 1761, and in October, 1777, when sixteen years of age, enlisted as a private in the army of General Washington, remaining in the service until August, 1781, during which time he had but one captain, Capt. Joseph Clark, and two colonels, Colonel Dugan and Col. Anthony Sharp. Following the war, William Robbins moved from Virginia to Kentucky and in 1821 again moved, this time locating in Decatur county, Indiana.

He entered a farm from the government, about nine and one-half miles south of Greensburg, where, amid the hills, he carved a home out of the virgin forest. The first home which he set up for his family consisted of but one room, the house being constructed of hewed logs, to which was attached a lean-to, in which the family loom was set up. Presently he also erected a rude blacksmith shop of logs nearby and thus life in the new country was begun, the wife busy with her loom and other household duties and the husband busy in his smithy. On September 11, 1834, thirteen years after settling in this county, William Robbins died, his body being laid away in Mt. Pleasant cemetery, about six miles south of Greensburg.

The third William Robbins mentioned in this sketch, son of above, was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia on August 6, 1797, as noted above, and was taken by his parents to Henry county, Kentucky, to which point they emigrated. When, in the year 1821, they moved to the New Purchase, the name applied to that part of the new state in which they settled, William Robbins, then twenty-four years of age, accompanied them and selected a site for a farm for himself about one and one-half miles north of that selected by his parents. In 1822 he returned to Kentucky, where he married Eleanor Anderson, one of the pioneer belles of the neighborhood in which he formerly had lived. With his bride at his side, he returned to his new Indiana home and during that year his three sisters, together with his brothers, John and Nathaniel, settled in the same vicinity. In a short time other relatives of the Robbins family arrived in the same township and the Robbinses became prominent, both numerically and in the matter of the large influence they exerted in the early affairs of that part of the county, Nathaniel Robbins being the first justice of the peace in Sand Creek township.

William and Eleanor Robbins lived on the farm originally selected as their home during the remainder of their days, he dying on February 3, 1866, his widow surviving him until the year 1872. To William and Eleanor (Anderson) Robbins were born four children, namely: Sarilda, in October, 1823, who married William Styers; John E., February 20, 1825, who married Nancy Hunter; James G., June 10, 1827, married Elmira Stout, and Merrit H., in 1829, married Janet Gilchrist.

John E. Robbins remained on the paternal farm until November 7, 1844, the date of his marriage with Nancy Hunter, daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Hunter, at which time the young couple began housekeeping on a farm of forty acres given them by the bridegroom's father. They remained on this farm until February 15, 1848, by which time they had accumulated enough to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land one mile south of

Greensburg, on which place they made their home the remainder of their lives. To this purchase they subsequently added large tracts of land and other valuable interests, until their possessions consisted of about three thousand acres of land in Decatur county and two hundred and forty acres in Bartholomew county, besides personal property of large value. In 1882 John E. Robbins helped organize the Third National Bank of Greensburg, of which he was director and president until his death. Under his direction and management this bank grew to be one of the most substantial and successful institutions in the county. Mr. Robbins died on July 22, 1896. His widow, who had shared all his interests and labor, proving in all things a most willing and efficient helpmeet, continued to live on the home farm until her long and useful life closed on May 2, 1905.

To John E. and Nancy (Hunter) Robbins were born fourteen children, namely: Elizabeth Ellen, deceased; Charlotte Adaline died on February 11, 1869; Sarilda Ruth, who married H. K. Smiley; Minerva Jane, who married Archibald Gilchrist; Nancy Elmira, who married J. B. Kitchin; Sarah Jane, deceased; William Hunter, who married Cora Sefton; Clara Alinda, who married Frank B. Kitchin; Olive Ida, who married Robert McCoy; John Everman, who married Louisa Elder; Frank Rosco, who married Kate Sefton; Eliza Angeline, who married Will Q. Elder, and two who died in infancy.

To Joseph Brumfield and Nancy Elmira (Robbins) Kitchin were born three children, Maud Elmira, on October 18, 1872, who married Charles H. Johnston, of the firm of W. H. Robbins & Company, wholesale grocers, of Greensburg, to which union four children have been born, Mildred Elmira, Jo Charles, Marjorie and Thomas Ludlow; Otta Pearl, September 16, 1874, who married Charles Woodfill, of Greensburg, and has two children, daughters, Helen and Sarah, and Hal T., August 3, 1878, who married Iva Lanham and has one child, a son, Hal Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Kitchin are members of the Centenary Methodist church, in the various beneficences of which they always have taken an active interest and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Kitchin is a member of the Greensburg lodge of Elks. His large business and financial interests in and about Greensburg give to his position in that community a degree of stability second to none in the county and he naturally exerts a wide influence in the affairs of the community. Both he and Mrs. Kitchin are deeply concerned in all matters having to do with the general social welfare of the city and county and are held in the highest regard by all. Mrs. Kitchin and her daughters are members of the society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and are regarded as among the leaders in the social life of the city of Greensburg, their active influence ever being exerted in behalf of all move-

ments looking to the general betterment of conditions in this section of the state. Mrs. Kitchin's daughters are eligible to the Daughters of the American Revolution from three different ways. Hal T. is a Mason and has filled all chairs in the local lodge, and is a Knight Templar and a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Indianapolis.

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### HENRY FRY.

Reared under primitive conditions, and of German parentage, whose ancestors knew Indiana while the Indians still roamed her forests, Mr. Fry has advanced, step by step, making capital of every opportunity that crossed his pathway, until now, he stands at the top step of his desires, and, wisely enough, he knew when to stop and enjoy the fruits of his long years of labor. He has put aside enough of this world's goods to enable himself and wife to live in ease and comfort the remainder of their lives, in addition to which he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has been in a position to provide his own with the means whereby they have escaped the many struggles experienced by himself as a young man.

Henry Fry, a farmer of Millhousen, Marion township, Decatur county, was born on April 17, 1841, at Cincinnati, and is a son of John and Mary (Barger) Fry. Mr. Fry was reared in a log cabin, under very trying conditions and times, and was but nine years old when his mother died. He began life as a young man, with forty acres of land, which he soon increased to one hundred and eighty acres. This he sold, in 1904, to his sons, and moved to Millhousen, where he bought four acres of land, containing a good brick house, where he now lives. In 1865 Mr. Fry enlisted in Company C, Thirtieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, served until the close of the war, and did general duty at Goldsboro, Raleigh, and throughout the South after the war. His political policies are strongly Democratic, and he is a members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen.

John and Mary Fry were natives of Germany. They came out to the Millhousen settlement in 1841, and chopped a home from the woods, where they both died. After the death of his first wife (mother of our subject), Mr. Fry later was married to a Mrs. Moggert.

Henry Fry was united in marriage, in 1870, to Theresa Verekamp, who was born in 1851, on a farm in Marion township. She is a daughter of Frank and Theresa (Snyder) Verekamp, natives of Germany, who came at an early day to settle in Marion township, whose children were Frank.

deceased; John, deceased; Mrs. Anna Rolfes lives in Marion township, and has six children, Nora, Hilda, Martin, Harry, Richard and Clarence; George is a farmer in Marion township, and has been twice married. His first wife was Lucy Herbert, and his second wife was Mrs. Leda (Hutterbach) Herbert, by whom he has had five children, Virgie, Walter, Raymond, Sylvia and Herbert; William was married to Clara Ruhl, and lives on the home farm. They have three children, Alvin, Lillian and Ferdinand; Edward was united in marriage to Rosa Lucken. They live in Marion township, and have four sons, Oscar, Oswald, Lawrence and Edmund; Mrs. Laura Kroeger lives in Marion township and has two sons, Maurice and Charles.

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### HENRY H. LOGAN.

During nearly three-quarters of a century of residence in Decatur county, Indiana, various members of the Logan family have occupied many positions of trust and responsibility in the political life of this county. Not only is the Logan family one of the older families of this section, but they have always been noted for their high ideals, sterling integrity and large business capacity. Many of the members of the family have been farmers and their influence has greatly enriched the agricultural life of this county, making it wholesome and progressive, honorable and independent. In a material way, the earlier members of the family helped to clear the forest and drain the swamps. They had a most commendable part in the transformation of a wild and unbroken forest into fields of growing grain which now yield abundant harvests. Henry H. Logan, the eldest son of the founder of the Logan family in Decatur county, has himself had a most interesting and fruitful part in the development of this splendid community.

Born on September 17, 1841, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, Henry H. Logan was only one year and three months old when brought here by his father and mother, Samuel H. and Millie (Hice) Logan, in 1843. Arriving in Decatur county in April of 1843, Samuel H. Logan settled on land entered from the government by his father, John Logan, the farm now occupied and owned by Will W. Logan, a younger brother of Henry H. Samuel H. Logan, a native of Indiana county, Pennsylvania, born on February 1, 1819, was the son of John and Isabel (Graham) Logan, who came to America from Ireland late in the eighteenth century and located in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where they spent the remainder of their lives.



MR. AND MRS. HENRY H. LOGAN.





They had four children: Samuel H., Mrs. Hanna Hice, born on June 17, 1822; Mrs. Margaret Elliot, February 20, 1825, and Mrs. Ann Baker, July 12, 1827. The last named lives four miles from Greensburg, in this county.

Three years before coming to Decatur county, on November 26, 1840, Samuel H. Logan was married to Millie Hice, a native of New Jersey, born on October 20, 1818, the daughter of Henry Hice, who had come to America from Germany. Shortly after their marriage, or in 1843, they came to Decatur county. Samuel H. Logan was a clear-headed man, enterprising, public-spirited and an excellent farmer, and became one of the heaviest land holders in Decatur county. For some time he served his fellow citizens efficiently as a member of the board of county commissioners, and was honored and respected by the citizens of this community at the time of his death on October 19, 1904. His wife had died a quarter of a century previously, on October 15, 1879.

To Samuel H. and Millie (Hice) Logan ten children were born, of whom Henry H. is the eldest. The others are Isabella G., born on September 22, 1843, who is the widow of Samuel Applegate and resides in Greensburg; Mary S., November 26, 1845, the widow of Will Murray, who resides in Nevada, Missouri; John B., October 8, 1847, who is a traveling salesman and lives at Indianapolis; William W., who is a well-known farmer of Decatur county and lives on the old homestead; Sarah, October 19, 1852, the widow of Joseph Ketchum, lives in Cincinnati; Marine R., March 6, 1855, who died on May 22, 1885; Samuel, September 16, 1857, died on April 18, 1893; Emma J., August 20, 1860, died on August 16, 1865, and George M., September 13, 1862, who is the general agent of the International Harvester Company at Richmond, Indiana.

Like other members of the family, Henry H. Logan received the rudiments of an education in the local schools of Decatur county, principally at the Tarkington school house, which was located on his father's farm. His youth was not especially eventful but it may be said here that he performed with diligence and a willing spirit the tasks that fell to his lot as a young man in a pioneer community. He lived on the old homestead with his parents until his marriage and afterward moved to a farm of eighty acres given to him by his father. Later he purchased an additional eighty acres from his father. As a matter of fact, Mr. Logan has lived on the farm he now occupies, comprising one hundred and sixty acres in Washington township, since October 10, 1865, a period of just a half century. From time to time he has made additions and repairs to the houses,

barns, and outbuildings located on the farm and now owns a completely modernized residence, the equal of any in this community.

Henry H. Logan was married on the same date that he moved to his present farm, October 10, 1865, to Eliza Sidwell, who was born near Greensburg, in this county, on December 11, 1844, the daughter of Hugh and Eliza (English) Sidwell, early settlers of Decatur county. On October 10, 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Logan will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. They have reared several children, among whom is a nephew, Forest M., who lived with them from the time he was five years old. He was graduated from Purdue University and later attended the University of Illinois at Champaign, completing a course in civil engineering, and is now engaged in the practice of this profession in Chicago. He married Rein Robertson, of Lafayette, and they have one child, Alice Marie, who is eight years old.

For many years Henry H. Logan has been prominent in Masonic circles in Greensburg, being a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons. Both Mr. and Mrs. Logan are members of the Presbyterian church and he is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Logan spent the winter of 1914-15 in Florida, returning in the early spring, thoroughly imbued with the idea that "there is no place like home," and that Indiana, good old Hoosierdom, is the best place in the universe, after all.

Few farmers in this county are better or more favorably known than Henry H. Logan, and few have done more than he to win the confidence and esteem of the people of this county. By careful regard for the rights of his neighbors and friends, he has maintained cordial relations with the people of Decatur county and is today one of its most popular farmers and citizens.

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#### JACOB C. GLASS, M. D.

Physician, farmer, postmaster and ex-school teacher, Jacob C. Glass, M. D., of Millhousen, Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, is one of the most versatile men in his community. A product of Decatur county soil, he had always been a successful farmer and at the present time, owns a splendid farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the township of his residence. For eleven years a teacher in the public schools of Decatur county, during this period of his life, he was known as one of the foremost educators in the county. Since 1907 he has been engaged in the practice of medicine.

first in the state of Arkansas and later in Decatur county. Postmaster since 1908, he has filled this important office with credit to himself and has attained a high mark of proficiency in the management of the postal business. His career is a notable exception to the philosophy of the old saw, since he has not only followed many occupations, but he has and is following them with efficiency. His father and grandfather, having served in the Civil War, it may be truthfully said that he comes from militant and patriotic stock, and from a family which has been well known in this county for many years.

Dr. Jacob C. Glass, physician and surgeon of Millhousen, Indiana, was born on September 21, 1873, in Decatur county on the old Glass homestead in Adams township, the son of John T. and Susan Jane (Grant) Glass, the former of whom was a native of Decatur county, born on February 14, 1845, and who now resides in Greensburg, Indiana. A private soldier in Company E, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, John T. Glass served more than three years in the Civil War and, attached to the Army of the Cumberland, he fought at Stone's River, Chattanooga, Kenesaw Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, also in the beginning of the Atlanta campaign, when he was transferred to another part of the army to meet Beauregard at Knoxville. His father, William A. Glass, a native of Ireland, born in 1832 and died in 1900, came to America when a young man. He was a soldier in the Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served with distinction during a greater part of the war.

Reared on a farm in Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, Dr. Jacob C. Glass was educated in the common schools of the township and in the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana. In the earlier years of his life, he taught school for eleven years in Decatur county and subsequently, when he decided to study medicine, took the first year of his work in the Illinois Medical College at Chicago. His second, third and fourth years' work were taken at Kentucky University at Louisville, at which time he was graduated from that institution with high honors. For some time after his graduation, he practiced at Cotton Plant, Arkansas, having passed the Arkansas medical registration examination three months before his graduation. After one year's practice in the South, he settled at Millhousen, where he has been engaged continuously in the practice of his profession since 1908. Professionally, he is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, the Indiana State and the American Associations, a prominent member in all of these organizations, one who not only attends, but takes a prominent part in their proceedings.

In 1908 Dr. Glass was appointed postmaster at Millhousen and took

charge of this office on December 15, of that year. He has served continuously as postmaster since 1908, a period of seven years. For some time he has owned several farms in Marion township and devotes considerable attention to supervising the work on the farm.

In 1895 Dr. Jacob C. Glass was married to Ida May Crist, of Adams, the daughter of Abram and Kiturah Crist, who were early settlers in Decatur county, the former coming here from Franklin county on horse-back with only a small supply of pewter spoons and pie pans, the nucleus of the home which he established in the Decatur county wilderness.

Dr. and Mrs. Jacob C. Glass are members of the Presbyterian church, which is the family faith. Fraternally, he is prominent in Decatur county, being a member of seven fraternal societies. He is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 341, at Burney; the Adams lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Greensburg lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; the Fraternal Order of Eagles; the Improved Order of Red Men; the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Loyal Order of Moose.

Dr. Jacob C. Glass is a man of splendid professional attainments, and, being equipped with strong intellectual powers and native aggressive attainments, naturally has become a leader in all public movements in Marion township. He is a man who has never been known to waver in the slightest degree from the strict code of ethics maintained by the medical profession and who, in private life, has been quite as strict in the code of principles governing his relations with the public. He is not only a well-meaning citizen, but he is a man who is capable of carrying that perquisite into effect. Naturally, he is popular in Marion township, where he enjoys the confidence and esteem of a large number of friends.

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### JESSE H. STYERS.

The late Jesse H. Styers, who, until his death, on January 15, 1910, was one of the most prominent farmers and citizens of Decatur county, owed his large success in life to the fact that he was generally willing and able to do the right thing at the right time. A man of more than average attainment, he knew the tendency of farm values during his life, and from time to time invested his savings and profits in land. A man of large vision and one who knew how to get the very largest returns from an acre of land, he naturally became wealthy, and at the time of his death owned seven hundred and

twenty acres of land in this county. But the greatness of the late Jesse H. Styers, as a man and a citizen, did not consist wholly in his prosperous career as a farmer. He took a commendable interest in politics and served six years as a member of the Decatur county board of commissioners. In this office he was able to perform valuable service in behalf of public improvements, and his vote and his influence could always be depended upon in their behalf. He was not only a successful financier and a capable and efficient manager, but he was a man of scrupulous integrity, whose relations with his fellows was founded upon an inflexible and unyielding determination to do the right thing. He had at the time of his death many friends in Decatur county. Few men have passed away in recent years whose loss has been more generally mourned than this honored citizen of Sand Creek township.

Jesse H. Styers, who was born on February 4, 1844, and died on January 15, 1910, at the age of sixty-six years, was born in Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of William and Sarilda (Robbins) Styers, the former of whom a native of North Carolina, came to Greensburg when a young man and here engaged in carriage making, at which he worked for several years. Without friends and without resources he saved his money and, subsequently, at the time of his marriage, was able to purchase a small farm south of the city. There he engaged in the dairy business, and later extended his operations to general farming, in which he was very successful. He was able to give each of his children a farm and a good start on the highway of life. A prominent citizen during his life, he was a man of especially quiet and unassuming manner, a man who had an enviable reputation in the community where he lived. His home farm was just across the road from the farm owned by Frank and John E. Robbins.

William and Sarilda (Robbins) Styers had five children, three of whom, including Jesse H., are now deceased. William G. died lately in Sand Creek township; Evermont died on the old homestead, and his widow is now living in Greensburg with Mrs. Privit; Evermont left one daughter, Mrs. Earl Robbins, at the time of his death; Charles, the last son, lives in Indianapolis.

The mother of the late Jesse H. Styers, who, before her marriage to William Styers, was Sarilda Robbins, the daughter of William and Eleanor (Anderson) Robbins, was born in 1823. Her father, William Robbins, was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia, and was taken by his parents to Henry county, and later to Indiana in 1821. At the time of the removal to Indiana, William Robbins was twenty-four years old. He selected a site for a home for himself about one and one-half mile north of his father's home in Decatur county, and the next year returned to Kentucky and was married to

Eleanor Anderson, of that state. Upon their return to Indiana, they were accompanied by his three sisters and two brothers, John and Nathaniel, who settled in the same vicinity. A short time later, other relatives of the Robbins family came to the same township, which family became prominent, both as to numbers and influence, in the early affairs of the county. William and Eleanor Robbins lived on the farm originally selected as their home, during the remainder of their lives. They had four children, of whom Mr. Styers' mother was the eldest. The other three children were, John K., born on February 20, 1825, who married Nancy O. Hunter; James G., June 10, 1827, and who married Elmira Stout, and Holman, in 1829, who married Jeannette Gilchrist. William Robbins died on February 3, 1868, and his wife four years later.

Of the earlier history of the Robbins family, it may be said that the family begins with Bethiah Vickery, who was born on December 1, 1760, and who married William Robbins. They had three children, Albe, Charity and Benjamin. William Robbins was killed in the Revolutionary War soon after enlisting, and his widow married a second William Robbins in Guilford county, North Carolina. This couple had the following children: Marmaduke and Jacob, born on May 15, 1783; Elizabeth, February 5, 1788; Polly, April 9, 1791; Nathaniel, April 5, 1793; John, February 8, 1795; William, August 6, 1797, and Dosha, May 20, 1804. William Robbins, the second husband of Bethiah Vickery, was born on October 21, 1761, in Randolph county, North Carolina. In October, 1777, when sixteen years of age, he enlisted in the Revolutionary army, serving until 1781 under Capt. Joseph Clark and Colonel Dugan and Col. Anthony Sharp. He left Virginia for Henry county, Kentucky, and in 1821 came to Decatur county, settling nine and one-half miles south of Greensburg, where he made a home among the timbered hills. Trees were cleared away and a new log house of one room was erected with a shed, in which was built a room for carpet weaving and the weaving of many kinds of cloth. On September 11, 1834, William Robbins passed away and was buried at Mt. Pleasant cemetery. The third William Robbins, heretofore referred to in the children born to the second William Robbins and Bethiah Vickery, was the father of Mrs. Sarilda (Robbins) Styers.

The late Jesse H. Styers was married in 1872 to Emma C. Blume, who was born on February 28, 1844, near Hope, in Bartholomew county, and who is the daughter of Calvin and Maria (Warner) Blume, natives of North Carolina and Ohio, respectively. The father, who was born in 1824, came to Indiana with his father, John Philip Blume, in 1834. John Philip Blume was of German ancestry and had only fifty cents when he came to Bartholomew



county. He brought all his belongings in a covered wagon. During his life he accumulated a farm of two hundred acres of well-improved land. He was many years a justice of the peace in Bartholomew county. Calvin Blume was also a prosperous farmer and succeeded quite as well as his father before him. He had four children by his marriage to Maria Warner, two of whom are living and two of whom are deceased. Rufus, the first born, and Albert, the youngest, are deceased. Mrs. Emma C. Styers and Mrs. Mary Seiss are living. The latter is a resident of Missouri.

After their marriage, in 1872, Mr. and Mrs. Styers settled on the Styers farm, south of Greensburg, where they lived for one year and later removed to a farm of three hundred and ten acres in Sand Creek township, which farm is located in a beautiful section of Decatur county, where the ground is slightly rolling and where some of the land is very rich. There were very few improvements upon this property when Mr. and Mrs. Styers purchased it. Subsequently, they bought another farm and still other land until he owned, at the time of his death, seven hundred acres of land.

Mr. and Mrs. Styers had six children, three of whom are deceased and three of whom are still living, John died in September, 1914, leaving a widow and three children, Vera May, Carson and Maletta, lived on the home farm; George H., who lives on a farm given him by his father, has four children, Howard, Harold, Lawrence and Louise; Mrs. Hannah Moore, the wife of Delgar Moore, near Forest Hill, in Jackson township, has two children, Bernice and Arthur; Mrs. Nellie McGee lives near the Liberty church; and two of the Styers children, Loyley and Alpha, died in infancy. Before his death, Mr. Styers gave to each of his sons a farm of two hundred acres and reserved a three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm for the daughters.

The late Jesse H. Styers, at the age of eighteen, enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for eighteen months as a soldier in the Civil War. At the time of his death he was a member of the Pap Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic. A Republican in political affiliations, he served six years as county commissioner. He was a member of the Baptist church, and loyal and active in this faith. For many years he was a deacon of the First church at Greensburg.

The late Jesse H. Styers was a man of large vision and of wonderful capacity as a farmer, and of wide influence in the community where he lived. He was a man who was affectionately devoted to the interests, welfare and comfort of his wife and family. His first interest was his home and his family, and next to these was the conscientious performance of his duty as a citizen.



## JOHN W. HOLCOMB.

Among the ablest of the younger members of the Indiana bar, is John W. Holcomb, an attorney of Westport, Indiana. With the blood of Revolutionary ancestry coursing through his veins, and the overshadowing influence of the Puritanic thought of his progenitors, it is not surprising that we find him not only a prominent lawyer, but a leader in the affairs of the state. With other honors gathered in his comparatively short lifetime, this young man has the distinction of having been the youngest member of the Indiana Legislature during the session of 1899, when he represented Decatur county, having been elected the preceding fall. When a man transcends the average of attainment, a look into the history of his ancestors often reveals hidden forces which play an important part in his own life. In the present instance this is eminently true, and we shall find a brief study of the family record of unusual interest, especially from a psychological viewpoint. The attorney whose name forms the caption of this article was born on a farm in Marion township on February 27, 1874, but he did not stay on the farm.

The earliest progenitor of the Holcomb family in America was Thomas, who came from Devonshire, England, to America in 1630, locating at Dorchester, Massachusetts. Born in 1590, he came to this country for the same reason that actuated his other Puritan friends, and it was his descendants who fought in the Revolutionary War. After five years' residence at Dorchester, he went to Connecticut to live, and here it was that he passed away in 1639. His son Nathaniel became the paternal ancestor of John W. Holcomb.

Next in the line of descent, is Rufus, whose father, Luther, was a Revolutionary soldier. Rufus was a native of Connecticut, born in 1786. Stirred by the desire for adventure, he came west at an early day, locating near Moore's Hill, Dearborn county, where Eli, grandfather of John W. Holcomb, was born in 1823. When a young man he moved to Ripley county. His wife, Emeline Hall, was of the true type of pioneer mother, presenting her husband with six children. These were Daniel, father of our subject, Emma Williams, of Kansas; Albert, also of Kansas; Benson, who lives in Arizona; Walter, a resident of California, and Dora Oldham, who lived in Kansas until her death in 1903. Eli Holcomb and his wife left their pioneer home in Indiana for a home farther West, in Kansas, and it was here that the aged man died in 1899. Daniel W. Holcomb, father of our subject, was born in Ripley county in 1852. About the year 1870 he

came to Decatur county. He settled in Marion township on a farm in 1873, and it is here that he still lives. The tract of land which he first purchased consisted of forty acres, but the energetic farmer added to this as his success permitted until he has acquired two hundred and thirty-five acres. He gave especial attention to stock raising besides the usual agricultural enterprises. He is still hale and hearty and is active in politics, being a strong Republican. He is at present township trustee, and has been for many years a member of the Baptist church. Mrs. Holcomb, Sr., was formerly Mary E. Evans, and was born in September, 1855. Their children are John W., the subject of this sketch; Albert, A retired farmer of Westport; Ada Mazingo, who died in December, 1914; Lewis, of Oklahoma; Janie Mazingo, wife of Edward Mazingo, of near Greensburg; Margaret Brown, of North Vernon, and Joseph B., who lives upon his father's farm.

John W. Holcomb received a good general education before he specialized in the studies which prepared him to become the successful lawyer that he is. While he was brought up on the farm, he attended first the common schools, and then the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana. At the age of eighteen, when many young men are still in college, he began teaching, and for the following eight years, taught in Marion township and Jennings county. He was admitted to the bar in 1897, and practiced for two years in Greensburg, and later spent five years in Indianapolis. Locating in Westport in 1908, he began to build up the practice which now makes him a leader in his profession, and entitles him to a place among the best-known lawyers of the county.

On September, 1899, Mr. Holcomb was married to Margaret Owen, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Owen, of Marion township, and to them two children have been born. These are, Mary, whose birth date is January 26, 1906, and Mabel, born on June 7, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb are prominent members of the Baptist church. Mr. Holcomb belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge, and also to the Modern Woodmen of America of Westport.

Mr. Holcomb has not been active because of the fact that his profession has led him into political fields, but because here he finds the kind of activity that is congenial to his tastes. The Republican party in his part of the state is stronger because of his leadership, and the fact that he was elected township trustee in 1914 and a representative of his county in the Indiana Legislature of 1899, attests to the measure of confidence and popularity which his constituents accord him. Both positions he has filled with credit both to himself and to those who elected him. Although a youthful member of the

Assembly, he was an able representative, and his county had no reason to regret its choice. Mr. Holcomb has a keen, penetrating mind, called perhaps more technically, a "legal mind," yet his character has the elements of strength that are intellectual, for his nature is at once judicial and sympathetic. He is a good husband and father, a kind friend, a genial neighbor and an upright, loyal citizen.

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### ALFRED M. ARMSTRONG.

For nearly a century the Armstrong family has been prominently identified with the financial, commercial and agricultural life of Decatur county, Indiana. Sprung from a family of worthy ideals and ambitions, it is not surprising that the present generation of the Armstrong family in Decatur county is prominent in various spheres to which its representatives have turned their attention. Several members of the family are prominent farmers in Decatur and adjoining counties and, at least, one is a prominent banker. The career of Alfred M. Armstrong, of Sand Creek township, is interesting particularly since it discloses ambitions and ideals formed early in life in the neighborhood where he now lives and where they are more fully realized on the farm, in the happy, independent and wholesome life of the countryside. His career discloses in particular how he has, from a small start in life, increased his wealth until now, when the period of his active endeavor is nearing a close, he has a magnificent farm of four hundred and thirty acres in Sand Creek township, a comfortable house and all of the conveniences which present-day country life affords.

Alfred M. Armstrong, who was born on November 17, 1851, in Sand Creek township, one and three-fourths miles north of his present home, is the son of Robert and Rebecca Jane (Hamilton) Armstrong, the former of whom was a well-known citizen of this county. Robert Armstrong, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1817, was brought by his parents to Decatur county when three years old, the family settling in Sand Creek township east of Westport. His father having died shortly after their arrival in Decatur county, Robert was reared in a pioneer log cabin and experienced both the hardships and the joys of pioneer life. Early in life he was married to Rebecca Jane Hamilton, who was born in 1818 and who was the daughter of James Hamilton, a relative of the Hamiltons of Fugit township. He came to Decatur county early in its history and here spent the remainder of his life,

his wife living to the ripe old age of ninety-seven. After his marriage, Robert Armstrong settled on a farm near Letts and later moved to near Westport, having, by the time the Civil War began, accumulated three hundred acres of land. He early manifested an interest in civic affairs and politics and served many years as justice of the peace and two terms as township trustee. He was a charter member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Westport and a prominent man during his day and generation. He died in 1878, while his brother James had died one year previously, and his other brothers and sisters, William, Mrs. Sallie Barnes, Mrs. Jane Singleton, Mrs. Mary Falkenberg and Mrs. Rebecca Boicourt, are all now deceased.

Robert and Rebecca Jane Armstrong had several children, James W., deceased, lived in Sand Creek township; John H., lives in Marion township, south of Greensburg; Oliver P., who is a resident of Fayette county, Illinois; George W., who is a well-known farmer; Albert M., the subject of this sketch, and Francis D., who is president of the First National Bank at Westport. After the death of his first wife, Robert Armstrong was united in marriage to Eliza Jane McDonald and had three children by this second marriage, Robert F., of Letts; Mrs. Mary Jane Harding, of Westport, and Mrs. Louisa Helen Urdike, also of Westport.

Alfred M. Armstrong, who was educated in the district schools of Decatur county, spent his boyhood as most boys of his neighborhood, in grubbing, planting, sowing and reaping. He assisted his father on the farm until the latter's death in 1878, and, after his death, he and his brother James operated a farm near Letts for two years. Alfred M. then purchased eighty acres, south of Letts, and to this original purchase he has added from time to time until he now owns four hundred and thirty acres. Some years ago he erected a barn, forty by sixty feet, and for more than ten years has gotten his light and fuel from a gas well which flows on his own farm. In front of the Armstrong residence, an attractive country farm house, is a large stone monument erected by the *Chicago Herald* in commemoration of the spot being chosen as the center of population in 1890.

On July 4, 1886, Mr. Armstrong was married to Hettie M. Dixon, born on July 23, 1862, in Lewis county, Kentucky, the daughter of Levi and Mary (Toler) Dixon, natives of Kentucky, who came to Jennings county in 1865 and four years later to Decatur county. Farmers by occupation, they owned a large tract of land in Sand Creek township south of Westport. Alfred Armstrong was a stockholder in the First National Bank of Westport, Indiana and carries on general farming and stock raising. The father died in 1878 and the mother, who was born in September, 1837, died on May 30,

1915, at the age of eighty-seven years. Mrs. Armstrong, who was a teacher in the public schools of this county, attended Hope and Butlerville academies. Mrs. Armstrong also taught school in Jennings county, having begun as a school teacher at Sherwood. She taught five years in all, the last year at the home school.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Armstrong have been the parents of ten children, one of whom, Roxina, the second born, is deceased. The other children are, Dewitt Talmage, born on April 17, 1887; Cassius Dixon, January 30, 1890; Forrest Eugene, December 12, 1891; Glant Leland, June 20, 1893; Oakleigh, February 14, 1895; Lotus Lowell, June 30, 1898; Winifred, March 28, 1899; Mary Elma and Martha Elva, twins, July 15, 1903. Of this family, Glant Leland is a student at Purdue University and one of the well-known leaders in college life at that institution.

Like his father before him, Alfred M. Armstrong is a loyal and faithful adherent of the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and family are members of the Baptist church. As a farmer, Alfred M. Armstrong is not excelled anywhere in the township where he lives. As a citizen he has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs and, at all times, has given loyal and valuable support to worthy public enterprises. The Armstrong family is well known throughout Sand Creek township and are popular with all classes of people.

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### JOHN LOGAN.

The late John Logan, who, during his lifetime became one of the foremost farmers of Decatur county, Indiana, was born on August 14, 1829, in this county and died, July 16, 1912. The son of early pioneers of this county, John Logan's father, Samuel Logan, a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother, Susanna (Howard), a native of Ohio, in 1818 came down the Ohio river by flat-boat and, after stopping a while in Kentucky, settled in Decatur county when the land was covered with forests. After assisting in the construction of the first log cabin ever erected in Greensburg, he entered land from the government and became very prosperous. A leader of his fellow citizens during his day and generation and a man who attended strictly to his own business. Of the thirteen children born to Samuel and Susanna Logan, there were the following: James, deceased; Samuel, Jr., of Letts Corner, Decatur county; John; Aaron, who lives west of Greensburg, in Washington township; Frank, of Topeka, Kansas; Martha Ann, who married a Doctor

Hitt, now both deceased; Mrs. Margaret Jane Deem, deceased; Mrs. Mary Hamilton, deceased, and Mrs. Rachel Hobbs, who was the wife of Reverend Hobbs a Christian minister, and who died in Des Moines, Iowa, in January, 1915.

The late John Logan lived at home with his parents until his marriage, January 24, 1856, to Eliza E. Hungate, after which he and his wife settled on a farm in Clay township, five miles west of Greensburg. This farm, which was improved and where he and his wife lived until September, 1886, is now occupied by his son. In the meantime, they had prospered and accumulated seven hundred and forty acres of land. Having first begun with a small competence, he had at first purchased two hundred and fifty-seven acres on credit and, after paying for this, by hard work and careful management, he continued buying land, purchasing subsequently four large farms.

Eliza E. Hungate, to whom Mr. Logan was married in 1856, was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, on June 27, 1838, and was the daughter of John and Eliza (Gregory) Hungate, natives of Kentucky, who immigrated to Shelby county in 1840 and later settled in Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, where they died. He was born in 1798 and died on September 21, 1891, his wife having died previously, at the age of seventy-seven years. Their children were as follow: Andrew Jackson, deceased; George Washington, deceased; Mrs. Cynthia Jones, deceased; John, who lives on the old homestead in Shelby county; Mrs. Eliza Logan, and Catherine, the wife of Thomas Vaughn, deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Logan were born three children, Orange H., George Andrew and Eliza E. Orange owns the old home farm and is a prosperous farmer. He was born June 10, 1857, and married Emuna Gregory, a native of Kentucky. They have three children, Earl C., Clem and Nellie. George Andrew, born on March 7, 1862, who is a farmer in Clay township, married Artemus Hayman and has one son, Harry. Mrs. Eliza E. Covert, born on February 23, 1870, resides with her mother. She owns a farm of two hundred acres in Washington township.

A Democrat in politics, the late John Logan took an active part in the councils of his party and was known as one of the leaders in this section of the state. Nevertheless, he was a man of strong domestic temperament and loved his home and friends. One of the largest stock raisers and dealers in Decatur county, Mr. Logan in his lifetime dealt in mules, cattle, horses and sheep. He was accustomed to buying them through the country, then fatten them on his farm and ship them to distant markets.

Mrs. Eliza E. Covert and her mother are active workers in the Chris-



tian church, of which both are members. Mrs. Covert is a member of the Department Club of Decatur county and is prominent in this organization. Mrs. Logan has one great-granddaughter, Lela Emma, the daughter of Clem and Freda (Simmons) Logan. Clem is the son of Orange and Emma (Gregory) Logan. On January 24, 1906, Mr. and Mrs. John Logan celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. It was more than six years after this that Mr. Logan passed away.

As a man well known in the community, the late John Logan will be remembered as of modest and unassuming manners and a man, who during his long and useful life, was interested in the welfare of his neighbors and devoted to the cause of a wholesome and healthful community spirit. His beloved widow is a woman of most pleasing manners, intelligent, cultured and refined, whose life reflects the high order of womanhood in this county.

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#### GEORGE W. METZ.

George W. Metz, for many years a successful merchant at Newpoint, Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, and the son of John Henry Metz, of Fugit township, is the proprietor of a business which was established in 1890. During the past quarter of a century, he has built up an enormous trade in the village and surrounding country and is one of the best known citizens of Decatur county. In September, 1909, the building in which his store was housed was destroyed by fire and shortly thereafter he erected a large brick building in the place of the one destroyed. This is a building forty by sixty feet and has two floors, with the family residence on the second floor and the stock of merchandise on the first. Two rooms on the ground floor, however, are devoted to the kitchen and the laundry. Mr. Metz who has a large trade in country produce, has two show-rooms, and a stock of goods valued at thirty-five hundred dollars.

George W. Metz was born on May 18, 1862, on a farm near Springhill in Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, son of John Henry Metz, who, a poor German lad of twenty-two, came to this county in 1854 and, after living two years in Ohio, settled in Decatur county, Indiana, where, four years later he was married to Louise Huber, a native of Franklin county, this state, who was born on July 16, 1836, and who died on July 10, 1895, the daughter of Gottfried and Margaret (Ziegler) Huber, natives of Germany. From



twenty-five cents, which was all the money that John Henry Metz had on his arrival in America after a tedious voyage across the Atlantic, his fortune has grown from year to year until he now, at the age of eighty-three, owns six hundred acres of land in Fugit and Salt Creek townships, this county, and is regarded as one of the wealthiest men in this section of the state. Although George W. Metz was one of a family of eight children, he, nevertheless, remained at home until his marriage at the age of twenty-eight and assisted his father on the farm. In the early part of 1890 he left the farm and moved to Newpoint, where he engaged in business. On Thanksgiving Day, 1890, Mr. Metz was married to Katie Rabenstein, of Cincinnati, Ohio, the daughter of George Rabenstein, for many years recorder of Hamilton county, Ohio, a position he held at the time of the celebrated court house riot, and a very prominent citizen not only of Cincinnati, but a man who was well known throughout the state of Ohio. He was holding the office of county recorder at the time of his daughter's marriage to Mr. Metz. To this union nine children have been born, all of whom are living: Amanda, the wife of McClelland Wolfe, of North Berne, Ohio, who has two children, Neola and Oren; Elma, the wife of Howard Starks, who resides on the F. B. Kitchin farm in Fugit township, this county, and has two daughters, Bessie and Audrey, both of whom are graduates of the Greensburg high school; Christine, who is at home and works in her father's store; McKinley, who is a student in the Greensburg high school, and Louise, Marguerite, Cora May, George Henry and Katherine, who are at home and attending school.

George W. Metz has always been an ardent believer in Republican principles and a warm supporter of Republican candidates. Appointed postmaster at Newpoint in 1896, during President McKinley's administration, he served eighteen years in that office, or until 1914, two years after the inauguration of President Wilson. He is proud of the various commissions he holds from President McKinley, President Roosevelt, President Taft and President Wilson. All of the members of the Metz family attend the Presbyterian church.

Many of Mr. Metz's most sterling traits, the traits of character which have made him one of the leaders in the business life of Salt Creek township, he, no doubt, has inherited from his worthy father. Careful in his business methods, honorable in his relations with his patrons, he has enjoyed their unqualified confidence and support since his business was first established at Newpoint. No one has ever been disposed to question the intellectual sincerity or personal honor of Mr. Metz. While he has been promi-

ent in the life of the community, he is, nevertheless, a man of domestic temperament, who is devoted primarily to the interests of his home and his family. He deserves credit in a large measure for what he has accomplished and especially for the worthy example he has set for his children.

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### ISAAC SHERA.

There is no positive rule for achieving success and yet in the life of the successful man there are always lessons which might well be followed. The man who attains success is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that come in his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differing but slightly. When one man passes another on the highway of life it is because he has the power to see and to use the advantages which probably fall within the vision and opportunities of every man. Today among the prominent citizens and successful farmers of Decatur county Isaac Shera, of Westport, stands out as a conspicuous example of what the farm may yield up to a man if he is possessed of discrimination, sound judgment and executive ability. Altogether he owns seven hundred and twenty acres of land, in four farms, on which have been erected six sets of buildings. On September 10, 1912, Mr. Shera moved from his farm in Jackson township to Westport, where he has a beautiful town residence on West Main street, which he has remodeled and modernized, spending over six hundred dollars on the town property. When a lad Isaac Shera cultivated ground occupied by what is now a part of old Sardinia, his father's farm having adjoined that village.

The story of Isaac Shera's rise to fortune is a most interesting chapter in the history of Decatur county. He began his farming operations when a young man of twenty-one years, and in 1880, shortly after his marriage, purchased one hundred and twenty acres, which tract is now looked on as the family homestead. From time to time he has added to this land from the fruits of his industry, his toil and his good management. In 1890 he bought fifty-two acres across the road from the original one-hundred-and-twenty-acre tract and the next year bought twenty-eight acres, the remainder of the eighty-acre tract. The next year he purchased one hundred and sixty acres one mile east of the homestead in what is known as the Big Horn neighborhood, and adjoining the Big Horn high school. In 1904 he bought eighty acres adjacent to the Big Horn high school, and a few years later one hun-





ISAAC SHIERA.



RESIDENCE OF ISAAC SHELA.



dred and twenty acres one mile south of Sardinia. A little later he added forty acres to the Sardinia tract, making one hundred and sixty acres, and in the meantime purchased eighty acres one mile west of the homestead. In a way, there is no complex chapter in his rise to success, except that he has fed all the grain he raises to live stock and has always striven to do the right thing at the right time and in the proper way. Although his farms are all rented they are kept in first-class condition, Mr. Shera devoting his time to looking after repairs and keeping up the land. In 1914, for instance, he had eight barns painted.

Isaac Shera was born on August 25, 1851, near Sardinia, in Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Caleb and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Shera, the former of whom was born in 1815 and died in 1883, and the latter of whom died in 1868. Caleb Shera was a native of Ireland, who at the age of twenty-five came to America and settled in Bartholomew county, this state, moving westward to Decatur county after his marriage in Franklin county. Elizabeth Shera was reared in Franklin county, the daughter of John and Catherine Shaffer, of Pennsylvania-German stock. Of the eleven children born to Caleb and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Shera, six are living and five are deceased. The deceased children are Mary Elizabeth; Isabelle, who died at the age of fifteen; John Wesley; William, who died in the service of the Union army in a hospital at Nashville, Tennessee; and Thomas M., who was a farmer. The living children are Catherine, of Lebanon, Indiana; James, of Lebanon; Isaac, the subject of this sketch; Wilson M., a farmer of Jackson township; Sylvester C., who lives in Kansas; and Mrs. Martha A. Watkins, a widow who resides at Wellington, Kansas. The late Caleb Shera was a Republican, but had never aspired to office.

On November 28, 1878, Isaac Shera was married to Mary A. Updike, who was born on October 23, 1852, the daughter of Elijah and Matilda (Gilbert) Updike, the former of whom was born on August 4, 1818, and died on May 10, 1893. Peter Updike, the father of Elijah and grandfather of Mrs. Shera, was a native of Pennsylvania, who packed up his household goods in wagons and brought his family to the rough timber lands of Indiana, looking into the uncertain and dangerous future with faith in himself and in the God of his fathers. Nor was this pioneer's faith misplaced, as the after years have proved. It was in Franklin county that Elijah Updike began life and when he had reached manhood he married and made his home on a farm two miles north of Westport, in this county. His wife, whose maiden name was Matilda Gilbert, was twice married, being at the time of



her marriage to Elijah Updike, the widow of a Mr. Luse, who had a daughter, Nancy J. Luse. Matilda Updike was a daughter of James Gilbert, whose enterprising spirit and ambition brought him from bonnie Scotland to this country in the days of his young manhood. He had a reputation in all the country around for his honesty and integrity, and his good business ability. His daughter, Matilda, was born in 1834 and passed away on July 1, 1889. On the farm on which Elijah Updike and wife settled in 1861 they spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of four children, namely: William G., former commissioner of Decatur county; Mary Ann, who is the wife of Mr. Shera; Frank M., of Butler county, Ohio, and John Riley, who died in Franklin county when two years of age.

To Isaac and Mary A. (Updike) Shera have been born two children, the youngest of whom, Elmer Ray, was born on November 4, 1887, and died on April 22, 1889. Earl Leroy, the eldest, was born on November 2, 1885, and is a farmer in Jackson township. He married Mamie Clark and they have two children, Glen G. and Lucile.

Isaac Shera has one of the most beautiful country homes in Decatur county. His residence sets back fifty feet from the road, and is reached through an avenue of shade trees and shrubbery by a graveled driveway, the lawn being surrounded by a beautiful iron fence. Flowers are to be found everywhere, and everything is kept in the very neatest condition. There are two gas wells on the Shera farms. Isaac Shera erected all the buildings on his farm and is proud of his place and achievements, as he has a right to be. He has improved and remodeled more farms in Jackson township than any other resident thereof.

Mr. and Mrs. Shera are members of the Baptist church, Mr. Shera having joined that church at Westport on February 10, 1913. He is treasurer of the congregation and a trustee of the church. He gave land valued at sixteen hundred dollars on which the new church is to be erected, and also presented the congregation with a house and lot for a parsonage. In addition he also donated the cash for the erection of the church and in this community he is known as one of its most liberal citizens. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Letts, and he is a Republican, although he has never aspired to office.

A man who believes in public improvements and who believes not only in public improvements, but in private improvements; who is industrious, frugal and business-like in habits; who is honorable and upright in his dealings with his fellows, Mr. Shera is entitled to the profoundest respect of the





JUDGE SAMUEL A. BONNER.

public. Isaac Shera has been all of these things and today he not only is one of the more well-to-do citizens of the county, but he has also, in his race for fame and fortune, attained what is even more valuable, the good will of the people with whom he has come into contact.

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### JUDGE SAMUEL ALEXANDER BONNER.

The late Samuel Alexander Bonner, one of the judges of the common pleas court of Decatur county during the Civil War and a later judge of the circuit court, was one of the leading citizens of Decatur county for many years. Inheriting a love for righteousness and justice from his distinguished father, who left his home in Alabama in 1836 to escape the iniquities of slavery, Judge Bonner lived up to the high ideals of his worthy father in all things.

The late Judge Samuel Alexander Bonner was born on a plantation in Wilcox county, Alabama, on December 5, 1826, the son of James and Mary (Foster) Bonner. His parents were both of Scotch-Irish ancestry and descended from families who first settled in South Carolina. About 1830 the serious agitation against slavery was beginning in this country, started by men and women, first called fanatics, it was carried forward during a period of thirty years, culminating in the most serious civil crisis in the history of the world. James Bonner was bitterly opposed to the institution of slavery, and, finding that he could accomplish nothing against it in the state of his residence, he left the Southland in 1836 and came to the North, where slavery was an illegal institution. There were six children, four sons and two daughters, who came North with the parents, when they located in 1836 near Springhill in Fugit township in the old United Presbyterian settlement. Of these four sons, James Foster died in 1913 at the age of ninety-two, in the city of Greensburg; Rev. John Irwin settled in Due West, South Carolina, and died in 1881, in the midst of eminent usefulness in ecclesiastical, editorial and educational service, as leader from 1847, in every department of church activity, and, for many years, editor of the *Associate Reformed Presbyterian*, and president of the Due West Female College; William Harvey died in 1874; Samuel A., is the subject of this sketch; two daughters, Margaret E. and Mary J. died in 1858 and 1864, respectively, while visiting a brother in South Carolina. The father, James Bonner, passed away in 1844.

Any student of history will know that the educational advantages in pioneer settlements of the Hoosier state during the forties, were exceedingly limited. Fortunately, Samuel A. Bonner was not compelled to rely upon the pioneer schools for his education. He was able to attend the Richland Academy in Rush county, and, subsequently, Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio. Still later he was a student at Central College at Danville, Kentucky, and was graduated there in 1849. These two institutions, Miami University and Center College, at this period, offered perhaps the widest educational advantages west of the Alleghany mountains and it would be difficult to estimate what they did for the pioneer educational life of Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. Samuel A. Bonner was only one of the young men of this early period who came under their protecting aegis.

After studying law in the office of Judge Andrew Davison, in Greensburg, he was graduated from the law department of Indiana University in 1852. He then began the practice of his profession in Greensburg with Barton W. Wilson. Two years later he was elected a member of the Indiana General Assembly and was re-elected for a second term. About this time he was elected judge of the common pleas court of Rush and Decatur counties and served four years. In 1860 he became a law partner of the late Will Cumback, which partnership continued until Mr. Cumback retired from practice. In 1877 Judge Bonner was elected to the circuit bench and served twelve years, when, upon his retirement from the bench, he became the senior partner of the law firm of Bonner, Tackett & Bennett, which firm continued for several years, with a few changes in the partnership meanwhile. It is noteworthy and shows the estimation in which he was held as a learned and impartial jurist that he was unopposed for his second term by both parties, and that no decision of his was ever reversed by a superior court. Judge Bonner loved the bench and cared little for the active practice of law, either as a counselor or as a solicitor. In fact, he rarely went into the court room after retiring from the bench. For nine years Judge Bonner was a member of the board of trustees of the Indiana School for the Deaf.

Having been elected a ruling elder in the Greensburg Presbyterian church in 1862, he served in this capacity until his death on April 5, 1904. He was always prominent in church work and six times was commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, an exceptionally high honor for any layman and a fitting testimonial to his service in the church.

Judge Samuel A. Bonner was twice married, the first time in 1852 to Ella M. Carter, a niece of John I. Morrison, who was prominent in the pioneer

educational affairs of the state. She died on October 27, 1861, leaving two daughters, Mrs. Lizzie C. Wampler, and Mrs. Minnie E. Dechant, a widow, both of Richmond, Indiana. The latter has one son, Frederick Bonner Dechant, a student at Kenyon College, at Gambier, Ohio. The former also has one son, John Bonner Wampler, a graduate of Purdue University, a civil engineer by profession, who is employed by the Chicago Lift Bridge Company. He was married in June, 1913, to Hester Light, of Chicago.

Judge Bonner was again married on August 22, 1867, the second time to Abbie A. Snell, who was born at East Randolph, now Holbrook, Massachusetts, the daughter of Alvan and Anna (Holbrook) Snell. Both the Holbrook and Snell families were pioneers in the Old Bay state. Mrs. Bonner is descended from eight persons who came over to this country on the "Mayflower," among them being Miles Standish, John Alden, Priscilla Mullins and Governor Bradford. On the Snell side of the family, several members fought in the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Bonner is a direct descendant of both Joseph and Sarah Alden, children of John and Priscilla Alden. One child born to Judge and Mrs. Bonner, Anna Bingly, died in infancy.

Mrs. Abbie Bonner lives in her home in Greensburg, where the family located in 1869. She has traveled extensively during her lifetime. Educated in Maplewood Institute at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, she began teaching in 1859 in Holly Springs, Mississippi, leaving there in June, after war was declared. After teaching in Massachusetts until 1865, she came to Greensburg and was employed for two years as a teacher in the public schools. For six years after her marriage, she taught a private school in Greensburg at the solicitation of a number of residents. For thirty-five years she has been officially identified with the women's missionary work of the Presbyterian church in both Presbytery and Synod, being president for seven years in the latter and thirty-five years in the former.

Judge Samuel A. Bonner will be remembered in this county, not only as an eminent jurist and lawyer, but as one of the organizers of the Third National Bank at Greensburg, one of the leading financial institutions in the city. He was a director of this institution at the time of his death. Legislator, lawyer, jurist and banker, Judge Bonner was more than all of these, since he was an eminent, trustworthy and honorable citizen, a man who had a part in the best interests of the great county and state in which he lived. His life's career reflects high credit upon the personnel of the Decatur citizens during the last century, in which most of Judge Bonner's work was done. Whether he ruled over rich or poor, he administered justice conscientiously and impartially.

## WILSON M. SHAFER.

Among the earlier settlers of Ohio and Indiana we find none with sturdier ambition and more forceful character than those of Dutch lineage. Here was combined a spiritual ideal, along with a sense of the necessity of the material, the two making such a balance that such progeny was almost universally progressive and constructive, and consequently successful. It was a common phrase among the earlier inhabitants of these states, that "whoever carries within his veins Dutch blood, carries a key to success," and this rule seems not to have been altered when, on June 27, 1850, Wilson M. Shafer was born down in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana.

Wilson M. Shafer was the son of Rev. John Shafer, whose father was of Dutch ancestry born and reared in Pennsylvania, but who afterward removed to Butler county, Ohio, where, on Christmas day, 1813, John Shafer was born.

Rev. John Shafer, after spending his boyhood days in Butler county, moved to near Hamilton, Ohio, and after some years residence there, moved to Springfield, Indiana, in Franklin county, where he met and later married Ada McCaw, which union proved a most helpful and happy one, lasting until Mrs. Shafer's death on November 18, 1876.

There is a prevalent notion that the average minister is so engrossed with the affairs of his congregation that he is apt to neglect his own household, but this never could have been said of John Shafer, for while he was at all times faithful to his ministerial obligations, he was also equally faithful to his parental duties. John Shafer was a regularly ordained Methodist minister and was subject to all of the hardships to which the "circuit rider" of his day was accustomed, yet this did not prevent him from accumulating, through the persistent efforts of himself and his faithful wife, the means wherewith to rear a large family.

John Shafer came from Ohio about 1835 and settled in Decatur county, Indiana, where he bought, at a very low price, a tract of timber land and, during the intervals between his ministerial and other duties, cleared this farm and soon had it under cultivation. He prospered, and soon another tract was entered and cleared, and thus his land investments increased until he at one time owned five hundred acres of good farming land. His thought was always of his home and of his children, of which the following were born into his family: Catherine, James and John, who, after they were almost fully grown, were stricken with typhoid fever, during an epidemic of that disease, and died; Asbury and Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Isaiah, who



died in 1887, was a Union soldier who enlisted with the Seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded in battle at Port Republic, Virginia; Mary Jane, wife of John Shaw, of Greensburg, died in 1909; Amaretta (McComb), who died in 1874; Wilson M., the subject of this sketch; Josephine (Rice), whose husband was a minister, died in Iowa; Richard William, now a resident of Greencastle, and Ada, who died at the age of eight.

Wilson M. Shafer, the ninth child of this notable family, was educated in the common schools of Indiana, but, like many of the sturdy settlers of the earlier days, secured his real education in the pioneer school of "Hard Knocks." He also attended Moores Hill College for one year. On August 15, 1877, he married Emma Clendenning, of Franklin county, and to them three children were born, J. Carl, of Anderson, Indiana, who married Ethel Ping, born in Virginia and a daughter of Senator Henry Ping, of Virginia. She is a fine musician. Ada Delse, who died at the age of two years, and Earl L., also of Anderson, Indiana, with the Union Traction Company.

Emma Clendenning was born in Franklin county on May 16, 1856, and was the daughter of John and Hannah (Creager) Clendenning, natives of Ohio and of Franklin county, respectively. They were of Scotch ancestry and both died in Franklin county. John Clendenning was a son of John Clendenning, who emigrated from Scotland to this country and married a Miss Elliott, whose brother, John Elliott, was the first editor of the *Western Christian Advocate*.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson M. Shafer, at the time of their marriage, secured a tract of eighty acres of partly cultivated land, cleared, ditched and otherwise so improved it that today it is said to be the best tract of land to be found anywhere in Jackson township. In 1882 they sold this farm at a highly profitable figure and purchased a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract, a part of the old home place, known as the Petree farm, located two miles west of Westport. Here the same process of improvement was pursued until this farm was brought up to standard in the way of soil requirements and modern buildings. A beautiful home was built and here Mr. and Mrs. Shafer lived and labored until in December, 1911.

Wilson M. Shafer, by his honesty and persistency, had won not only the admiration and respect of his neighbors, but of the whole county. He was a staunch Republican, and during the summer of 1911 was placed in nomination for county commissioner and elected to that office for a term of three years. After his election he decided to leave the farm and bought a beautiful residence in Westport and in December of 1911 established his residence as a citizen of that town.

It is almost useless to state that Mr. Shafer filled the office of county commissioner in a creditable and honorable manner, because one should know that character so well-grounded through years of service in knowledge of community needs would not sit idle when the moment and opportunity for action arrived. The three years of service which Mr. Shafer rendered his community in this office, showed many needed and constructive activities in which his ability and influence was in no manner negative.

Throughout their married life, Mr. and Mrs. Shafer have been active church workers and, while their activities have been not wholly sectarian, they are members of the Methodist church. Nor have they in any manner neglected their social and humanitarian obligations. Mr. Shafer is a member of the Westport Knights of Pythias, while Mrs. Shafer is a very ardent and active member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of the Woman's Relief Corps and of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

During the winter of 1914-15, Mr. and Mrs. Shafer spent a period of time visiting in Florida and the Southern states. They visited many points of historical as well as of educational interest, and returned to Westport with renewed interest in life. Though they have announced to their friends that they have retired from active life, it is generally thought that the habits of an active life are so deep in the dye that Wilson and Emma Shafer will yet be busy with their Master's work.

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### FRANCIS D. ARMSTRONG.

Francis D. Armstrong, president of the First National Bank, of Westport, Indiana, is a scion of one of the old and honored families of the state, his grandfather having come here from Pennsylvania nearly a century ago. Deeply engraved in the history of Decatur county are the name and achievements of Mr. Armstrong whose influence in the social and economic life of his community has been most potent and of the highest possible order. Not only because of his success as a man of affairs, but because of his strength of character and inflexibility of purpose, does his life history deserve to be incorporated in this publication whose function it is to record those personal biographies which have contributed to the advancement of the state as a national power. As a business man, as a farmer and banker, as well as in his religious, political and social relationships, Mr. Armstrong has won a place of leadership, and the confidence of his associates.

Ancestry plays such an important part in our lives that it seems that it is the silent, forceful background of every picture, and in the present instance, it is especially worthy of record. The honored citizen whose name forms the caption of this article, was born on March 15, 1847, in a place called "Jericho" in Sand Creek, but his father, Robert Armstrong, was a native of Pennsylvania. The latter was born in 1817, and when three years of age came with his parents to Decatur county, where they settled in Sand Creek township, east of Westport. Robert's father died soon after coming to this state, and the boy was reared in a rude pioneer cabin, surrounded by the love of his mother and brothers and sisters. In early manhood, Robert married Rebecca Jane Hamilton who later became the mother of nine children of whom Francis D. Armstrong was third in chronological order. Rebecca Hamilton was born in 1818, and was the daughter of James Hamilton, a relative of the Hamiltons of Fugit township. James Hamilton came here at an early date, and in passing, it is interesting to note that his wife, Judy, lived to the ripe age of ninety-nine years. The mother of Francis Armstrong died in 1856. His father settled on a farm east of Letts, first clearing the land in true pioneer fashion. It was in 1857 that he moved near Westport, and so proficient was he in the management of his agricultural interests, that by the time of the Civil War, he had become a large and influential landowner, having come into possession of three hundred acres of well-improved land. He was also a speculator. It was one of his ambitions to be able to give each of his sons a farm, believing that with this much to start with, they should be able to succeed in life. The esteem in which he was held, is evidenced by the fact that for many years Robert Armstrong served as justice of the peace, and for several terms as township trustee. His interest in public affairs made him a political leader in the Democratic party, and he was equally forceful as a church member. He was always a close student of the Bible, a supporter of the church and charities, and altogether, a public-spirited citizen in his sphere of influence in all civic and social matters, using the word social in its broad sense. His genial, whole-souled nature found pleasure in organization, so it is not surprising to learn that he was a charter member of the Free and Accepted Masons of Westport. It is said that he never missed a meeting of his favorite lodge. The life history of this interesting personality might be said to close with his death in 1878, but his influence still lives in the hearts and lives of those who knew him, and of the town in which he made his home.

Returning for a moment to his immediate family, it is necessary to record that he had a number of brothers and sisters whose names were as

follow: James, who died in 1877, William, also deceased; Sallie Barnes; Jane Singleton; Mary Falkenberg; Rebecca Boicourt, and Elizabeth Longnecker, all of whom have passed away.

With this significant ancestral setting in mind, we can approach the life history of Francis D. Armstrong, which we are permitted only to sketch briefly, with added interest and undertaking. With parents such as he had, it is not surprising that Francis Armstrong has come to occupy the place he does in the locality of his home and in the hearts of his fellow citizens. Of Mr. Armstrong's two elder brothers, James W., died in 1909, and John lives four miles south of Greensburg in Marion township. Of his younger brothers, Oliver P., lives in Fayette county, Illinois; George W. is deceased and Albert M., the latter, is a resident of Sand Creek township. Robert Armstrong married, secondly, Eliza June McDonald, who died in 1910. They were the parents of Robert F., of Letts, Sand Creek township; Mary Jane (Harding) of Westport, and Louisa Helen (Udike), also of Westport.

Francis D. Armstrong was educated in the country schools of his boyhood home, and was early accustomed to hard work, for he and his brothers helped their father on the farm. Francis lived with his father until the latter's death which occurred when he was sixty-one years of age. His business ability was shown even in his young manhood, for after his father's death he rented a farm, and from the very first made it a financial success. This property he occupied for four years, combining the raising and selling of stock with his agricultural pursuits. Then he purchased a farm, shipped live stock in carload lots and managed the work until 1905, when he retired from his farm to his home in Westport where he and his family have lived since September, 1912.

On February 10, 1887, Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage to Martha Ellen Morgan who was born in 1866 in Sand Creek township. She was the daughter of Robert P. and Nancy Ann Morgan natives of Kentucky. Mrs. Armstrong lived until 1900, when she passed away, leaving her husband and three children to mourn her loss. The children are Leo; Frances Shirley, wife of Barney Williams, and Howard Ward who was born in 1897, and who lives at home. Mrs. Shirley was only recently married.

Beside the splendid residence in which he lives, Mr. Armstrong has one hundred and thirty acres of valuable land near Westport. He now devotes the greater part of his time to the banking business, having become president of the First National Bank in 1908, this institution succeeding a private bank.

Outside of their domestic relations, the two most important characterizations concerning men's affiliations are in relation to their politics and

religion, and they never seem quite classified until these two facts are known. Mr. Armstrong adheres to the principles of the Democratic party, and is a member of the Baptist denomination. Like his father, he has been a loyal member of Lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons, of Westport.

Having outlined the chief events in the life of Mr. Armstrong, the reader can understand why he is considered one of the alert, progressive business men who have advanced the economic and social interests of Decatur county, and whose lives have been a distinctive impetus to the commercial success of the locality in which they have lived and labored. The prestige and respect accorded Mr. Armstrong may best be measured by the scope and importance of the business institution which he directs.

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#### WILL W. LOGAN.

Born in this county sixty-five years ago and still living in the house in which he was born, the son of a pioneer who early discerned the possibilities hidden in the wilderness which once covered this now favored region and proceeded to take advantage thereof, becoming one of the foremost and most influential members of the community of which he made a part; witnessing the wonderful material advancement of this community during the last half century, proving himself a no small factor in the development thus noted, the subject of this interesting biographical review very properly may be regarded as one of the leaders of the common life of Decatur county. Honored by his fellowmen by election to one of the most useful and responsible positions of trust in the gift of the people of the county and serving capably and well in the capacity thus trustfully imposed upon him, Mr. Logan becomes one of the county's distinctive personalities, and no history of the times in this county would be complete without fitting reference to his life and to the character of his public services.

Will W. Logan was born on a farm on the northwest edge of the corporate limits of the city of Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, January 16, 1850, the son of Samuel H. and Millie (Hice) Logan, both natives of Pennsylvania.

Samuel H. Logan, who was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, February 1, 1819, was the son of John and Isabel (Graham) Logan, whose parents came to America from Ireland late in the eighteenth century and located in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where they spent the remainder of their

lives. John and Isabel Logan were the parents of the following children: Samuel H., the father of the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Mrs. Hanna Hice, born on June 17, 1822; Mrs. Margaret Elliot, February 20, 1825, and Mrs. Ann Baker, July 12, 1827, who lives four miles from Greensburg, in this county.

On November 26, 1840, Samuel H. Logan was united in marriage to Millie Hice, who was born in Pennsylvania on October 20, 1818, a daughter of Henry Hice, who was a native of Germany. Shortly after marriage Samuel H. Logan and his wife came to Decatur county, his father having bought government land in Washington township. Mr. Logan was a very clear-headed man, enterprising and public spirited and an excellent farmer. He prospered and presently began to enlarge his land holdings, shortly becoming one of the large land owners in this county. He took a deep interest in public affairs and was ranked among the leading men of the county. He served the people very acceptably as county commissioner for some time and his sound judgment and fine executive ability gave to this service a real value to the public. As his children grew to manhood and womanhood he gave to each a fine farm out of his extensive estate, the old homestead place being given to Will W., the subject of this sketch. Samuel H. Logan was honored and respected in this county and at his death there was general and sincere mourning throughout the whole country. He died on October 19, 1904. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred on October 15, 1879.

To Samuel H. and Millie (Hice) Logan were born ten children, namely: Henry H., born on September 17, 1841, a well-known farmer of this county, who lives two miles west of Greensburg on the Milford road; Isabella G., September 22, 1843, widow of Samuel Applegate, resides in Greensburg; Mary S., November 26, 1845, widow of Will Murray, resides in Nevada, Missouri; John B., October 8, 1847, a well-known traveling salesman, resides at Indianapolis; Will W., the subject of this sketch; Sarah, October 19, 1852, married Joseph Ketchum and lives at Cincinnati; Marine R., March 6, 1855, died on May 22, 1885; Samuel, September 16, 1857, died on April 18, 1893; Emma J., August 20, 1860, died on August 16, 1865, and George M., September 13, 1862, who is the general agent of the International Harvester Company at Richmond, Indiana.

Will W. Logan received his youthful education in the Tarkington school house, which was situated on a corner of what is now his home farm, which then was the home of the Rev. Joseph Tarkington, supplementing this early schooling with a course in the Greensburg schools under the instruction of



Mrs. Samuel Bonner, a noted teacher of that period. Upon reaching manhood's estate he entered seriously on the business of farming, a vocation in which he had received his father's best instructions, and, having inherited a large measure of his father's sagacity, has prospered, his place of one hundred and sixty acres, located on the very outskirts of the county seat, being recognized as one of the finest farms in the county. Mr. Logan is alert and enterprising in his methods of farming and keeps fully abreast of all the latest developments in the science of agriculture. The old brick homestead house, which his father erected, has been remodeled along modern lines and is regarded as one of the pleasantest and most comfortable homes in the county, a place where hospitality and good cheer ever prevail.

When natural gas was discovered in Decatur county, many years ago, Samuel H. Logan organized a company and drilled a number of gas wells. The well on the home farm proved to be a valuable producer and at his death, Mr. Logan left it to his children, in trust, Will W. Logan being named as trustee, which trust still is faithfully being executed. The Logan wells have been yielding gas in paying quantities since the fall of 1887 and have been a source of considerable profit to the Logan family.

On June 1, 1887, Will W. Logan was united in marriage to Katie M. Forkert, who was born on September 13, 1860, in the village of Adams, Decatur county, Indiana, daughter of Ernest and Catherine Forkert, natives of Germany, who came to America, locating in this county, early becoming regarded as among the best-known people of the Smyrna neighborhood. Ernest Forkert has been dead for some years, but his widow is still living in Salt Creek township, this county, highly esteemed by all who know her.

To Will W. and Katie (Forkert) Logan two children have been born, Stella May, born on July 29, 1889, who married Clyde L. Jones and lives in the city of Indianapolis; to that union one child has been born, a son, William Logan; and Frederick W., June, 1892, who married Merle Wiley and is now managing the home farm for his father.

Mr. Logan is a member of the Presbyterian church and Mrs. Logan is a member of the Presbyterian church at Greensburg. Mr. Logan is a life-long Democrat, his father also having been one of the leaders of that party in this county, and for years has given close attention to political affairs in this county. In the fall of 1912 he was elected to the important and responsible office of county commissioner from his district and is now filling very ably and very acceptably the exacting duties of that office, the only office, by the way, for which he ever permitted his candidacy to be announced. Recognizing the opportunities for useful public service this office offers, Mr. Logan is



giving the very best of himself to this service and his painstaking efforts on behalf of the county's best interests have been noted with satisfaction by the people. Mr. Logan is a member of the Greensburg lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of which he takes much interest. He is a genial, whole-souled gentleman and is very popular among the members of that order as well as among all who know him, and that includes pretty much everyone in the county, for there are few men in Decatur county better known than he.

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### JAMES THOMAS KERCHEVAL.

America has a goodly heritage, which we should endeavor to hand on with value unimpaired to those who shall come after us. Only as we realize our own high duty and responsibility shall we be able to bequeath to posterity the noble inheritance we ourselves have received. America is in the making. The blending of her various peoples into one homogeneous whole to work out the vast problems of civilization both for herself and the entire world is the immediate task before us. The descendants of the original settlers will be expected to stand foremost among the many in projecting the activities of the future. Among the many families in Decatur county descended from the original settlers of this section of the state there is none held in higher esteem than the Kerchevals, the fifth generation of whom is now contributing to the well-being of this county. The gentleman whose name heads this biographical review has behind him the traditions of an honorable past and he and his children and his children's children are maintaining right honorably those glorious traditions. Mr. Kercheval's great-grandfather on his father's side was a soldier in the Continental army during the War of Independence and his great-grandfather on his grandmother's side also was a patriot soldier during that successful revolutionary struggle. Mr. Kercheval has in his possession two silver spoons out of a set of six made from coin silver received as pay by his ancestors in the Revolutionary War. The progenitor of the Kercheval family in America was a French Huguenot who fled to this country to escape the oppression which awaited those of his faith on the other side and the Kerchevals have made their mark in various points in which this now widely-separated family is located.

James Thomas Kercheval, who lives on a farm of ninety acres in Washington township, this county, two miles east of the city of Greensburg, was born on the farm on which he now lives, February 8, 1860, the son of

Lemuel W. and Elizabeth Ann (Travis) Kercheval, both natives of this county, the former of whom was born on January 19, 1815, and died in 1880, and the latter of whom was born in 1821 and died in 1889.

Lemuel W. Kercheval was the son of George Washington and Hannah (Grant) Kercheval, natives of Virginia, the former of whom was born on March 21, 1782, and the latter on September 17, 1784, who were married on December 5, 1805, emigrating to Kentucky, in which state they lived until 1821, in which year they came to Decatur county, locating in Washington township, which ever since has been the seat of Kercheval family in this county. George W. Kercheval's father was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. His wife, Hannah, was a daughter of Robert and Sarah Grant, the former of whom also was a Revolutionary soldier.

To George W. and Hannah (Grant) Kercheval were born seven children, namely: Caroline Frances, born on August 22, 1807; Elizabeth Sarah, August 24, 1809; Lucinda P., April 2, 1811; Mariah Jane, March 6, 1813; Lemuel Willis, January 19, 1815; Armand Melvina, February, 1817, and Eliza Ann, April 6, 1821.

Lemuel Willis Kercheval was reared on the home farm, receiving such education as the limited schools of his day afforded, and on March 6, 1850, married Elizabeth Ann Travis, of this county, daughter of Hannah Frances Travis, a widow, whose husband was killed when Elizabeth Ann was a small child. Lemuel W. Kercheval owned one hundred and eighty acres of good land and was a good farmer and a good citizen. He was a member of the Methodist church, but late in life espoused the faith of the Baptists. He was a Republican and took a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, though never being included in the office-seeking class. He and his wife were the parents of two children, sons, James T. and George W., the latter of whom lives in Gensburg, this county.

James Thomas Kercheval received his education in the district schools of Washington township, supplementing the same with one year's schooling in town. He inherited his farm of ninety acres, the home farm being divided between him and his brother at the death of their parents. He has made the most of his opportunities and is known as a wide-awake, enterprising farmer, ever alert to the most advanced methods in the rapidly expanding science of agriculture. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has prospered.

On August 6, 1885, James T. Kercheval was united in marriage to Martha J. Privett, daughter of William and Cynthia Privett, who died on

December 7, 1897, leaving two children, Lemuel Willis and Forest D. Lemuel Willis Kercheval lives at Newport, Kentucky. He married Theresa Hoffman, to which union two children have been born, George W. and Arthur. On August 17, 1899, Mr. Kercheval married, secondly, Mrs. Effie M. Harrison, a widow, who had one child, a daughter, Glendora.

Mr. and Mrs. Kercheval are adherents of the Presbyterian church and take an active interest in the works of that church and in the general social affairs of their community, being very popular with all who know them. Mr. Kercheval is a Republican and is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is an excellent citizen and is held in high regard among his large circle of friends.

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### JAMES LANCASTER HARDING.

Among the leading and honorable citizens of Decatur county is James Lancaster Harding of Newpoint, a native of Salt Creek township where he has always lived and pursued the even tenor of his way. As sturdy as an oak tree, James L. Harding has stood as one of the leading representatives, in his generation, of a family and name which have a history reaching back to the time "when knighthood was in flower" in England, in the days of William the Conqueror.

John Harding, the father of James L. Harding, emigrated to Decatur county with his family, through Butler county, Ohio, from Virginia, and was one of the pioneer settlers in the eastern part of Decatur county not long after the red man had kindled his last fire on the hillsides of old Salt Creek. James L. Harding, his brothers and sisters, his parents and the thrifty neighbors of his boyhood days, lived to see a wonderful transformation in the rural life and the agricultural processes of the country about them. Such men as they know what it meant in the days ago to live in a home in the wilderness. They saw what it meant to fell the trees of the heavy virgin forest, to clear and prepare the land for the planting and then to gather the harvest with implements of the crudest sort. Mr. Harding remembers many of the achievements of the scattered, early pioneer communities of the eastern section of the county, the genuine frolic and fun of the husking-bees and the triumphs and the merriment of the log-rollings of the hardy days before the Civil War. It is a wonderful thing to have lived, as he has done, over the period when the boundary line between two epochs in the history of the industry and progress of the country was being crossed, and to have been in





JAMES LANCASTER HARDING.



LOG CABIN BUILT BY JAMES L. HARDING IN 1866 AND THE BIRTHPLACE OF  
ALL HIS CHILDREN.





that period a part and parcel of its very achievements. James L. Harding himself has done his part well in the promotion of good citizenship in the land, by the example of his own true character and his live interest in public affairs and by his characteristic championship of absolute honesty and integrity in private and public life. He supports religious movements generally and is a stanch Democrat as are his sons. Among more important duties he has served two terms as land appraiser, in 1903 and in 1911. While he has done his part, also, in transforming agricultural life and opportunities in Decatur county, he has done so as a man possessed with a vision of newer and greater achievements. It is his son, by the way, the Hon. Lewis A. Harding, graduate of the Indiana State University, now prosecuting attorney of the ninth judicial circuit of Indiana and a member of the American Historical Association, who is the editor of the historical section of this volume.

James L. Harding, who owns a productive farm in Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, was born on July 3, 1842, on the old Harding homestead, in a double hewed log cabin, the last child of John and Susan (Abraham) Harding, the former of whom was born on April 27, 1790, and died on March 3, 1882, at the age of ninety-one years, and the latter of whom was born in 1798 and died at the age of eighty-seven years in 1885. John Harding was a native of Augusta county, Virginia, the son of John Harding, Sr., of old Cavalier stock, who died in his native state. John Harding, Jr., with others, emigrated to Kentucky and thence to Butler county, Ohio, in an early day. In Butler county, Ohio, John Harding married Mary Ashcraft, who was a sister of Amos Ashcraft, and established a pioneer home at the Kinnard hill, about two miles east of the state line on which is now the Brookville & Hamilton pike. To this first marriage was born one child, a son, Providence. The wife of John Harding's early young manhood died young. He later married a Miss Abraham, and to this second union also but one child was born, a daughter, Mary Ann. After the death of his second wife, John Harding married her sister, Susan Abraham, to which union nine children were born, namely: Mrs. Emaline Earls, Israel, Sr., Enoch, Elizabeth, Mrs. Hester Osborn, Mrs. Florence Osborn, Harrison, Mrs. Sophia Jane Marlin and James L., the last named and eleventh child of the family, being the only one born in Indiana.

The old well at the site of the early home at the Kinnard hill remained intact until about five years ago, when it was filled up and a railroad was built across the place to Okeanna. The Harding place in Ohio embraced only eighty acres and soon proved too small for the large family. Accord-

ingly, John Harding procured from Amos Ashcraft a tract of two hundred and forty acres in Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana. To this place, now known as the old Harding homestead, where James L. Harding now lives, John Harding removed from Butler county, Ohio, in the month of February, 1839, crossing the Whitewater river at Brookville, and other streams, on the ice. The eldest son, Providence and family moved to Salt Creek township about a year later and settled on what later became known as the old Volk homestead. In that early time of the pioneer there was no driveway in the forests south of Salt creek and John Harding and his family chopped a roadway out of the wilderness. When he located on the farm only about two acres on the two hundred and forty were cleared. Enochsburg at the very western edge of Franklin county, Indiana, had been in existence then only a short time as a frontier outpost of the coming civilization. A Mr. Longfellow and a Mr. Beach were pioneers then living at Enochsburg. The town took its name from Enoch Abraham, an uncle of James L. Harding, who came to Indiana shortly before John Harding and established a homestead and erected a log house on what is now the John Suttman place one mile east of Enochsburg, where the old house still weathers the storms of the years.

James L. Harding, who was the only child of his father's family born in Indiana was named after his mother's brother, James Abraham. Charlotte Cook, who officiated at the important event of July 3, 1842, said to call the baby Lancaster, after the town of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, named after the founder of Mrs. Cook's early childhood home, Lancaster, New Jersey, she having named her own son James Lancaster Cook, and thus was completed the name of James Lancaster Harding. During the childhood days of James L. Harding his father and elder brothers were still busy clearing and improving the farm where John Harding lived until the end of his days. Their gallant neighbors shared with them the toil of many a log-rolling on the old homestead. Among the early neighbors of John Harding in Salt Creek township, who rolled logs on his place, were the following pioneers: Ephraim Ashcraft, David Davis, Asa Davis, Harrison Dortan, Henry Kyle, William Barkley, Parkinson Barkley, Samuel Richardson, William Glidewell, Barney Shouse, Sr., Joseph Palmer, John Moody, James Moody, Joseph Moody, David Lawrence, Henry Lawrence, James Cook, Sr., Joel Colson, Robert Ross, Wash Barkley and Chris Welsh. The wife of David Lawrence and a daughter of Henry Kyle are said to be the first two persons buried in the cemetery at Rossburg. The remnants of an old wagon made by Henry Law-

rence for James L. Harding in 1865 still remain upon the Harding homestead.

John Harding's beloved wife, Susan Abraham, was a native of Bracken county, Kentucky. She was born about eight miles from the present county seat of that county and was a daughter of Benjamin and Mary Abraham, of that state. Benjamin Abraham with his family emigrated to Butler county, Ohio, and later became one of the early settlers in Franklin and Decatur counties, Indiana. Benjamin, the husband of Mary Abraham, died in Franklin county, Indiana, and he was buried in the old private cemetery on his farm, the old Ben Abraham place in Franklin county, north of Oldenburg. The Abrahams were of Scotch-Irish descent. In addition to Susan Abraham who was the mother of James L. Harding, the children and grandchildren of Benjamin and Mary Abraham were as follow: Enoch (before mentioned), whose children were Benjamin, Jr., Noah, Jr., Enoch Perry, Jackson, Mrs. Rebecca George of Adams county, Iowa, and Woodson Wilson Thompson Abraham, who died at Casey, Illinois, July 30, 1915; Noah, whose children were Sarah Jane, and James of Wells county, Indiana; Isaac; Benjamin (Benjamin and James, next named, were twins), whose children were Sarah of Chicago, Mary, James, and Nancy Sherwood; and James, whose children were Benjamin, William, Mary ("Polly") Bowman, of Franklin county, Indiana, recently deceased, Nancy Young, Rachel Weston (wife of Hugh Weston and buried at Stipp's Hill, Franklin county, Indiana), and Nathan, of Iowa; Sarah Welch, whose children were James, Isaac, Enoch, Mary, Thomas, Abisha, Florence, Fletcher and Abe, all of Jackson county, Iowa; Florence Morin, whose children were Mary Ann, Benjamin and Sarah Elizabeth, all of Mercer county, Missouri; Mrs. John Whiting, of Fayette county, Indiana; and Lot, who had one son, John, who lived and died at Maquoketa, Iowa. Of the above named grandchildren of Benjamin and Mary Abraham, the greater number are at this time (1915) deceased. The Harding and Abraham families both have always been ardent Democrats. John Harding was at one time a census enumerator in his section. He was a firm believer in the universality of religion and sought to live out in his daily life the teachings of the common faith. Of his eleven children, only two are now (1915) living, Mrs. Hester Osborn, who resides one mile west of Newpoint, and James L., the youngest of the family.

The other sons and daughters, deceased, of John Harding, and their children were as follow: Providence, who married Sarah Ann Johnson, of Butler county, Ohio, whose children were Mary Jane Earls, Newport, Indiana, deceased; John (whose children are Arthur, Ella, La Mond, Blanche

and Robert Harding of Cincinnati, Ohio); Rebecca Ann Hall, Paris, Illinois; Reuben, an attorney of Chicago, Illinois (deceased); Marcus, now of Hillsdale, Indiana; Mrs. Caroline Waltman, died July 1, 1915; Mary Ann Marlin (wife of Wesley Marlin and buried in the Marlin cemetery on the old Charlie Marlin farm in Franklin county, Indiana), whose children were John, Charles, Susan, Tamsen Green and Cicero; Emaline Earls; Israel, Sr., whose children were Enoch F., of Newpoint, Elizabeth Dortan, now of Washington state, Richard, of Newpoint, Nancy Graham, of Terre Haute, Indiana, George Albert, of Troy, Ohio, John, of Clarksburg, Indiana, James, of North Loop, Nebraska, died in February, 1915, Susan, deceased; Sarah, and Ed, of Newpoint; Enoch, whose children were Israel, Jr., John, Providence, Reuben, Alfred, Hester Ann, and William; Elizabeth; Hester, wife of George Osborn; Florence, wife of Albert I. Osborn, whose children were Hester Puttmann, Susan Jane Barnard, Annie and John; Harrison, whose wife was Mary Abraham Smith, now of Indianapolis; and Sophia Jane, deceased, wife of Lewis Marlin, now of Richmond, Indiana, whose children were Mary Ellen (deceased), Mollie Strohmeier, of Philanthropy, Butler county, Ohio, Olive Alyea, of Richmond, Indiana, and John, deceased.

James Lancaster Harding during his boyhood and youth was able to obtain a rather liberal education for the time in which he lived. He was educated at Rossburg and Newpoint, and, after completing his education, settled on the "east eighty" acres of his father's farm. The one-and-one-half-story log house situated at the northwest corner of this eighty acre part of the farm, in which all of the children of James L. Harding were born, was razed in the spring of 1915, after it had been carefully photographed. The present Harding home was erected in 1887, at the site of John Harding's old home.

On January 11, 1866, James L. Harding was married to Eliza Louisa Hencking (Hankins) of Franklin county, Indiana, at which time he built the log house and soon afterward moved into it. The parents of his beloved wife were Herman and Mary (Thole) Hencking, both of whom were natives of Germany. Herman Hencking took ship for America at Bremen, some time in the thirties. After spending a while in Baltimore he came westward to Cincinnati where he married Mary Thole, whose family name became well known in Cincinnati. Eliza L. Harding was born on August 22, 1844, in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she lived until her ninth year, and was baptized in the St. John's Lutheran church, of Cincinnati. She, with her parents, then removed to Newport, Kentucky. After residing there five years, she again removed with her parents, to Franklin county, Indiana, where she lived until

her marriage in 1866. Her father, Herman Hennking, was born in August, 1814, in Germany and died on October 30, 1892, on the Hennking homestead, east of Newpoint, at the edge of Franklin county. Her mother, Mary (Thole) Hennking was born in Germany, on March 25, 1821, and died on August 18, 1899, on the homestead in Franklin county. Eliza Louisa Harding had one brother, Ed, deceased, and one sister, Mary, wife of Eli Snedeker and also deceased. The father and mother of Mrs. Harding were buried in the Huntersville German Lutheran cemetery at Batesville, Indiana.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. James L. Harding, and the grandchildren, are as follow: George Edward, born on December 27, 1866, who was married on November 24, 1892, to Electa Coon, of Osgood, Indiana, to whom were born six children, Walter O., Edward, Lewis J., Chester D., Juanita, and Mary Elizabeth; Ira Melvin, November 18, 1868; Charles Milton, April 17, 1870; Augustus Clifford, June 25, 1872; Evert and Ella (twins), February 24, 1875, died in infancy; Oscar Judson, March 5, 1876; Lewis Albert, February 1, 1880, and Grover Cleveland (Clyde), July 23, 1884. Of these, Augustus C., a man steady and reliable in his business lives in Indianapolis; Ira M. faithfully assists his father in the agriculture of the homestead; Charles M., a man noted for his thrift and skill of hand, manages much of the business of the homestead for his father, and because of his prudence and good judgment, his wide reading, knowledge and live interest in affairs, contributes his talents as a most valuable citizen in the community in which he lives; Lewis A. is an active man of affairs in public life, and is now serving his second term as prosecuting attorney of the ninth judicial circuit of Indiana, at Columbus.

Eliza Louisa Harding, wife of James L. Harding, died when she was a comparatively young woman. The appropriate scripture reading at her funeral was Proverbs 31:10-31. Her obituary, read by the Rev. G. W. Bower, who conducted the services at Rossburg, contained the following tribute offered by one of her sons:

"Wife, mother, and neighbor, she lived the even tenor of her life with busy thrift, and ruled her home with counsel wise and kindly, loving words. Her ways were ways of pleasantness and all her paths were peace.

"Alas! that strange affliction should becloud her closing days. She struggled for six long years with patient hope, and endured what she alone could tell. On May 1, 1901, she peacefully succumbed to death, age fifty-six years, eight months and nine days. The Master called and she was well prepared to die.

"Loved one, wife, mother, friend—thy troubles and trials are over now.

Rest, mother, rest. We have gone down with thee to the dark valley; but thou hast left us and crossed 'over the river to rest under the shade of the trees.' "

Oscar J. Harding, died on December 11, 1902. "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report," he thought on those things. By his life well did he, indeed, prove the saying that a wise son maketh a glad father.

Grover C. Harding began his career in educational work in which he had a particular interest and for which he possessed an exceptional faculty, but like one of his first teachers in school, he had to leave that work in manhood's early morning. His purposes and ideals were high and he got his first inspiration for this work perhaps from a brother of Superintendent Jacob G. Collicott, of the Indianapolis schools, the late Harmin R. Collicott, who taught school at Rossburg. Lewis A. Harding and Grover C. Harding were two of the latter's students, and the good influence of that teacher will go on and on in the lives and souls of all who were fortunate enough to learn the lessons both of books and of life which that one man taught in the little school at Rossburg. Grover C. Harding was graduated from the Newpoint high school on April 20, 1897. In the course of his oration entitled "Value of An Education," which he gave on that occasion he said:

"Education does not mean cramming our heads with 'book learning,' but our moral training as well. Our state would rather see us ignorant Christians than educated criminals. \* \* \* Many treat the subject of education too lightly. They do not realize the bearing it will have on after life." He died on July 19, 1905.

The eldest son, George E. Harding, died at Osgood, Indiana, September 13, 1905. His obituary stated regarding him: "He was a man who looked faithfully to the interests of his home, his wife, and his children. He always sought the betterment of the community in which he lived and spent his days in industry and thrift."

A general survey of the genealogy of the Harding family shows that one of the knights in the train of William the Conqueror, 1066, was named Harding, or Hardyng, as it was spelled. Sometimes there is a final "e," Hardyngge.

It seems that the name, a compound of "har" or "here" and "ing," means the place where an army camps. "Here" is army and "ing" a meadow. Much curious data is found in books devoted to surnames, and in a list of names which are peculiar, to say the least, we find that one Harding, of Lewes, was graceful. He figures in the list as "Graceful Harding of Lewes." Others of a like kind are "Fight-the-Good-Fight-of-Faith White" and "Weep Not Billing." Hardyng, who was one companion of William, and founded



the family which flourishes in Kent, Warwick, Devonshire and Derbyshire, was "of royal blood." One of the learned men of his time was Thomas Harding, of Combe Martin, Devonshire. In the Visitation of Derbyshire the descent is given from Nicholas Harding, of Knewton, who had Robert. His son, Nicholas, was the father of Robert, who had a son, Nicholas, born in 1662. Sir Robert, of Nottinghamshire, and Knewton, or King's Newton, was knighted at Whitehall, February 2, 1674. John Harding of this lineage was born in 1686, was prominent in the political life of England and member of Exchequer, 1715. William Harding, of Surrey, who died in 1503, had a son, William, by his wife, Catherine, daughter of Sir John White, Lord Mayor of London, 1563. The son, William, dying without children, his sister, Mary, became the heiress of William Harding, her father. Mary married Sir Robert Gorges and became the mother of eight. As far as the Harding lineage is concerned, she, of course, plays no part in the Harding records. Mary's sister, Elizabeth, married John Buckland, "of an ancient family." Sir Robert Gorges was born of Sir Ferdinando Gorges and his wife, Ann Bell. One Robert Gorges was living in Plymouth Bay Colony in 1623. He was Sir Robert, or near kin to him. After his death his land in Plymouth went to his brother, John. Sir Ferdinando Gorges's second wife (but not the mother of his children) was Eleanor, Marchioness of Northampton, and widow of William Parr, Marquis, who was the brother of Catherine Parr, one of the Queens of Henry VIII.



HARDING COAT-OF-ARMS.

The Harding coat of arms is blazoned: Argent, a bend sable, with three martlets, or, crest, a falcon displayed, proper. This coat armor is ascribed to the Thomas Harding who was prominently connected with the settlement of Virginia.



"Colonial Gentry" gives an account of that branch of the Harding family which lives in Somerset county at Milverton, near Taunton. George Rogers Harding, who was born in Somerset county and had a political appointment in Queensland, was the son of George Harding, of Devonshire. The Morris and Winter are allied families. Nicholas Harding, "of Kingston-upon-Thames, Esquire," was born in 1772. His daughter, Jane, married Henry Pelham, of Sussex, and had Anne, who married Thomas Papillon. Monuments to the memory of both may be seen in Acrise church, Kent. Of Frances, daughter of Thomas Papillon, it is recorded that she was "a servant of Christ and friend of the poor."

A member of the Harding family contributes the following data: "As I am informed, the Hardings were prominent in Virginia and in Massachusetts. In Virginia they were called 'Cavaliers,' and Augusta county was their home. My grandfather, John Harding, was not a first settler, for he was born in Virginia. He left there while a lad in company with his father, and uncle Samuel and others, when the country was a wilderness. The party came through Kentucky, staying there long enough to help clear a farm. Thence they crossed the Ohio river at Cincinnati and settled in Butler county, Ohio, where another farm was cleared, and there John Harding raised his family. All were born there except my father, who is a Hoosier product, and proud of the fact. My grandfather often talked of that journey through the wilderness, of its incidents and trials, and the perilous trip across the mountains. Their principal food was the deer they killed. Their passage was so slow that many times they were obliged to go back and get fire to start their supper from their previous night's camp. They were sixteen or eighteen days crossing the mountain—slow going, the travel of those old pioneers. At times they unhitched their horses and pulled the wagons, one part at a time, up the steep precipices."

John Harding, of Virginia and Ohio, married Susan Abraham, who was born in Kentucky. Her parents settled in Butler county, Ohio, about the time the Hardings made their home there, and near the "Dry Fork of the White-water." Thomas Harding was one of the Virginia pioneers. He is put down in old records as prominently connected with the settlement of Virginia and from London, "member of an ancient family." In New England we find the Hardings in Massachusetts and Vermont, where they contracted marriages with the Vintons, Gibbs, Waldos, Marceys and Maxhams. Rev. Alpheus Harding, of New Salem, Massachusetts, was in the War of 1812 as chaplain.

We also find that the Hardings belong in Pennsylvania. John Harding, of Germantown, of English stock, had a son, John. Saunders and Haws

are allied families, and the goodly number of nine daughters—all lovely girls, we may rest assured—and two sons is the count in one household. All histories of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, have records of the Hardings as worthy pioneers, who always were to the fore in affairs demanding executive ability.

The Hardin (no "g") family of Kentucky became Western pioneers. Asa Hardin, the father of ten, and born in Kentucky, went to Illinois. Allied families include the Stith, Reager, Rucker and Butler families. Benjamin Hardin, famed as an orator and lawyer, was the son of Benjamin Hardin, of Kentucky, and his wife, Sarah, who was also his cousin, the daughter of Colonel John Hardin. Wat Hardin was also a famous Kentucky lawyer and orator. It is in Kentucky that Hardin is the usual form of the name. Steve Harding, of Milan, Indiana, was appointed the first territorial governor of Utah by Abraham Lincoln.

An allied family is that of Barbour. The Barbours were from Virginia, and an early father was a burgess. Major James Barbour was in the War of 1812. Brigadier-General Martin Hardin, United States senator and secretary of the state of Kentucky in 1812, was a remarkably brilliant man and a splendid soldier. He belonged to the fifth generation of a race of soldiers. He married Elizabeth Logan. Stuarts, Chinns and Clays are allied families. The Hardings, as well as the Hardins, have their soldiers, bold and true, ready to sacrifice all save honor for home and country. Gen. William Harding is one of the soldiers of the family, and there is a connection with the Jackson family, through the marriage of Selene, daughter of General Harding, to Gen. William Jackson, born in Virginia.

General Jackson's home was Belle Meade Farm, Tennessee, where he died a few years ago. He was a West Point graduate. Judge Howell, brother of General Jackson, married Mary Elizabeth, sister of Selene Harding. The mother of Selene and Mary Elizabeth was Elizabeth Irwin McGavock. The father of Gen. William Harding, was John, who married Susannah Shute. The general, who had three other daughters and a son, William, is called a scholar and soldier, and a gentleman. Family connections of this branch of the Harding family include the Langhorns, Whites, Kents and Campbells. Gen. William Campbell, of Revolutionary fame, belongs here.

Of the Hardings of Mississippi, Lyming Harding was prominent, and one of the securities for Aaron Burr's appearance at the superior court at the time of his arrest, when he was compelled to surrender to the authorities and was conducted under guard to Washington, Mississippi, the seat of government of the territory. Burr gave his recognizance in the sum of five thousand

dollars, with Col. Benaiah Osmon and Lyming Harding as securities. This was when Aaron Burr was on his way to seize Mexico and make it his personal empire. He was a guest of Colonel Harding at Windy Hill manor, and during his sojourn there he became infatuated with the beautiful Madeline and impetuously made love to her. "She was a miracle of beauty," and good as beautiful.

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### WALTER HUNGERFORD.

Seldom do we find a family living in the rural sections of the middle West, which is able to trace its ancestry, not only to the earliest wars of this country, but to the ancestral home in the country, from which the family came to America. The Hungerfords are a notable exception. In a straight line of descent the family is traceable to Lord Walter Hungerford, who was lord treasurer of England under Henry VI. The family originated near Bath and Trowbridge, England, and owned many thousands of acres of agricultural and hunting lands, villages, schools and churches. Farleigh Castle, now called Farleigh-Hungerford, is the old ancestral home in England. The family was quite prominent in England during the War of the Roses, the motto on the ancient seal of the Hungerfords being the Latin phrase "*Et Dieu mon appuy*," or "God, my protector."

Walter Hungerford, the cashier of the St. Paul Bank at St. Paul, Indiana, which was organized on December 10, 1904, is a direct descendant of Lord and Lady Hungerford, of Farleigh Castle. A native of Rush county, Indiana, he was born on a farm, July 13, 1873, the son of Orlando and Margaret (Knapp) Hungerford, both of whom were natives of Rush county, the former born in 1852 and the latter in 1854. Orlando Hungerford is a son of Calvin Hungerford, a native of Connecticut and a scion of an old colonial family of Connecticut, who was born on December 10, 1811, and who died on June 23, 1867. The latter married Eleanor Sefton, who was born on October 18, 1818, and died on February 1, 1892. Calvin Hungerford was the son of Richard Hungerford, who was born on December 28, 1788, and died in 1870. Richard Hungerford was the son of Lemuel and Abigail (Beebe) Hungerford, the former of whom was born on February 21, 1761, and who died on February 21, 1846, and the latter born on July 10, 1761, and died on January 27, 1842. Lemuel was the son of Lemuel Hungerford, Sr., who was born on May 23, 1733, and who married Sarah Stewart. Lemuel, Sr., was the son of Green Hungerford, who

married Jemina Richardson, and Green Hungerford was the son of Thomas and Mary Hungerford, the former of whom died in 1714. Thomas Hungerford moved from New London, Connecticut, to Haddam, Connecticut, in 1692. He was granted a section of land and was first selectman or mayor of Haddam. By trade he was a blacksmith and nailmaker. Capt. Zachariah Hungerford was commander of Ft. Trumbull and Ft. Griswold, on the Connecticut river, during the Revolutionary War. The family's church burying lot in Haddam shows a massive slab, bearing the inscription, "A Son of the Revolution." Thirteen Hungerfords from Connecticut fought in the Revolutionary War and this was only a part of the family who served in this great conflict. Benjamin Hungerford was second lieutenant in the First Company of the Fourth Regiment; David was long a prisoner at Fort Washington; Elijah was a "minute man" who volunteered in 1776; James was a soldier of East Haddam; Thomas H. was captain of the Fifteenth Militia; Uriah was a surgeon at Long Island; Uriah was a piper, and Zachariah a surgeon. John, Joseph, Nathaniel, Oliver and Stephen were also soldiers. William E. Hungerford was one of the first of the family to come to America. He had a beautiful home and estate on the banks of the Connecticut river. At his death, his remains were taken back to England and buried in Salisbury cathedral, where the twin tombs of Lord Walter and Lady Hungerford are still shown.

Richard Hungerford came from Connecticut to Indiana, in the early twenties of the last century, settling in Rush county, where he took up government land in tracts of one hundred and sixty acres each for each of his five children. Orlando Hungerford resided in Rush county until his marriage and then moved to Shelby county in 1875, locating near Blue Ridge, where he prospered. He became a large landowner and is one of the wealthiest citizens of this section today. To his union with Margaret Knapp three children were born: Walter, cashier of the bank at St. Paul, who is the subject of this sketch; Pearl, a farmer near St. Paul; and Dora, assistant cashier in the bank of St. Paul. Orlando Hungerford lives just across the line in Shelby county.

Walter Hungerford was educated in the common schools of Blue Ridge, in Rush county, and spent two years in the Marion Normal College at Marion, Indiana. He then followed farming until 1904, when he came to Decatur county, locating at St. Paul, where he opened the St. Paul Bank on December 10, 1904. This bank has had a remarkable growth since its opening for business and this growth is largely due to the enterprise, industry and good management of its cashier. Mr. Hungerford is a man of

engaging personality, cordial in his relations with the patrons of the bank, the depositors, directors and officers, as well as the public generally.

Walter Hungerford has been twice married, first in 1894, to Zora K. Yarling, the sister of Senator Yarling, of Shelby county. She died in November, 1904, leaving two sons, Donald, who was born on May 28, 1896, and George, October 2, 1898. By the second marriage, on December 10, 1905, to Mrs. Nellie Kelso, of St. Paul, there has been no issue. Mrs. Hungerford is the daughter of Mrs. Colvil E. Pearce, a widow of this county.

Mr. Hungerford is a Democrat but has never been active in political circles. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Waldron and of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at St. Paul. He and his wife are members of the Christian church. They occupy a splendid residence in St. Paul. Walter Hungerford is known in this community as a fine fellow, cultured and progressive, a good citizen and a very pleasant gentleman.

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#### FRED E. MULFORD.

After various attempts by local boys to work the hot sandwich business at nights on the streets of Greensburg, there finally came an outsider from the neighboring town of North Vernon, who has held that vocation at his will since October 19, 1899. This young man is Fred Mulford, who was born and reared at North Vernon, his birth occurring on January 13, 1874. His parents were Hoosiers, being natives, respectively, of Jennings and Dearborn counties, Indiana. Fred, as he is known by every man, woman and child for miles around, has endeavored at various times to better his condition financially, but, having engaged in a business in which he was his own boss, being sure of not getting fired off the job and having a family of five children, he did not get very far away from the sure meal-ticket provider, that of the sandwich business.

When fourteen years of age, Fred Mulford learned to lath with the plasterers and follows that line of work steadily at North Vernon, Charles-town and at Memphis, Tennessee. He also turned a number of jobs at Greensburg and elsewhere in Decatur county. This led him into taking a complete course in architecture with the Scranton International Correspond-

ence School. He became very proficient in this line of work. He was the agitator and furnished sketches for the improvement of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg. Though the building committee used other plans, Mr. Mulford received compensation for the time previously spent in getting the work under way. He also drew several sets of plans for different buildings in Greensburg, but, because of real estate deals, they were not carried out and built upon. It was because of his drafting ability that he was mentioned to the publishers of this work as being capable of drawing the maps used herein. His ability is displayed in the complete maps of the county and the nine townships, with all farms platted according to the spring assessor's platting in 1915.

It was during the progress of this work that a tragedy occurred that was a sad blow to Mr. Mulford and family and the entire community. Mr. Mulford went to Indianapolis on June 5, 1915, to submit his work to the publishers, according to previous contract. Wishing to show his little five-and-one-half-year-old daughter, Alma Alleen, a pleasant day's outing, he took her with him to the city. From the B. F. Bowen Company offices, Mr. Mulford and his little daughter went to the Century building in Indianapolis, where they took the elevator for the eighth floor. Directly after entering the elevator, another passenger entered and the elevator started up. This passenger got off at the third floor. The operator started the car up and attempted to close the screen door. Alma Alleen, who was standing at the side and partly back of her father, seeing the door still standing open, thought it was her getting-off place. She hurried out, and, as the car was at least fifteen inches above the floor level, missed her footing, fell forward and struck her forehead. She let out a smothered scream as her other foot slipped off the elevator floor and she fell back down into the shaft three stories, on to a concrete basement floor, her skull being fractured and the right leg broken at the thigh. The accident, which would not have occurred had the operator closed the door of the elevator before starting the car, resulted in the death of little Alma Alleen, who lived just twelve hours, dying in the Deaconess hospital, at Indianapolis, just before midnight. At the coroner's inquest the passenger who left the elevator at the third floor, testified that the father was not at all to blame, and that the operator had failed to close the door before starting the car.

Mr. Mulford's family consists of his wife, Cora, one daughter, Harriet Thelma, and three sons, David Sherman, Irvin Gaylord and Glen Emmert, all of whom were born in Greensburg, as was also little Alma Alleen, who met so sudden a death.



## THOMAS EDGAR HAMILTON.

A great movement cannot be built on one little ship—the “Mayflower.” It takes a lot of ships and a big lot of people to make a commonwealth. A pyramid cannot be built on its apex, nor a great nation on one ship. Plymouth and Salem and Boston; Providence, Hartford and New Haven; Manhattan, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Jamestown, Raleigh, Charleston and Savannah are the bright and shining stars of the Pilgrim immigration to America; and the Brotherhood of Separationists, of Puritans, of Dutch burgomasters, of Roman Catholic freemen, of Philadelphia Quakers, of Virginia planters, of Carolina descendants of Locke and of Georgia Huguenots illustrate the fact that one type of motive makes the world akin. The above typical lovers of freedom whose crowning act was the wresting from the home government of independence for the thirteen original colonies have many descendants in this county, families of Revolutionary descent being naturally very common in a district whose early settlement followed so soon after the westward movement of many soldiers of the Revolution. Few of these families have a wider connection in this county or a more distinguished descent than the Hamilton family, to which the gentleman whose name is noted above is attached, and it is a pleasure for the biographer to set out here something of Thomas Edgar Hamilton’s career in the county in which he was born and in which his whole life has been spent.

Thomas Edgar Hamilton, a well-known farmer of Washington township, this county, whose well-tilled farm adjoins the city of Greensburg on the north, was born in Clinton township, this county, April 19, 1853, but has lived on his present farm, in the fine brick mansion built by his father in 1864, for fifty years. This substantial old mansion was constructed of brick, and the fine old trees which surround the house and the ivy-covered driveways leading thereto speak volumes for the loving care which is bestowed upon it by its present occupants. Mr. Hamilton is a son of Thomas George and Eliza Jane (Lewis) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in Nicholas county, Kentucky, in 1819, and died at his home in this county of March 13, 1870, and the latter of whom was a daughter of Dr. M. Lewis, a pioneer physician of this county, who came here in the year 1823 and helped to lay out the town of Greensburg. Thomas G. Hamilton’s brothers, William W. and Samuel R., also were residents of this county. Another brother, Cincinnatus, remained in Kentucky.

Thomas George Hamilton was a son of Col. William Hamilton, who drilled a company for service in the War of 1812. Col. William Hamilton,



who married Polly Bernau, was born in 1792 and died in 1878; was born, spent his whole life and died on the ancestral home in Kentucky. He was a son of Thomas Hamilton, a native of Virginia and a pioneer settler in Kentucky. Thomas Hamilton was a son of William Hamilton, another of whose sons, William Hamilton, Jr., lost his life while battling for independence during the Revolutionary War. Thomas G. Hamilton came to Decatur county in 1845 and after a short residence in Greensburg, where he made his home with a brother who had preceded him to this state, he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres south of town, where he resided two years, at the end of which time he bought a farm of three hundred and seventy-six acres in Clinton township, on which he resided until 1865, in which year he bought the farm adjoining the town of Greensburg on the north now owned and occupied by his son, Thomas E. This farm is well improved and very productive, being one of the choicest farms in Decatur county. One section of this land, one hundred and sixty acres, originally was owned by William Kingstone, a grant to him from the government in 1814, in recognition of his services in the French and Indian wars. He sold the section for four hundred dollars, being, no doubt, well satisfied with what probably was considered a "bargain" in those days. Needless to say, that one hundred and sixty acres of land has increased in value fifty-fold since the day William Kingstone pocketed his four hundred dollars.

Thomas G. Hamilton married Eliza Jane Lewis, born in 1828, died in 1872, to which union were born three sons, William Lewis, who lives at Indianapolis; Thomas Edgar, the immediate subject of this sketch, and John Livingston, a well-known farmer of this county. In connection with his extensive farming operations, Thomas G. Hamilton was the pioneer dealer in mules in this county, buying and selling large numbers of these patient animals. He was a Democrat and was prominent in the political affairs of the county, being one of the best-known and most influential men of this section in his day. He and his wife were devoted members of the Presbyterian church and their sons were reared in that faith.

Thomas E. Hamilton was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the district schools and the Greensburg high school. He early devoted himself to farming and now has one hundred and fifty-two acres and also owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township, this county. Mr. Hamilton is an intelligent, useful citizen, "honest to the core," as his neighbors delight to phrase it, and is doing most excellent service on behalf of the public in the responsible position of a member of the county council, to which office he was elected in 1914 and in which he is

doing his duty honestly, conscientiously and with an eye single to the public good. He is an able executor and has been administrator and trustee for several large estates in this county, a form of service in which he gave the utmost satisfaction, and has done and is doing his full duty, as he sees it, as a faithful, efficient and capable man of affairs.

On November 20, 1879, Thomas E. Hamilton was united in marriage to Ida May Wooden, daughter of the late Dr. John L. Wooden, a one-time well-known physician of Greensburg, whose genealogy is set out elsewhere in this volume in the biographical sketch relating to her brother, Elmer E. Wooden, a retired merchant of Greensburg, and to this union one child was born, a daughter, Florence M., who is living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and their daughter are members of the Presbyterian church and are devoted to the good works of the community in which their lives have been spent in faithful and loving service. Mr. Hamilton is a Democrat and is prominent in the councils of his party in this county, his sound judgment and keen executive ability giving to his counsels much weight in the deliberations of the party managers. He is a good citizen, one whom all his fellow citizens delight to honor.

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### EDWARD W. DAVIS.

Visible for miles in every direction, the new residence of Edward W. Davis stands as a veritable landmark in the northwestern part of Clay township, this county. Mr. Davis' recently completed home, which was erected at a cost of something more than seven thousand dollars, is one of the most complete and thoroughly-appointed farm houses in Decatur county, fitting evidence of the enterprise and good taste of the owners. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are very popular in the community in which they live and their new home promises to be the center of much cordial hospitality. The Davis home is a modern nine-room house erected on a pleasant eminence on the Davis farm of more than three hundred acres in Clay township, from which a view of all that picturesque region for miles about is obtainable; one of the most desirable sites in the county. The house is piped for gas, both for lighting and heating, the gas being secured from a high-pressure well on the Davis farm, and is equipped with a complete water system, with hot and cold running water throughout; nothing having been neglected in making up the plans for this house to secure the greatest degree of comfort and convenience for the



EDWARD W. DAVIS AND FAMILY.



occupants thereof. Mr. Davis has two dwellings on his farm, part of which farm lies in Decatur county and part in Shelby county, and during the time of the erection of the new house he and his family lived in the house just over the line in the latter county. The Davis farm is one of the most fertile thereabout and is well provided with all the necessary improvements in accordance with the latest dictates of agricultural science and, under the thorough-going system of farming adopted by Mr. Davis, has proved very productive. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Davis is an extensive breeder of live stock, having shipped as much as twenty-seven hundred dollars' worth of hogs and eight hundred dollars' worth of cattle in a year. Besides his farm of three hundred and twelve acres surrounding his home. Mr. Davis is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Daviess county, this state, making his land holdings five hundred and ninety-two acres in all.

Edward W. Davis was born on a farm in Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, on March 28, 1876, the son of James and Sarah E. (Braden) Davis, the former of whom was a native of Ireland and the latter of this county, daughter of Jack Braden, a Kentuckian, one of the best-known pioneer residents of Clay township; the man who built the first blacksmith shop in the town of Greensburg, a reference to whom may be found on several pages of this volume of biography, particularly in the biographical sketch relating to Charles Templeton, whose wife is a sister of Mr. Davis. James Davis was twenty years of age when he left Ireland to make his fortune in the land of the free across the Atlantic. Upon arriving in this country he proceeded to Cincinnati and for some time was engaged in freighting between Cincinnati and Brookville, this state. He presently located in Decatur county and became very wealthy, owning at one time as much as three thousand acres of land. No man in the county was better known than he. He had more than a local fame as a trader and was an exceedingly energetic and enterprising person.

Edward W. Davis received his education in the local district school and has always lived in the neighborhood of his present home. Following his marriage in 1903, he moved onto his present farm, remodeling a three-room house, which then stood on the place, into a nice residence and in this he lived until his present fine new home was completed. Inheriting much of the energy and enterprise of his father, Mr. Davis has been quite successful in his farming operations and is looked upon as one of the substantial men of the county.

On January 3, 1903, Edward W. Davis was united in marriage to Ella

Lawson, who was born in Kentucky on June 10, 1879, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann (Ross) Lawson, both of whom died in Kentucky. Ella Lawson came to this county on a visit to the family of her brother, Frank Lawson, and here she met Mr. Davis, their marriage following not long after. To this union one child has been born, a son, James Edward, born on October 18, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are members of the United Brethren church and are devoted to the good works of the community in which they live, being looked upon as among the leaders in all movements for the advancement of the common good. Mr. Davis is a Democrat and takes a warm interest in local political affairs, though not an active political worker. However, he is interested in good government and aids in every proper way the promotion of the same.

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### JOHN HENRY SCHROEDER.

The student interested in the history of Decatur county does not have to carry his investigations far into its annals before learning that John Henry Schroeder has long been one of its most active citizens, in both its mercantile and agricultural interests, and that his labors have been a potent force in advancing the interests of this locality. Mr. Schroeder has lived a useful and honorable life, a life characterized by perseverance and well-defined purpose and he has established a character as a man who measures up to the type of the good American citizen. To him there also belongs the distinction of being the oldest resident of Decatur county.

John Henry Schroeder, who lives on a farm adjoining the town of Enochsburg, Salt Creek township, was born in Germany, November 19, 1822, the son of Frank and Mary Elizabeth Schroeder, who came to America two years after their son had located here. When John H. Schroeder was about fourteen years of age, in 1836, enthused by the wonderful stories of the great possibilities in the United States for a young man of ambition and energy, he came to this country, locating first at Cincinnati, where he engaged in common labor. He also worked in a store for five years. In 1841 he went to Louisville, Kentucky, where, for five years, he was employed in a store, and in 1846 went to Missouri, and clerked in a store at Lottsport. Two years later he returned to Louisville and after a residence there of one year came to Decatur county in 1849, locating in Enochsburg, where he established a store, which he operated with considerable success for about

eight years. It was at a period antedating the advent of railroads in this section of the state and it was necessary to bring his stock of goods from Cincinnati. On one occasion when he was sending a wagon load of dressed hogs to the Cincinnati market and while crossing a stream near Harrison, the ice broke and the valuable team of horses which he was driving was drowned. When he discontinued his store at Enochsburg, Mr. Schroeder located on the farm where he now lives and which comprises two hundred and seven acres of valuable land. He has resided there for about forty years and has worked a wonderful transformation in the condition of the place. At the time he moved upon it there were no improvements of any kind and it was necessary for him to cut timber in order to erect his buildings. He since then has done strenuous labor, but despite his hard luck he is now, at the advanced age of ninety-three years, remarkably well preserved, both physically and mentally. He has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and has lent his aid to the advancement of all worthy propositions and to the raising of the standard of living. While living in Enochsburg he served two years as trustee of the township, and one term as appraiser and was in other ways prominent in the affairs of his neighborhood. During the Mexican War, Mr. Schroeder assisted in organizing a company for service and also helped to organize a military company during the Civil War.

On February 8, 1849, Mr. Schroeder was married to Elizabeth Tuka, who was born in Germany on September 8, 1828, and who passed away in March, 1894. She came to America, locating in Louisville when fourteen years of age and her marriage to Mr. Schroeder occurred at Enochsburg. To Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder were born the following children: Henry H., Henry, deceased; Everhard Henry, October 9, 1852, who died in 1905; John G., November 17, 1854, who lives three miles south of Greensburg and who is married and has four sons, John, Edward, Frank and Gregory; John Ambrosius, deceased; Herman Henry, October 24, 1858, was married, July 13, 1897, to Rosa Sandroek; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Northorst, of New Albany, is the mother of three children, Joseph, Rosa and Henry; Louisa Zizilia, December, 1862; Mrs. Annie Frances Thea, of Posey county, who has seven children, Rosa, Elizabeth, Joseph, Clara, Frances, Julia and Anthony; Rosa Clara Wessels died in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 23, 1899, at the age of thirty-two years, leaving four children, Lizzie, Bennie, Edward and Rosa. John Henry Schroeder also has four great-grandchildren, namely: Joseph and Leonard, sons of his grandson, John; and Richard and Paul, sons of Joseph Morthorst.



Mr. Schroeder has been a life-long adherent of the principles of the Democratic party, having cast his first Presidential vote for Henry Clay and has voted for every Democratic presidential candidate since. His religious affiliation is with the Enochsburg Catholic church, of which he is a liberal supporter.

As the oldest resident of Decatur county, J. H. Schroeder has seen his county develop from a sparsely settled community to its present prosperous condition, and has performed a very important part in helping to bring about the advanced standing of the locality. Though now in the evening of life, he is still hale and hearty and enjoys life with the zest of a far younger man. His long residence in this section has given him a great number of friends, by whom he is held in the highest esteem for his many commendable traits of character.

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#### OMER T. MANLIEF.

Ripley county, Indiana, has furnished many of the present generation of enterprising farmers in Decatur county. It is not difficult to explain why many of the more ambitious young farmers of Ripley county have come to Decatur, the principal reason being, according to all loyal Decatur county folk, that the soil in Decatur county is far superior to that in Ripley county. Of the many native-born sons of Ripley county, who have sought a home and fortune in Decatur county, Omer T. Manlief, of Marion township, who came here more than forty years ago, may be mentioned.

Omer T. Manlief, who owns one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land in Marion township, Decatur county, was born on July 17, 1849, in Ripley county, Indiana, the son of Benjamin and Catherine (Ruble) Manlief, of German descent, both of whom died in Ripley county.

After coming to Decatur county in 1873, at the age of twenty-four, Omer F. Manlief purchased eighty acres of land at ten dollars an acre, paying cash for the tract. At this time the land was covered with timber. Immediately after purchasing this tract, he built a log house of two rooms in which he and his family lived for twenty years, or until they built their present home. During the first year or two after coming to Decatur county, Mr. Manlief rented cleared land, which he cultivated and worked at odd times and at night to clear his own land. In 1910 he purchased eighty acres of land situated across the road from his original tract, paying for the same twenty-four hundred dollars. He ordinarily has about forty acres of

corn and about the same amount of wheat. He now has a good home with well-kept and well-painted buildings and with many fruit and shade trees, which add greatly to the attractiveness of the place.

In 1872 Omer T. Manlief was married to Mary Elizabeth Suter, of Dearborn county, who was born on January 13, 1852, the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Ann Suter. To this union three children have been born, all of whom are married and now have children of their own: Mrs. Edna Leo Lena Surface, of Westport, who has five children, Omer, Ollie, Anna, Erra and Birdie; Clyde, a farmer of Jennings county, who married Mary Shumach and has one daughter, Martha; and Carl, who farms at home, married Stella Rathburn and has two children, Woodrow Lowson and Ruth.

Mr. Manlief is a Democrat but has never been active in politics, preferring to devote his time and his energy to his own personal and private business. The Manlief family are all members of the Baptist church and Mr. Manlief is a liberal contributor to the support of this faith.

By prodigious industry, most economical living and careful management, Omer T. Manlief has accumulated a snug fortune in farm property and is recognized today as one of the foremost citizens of Marion township. He well deserves the confidence of the public because he has won that confidence by his own personal efforts.

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### JOHN R. COLLINS.

During recent years much has been written and said regarding intensive farming in this country. The apparent inexhaustibility of the soil of this favored land for generations caused the tillers of the soil to display an almost disdainful laxity in the matter of the proper upkeep of the same, with the very natural result that in time many once valuable farms became worthless, by reason of being worn out, and were abandoned. Then came the demand for scientific fertilization and intensive farming; agriculturists all over the land began to wake up to the importance of keeping the soil alive, and the result has been the raising of crops that would have been deemed impossible by the pioneers, even in the days of the soil's virgin fertility. Much has been done along this line in Decatur county, though it must be admitted that there still remains very much yet to be done. There is one farmer, however, who has cultivated his land to such advantage that he has become recognized among his neighbors as the most successful farmer in the county;

a measure of praise which he by no means courts, but which is ungrudgingly given him by those who have noted with much interest the results of his labors. Though the possessor of but a small acreage, his place consisting of eighty acres in all, John R. Collins, of Salt Creek township, is widely known as the man who raises the bumper crops in this county and his methods have attracted much attention, the spirit of emulation thus created undoubtedly having resulted in the elevation of the standards of farming throughout the whole county. As an example of the intensive methods adopted by Mr. Collins, it may be mentioned that at one time he spent one thousand dollars for tile with which to drain a tract of forty acres. Those who may have looked askance at such an apparently extravagant expenditure altered their opinion when this tract was found to be producing seventy-five bushels of corn to the acre. As this was written this tract was bearing a luxuriant stand of wheat which promised to break all local records for yield. In 1912 Mr. Collins sold seed corn for two dollars a bushel to his admiring neighbors and he has raised as high as eighty bushels of corn to the acre. The title of most successful farmer in Decatur county, therefore, very properly may be applied to him, notwithstanding his modest disclaimer of any such distinction.

John R. Collins was born in Jennings county, this state, near the town of Brewersville, on July 29, 1857, the son of John Roberts Parsons and Nancy Jane (Roszell) Collins, the former of whom was born in 1823 and died on July 29, 1911, and the latter of whom was born on June 2, 1832, and died on July 13, 1895. John Roberts Parsons Collins was a native of Scotland and, with a sister, was brought to this country when quite young by his mother. The father was to follow his family to this country on a vessel sailing later, but never again was heard from and it was supposed that he was lost at sea. Mr. Collins's mother died shortly after coming to America and her son and daughter were reared by their maternal grandparents, who some years before had come to this country, locating at Oxford, Ohio. There J. R. P. Collins lived until he was fifteen years of age, at which time he moved to Jennings county, this state. He had been apprenticed to the carpenter trade and upon locating in Jennings county he worked at this trade until the year 1862, in which year he came to Decatur county, locating in Salt Creek township, buying the farm on which his son, John R., now lives. On this place he built a log cabin and lived there until 1865, moving in that year to Pennington, where he farmed and worked at his trade the rest of his life. His death occurred in a hospital at Madison.

Nancy Jane (Roszell) Collins was born in Greensburg, this county.

daughter of John Roszell, the first blacksmith in the town of Greensburg. John Roszell was a native of Kentucky, whose father lived to be one hundred years old. He came to this county about the year 1822 and built the first blacksmith shop in the then hamlet of Greensburg. Upon arriving here he turned his wagonbed upside down, erecting around the same a barricade of brush, thus creating his first shelter in Decatur county. He married a Miss Brockman, cleared a tract of land for a home and became one of the best-known pioneer settlers of the county.

To John Roberts Parsons and Nancy Jane (Roszell) Collins were born nine children, namely: Ida, born on August 11, 1855, married W. R. Copper, of New Pennington, this county, and died in March, 1905; John R., the immediate subject of this sketch; James R., who served five years in the United States army, then became a conductor on the San Francisco street railway, serving in such a capacity for fourteen years, and has not been heard of since the San Francisco earthquake, in 1906; Anna B., principal of one of the ward schools at Indianapolis; Carvel H., of Eaton, Blackford county, Indiana; Minnie, of Indianapolis, a teacher in the schools of Elwood, this state; Albert, a successful contractor and builder in the Isle of Pines, off the coast of Cuba, and Grace, who married Edward Hatfield, of Indianapolis, and has three children.

On September 10, 1891, John R. Collins was united in marriage to Sophia Rachel Schilling, who was born in Salt Creek township, this county, daughter of William and Minnie (Harris) Schilling, natives of Germany and old residents of Salt Creek township, the former of whom was born in 1836 and died in 1899 and the latter of whom was born in 1836 and died in 1907, who were the parents of eight children, as follow: Sophia R., who married Mr. Collins; Henry, deceased; William, who lives on the old Schilling farm; Mrs. Rosa Cullicut, of this county; Mrs. Minnie Bradewater, of Salt Creek township, this county; Edward, of the same township; Lucy, deceased, and John, also of Salt Creek township.

To John R. and Sophia Rachel (Schilling) Collins have been born six children, William, aged twenty-two, who is at home ably assisting his father in the management of the farm; Edward, Ida, Minnie, Bertha and Harry, at school.

Mr. and Mrs. Collins are members of the Methodist church and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Collins is quite independent in his political views, ever giving the best citizens preference in making up his ballot. He is not a member of any of the various lodges, believing that home is man's best "lodge," and takes great pleasure and comfort in his

home. He and his good wife take a warm interest in the church and social affairs of their home community and no couple in that part of the county are held in higher regard than they. As pointed out in the beginning of this narrative, there is no better farmer anywhere in Salt Creek township than Mr. Collins, and it may be said with equal truth that no man in the township is more popular than he, or held in higher esteem.

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### GEORGE F. REDELMAN.

One of the leading financial institutions of the eastern part of Decatur county is the First State Bank, of New Point, which was organized in 1906 as a national bank and on January 1, 1912, was converted into a state bank. The institution is housed in a commodious brick building owned by the company and is capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars. It now has a surplus and undivided profits of thirty-five hundred dollars and deposits of one hundred thousand dollars. The officers of the bank include John Hoff, president; J. A. Meyer, vice-president, and George F. Redelman, cashier. The directors, besides the officers, include Edward A. Buckley, T. M. Clark, Joseph Kramer, J. H. Metz, Sr., Charles Risinger and Peter P. Schuh. During the last four years none of the officers has had more to do with the success and growth of this bank than its cashier, Mr. Redelman.

George F. Redelman was born on November 19, 1884, in Greensburg, this county, son of Henry M. and Sarah A. (Herman) Redelman, the former of whom was born in 1854, near Millhousen, this county, on a farm, son of Matthias Redelman, a native of Germany, and the latter of whom was born near Harris City, in Decatur county. Mrs. Sarah A. (Herman) Redelman's parents, however, were natives of Germany. Henry M. Redelman is an extensive farmer and stockman of Marion township, whose life history is told elsewhere in this volume.

Receiving his early education in the Slabtown school, in Marion township, George F. Redelman later attended the Hamburg schools, going to school in the same building and receiving instruction from the same teacher as did his father. This venerable teacher was Theodore Wilmer. After graduating from the Slabtown school when fourteen years of age, Mr. Redelman worked on the farm until twenty years old, at which time he received a license to teach school. Instead of teaching, however, he went to Indianapolis as a student of the Vorhees Business College, from which

institution he was graduated in 1905. Subsequently he worked as a bookkeeper and collector for the Badger Furniture Company at Indianapolis for one year, and was then employed on the *Indianapolis Star* for some time. In the fall of 1906 he returned to Decatur county, going to Greensburg as bookkeeper of the Greensburg National Bank, and on July 5, 1911, took charge of the First State Bank at New Point.

On June 18, 1913, Mr. Redelman was married to Lena Spitzmesser, of Greensburg, daughter of Leopold and Caroline Spitzmesser, to which union one son has been born, Robert George, born on April 19, 1914.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Redelman has never taken an active part in the councils of his party. He and his wife are members of the Enochsburg Catholic church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of St. John at Greensburg.

George F. Redelman is still a very young man to be charged with important financial responsibility, and this proves better than anything else the estimation in which he is held by the people of this section. He enjoys not only the confidence and respect of the officers and directors of the First State Bank at New Point, but he has also maintained, since his connection with the bank, cordial relations with the patrons of the institution and the public generally and well deserves the high esteem in which he is held by the people of this community.

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#### GEORGE A. LOGAN.

The most pretentious country house to be found anywhere in the western part of Decatur county, Indiana, is that located on the farm of George A. Logan in Clay township. This house, of nineteen rooms, is finished throughout in native wood, cut and seasoned on the farm, the walls made of bricks of clay dug on the farm, and required five years for construction, being completed about 1889. The rooms are finished in wild cherry, walnut, ash and quartered-oak, and the poplar doors are cut from native wood. Logs for the construction of the house were hauled eight miles to Burney, and the rock was quarried near Milford. Incidental material for furnishings was hauled to Greensburg and then brought back to the farm. In 1913 a beautiful concrete and brick veranda was added to the house, a veranda which circles front and sides of the house and gives it a most imposing appearance. This magnificent place is located on a farm of two hundred



and seventy-five acres of land which was given to Mr. Logan by his father, but at that time it had no improvements. Since that time Mr. Logan has erected two large barns, a double corn-crib, tool-house and garage, all of which are painted yellow. The proprietor of this splendid estate also owns seventy-five acres north of the home farm.

George A. Logan, who may be regarded as the author and finisher of this beautiful countryside home, was born on March 7, 1862, on a farm one-fourth mile from his present home, the son of John and Eliza A. (Hungate) Logan, the former of whom was born on August 14, 1829, in Decatur county, Indiana, and died on July 16, 1912, and the latter of whom was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, on June 7, 1838. The late John A. Logan was a son of early pioneers of Decatur county. Samuel and Susanna (Howard) Logan, natives of Pennsylvania, who, in 1818, came down the Ohio river on a flat boat and who, after stopping for a time in Kentucky, settled in this county. After constructing a rude log cabin, they entered land from the government, and during their lives became very prosperous. Samuel and Susanna Logan were the parents of thirteen children, among whom were James, deceased; Samuel, Jr., of Letts Corners, Decatur county; John, of Greensburg; Aaron, who lives west of Greensburg, in Washington township; Frank, of Topeka, Kansas; Martha Ann, who married a Doctor Hitt, now both deceased; Mrs. Margaret Jane Deen, deceased; Mrs. Mary Hamilton, deceased; Mrs. Rachel Hobbs, who was the wife of the Rev. Mr. Hobbs, a Christian minister, and who died at Des Moines, Iowa, in January, 1915. The late John Logan was married to Eliza A. Hungate on January 24, 1856, and after his marriage settled on a farm in Clay township, five miles west of Greensburg. They lived on the farm until in September, 1886, accumulating in the meantime seven hundred and forty acres of land. Mrs. Eliza E. (Hungate) Logan was a daughter of John and Eliza (Gregory) Hungate, natives of Kentucky, who emigrated to Shelby county, Indiana, in 1840, and who later settled in Noble township, that county, where they died. John Hungate was born in 1798, and died on September 21, 1891. His wife had passed away previously, at the age of seventy-seven. They were the parents of the following children: Andrew Jackson, George Washington and Mrs. Cynthia Jones, deceased; John, who lives on the old homestead in Shelby county, Indiana; Mrs. Eliza Logan, and Catherine, the wife of Thomas Vaughn, deceased. John Logan and wife were the parents of three children, Orange, George Andrew and Eliza. Orange owns the old homestead farm. He was born on June 10, 1857. He married Emma Gregory, a native of Kentucky, and they have two children,



Clem and Nellie. Eliza, born February 23, 1870, lives with her mother. She owns a farm of two hundred acres in Washington township.

After receiving a liberal education in the public schools of Decatur county, Indiana, George Logan took up farming and was so engaged until his marriage, on July 22, 1886, to Mary Hayman, a native of Shelby county, Indiana, daughter of Alfred and Minerva (Knight) Hayman, the former of whom was born on July 7, 1826, and who died June 29, 1887, and the latter of whom was born on October 16, 1831, and who died on May 8, 1872. Alfred and Minerva Hayman were married on March 23, 1856, in Shelby county, this state, and to this union were born two children; Everett, born on August 26, 1859, who is a resident of Waldron, and Mrs. Mary Logan, who was born on September 17, 1863.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Logan have only one child, Harrison A., who was born on June 14, 1887. He lives at home with his parents on the farm and is engaged in farming with his father, who is extensively engaged in dairying. The dairy is located on the north farm, where Mr. Logan has a herd of Jerseys, varying from twenty to thirty in number, and ships his products to the Polk Dairy Company, of Indianapolis.

Mr. Logan is a Democrat, but has never been active in political affairs, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his agricultural interests. Mrs. Logan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Adams and Mr. Logan is identified with Milford Lodge No. 94, Free and Accepted Masons. His son, Harrison A., is a member of the same Masonic fraternity, and of Adams lodge of Odd Fellows, and of Greensburg lodge, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Greensburg Lodge, Improved Order of Red Men.

Mr. and Mrs. Logan are hospitable entertainers, and Mr. Logan is known in this community and throughout Decatur county as a hail fellow, well met; broad-minded, good-hearted, a hustler and an optimist.

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### RANDOLPH STARK.

To attain a worthy citizenship by a life that is always honored and respected even from childhood deserves more than naming. One may take his place in public life through some vigorous stroke in public politics and even remain in the hearts of friends and neighbors, but to take the same position by dint of the practice of an upright life and without a craving for exaltation and popularity, is worthy of the highest praise and commendation. Probably no citizen of Decatur county occupies a higher place in the esteem

of the community at large than "Uncle" Randolph Stark, of New Point, Salt Creek township. He is respected and honored by all who know him because of his exemplary daily life, each day having been one above criticism and passed upon in the light of true manhood. Strong and forceful in his relations with his fellowmen, he has not only made his presence felt, but has also gained the good will and confidence of his associates and the general public, ever retaining his reputation among men for integrity and high character, no matter how trying the circumstances, and never losing that dignity which is the birthright of a gentleman.

Randolph Stark, now retired and living in the pleasant little village of New Point, was born on October 14, 1838, in Clermont county, Ohio, and is the son of John and Charity (Meeker) Stark, natives of New York and New Jersey, respectively. John Stark was the son of John Stark, whose father was Gen. John Stark, of Revolutionary fame, whose words, "There are the redcoats! We must beat them today or Mollie Stark is a widow," are historical. In 1850 John and Charity Stark came from Ohio to Indiana, settling in Salt Creek township, Decatur county, where they resided nearly a half century, their deaths occurring in 1889. They were the parents of the following children: Mary Jane, deceased; Mrs. Sarah Jane Hollensbe, of Clarksburg; Mrs. Harriet Morrow, of Hidalgo, Illinois; Leander, who died in 1891; Alvira, deceased; Randolph, the subject of this sketch; James, who died in 1912; William H., of New Point, this county; John P., who died at the age of twelve years; Charles Foster, deceased; and Mrs. Maria Sample and Mrs. Melissa Freeland, twins, both deceased. John Stark followed the dual occupation of farmer and lumberman and was successful in both. He was a man of splendid qualities of character and stood high in the community where he so long resided.

Randolph Stark was reared under the parental roof and received his education in the district schools. At the early age of eighteen years, he engaged in the lumber business on his own account and was in partnership with his brother, Leander, for many years. They owned the New Point mills for over twenty years and at one time operated many mills scattered over different counties, the firm of Stark Brothers being one of the most important concerns of its kind in southern Indiana. So widely recognized is Mr. Stark's connection with the growth of New Point that he is frequently called "The Father of New Point." He has always had the keenest interest in the welfare of this community and in many substantial ways has contributed to its welfare and upbuilding. After sixty years of an honored and successful career, he has retired from active business affairs, but,

although nearly seventy-seven years of age, is still hale and hearty. One of the interesting and pleasing incidents in Mr. Stark's later life was the post card shower of which he was the recipient on November 13, 1910, the occasion being his seventy-second birthday anniversary. These cards, many hundreds in number, represented every state in the Union and were received from Odd Fellow lodges, war veterans, various publications and many eminent public men, including President Taft, ex-Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks, Senator Albert J. Beveridge and other prominent men. One of the fine things in connection with Mr. Stark's life is the fact that he has never uttered an oath nor touched liquor or tobacco in any form. He is also a total abstainer from coffee and tea.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Randolph Stark enlisted as a private in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served one hundred days and later, when General Morgan made his famous raids through southern Indiana, Mr. Stark again enlisted, assisting in repelling the invaders.

On March 13, 1864, Randolph Stark was married to Rosetta Showalter, who was born in Jackson county, Indiana, on August 3, 1844, the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Hollensbe) Showalter, natives of England. Mrs. Stark's parents eloped from England when Mary Showalter was only fourteen years of age. The Showalters later came to America, locating in Decatur county, about 1845. Late in Mr. and Mrs. Stark's lives there were born to them two children, a son and a daughter, the elder, the son, dying in infancy. The daughter, Cora, is a talented musician, having studied under the most competent instructors, both in Cincinnati and Indianapolis. For the past two years she has been conducting musicales and recitals in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Highly accomplished as a musical performer, and equally successful as a teacher, she is esteemed highly in musical circles of the cities where she is called.

Mr. Stark has always given his support to the Republican party and has been honored by his fellow citizens, having served as trustee of Salt Creek township for six years. His fraternal relations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, he belonging to the lodge of that order at New Point. He assisted in building the New Point Christian church and has been one of its most faithful and earnest supporters. He takes an active part in the affairs of this church and served the communion for forty years. Mr. Stark possesses a rare equanimity of temper and is noted for his kindness of heart, qualities which have won for him the sincere regard of all who know him. His nature is genial and cordial and his manner attractive.

His mind is rich and cultivated by a life of reading and observation. He has no personal enemies and provokes no one to enmity, for the simplicity and cordiality of his nature and manner invite friendship and forbid enmity. He is a hospitable man and cordially responds to all social claims, his home, one of the most commodious and attractive in New Point, being favorite stopping places for many friends.

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### SAMUEL CLARK.

When the pioneer emigrant, John Clark, came to Decatur county, Indiana, with his wife in 1823, and entered a quarter section of land in Marion township, he might not have been conscious of the fact that he was here establishing a homestead for his posterity which would remain in the family at least to the fourth generation. The present farm of Samuel Clark in Marion township, which comprises three hundred and ninety-two acres, includes the quarter section of land entered by John Clark, his grandfather, in 1824. Since the latter's time this farm has been owned successfully by the son, William Clark, and at present by the grandson, Samuel, the subject of this sketch.

Samuel Clark, who now lives in Greensburg, but supervises his farm, was born on September 16, 1859, the son of William and Rebecca (Casseldine) (Newman) Clark, the former of whom was born on September 22, 1807, and who died, April 1, 1893, and the latter of whom was born, June 10, 1817, and who died about three years before the passing of her husband, on November 14, 1890. Born at Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, Rebecca Casseldine was descended originally from North Carolina stock. Her husband, who was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, was the son of John Clark, a native of Maryland, born in 1768, and who died in 1860. He came from his home near Blackhorse Tavern, in Maryland, on horseback to Kentucky, and there was married to Mary Beckett, and in 1823 came on to Decatur county, entering a quarter-section tract in Marion township. The next year he returned to Kentucky and removed with his family permanently to this state. Each winter, however, he returned to Kentucky and cut cord wood. In his younger days he had been a fireman on a river steamer and with others had made several trips to New Orleans by flat-boat with various kinds of produce, walking all the way back home. He was a strong, sturdy character and one fitted to found a home in the Hoosier wilderness. He and his wife reared a

family of eleven children, Joseph, Robert, William, James, Richard, Thomas, Walker, John, Nancy, Eliza and Susan, all of whom are deceased, Richard having died in August, 1913.

When William Clark reached maturity he purchased the old home farm, and during his lifetime accumulated altogether about four hundred acres of land in one tract. He also owned eighty acres south of Greensburg, or in all four hundred and eighty acres. He was a strong Republican. To William and Rebecca (Casseldine) Clark were born three children: Eliza J., who lives with her brother, Samuel, the subject of this sketch; Nancy A., who died on April 7, 1894, and Samuel.

Until his removal to Greensburg, Indiana, Samuel Clark had always lived on the farm where he was born. In March, 1915, Mr. Clark removed to north Greensburg, but still raises hogs and many cattle on the farm, which is immune from cholera and all other hog diseases. There have been altogether six different houses on the farm, but one burned, and there are only two left, these having supplanted pioneer structures. The house in which Mr. Clark himself lived was built in 1865.

On January 3, 1895, Samuel Clark was married to Susanna Clemons, who was born on October 4, 1866, in Dearborn county, Indiana, is the daughter of Frederick and Louise (Krummel) Clemons, natives of Germany, who came to this country when young people and who were married in Dearborn county. After their marriage they removed to Ripley county, and settled near Napoleon, where they died. A great-grandfather of the Clark children on their maternal side fought with and was killed while fighting under General Washington at the memorable defeat of General Braddock during the French and Indian wars.

To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Clark have been born four children, as follow: Helen, born on October 31, 1895; Bertha, 1900, died in 1902; Nesbit, December 21, 1904, and Chauncey Howard, April 2, 1907.

All the members of the Clark family, except Mr. Clark, are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Clark himself attends church. At the formation of the Progressive party in 1912 Mr. Clark identified himself with this party, and since then has been actively identified with the organization of the party. He is an enthusiastic admirer of Colonel Roosevelt and also of former Senator Beveridge.

Samuel Clark takes a great interest in the farm which has come down to him from his grandfather, and is anxious that the farm be kept in the family for several generations to come. He is devoting his life not only to the business of farming, but to rearing his children to honorable and useful

lives, for which he has every reason to expect that they will carry on the work so successfully carried forward by their father, grandfather and great-grandfather in this county. Here in old Decatur county the name of Clark is synonymous with industry, honesty, sobriety and intelligent citizenship, and Samuel Clark is a worthy exponent of these principles.

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### CHARLES W. WORLAND.

Under the operation of the American system of politics there are few evidences of personal popularity more convincing in their expression than the returns given at the polls. When the election returns give to a candidate for a responsible and important county office the largest majority ever returned for any candidate of the party on whose ticket his name is represented in that county, this indisputable and very tangible evidence may be accepted as creating a very fair presumption of a most complimentary personal following on the part of that favored candidate. These thoughts are suggested by a review of the returns of the last election in Decatur county, in which County Commissioner C. W. Worland, of Clay township, was re-elected by the largest majority ever given a Democratic candidate for county commissioner in the history of this county. Not only that, but Mr. Worland has the further distinction of being the only Democratic county commissioner who was ever re-elected in Decatur county. His popularity in the vicinity of his home was amply demonstrated by the fact that, although his precinct is naturally heavily Republican, Mr. Worland carried the same by a majority of fifty-seven votes, an expression of confidence and esteem on the part of his neighbors that must have been exceedingly gratifying to the candidate. All agreed, however, that this expression was well deserved, for in the administration of the affairs of the county commissioner's office, Mr. Worland had displayed a degree of sagacity, sound business judgment and keen executive ability that very properly called for his retention in this important office, and there were many who announced, at the opening of his second campaign, that his reelection was a foregone conclusion, a forecast which the returns proved to be quite accurate. Commissioner Worland is one of the best-known men in Decatur county. He owns a fine farm of one hundred acres in Clay township, admirably tilled and prudently managed; the studious attention given to the management of his own affairs having been one of the strongest recommendations urged in behalf of his candidacy during the two campaigns he successfully conducted for the office which he now holds.









Charles W. Worland was born in Shelby county, Indiana, on January 20, 1862, son of William Leo and Nancy Ellen (Barnes) Worland, the former of whom was born on September 6, 1834, and died in July, 1903, and the latter of whom was born on July 16, 1843, and died on October 17, 1890, Mr. Worland dying at Shelbyville, Indiana, and Mrs. Worland dying at Letts Corner, this county. William L. Worland was born in Kentucky, son of Leo W. Worland, of Scottish ancestry, who, in an early day moved from Kentucky to Indiana and spent the rest of his life in this state. Nancy Ellen Barnes was a daughter of Elijah and Polly (Gregory) Barnes, whose last days also were spent in this county.

William L. Worland came to Decatur county in 1880, locating in Sand Creek township, engaging in the saw-mill business at Letts Corners, where he became quite successful. Upon the death of his wife, he went to Shelbyville, this state, where his last years were spent in the home of his daughter, Mary Margaret, who still is living in Shelbyville. William L. and Nancy Ellen (Barnes) Worland were the parents of eleven children, namely: Mary Margaret, who lives at Shelbyville, Indiana; Charles W., the immediate subject of this sketch; Elijah, who lives at Williamstown, Rush county, Indiana; Albert, who lives at Shelbyville, Indiana; Lewis, who lives at Indianapolis; Mrs. Nora Simmonds, of Indianapolis; Henry, deceased; William, deceased; Lilly, who lives at Denver, Colorado; Francis, who lives at Shelbyville, Indiana, and Morris, who lives at Greensburg, this county.

C. W. Worland has been a resident of this county since 1880, in which year he came with his parents from Shelby county. Until he was twenty-six years of age he assisted his father in the mill business at Letts Corners, but after that time rented a farm in Sand Creek township, where he lived until in September, 1904, when he moved to Clay township and entered seriously upon the life of a farmer. Being progressive in his methods of farming and energetic in his operations, he prospered and ten years ago bought his present farm of one hundred acres near the village of Milford, then known as the Rothschild farm. This is a fine farm, gently rolling, and its soil is of that variety locally known as "sugar tree" or "black walnut" soil.

On October 29, 1884, Charles W. Worland was united in marriage to Emma Davis, of Westport, this county, daughter of John and Mary (Dare) Davis, natives of Union county, this state, who came to Decatur county about the year 1870 and became prominent residents of the Westport neighborhood. Mary Dare's parents were natives of New Jersey and emigrated to Indiana shortly after their marriage, settling in Union county, where they spent the rest of their lives.

To C. W. and Emma (Davis) Worland were born six children, as follow: Mrs. Eva Miers, of Adams township, this county; Clarence E., who remains on the home farm; Mrs. Mary Pumphrey, of Shelbyville, Indiana; Edward Leo, an express messenger on the "Big Four" Railroad, whose run is between Cleveland and Kansas City; Mrs. Alma Salter, of Marion, Indiana, and Raymond, who lives at home.

Mr. Worland is a member of the Christian church and is active in the good works of that church. He is a Democrat and ever since coming to Decatur county has taken a warm interest in the political affairs of the county, being deeply concerned in questions of good government. In November, 1914, he was re-elected county commissioner from his district, his services during his first term in that important office giving to the public ample evidence of his excellent qualifications for that important office. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Letts Corners and of the Masonic lodge at Milford, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these two popular orders. Mr. Worland is a jovial man who has many warm friends throughout the county, all of whom hold him in the highest esteem.

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### JOHN JOSEPH PUTTMANN.

The gentleman, whose name appears at the head of this biographical review, needs no introduction to the people of Decatur county, since his entire active life has been spent here: a life devoted not only to the promotion of his own interests, but also to the welfare of the community at large. An honorable representative of one of the most highly esteemed families of this section and a man of high character and worthy ambitions, he has filled no small place in the public view, and, although a partisan, with strong convictions and well-defined opinions on questions on which men and parties divide, he holds the esteem and confidence of the people of his community. He has been identified with many of the most important enterprises of this community and, in this way, has been largely instrumental in the prosperity of the locality with which he has been identified. A successful business man himself, he has, by his counsel and advice, been instrumental in assisting others along the highway of life and has rightfully earned the enviable position which he holds in the community.

John J. Puttmann was born on June 4, 1857, at Enochsburg, Franklin county, Indiana, the son of John Henry and Christina Charlotte (Storig)

Puttmann, natives of Germany. John H. Puttmann was born in 1784 and died in September, 1861, and his wife, Christina C., was born in 1815 and died on February 28, 1885. John H. Puttmann was a sailor and worked on the sea for many years, being the captain of a German vessel and, at one time, owned two ships of his own. He was an accomplished linguist, being able to speak seven languages. He finally abandoned a seafaring life and came to Cincinnati, where he operated a grocery, subsequently moving to a farm near Enochsburg. About 1858 he bought a farm in Salt Creek township, in Decatur county, where he spent the remainder of his days. His son, the subject of this sketch, now owns the homestead. Christina Puttmann had been married prior to her union with Mr. Puttmann, her name having been Klimper, to this first marriage two children having been born, Fred and Henry Klimper, both of whom are deceased. Of the children born to the union of John H. and Christina Puttmann, John J. is the only survivor, Eliza, Frances, Margaret, Louis and Josephine, all being dead.

John J. Puttmann attended the common schools of Salt Creek township and, at the age of fifteen years, in 1872, he became a telegraph operator at New Point and on January 9, 1874, entered the service of the Big Four railroad as agent and telegraph operator at North Bend. On May 1, 1874, he went to Lebanon, Boone county, Indiana, and on October 2, of the same year, he was again assigned to New Point, where he remained until his resignation, on May 1, 1888. He had faithfully discharged his official duties and was held in high esteem by his superior officers.

During all these years Mr. Puttmann had been keeping closely in touch with the public affairs of his locality and in 1882 was elected trustee of his township. So efficiently did he discharge the duties of this office that in 1884 he was again nominated by his party and re-elected. In 1890 the Democrats of his county nominated him for the position of county auditor and, being successful at the polls, he served four years in this responsible position. During President Cleveland's first administration, Mr. Puttmann served as postmaster at New Point, beginning on April 1, 1886. He has taken an active interest in political and other public affairs for many years and is numbered among the strong and influential men of his community.

John J. Puttmann has, from time to time, become interested in various enterprises in Decatur county and is now numbered among its most prominent business men. That his interests are diversified may be inferred from the following statements. A merchant at New Point, he deals in hardware, farming implements, grain, feed and building material and also operates, in connection with this business, a lumber yard and keeps a complete line of

drain tile. He also owns two saw-mills, one in New Point and another a short distance from that place, both of which are devoted to the manufacture of hardwood lumber. He engaged in the lumber and building material business until 1878 and in the hay, grain and feed business until 1879, and in 1892 established the hardware business. He was successful in all of these lines and was counted one of the most successful business men of his community, gaining the confidence and good will of all who had dealings with him. His grain business has been very extensive. He bought grain while in the employ of the railroad company and, since entering business on his own account, he has pushed this line of operation so that now he ships from three thousand to five thousand bushels of wheat annually. His elevator has a capacity of thirty-five hundred bushels. His investments in these lines are approximately as follow: In the lumber and building material business, two thousand dollars; grain, two thousand dollars, and hardware and implement business, four thousand dollars. In addition, he is also the owner of four hundred acres in Salt Creek township, which he devotes largely to live stock and general farming and in the operation of which he has met with well-deserved success. One of the largest enterprises in this community and with which Mr. Puttmann is very closely identified is the Big Four Stone Company, which employs from thirty-five to sixty men and whose annual pay roll is from twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars. The output of this quarry is shipped to all parts of the United States and, since the quarry began operations, in April, 1882, the annual shipment has amounted to from three hundred to five hundred cars. The output consists largely of building stones, flagging and crushed stone. The capital investment of this enterprise is thirty thousand dollars and the company has one of the best quarry equipments in central Indiana, including a private railroad three miles long, rolling stock and a locomotive to facilitate the handling of the quarry output. Stone is now being produced from this quarry for a large building in West Virginia and for the colored Young Men's Christian Association building at Cincinnati. In the management of this enterprise, as in everything else in which he has engaged, Mr. Puttmann has shown business qualities of a high order and his progressive spirit and indefatigable industry have been duly appreciated by his business associates. Wisely conservative, yet aggressive when necessary in his business affairs, Mr. Puttmann is considered a man of keen judgment and sagacious insight into the possibilities of a proposition to which he addresses himself.

On June 19, 1878, John J. Puttmann was married to Hester E. Osborn, who was born on January 10, 1855, the daughter of Albert I. and Florence

Osborn, of New Point, this county. Mrs. Puttmann died on September 28, 1914. To this union were born five children: Rose E., the wife of Bernard Santen, of Columbus, Ohio, who has one son, Vernon; Clyde E. H., a farmer, who married Virginia Jones and has three sons, Joseph J., Charles and Walter; Elva Dora, who is the wife of Professor Bass, postmaster and principal of the schools at New Point; Leona L., at home, and Clara C., who married R. B. Bartow, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, who is connected with the American Steel and Wire Company.

Mr. Puttmann is a member of the Catholic church at Enochsburg and gives liberally to all charitable and benevolent offerings. He has lived and labored to worthy ends and is one of the sterling citizens and representative men of his community.

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#### BERNARD ORTMAN.

A native of this county, who has spent his whole life on the farm which he now owns, few men in his neighborhood take a larger degree of interest in the general welfare of that community than does Bernard Ortman, of Marion township, this county, a progressive and industrious farmer, who enjoys the esteem and confidence of his neighbors throughout that part of the county.

Bernard Ortman, a well-known farmer, of Marion township, this county, was born on October 27, 1867, on the old home place, a son of Barney and Mary (Losekamp) Ortman. He owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on which there is a modern house, which was erected in 1902. It is one of the best in Marion township. His parents both lived with him, and he cared for them in old age, and received as his share of the estate, the one hundred and sixty acres already mentioned, of which he plants twenty-five acres in wheat, and sixteen acres in corn each year. He is a stanch believer in the principles of the Democratic party and an earnest member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhausen.

Barney Ortman, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in 1834 and died on November 13, 1912. His wife, Mary Losekamp, was born in 1838, and died on March 1, 1914. Barney Ortman was born in Germany and came to this country in 1856, locating in Cincinnati, where he worked in a boiler factory until 1858, in which year he came to Decatur county and worked on a farm near Greensburg, later moving to Marion township, where he rented awhile, and then bought sixty acres, on which he lived for a time,

and then sold it, buying part of an eighty-acre farm, on which he prospered, gradually increasing his holdings until he owned three hundred and twenty acres. Altogether, he bought and owned three or four farms. He was a good trader and money-maker, and was shrewd enough to conclude that land investment was the best. He was rated as a wealthy man, whose advice was sought by neighbors and friends. During the time of the Civil War, he dealt in cattle and was known as a great trader. He spent much time on horseback—trading. He was a strong believer in the principles of the Democratic party and was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen. His wife was born four miles northeast of Millhousen, a daughter of Henry Losekamp, a very early German settler, and a man of wealth. Barney Ortman and wife were the parents of eight children, namely: Henry, Lizzie, Bernard, Katie, Mary, Josephine, Verlana and George. Henry died at the age of nine years; Lizzie is the wife of Adam Hessler, and lives at Muncie, Indiana; Katie is the wife of Ben Hoeng, and lives in Marion township; Mary is the wife of James McQuarry, and lives in Tampa, Florida; Josephine is the wife of Charles Hahn, and lives in Marion township, near St. Dennis; Verlana lives across the road from her father's home.

Bernard Ortman was married in 1902 to Miss Josie Funke, who was born in Marion township, this county, a daughter of Frank Funke, who was an old German settler, and to this union have been born the following children: Louise, aged twelve years; Carl, aged ten; Frank, aged eight; Ralph, aged six; Bertha, aged three, and Leona, born on October 30, 1914. Mr. Ortman is a member of the Progressive party and is enterprising and a hustler.

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#### HARLEY SHULTZ McKEE, M. D.

Dr. Harley Shultz McKee, township trustee of Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, and a well-known practicing physician of Decatur county, located at New Point, was born on November 21, 1878, at St. Paul, this county, son of John B. and Mary (Lowe) McKee, both of whom were born in 1848. John B. McKee, a native of St. Paul, Decatur county, was a son of the Rev. Samuel McKee, a native of Pennsylvania. The former conducted a grocery for the stone workers and quarrymen for a number of years at St. Paul, New Point. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Lowe, was a native of Decatur county, the daughter of Mack Lowe, a native of Kentucky, who was a school teacher by profession. Rev. Sam-



uel McKee, the grandfather of Dr. Harley Shultz McKee, was a minister in the United Brethren church, and a farmer. During the days when ministers of the Gospel were accustomed to ride horseback to reach their various assignments, he was the minister at Gratis, and also preached at other churches in that vicinity.

To John B. and Mary (Lowe) McKee five children were born, in the order of their birth, as follow: Nellie, the wife of Doctor Kerchel, of Greensburg; Kathleen, the wife of Rev. S. G. Huntington, of Rushville, Indiana, a well-known Baptist minister of southern Indiana; Gertrude, the wife of W. F. Barber, a well-known teacher in the schools of St. Paul; Dr. Harley S., the subject of this sketch, and J. F., assistant superintendent of the Big Four freight depot at Shelbyville, Indiana.

Educated in the public schools at St. Paul, Indiana, Doctor McKee studied for his profession in the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis, and was graduated from the Illinois Medical University at Chicago in 1907. After his graduation he began the practice of his profession at New Point, and has built up a large practice among the people of that community, who have profound confidence, not only in his ability as a physician, but who admire him for his pleasing personality and modest, unassuming disposition. He is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society and the Indiana State Medical Association.

On January 17, 1914, Doctor McKee was married to Jennie M. Starks, daughter of Edward F. and Mary Starks, the former of whom is a well-known jeweler at New Point.

That Dr. H. S. McKee enjoys the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens and the people of Salt Creek township is thoroughly proved by his election, in the fall of 1914 on the Progressive ticket, as trustee of this township. The people of the township admire Doctor McKee because he is a self-made man. They admire him because he was willing during the time he was struggling to obtain an education for the practice of medicine to teach several terms of school in this county. In this way he was able to pay his way through medical college.

Doctor and Mrs. McKee are members of the Christian church. Fraternally, the doctor is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at New Point, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the same city, the Knights of Pythias of St. Paul and the Royal Order of Moose at Greensburg. He is also a member of the Order of Eastern Star and of the Rathbone Sisters.

Doctor McKee is a highly deserving physician and citizen, and the large practice which he enjoys has been built up on the substantial foundation of merit alone.

## CURTIS MCCOY.

It is always a pleasure to write the history of a man who puts his abilities and capabilities to a use that not only gives pleasure to those of his own generation, but one who stands as a monument to his broad-minded nature, from which future generations may derive profitable lessons. Curtis McCoy, a well-known farmer of Washington township, this county, possesses an eye for the beautiful, and is a true lover of nature, as will be noted in the following pages. He has dug up some of the diamonds that, someone has truthfully said, are all around our feet. If more farmers would only beautify their homes, as Mr. McCoy has done, they would not only give a great deal of pleasure to themselves and their families, but they would double the selling value of their property.

Curtis McCoy was born in this county on May 2, 1863, a son of James Thornton and Martha Jane (Custer) McCoy. He attended school at McCoy's Station, and later went to DePauw University, attending in 1881 and 1882. He has always been a lover of farm life, and when he was married he and his wife moved on their farm of eighty acres in Wabash county, where they remained three years, at the end of which time they sold the farm and returned to Decatur county. After a short residence at McCoy's Station, they moved to Greensburg, where Mr. McCoy engaged in the clothing business, in which he was engaged until 1911, when he retired to the home farm at McCoy's Station, some time later selling the clothing store, since which time he has devoted all of his time and attention to general farming.

After years of planning and trying to arrange, Mr. McCoy and his wife have created a beautiful pleasure lake on the east side of their farm, one mile from McCoy's Station, and four miles from Greensburg, by pike road. The lake comprises forty-five or fifty acres, and the woodland section set aside covers one hundred and twenty acres. It is a beautiful tract of land and water, and Mr. McCoy has created a fine pleasure resort of this lake, which is already stocked with bass and channel-cat fish. He has boats and bathing houses for boating and bathing. The lake is over half a mile long and two miles around, with an average depth of twenty feet, and is the only resort of its kind in southern Indiana. The lake is fed by running springs at the head of Cobbsfork creek, the waters of which are very valuable on account of their medicinal qualities. The lake is in a picturesque setting, with beautiful scenery and a wooded shore. McCoy's Station was an important place in the county, in the early days, having been at one time the greatest grain shipping



MR. AND MRS. CURTIS MCCOY.



point in Decatur county. It was an important trading point long before the war, and was also a noted "underground railroad" station.

Mr. McCoy is as successful in his farming as he was in business. McCoy's lake is his pride, and a realization of an ambition. Unaided, he expended funds in 1912 to build a large dam, and now has a body of clear, fresh water that has withstood drouths and floods, bidding fair to become a noted resort in the course of a few years. Mr. McCoy's farm now consists of two hundred and seventy-five acres, all in one tract. It is well improved, with fine farm houses, barns, etc., and has been in the family since it came into the possession of his grandfather in the year 1825.

James Thornton McCoy, father of Curtis McCoy, was born on May 22, 1824, in Bourbon county, Kentucky, and died on October 5, 1905, at Greensburg, Indiana. He was a son of Judge Angus C. McCoy, and came with his parents, in 1825, to Decatur county, at his father's death, buying the home farm. He was for years postmaster at McCoy's Station, and his barn was a station of the "underground railroad." James T. McCoy was married on November 15, 1849, to Martha Jane Custer, who was born on September 3, 1829, and died on July 15, 1893, and to this union were born the following children: Quincy Monroe, who died in infancy; Arabella, who married a Mr. Oder, and went to California; Sarah Elizabeth, deceased; Robert Arnold, who lives in Greensburg; Hattie Gertrude, deceased; William A., who lives near his brother, Curtis, and Glendora, deceased. Mr. McCoy was a Whig and then a Republican and later became a member of the Prohibition party. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith.

Angus McCoy, grandfather of Curtis McCoy, was born on March 13, 1789, in Washington county, Pennsylvania. His father, William McCoy, was born in Scotland in 1730, a son of Alexander McCoy, and came to America in 1772, settling on the west coast of Maryland, and later moved to Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania. Judge Angus McCoy died on October 12, 1865, in Decatur county. He was married, first, to Elizabeth Mary Smith, of Virginia, and his second wife was Elizabeth McPherson. McCoy's Station was erected on his farm. He was the first probate judge of Decatur county, serving from 1829 to 1843, and was a strong anti-slavery man. He and his wife were the parents of eighteen children.

Curtis McCoy was married on November 18, 1885, to Carrie A. Trimble, who was born on a farm four miles west of Greensburg, on January 12, 1864, a daughter of John B. and Mary Adelaide (Owens) Trimble, natives, respectively of Virginia and Indiana, both now deceased. John B. Trimble

was one of nature's noblemen. He was self-educated, a deeply-read student of the law and became one of Decatur county's most prominent citizens. He built the first fence around the court house at Greensburg. He was a strong supporter of the Republican party, and for years was one of the leaders of that party in Decatur county, and was well liked for his honest and straightforward dealings. His children were: Maria, who married William Morse, and lives in Indianapolis; Fred, deceased; Oscar, ex-county treasurer, who lives at Milford; Arthur, a farmer at Milford, and Carrie, who married Mr. McCoy.

To Curtis and Carrie A. (Trimble) McCoy two children have been born, Hazel, a graduate of DePauw University, now at home, and Trimble, who married Edna Hess, and is living on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. McCoy are members of the Methodist church and their children have been reared in that faith, the family being looked upon as leaders in the good works of their neighborhood and held in the very highest regard by the entire community. Mr. McCoy is a Republican and a member of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

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### BENEDICT BRUNS.

To be satisfied with one's lot in this life, and make the most out of one's opportunities, places one on the list of those to be looked upon with a feeling amounting almost to envy. The most of us are so far-reaching in our desire for worldly gain, that we overlook many valuable opportunities. Mr. Bruns has been fortunate in recognizing that which was most suited to his desires and ability, and has been wise enough to let well enough alone. The life, termed by so many as the "humdrum" farmer's life, has proved to be an oasis to Mr. Bruns, after his years of activity in other lines.

Benedict Bruns, a well-known farmer of Marion township, this county, was born on July 24, 1860, in Ripley county, Indiana, a son of Herman and Christine (Waben) Bruns. Reared in Ripley county, Benedict Bruns went from there to Cincinnati, where he served as stationary engineer. He learned his trade when a boy of fourteen, and followed it for twenty years in Cincinnati, and from there he came to this county, locating in Marion township. Remaining there but a short time, he returned to Cincinnati, where he lived until November, 1900, at which time he returned to Marion township and bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located about one

and one-half miles west of Millhausen. The place has a brick house, which has been remodeled under Mr. Bruns' ownership, and a barn, forty by sixty feet, which has also been rebuilt. Mr. Bruns devotes a considerable portion of his time to the breeding of horses and cattle, and pure bred white Leghorn chickens. His political views are Democratic, and, in religion, he is a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhausen.

Herman Bruns, father of Benedict, was born in 1823 and died in 1902, and his wife, Christine, was born in 1829 and died in 1902, about two weeks after the death of her husband. They were natives of Germany. Herman located in Cincinnati, when a young man, and went to work as a laborer. While in Cincinnati, he took unto himself a wife, and saved enough money to buy a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Ripley county, where he spent the remainder of his life. To this couple were born four children, Henry, Joseph, Benedict and Mary. Henry lives in Cincinnati, and has one child, Herman, who died at the age of three years; Joseph died in 1913, and Mary (Mrs. Koors), lives two miles south of her father's home.

Benedict Bruns was married in 1893, to Bernardine Rottman, daughter of Henry Rottman, of Decatur county, to which union nine children have been born, namely: Lawrence, who died at the age of nine months; Edward, who is a student at a veterinary college at Indianapolis, from which he will graduate in 1916; Alfred, also a student of the same college, who will graduate in 1917, and Joseph, Marie, Carl, Harry, Bernard and Louis.

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#### THOMAS M. HAMILTON.

The late Thomas M. Hamilton was born on June 17, 1830, and died on December 26, 1892. He was the son of Robert and Polly (Henry) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in 1796, and who died on August 11, 1855, and the latter of whom died on August 14, 1855, three days after the death of her husband. Robert Hamilton, a native of Carlisle, Kentucky, was married on April 15, 1819, and migrated in 1821 to Decatur county, Indiana, where he became one of the pioneer settlers. Here he reared a family of six children, namely: Isabelle J., who was born on February 7, 1820, married Warder W. Hamilton on September 26, 1843, and is now deceased; James D., February 14, 1822, died on July 3, 1824; Harriet N., February 17, 1824, married I. P. Monfort on September 26, 1843, and is now deceased; Lavina G., April 30, 1826, died on July 18, 1835; Almira L.,



May 24, 1828, died on September 13, 1853, the wife of W. W. Bonner, and Thomas M., the youngest of the family. Robert Hamilton was a very successful farmer in Washington township, and one of the founders of the Kingston Presbyterian church. He was known as a good man during his generation and did much to improve the country life of Decatur county.

After the marriage of the late Thomas M. Hamilton on November 7, 1854, to Elizabeth McLaughlin, he and his wife lived one mile north of the old homestead, and on the death of Robert Hamilton moved to the old homestead, and there were engaged in farming for about twelve years. At the end of this period they removed to Greensburg, and erected their home on North East street, where Mrs. Hamilton still lives. Thomas M. Hamilton looked after his agricultural interests while living in Greensburg, and was more or less active as vice-president of the Third National Bank of that city. He owned altogether four hundred and eighty acres of the old home farm, and Mrs. Hamilton also owned a large farm in her own name.

To Thomas M. and Elizabeth (McLaughlin) Hamilton were born three children: Luna R., who was born on September 25, 1855, died on January 16, 1875, at the age of nineteen; Mary C., February 11, 1858, died on July 14, 1875, at the age of seventeen, and Maud, May 31, 1863, died on February 15, 1892. Maud had married Samuel L. Baker on May 4, 1887, and by him had one child, Helen Hamilton, who was born on September 2, 1888. Helen married Leonard O. Lumbers, April 23, 1908, and they have two children, Leonard George, born on February 5, 1909, and Elizabeth Helen, June 15, 1911. They live in Toronto, Canada.

Mrs. Elizabeth (McLaughlin) Hamilton, who was born on November 25, 1834, on a farm in Clinton township, three miles from the place where her early married life was spent, is the daughter of George and Sarah (Carter) McLaughlin, natives of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county in 1827. Her father was born in 1802, and died in 1885. He was a son of George McLaughlin, a gentleman of Scotch-Irish descent, who lived near Maysville, Kentucky. Her mother, who was born in Kentucky in 1804 and who died in 1873, was the daughter of James and Anna D. Larue (Drake) Carter. The latter was the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Drake, one of the pioneer Baptist ministers of this section and a native of England. He married a French lady by the name of Larue. Mrs. Hamilton's father, George McLaughlin, was an extensive farmer and owned a large tract of land in this section. A Republican in politics, he was also a member of the Christian church, and one of the founders of the church of that denomination in Greensburg, he having affiliated with that communion after removing to

Greensburg in the latter part of his life. Among his children, three of whom died in infancy, may be mentioned the following: Mary Frances, who died at the age of twenty-five years, was the wife of Thompson Riley, a Decatur county farmer who died in 1854. James Carter McLaughlin, who was born in 1821, and who died in 1892, was a farmer and was married to Louisa Davidson who resides on Franklin street, Greensburg. He was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. George, the next born, died at the age of sixteen years. Elizabeth A. married Mr. Hamilton. Caspar, a former merchant at Greensburg, removed to California and died there, after twenty years residence, in 1885. He also served as a Union soldier during the Civil War, and was a lieutenant in charge of a battery. Caspar McLaughlin married Helen Morrison, of Connersville, and they had four children, three sons and one daughter, namely: Mrs. Alice Williams, a widow who lives in Cincinnati with her mother; George deceased, who was an electrical engineer; Charles, a dentist in Cincinnati, and Ray, an attorney in Cincinnati, who married a Miss McElfresh.

Abram Carter, who was born in 1800, and who was an uncle of Mrs. Hamilton, was a talented physician and surgeon who settled in Decatur county on a farm and later removed to Greensburg, where he practiced medicine and surgery. During his life he was called to many points in the southeastern part of the state to practice his profession. He married Miss Harriet Norris, of Mason county, Kentucky, and when in middle life they removed to Iowa. He is now deceased, having died at the age of seventy-five years. He was well known by the early pioneer families of this section. His wife lived to be ninety years old. The family, consisted of two children, who were born in Kentucky, Adelia and Perlina. Adelia married a Doctor New of Greensburg. They lived in Greensburg for several years and then moved to Indianapolis. Doctor New was a surgeon in the Union army during the Civil War. He died in Indianapolis, leaving one child, Frank, now a resident of that city. Mrs. Perlina Tatham lived in Williamstown for some time, but later removed to Iowa, and died there, leaving two children, Florence and Cora, the latter of whom has become very prominent in the work of the Young Women's Christian Association in New York City. It may be mentioned here that Gen. James B. Foley, of honored memory in this county, was an uncle of Mrs. Hamilton by marriage.

The late Thomas M. Hamilton was an ardent Republican. A member of the Presbyterian church, he had much to do in the work of building up the church in this county. Mrs. Hamilton, however, is a member of the Christian church. She is a remarkably well preserved woman, intelligent, keen

and mentally alert, despite her age. She has traveled widely, having made several trips to Europe and makes one trip annually to Canada to visit her grandchildren. Mrs. Hamilton is now eighty years old.

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### HARRY LATHROP.

Among the best-known residents of Greensburg in Decatur county, and one of the most popular citizens of this section of the state is Harry Lathrop, the secretary of the Retail Merchants Association of Greensburg, Indiana, and whose father, James B. Lathrop, the president of the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg, is the oldest living resident of the city, the oldest living graduate of Indiana State University, and the oldest Methodist minister in the state of Indiana. The subject of this sketch, therefore, belongs to one of the oldest and most distinguished families of Decatur county. The history of the Lathrop family is given in the sketch of the venerable James B. Lathrop, to be found elsewhere in this volume. In this place it will suffice to say that the family is of English descent and dates back to Yorkshire, England, where the family was prominent in the fourteenth century. In America the family was founded by the Rev. John Lathrop, a Congregational preacher who, after imprisonment for his non-conformist views on religion, fled to America, and at Plymouth Rock rejoined a considerable number of his old congregation whom he had served as pastor in the mother country. He became a prominent man in the early history of Massachusetts, and his son, Erastus Lathrop, who was born in Connecticut, was a captain of a company of home guards which served during the battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812. Erastus, who was by occupation a farmer, became eventually a well known Baptist minister of his day and generation. Ezra Lathrop, the next member of the family in direct line of descent, and the father of the venerable James B. Lathrop, was born in 1803, in Canada, and was reared in the British dominion.

It was Ezra Lathrop, who settled in Decatur county, Indiana, on a farm which he entered from the government, about 1822. His wife, Abbie Potter, was a woman of equally patriotic stock, whose father, Nathaniel Potter, a gentleman of Huguenot descent, emigrated from North Carolina to Kentucky, and from Kentucky to Decatur county. Ezra and Abbie (Potter) Lathrop had only two children, who lived to maturity; Levi, who died in 1884, and James B., the father of Harry. Born on November 24, 1825, in

a one-story brick house, which his father had built, James B. Lathrop was a minister in the Methodist church from 1847, when he was twenty-two years old, continuously for thirty-one years. Today at the age of ninety years, he is one of the best-known citizens of southern Indiana, and has had, among the pioneers still living, a larger part in the history of this section, perhaps, than any other man.

Descended as he is from such eminent stock and such well-to-do ancestry, it is not surprising that Harry Lathrop achieved a large success in business. Educated in the public schools of Greensburg, and in the Greensburg high school, he spent two years in Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, and after leaving college spent two years as a traveling salesman in the west, with headquarters at Newton, Kansas. During this period of his career there were developed those fine instincts and accurate notions of human nature, and the rules of business, which served him later when engaged in business for himself. Upon returning from Newton, Kansas, he engaged in the steam-laundry business at Greensburg, when laundries of this kind were in the infancy of their development. Here he conducted a laundry for twenty years and three months, all the time in the same building on West North street. Not only did he build up an enormous business, measured by the population of this city, but in that period he accumulated for himself a splendid fortune. In June, 1912, he sold out the business, and for the past year has served as secretary of the Retail Merchants Association. In this position his own personal experiences in business have served him well, since he acts as a kind of clearing house for the information of the members of this association. He is not only an expert judge of credit in Greensburg, but the force of his own personality has created a harmonious and agreeable working relationship between the several members of this association.

In 1894 Mr. Lathrop was married to Lillie Drusilla Browning, of Indianapolis, who at the time of her marriage was prominent in the social life of the capital city, and to this union one child has been born, Nelle Browning Lathrop, now a student in the Greensburg high school.

A Republican in politics, the subject of this sketch served as mayor of the city of Greensburg in 1890, and gave to the people of the city a most satisfactory and efficient administration. During the most of his life he has been prominent in the fraternal circles, not only of Greensburg and Decatur county, but of the state as well. As a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he served on the building committee which erected the Greensburg hall. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Improved Order of Red Men, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and of the Fraternal

Order of Eagles. Mr. Lathrop also is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Indianapolis consistory of the Scottish Rite and of Murat Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

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### DANIEL WESLEY HOLCOMB.

In the history of Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, no Republican had ever been elected trustee of the township until 1914, when Daniel Wesley Holcomb, a well-known and prosperous farmer of that township was successful as a candidate for that office. A grandson of a soldier in our second war for independence, he is known as a successful farmer and stockman, and no better evidence of his standing among his neighbors and fellow citizens can be cited than his election to the office of township trustee. On his paternal side it may be said that the family has been established in southern Indiana for considerably more than three-quarters of a century.

Daniel Wesley Holcomb, who was born on January 11, 1852, in Ripley county, Indiana, is a son of Eli Asa and Emeline (Hall) Holcomb, the former of whom was born on April 3, 1823, and died in 1898, and the latter of whom was born on March 24, 1826, and died in January, 1865. The former, who was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, was the son of Rufus and Nancy (Gloyd) Holcomb. Rufus Holcomb was a native of Connecticut and probably of English descent. With his family he emigrated to the West early in the nineteenth century, and built one of the first brick houses in Dearborn county, ten miles west of Aurora. There he lived and reared a family of eleven children and died. Before coming west he had served in the War of 1812. The eleven children born to Rufus and Nancy (Gloyd) Holcomb in the order of their birth were as follow: Ethel, Daniel, Luther, Turner, Eli, Rufus, Hulda, Nancy, Elizabeth, Lucinda and Lydia. Eli Holcomb, the fifth child born to his parents, and the father of Daniel Wesley, although reared in Dearborn county, lived for a short time in Ripley county, and returned to Dearborn county, and there reared most of his family. After removing to a farm near the Decatur-Jennings county line in 1866, the family disbanded, Eli going to Kansas, where he died at his son's home. Eli Holcomb's wife, who, before her marriage, was Emeline Hall, was born in Ohio, the daughter of Benaiah Hall, a native of New York, who settled in Ripley county, Indiana.

Eli and Emeline (Hall) Holcomb had eight children, four of whom

are deceased. Of these children, Edwin Perry was born on September 16, 1848, and died on July 3, 1850; Louis Philander, August 20, 1850, died, August 9, 1851; Daniel Wesley, January 11, 1852, was the third child; Georgia Evangeline, October 15, 1853, died, October 8, 1854; Emeline Celeste, March 14, 1855, married Reid Williams, and lives in Kansas; George Albert, January 25, 1852, also lived in Kansas; Eli Benson, February 3, 1859, lives in Arizona; Caroline Medora, March 6, 1860, married John Oldham, of Kansas, and both are now deceased.

After Daniel W. Holcomb's marriage in Marion township, he settled on a farm three miles north of his present farm, where he lived for ten years, selling out in 1883, and emigrating to Kansas. But after farming one season in Kansas, he returned and located on a farm three miles south of his first farm. Subsequently he purchased eighty acres of land and has since acquired altogether two hundred and thirty-five acres, two hundred and thirteen acres of which is in Marion township, and twenty-two acres of which is in Jennings county. Altogether Mr. Holcomb has twenty-five acres of timber. He raises live stock and grain, including forty acres of corn, forty acres of wheat, twelve to fifteen head of cattle, and fifty head of hogs every year. There can be no question that he has made a gratifying success of farming, and that his success is due to his enterprise, foresight, industry and good management.

In May, 1873, Daniel Wesley Holcomb was married to Mary E. Evans, who was born on September 25, 1855, in Decatur county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Nancy (Robbins) Evans, the former of whom was born in 1841 and died in 1911, and the latter of whom was born in 1844 and died in 1897. John Evans was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, the son of Joseph Evans, a native of Virginia, and an early settler of Indiana, who entered land here and who in the early thirties was numbered among the pioneer settlers of this community. Mrs. Nancy (Robbins) Evans was the daughter of Micajah Robbins, who was a relative of the Robbins family of Decatur county, Micajah being a brother of John Robbins, a prominent pioneer citizen of the county. Of the children born to John and Nancy (Robbins) Evans five are dead and five are living. Frank, the first born, Sarah Belle, the third born, Mrs. Augusta Hawkersmith, the fourth born, James, the eighth born, and Mrs. Rosa Dell Croucher, the seventh born, are deceased. The living children are Mrs. Mary Holcomb; Thomas, of Hamilton, Ohio; Joseph, of Bena, Kentucky; Jacob, of Sand Creek township, this county, and Ida, who married Ed. Sutton, of Marion township.



To D. W. and Mary E. (Evans) Holcomb seven children have been born. Of these children, John W., born on February 27, 1874, is the trustee of Sand Creek township, and lives at Westport; Albert Asa, November 22, 1875, also resides at Westport; Adaline, March 1, 1878, the wife of Henry Mozingo, died on December 20, 1914; Lewis Franklin, November 19, 1897, living in Oklahoma, married Mabel Becker, by whom he has had four sons and two daughters; Nancy Jane, November 7, 1881, the wife of Ed. Mozingo; Margaret Medora, May 25, 1884, the wife of Arch Brown, of North Vernon, has four children, and Joseph Benson, January 28, 1884, residing on his father's farm, married Viola Clements, by whom he has had four children.

A Republican in politics, as heretofore stated, Mr. Holcomb was elected trustee of Marion township in 1914. He was the first Republican to be elected to this office in the history of the township. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb attend the Methodist Episcopal church, although Mr. Holcomb was reared as a Baptist. Judged from many standpoints, Daniel Wesley Holcomb is a valuable citizen of this great county and a man of wide influence in the township where he lives. He has always enjoyed the confidence of a host of friends, who admire him for his ability and respect him for his rugged integrity.

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#### DANIEL BUCKLEY.

For more than a quarter of a century one of the foremost leaders of the Democratic party in Decatur county and one of the most dependable organization Democrats in Marion township, Daniel Buckley has served several times as a delegate to state conventions of his party and is one of the most widely acquainted citizens of this county, especially among the state leaders of the party. Mr. Buckley's long service in behalf of Democracy has not gone wholly unrewarded, he having served as storekeeper in the revenue service, with headquarters at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, during the last Cleveland administration. For many years the Marion township committeeman for the Democracy of Decatur county, during late years his place has been taken by his son, who is equally capable as a political leader.

Daniel Buckley, who was born on February 14, 1849, in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the son of John and Mary (Glennon) Buckley, the former of whom was born in 1830 and who died in 1890, both being natives of Ireland. He came to America when a young man and, after his marriage in New York



city, followed the blacksmith trade in Cincinnati. In 1861 he moved from Cincinnati to the farm, where his son, Daniel, now lives, in Marion township, this county, and there built a house, which is still standing. With the able assistance of his son, he cleared the land and developed one of the best farms in the neighborhood. A Democrat in politics, he was also active in the affairs of the Napoleon Catholic church. Of his four children, John, the second born, is deceased. The living children are Daniel, the subject of this sketch; Edward, of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Kate Griffin, who lives south of Millhousen, in this county.

When the Buckley family moved from Cincinnati to Decatur county, Daniel Buckley was twelve years old and had begun his educational course in the Queen City schools, but he completed his education in Decatur county. Here he helped his father on the farm, clearing the land, cutting the timber and grubbing. Daniel Buckley and his son now own all of the old home farm, the son having purchased the interest of his father's brother and sister. The farm consists of one hundred and fifty acres of good level land, upon which a modern home was erected in 1910. Mr. Buckley and his son ordinarily raise seventy-five to eighty head of hogs and keep fifteen to twenty head of cattle on the farm. They specialize in Duroc-Jersey hogs. At the present time they are spending considerable money in various kinds of improvements, principally woven-wire fences.

In 1870 Daniel Buckley was married to Alvina Margaret Lamb, a native of Ohio, and the daughter of Michael Lamb, a native of Ireland. Mrs. Buckley was a good woman and a faithful and loving helpmate. Her death, on February 22, 1912, came as a distinct shock to her husband, with whom she had lived in comfort and happiness for forty-two years. At the time of her death, she was sixty-two years old. Her only son, Edward A., who was born on December 12, 1876, is a partner with his father in operating the home farm. No one will ever be able to take the place of this devoted wife and loving mother and today her memory is revered by the loving ones she left behind.

Edward A. Buckley is a well-known dealer in farm implements, hardware and buggies. He also is the local agent in his neighborhood for the Continental Fire Insurance Company and also handles lightning insurance. On June 13, 1915, while on a trip to the Pacific coast, Edward A. Buckley was united in marriage, at Fallow, Nevada, to Lillie Fey, of Millhousen, this county.

Daniel Buckley and his son, who are skillful and successful farmers and prominent citizens of Marion township, well merit the high opinion in

which they are held by their neighbors. If they are leaders in the political circles of their home township, it is because of their genial and cordial manners and their friendly and honorable relations with the people with whom they come into contact. In other words, the recognition accorded them is the reward of true merit.

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### EBER J. OLDHAM.

Seldom do we find, in searching out the biographical and genealogical annals of a family, one whose ancestors have served more valiantly in our country's wars than have those of Eber J. Oldham, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Marion township, this county, both of whose grandfathers were soldiers in the War of 1812, and who also enjoys the honorable distinction of having had six maternal uncles who served their country during the great Civil War. Moreover, Mr. Oldham's maternal grandfather married into the Judd family, which was prominent during Revolutionary days and which served its country valiantly in the first great war of this country.

Born on July 15, 1850, Eber J. Oldham was too young at the breaking out of the Civil War to enlist for service, but as an honorable and successful farmer, one who has performed his duty as a citizen of his county and state and country, he deserves to rank as a hero of peace. A native of Jackson township, Ripley county, Indiana, he is the son of Matthew and Salina (Hull) Oldham, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, the son of Absalom Oldham, a native of Maryland, who came to Indiana from Pennsylvania. Of English parentage, Absalom Oldham was a resident of Pennsylvania during the War of 1812 and enlisted from that state. Many years afterwards, in 1835, he brought his family to Jennings county, Indiana, and there died. Matthew Oldham, who was born on December 8, 1823, was married April 2, 1846, to Salina Hull, a native of Pennsylvania, born on August 2, 1824, the daughter of Charles and Prue (Judd) Hull, natives of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and died on March 21, 1901. Charles Hull was also a soldier in the War of 1812, who settled in Ripley county, Indiana, after immigrating from Pennsylvania in 1836. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Prue Judd, had several relatives who served in the Revolutionary War. The late Matthew Oldham and wife, who came to Decatur county in 1865 and settled in Marion township, occupied a farm one and one-

half miles east and two miles south of the farm their son, Eber J., now owns. Eleven years after coming to Decatur county, they moved to the farm which Eber J. now owns and died on this farm. Mrs. Salina Oldham had six brothers who served in the Union army, William, Sylvester, Lemuel, Lorenzo, Daniel and Franklin. Daniel died in the service of his country at Georgetown, Missouri, and Franklin met death in the famous catastrophe of the "Sultana," a transport ship used during the Civil War, which was blown up in the Mississippi river.

Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Oldham, two, Mrs. Eliza Sweazy and Mrs. Jane Adams, are deceased, the latter dying in Ripley county. Charles A., of Marion township; Archibald, of Jennings county; Mrs. Sarah Wheeldon, of Marion township, and Eber J., the subject of this sketch, are still living.

Eber J. Oldham has enjoyed a most interesting career, having sought his fortune in many states. At the age of twenty-five, he took Horace Greeley's advice to the young men of this country and went west to Nebraska, where he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land and where he lived for four years. Subsequently, however, he abandoned the farm and in 1879 went to Colorado, where he was the manager of a lumber yard for four years. From Colorado he journeyed on to the state of Washington, where he lived for nine and one-half years and where he became a lumber inspector, connected with the largest lumber concern on the Pacific coast. Returning home in 1892, at the age of forty-two, he applied his savings to the mortgage on his father's and mother's farm and his father subsequently gave him a deed and bill-of-sale for the land. Four years later his father died, November 21, 1896, and nine years later his mother passed away, her death occurring on March 21, 1901. In the meantime, he had cared tenderly for his parents, living with them and doing his duty as becomes a son who is grateful for the affectionate and parental love and care during his childhood.

On November 16, 1892, Eber J. Oldham was married to Florence I. Love, who was born in Marion county, Indiana, on December 13, 1871, the daughter of Randall and Nancy (Gillibrand) Love, natives of Dearborn county and Marion township, Decatur county, respectively. To this union have been born four children, all of whom are living: Nellie, born on October 7, 1893; Francis Eber, November 23, 1897, who is a student in the Westport high school; Daniel Howard, October 11, 1902, who is a student in the eighth grade of the local public schools, and Herl, August 12, 1910.

All of the members of the Oldham family are identified with the Methodist Episcopal church at Zion, although they were originally Free Baptists

in religious faith. Mr. Oldham is a member of Westport Lodge No. 681, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has been an Odd Fellow for thirty-five years, or since 1880.

Eber J. Oldham enjoys the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and has made a host of friends in the neighborhood where he lives, because of his honorable and upright character, which his neighbors and friends admire: his clean and decent point of view in the human relations of life and his fair and square dealings with the public at large.

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### BERNARD ANTHONY HOEING.

No more thrifty and enterprising emigrants have ever come to America than the thousands of German citizens, who have become citizens of this comparatively new land, but who have established homes in all sections of the country, and who have especially prospered in agriculture. Although comparatively few of the pioneer settlers of Decatur county were German citizens, yet the German families, who have come to this county from time to time, have succeeded here in a large measure, and today the second and third generations are equally prosperous. Bernard Anthony Hoeing, of Marion township, who represents the second generation of the Hoeing family in America, upon reaching maturity took up his father's occupation and has made of farming an even more conspicuous success than did his father before him. He owns a farm of a hundred and twenty acres in Marion township, which his father owned at the time of his death, and to this tract has added forty acres more—a well improved, fertile and highly productive farm, practically all of which is level land, and which yields abundantly every year.

Bernard Anthony Hoeing, who was born on December 12, 1870, in the log house built by his father, Bernard Joseph Hoeing, has spent his entire life upon this farm. His parents, Bernard Joseph and Christine (Schroer) Hoeing, the former of whom was born in 1824, and who died in June, 1902, and the latter of whom was born in 1834, and who died in December, 1890, were born, reared and married in Germany, and after coming to America, in 1868, settled in Marion township on forty acres which was partly cleared. The elder Mr. Hoeing finished clearing the land, and eventually owned altogether a hundred and twenty acres. He was a Democrat in politics and a devout member of St. Mary's church. The late Bernard Joseph and Chris-

tine (Schroer) Hoeing, had five children, one of whom, Mrs. Louise Funke, is deceased. The living children are Mrs. Mary Harpring, of near Millhousen; Mrs. Anna Dickhoff, of Jennings county; Mrs. Christine Harpring, of Marion township, and Bernard Anthony, the subject of this sketch.

After caring for his father, who survived his mother for twelve years, Bernard Anthony Hoeing purchased the home farm from his father just before the latter's death, and about 1896 added forty acres to this tract. The farm is completely fenced with woven wire fence and comprises a splendid country home with buildings erected by the senior Hoeing, remodeled by the son, painted a beautiful pale green, and located in the center of the tract. The present owner of this farm raises on an average thirty-five acres of wheat and from thirty to forty acres of corn. His land produces seventy-five bushels of corn to the acre by the use of fertilizer. The land is immune from hog cholera, and Mr. Hoeing has never lost any hogs as a consequence of this dreaded plague. On an average he sells from sixty to seventy-five head of hogs every year. He also raises his own horses, and specializes in the Percheron breed. In this connection it may be said that he is regarded as one of the foremost breeders of Marion township. Judged from many standpoints, from the neatness and attractiveness of the home and building, fences, fertility of soil and drainage and live stock, Bernard Anthony Hoeing is entitled to rank as one of the most successful farmers in this section of Decatur county. Much of his knowledge and skill he obtained from his worthy father, who was known as a careful farmer.

On September 5, 1894, Bernard Anthony Hoeing was married to Catherine Anna M. Ortman, the daughter of Barney Ortman, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hoeing have had seven children. Of these children, Joseph Bernard, born March 17, 1897, is attending St. Mary's school; Leo Bernard, May 4, 1899, is a graduate of St. Mary's school, having finished the course in 1913; Lawrence Bernard, October 28, 1902; Erwin George, January 18, 1905; Clemens John, January 28, 1907; Marie Josephine, April 18, 1909, and Alma Mary, August 3, 1911.

Among other important conveniences on the Hoeing farm in Marion township is a gas well, drilled in 1914, which shows two hundred and fifty pounds pressure, which supplies his house, grounds and outbuildings with light and fuel.

Bernard Anthony Hoeing, like his father before him, is identified with the Democratic party, but he has never been active in politics, and has never held office. Mr. and Mrs. Hoeing and family are all members of St. Mary's

Catholic church, and he is a member of the Knights of St. John, of Millhousen.

Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the ease with which Bernard Hoeing has mastered the intricacies of modern agriculture, and the skill with which he has followed scientific principles, which not only has placed him in the foremost ranks of Decatur county's farmers, but has won for him as a citizen the respect and confidence of all people in Marion township, where he resides and where he is well known.

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### VALENTINE HAHN.

Among the successful farmers of Marion township, who are comfortably situated on productive farms, is Valentine Hahn, who has a beautiful farm on a graveled thoroughfare, excellent farm buildings, including a beautiful white house surrounded by trees and a good barn. With twenty acres of timber on the land, the farm is well fenced and now has a gas well, drilled in January, 1915, with a three-hundred-pound pressure. Mr. Hahn is one of the frugal farmers of German descent who have done so much for the stability of our institutions and the improvement of agricultural life in this country.

Born on February 27, 1847, in Dearborn county, Indiana, Valentine Hahn is the son of Anthony and Mary Ann (Huff) Hahn, both natives of Germany, the former of whom was born in 1818 and died in 1903, and the latter born in 1819 and died in 1898. Anthony Hahn came to America when sixteen years of age and his wife came at the age of ten. His parents settled first in Pennsylvania, subsequently moving to Ohio and then to Dearborn county, Indiana. Finally, in 1861, they came to Decatur county. They owned a farm near Millhousen, where they were highly respected citizens and where they died. Of their nine children, three are now deceased: Mrs. Christina Huegal, Joseph and John. The living children are: Mrs. Mary Huegal, of Muncie; Valentine, the subject of this sketch; Anthony, who lives with Valentine; Mrs. Frances Eahardt, of Kokomo; Louis, who lives in Morris, Franklin county; and Mrs. Magdalena Hageman, of Muncie.

Valentine Hahn has been compelled for the most part to make his own way in the world. In April, 1865, he enlisted in Company H, Thirteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was in the service of his country for six months, serving in North Carolina and adjoining states. He per-



formed guard duty at Raleigh and Goldsboro and returned to Decatur county by the way of Baltimore, Maryland. On entering the service he had passed through New York city.

On September 20, 1870, Valentine Hahn was married to Susanna Herman, who died on June 27, 1887, seventeen years after their marriage, leaving nine children, one of whom is deceased, namely: Caroline, born on July 20, 1871, the wife of Herman Rolfes, of Fugit township, has four children, Raymond, Ruth, Thelma and Mildred; Ida, March 8, 1873, married Frank Notter, of Indianapolis, and has one child, Henrietta; Charles, November 20, 1875, of Marion township, married Josephine Ortman and has two children, Edna and Catherine; Henry, April 11, 1877, also of Marion township, married Minnie Langs and has two children, Marie and Frank; Dora, August 17, 1879, wife of William Link, of Millhousen, has four children, Walter, Ethel, Martha and Howard; Sarah, September, 1881, deceased; Mary, March 26, 1883, married William Bruns, of Ripley county, and has three children, Esther, Elma and Bernetta; Andrew, March 21, 1885, of Marion township, married Rose Hardeback and has four children, Hilbert, Maurice, Naomi and Susanna, and Albert, June 5, 1887, of Washington township, married Eva Tucker and has three children, Leon, David and Valentine.

Two years after the death of Mrs. Susanna Hahn, Mr. Hahn married, secondly, August 7, 1889, Elizabeth Herman, who was born on September 25, 1860, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the daughter of Joseph and Susanna (Young) Herman, natives of Germany, the former having been born in 1809 and died in 1884, and the latter born in 1823 and died in 1898, at the age of seventy-five years. Joseph Herman came to America with his parents when ten years old. He became a gardener and in 1861 settled in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, where he owned a farm. Finally, he moved to Marion township, where he died. To this second union five children have been born, all of whom are living: Wilfred, born on October 12, 1890, married Anna Gates and has one child, Wilfred, Jr.; Lawrence, January 16, 1894; Leonard, January 16, 1896; Carlotta, November 6, 1898, and Ernest, January 3, 1902.

Following Valentine Hahn's first marriage, he moved to a small farm in Jennings county, which he had purchased. Two years after his second marriage, he sold this farm and purchased another in Marion township. Mr. Hahn has prospered through life and is now in comfortable circumstances, being recognized as one of the well-to-do citizens of this community. He has educated all of his children and in every way possible helped



them to get a start in the world. All of them are enterprising citizens in the respective communities where they live and are doing exceedingly well as a consequence, not only of the material assistance given them by their father, but by the splendid example which he has set for them.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Hahn has never been especially active in politics, but has devoted his time, energy and talents to his own personal business. The Hahn family are members of the St. Denis Catholic church.

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### ELMER E. WALKER.

No more highly improved farm can be found in Marion township, this county, than the eighty-acre farm of the late Elmer E. Walker, one of the most beautiful tracts in that part of the county, on account of the splendid trees growing near the home. There are two tracts of timber, comprising twelve acres in all, which protect the house and yard, the former being a white frame structure reached from the east and west road by a driveway. With these magnificent trees, fronting the modern farm building, and the beautiful, well-trimmed hedge along the road, the farm presents an especially pleasing appearance to the passerby. A gas well, which has a pressure of three hundred and twelve pounds, furnishes gas for lighting the buildings and grounds and heating. The farm is well drained and well fenced, a very tangible evidence of the thrift and enterprise of its late owner, providing a very comfortable home for his widow and her children.

Elmer E. Walker, the late owner of this magnificent farm, was born on February 12, 1866, in Salt Creek township, near New Point, in Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Milton B. and Martha J. (Colson) Walker, the former of whom was born in 1829 and died on November 30, 1913, and the latter of whom was born in 1843, and died on February 12, 1912. The late Milton B. Walker, a native of Carlisle county, Pennsylvania, having been born near Pittsburgh, came to Decatur county about 1850, and after his marriage settled on a farm in Salt Creek township, working for neighboring farmers until he earned enough money to send to Pennsylvania for his mother, Mary (Hall) Walker, who then came with two other children, Beth and Angeline. Her husband having died, she married, secondly, Benjamin Robertson, and lived in Salt Creek township until her death. Mrs. Martha J. (Colson) Walker, who was the daughter of Squire Colson, a native of England, and an old settler in this community, who kept a hotel

when the Big Four railroad was built and who owned part of the town site of New Point, was herself born near New Point.

Of the twelve children born to the late Milton B. and Martha J. (Colson) Walker, five died in childhood, seven were reared to maturity and five are still living. Of these children, the Rev. Joel Walker, a Methodist Episcopal minister, died in Montana in February, 1913. Elmer E., the subject of this sketch, died on May 21, 1915; Mrs. Ollie Tucker lives near New Point on the old home farm; Curtis is a section foreman for the Big Four railroad and lives at New Point; Elza, a farmer, lives one mile south of New Point; Roy lives one and one-half miles south of New Point, and Frank lives on the old home farm, three miles out of New Point.

Elmer E. Walker was not always engaged in farming. Upon leaving home, at the age of twenty-three years, he farmed for two years, and then was engaged in railroading for fourteen years, serving during that time as track foreman for the Big Four railroad. On April 17, 1903, he purchased the old home farm of his father-in-law, the Rev. David A. Tucker, in Marion township, and moved to that farm. During the twelve years he was there engaged in farming. Mr. Walker prospered with exceptionally satisfactory progress and deserved great credit for the care with which he developed his farm to its present high state of productivity.

On April 21, 1893, Elmer E. Walker was married to Fannie Tucker, who was born on December 12, 1868, in Ripley county, Indiana, the daughter of the Rev. David A. and Susan Tucker, the former of whom was for many years a Baptist minister, but who is now residing at Linnhaven, Florida. Mrs. Walker was brought by her parents to the old Tucker farm, where she now lives, when only an infant. Her mother died in 1888.

To Elmer E. and Fannie (Tucker) Walker were born seven children, three of whom are living: William McKinley, the eldest; Gladys M., the second born; Olive Opal, the fourth born, and Forrest Adrian, are deceased. The living children are Freda M., who was born on February 25, 1901; Frances Naomi, June 7, 1909, and Benton Bailey, April 16, 1913.

A staunch Republican in national politics, Mr. Walker was more or less independent in local matters, and did not hesitate to cross party lines to vote for some worthy man on the ticket of another party. Fraternally, he was a member of the Carthage, Indiana, lodge of Odd Fellows, having been the first member initiated into that lodge after its organization. For a time he was a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Walker is a member of the Methodist church, as was her husband, and the children are being reared in that faith.

As one who had worked hard for material success as a farmer, and one who was rearing a family of children to be useful citizens in the community where they will live, Mr. Walker deserved credit as a valuable citizen of this great county and township. He was popular in the community where he lived and where he had done so well his part in all the relations of life, and his death was widely mourned throughout that section of the county. Mrs. Walker is held in the warmest esteem in the community in which practically her whole life has been spent and the heartfelt sympathy of the entire neighborhood went out to her upon her bereavement.

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### JOHN G. GUTHRIE.

The venerable John G. Guthrie, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, is the oldest living citizen of Adams township and to him the publishers of this volume are indebted for much of the history of Adams township, herein contained. Hale, hearty and vigorous for his age, he has been an upright citizen and is a genuine patriarch of pioneer days, well-informed and intelligent. He owns a splendid farm of one hundred and ninety acres in Adams township and, during his declining years, is able to enjoy all of the comforts which this life may afford.

John G. Guthrie, former county treasurer of Decatur county, was born on September 8, 1835, on a farm near Adams, in Clay township, the son of Moses and Mahala (Stark) Guthrie, the former of whom was born on November 8, 1808, in Gallatin county, Kentucky, and the latter of whom was born in 1815 in Kentucky and died in 1906. Moses Guthrie was the son of Richard and Nancy (Keys) Guthrie, natives of Ireland, who immigrated to this country about 1800. With Richard Guthrie came his wife and three children, the other members of the family being born in this country. Altogether he had seven sons and three daughters: John, Moses, Thomas, George, James, William, Erwin, Mary, Margaret and Esther. Mary, John and Margaret were born in Ireland. Moses Guthrie brought his family to Decatur county in 1822 and settled in Adams township, where he preempted government land, west of Adams. After clearing the land of the timber, he grew a crop of corn. Before coming to Decatur county, he had lived for a few years in Jefferson county, Indiana. He became a naturalized citizen of this country and died on his farm in 1837.

After his marriage, Moses Guthrie settled in Clay township and lived

there all of his life. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mahala Stark, was the daughter of Philip and Elizabeth (Robbins) Stark, natives of Kentucky and members of an old colonial family, who moved from Shelby county, Kentucky, to Decatur county about 1822. Elizabeth Robbins was the daughter of William Robbins, a Revolutionary soldier, who served for several years in the Revolutionary army. He enlisted as a private in October, 1777, under Capt. James Clark and re-enlisted on September 22, 1778. He enlisted once more in 1781, being at that time a resident of North Carolina. The venerable John G. Guthrie remembers well his grandparents. His grandfather, Philip Stark, died in January, 1837, and his grandmother, Elizabeth Robbins, died about 1885.

To Moses and Mahala Guthrie were born ten children, all but two of whom are deceased. The two living children are John G., the subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Nancy Hamilton, the wife of John W. Hamilton, who resided in Pottawattamie county, Iowa. The names of the children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: John G., Philip S., who died while serving the cause of his country in the Civil War, a member of the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry; James E., who died in 1911 at his home near Adams, in Decatur county; Elizabeth, who was the wife of Sanford Cline; Mary, who married Samuel Coleman; Epsie, who married Henry Kirbey, both now deceased; Nancy, who married John W. Hamilton; Esther, who was the wife of Sydney Sidener; Martha A., who was the wife of Ananias Pavey, and Alice, who is also deceased.

John G. Guthrie was educated in the country schools of Decatur county and took up farming at an early age. When thirty years of age he moved to Greensburg, having been appointed deputy county treasurer, in which capacity he served for three years. Since that time he has followed various lines of business, now owning a splendid farm of one hundred and ninety acres in Adams township.

On May 6, 1887, John G. Guthrie was married to Amanda Hazelrigg, who was born in 1845 and who died in May, 1912. She was a native of Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Hazelrigg, early settlers of the county, who came from Kentucky. To John G. and Amanda (Hazelrigg) Guthrie were born two children: Guy H., born in 1879, who is in the drug business in Greensburg, married Catherine Eich and has one child, Catherine, and Irwin Stanton, born in 1882, was a merchant of Greensburg, married Marie Russell.

Politically, Mr. Guthrie is a Republican. He has been a lifelong member of the Baptist church, his wife also having been a member of that church.

Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic lodge. There is no citizen in all of the length and breadth of Decatur county who occupies in the hearts of his fellowmen a warmer place than John G. Guthrie. He has lived a long and useful life and has behind him a career of which he may be justly proud.

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### FRANK M. WEADON.

No history of Decatur county would be complete without fitting reference to the life and the labors of the late Frank M. Weadon, who for many years was one of the best-known and most popular residents of this county. From 1854, in which year Mr. Weadon came to this county from Virginia to serve as deputy postmaster in the postoffice at Greensburg, until the year 1882, in which year he moved to Indianapolis, where for many years he occupied a position of high trust and responsibility in the division headquarters of the Big Four Railroad Company, there was no man in Decatur county who had a wider following of friends, or who more highly esteemed. These friendships were retained after he left this county and there always was awaiting him here a warm welcome upon the occasion of his visits back to the old home; while in the considerable Decatur county colony at Indianapolis no others were more popular or more highly regarded than Mr. and Mrs. Weadon, who always took a prominent part in the annual reunions at the capital city of the Decatur county association of former residents of this county now living in Indianapolis. Mr. Weadon died on December 21, 1914, and his death was sincerely mourned, not only among his associates and friends of many years at Indianapolis, but quite as sincerely among his earlier friends in this county. His widow, Mrs. Mary Jane Weadon, who was born at Greensburg, this county, in the year 1838, still is living at Indianapolis, her pleasant home at 906 Woodlawn avenue often being the scene of quiet gatherings on the part of her friends, who delight to do honor to her dignified old age.

Frank M. Weadon was born in London county, Virginia, on July 7, 1835, and received an excellent education in his home state. In 1854 he came to this county, entering the postoffice at Greensburg as deputy postmaster under Postmaster J. V. Bemustaffer. In this capacity he quickly made friends in his new home and was regarded as one of the "coming" young men of the community. President Lincoln later appointed him revenue collector for this revenue district, and he served most acceptably in that

capacity until 1871, in which year he was elected county auditor of Decatur county, a position of trust which he filled with the utmost fidelity to the public. This service continued for four years, at the end of which time his services were engaged by the Big Four Railroad Company, and in 1882 the scene of his activities was transferred to Indianapolis, in which city he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 21, 1914. In his thirty years of service in the division headquarters of the Big Four Railroad Company at Indianapolis, Mr. Weadon was absent from the office but four weeks. He remained with the company until he was retired on pension on account of the encroachments of age. He was singularly faithful and devoted in his service to the company and was held in the very highest esteem by all his office associates and the authorities of the road.

On October 8, 1856, Frank M. Weadon was united in marriage to Mary Jane Jamison, who was born in Greensburg, this county, on April 24, 1838, the daughter of Francis and Nancy (Preston) Jamison, both members of pioneer families of this county. Francis Jamison was the son of Martin and Barbara (Seebaugh) Jamison, the former of whom was born in Glasgow, Scotland, coming to this country in early manhood and locating at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he married Barbara Seebaugh, a member of one of the old Colonial families, later coming to Decatur county and entering business in the then rapidly growing village of Greensburg. Martin Jamison had been trained to the hatter's trade in Scotland and he engaged in the hatter's business at Greensburg, to which he added a general stock of dry goods, becoming one of the leading business men in southern Indiana. He built the first two-story building in Greensburg, his place of business having been located on the site now occupied by Minear's dry-goods store, and was a power in the early development of the commercial and industrial interests of this county, his influence in the religious and civic life of the community having been equally potent, so much so that few names in the early history of Decatur county are entitled to more respectful recognition than that of Martin Jamison.

Francis Jamison was born at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and as a child came to this county with his parents, being reared at Greensburg, and upon reaching manhood was associated with his father in the dry-goods business at Greensburg, being for many years one of the leading merchants in that city. He married Nancy Preston, who was born in Georgetown, Kentucky, and who came to Decatur county with her parents at the age of sixteen years, her father, Thomas Preston, becoming one of the best-known pioneer farmers of this county. Thomas Preston entered a government tract, at



what is now known as the Doss Pleak farm, and became a substantial and honored resident of that part of the county.

To Frank M. and Mary Jane (Jamison) Weadon were born the following children: Percy, who is prominently connected with the theatrical business in New York City; George A., a prominent business man in Indianapolis, in the millinery line, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Burt C. and Bruce.

The Weadons are held in high esteem throughout Decatur county, though long having been absent the connection of the two names, Jamison and Weadon, formerly so strongly identified with the commercial and political life of the county seat, giving to the family a substantial position in this county which time cannot effect.

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#### OSCAR B. TRIMBLE.

Among the men of sterling worth and strong character in Decatur county, who have left the mark of their influence on the institutional life of this section, none has been honored with a larger measure of popular respect than Oscar B. Trimble, a prominent farmer of Clay township, former trustee of that township and twice elected treasurer of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Trimble have a splendid farm of one hundred and seventy acres, three-quarters of a mile south of Milford, on the old Vernon road, where they have lived for many years in comfort and happiness, sweethearts quite as much as they were in the days of their courtship.

Oscar B. Trimble was born in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1859, the son of John B. and Adelaide (Owens) Trimble, the former of whom was born in 1818 in Grayson county, Virginia. The Owens family, originally from Pennsylvania, came to Decatur county in pioneer times, first settling in Jackson township, where their descendants are still numerous. Ridsen Owens, the founder of the present branch of the family in this section, emigrated, when past the prime of life, to Kansas and there entered land and became wealthy. He died in that state, after having spent a life of unusual vigor. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom Adelaide, the mother of Mrs. Trimble, was one of the daughters.

The Trimble family is of Scotch-Irish descent and came to Decatur county in 1836 from Virginia, settling in Washington township, near Greensburg. John B. Trimble was a carpenter in his younger days, and there are





MR. AND MRS. OSCAR B. TRIMBLE.



several houses still standing and in good condition which he built in Decatur county. The house on what is known as the old Tarkington farm, where the ancestors of Booth Tarkington lived, now owned by Bird Sefton, was built by Mr. Trimble and stands today as a monument to his skill and honesty as a builder. Later he abandoned carpentering and became a farmer. He was married in 1855 to Adelaide Owens and after their marriage, they purchased a farm in Washington township, now known as the Applegate farm. After selling this farm, John B. Trimble moved to Kansas, where he remained one year, and then came back to Decatur county, purchasing land in Clay township, now owned by his sons, O. B. and A. B. Trimble.

Although reared a Democrat, the late John B. Trimble, soon after coming to Decatur county, became a member of the Whig party and, upon the organization of the Republican party, in 1856, became a member of that party. He was always true to the party of Lincoln and was intensely patriotic, ever displaying the utmost loyalty to the principles of the Union during the time of the Civil War. John B. Trimble was elected several times as trustee of Clay township and made a fine record in that office. A noble citizen and an influential man, he had a wide acquaintance and was popular with his neighbors, especially on account of his brilliant conversational abilities. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Christian church. He died on August 24, 1907. His widow, who died less than two months later, on October 12, 1907, was a woman of kindly, Christian character and was much loved and respected in Clay township.

To the late John B. and Adelaide (Owens) Trimble the following children were born: Mrs. Maria Morse, wife of William Morse, of Indianapolis; O. B., the subject of this sketch; Arthur B., a farmer of Milford, this county; Mrs. Carrie McCoy, wife of Curtis McCoy, of this county, and Fred B., a well-known Decatur county farmer, who died in 1900, at the age of forty-two.

In 1879 O. B. Trimble was married to Ida M. Butler, who was born in Bartholomew county, this state, in 1860, daughter of John F. and Susan (Woodard) Butler, who later were well-known residents of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Trimble began life on the farm where they now live and there they have lived a life noted for its peacefulness and happiness. To them two children have been born, Claudia A., wife of Dr. Charles A. Kuhn, of Greensburg, and Ethel B., wife of Christian Steen, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. and Mrs. Kuhn have two children, Dorothy and Hilda.

Always intensely loyal to the principles of the Republican party, O. B.

Trimble has been prominent in the affairs of his party for many years and is regarded as one of the influential men in the party's councils in Decatur county. In 1894 he was elected trustee of Clay township and served for five years. In 1906 he was elected treasurer of Decatur county and was re-elected in 1908. Both as trustee of Clay township and treasurer of Decatur county, Mr. Trimble was one public official who worked at the job; who kept the business of the county and the township absolutely straight and who devoted his time exclusively to looking after the public business. He is a man of whom the people of this county have reason to be proud. Mrs. Trimble is a member of the Christian church and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same. Mr. Trimble is a Mason, being a member of the lodge of that order at Milford. He also is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Milford, the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Greensburg, being very popular among the members of these several fraternities. He and his wife are active in all good works in their neighborhood and are held in the highest esteem thereabout.

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#### DILVER E. DOUGLAS, M. D.

Among the prominent physicians and surgeons of Greensburg, Indiana, who also have been prominent in the political and civic life of the county, is Dr. Dilver E. Douglas, whose grandfather came down the Ohio river from Pennsylvania and settled early in the history of the state near Vevay, Indiana. The career of this successful physician, the subject of this sketch, is a striking example of boyish ideals and ambitions which have been fully realized in later life.

Dilver E. Douglas was born on a farm near Vevay, Indiana, on November 9, 1870, son of John and Esther (Pocock) Douglas, natives of Indiana, the former of whom was born in 1840 and died in 1892 and the latter born in 1842 and died in 1894. John Douglas was the son of Jackson Douglas, a native of Pennsylvania, who, as heretofore stated, came down the Ohio river from Pennsylvania and, after numerous experiences and exploits, settled near Vevay.

Educated in the district schools and in the Vevay high school, Dilver E. Douglas was also a student for some time at the local normal school and taught school for seven years in Switzerland county. Beginning the study of medicine in his boyhood, in the office of Dr. R. D. Simpson, he entered the

Ohio Medical University in 1892, later entering the Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville, from which he was graduated with the class of 1897.

From 1897 to 1912 Dr. Dilver E. Douglas was engaged in the practice of medicine at East Enterprise, near Vevay, but in 1912 came to Decatur county and has since that time been successfully engaged in the practice of medicine in Greensburg. Doctor Douglas is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, in all of which organizations he takes a prominent part.

On June 10, 1896, Dr. D. E. Douglas was married to Lillian Adams, of Vevay. To this union two children, Robert E. and F. Mareta, have been born.

A member of the sixty-sixth General Assembly of Indiana, Doctor Douglas served as a member of the committee on ways and means, the committee on state medicine and the committee on benevolent institutions. He was a prominent and influential member of that session, having been elected as a Democrat and serving as a member of a body which was Democratic for the first time in several years. During this session, however, the upper house of the General Assembly remained Republican.

Doctor Douglas is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. A Democrat in politics, in addition to his service as a member of the Indiana General Assembly, he also served as county surveyor of Switzerland county for one term before moving from East Enterprise to Greensburg.

Although a resident of this county a comparatively brief period, Doctor Douglas has already established a flourishing practice. During his short residence here, he has gained a host of friends and is honored and esteemed, not only by his patients, but by all the people of Greensburg, Decatur county.

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### MATHIAS JOHANNIGMANN.

If one should visit Decatur county in search for a model farm, from the standpoint of improvements, buildings and natural advantages, and one that was cultivated and farmed by the most modern methods, he would more than likely be directed to Marion township in search of Mathias Johannigmann.

Mathias Johannigmann was born on August 16, 1856, in a log cabin on the farm on which he now lives, the son of Bernard Dominicus Johannig-

mann, who was born in Germany in 1821, and who died in Decatur county in 1896. After emigrating to America in 1850 Dominicus Johannigmann lived for a time in Cincinnati and then came to Decatur county and bought a tract of land in Marion township that had been partly cleared by the Indians, the aboriginals having had a village at that point. The remainder of this land was cleared by Dominicus Johannigmann and in 1876 he made the bricks and built the fine brick residence in which his son, Mathias Johannigmann, now lives.

The wife of Bernard Dominicus Johannigmann was Elizabeth Egbert, who was born in Germany in 1832 and died in Decatur county in 1866. They had the following children: Mary, who lives in Cincinnati; John, who is deceased; Mathias, the subject of this sketch; Henry, who lives at Walnut Hills, Cincinnati; Joseph, who lives at Price Hill, Cincinnati, and Anna (Thcimann) St. Bernard, of Cincinnati.

Mathias Johannigmann is now in possession of a tract of two hundred and forty-six acres of well-improved land, which has a running stream of water passing through it. Mr. Johannigmann has one of the finest barns in Decatur county. This barn was built in 1909 and is sixty-four by forty-eight feet and three stories high. It is made out of hard-wood lumber that was cut from trees taken on this farm. The construction of the barn is such that any of the three stories will support a wagon and team. The barn is well supplied with granaries and has running water for the stock. It is unquestionably the finest barn in Decatur county. The Johannigmann farm presents a most picturesque sight with its hills and valleys and fine old buildings set in surroundings of huge old maple trees. The fine brick residence was built by Mathias Johannigmann's father in 1877, and is in an excellent state of repair. Mathias Johannigmann has always lived on this farm, with the exception of six years spent in Cincinnati, as a teamster, when a young man. He is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and has a fine herd of fifteen head of this breed. He has five head of fine mules and five head of pure-bred Percheron horses, and on both horses and mules he has won premiums at Batesville, North Vernon, Osgood and Greensburg fairs and stock shows. He also raises annually from twenty-five to forty head of fine Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Mathias Johannigmann was married on February 19, 1884, to Anna Kuhlman, who was born in Madisonville, Ohio, in 1859, the daughter of John Kuhlman, a native of Germany, who came to Indiana from Ohio. To Mathias and Anna (Coleman) Johannigmann have been born six children, of whom three are living: Clara, born in 1888, now resides in Cincinnati;

Mathias, June 8, 1893, is now farming at home, and Helen, October 25, 1894.

Mathias Johannigmann is a Democrat. He is a member of St. Mary's Catholic church and is a good example of the sturdy German blood which has done so much to enrich America, he and his family being held in the highest esteem throughout a part of the county in which for years he has taken so prominent a part in agricultural development.

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EDWIN S. FEE.

Our republic, consciously or unconsciously, was founded on the idea that man's economic objects are to be obtained by the exploitation of one class by another class—by the appropriation of others' labor rather than by one's own labor, by political rather than by economic need. It is another instance of the institution of government designed to preserve in our civilization the principle that the fittest shall survive. The aristocratic character of our legislative bodies, particularly the federal court, and, until quite recently, the United States Senate, are glaring instances of the fact that at every crucial point the few have been foresighted enough to protect their traditional rights, to exploit all not within the pale of their own social class.

When we find in our examination of the personal and biographical annals of the past generation, one who has devoted his life's energies to opposing the aggressions of the few, who lived and died for the cause which he knew was right, who withstood the trials and discouragements, the opposition and the isolation of friends and even relatives, yet remained steadfast in the cause and uplift of a downtrodden race of humanity, we are compelled to render a tribute to the memory of the man who put personal and selfish interests aside and cast his fortunes with those who were being preyed upon.

In the agitation against the institution of slavery which preceded the Civil War, no man gave greater power or more intelligent direction to the crusade than the late Rev. John G. Fee, founder of Berea College, at Berea, Kentucky. A school which today ranks with our foremost colleges and universities, with an enrollment of more than two thousand students, it is a living monument to the memory of Reverend Fee, who was the father of Edwin Sumner Fee, a well-known farmer and stockman of Decatur county and the subject of this writing.



Edwin S. Fee, born on March 17, 1863, in Clermont county, Ohio, is today the only surviving member of a family of six children, reared under the best impulses of Christian citizenship, and under the protecting love of a noble and capable Christian mother, who added her best energies, her best thought and action to the success of her husband and the cares of her household. Mr. Fee has complete data on the genealogy of his ancestors as far back as 1630, which is greatly prized by himself and will increase in value in coming generations. Mr. Fee's infancy was contemporaneous with the stirring period of the Civil War. He, like all his brothers and sisters, was educated in the schools of Berea, Kentucky, and in Berea College.

On September 11, 1883, Edwin S. Fee was married to Enrie J. Hamilton, of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, a daughter of the late William McCoy and Euphemie (Donnell) Hamilton, both members of old and prominent families in the county, the former of whom was born on November 26, 1822, and died on February 25, 1905, and the latter of whom was born on October 5, 1829, and died on December 6, 1892. Mrs. Fee's father was a citizen of Decatur county and lived his entire life within its borders, a son of Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton, natives of Kentucky. William McCoy Hamilton was born and reared on the paternal farm in the Kingston neighborhood in Decatur county. On January 24, 1854, he was married to Euphemie Donnell, the only daughter of Luther and Jane (Braden) Donnell. Immediately after their marriage they moved to the farm on which their only son, Luther Donnell Hamilton, now lives. At that time there was an old pioneer dwelling on this farm, which, ten years later, was supplanted by a fine, large brick residence, which Mr. Hamilton erected and which, with some remodeling to suit modern conditions, still does fine service as a country home.

Mrs. Hamilton inherited about six hundred acres of land from her father, and gradually this was increased by Mr. Hamilton until he became the possessor of more than three thousand acres of land. He bred and raised a great number of mules, cattle and hogs for the market. He was one of the most substantial citizens in this county, an earnest Republican and took an active part in political affairs. He was a fiery abolitionist and served in the capacity of county commissioner for two terms. He was prominently connected with the affairs of the "underground railroad," by which agency many slaves found their way to freedom before the war. He was president of the First National Bank of Greensburg. Both Mr. Hamilton and his wife took active interest in all church work and charitable institutions. Mrs. Hamilton's main work was in her household and aiding poor

and unfortunate people who came within the reach of her kindly care and Christian influence.

To William McCoy and Euphemie (Donnell) Hamilton were born five children: Enrie Jane, born on November 8, 1854, the wife of Mr. Fee; Grace Greenwood, November 20, 1858, died on January 16, 1898; Luther Donnell, at present one of the largest farmers in the county; Myrta Gay, February 18, 1865, married John M. Berry on December 26, 1893, and died at her Chicago home on March 19, 1897, and Mary Blanche, May 9, 1868, married George W. Lyons in December, 1900, and is now living in Greensburg.

Mrs. Edwin S. Fee, the eldest of the family, was educated at Oberlin College, and took special courses in the conservatory of music and was affiliated with the class of 1875. For two years she taught music in Berea College, and was teaching at the time she met Mr. Fee. After their marriage they began farming in this county. Today Mr. and Mrs. Fee own over nine hundred acres of land in three farms. They have a beautiful modern home in the town of Clarksburg, perhaps the finest residence in the county. Completed in the fall of 1906, it contains twenty-one rooms and is finished throughout with native hardwood and with hardwood floors. It is hot-water heated and is lighted with natural gas. The rooms are all artistically decorated and a large open fireplace in the spacious living room is a most attractive and comfortable feature of this magnificent country home. It is painted cream and white and has French plate-glass windows and a large circular porch, which extends almost around the entire house, with the portecochere on the south side.

On this body of land there are four sets of farm buildings. Mr. Fee is an extensive cattle, mule and hog raiser, and a large feeder of Shorthorn cattle. He averages not less than one hundred and fifty head of cattle and twenty-five mules and two hundred head of hogs for market per year. Four men are employed by the year to aid in the work on these farms, their families living on these farms.

To Edwin S. and Enrie J. (Hamilton) Fee five children have been born, two sons and three daughters, all of whom after attending the high school at Clarksburg enjoyed the advantages of higher education. Burritt Hamilton, born on June 26, 1884, was educated at Berea College and is now a farmer and stockman; William Howard, July 4, 1886, attended Berea, Tarkio (Missouri) and Valparaiso (Indiana) College, and is farming near Kingston. Both sons own one hundred and sixty acres of land apiece, besides other interests. Mary E., February 24, 1889, is pursuing special

courses of music in Berea College, DePauw University and Oberlin and Cincinnati conservatories. Nellie M., August 4, 1891, attended Monmouth College, Illinois, for three successive years in the liberal arts course, at the same time taking a course in vocal music at the conservatory. Bessie E., July 16, 1894, attended college a year each at Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, Monmouth College and Bradley Polytechnic, at Peoria, specializing in music, domestic science and painting.

The family are members and regular attendants of the Clarksburg Presbyterian church, Mrs. Fee having been organist and leader of the choir for more than forty years, and is today still doing excellent service in that capacity. All the family live at the home in Clarksburg.

Edwin S. Fee is a progressive Republican, but is independent in his voting and thinking. He has proved a valuable citizen in this great county, and is a director and largest individual stockholder in the Clarksburg State Bank, and is a trustee of Lincoln Institute at Louisville, Kentucky, and prominent on temperance boards and affairs of community interest and betterment. Both Mr. Fee and his two sons are valuable factors in the community as farmers and men of judgment, prominent in corn and stock shows and farmers' institutes.

There is an old saying that blood will tell, and if we believe in this statement we must say that Mr. and Mrs. Fee, by their every thought, word and act, are fulfilling the noble desires and traditions of two families which have figured prominently in the public and religious life of two continents.

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### J. MINOR GASTON.

Indianapolis, the state capital, has gained many very excellent citizens at the expense of Decatur county, the Decatur colony at the capital being one of the most strongly marked and individualized of any of the state's numerous county colonies there. The attractive force of Indiana's chief city and political center has drawn from all ranks of Decatur county's social order, and most all the industries and professions in the capital are represented among those who have left the borders of this county, seeking wider opportunity there for the exercise of their talents. Among those who thus have departed, few have left pleasanter memories among their friends who remain here than the family of the Gastons, who, in the spring of 1912, moved to Indianapolis, where Mr. Gaston has found an ample outlet for

his enterprise and energy in the banking business, a business which he proved himself so well qualified for during his residence in the village of Westport, this county. Though he no longer is a resident of Decatur county, J. Minor Gaston still retains considerable property interest in and about his former home at Westport and still likes to regard himself as one of the Decatur county folk. It is quite fitting therefore that some record of his life in this county, together with a brief history of his interesting family, should be set out in this volume of biographical reference to the men and the women who have helped to make Decatur county what it is—one of the most favored sections of the proud old Hoosier state.

J. Minor Gaston was born at Sardinia, Decatur county, Indiana, on September 19, 1856, of excellent pioneer stock, the son of Francis M. and Margaret (Gray) Gaston, both natives of Butler county, Ohio, who came to this county in the year 1849, locating in Jackson township, in the village that at that time was known by the name of Maxwell, where Francis M. Gaston engaged in the general merchandise business. Upon opening his store in the village, Mr. Gaston gave a great sardine supper, free to all who would attend, as a means of advertising, in a day when newspaper advertising was not so much a factor in commercial enterprises as it is today. Needless to say, the sardine supper was attended by the entire countryside and the fame of the unique "spread" became enduring. About that time Maxwell attained the dignity of being made a postoffice, and, on account of there being another Maxwell postoffice in the state, it became necessary for the villagers to select another name for their town. In compliment to Mr. Gaston, and to perpetuate the fame of his sardine supper, the people unanimously agreed that the town should be called "Sardinia," and the post-office department so ordered. And Sardinia it is to this day.

Francis M. Gaston was reared on a farm in Butler county, Ohio, not far from the city of Cincinnati, and there he married Margaret Gray, one of the belles of his home neighborhood. As stated above, the Gastons came to this county, locating at Sardinia, where Mr. Gaston operated a general store for five or six years, becoming one of the best known men in that entire section of the county. The success which attended his effort as a village storekeeper enabled him presently to purchase an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres in the neighborhood, and on this farm he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1893 and hers in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Gaston were among the most influential factors in the life of that community. They both were persons of strong moral

fiber and were active in promoting all causes designed to advance the general good.

J. Minor Gaston's youth was spent in and near the village of Sardinia, his elementary education being received in the schools of that village. This schooling he supplemented by a course in the National Normal College, at Lebanon, Ohio, following which he went to the village of Westport, this county, where he engaged in the general merchandise business, continuing this form of commercial activity for four years. He also owned farm lands near Westport and gave these his direct personal attention. About the year 1905, Mr. Minor engaged in the banking business in Westport with J. S. Morris, who previously had opened a bank there, operating the same as a private bank. In 1912 Mr. Gaston sold his interest in the Westport bank and moved to Indianapolis, in which city he aided in the organization of the Marion County State Bank, being elected to the position of vice-president of the same, holding that position until 1914, in which year he was elected president of the bank, a position in which he is still serving. The other officers of the bank are Mr. Minor's son-in-law, Clarence C. Deupree, another Decatur county man, who is cashier, and John Duvall, vice-president. With Mr. Gaston's and Mr. Deupree's connection with this bank, it is hardly necessary to say that all Decatur county people find a hearty welcome when they step into that popular financial institution while visiting the capital city.

In 1913 Mr. Gaston also helped organize the Beech Grove State Bank, at Beech Grove, a suburb of Indianapolis. While officially known as the assistant cashier of this latter institution, Mr. Gaston is practically manager of the same, devoting nearly all of his time to this bank, being the only member of the management who does so. He has disposed of most of his holdings in this county, though still retaining some property at Westpoint, which place, through long association, he still likes to think of as home.

In 1885 J. Minor Gaston was united in marriage to Lottie Beesley, who was born at Brewersville, Indiana, daughter of Robert and Charlotte (Brumley) Beesley, the latter of whom is a native of England, having been brought to this country by her parents in her girlhood, and the former of whom was born in this country, of English parents, his birth having occurred shortly after his parents arrived in America. Robert Beesley and Charlotte Brumley were married at Brookville, this state, later moving to Jennings county, this state, where their daughter, Lottie, was reared on a farm. Mr. and Mr. Beesley remained on the Jennings county farm until the year 1910, when they moved to Sardinia, this county, where their old

age is being spent in quiet and pleasant retirement. During his residence in Westport Mr. Gaston was accounted one of the most forceful and energetic men thereabout and much credit is given him by the people of that village for the part he took in public affairs there. In 1906 he was the president of the town board. During the years since its establishment as a hamlet, the town had grown up around the old cemetery, creating a situation that was very distasteful to many of the townspeople. Mr. Gaston promoted a movement for the location of a new cemetery, well outside the town limits. An ordinance to this effect was adopted by the town board and bonds were offered for sale. For some reason, however, these village bonds would not sell. Upon consulting an attorney, Mr. Gaston found that he was not barred from being a buyer of the bonds, even though a member of the board which authorized their issue, and he purchased the entire issue on his individual responsibility, thus insuring to the village the location of the cemetery at the point most popularly favored by the people thereabout. Though the action in moving the cemetery for a time aroused some opposition in the neighborhood, some desiring to retain the time-honored burial ground, that opposition long since has vanished, all now agreeing upon the desirability of the change. Westport cemetery, the new burial ground, is a beautiful plot, a credit to the town, and the townspeople are proud of it. The first interment in the new Westport cemetery was that of the body of Christopher Stott, who, at the time of his death, was the oldest man in Sand Creek township.

To J. Minor and Lottie (Beesley) Gaston one child has been born, a daughter, Stella Edith, who was born and reared on the same farm as was her father. On October 20, 1910, Stella Edith Gaston was united in marriage to Clarence C. Deupree, son of Thomas M. and Laura V. (Pritchard) Deupree, a member of one of the old families of this section of the state, who was born at Westport, this county, on January 8, 1888, and to this union there has been born one child, a son, Robert Gaston. Mr. Deupree is cashier of the Marion County State Bank at Indianapolis, and a biographical sketch of him, with a genealogy of his family, is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaston are members of the First Baptist church at Indianapolis and are earnest in good works, the same kindly influence they exerted for so many years during the time of their residence in this county having been extended to their new field of labor in the state capital, where they have made many friends and are held in the highest esteem by all who know them.



## ISAAC H. TAYLOR.

The late Isaac H. Taylor, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, who came to Decatur county, Indiana, with his parents in 1842, became, during his life, one of the most prominent farmers of Decatur county, and was rated by the friends he had and the men who knew him as one of the best citizens of the county. His goodness of heart and generous, lovable disposition naturally attracted to him many warm and ardent friends whom he cherished highly. Ever tender and loving to his wife and children, all were left, at his death, well provided with the comforts of life which the husband and father had worked so patiently and so diligently to acquire.

Born on July 26, 1838, Isaac H. Taylor passed away quietly on January 21, 1903, a few months after moving to Greensburg, Indiana. Mr. Taylor first settled on a farm near Horan, Indiana, which he later sold and then moved to a farm near Gaynorsville, on which he lived until his removal to Greensburg. This latter farm consisted of one hundred and sixty acres and, due to Mr. Taylor's prodigious toil, it was brought up to a high state of cultivation.

The late Isaac H. Taylor was twice married, the first time to Mary E. Miller, November 18, 1860. She died on November 30, 1863, and he married, secondly, March 9, 1865, Emily A. McConnell, who was born March 8, 1841, in Decatur county, the daughter of Archibald and Emily (Burk) McConnell, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Decatur county. Of their family of seven children, only one, Mrs. Taylor, is now living. The parents died in 1851, when Mrs. Taylor was only ten years old. Her mother was the daughter of John Burk, a native of Kentucky, who built Burk's Chapel. The six deceased children, brothers and sisters of Mrs. Taylor, were: Elizabeth, Patsy Jane, John Burk, Archibald, Nancy and Chesley.

Of the children born to Isaac H. and Emily A. (McConnell) Taylor, three are deceased and four are still living: Emma, born on July 18, 1866, is the wife of Ira Scripture and lives at Moores Hill; George died in infancy; John, October 10, 1867, married Mollie S. Jackson on December 29, 1895, and lives in Henry county; James, October 2, 1871, lives on a farm near Sandusky, Decatur county; Mary died in infancy; Gertrude, October 2, 1875, died December 31, 1893, and Hugh, February 2, 1879, living on a farm two miles north of Greensburg, married Otie Fiscus.

Of the late Isaac H. Taylor it may be said that he was one of the best



men in all Decatur county, a man whose heart was pure, whose motives sincere and aboveboard, and whose will was centered on any means which might be taken to uplift his neighbors or his fellows. During his residence in the country, he and his wife were loyal and faithful members of Burk's Chapel of the Methodist Episcopal church, a building which had been originally erected by Mrs. Taylor's maternal grandfather. Faithful in all of the duties of life, Isaac H. Taylor well deserved the confidence of his fellow-men. This confidence, so freely bestowed upon him, was the result of true merit.

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### R. RAY HAMILTON.

The Hamilton family in Greensburg township, this county, is descended from William Warder Hamilton, who was one of the best-known farmers and citizens of the state, a native of Carlisle, Kentucky, born in 1821, who died in 1907. Coming to Decatur county, Indiana, during the forties, he settled in Fugit township and became one of the largest farmers in this section of Indiana. He was especially well known because of his connection with the board of agriculture, having for some time served as president of that body. R. Ray Hamilton, the subject of this sketch, is a representative of the third generation of this family in Decatur county, a grandson of William Warder Hamilton.

R. Ray Hamilton was born on April 8, 1876, the son of William Brutus and Catherine (Cunningham) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in 1848 and died on September 17, 1903, and the latter of whom was born in Warren county, Ohio, in 1849 and died in February, 1905. William Brutus Hamilton was one of two sons born to William Warder Hamilton and wife. Cassius, the other son, is a farmer living near Greensburg and is well known throughout the county. Mrs. Catherine Hamilton was a well-educated, intelligent and refined woman, who, after coming to Decatur county from Ohio, taught school for several years until her marriage to William Brutus Hamilton. They had four children: William Cassius, who is a coal dealer in Indianapolis; Florine, the wife of Elmer Roland, formerly of Columbus, Indiana, who has one child, Kathryn; Richard Ray, the subject of this sketch, and Harry Warder, a well-known manufacturer of Indianapolis, who married Disney Bird, to which union three children were born, two now living and one deceased, William Warder, Helen Florine and Harry Cassius, the latter of whom died in 1914 at the age of three years.

R. Ray Hamilton received a splendid educational training for business. After completing the prescribed course in the public schools of Greensburg, being graduated from the high school, he was for some time a student in one of the business colleges at Indianapolis, where he was especially well prepared for business. For several years he was engaged in the stone business with his father-in-law, Ira J. Hollensbe. At the present time they are engaged in the manufacture of automobile radiators, the firm being known as the Take-Apart Radiator Company, the auto radiator being an invention controlled by the firm. This company has enjoyed an unusual success, due in a large measure to the business foresight of Mr. Hamilton. His exceptional business ability is not unusual, since his father, William Brutus Hamilton, was a very successful business man. Reared on a farm, his father was engaged for many years in the hardware business and later became a pioneer promoter of telephone enterprises, in association with the Bell Telephone Company. He was the manager of many telephone companies and at one time, in association with five other members of the family, owned the Hamilton Gas Company, a concern which was finally sold to the Muddy-fork company. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and he was politically identified with the Democratic party:

On June 8, 1898, R. Ray Hamilton was married to Myrtle Hollensbe, the daughter of Ira J. Hollensbe, for many years a well-known manufacturer of Decatur county, and to this union three children have been born: Ira Brutus, born on September 4, 1899; Richard Ray, July 13, 1901, and William Hollensbe, November 5, 1909.

Mr. Hamilton is a Democrat and is at present a member of the Greensburg board of education. He was a member of the board at the time the new high school building was erected. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are active members of the Presbyterian church at Greensburg.

Not only has R. Ray Hamilton made a gratifying success in business, but his success has not been won by any sacrifice of principle or yielding up of the respect of those with whom he has had dealings. As a citizen, he has been especially active in educational affairs and is entitled to no small part of the credit for the high standard of the Greensburg schools today. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are socially popular in Greensburg and are among the most hospitable entertainers in the city.

## CLIFFORD G. ASKIN.

Among all the numerous county reunions held at Indianapolis during the summer months, meetings for the foregathering of the former residents of the respective counties of the state who, for one reason or another, have found their ways to the capital city, none is more largely attended or marked by a larger flow of real fraternal feeling than is the annual reunion of Decatur county folk now living in the capital. Much of the success and good fellowship of these annually recurring reunions of exiled Decatur county folk undoubtedly may be attributed to the untiring zeal of the genial president of the Decatur County Association of Indianapolis, Clifford G. Askin, a former well-known resident of Forest Hill, this county, who for many years has been engaged in business at Indianapolis, where he has made a distinctive place for himself as a funeral director. Mr. Askin is one of the best-known undertakers in the state of Indiana, his reputation, indeed, extending beyond the borders of the state. He is proprietor of the well-known Askin Training School of Embalmers at Indianapolis, an institution which counts its graduates in all parts of the country, and since 1911 he has held the chair of embalming in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, a position which has given him a most unusual opportunity to aid in the dissemination of proper information regarding the best and most hygienic disposition of the dead. In the councils of the National Undertakers' Association and of the Indiana State Undertakers' Association, Mr. Askin occupies an important and leading position, his counsels ever being accepted with respect and consideration in those bodies. Among all the many Decatur county folk who have gone out into the wider world none is held in higher esteem here at home than he, and it very properly may be said that none retains a livelier interest in old home affairs. It is his constant delight to keep in touch with his old home and with his many friends in this county, and he is acknowledged by the Decatur county colony at Indianapolis to be the very life of the annual reunions of that colony in the capital city.

Clifford G. Askin was born at Forest Hill, this county, on March 31, 1878, the son of George and Hannah (Harris) Askin, the former of whom was born in 1836 and died on March 10, 1910. George Askin was born at Tobbercurry, near Sligo, Ireland, a son of Richard and Ann Askin, the latter of whom was of English birth. Richard Askin died when his son, George, was ten years old, and his widow emigrated to America with her little family of four sons and one daughter, of whom George was the young-

est. The family landed in New York City, proceeding thence to Rochester, New York, in which city George remained, the other members of the family coming to this county, where the eldest son established a permanent home for his mother and brothers and sister in the Forest Hill neighborhood. George Askin was apprenticed to the cabinet maker's trade at Rochester, and remained there until he had completed his trade, at the end of which time he rejoined his family in this county. Here he followed his trade for a few years, after which he entered a general store at Forest Hill as a clerk. This form of business appealed to him so strongly that he presently bought the store from his employer and continued in business at Forest Hill for more than twenty-five years, becoming a man of large and admirable influence throughout that whole section of the county. In the spring of 1896 he sold his store and bought a farm at the edge of Forest Hill, where he engaged in farming until 1909, in which year he retired and moved to Indianapolis, where his death occurred the following March. Mr. Askin ever was interested in movements affecting the public welfare in the county and particularly in that section of the county in which for so many years he was a leader in business affairs. During the seventies and early eighties he was postmaster of Forest Hill and was very popular as an official, his service in that connection being fondly remembered by the older people thereabout. He was a member of the Methodist church, in the affairs of which he ever took a warm interest, and was a potent factor for good in the community. He was a staunch Republican, though not in any way offensive in his partisanship, respecting the views of others, even as he was firm in his own views and opinions. As a leader of the party in his section of the county, his political services throughout the county ever were appreciated by the managers of the party in this section of the state.

In 1868 George Askin was united in marriage to Hannah Harris, who was born at Dunlapville, near Liberty, Indiana, a daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Kromb) Harris. Isaac Harris was born in New Jersey, in which state his youth was spent. He became a very proficient shoemaker and in his early manhood came to Indiana, locating at Dunlapville, where he opened a shoeshop and where the rest of his life was spent. His wife, Sarah Kromb, was born in Union county, this state, a daughter of John and Sarah (Combs) Kromb, the former of whom was a native of Holland, and the latter a native of New Jersey. John Kromb emigrated to this country in his young manhood, coming to Indiana, where he became a well-known pioneer of the Liberty neighborhood. Sarah Kromb grew up in Union county and was married there to Isaac Harris. In 1855 Isaac Harris and

his family moved to Boone county, this state, where, in 1858, Mrs. Harris died, leaving seven children, Mrs. Askin being one of these. Upon the death of his wife, Isaac Harris moved back to Union county, where he remarried and moved to Rush county, where his second wife died. He married again and spent the rest of his life in Rush county, his death occurring in the town of Glenwood. Mrs. Askin spent her girlhood partly in Franklin and partly in Union county, later living at Lebanon, in Boone county. Upon her marriage to Mr. Askin her home was changed to Forest Hill, in this county, where she immediately became a strong factor in the social and religious life of that community, her influence ever being exerted for the good. She is now living in Indianapolis, honored and respected by all who know her.

To George and Hannah (Harris) Askin were born three children, namely: Clifford G., the immediate subject of this sketch; Henry J., a well-known member of the Indianapolis detective force, and Effie M., who married John M. Barbour and lives at Lawrence, Indiana.

Clifford G. Askin spent his early youth in the town of Forest Hill, his education being received in the excellent schools of that town. When he was eighteen years of age his father moved to the farm, and there Clifford G. remained until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he moved to Indianapolis, entering upon a position there with an undertaking firm. He remained with this firm one year, at the end of which time he formed a partnership with Charles H. Royster, and went into business for himself, the establishment of Royster & Askin at that time being located in the western part of the city. This firm continued operations there for five years, and in 1910 moved to its present centrally located and commodious quarters at 837 North Illinois street, in the city of Indianapolis, where it has a large and constantly growing patronage among the best families in the city. This establishment is one of the finest and most thoroughly equipped in the state of Indiana.

Clifford G. Askin, as stated in the introduction to this narrative, has made for himself a distinctive place in undertaking circles over the state and throughout the middle states, and enjoys the unreserved confidence of business circles generally in Indianapolis. Two years after he had established the Askin Training School of Embalming, Mr. Askin associated with him in that branch of the business Dr. W. B. Ryan, another Decatur county man, who was added to the staff as instructor. Doctor Ryan died two years or more ago, since which time Mr. Askin has conducted this valuable train-

ing school alone. His position with the faculty of the University of Michigan, he having occupied the chair of embalming in that excellent institution since 1911, has proved a means of extending his influence as a scientific embalmer into all parts of the country, and there are few hygienists who enjoy a better established reputation along this particular line than he.

Mr. Askin is a member of the Tabernacle Presbyterian church at Indianapolis and is held in high esteem among his large circle of friends in the capital city. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, retaining his membership in the lodge at Clifty, this county, of which lodge he became a member during his residence in the Forest Hill neighborhood, and in the affairs of which he continues to take a warm interest. He also is a member of the Masonic order, his membership being held in Mystic Tie Lodge at Indianapolis, and he also is a member of the Loyal Order of Moose and of the Improved Order of Red Men, in the same city. Mr. Askin is president of the Decatur County Association of Indianapolis and is one of the prime movers in the annual meetings of that society, these meetings, held in one or another of the pleasant parks with which the capital abounds, proving a season of rare enjoyment and fellowship to all the numerous Decatur county folk who make their home in Indiana's chief city. He is very popular with all the members of the Decatur colony there and enjoys their highest confidence and esteem.

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### WILLIAM H. MIERS.

Having resided all his life on the farm on which he was born, in Clay township, this county, few men in that part of Decatur county are better known than William H. Miers, the genial owner of "Tanglewood Farm," one of the most progressive and popular men in his vicinity, a brief and modest biographical sketch of whom it is a pleasure for the biographer to present at this point in this history of the prominent families of Decatur county.

William H. Miers was born on the farm on which he now lives, in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, August 31, 1853, the son of John L. and Rebecca (Braden) Miers, the former of whom was born in 1842 and died in October, 1912, and the latter of whom was born in 1839 and died in October, 1913. John Laughlin Miers was a native of Virginia who came to this county at an early day and became one of the best-known pioneers of the Clay township section of the county. He married Rebecca Braden, daughter of



Jack Braden, a Kentuckian, who came to this county at an early period in the settlement of the same and was prominent in the pioneer life of the community in which he located. John L. Miers was one of the most prosperous and influential residents of Clay township in his day and generation. He became the owner of three hundred acres of land, which he brought to an excellent state of cultivation and was regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of the county. For two terms he served as township trustee of Clay township and his enterprising and public-spirited administration of that office undoubtedly did very much toward advancing the best interests of the township and in the establishment of the present stable conditions therein. He was highly reputed throughout that part of the county and his recent death was the occasion for much mourning on the part of his many friends. The death of his widow in the following year was none the less the occasion of mourning, for she, too, was held in the highest respect thereabout, having been a woman who ceaselessly went about doing good.

To John L. and Rebecca (Braden) Miers were born six children, Thomas, James and Oscar, all now deceased; Herschell, who lives on the Goff farm, in Adams township, this county; Mrs. Della Ford, of Greensburg, this county, and William H., the immediate subject of this sketch.

William H. Miers received his education in the schools of Clay township and was reared to the life of the farm. He inherited a portion of the home farm, including the homestead, and added to this inheritance by buying an adjoining tract, bringing his place up to its present acreage, one hundred and eighty acres; all of which he has brought under excellent cultivation, and on which he has made numerous and substantial improvements. The home on "Tanglewood Farm" is a pretty and comfortable brick cottage, trimmed in green, and the outlying farm buildings surrounding the big yellow barn are in keeping with the general well-kept appearance of the place, the whole presenting a fine picture of substantial farm life. Mr. Miers takes much pride in his livestock, particularly in the fine breed of his Percheron and Belgian horses and his Shorthorn and Jersey cattle.

In January, 1879, William H. Miers was united in marriage to Lida Graham, daughter of John G. Graham, a one-time well-known farmer of Clay township, this county, a large landowner in that township and in Bartholomew county, this state, who died some years ago at Hartsville.

To William H. and Lida (Graham) Miers seven children have been born, namely: Ray, who farms a part of the Anderson farm, married Ethel Anderson and has three children, Dale, Margaret and Marion; Merle, house-keeper for her uncle at Hartsville; Oscar, who lives three and one-half miles



northeast of his father's place, married Eva Worden; Mrs. Nellie Wildman, who lives on the home farm, has one child, a son, Van Pierce; Sherman, a traveling salesman for the Heinze Company; Wayne, who lives at home, and Gladys, a stenographer, living at Indianapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Miers are members of the Christian church and take an active and earnest part in the good works of their community, being regarded as among the leaders in all movements designed to elevate the standards of living thereabout. Mr. Miers is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, though never having posed as an active politician. He is interested in all matters of good government, however, and is looked upon as one of the most substantial and dependable men in that part of the county.

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### JOHN C. HAYS.

Not only are the business interest of Decatur county well represented, but in the main they are under capable direction. The merchants of the county are enterprising, energetic and up-to-date, their stores generally being well-stocked and operated along modern lines. Among these merchants there are few who have a wider reputation for enterprise and energy than the affable gentleman whose name the reader notes above. No town in the county is better located than the pleasant village of Burney, in Clay township, the country thereabout being one of the very garden spots of Indiana. Wealthy and prosperous farmers give to the neighborhood an air of substantiality most impressive to the casual visitor at Burney and the well-kept appearance of the delightful village bespeaks the enterprise and thrift of the inhabitants thereof. The business of the town is conducted by enterprising and energetic men who are devoted to the best interests of the whole community and who are constantly striving to advance the general welfare of that section of the county. Among these merchants none is better known than John C. Hays, proprietor of the popular general store at Burney, and it is a pleasure for the biographer to call the attention of the reader at this point to some of the salient points in Mr. Hay's interesting career as a merchant and as a public-spirited citizen. Beginning practically with nothing, Mr. Hays entered upon his career as a merchant at Burney fourteen years ago, and in that time has built up one of the most successful and popular general merchandise stores in the county. "Satisfied customers" ever has been his motto, and the popularity his well-stocked store enjoys throughout

the entire western section of the county as well as in the adjacent sections of Shelby and Bartholomew counties affords ample evidence that, in the direction of his constantly growing commercial interests, he ever has been faithful to this motto. Mr. Hays is one of the most enthusiastic boosters of Clay township and the village of Burney and ever is found in the lead in any movement designed to promote the best interests of that section of the county. Possessed of exceptional business ability, Mr. Hays has built up a trade of which any merchant in a town many times the size of Burney might well be proud, and is very properly regarded as one of the most enterprising and substantial citizens of the county. He has learned the valuable secret of being able to adapt his business to the territory which it is designed to cover, early in his experience having added to the motto above mentioned the equally efficacious phrase: "Quality, not quantity." By keeping his select and compact stock constantly replenished, Mr. Hays is able to cater to the discriminating trade of that section with the best and most up-to-date goods, thus continually making good the first part of his motto relating to "satisfied customers." Mr. Hays maintains a motor-truck huckster service which covers the entire region embraced in his territory of trade and spares no effort to accommodate and satisfy his customers, his enterprising ways and obliging manner having gained for him the undivided friendship of the whole region.

John C. Hays was born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on June 12, 1874, son of Judson and Mary E. (Jones) Hays, prominent residents of that township. Judson Hays was a pioneer tilemaker of Decatur county, his tile-kiln in Clay township being one of the most important industries thereabout. Not only was the clay of that section of the county well adapted to the purposes of tile-making, but Mr. Hay's careful and scientific study of the processes of tile-making lent to his product a quality which caused it to be much sought by farmers throughout this whole region and thousands of acres of well-drained land hereabout have been greatly increased in value by the discriminating and intelligent use of the product of this once well-known kiln. Judson Hays died in 1895, the death of his widow occurring not long thereafter. Both were most estimable people and their passing was deeply mourned by many.

To Judson and Mary E. (Jones) Hays were born seven children, namely: Flora, who married Will Pumphrey, of this county; Dora, who married Jacob Kuntz; John C., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mamie, who married Clarence Maze; Gertrude, who married Tilden Knouse; Katie, who married Walter Skinner, and Karl, who lives at Detroit.

J. C. Hays was reared on a farm and for a time was an assistant to his

father at the tile-kiln, but did not attempt to continue the operation of that plant at his father's death. Fourteen years ago he engaged in the general merchandise business at Burney and has been very successful. Starting with a small stock, but with a practical knowledge of the needs of his trade, he gradually increased the scope of his business until now he has a thriving trade, covering a wide territory. His commercial methods from the very start were enterprising, his desire to give the very best service possible leading him to employ only the best and most approved agencies for the promotion of his trade. The straightforward and direct manner appealed to his customers immediately and it was not long until he was prospering as he deserved to prosper. These conditions continued and now Mr. Hays is regarded as one of the most substantial merchants in the western part of the county.

On December 24, 1895, John C. Hays was united in marriage to Mattie Edwards, who was born in Kentucky, the daughter of Daniel Edwards, who now lives at Columbus, this state, and to this union two children have been born, Lory and Mrytle Irene. Mr. and Mrs. Hays are members of the Baptist church and take an earnest interest in the good works of the community, being regarded as among the leaders in all movements helpful to the general welfare.

Mr. Hays is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county, though never having been included in the office-seeking class. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and is one of the leaders in the affairs of that lodge. Genial, affable and accommodating, he is one of the most popular men thereabout and has hosts of warm friends.

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#### WEBSTER HOLLAND HOLMES.

Among the former residents of Decatur county who now are successfully engaged in business in the state capital, few are better known or have a more popular following among old friends in this county than Webster H. Holmes, a prominent building contractor, formerly of Horace, this county, now living in Indianapolis, where he has been quite successful in his building operations.

Webster Holland Holmes was born in Clinton county, Ohio, on June 7, 1856, the son of the Rev. William and Elizabeth (Cowgill) Holmes, old and honored residents of that section of Ohio. Rev. William Holmes, a

"local" minister of the Methodist church, was born in New Jersey in September, 1808. He grew to manhood in that state and then migrated to Ohio, locating in Clinton county, where he engaged in farming and where he spent the rest of his life. He was one of the best-known "local" ministers of the Methodist church in that part of Ohio, and for over fifty years was engaged in preaching the Gospel, to him ever a labor of love, for "local" ministers of the Methodist church received no compensation for their services in those days. Three of his sons served their country faithfully and well as soldiers in the Union arm during the Civil War and the family was highly honored and respected throughout that whole section of the state. William Holmes was a member of an old family in New Jersey, his father being of sound Colonial stock, and his first wife, who, before her marriage, was Katherine Brouse, was also of an old family in that section.

Rev. William Holmes married, secondly, Elizabeth Cowgill, who was born in Clinton county, Ohio, daughter of William Cowgill, a pioneer of that section of Ohio, of Scottish descent. Mrs. Holmes was a most excellent woman. She lived all her life in Clinton county, both she and her husband spending their last days on the farm near Sabina, Ohio, within twelve miles of the point where she was born.

Webster H. Holmes received his education in the district schools of his native county in Ohio, this schooling constantly being supplemented by the sound admonitions of his godly father and mother. Upon reaching manhood he engaged in farming and for twelve years was thus engaged in the neighborhood of his home. In 1887 he moved to Morgan county, Tennessee, where he remained for a year, engaged in the lumber business, at the end of which time he moved to a farm near Williamstown, Kentucky, on which he lived for three years. In 1891 he moved to a farm five miles south of Greensburg, in this county, and became a general building contractor, his operations in that line being extended to various parts of the county. This venture proving successful, he later moved to the village of Horace, this county, where he remained until 1906, in which year he moved to Indianapolis, seeking a wider field for his building operations, and has been quite successful in the capital city, being well recognized and respected among the master carpenters of that city.

On October 19, 1876, Webster H. Holmes was united in marriage at Hillsborough, Ohio, to Martha E. Marsh, who was born on October 13, 1856, and to this union five children have been born, Aura A., Jessie L., Oscar W., Ilo (deceased) and Daisy.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes are members of the Methodist church and their

children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Holmes retains his membership in the Knights of Pythias lodge at Greensburg, and continues to take a warm interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general affairs of the county in which he formerly made his home. He and Mrs. Holmes are quite popular in the considerable Decatur county colony at the state capital and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends.

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### CLAY ALEXANDER.

Clay Alexander is a representative farmer, liveryman and stockman of Clay township. In his life he has outstripped many of those less active on the highway of life and during the last decade, especially, has made a considerable amount of money in the various enterprises in which he has been engaged. He is a man of unfailing integrity and one whose word is generally recognized as being as good as his bond. He owns a farm three miles south of Burney and is engaged in the livery, feed and sales business in Burney.

Clay Alexander was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, on June 8, 1862, son of A. J. and Charlotta (Steward) Alexander, the former of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio, born in 1839, who came to Indiana when he was eighteen years old, settling in Bartholomew county. He later owned eighty acres of land near Hartsville, but traded this for one hundred and sixty acres of land in this county, to which he moved and there spent the remainder of his active business life. Charlotta Steward, who was born in Ireland, came with her parents when six years old to America. They settled in Bartholomew county, Indiana, where she was married to A. J. Alexander and by industry, economy and shrewd management, she and her husband became prosperous farmers. Clay Alexander was about thirteen years old when his parents came to Decatur county and he lived on the old Alexander homestead south of Burney, in Clay township, until he was twenty-seven years old.

At the age of twenty-seven, Clay Alexander was married to Mollie Elliott, daughter of James Elliott, after which he moved to Hartsville where for a time he was engaged in various callings. Later he rented a farm for a year and then moved to Burney where he engaged in teaming and kindred work for fifteen years. At the end of that time, Mr. Alexander built the livery barn in Burney, which he still owns. He has been in the hay, straw,

feed and livery business since that time and has a flourishing patronage in this county. He buys large quantities of hay and straw and ships it to distant points, after bailing. For ten years he has been an extensive dealer in horses and about three years ago purchased eighty acres of land three miles south of Burney. This farm is operated by a tenant and its chief products are corn and clover; he is also a breeder of hogs.

Clay Alexander is a staunch Republican and one of the leaders of his party in Clay township. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge in Burney. Mrs. Alexander is a member of the Baptist church. She is the local correspondent of the *Greensburg Daily News* and for thirteen years had charge of the Independent Telephone Company's plant at Burney. Mr. Alexander is one of the solid and substantial citizens of Decatur county and for the past ten years has made a remarkable record in business. Both he and his wife are well liked and respected by the people of the community in which they live.

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#### CHARLES E. REMY.

In agricultural circles in Decatur county, few names are better known than that of the gentleman whose name the reader notes above and few men in the county have constructed their careers on a more solid foundation than has he. Recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in the county, Mr. Remy also is known as a public-spirited citizen to whom every movement looking to the betterment of general conditions in his home county is welcome, finding in him an earnest and influential supporter. Mr. Remy brings to his farm work an active intelligence, stimulated by the best schooling and grounded on the fullest and latest information relating to the most modern methods of tilling the soil and, in consequence, has prospered as he deserves to have prospered. A native of this county, of as fine stock as ever made its influence felt here; his father a physician of note and power in his day, his grandfather a pioneer minister of the Baptist faith, whose influence in southern Indiana still goes on, even to the third and fourth generation, Mr. Remy very properly may be regarded as one of the leaders in the community life of Decatur county, and the biographer takes much pleasure in presenting at this point a brief review of his life.

Charles E. Remy was born on a farm in Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, six miles south of the town of Greensburg, on July 15, 1869, the son of Dr. Alfred S. and Anna M. (Kluge) Remy, the former of whom



was born near the town of Brookville, Franklin county, Indiana, and the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania.

Alfred S. Remy was born on October 4, 1819, the son of the Rev. James I. Remy, a native of South Carolina, of French Huguenot stock, a pioneer minister of the Baptist faith in southern Indiana; a man who exerted a powerful influence for good throughout the region round about Brookville, where for many years he lived and labored. Rev. James I. Remy married an Adair and one of the children of this union, Alfred S. Remy, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, became a physician, who practiced his profession for many years in this county, at the same time carrying on extensive operations as a farmer. Dr. Alfred S. Remy was a graduate of Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati and for a time following his graduation practiced his profession in Jennings county, this state, later coming to Decatur county, locating in Marion township, where he bought a farm of one hundred and seventy-one acres, to which he later added one hundred and forty acres, making three hundred and eleven acres in all, forty acres of which lay in Jennings county.

Doctor Remy was twice married. To his union with Almira Jane Scoby, who was born on December 24, 1821, and who died on May 6, 1862, there were born four children, Dr. Alfred S. Jr., born on January 1, 1847, who died in 1880; Henry, born on October 30, 1850, who resides at Concordia, Kansas; Mary Ellen, who died on September 21, 1852, at the age of one year, and Orlando Ellsworth, born on April 4, 1861, who is a resident of Denver, Colorado. Upon the death of his wife, Almira, Doctor Remy married, secondly, Anna Kluge, who was born at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, December 26, 1839, and who died in this county on October 28, 1898, to which union two children were born, Charles E., the subject of this sketch, and Emma Catherine, the latter of whom was born on September 27, 1867, and died on September 25 of the next year. The father of these children died on March 31, 1890, having been a man of much influence in his day and generation.

Charles E. Remy received his elementary education in the district schools of his home township in this county, supplementing this schooling with a course in Hope College. He then entered upon his career as a farmer and for years lived on the home place in Marion township. He bought the interest of the other heirs in his father's estate and added to the home farm until he now owns four hundred acres of choice land in that part of the county. In connection with his work as a general farmer, Mr. Remy has given considerable attention to the breeding of live stock and has cultivated



only the best strains of stock on his farm. In 1909 Mr. Remy retired from active farm life and moved into Greensburg, where he has a very pleasant home. He still gives close personal direction to the affairs of his farm and is keenly alive to all the advancements in the present-day science of agriculture.

On September 23, 1891, Charles E. Remy was united in marriage to Catherine Lowe, who was born in Decatur county, the daughter of Samuel T. and Martha Lowe, also natives of this county, to which union two children were born, one who died in infancy, and Edith, who married Charles Martin, of Greensburg.

Samuel T. Lowe, who was born in this county in November, 1835, for many years was one of the most prominent and influential residents of Marion township. He was a farmer on a large scale and was known throughout this section as a successful stock buyer, being also a large shipper of mules. He was an ardent Democrat and was actively interested in the political affairs of the county. For many years he served as trustee of Marion township, his services in that connection proving of large value to the public. His father, Jonathan Lowe, was one of the early pioneers of this county, a native of Kentucky who came to Indiana at an early day in the settlement of this section, first settling in the Paoli neighborhood, but later coming to Decatur county, entering government land in Marion township. He died in 1836, leaving to his widow, who was Elizabeth Whitman, previous to her marriage, the duty of rearing a considerable family, most of the children of this family still being young at the time of their father's death. This duty she performed with the energy of the true pioneer mother and was able to add to the family's holdings by the additional entry of land in her own name. Samuel T. Lowe reared a large family and in his later years moved to South West City, Missouri, where his death occurred in March, 1913. His widow is still making her home in that city.

Mr. and Mrs. Remy are members of the Presbyterian church at Greensburg and are active workers therein. Mr. Remy is a Republican and takes an earnest interest in the political affairs of this county and the state at large. He several times has been a delegate to the state conventions of his party and in 1912 was a delegate to the historic national convention of the party at Chicago. He is a member of the local lodges of the Elks, of the Knights of Pythias and of the Woodmen, in the affairs of all of which he takes an active interest. He and Mrs. Remy take a proper interest in the social affairs of the city in which they live and are very popular, being held in the highest regard by a large circle of friends.

## FRANCIS M. PUMPHREY.

At the election in 1914 Clay township elected one of the foremost and most progressive citizens of Decatur county to serve in the important and responsible office of township trustee, one of the most important offices within the gift of the people; the office which bears a closer relation to the intimate affairs of a community than any other. That the nomination for this office was given to Francis M. Pumphrey by a vote of two to one is satisfactory evidence that the people of the township were convinced of that gentleman's eminent qualifications for the proper and faithful administration of the affairs of this office, and his subsequent election by a very gratifying majority was further confirmation. Mr. Pumphrey is devoted to the school interests of his home township, holding the belief that in educational matters no pains or expense should be spared to secure the best results in behalf of the youth of the township. Clay township schools are well organized and the township high school at Burney is the pride of the township. Erected at a cost of something like fifteen thousand dollars, this admirable high-school building is thoroughly equipped with all the modern appliances for an up-to-date educational plant and the assurance is given that Trustee Pumphrey will neglect no precaution necessary to further advance the high reputation this excellent school has earned throughout that section of the county. Unusually successful in the management of his own extensive business enterprises, Mr. Pumphrey is bringing to bear on his administration of the affairs of his new office the same sound judgment and fine executive ability that has brought him a pronounced personal success, and the general consensus of opinion thereabout is that the affairs of the township are in most competent and capable hands. Mr. Pumphrey for years has been largely interested in the stock-buying business and is known far and wide as one of the most extensive buyers and shippers of live stock in Decatur county. He owns two small farms, one of sixty acres, one-fourth of a mile north of the village of Burney, and one of forty acres, three-fourths of a mile south of that town, and, while giving to these farms his careful attention, makes his chief business that of a stock dealer, a business in which he has been actively engaged since he was twenty years of age.

Francis M. Pumphrey was born on the home farm in Clay township in the year 1865 and has always lived in that township. He is the son of William and Lodusky (Jewell) Pumphrey, former prominent and well-known residents of Clay township, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky,

who died about six years ago at the age of seventy-two years, and the latter of whom died about twenty years ago.

William Pumphrey was a stanch and stable citizen, a successful farmer and a leader in the good works of the community in which he had lived so long. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church and their children were reared with the strictest regard for all the moral obligations of good citizenship. William Pumphrey abhorred profanity and all coarseness of speech and his sons grew up with the same feeling of repugnance toward such forms of expression, and it is a matter of pleasant neighborhood note that to this day no one can be found who ever has heard any of the Pumphrey "boys" swear. Though a successful farmer along the general lines of agriculture, William Pumphrey's specialty was the breeding of hogs and cattle for the market and his son, the immediate subject of this sketch, came into the live-stock business quite naturally.

To William and Lodusky (Jewell) Pumphrey were born eight children, namely: James A., a prominent farmer of Clay township, who lives north of Burney, on one of the finest and best farms in Decatur county; Francis M., the immediate subject of this sketch; William, who lives in Shelbyville, Indiana; Edwin, a progressive and up-to-date farmer living three-fourths of a mile north of Burney; Elizabeth, the wife of Frank Alline, a well-known farmer living one and one-half miles south of Burney; Fannie, the wife of Joseph Minor, of Burney; May, the wife of Clyde Elliott, a well-known farmer living one mile west of Burney, and Iva, the wife of Earl Littell, of Indianapolis.

Francis M. Pumphrey was reared on the paternal farm in Clay township, receiving his education in the excellent schools of that township. At the age of twenty years, he engaged in the live-stock business on his own responsibility and has become one of the most successful stock buyers in Decatur county, it being doubtful if any dealer in the county handles more stock in the course of a year than does he. When twenty-three years of age, Mr. Pumphrey was united in marriage to Margaret Stealman, daughter of James Stealman, a prominent farmer of the Burney neighborhood. James Stealman, now deceased, was a native of Virginia, whose home was near the famous natural bridge.

To Francis M. and Margaret (Stealman) Pumphrey have been born three children, Floyd, who married May Champ and lives at Burney; Isophene and Marie, the daughters both being at home. Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey are members of the Baptist church at Burney and take a leading part in the general good works of the community, being highly regarded throughout that

whole section of the county. Mr. Pumphrey is a Democrat and for years has taken an active part in local politics, though he had never been a candidate for public office until his recent successful candidacy for the office of township trustee. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and has been one of the most active promoters of the interests of that popular organization. His extensive business affairs have brought him into touch with the leaders of the business interests of Decatur county for years and he enjoys the unbounded confidence and the utmost esteem of all his associates.

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### HENRY M. REDELMAN.

Henry M. Redelman, farmer and stock breeder of Marion township, this county, is a representative of the second generation of the Redelman family in America. The owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land, one hundred acres of which is in timber, situated in Marion township, Mr. Redelman has been a breeder of live stock for many years. He owns four registered Percheron mares, two Percheron stallions, a German coach stallion, Ernus, and one jack. He began breeding Aberden Angus cattle in 1898, and now raises, feeds and sells a great many head every year. He also keeps thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs, which he raises for breeding purposes, selling them all over Decatur county. His breed is widely and favorably known, particularly since his farm is immune from cholera. He also has specialized in poultry and is an extensive fancier of thoroughbred Barred Plymouth Rocks. He sells pullets, roosters and settings and has a large business in poultry. Of the stallions which Mr. Redelman owns, "Massala" is an educated horse that has been taught many tricks. A fine driving mare has also been trained to perform many tricks. Mr. Redelman's fine farm house is thoroughly modern, having been remodeled in 1913 and painted a salmon color. It is equipped with an acetyline-light plant and with a private water system. A large yellow barn, forty-six by fifty-six feet, with sheds on three sides, giving plenty of room, and other attractive out-buildings, including a garage, make the Redelman farm one of the most attractive spots in Marion township. The owner and proprietor of this farm has every reason to be proud of his success as a farmer and breeder.

Born on May 31, 1854, in Decatur county, Indiana, Henry M. Redelman is the son of Mathias and Mary (Bergsterman) Redelman, both natives of Germany, the former of whom was born in 1820, and died in 1855, and the

latter of whom was born in 1826, and died in 1866. Mathias Redelman came to America in 1849 and after spending a few years in Cincinnati came to this county, locating in Marion township, where he purchased a farm two miles south of that now owned by his son, Henry M. He and his wife were the parents of two sons, Henry M. and John W., the latter of whom died in 1895. After her husband's death, Mrs. Mathias Redelman married Bernard Rolfes, to which union one child was born, Herman, who died in infancy. After Mrs. Rolfes' death, in 1866, Bernard Rolfes married an aunt of Henry M. Redelman's. Mrs. Mary Redelman, the widow of Frank, who was the mother of eight children at the time of the marriage, and who after her second marriage gave birth to three more. Of the eight children born to Frank and Mary Redelman, the whereabouts of two, H. B. and John, are unknown. Of the others, Ferdinand, is living at Peoria, Illinois; Rosina married Adam Ruhl, and died in Nebraska; Mrs. Christina Ruhl lives in Minnesota; Frank lives in Franklin county; Joseph is deceased, and Mrs. Mary Wagner lives in Peoria, Illinois. The three Rolfes children are Herman, of Washington township; Elizabeth, who married Orville King, of Greensburg, and Mrs. Katie Stier, of Harris City.

Beginning life on his own account in 1869, at the age of fifteen years, Henry M. Redelman learned the cigarmaker's trade in Cincinnati. After serving his apprenticeship he worked for three months in Indianapolis and then went to St. Louis, where he found his trade unprofitable. About that time he began selling medicine, traveling with a horse and rig in Illinois in 1873 and in Missouri in 1874. In the fall of 1874 he returned to Indiana, driving through from St. Louis. Here he followed his business for several years, eventually settling on a farm in 1885.

Two years before removing to the farm, Henry M. Redelman was married, on November 27, 1883, to Sarah A. Hermann, who was born in this county on February 25, 1864, the daughter of Joseph and Susanna (Young) Hermann, the latter of whom came to this country at the age of six years with her parents, who located in Ohio. There were five children in the Hermann family, those besides Mrs. Redelman being as follow: Susanna, now deceased, who married Valentine Hahn, of Marion township, this county; Lizzie, who, upon the death of her sister, Susanna, married the latter's husband, Valentine Hahn, and is now living in Marion township; Josephine, who married Michael Wurtz, of Indianapolis, this state; and Henry, a well-known farmer of Marion township, this county, who married Katie Lohman. The mother of these children was twice married, her first husband having been a Mr. Farraday, a native of Germany, who died about

1849, to which union there were born two children, Mary, now deceased, who married Ben Flack, of Indianapolis, and Anthony, who married Jennie Holwell and lives in Colorado.

To Henry M. and Sarah A. (Hermann) Redelman have been born six children, namely: George F., cashier of the bank at New Point, this county; Walter B., who owns a farm near Slabtown, one mile north of his father's home; Mae J., the wife of T. A. Woods, of St. Denis, Jennings county; Edward V., who is employed by the Sears-Roebuck Company, of Chicago, and Maurice H. and Arthur S., living at home. George F. Redelman married Lena Spitzmesser and they have one son, Norbert. Walter married Amelia Zaphe and they have one daughter, Edna. Mrs. May Woods has one child, Marjorie. Edward married Laura Ruberg. Mr. and Mrs. Redelman's children, several of whom now have homes of their own, are leading honorable and useful lives in the various communities in which they reside.

The success of Henry M. Redelman as a farmer and stock breeder has not been won without patience, toil and consistent diligent effort. He is a man of generous impulses, who takes a commendable interest in the welfare of his neighbors and who is a popular citizen of Marion township. There are no better citizens living in this county than Henry M. Redelman. Mr. and Mrs. Redelman are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Greensburg, active in all good works, and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Redelman is a Democrat and for years has taken a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, ever having been an exponent in the best sense of that term.

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### JOHN GRAHAM EVANS.

In any review of the lives of those men and women who wrought largely and well in that portion of Decatur county comprised in Jackson township, the historian is compelled to give due weight to the influence exerted in the early period of the settlement of that section by the Evans and the Davis families. These families for many years have been prominent in all the good works of that community, few families thereabout having done more for the material and social advancement of that section than they. When, by the marriage in 1887, of John Graham Evans and Emma B. Davis, there was effected a happy union, all the neighbors joined in wishing the new home well, for the union was regarded universally among the friends of the young couple as one of the most fitting that could be brought about. As predicted by





JOHN G. EVANS.





all, the new home prospered and very properly became one of the social centers of that part of the county, the genial hospitality of the host and hostess and the engaging qualities of the children who presently came to bless that union, making the Evans home one of the most delightful in the county. This home was established in a fine, large farm residence which Mr. and Mrs. Evans caused to be erected on their Jackson township farm, one of the most substantial houses in the county; white and green, standing in the midst of a large, well-shaded lawn, with farm buildings of the most substantial character—an immense barn, painted yellow and white, with outbuildings to match. In the fall of 1914, the head of this pleasant family met his death as the result of an accident, Mr. Evans having died from injuries received in a fall from the haymow. His widow and those of his children who have not yet married and left the paternal roof, still occupy the Evans homestead and in their hearts is enshrined the memory of a kind and devoted husband, a loving and indulgent father.

The late John Graham Evans was born on the farm on which his whole life was spent, in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, on May 6, 1864, the son of William A. and Emily (Hice) Evans, and died at the same place on November 23, 1914. William A. Evans, who was born on November 3, 1835, and died on October 11, 1910, came to this county with his father, William Evans, from Hamilton county, on November 5, 1837. At that time a dense forest marred the site of the present beautiful Evans home in Jackson township, for it was there that William Evans settled. He cleared the forest and established a prosperous home and there his son, William A., was reared and in turn established his home there, to be succeeded by his son, the late John G. Evans.

On December 16, 1858, William A. Evans was united in marriage to Emily Hice, a member of one of the pioneer families of Decatur county, and to this union there were born three children, John Graham, the subject of this sketch; Milton E., a farmer of Jackson township, and Winston, deceased. Mrs. Evans died in June, 1898, and Mr. Evans married, secondly, February 19, 1901, Melissa Thompson, who died on April 20, 1908, and on July 8, 1909, he married Sarah Updike, who survives him. After his second marriage, Mr. Evans retired from the active duties of the farm and located in the village of Letts, this county, where his last days were spent. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Williams, of Delhart, Texas, and Mrs. Martha Fraley, of Forest Hill, this county. Mr. Evans was a good man and a good farmer and had prospered largely. He was an active member of the Presbyterian

church and for many years was one of the most influential men in his part of the county.

John G. Evans was reared on the paternal farm, receiving his education in the local schools and grew up to be one of the most highly-respected young men in Jackson township. On March 28, 1877 he united with the Presbyterian church and on February 3, 1900, became a member of the Mt. Aerie Baptist church, becoming a trustee of that church in 1906 and ordained as a deacon in April, 1907. Mr. Evans cultivated his farm of two hundred and ninety acres in accordance with the latest discoveries in agricultural science, using the most modern appliances in the operation of the same. He took a deep interest in affairs outside the immediate range of the farm and was one of the most active men of affairs in that part of the county. He was a director in the First National Bank of Westport and of the State Bank at Letts, and also was interested in various other enterprises of an important character. The social side of his nature was one of Mr. Evans's most engaging qualities and he was one of the most popular men in that part of the county. He was a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Westport and of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Letts, taking a warm interest in the affairs of both these organizations, both of which passed earnest resolutions of respect and condolence upon his passing. No man in the county took a deeper interest in good government than did Mr. Evans, and he was looked upon as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in his township. In the fall of 1908 he was elected to the responsible and important position of township trustee for Jackson township and should have served for six years, his term being due to expire on January 1, 1915. He was performing excellent service in this office, when his untimely and lamented death cut short his useful tenure. As noted above, Mr. Evans farmed on a large scale and was very successful in his agricultural undertakings; he also was an extensive breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs.

On October 6, 1887, John Graham Evans was united in marriage to Emma B. Davis, who was born in Jackson township, this county, on November 13, 1864, the daughter of Aaron and Jane (Barrett) Davis, both natives of Franklin county, Indiana.

Aaron Davis was born on May 16, 1833, the son of James and Martha (Smathers) Davis, both natives of Kentucky. James Davis was the son of Matthias Davis, a native of Wales, of Welsh and Scottish parentage, who came to this country and was a soldier in the War of 1812. He married a Miss McClellan, a member of the same family from which Gen. George B. McClellan, of Civil War fame, sprang, and located in the Mt. Sterling neigh-

borhood of Kentucky, where James was born and reared. In 1830 Matthias Davis left Kentucky and came to Indiana, locating in Franklin county, from which point he moved to this county, settling in Salt Creek township, where his death occurred in 1840. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, Melinda, James, Joseph, Elizabeth, Isaac, Daniel, Allan, Ambrose, William and Mathias.

James Davis, who was born in 1798 and died in 1866, was married in Kentucky to Martha Smathers, a daughter of Hugh Smathers, a native of Ireland, who immigrated to America, took part in the Indian wars and in the War of 1812 and went to Kentucky, where he married and prospered. In 1830 he came to Indiana and ten years later emigrated to Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life. Hugh Smathers was twice married, his second wife, who was a Miss Hopkins, having been the mother of three children, Hugh, Sabina and Benjamin. To the union of James Davis and Martha Smathers there were born ten children, namely: Mrs. Sarah Shelton, Harrison, a well-known resident of Clay township; Matthias, deceased; Mrs. Nancy Pavey, Mrs. Sabina Burkman; Aaron, father of Mrs. Evans; Mrs. Andocia Sharp; Mrs. Eliza Barnes; Martha and Elizabeth. The mother of these children died in 1866.

Aaron Davis was reared on the home farm in this county, receiving such educational advantages as the schools of his boyhood afforded, and at eighteen years of age began to work for himself as a farm hand. When twenty-one years old he married and settled on a small farm in Sand Creek township, which he sold and bought a farm in Clay township. Four years later he sold this farm and bought one hundred and sixty acres near the village of Letts, in Jackson township. Here he prospered and gradually added to his holdings until he was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land, on which he erected a fine, large two-story brick house. In 1881 he and O. S. Mitchell built a grain elevator at Letts and for some time he was successfully engaged in this business, but in 1894 sold his interest to his partner and retired from active business. He was a Republican and took a warm interest in local politics, being one of the strongest factors in the promotion of the cause of good government in that part of the county.

On October 24, 1858, Aaron Davis was united in marriage to Jane Barrett, who was born in Franklin county, this state, October 10, 1837, the daughter of Charles and Mildred (Gentry) Barrett, natives of Virginia. Charles Barrett was a soldier in the War of 1812 and died in Franklin county in 1837. His wife was the daughter of Clairborn Gentry, a native of Vir-

ginia, and who came of an old Colonial family, who settled in Franklin county in 1837.

To Aaron and Jane (Barrett) Davis were born eight children, namely: John C., a former instructor in the United States army, in service in Cuba, now living in Montana; Albert, who lives in Idaho; Emma B., the widow of Mr. Evans; Mrs. John Shafer, who lives in Pierce, Colorado; Mrs. Ida M. Moore, who lives in Champaign, Illinois; Rev. Henry Davis, a minister of the Baptist church, who, on September 27, 1899, married Eva White and lives at Eugene, Oregon; Everett, who lives in the state of Washington, and Clifford C., who is operating the old home farm.

To John Graham and Emma B. (Davis) Evans were born six children, as follow: Mrs. Ethel Williams, of Letts, this county, who has a daughter, Ruth; Mrs. Hazel Gilmour, of Jackson township; Nelle, a teacher in the schools of Jackson township; Mildred, a student in the Newburg high school; Blanche, who is in the sixth year of her school work, and Russell, who is in the fifth grade of his school work.

Mrs. Evans is a member of the Mt. Airie Baptist church and is devoted to the good works of the same. Her influence is felt in many ways throughout that part of the county in which she lives.

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### ALBERT LINK.

Agriculture has been an honored vocation from the earliest ages and, as a usual thing, men of honorable and humane impulses as well as of energy and thrift have been patrons of husbandry. The free outdoor life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterize true manhood. No greater blessing can befall a boy than to be reared in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring work of the fields. Albert Link is a prosperous and skillful young farmer of Clay township, who has always enjoyed the best advantages of farm life. At the present time he is farming one hundred and thirty-three acres of land of his own and an additional farm of ninety acres, altogether one of the finest tracts of land in the county. He has a magnificent home situated on a knoll, with a wide lawn and many shade trees. Two large yellow barns and other outbuildings in a splendid state of repair, make his home one of the most attractive in that section of the county. The farm

is owned jointly by Mr. Link and his father-in-law, John F. Templeton, who specialize in cattle, but plant forty acres of wheat and sixty acres of corn, yielding from seventy-five to eighty bushels to the acre.

Albert Link was born in Greensburg, this county, on January 29, 1891, the son of Henry and Elizabeth Ling, natives of Germany, the former of whom was born in 1854 and who came to America in 1880, settling in Greensburg, where he engaged in the meat business with Charles Zoller, Sr. He made a success of this business and retired a few years ago, now living in a fine home in the southeastern part of the city. Of the eight children born to Henry and Elizabeth Link, seven are living: Anna; Lizzie, who married Thomas Miller, of Clinton township; Cora, the wife of Roy Privett, of Greensburg; Albert, who is the subject of this sketch; Charles, a traveling salesman, living in Greensburg, and Lewis and George, who live on their father's farm on the outskirts of Greensburg. Albert Link was educated in the public schools of Greensburg, Indiana, and early in life took up the butcher business with his father, in which business he was engaged until his marriage.

In October, 1909, Albert Link was married to Lela May Templeton, daughter of John F. and Elizabeth (Pavy) Templeton, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1856, and who is the brother of Nelson M. Templeton, whose biographical sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume, gives the history of the Templeton family. Mr. Templeton lived on the farm for twenty years and today is considered an able and wealthy farmer. In 1915 he enjoyed a trip to the Pacific coast, attending the Panama-Pacific exposition. Mrs. John F. Templeton's family history is presented in the biographical sketch of her father on another page of this volume. Mrs. Albert Link was born on the Templeton homestead, the only child born to her parents. She and her husband have two children, John Henry and Mary Elizabeth.

Albert Link has a herd of twenty-seven thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, including twenty-two cows, a source of considerable profit. The Link home is situated some distance from the main road and is surrounded by a large lawn, shaded by two rows of fine ever green trees. The approach to the house and lawn consists of a beautiful graveled driveway, leading from the Columbus and Greensburg pike. Large maple and locust trees furnish additional shade and the house is flanked by an orchard on the west. The land, which is level, consists of a rich loam.

Intelligent and keen, Albert Link is one of the leading young farmers

of Clay township. Mr. and Mrs. Link are members of the Baptist church. He is identified with the Republican party and the Loyal Order of Moose. Mr. Templeton is also a Republican and he and his wife are also members of the Baptist church.

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### JOSEPH S. MINOR.

Joseph S. Minor, farmer and railroad man, enjoys the distinction of owning and living in perhaps the finest residence in Burney, which is second only to Greensburg in importance as a city of this county. Mr. Minor owns a farm of one hundred acres, part of which lies at the north edge of Burney, and consists of the very best land to be found in Clay township.

Joseph S. Minor was born at Hartsville, in Bartholomew county, Indiana, in 1873, and is the son of John and Mary E. (Burney) Minor, the latter of whom was a native of Decatur county, whose father and mother also were natives of this county. John Minor was a native of New Jersey, who came to Bartholomew county when a young man and settled on a farm near Hartsville. After his marriage to Mary E. Burney, they began life on the farm. At the age of forty years John Minor passed away suddenly, leaving a widow and a family of eight children, of whom Joseph S., the subject of this sketch, was next to the youngest. At the time of his death, John Minor left one hundred and twenty acres of land, rather heavily mortgaged. Mrs. Minor traded this tract in Bartholomew county for one hundred and twenty acres where the town of Burney now stands. This was a master stroke, netting Mrs. Minor a large profit. She was a woman of great business ability and native shrewdness, who not only kept what her husband left, but paid off the indebtedness. As her children became of age she bought and paid for the inherited interest of each of the eight children.

After trading for the Clay township farm, Mrs. Mary E. Minor was married, in 1880, to Harrison Davis, and at his death, about eighteen years later, she also purchased the interest of his heirs, who numbered five. She was a member of the Baptist church. Educated in the common schools of Decatur county, Indiana, by extensive home study she kept herself well informed on current topics, and was a subscriber to the best newspapers, periodicals and farm papers. She always displayed an intelligent interest in politics and was able to discuss political affairs as few women of this county. Mrs. Minor died in 1913, at the advanced age of seventy years, retaining her



wonderful mental faculties to the last. She was the mother of eight children, namely: James, who lives in the West; Mrs. Jennie Hansell, deceased; Milton, who lives in Burney, this county; Mrs. Minerva Cummins, a resident of Hartsville; William B., who lives south of Burney; Taylor, a resident of Richmond, Indiana; Joseph S., the subject of this sketch, and Esta, who died when a child.

At the age of nineteen years Joseph S. Minor left home to study telegraphy and railroad work. For a year he was clerk in a general store in Burney. At the age of twenty-one he was married to Fannie Pumphrey, daughter of William Pumphrey, Sr., whose family history is contained elsewhere in this volume. For twenty years Mr. Minor has been the railroad agent at Burney.

Joseph S. Minor is a Progressive in politics and is one of the substantial citizens of Clay township. He is recognized as a man who is alert to every possibility of making money and aside from his railroad work and agricultural interests owns a considerable amount of gilt-edge stocks. Practically everything he has today he has made himself, though no doubt he inherited his mother's keen business ability. Mrs. Minor is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She and her husband believe in getting all out of life that is possible. They have an automobile and enjoy practically all of the luxuries and conveniences available to people of this section.

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### JOSIAH WARREN ROBERTSON.

Josiah Warren Robertson, a general farmer and stockman of Adams township, this county, belongs to an old family of Decatur county, his father having come here about 1829, during his day and generation having become one of the most prosperous farmers in this section of Indiana. It is a matter of no small personal pride to have lived all of one's life in the township and county of one's birth. Men, who are so fortunate as to have enjoyed a large success in the community of their birth, are entitled to the respect and confidence of their neighbors and this is a distinction which Josiah Warren Robertson enjoys in a high degree.

Born on April 29, 1854, in Adams township, Josiah Warren Robertson was reared in that township. The old homestead is within sight of his present home and is located on the adjoining farm. His parents, Oliver P. and Mary A. (Davis) Robertson, were early settlers in Adams township, the

former having been born in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, on August 1, 1825, the son of John and Ruth (Ridlen) Robertson, natives of Maryland and early settlers in Dearborn county. After coming to Adams township in 1829, the family became very prosperous, and there, for nearly a century, the Robertson family has been recognized as one of the leading factors in the agricultural life of the community. Mary A. Davis, the second wife of Oliver P. Robertson, was born on June 15, 1833, the daughter of John W. and Sarah (Forsythe) Davis, natives of New Jersey, who came to Decatur county about 1830, settling in Adams township. Mrs. Mary A. Robertson died on May 25, 1907. She was the mother of seven children, all of whom are living, namely: Josiah W., the subject of this sketch; J. Frank and Will, both of whom live in Adams township; Charles, who lives at Acton, in Marion county, this state; Edward, who lives in Adams township; Lydia, who is the wife of Elmer Shelhorn, and Ruth, who is housekeeper for her two brothers, Josiah W. and Edward.

Oliver P. Robertson was first married to Nancy Edrington, who was born in 1831 and who died in June, 1852. She was the daughter of Hiram and Rhoda Edrington, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers in Adams township. After coming to this township, they cleared the land, built a log house and later erected a large brick house, now owned by E. Shellhorn. Oliver P. and Nancy Robertson had two children, Louisa L., who is deceased, and Lafayette, a farmer of Adams township, this county. At the time of his death, in 1907, Oliver P. Robertson owned one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is now known as the old Robertson homestead and which is owned jointly by his daughters, Lydia and Ruth. Josiah W. Robertson has lived in his present home since 1901, moving to this farm from the old home place.

Mr. Robertson is a Progressive in politics, but has never taken an active interest in political matters. He is a man of generous and humane impulses and is popular in his neighborhood because of his many good works, his cordial relations with the citizens of his home township and his upright, honorable dealings with the public. He lives in a large brick house situated on his farm of three hundred and six acres and is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He is one of the most extensive stockmen of this township, his annual output of the farm being two carloads of hogs and two carloads of cattle. Mr. Robertson is accustomed to buy live stock for feeding purposes in the city market and, after they are fed out on the farm, are sold to the packing houses in the city.

## REV. JAMES WESLEY TURNER, A. M., D. D.

Not too often can be repeated the life story of one who has lived so honorable and useful a life and attained to such notable distinction as has the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch; one of the most successful and distinguished ministers of the Methodist Episcopal church in the state of Indiana. His character has been one of signal exaltation and purity of purpose. Well disciplined in mind, maintaining a vantage point from which life has presented itself in correct proportion; guided and guarded by the most inviolable principles of integrity and honor, such a man could not prove other than a force for good in whatever relation of life he may have been placed. His character is the positive expression of a strong nature and his strength is as the number of his days. His career has been a long, busy and useful one, and his name is honored by all who have had occasion to come in contact with him on life's pathway. Doctor Turner has dignified and honored his profession by his able and self-abnegating services through long years of earnest and indefatigable effort in a noble cause. His life has been one of concentration to his calling and well does he merit a place of honor in this history touching upon the lives and deeds of those who have given the best of their power and talent for the aiding and betterment of their kind in this county.

James Wesley Turner was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, on August 11, 1857, the son of Rev. Isaac and Alice (Kenyon) Turner, to whom but two children were born, the other having been Alice, the wife of Rev. M. A. Farr, who died at Shelbyville, this state. Rev. Isaac Turner was born in England in 1830, and was educated in his native country. Studying for the ministry, he became identified with the Wesleyan Methodist church, in which he attained considerable prominence as a preacher. In 1854 he came to America and located in Dearborn county, where he continued his ministerial labors. He preached throughout southern Indiana, his circuit being a very large one, embracing the territory from Brookville to Napoleon. In that early day traveling facilities were very poor in this section of the state, and Isaac Turner made most of his journeys on horseback. He lived for many years at Smyrna, this county, where he presided over a large circuit, but in later years located in North Madison, where his death occurred in 1905. As one of the pioneer preachers of his section of the state he exerted a large and beneficent influence on the side of morality and higher living, and his name is revered by many who knew him in his active years. His wife, Alice Kenyon, also a native of England, was a member of the Kenyon family noted

for its scholarly attainments. Her father, James Kenyon, was a man of much learning and served for many years as a tutor in families of the nobility.

James Wesley Turner received his elementary education in the common schools, and then became a student in Moore's Hill College, where he received the degree of Master of Arts in 1880. Subsequently, in 1905, his alma mater conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Rev. J. W. Turner entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1877, his first charge being that of the Arlington circuit, which he filled for a short time. Entering then upon the regular itinerary, he was first appointed to the Milroy circuit, later serving one year at Laurel, three years at Irvington, a suburb of Indianapolis, three years at Edinburg, four years at Madison, and then was transferred to the Trinity church at Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained five years. From Louisville he went to the Trinity church at Evansville, Indiana, and four years later was appointed presiding elder of the Evansville district, in which position he served with eminent ability and success for five years. During the following two years he accepted nominal appointments and at the end of that period accepted the pastorate of Rushville church, where he remained for two years. Because of failing health, Reverend Turner felt the necessity of withdrawing from active labors for a time, and, locating in Clinton township, this county, he is living there with his family on a farm of two hundred and sixty-seven acres, comprising their present estate. There Mr. Turner built a splendid house, beautifully located on a hill commanding a magnificent view of the surrounding country, and there he is spending his days in quiet enjoyment of the fine library which he owns, valued at about nine thousand dollars and considered one of the best private collections of books in the state of Indiana. A special room was built in the house for the care of these books. Mr. Turner's farm comprises a magnificent tract of land which is in a high state of cultivation and which is operated by his sons, Harry D. and James W., Jr. The place is well improved and is numbered among the most productive farms in the locality.

Doctor Turner has been a life-long Republican and has given earnest heed to the welfare of his community in the casting of his ballot. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to the commandery of the Knights Templar at Evansville. A well-educated man, broad-minded and liberal in his thought and attitude toward the great questions of the day, Mr. Turner has long been recognized as a man of superior qualifications and attainments and for a number of years has been a popular lecturer, among his lectures being the following: "Three Indices of the

Infinite," "True Intelligence and its Practical Manifestations," "Wasted Forces," and "Philosophy and Christianity."

On July 29, 1880, Rev. James Wesley Turner was united in marriage to Lizzie Woodfill, who was born in Greensburg, the daughter of William S. and Sarah (Talbot) Woodfill, who were for years among the most prominent residents and influential citizens of Decatur county, Mrs. Turner's Grandmother Hendricks having been given the privilege of naming the town of Greensburg. W. S. Woodfill was born in Owen county, Kentucky, November 16, 1825, the son of Gabriel and Eleanor (Pullam) Woodfill, of Welsh and English extraction, respectively. The Woodfill family was established in Pennsylvania in early colonial days. Rev. Gabriel Woodfill, the great-grandfather of William S., emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky in an early day in the settlement of the latter state, locating in Shelby county, thence moving to Jefferson county, Indiana, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a minister of the Gospel, a pioneer in the Methodism of Kentucky and Indiana, and a man of large influence. His son, Andrew, the grandfather of William S. Woodfill, was born in Pennsylvania, but spent most of his life in the neighborhood of Madison, Indiana. He married a Mitchell, and to that union were born twelve children, among whom was Gabriel, the father of William S. William S. Woodfill was educated in the schools of Greensburg, and in 1825 became a partner with his father in a general store at Greensburg. In January, 1863, the father retired from active business, and William took into the firm two brothers, John and James, the business being conducted under the firm name of Woodfill Brothers. Various changes later were made in the copartnership, and the firm was conducted under various names, but always by a member of the family, being now under the individual management of W. W. Woodfill. In 1875 William S. Woodfill organized the Greensburg Gas and Electric Company, of which he was president at the time of his death. He also owned various commercial and industrial interests and four valuable farms in this county. He was a faithful Methodist in his religion, and an earnest Republican in his political views, while his fraternal membership was with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. To him and his wife were born four children, namely: Lizzie, wife of the subject of this sketch; William Wirt, a Greensburg merchant; Harry Talbot, superintendent of the Greensburg gas and electric plant, and Web. The mother of these children died on October 31, 1898.

To Rev. J. W. and Lizzie (Woodfill) Turner have been born the following children: Rollin A., an attorney in Greensburg; Sarah, wife of Lewis Uhl, a pottery manufacturer in Huntingburg, Indiana, and who has

three children, Alice, Robert and Hannah; Lieut. William W., U. S. N., a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, now a professor of electricity in the academy; Harry D. and James W., successful farmers; Rachel K., a graduate of the Greensburg high school of the class of 1915, and Web W., who is attending the Sandusky centralized school.

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### HENRY MOZINGO.

Perhaps the best-known citizen of Clinton township, this county, is Henry Mozingo, who for many years has been one of the leading corn growers in the state of Indiana, and who in the township of his residence has been prominent politically, having been elected as trustee on the Progressive ticket in the fall of 1914. Mr. Mozingo, by careful attention to the details of farming, has reduced it almost to an exact science and has gained prominence as a corn grower and stockman. He is accustomed to sell annually about three hundred bushels of seed corn, though in 1915 he sold five hundred bushels, for which he received two dollars and a half a bushel. In these times, when fifty bushels to the acre is an exceptional yield in this state, Mr. Mozingo's success is apparent by contrast; since he grows more than ninety bushels to the acre on a part of his land, and last year had one hundred and twenty acres of corn which averaged seventy-five bushels to the acre. He makes a specialty of Reed's yellow Dent, and Johnson county white corn, having taken many prizes on the product of his farm. He took the fourth and sixth prizes in the state corn show; fourth prize on ten ears of yellow corn, and sixth on one ear of yellow. He also took sixth prize on ten ears of white in the same show. At the Clarksburg corn show he took four first prizes, and his son, Arthur, took second on ten ears of white, and on a single ear, ten ears mixed, and second sweepstakes. Mr. Mozingo himself won the sweepstakes at Clarksburg and at the Greensburg corn show, Arthur won sweepstakes and a silver cup, winning a trip to Purdue University in 1912 as a result of his splendid showing in the corn show. Mr. Mozingo's daughter, Grace, is a noted breeder of White Wyandottes, keeping about one hundred and fifty pure-bred chickens, and when she exhibited at Greensburg won first, second and third on cockerels; first and second on pullets; first, second and third on hens, and first on pens.

Henry Mozingo was born on a farm four miles south of Greensburg on December 25, 1871, the son of James and Lydia (Caseldine) Mozingo,



natives of Decatur county, the former of whom was born in 1841, and died in May, 1913, and the latter of whom was born in 1853. James Mozingo was the son of Henry Mozingo, a native of Kentucky, who walked from Kentucky to Indiana in 1832 and entered land in Marion township, this county, where he built a log cabin. Later he returned to his native state and bought back with him his mother and the family. His mother lived to be one hundred and four years old. The older Henry Mozingo, who was born in 1809, died in 1888. He was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln, and an ardent member of the Republican party. His wife, Elizabeth Mozingo, died in 1905. Of their twelve children, only five are living, Mrs. Mary Riley and Mrs. Eliza Clemons, of Greensburg; Mrs. Nancy Tremain, of Columbia, Missouri; Mrs. Belle Marlow, of Missouri, and Mrs. Edna Beagle, of near Westport, this county.

James Mozingo, the father of Henry Mozingo, resided for a long time on the farm entered by his father, but in 1888 purchased a farm in Marion township, on which he spent the rest of his life. He was a progressive Republican in politics and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. All of the nine children born to James and Lydia (Caseldine) Mozingo are living. In the order of their birth they are as follow: Henry, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Minnie Skinner, who lives near the Mt. Pleasant church; Mrs. Carrie Tumilty, who lives near Greensburg; Ed, who lives near Mt. Pleasant; Everett and May (twins), both of whom live on the home place; Mrs. Nona Cheek, who lives at Harris City; Mrs. Bessie Stoneking, of Osgood, and Clarence, who lives at home. May and Everett, twins. Mrs. James Mozingo is still living at her home on the old farm.

Educated in the Hazelrigg district school, where he received only a limited education, Henry Mozingo was able to supplement the education he received at that time by assistance from his good wife, now deceased, who was a teacher for five years in Jennings and Decatur counties. On February 28, 1900, Henry Mozingo was married to Ada Holcomb, a well-known teacher in the public schools of Decatur county, who was born on a farm four miles east of Westport, the daughter of D. W. and Mary Halcomb, old residents of Decatur county. To that union six children were born, Grace, Arthur, Vernon, Ernest, Frank and Helen. The mother of these children died on December 20, 1914.

A Progressive in politics, and an ardent admirer of Colonel Roosevelt and former Senator Beveridge, Mr. Mozingo was elected township trustee on the Progressive ticket in the fall of 1914, succeeding Ed Meek to that



office. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Free and Accepted Masons, and the Knights of Pythias and has filled all of the chairs in the Odd Fellows lodge. Mr. Mozingo is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was his wife, and their children have been reared in that faith.

Not the least of Henry Mozingo's achievements is the breeding of fine hogs, cattle, horses and mules on his farm of three hundred and seventy-five acres in Clinton township. While his fame as a farmer may be attributed to his success with corn, ordinarily he keeps one hundred head of cattle, and more than that many hogs on the farm. He also has at the present time eighty-two head of horses and mules, and always keeps from fifty to seventy-five head. The extensive scale upon which Mr. Mozingo carries on farming in this county clearly entitles him to foremost rank as a scientific farmer.

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#### HENRY A. DRAPING.

Henry A. Draping, now a well-known and prominent farmer of Marion township, this county, was born on December 21, 1873, in that township in a log and frame house built by his father a few years before, a son of William and Mary (Tresler) Draping, and he and his brother George are operating two hundred acres of land in Marion township, doing general farming. Their land is fairly level and well-tiled. The place has been improved with a comfortable white house of seven rooms, a good barn forty-eight by seventy feet, tool and carriage sheds, etc. They feed about forty head of hogs annually. In addition to his farming interests, Henry Draping also has operated a threshing-machine, in season, for the past twenty-two years and a corn-shredder for the past sixteen years. His brother, George Draping, also operates a saw-mill and does commercial sawing, his three sons assisting him in that work.

William Draping, father of the subject of this sketch, was born on June 3, 1838, and died on April 20, 1911. His wife, Mary Tresler, was born on January 28, 1849, and died on March 26, 1902. William Draping was born in Germany and came to America about 1865, settling in Marion township, this county, where he eventually bought the place now owned by his sons. At the time of purchase, the place was all in woods, and with the assistance of his sons, it was soon put in a tillable condition. Before marriage, Mr. Draping worked at various points, following the trades of stave-

maker and cooper. To this couple were born seven children, Frank W., Regina, Henry, George, Albert, Frederick and Lizzie. Frank W. is a farmer in Marion township. Regina died when six years of age. George was born on July 16, 1876. He and his brother, Henry, have been in charge of the home farm about twelve years. Albert and Frederick are dead. Lizzie married a Mr. Fonseth, of Marion township, and died on May 30, 1912.

William Draping's father was born in Germany and at the age of fourteen came to America, landing at New Orleans, going to Cincinnati. He learned both the cooper and tailor trades, and once operated a tailor shop in Cincinnati, in partnership with his brother, August. In 1861, he moved to Ripley county, Indiana, and on March 26, 1868, came to Decatur county and went to farming. His wife was Mary Anna Trisler.

In March, 1904, Henry Draping was united in marriage to Clara Oetjen, of Napoleon, Indiana, who was born on October 12, 1882, in Napoleon, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Brandt) Oetjen, natives of Hanover, Germany and Napoleon, respectively. The former, a tailor by trade, who came to America at the age of fourteen years, died in 1895. To Henry and Clara (Oetjen) Draping have been born four children, namely: Alvena, born on April 6, 1905; Walter, December 15, 1907; Elmer, January 16, 1911, and Herbert, February 9, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Draping are members of the Lutheran church and their children are being reared in that faith. Mr. Draping is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, and is one of the best-known men in that part of the county. He served as one of the jurymen in the celebrated Beagle murder trial.

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### ALEXANDER HILLIS.

It cannot be urged too strongly upon those who read the biographies of those who have passed on, the importance of securing from the older members of the present generation, as well as from the few still left of the preceding generation, their store of ancestral knowledge, before death comes to claim his own, after which much interesting and valuable data inevitably will remain a sealed book. Persons who take pride in their ancestral records ought not to permit present opportunities to be neglected, and the lessons on genealogy presented in this volume ought not to be overlooked.

The late Alexander Hillis, a one time well-known farmer of Marion

township, this county, was born on August 2, 1831, a son of John and Ann (Hazelrigg) Hillis. He died on June 15, 1910, at the old Hillis home, south of Greensburg, where he owned one hundred and twenty acres of land. He was an industrious, energetic man, and a kind husband and father.

John Hillis was a native of Kentucky. His wife, Ann, who was born on May 23, 1811, was a daughter of Alese and Kitty Hazelrigg. The Hillis family came to Decatur county in 1830, in which year John Hillis entered a tract of land, where the Hillis home now stands. He was a very intelligent and able man and traded and bought until he had a fine farm of over four hundred acres, becoming a wealthy man in an honest, straightforward way. John and Ann Hillis were the parents of eight children, namely: Alexander, the subject of this sketch; Martha Ann, now deceased, who married Marcellus Wright; Sarah Catherine, born on February 2, 1837, now deceased, who married William Carper; Mrs. Margaret Jane Foley, a widow, living at Greensburg, this county; William Wallace, born on January 27, 1840, who died at the age of ten years; Sophronia, born in 1848, died at the age of nineteen years; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Christy, now deceased, born on March 15, 1845, and Mrs. Nancy Miranda Cobb, January 18, 1848.

Alexander Hillis was married to Elizabeth McCullough, who was born on February 22, 1832, in Ripley county, a daughter of William and Drusilla (Morgan) McCullough, of Kentucky. Drusilla Morgan was born at Morgan's Station, Kentucky, a daughter of John Morgan, founder of Morgan's Station. The McCulloughs came to Decatur county in 1833 and later in that year settled in Ripley county, where William McCullough opened a country store. He spent the rest of his life there and was buried at Cross Plains.

To Alexander and Elizabeth (McCullough) Hillis were born the following children: Morgan A., born in 1854, was accidentally killed in 1898; John W., February 12, 1858, died on August 19, 1884; Frank O., April 20, 1866, who lives in Milroy, where he operates a machine shop, married Flora Doles and has three children, Loren, Elizabeth and Thomas; Lizzie, November 27, 1866, is now deceased; Clara, a skilled music teacher, who was educated in the Conservatory of Music at Indianapolis, has large classes at Milroy and Westport, and Hetty, who lives at home.

Mr. Hillis was a devoted and consistent member of the Christian church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in that faith, growing up to be useful members of the community. Mr. Hillis was a Republican and ever gave his attention to all matters of good government. He was a good citizen and a generous neighbor, being held in the highest regard throughout the community in which he so long had made his home, and was sincerely mourned by many at his passing.

## JEPHTHA LAYTON.

The late Jephtha Layton, of Marion township, was well known during his life time in Decatur county; first, because he lived in this county all of his life, or practically so, and second, because, for many years, he was engaged in operating a saw-mill at Slabtown, in Marion township, where he did an extensive business in lumber and from which he furnished a great deal of the lumber for the building of Greensburg. Moreover, he became an expert judge of timber and, as a result of his extensive dealings, became quite wealthy, accumulating a great deal of land and other property. He was a man who devoted himself closely to his own personal business and whose relations with the public were based upon the most rigid code of honorable and upright dealings.

Jephtha Layton was born in Kentucky on July 25, 1823, and died near Madison, Indiana, on August 1, 1891. He was the son of John and Mary Layton, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was of English parentage. About 1830 John Layton came to Decatur county and here settled on a farm south of Greensburg, which is now owned by Green B. Barnes. At that time Jephtha Layton was only seven years old. He continued to live at home with his parents, assisting his father in the work on the farm, until his marriage in 1852 to Susan McLaughlin, who was born on October 20, 1827, and who, left an orphan at a tender age, was reared by friends of her parents' family. She died on August 7, 1890, a little less than one year before the death of her husband, the subject of this sketch.

In 1855 Jephtha Layton formed a partnership with his brother, James, and they established the old Layton mill at Slabtown, on the Greensburg & Layton's Mill turnpike, where they did an extensive business in hard lumber and especially in the manufacture of shingles, the mill being a lumber station for a large expanse of territory. After the death of his father, in 1891, Frank Layton took up the work of this mill and is still continuing its operation. In 1880 Jephtha Layton erected a large brick house, manufacturing his own brick, on the farm. Jephtha and James Layton built this house. John and Cyrus Layton were associated with their brothers for some time, but they died soon after the venture was started. In 1870 Jephtha and James Layton dissolved partnership.

To Jephtha and Susan (McLaughlin) Layton were born six children, namely: Avarilla, who married Obadiah Martin, of Marion township, lives on part of the old farm and has two children, Zola, a teacher in the public

schools of Marion township, and Ottis, a farmer; Nancy Ann, who died at the age of sixteen years; Mary, who is at home; Frank, who is a farmer, well-driller and saw-mill operator of Marion township; John, who died in the West, and Florence, who also is at home. Florence and Mary own one hundred acres of land, which their brother, Frank, for the most part cultivates, but part of the land is rented out to others.

As above stated, Jephtha Layton died in 1891. Five years later his brother, James, with whom he had been associated for many years in business, died in the large frame house which he had built in Slabtown, in 1896. Jephtha and James Layton were among the younger children of a large family born to John and Mary Layton. The others were: Mrs. Emily Fletcher, Allen, John and Mrs. Mary Downey (twins), Mrs. Harriett McConnell, Mrs. Matilda Ransted, Mrs. Betsy Bonderant, John and Cyrus.

As men who did real constructive work in the material development and upbuilding of Decatur county, it would be difficult to find anyone who would pass the Layton brothers. It might be said with some truth that, had they not operated a saw-mill in that part of the county, some one else would have done so. Nevertheless, the fact remains that they possessed the foresight to erect a mill and that their estimates of the commercial possibilities of such an enterprise were pre-eminently correct. The Layton family will go down in the history of this county as one which contributed very largely to its material advancement.

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### JAMES CLINE.

James Cline, one of the prominent leaders in the councils of the Democratic party in Decatur county, and the present assessor of the county, is a well-known farmer of Marion township, born on March 1, 1864, in that township, and the son of Francis and Catherine (McCormack) Cline, both natives of Ireland, the former of whom was born in 1816, and died in 1891, and the latter of whom was born on September 8, 1823, and died on May 7, 1915; past the age of ninety-one, the oldest woman in Decatur county. She came to America from her native country when a girl with relatives, and was married in New York City to Francis Cline. Her husband, a native of Ireland, came alone to America when a lad and after working in New York City for a time moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, from which place he emigrated during the fifties to Decatur county, purchasing a farm of forty acres in Marion township.

Although James Cline was born in a pioneer log cabin, his father subsequently built another house, and it was there that he was reared. Fishing and hunting were good in those days, and the life of a country lad offered more wholesome if not greater diversion than it does today. James Cline was one of three children born to his parents. The other two, who were elder, were Mrs. Katie Smith, of Napoleon, Ripley county, whose husband is cashier of the Napoleon bank, and Anna, a member of the Sisters of Charity, who died in 1909.

Educated in the common schools of Marion township, and in the normal at New Marion, James Cline taught school for twenty-two years and six months, beginning at the age of twenty-two years, and performing all of this service in Marion township. In the meantime he purchased a farm in Marion township, and, after improving it, sold it in 1898 and removed to Greensburg, where he began the study of law. Finding the law distasteful, he returned to the farm in 1900, having purchased his present farm of eighty acres at Slabtown, in Marion township. This farm was badly run down, but Mr. Cline has since erected a fine house and other buildings and has the farm well fenced and well drained. It is regarded as one of the best country homes on the Michigan road, and is located six miles southeast of Greensburg, and six miles from Napoleon.

Interested in politics from the time of his boyhood, Mr. Cline served on the Democratic county central committee and as township committeeman for Marion township. He has also attended several Democratic state conventions, and is well acquainted with the Democratic leaders in the state of Indiana. In the fall of 1914, having received the nomination for county assessor, he was triumphantly elected to a four-year term, and is now serving in this office.

On April 27, 1893, James Cline was married to Margaret Foley, who was born in Salt Creek township in June, 1865, daughter of Michael Foley, and who died on February 20, 1898. To this union three children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The two living children are Mary, who is her father's housekeeper, and Anna, who was graduated from the Academy of the Immaculate Conception at Oldenburg, Indiana, on June 17, 1915, having completed a four-years' course.

A member of the Greensburg Catholic church, James Cline is also a charter member of the Knights of Columbus at Greensburg, and has been prominent in that organization since the Greensburg lodge was instituted. The deep and active interest which Mr. Cline has always taken in the councils of the Democratic party in Decatur county has not prevented him from look-



ing carefully after the interests of his home, his family and his farm. Without any qualifications or modifications, it must be conceded that he has performed every duty which devolves upon a citizen of this great country. Loyal to his home, his neighborhood, his county and to his state, he has a host of friends, men who are attached to him by the warmest ties of personal relation, and who hold him in the highest regard.

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### JOSEPH MOENKEDICK.

Like many others of Ohio's sons and daughters who have adopted Indiana as their permanent home, the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch has been loyal to the home of his adoption, and well may he feel satisfied with his success in producing on his farm in this county the best that nature wills. His splendid acres, his fine family of children, and his remunerative crops, all contribute toward making him a satisfied man. Mr. Moenkedick has won the respect and confidence of the citizens of Marion township, and has trained his children along the same lines.

Joseph Moenkedick was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 11, 1859, a son of Henry and Catharine Moenkedick. Henry Moenkedick was born in Germany in 1818, and came to America in 1857, settling in Decatur county, where he bought a farm in 1865. He lived in a log cabin, which is still standing, and where his son Joseph, the subject of this sketch, spent his childhood. Henry Moenkedick, in old age, moved to Millhousen, where his last days were spent, his death occurring in 1890. By his first wife, he had two children, Mrs. Theresa Herbert, of Ripley county, Indiana, and Joseph. Henry Moenkedick's second wife was a widow, Mrs. Moller, to which union there was no issue.

At the age of fourteen years Joseph Moenkedick started in to earn his living, receiving at first but five dollars a month, which wage gradually was increased until he was receiving twenty dollars a month, and eventually he earned enough to pay one thousand six hundred dollars down on a farm costing him three thousand two hundred dollars, the balance to be paid in eight years. He now has a well-improved farm, on which he has spent about nine thousand dollars in improvements. Mr. Moenkedick's farm covers one hundred and twenty acres of very productive, level land, located a quarter of a mile from the pike road, on which he has a substantial brick dwelling. He raises from fifteen to eighteen head of cattle and from twenty-five to forty hogs annually.



On April 19, 1893, Joseph Moenkedick was united in marriage to Anna May Hessler, who was born on August 26, 1866, at Millhousen, this county, a daughter of Adam J. and Katharine (Stahl) Hessler, to which union the following children have been born: Theresa, Louis, Catharine, Henry, William and Joseph, all of whom are at home save Catherine, who is living in Greensburg. Mrs. Moenkedick's father, Adam J. Hessler, was born in 1840, and died in March, 1903. He was a native of Millhousen, a son of John Hessler, and his wife was a native of Germany. Adam J. Hessler was a farmer all his life. His father, John Hessler, a native of Germany, was the first shoemaker in Millhousen. Mr. and Mrs. Moenkedick are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Greensburg and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Moenkedick is a Republican and is warmly interested in the county's political affairs, being an earnest supporter of all measures designed to advance the public welfare.

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#### WILLARD A. MIERS.

Few men living in Decatur county are better known than Willard A. Miers, a prominent farmer and stockman, living a quarter of a mile south of Burney, in Clay township, on a farm consisting of two hundred and fifty-seven acres of level land and of first-class soil. He is known to the world of harness horsemen as the man who bred and trained "Little Snapp," which at three years old held the world's record for geldings.

Willard A. Miers was born on the old homestead, which he now owns, in 1858, the son of Thomas S. and Mahala (Braden) Miers. Thomas S. Miers was born in Ohio, and came to Decatur county when seven or eight years old with his father, Thomas Miers, who was one of the early settlers of Decatur county, and who died a short time after settling in Clay township. Thomas S. Miers was one of the most successful farmers of Decatur county, having accumulated at the time of his death six hundred acres of land. Most of his money he made out of hogs and corn.

Willard A. Miers started life for himself when about twenty-one years old. He has been a very successful farmer and stockman, and especially successful with horses and mules. He bred and trained "Little Snapp," which at three years old held the world's record for geldings of that age and continued to hold the record for three successive years. Mr. Miers has bred and raised several other horses, which while not holding world's records, nevertheless have distinguished themselves for speed. He is still actively engaged

in operating his farm and is still as enthusiastic as a youngster in regard to his horses. He trains and educates his own animals. He has now a four-year-old filly in whose veins runs the blood of Allen Winters, and Allen Winters won the fifty-thousand-dollar Derby, which to horse lovers is the big event of the grand circuit. He is a true lover of the sport of kings and never intends to give it up, declaring the chances for him are too good to quit. He is one of the well-to-do farmers of Decatur county, but his heart is in and with his horses.

Mr. Miers also handles jacks, mules, cattle and hogs. He has been handling jacks ever since he started in business, and all of his animals were bred and raised by himself. His two oldest jacks are two of the best-boned and largest animals in the middle West. His fees are one-third greater than the average fee, yet, despite this, he enjoys a large patronage. He also has six jennets and breeds and sells these animals for the market. He raises three or four jacks every year, and these animals bring on an average from twelve hundred to fifteen hundred dollars per head. It can readily be seen that some of the profits of the farm come from the jacks, jennets and mules. Jennets ordinarily bring from five hundred to eight hundred dollars. Not every man who has engaged in this business has made a success of it, but Mr. Miers is one of those men who has succeeded in a large measure. He employs two men the year round and several additional men during the busy season.

In 1895 Willard A. Miers was married to Lilly Johnson, the daughter of John and Sally (Jones) Johnson, members of an old family in Decatur county, now living retired at Burney, Indiana. To this union three children have been born, Braden Johnson, Bessie and Alice Nevada. Mr. and Mrs. Miers are members of the Methodist church at Burney and their children have been reared in that faith. The Miers home is situated in Burney on twenty acres of land at the south edge of town. The stock farm and race track are situated about a quarter of a mile south of town. Mr. Miers is devoted to his business and personally attends to all the details of managing every department of the farm.

Mr. Miers is a Democrat, although not greatly interested in politics. For many years he has been a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. He is possessed naturally of a genial disposition, which has been no small factor in his large success. Ten years of his life were spent in Greensburg, and Mr. Miers is quite as well known there as he is in Clay township. There is an old saying that every man has his own trade. The truth of this saying is generally accepted, and, assuming that it is correct, no one will doubt that Willard A. Miers has found the business of life not only that which he likes best, but the one in which he could have been most successful.

## WATSON BOSTIC.

A veteran of the Civil War, who enlisted in the service of his country when a lad of seventeen years, enduring many hardships and privations, Watson Bostic, a successful farmer of Clay township, this county, and for twenty years the local representative of the Continental Fire Insurance Company of New York, was born in 1847, the son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Jones) Bostic, the former of whom was a native of Ohio, and the latter of Maryland. Mathias Bostic was an early settler of Dearborn county, Indiana, one of four brothers, who, with their sister, came from Ohio to this state. The Bostics were also identified with the early history and settlement and development of Decatur county, having come here from Dearborn county in October, 1860. Mathias Bostic died about 1858 in Dearborn county, and after his death his widow married a man of the name of Fowler, and they came to Decatur county in 1860. Mr. Bostic's mother died near Milford. By her first marriage she had three children; Watson, the subject of this sketch; Richmond B., who died in 1891, and Mrs. Serinda Elliott, who is deceased.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Watson Bostic was a lad of only fifteen or sixteen. In the winter of 1863 and 1864 he joined the One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which was organized in Greensburg, and served until the end of the war, attached to the Twenty-third Corps of the Army of the Cumberland. Mr. Bostic fought at the battles of Nashville and Franklin. At Nashville, he was stricken down with measles and disabled for service, losing the use of his voice and suffering other disabilities from which he has never wholly recovered. He was discharged from the service in June, 1865. At the end of the war Mr. Bostic came back to Decatur county, and worked on a farm for some time. Subsequently he emigrated to Adams county, Illinois, and after being there for a year or two returned to Decatur county.

On August 27, 1868, Watson Bostic was married to Debby Reeves, who was born on May 7, 1850, the daughter of N. G. and Jane Reeves, the former of whom came to Indiana from Ohio, and the latter of whom came here from North Carolina. To this union four children were born, namely: Jennie, who married T. C. Goff, of Greensburg, now living at Milford, and has two sons, Lloyd Gallentine and Artie, who live with their grandfather; Rillie, who married M. B. Chambers, a well-known farmer, living on the Vernon road in Clay township and has four children, Watson, Flossie, Hilda and Cecile Anna; Charles Ora, who died in 1890, and Mrs. Nora Barnes, widow

of George Barnes, now lives at home with her father. The mother of these children died on September 15, 1914.

Mrs. Watson Bostic's mother was the daughter of William Craig, a weaver of coverlids, who lived in this county. The Bostic family has in its possession a coverlid woven in 1844, and in perfect condition. They also have a pair of tongs made by Mrs. Bostic's great-great-grandfather, who was a blacksmith by trade.

In 1884 Mr. Bostic purchased ninety-six acres of land and has added to this tract until he now owns two hundred and fifty acres, situated two miles from Milford and two miles from Burney on the Vernon road and in a very fertile section of Clay township. He has always been an industrious farmer and a hard worker. In 1904 he purchased the tract upon which he now lives, and more land in 1910 and now owns, in all, two hundred and fifty acres. The soil originally grew sugar trees, poplars and walnut. Mr. Bostic has made every dollar he has by his own hard work. A good deal of his money has been made by raising and feeding hogs.

In the community where he lives Watson Bostic is known as a dyed-in-the-wool-Republican. He has always been greatly interested in politics and is regarded as one of the leaders of his party in Clay township, having been on the firing line in most of the campaigns. He is a man of liberal views, conscientious and sincere, who inspires confidence in his fellows. For nearly forty years he has been a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford and is a member of the Greensburg post of the Grand Army of the Republic. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Bostic has always taken a prominent part in local religious work. In fairly good health, he is of an optimistic turn of mind and is considered one of the substantial citizens of Decatur county.

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#### CECIL G. HARROD, M. D.

The man who devotes his talent and energy to the noble work of ministering to the ills and alleviating the sufferings of humanity, pursues a calling which in dignity and importance is second to none other. If true to his profession and earnest in his efforts to enlarge his sphere of usefulness, he is indeed a benefactor to mankind. To him more than to any other man are entrusted the safety, comfort and lives of the people. In the professional ranks of this county Dr. Cecil G. Harrod, a physician and surgeon of Burney, has stood for many years as one of the leading physicians of Decatur county

and his practice probably is equal to that of any other physician in the county. Realizing early in his career as a physician that to obtain a success in the medical profession, he must have, not only technical ability but also broad human sympathies, Doctor Harrod has endeavored conscientiously and diligently to develop himself along these two lines. He has dignified and honored the profession to which he belongs by his noble services in this county.

Dr. Cecil G. Harrod, of Burney, is the scion of two very old families in America. Born in 1884, he is the son of Charles Fremont and Olive (Gardner) Harrod, natives of Scott county, Indiana. Charles Fremont Harrod, who is now fifty-eight years old, and who was born in Scott county, lives on a farm and is a successful and well-known school teacher, who follows this profession because of his native love of the work. He is well and favorably known in Scott county. He was named for John C. Fremont, the first candidate of the Republican party for the Presidency, and is a stanch Republican.

Doctor Harrod's mother, who before her marriage was Olive Gardner, and is now fifty-six years old, is the daughter of James Gardner, a prominent citizen of Scott county, who was honored by the people of that county, by election to several different positions of trust and responsibility. The Gardners originally came to Indiana from Virginia, and an ancestor of Doctor Harrod's mother came over to America in the "Mayflower." The family is, of course, of English origin.

The Harrod family came to Indiana from Kentucky, having previously emigrated to the latter state from Virginia. It was the great grandfather of Charles Fremont Harrod, who entered the land which the latter now owns in Scott county. This family also is of English origin. The Harrod family is one of professional men, nearly all of the male members having been lawyers or physicians. Former Judge Willard New of the Indiana appellate court, who is now a practicing lawyer in Indianapolis, is a cousin of Doctor Harrod.

In 1911 Dr. C. G. Harrod, of Burney, this county, was graduated from the medical department of the University of Louisville, a medical school well known throughout the Middle West for the high standard of its instruction. Immediately after his graduation, Doctor Harrod located in Burney and began the practice of his profession. His practice has grown from year to year until he now enjoys probably as large a practice as any physician in Decatur county. Indeed, he is the busiest man in Clay township and his books show that in a single day, he made twenty-nine professional calls. He never wastes a minute of time to reach a case. He believes in giving to each case his greatest skill, energy and talent. In his home township, where he is so well

known, he is regarded as a human dynamo and no man is more popular with the people of Clay township. He is a man of most kindly impulses, broad and liberal in his views and generous by nature and he occupies a firm place in the hearts of the people of the neighborhood covered by his practice.

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### IRA C. CARMAN.

The student of Decatur county history does not have to make searching investigations to discover that Ira C. Carman for many years has been one of its most active farmers and stock raisers as well as one of its most influential citizens. From time to time, he has added to his land holdings until he now has two hundred and sixty-seven acres lying two and one-half miles northeast of Burney on the Hope, Milford and Greensburg pike. Yet Mr. Carman himself would say that he has had no time to accumulate money but rather would have what he can buy with a dollar than to keep the dollar for its own sake. In his entire business career he has been zealous of his credit and this is one of the large secrets of his success. Aside from being an extensive landholder, he is a stockholder in the Hope bank and has at least ten thousand dollars worth of property in Burney, against which there is not one cent of indebtedness. This is the present condition of affluence of a man who, less than twenty-five years ago, began life with a poor horse and cow and without a dollar in the world. A man who has made money easily, Ira C. Carman has likewise been what might be called a liberal spender.

Ira C. Carman was born in 1859 in Ripley county, Indiana, and two years after his birth was brought to Decatur county by his parents, Reuben and Rebecca Jane (Jones) Carman, natives of Ohio, who settled on a farm near Milford. The father was a successful farmer and a well-respected man in the community, one of the local leaders of the Republican party. In 1866 the family moved to Missouri, where a little later Reuben Carman died, leaving a wife and six small children. The mother remained about two years in Missouri and then came back to Decatur county, settling near Milford, where she reared her family. On the trip to Missouri the Carmans had been accompanied by Thomas Fowler and family, Ira Sathmarsh and Watson Bostic, a young man.

To Reuben and Rebecca Jane (Jones) Carman were born six children, two of whom, William Reuben and Elmer E., are deceased. The living children are Mrs. Lodicy Elliott, the widow of James Elliott; Mrs. Elizabeth



Pumphrey, the widow of Lon Pumphrey; Ira C., the subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Mary B. Raymond, the widow of William Raymond. Frank Carman is a half brother of Ira C. The mother of these children died in 1884. She was a woman of rare business ability and reared her family to honorable and useful lives.

Ira C. Carman began life for himself at the age of eleven years and by the time he was twenty-five years old had begun to accumulate a little property. In 1880 he was united in marriage to Emma Peddicord, the daughter of Levi and Hulda (Henshaw) Peddicord, and to this union two children have been born, Edward, born in 1882, married Mattie Thompson and lives on the home place, and Maude, the wife of J. J. Boyle, principal of the high school at Columbus, Indiana.

Mr. Carman has been a very successful farmer and business man. About seventeen years ago he purchased ninety acres of land and began to raise hogs and cattle. Previous to that time he had worked for three years by the day and finally got together a "plug" horse and one cow. Subsequently, he had an opportunity to farm on the shares for Frank Butler. This was his start in life. He saved about four hundred dollars, which he paid on his first ninety-acre tract of land. He then began farming on a large scale and at different times has cultivated as much as five hundred or six hundred acres of land and at the present time is farming about five hundred acres and raising about one hundred and eighty acres of corn each year. Two years after he purchased his first tract of land, he bought another tract of one hundred and seventy-eight acres, being compelled to borrow the money to make the first payment. He paid for this farm in ten or twelve years, an exceptional record for money making, there having been numerous predictions at the time that he would fail. Many years ago he began breeding and dealing in mules and is today one of the best-known mule breeders in the state of Indiana. The mule business has been one of the great sources of his revenue, but by no means the greatest. Mr. Carman attributes his success more to hogs, corn and clover. He buys and matches mules, fattens them and sends them to market. His farm is one of the most highly improved farms, all things considered, to be found in Decatur county, particularly when external improvements are considered. It is well-drained, has splendid outbuildings and a three-story bank barn, equal to any to be found in the county. A lover of good horses, Mr. Carman also has had considerable success with raising them. He has a large silo on the farm made of vitrified tile. His land is gently undulating and formerly grew sugar trees and black walnut.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Carman has always been an active political



worker and is a firm believer in the principles of the party of Abraham Lincoln. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford and of the Knights of Pythias at Burney, being one of the trustees of the latter lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Carman are members of the Methodist church at Milford and liberal supporters of the same and are held in the highest regard throughout that whole section of the county.

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### EDWARD A. JACKSON.

Practically industry, wisely and consistently followed, never fails to bring success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulus to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means in the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The everyday life with its cares, necessities and duties affords ample opportunity for acquiring experience of the best kind and its beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self improvement. Edward A. Jackson, one of the prominent citizens and farmers of Clay township, this county, belongs to an old family of that section.

Edward A. Jackson was born in Decatur county in 1857, the son of William T. and Margaret T. (Myers) Jackson, the former of whom was a native of Ohio, who came to Decatur county, settling in Clay township with his parents when a mere lad. He was born in Cincinnati about 1829, and died in 1889 at the age of sixty years. William T. Jackson was the son of William D. Jackson, who was born near the mouth of the Chickahominy river in Charles City county, Virginia, on October 13, 1797. The family originally lived in York county, a few miles east of the Chickahominy river in a very unhealthy region. The parents of William D. Jackson were stricken with malarial fever and died, leaving a large family of destitute children. The boys of the family were bound out to farmers of the neighborhood to lives of bitter toil, while the girls were sent to a public institution. William D. Jackson was one of these boys and was compelled to work in the fields with the negro slaves under the direction of a cruel overseer. The Jackson family is of Irish origin, and William D., being of a fiery Celtic nature, could not endure such a life. One day he crossed the James river and left the country. After walking for many miles he reached Petersburg, and there learned the tailor's trade. At the same time, however, he had a strong inclination for the sea. His brother, Henry, did become a sailor and another

brother, John, also went to sea and was shipwrecked and lost. William D. Jackson was accustomed to ride the river boats on the James river in following his trade as a tailor and on one of these trips got off the boat at a small town, called Crocks Ferry, on the Nanticoke river, and there met his future wife, Amelia Hillman, a daughter of Samuel Hillman, a merchant who kept the store at Crocks Landing. They were married in 1823, and, after living in Maryland until 1831, crossed the Alleghany mountains in a covered wagon and proceeded down the Ohio river by boat to Cincinnati, and there found work. At Cincinnati William D. Jackson met the elder Nicholas Longworth and with his assistance engaged in the real estate business and accumulated a snug fortune, which he invested in a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Fugit township, this county, in 1840. In 1844 he moved to this farm, and afterward owned various farms in this county, and here spent the remainder of his life. By his marriage to Amelia Hillman, William D. Jackson had a large family of children, of whom William T. was one.

William T. Jackson was about eighteen years old when he came to Decatur county with his parents. His wife, who before her marriage was Margaret Myers, was the daughter of Thomas Myers, one of the early settlers of Decatur county, and one of the wealthiest and most prominent men in pioneer times. After the Civil War William T. Jackson removed to Hendricks county, where he engaged in the dry goods and general mercantile business, and then moved to Milford, this county, where he owned a store, and kept the postoffice, also owning a large farm, now a part of the M. F. Miers land. Late in life William T. Jackson and wife removed from their farm in Clay township to Greensburg and there died. His remains are buried in the historic old cemetery at Milford. Of the children born to William T. and Margaret T. (Myers) Jackson, four are deceased and four are living, the latter being Annie, Edward A., Harry and William E. William E. lives in Washington township, this county, and Harry lives in Idaho. The deceased children were James, Benjamin, Adelaide and Jessie.

On April 14, 1880, Edward A. Jackson was married to Mary T. Burney, the daughter of S. M. and Sarah (Pumphry) Burney, old citizens of this county. S. M. Burney was born about 1814 in North Carolina and came to Decatur county with his parents in pioneer times, when Clay township was nothing but a wilderness. The family settled on a farm, which Edward A. Jackson now owns, and which is known as the old Burney farm. The parents of S. M. Burney spent the remainder of their lives in Milford, the mother having died in the home of her son, S. M. Burney, who was a very successful farmer and owned several hundred acres of land in this county.

He gave five hundred dollars to the town of Burney when it was founded and purchased stock in the railroad when the latter was constructed through that section. Burney was named for him. He was a progressive, broad-minded man, whose word was as good as his bond. A public-spirited citizen, he donated several hundred dollars to the building of the Methodist churches at Milford and at Burney. He was a stanch Democrat and true to his party. While he never asked for office, he always held at heart the welfare of his party and his country. He left the impress of his character and his influence upon the life of this community, and died full of honors, as only a private citizen who has done well his duty, can die, passing away in 1901 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Edward A. Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson was born in Clay township on the old Burney homestead, where she still lives, in 1860, one of nine children, born to her parents, six of whom are living and three of whom are deceased, James B., Lawrence and John B., deceased, and Mrs. Melinda Michael, Joseph, Mrs. Anne Littell, Edgar, Mrs. Ina Lewis and Mrs. Jackson, living.

About 1900 Edward A. Jackson sold the farm which he had owned previously and purchased at seventy dollars an acre two hundred acres of land, later buying the Dovey farm of ninety acres. This is the farm in Clay township, which Mr. Jackson owns, and is now almost invaluable. It lies at the edge of a growing and hustling town, where live as good people as are to be found anywhere on earth. Mr. Jackson has been a successful farmer, his chief products being hogs and corn. He feeds two or more carloads of hogs every year. His land is especially adapted for raising corn. Originally wet and marshy, drainage has transformed the land into a fertile garden producing abundantly almost anything that may be sown or planted.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have a beautiful home. They live in a massive brick house built by Mrs. Jackson's father, the late S. M. Burney, a half century ago. It is a monument, strong and substantial, to the memory of a man who did things well. The brick was burned on the farm and practically all of the timber and all of the material used in the house were taken from the farm.

To Edward A. and Mary T. (Burney) Jackson two children have been born, Harry and Burney. Harry Jackson, who was born in 1888, married Verna Jewell, the daughter of William and Leona Jewell, who live near the Decatur and Bartholomew county line, and to this union two children have been born, Freda and William Edwin, the latter named after his grandfather Jewell. Burney Jackson, who is a well-known young farmer of this county, married Zelpha Galbraith, daughter of Andrew and Lena Galbraith.

Edward A. Jackson is a Democrat and while not especially active as a political worker, has the interest of his party at heart. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney. He is a stockholder in the Third National Bank at Greensburg, and also a stockholder in the Hope State Bank at Hope. Mr. Jackson has been a valuable citizen in this community, whose life and career are thoroughly appreciated by his neighbors, all of whom hold him in the highest esteem.

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### SAMUEL B. HANKS.

Samuel B. Hanks, a representative farmer and stockman of Clay township, this county, descended on his paternal side from the family which gave to the world the mother of Abraham Lincoln, is known as one of the alert, progressive and liberal-minded farmers of this section. A man of wide information and reading he has been for many years a leader among the farmers of Clay township, having lived on his present fine farm in that township since the time of his marriage, in 1907.

Born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1877, Samuel B. Hanks is a son of Newton and Mary (Alley) Hanks, the latter of whom was the daughter of Samuel B. and Nancy (Selby) Alley, and the former of whom was born May 14, 1837, in Bradford county, Kentucky, the son of Sidnor D. Hanks, a pioneer citizen in that state. To Newton and Mary (Alley) Hanks were born four children, Nannie and Hattie, deceased; Samuel R., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Amelia Boyce. Newton Hanks, who now lives in Covington, Kentucky, was a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted three times and having served until the close of the war. His wife died in 1893. Newton Hanks has always been an ardent Democrat and is a member of the Baptist church.

Samuel B. Hanks was educated in the common schools of this county and at the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana, as well as at Franklin College, receiving a liberal classical education, admirable preparation for the duties of life. On September 10, 1907, he was married to Della Davis, the daughter of James B. and Martha (Ewing) Davis, pioneer citizens of this county, to which union has been born one child, a daughter, Mary Caroline, who was born on December 25, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Hanks are members of the Baptist church and are active in all good works in their neighborhood, being held in the very highest regard by all in that community. Mr. Hanks

is a Democrat and takes a warm interest in the political affairs of the county, being an ardent advocate of the principles of good government. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and is popular with all the members of that lodge, as well as in the community at large.

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### JAMES G. DAVIS.

The commencement of the Davis family in Decatur county dates from the time that the late James Davis came to America, a poor lad of eleven years, from that country which has given to America so many of her distinguished citizens and especially so many of her successful farmers and financiers. There is a flavor of romance in the career of this poor Irish lad, who after settling in Decatur county, Indiana, acquired during his life time nearly three thousand acres of land, and came to be known throughout the length and breadth of this county, and of adjoining counties, for his shrewd and far-seeing judgment. Nevertheless, in all of his dealings he was known as a man whose word was as good as gold, honest and true in all the relations of life. He was, however, a speculator in land and owned five hundred acres in Daviess county, and the balance in Decatur and Shelby counties. That he was honored and respected is amply proved by the fact that on many occasions he was chosen to administer and settle up estates. It is a son of this Irish lad who, by diligent application of his native faculties, became a well-to-do citizen, that is the subject of this sketch. James G. Davis is an enterprising farmer of Adams township, where he owns two hundred and sixty-four acres of land and where he is known as a large stockman.

James G. Davis was born on March 28, 1876, on the Davis homestead, where he now lives. His parents, James and Sarah E. (Braden) Davis were natives of Mayo, Ireland, and Decatur county, Indiana, respectively. The former was born April 26, 1829, and died May 5, 1904, and the latter was born January 10, 1837, in Clay township, Decatur county, and died June 12, 1911.

After attending school near his home, James G. Davis lived with his father until the latter's death in 1904, and at his death received the old family homestead as a part of his inheritance. During these early years of his life he was engaged in farming, and was very successful, learning from his father the rudiments of agriculture. On his Adams township farm he now has an annual output of more than two hundred head of hogs. In 1913 he erected





RESIDENCE OF JAMES G. DAVIS.





at a cost of eight thousand dollars, a splendid modern home of twelve rooms, which is equipped with every modern convenience available to residents of the countryside. Not only is there a large barn on the farm, but there are also many other substantial buildings.

On December 24, 1907, three years after the death of his father, Mr. Davis was married at the age of thirty-one to Flora M. Champ, of near Burney, the daughter of F. Marion and Jennie Virginia (Boyce) Champ. The father is still living two miles west of Burney. The mother died on January 21, 1909. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been born two children, Sarah Virginia, born on November 15, 1909, and Francis Marion, on July 5, 1910; the former of whom is six years old and the latter is four.

Although Mr. Davis is an ardent Democrat, the pressure of his own personal business has been too great to permit him to participate actively in political affairs, leaving such matters to others. Fraternally, he is a member of Milford lodge, Free and Accepted Masons. Mr. Davis and family are all active workers in Union Chapel United Brethren church. Not only is Mr. Davis a large contributor to the church, but he takes a commendable interest in the various activities of Union Chapel, and is a man of strong religious instincts and impulses. So far as he is able, Mr. Davis is bent on carrying forward the ambitions and ideals of his worthy father. It is not too much to say that he has taken his place in the foremost ranks of the citizens of Adams township, and is today regarded as a wise and capable leader in all worthy enterprises which reflect the interest of the public as a whole.

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### THEODORE ELLIOTT.

Theodore Elliott has long been one of the active farmers and leading citizens of Clay township, this county, and at the present time owns a quarter section of land two miles southeast of Burney, a farm of gently undulating and fertile soil. His father was a veteran of the Civil War and his mother was reared in pioneer times on the broad prairies of the Hawkeye state.

Theodore Elliott was born in Clay township, near Clifty creek in 1850, the son of John P. and Margaret (Heron) Elliott. The latter was born at Woodburn, Ohio, the daughter of Samuel Heron, a native of Ohio, who moved to Iowa, when Margaret was a small child and settled on the Des Moines river. He was the first white settler in that section of the Hawkeye

state and one of the first in Iowa, the Indians at that time holding practically undisputed possession of the country. Samuel Heron became the first mail carrier of the state; in fact, he laid out the first established mail route in Iowa. His first home was within speaking distance of an Indian village. His wife, Nancy Heron, the grandmother of Theodore Elliott, herded cattle on the prairies amid the dangerous attacks by the Indians. For the most part, however, the Indians were peaceful at that time. Samuel Heron and his wife spent their last days in the state of Iowa. There were several children born to them, of whom Margaret, the mother of Mr. Elliott, was the second. It was while on a visit to Iowa that John P. Elliott was married to Margaret Heron.

After their marriage, John P. Elliott and his wife returned to Decatur county and settled in Clay township, where the former engaged in the saw-mill business on Clifty creek. He combined farming and the milling business until the outbreak of the Civil War, at which time he enlisted at the first call of President Lincoln for volunteers. He became a member of the Seventh Indiana Regiment Volunteer Infantry and, as color bearer of the regiment, served two years, being discharged for disability. At the time he was somewhat past the prime of life. He was a brave and capable soldier and intensely patriotic. He came from a family of soldiers, his grandfather, McClure Elliott, having been a soldier in the War of 1812. John P. Elliott served in some of the bloodiest and fiercest battles of the Civil War, among which was the battle of Antietam and the Wilderness campaign. He was a stanch Republican and true to the principles of the great Lincoln. After the war, he came back to Decatur county and died here about 1900, the last years of his life being spent in Greensburg. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. A successful farmer and business man, he owned at the time of his death, eight or nine hundred acres of fine land.

Of his five children, Harry, Mary, Martha, Theodore and James, all are living save the last named. Harry lives at Westport, Mary at Greensburg, Martha at Greensburg and Theodore is the subject of this sketch.

After living at home on the farm with his parents until he had reached his majority, Theodore Elliott was married to Ida Barger, daughter of William and Mary Ellen (Lowry) Barger, the latter of whom is a descendant of Captain Lowry, one of the oldest and most prominent of Decatur county settlers, having come here from Kentucky. To this union one child was born, Glenn, who lives on the old farm near Burney. Mrs. Ida Elliott died on December 4, 1886. Fifteen years later Mr. Elliott married, secondly, Sarah Steelman, daughter of James S. and Anna (Peggs) Steelman, prominent resi-

dents of Clay township, this county, both now dead, the former of whom was born in Union county, Indiana, and the latter in Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott are members of the Methodist church at Burney, active in all neighborhood good works, and are held in the highest esteem throughout the community in which they live.

Mr. Elliott, who now is living retired from the active work of the farm, is a progressive citizen, liberal and broad-minded in his views. He is a Republican and intensely loyal to the party of his father and the party of Abraham Lincoln. Having enjoyed during his youth more than the ordinary advantages for obtaining an education, having attended Hartsville College, he is well informed and up-to-date, one of the most substantial citizens in that section of Decatur county.

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### JAMES L. POWNER.

The career of the late James L. Powner was one marked by earnest and indefatigable application; not only to his vocation as a farmer, but to the general affairs of life. He was a soldier in the Civil War, where his fidelity was of the highest type and the kind which won for him the confidence and esteem of his superior officers and which later, in the peaceful pursuits of life, won for him the unbounded respect of the public generally. His death on October 23, 1888, was mourned throughout this county, for he was a good man, true to all the relations of life.

Born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1837, the late James L. Powner came to Decatur county when a young man and here he lived until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Colonel Welsh. He served two years in this regiment and was then discharged on account of disability. After recuperating at home for six months, he re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served until the end of the war, being mustered out as a sergeant, with a record of brave and efficient soldier. James L. Powner had an intense love for his country and his flag and fought in some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, among which were the battles of the Wilderness and Antietam. Intensely interested in the politics of his country, Mr. Powner later was always on the firing line of the Republican party, to which he was attached throughout his life.

On September 12, 1865, James L. Powner was married to Abigail

Gibson, a daughter of Stewart and Mary (Bell) Gibson, natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Powner, who was born in 1845, in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, fifty miles from Philadelphia, now lives on a beautiful farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres in this county, three miles southeast of Burney, on the Liberty church road, and two miles west of Liberty church.

Mrs. Powner's father, Steward Gibson, was the son of James David Gibson, a native of Ireland, who came to America some time during the American Revolution and settled in Pennsylvania, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a prosperous farmer and at his death left his children a comfortable fortune. Of the five children born to James David Gibson and wife, Steward Gibson, the father of Mrs. Powner, was the eldest. He was married in Pennsylvania to Mary Bell, who was the daughter of Jeremiah Bell, a colonel in the Revolutionary army. The Bells were of English descent and an intensely patriotic family. Col. Jeremiah Bell was a man of more than average ability. Until his buildings were burned by the British and his property confiscated by the king's army, he was the richest man in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. On the vast estate in Pennsylvania still stands the old colonial mansion, in good repair, kept just as it was during the War for Independence. Col. Jeremiah Bell served throughout the war and after its close, returned to his home and family, spending the rest of his life in Lancaster county. He married a Miss McCullough, a member of one of the old and prominent families of Pennsylvania, to which union there were born but two children, of whom Mary, the mother of Mrs. Powner was the younger. Steward Gibson and Mary Bell were married about 1835 and lived in Pennsylvania until about 1850, when they came to Decatur county, Indiana. Their five children were born in Pennsylvania, and when Mrs. Powner was five years old the family came to this county. Upon their arrival in Decatur county they settled in Clay township, where their descendants now form a numerous connection. For his time, Steward Gibson was fairly prosperous and was a farmer and stock buyer, widely and favorably known throughout this county. In later life he moved to Oregon and lived with his eldest daughter, his death occurring in that state in 1900.

The five children born to Steward and Mary (Bell) Gibson are as follow: Mrs. Jane Courtney, of Spokane, Washington; James David, of California; John Stewart, deceased, who lived in Kansas; Abigail, the widow of Mr. Powner, of this county, and Reuben, of Iowa.

To James L. and Abigail (Gibson) Powner was born but one son, Elmer Margin, born on August 28, 1866, a bachelor, who lives with his mother on the home farm. Elmer M. Powner is a Republican, as was his

father before him, and is a substantial citizen. Although a broad-minded and progressive citizen like his father, he is a man of quiet and unassuming manners, a great student of the literature of the day and a progressive and keen thinker. Mrs. Powner is a woman of far more than average ability. When she was left a widow, the farm which she now owns was heavily mortgaged and she was without experience in the world of business. Most seriously handicapped for the want of experience, she grappled bravely with the problems of life as they confronted her and by virtue of her keen intelligence, she mastered these problems. She is today known as one of the substantial business women of Decatur county. Aside from her business ability, she is a woman of striking personality, loved and respected by a legion of friends in Clay township. Mrs. Powner is now contemplating a trip to Pennsylvania to visit the old colonial homestead of her grandfather, Col. Jeremiah Bell, of Revolutionary fame.

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#### COL. BENJAMIN COREY SHAW.

A generation ago the late Col. Benjamin Corey Shaw was one of Indiana's most distinguished and best-known citizens. Descended from an old English family and the son of the first white child born in the fort at Cincinnati, Ohio; a colonel in the Civil War and treasurer of state in Indiana, Colonel Shaw had indeed a distinguished record and one of which his descendants now living in Decatur county well may be proud. He was a man of wonderful ability, both native and acquired, a natural leader of men.

Benjamin Corey Shaw was born near Oxford, Ohio, February 3, 1830, the son of James and Sarah (Stearns) Shaw, the former of whom was a native of England, who came to America when a mere lad. The latter was born in the old fort which stood on the site of the present city of Cincinnati, at that time no more than a trading post on the outpost of civilization. Sarah Stearns was probably the first white child born in Cincinnati, her mother having taken refuge in the fort after her husband had been murdered by the Indians. After his marriage, James Shaw settled on a farm near Oxford, Ohio, and there he reared his family of eight children, of whom Benjamin Corey was probably the fifth. The father died when this son was about fifteen or sixteen years old and the widowed mother, after bringing the family to Decatur county, married Isaac Wolverton, a prominent resident of this county.

When about eighteen years old Benjamin C. Shaw left his mother's home

and went to Greensburg, where he learned the carriage builder's trade, in which he was engaged until the breaking out of the Civil War. At the first call for troops he joined the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was presently sent back home with a commission to organize another regiment. In obedience to this commission he organized the Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, of which he was colonel commanding until the battle of Winchester, in which engagement he was so severely wounded that it was necessary to send him home on account of disabilities. He later returned to the front, but his injuries had been too severe to permit further service, and he presently resigned his command.

After the war Colonel Shaw returned to Greensburg and resumed work at his trade, but remained in business there only a short time, in 1866 removing to Indianapolis, where he engaged in carriage and wagon building and created an extensive industry there. Eventually, he drifted into politics and in 1876 was elected treasurer of the state of Indiana, being re-elected in 1878. He was always in the thick of the political fight and for years was one of the foremost counselors of the Democratic party in Indiana, for several terms serving as a member of the Democratic state central committee. He was a member of the Masonic order and a Knight Templar and also was adjutant-general of the Loyal Legion and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

About 1882 Col. Benjamin C. Shaw moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he was engaged as superintendent for the Milburn wagon works. Later he took a position at Racine, Wisconsin, as manager of the plant at that place and became finally superintendent of the great Studebaker plant at South Bend. Upon leaving South Bend he returned to Indianapolis and shortly afterward was appointed chief of the registry department of the postoffice there, a position he held for eight years, or until his death, which occurred on April 10, 1901, at his home in Indianapolis.

On March 24, 1850, Benjamin Corey Shaw was married to Elizabeth A. Coy, the daughter of William and Sarah (Robinson) Coy, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, who came to this section of Indiana very early in the settlement of the same and made a home in the wilderness, clearing the dense timber for that purpose. To this union were born eleven children, of which remarkable family only two, Miss Fannie and Mrs. Edna Shaw Byers, the wife of George W. Byers, are now living. The deceased children were Sarah Jane, Henry Clay, Mrs. Molly Shaw (Weller) Shaffer, of Indianapolis, Martha, Emma, Oliver Perry Morton, Ida, Etta and Eddie.

Miss Fannie Shaw, one of the living children born to Colonel Shaw and



wife, was born in Greensburg in 1861, and when only four years old was taken by her parents to Indianapolis, to which place they removed at that time. She was educated in St. John's Academy and after her graduation returned home and remained with and cared for her father and mother as long as they lived. She is now living with her sister, Mrs. George Byers, to whom she has always been closely attached by the keenest ties of sisterly affection. Mrs. Byers was born on October 17, 1873.

This remarkable family has brought honor and distinction to Decatur county and to the state of Indiana; in fact, honors which the two living descendants appreciate highly. Colonel Shaw was more than a distinguished citizen; he was a kind and loving father and his memory is cherished with the utmost devotion by his daughters.

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### JAMES M. BYERS.

James M. Byers, a prosperous farmer living two miles east of Burney, in Clay township, in this county, who owns two hundred and forty-five acres of gently undulating land, is one of the most useful citizens living in Decatur county. Highly spoken of by his neighbors, he has a host of friends in the county and is still active in farm work at the age of seventy years.

James M. Byers was born in Rush county, this state, in 1845, the son of James R. and Sarah (Carr) Byers, both natives of Kentucky, who came to Indiana about 1840, settling on a farm in Rush county, where they became prosperous citizens and well respected in the community. In 1857 they moved to Decatur county, locating on the farm now owned by their son, J. M. Byers, the subject of this sketch. James R. Byers was the son of John Byers, of Scotch-Irish descent, who came with a number of sturdy families to America and became an influential pioneer citizen of Kentucky. James R. Byers accumulated a great deal of valuable land in this county. His wife, Sarah Carr, who was born in Kentucky in 1817, was the daughter of George Carr, also an early settler in this county.

James M. Byers lived at home with his parents as long as they lived and has never married. At their death, he succeeded to the home farm, which he has operated ever since. Though an ardent Republican, he has never tried for political office, but has always been active in the campaigns of his party, and his influence is always counted on the right side of every public question. Friends are lavish in their praise of his character, his industry and his wise



and prudent management. He has a fertile farm and is comfortable and happy, enjoying the confidence and esteem of many friends. Any community or any county may well be proud of such a man as J. M. Byers.

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### WILLIAM A. LAWSON.

The late William A. Lawson, at the time of his death, in 1904, was a prosperous farmer living five miles west of Greensburg and owned at the time of his death three hundred acres of land. During practically all of his life, he was a resident of what is known in this section as the Lawson neighborhood, and was one of the most highly respected citizens of the community.

William A. Lawson was born in Virginia in the year 1837, the son of James and Jane (Jones) Lawson, natives of that state, who came to Decatur county over a half century ago, and settled on what is now known as the Harrison Davis farm. They were prosperous citizens in their day and generation and accumulated considerable property. There on that farm William A. Lawson grew to manhood and received the rudiments of an education.

In 1857, at the age of twenty years, William A. Lawson was married to Permelia Braden, the daughter of Jackson P. and Nancy (LeMasters) Braden, the former a native of Kentucky, of Irish descent, who came to Decatur county about 1823, settling in Clay township, where he rented land, now owned by his descendants. At the time of his death, in 1857, Jackson Braden was the owner of fourteen hundred and eighty acres of land in Clay township. He was a prominent Democrat in his day and generation and a member of the Methodist church, assisting materially in the work of erecting the church at Milford. Mrs. Lawson, who was born on the old Braden homestead in 1839, is a splendid type of the hearty womanhood of pioneer times in Indiana.

To Jackson P. and Nancy (LeMasters) Braden were born the following children: Euphemia, now deceased, who married Anderson Miers; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Evan Miers; Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Dr. J. L. Wooden, also deceased; Rebecca, deceased, who was the wife of John L. Miers; William, deceased; Marietta, the wife of Judge Roberts, of Colorado; Seth, deceased; James L., deceased; Sarah E., now deceased, who married James Davis; Permelia, the widow of Mr. Lawson; Mahala, who married Samuel H. Ewing; Seth, deceased, and a daughter who died in infancy.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson settled on a farm near the

old Lawson homestead, near where Mrs. Lawson's father also had entered land, and in a region known as the Braden neighborhood, and there they made their home. To their union eleven children were born, namely: Seth, a farmer, who lives in Swinton, Missouri; Mrs. Jennie L. Gallentin, of Elreno, Oklahoma; Cora, who died in infancy; Mrs. Sarah Henderson, who died on February 11, 1895; Josephine, who lives with her mother; Mary, who married Carl Johnson of Clay township; Samuel, a farmer of Clay township, this county; Herschel, a farmer, of Swinton, Missouri; Cloe, who married Clarence Johnson, of Clay township, Decatur county, and two others who died in infancy.

The late William A. Lawson was a prominent man during his day and generation. He and his wife did much to help lift the standard of citizenship in this county and to make this section the prosperous and successful agricultural community that it is today. William A. Lawson was a Democrat, a staunch believer in the principles of his party and an ardent worker in behalf of the party's success. Mrs. Lawson is a member of the Christian church at Milford, as was her late husband, and is a good Christian woman, a decided influence for good in the community where she has lived so long, and enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know her.

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### ALLEN JEWELL.

Among the prosperous farmers living near Burney, in Decatur county, the venerable Allen Jewell, a veteran of the Civil War, is one of the most eminently respected of men, a substantial citizen who owns one hundred and sixty acres of fertile land in that community.

Allen Jewell was born in this county on February 25, 1844, the son of Horace and Elizabeth (Buchanan) Jewell, the former of whom was born in Kentucky in 1808, a son of Allen Jewell, a native of Kentucky, and one of the pioneers in that state. In 1832 Horace Jewell came to Indiana from Kentucky, locating in this county, and here spent the rest of his life. He was a strong factor in the early development of this county, having been a leader in many of the movements which resulted in extensive public improvements. Throughout his life he was identified with the Whig party and was a member of the United Brethren church. He was an honest and well-respected citizen and an ancestor of whom his descendants may be justly proud. He died in 1873. Elizabeth Buchanan, to whom he was married in 1838, bore him eight

children, as follow: Eliza Jane, who married Thomas Townsend; Luduska, who married William Pumphry, of Decatur county; Melconia, who married James Lawson; Allen, the subject of this sketch; James C., who lives in Bartholomew county; Elijah J., who lives in Arkansas; Mary Emily, who married Cyrus Pumphrey, of Bartholomew county, and Noah, deceased.

Allen Jewell was a lad of seventeen years when the Civil War broke out and he joined the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Colonel Welsh. On the first day of the battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, he was taken prisoner and was confined in the Confederate prison pen at Andersonville for ten months. Upon being exchanged he was discharged on March 25, 1865. The war terminating shortly thereafter, he returned to Decatur county. During his services as a Union soldier he participated in the battles of Winchester, Virginia, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Antietam, Gettysburg, Greensborough and South Mountain, his active service terminating at the battle of the Wilderness, where he was captured.

In 1867 Allen Jewell was united in marriage to Fannie Pumphrey, daughter of Eli and Elizabeth (Knight) Pumphrey, prominent residents of this county, and to this union one son was born, J. E. Jewell, born in 1869, a bachelor, who has always remained on the home farm with his father, the two being in partnership in operating the farm. Mrs. Jewell died in 1898.

Mr. Jewell and his son, J. E., are both ardent Republicans, always having been stanch and true to the party of Lincoln, and Allen Jewell is a member of the Baptist church. J. E. Jewell is a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. While intensely patriotic and loyal in his political affiliations and beliefs, Allen Jewell has never sought office. He and his son have a comfortable, happy home, when old-fashioned hospitality may be found in abundance. Their present fine home, one mile east of the pleasant village of Burney, was erected in 1898, the commodious barn, forty by forty-four feet, having been built in the same year, the other improvements on the farm being in keeping with the substantial character of the two central buildings. The house is a comfortable and convenient nine-room dwelling, of modern construction, with hot-water heating plant, one of the pleasantest homes thereabout. Allen Jewell started without a dollar, but he and his wife, by good management and industry, accumulated the snug fortune of which they were possessed at the time of Mrs. Jewell's death, and which Mr. Jewell still prudently conserves, a fortune honorably won, the fruit of honest toil. Allen Jewell is one of the best citizens of Decatur county; broad-minded, liberal and a clear thinker. Patriotic in his devotion to his country and a Christian man in every respect, he is held in the highest regard throughout the whole county

## JOHN T. MYERS.

One of the well-recognized functions of a publication such as this is to recognize those citizens who represent most ably the various vocations and the various spheres of human endeavor. In this connection the life and works of John T. Myers, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county, should be mentioned, he being the owner of a productive farm of fifty-six and three-quarters acres, a part of the old Richard Wright homestead.

John T. Wright was born on the Myers homestead, in Clay township, this county, in 1851, the son of William H. and Elizabeth (Annis) Myers, the former of whom was born in Kentucky, a son of George Myers, also a native of that state, who came to Decatur county in pioneer times. Frank Myers, the father of George Myers, was a soldier in the Revolutionary army, who moved to Kentucky at an early day in the settlement of that state.

William H. Myers, who died in 1906, was a successful farmer and owned about three hundred acres of land in this county. He was a Democrat in politics, a member of the Liberty Baptist church, and was highly respected in his community. Of the nine children born to William H. and Elizabeth Myers, four, William M., Mrs. Alice Sanders, Mrs. Elsie Sharp and Monroe M., are deceased. The living children are James A., George M., John T., Mrs. Ida May Johnson, of Indianapolis and Merritt Elwood, of Oklahoma.

Reared on a farm in this county, John T. Myers was married in 1875 to Minnie Wright, daughter of Richard and Luvicia (Stark) Wright, the former of whom was a native of Rockbridge county, Virginia, who came to this county in pioneer times. He settled in Clay township on a farm that his father had entered from the government, the same being the one now owned by John T. Myers. A successful farmer, he spent the rest of his days in Clay township and his word was known to be as good as his bond. He was a member of the Democratic party and was elected trustee of Clay township. Religiously, he was identified with the Baptist church, having been one of the founders of the church at Liberty; in fact, having given the ground upon which the church was built, and was also one of the trustees of that church and a deacon. His wife was a daughter of Caleb S. and Anne (Boone) Stark, the latter of whom was one of the characteristic women of her generation, of a strong and fearless character, a cousin of Col. Daniel Boone, of Kentucky. Luvicia Wright was a woman widely known for her charitable disposition, who was always ready to lend a helping hand to the needy. She also was a member of the pioneer Baptist church.

Of the children born to Richard and Luvicia (Stark) Wright, four are

deceased. The living children are Sarah L., who married Theodore McGee, of Iowa; Caleb S., of Decatur county; R. T. W., of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Minnie A., who married Mr. Myers, and Loda W., of Westport. The deceased children were Frances Catherine, Charles W., William W. and Ruth A.

Following his marriage Mr. Myers settled on a farm near Horace and has succeeded very well as a farmer; but, better than his success in business, is the honor and respect which he enjoys in the community in which he lives. Although a stanch Democrat, politically, he has always been an independent thinker and to some extent votes independently.

To John T. and Minnie (Wright) Myers have been born four children, one of whom, Lula M., died in infancy. The living children are Charles, born in 1876, who lives in Connersville, Indiana; Frank, 1878, who lives in Clay township, this county, and Forrest M., 1889, who lives at home with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers are members of the Liberty Baptist church and their children have been reared in that faith, the family being eminently respected in that community.

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### JOHN HUNTER.

The respect which should be accorded to the brave sons of the North, who left their homes and the peaceful pursuits of civil life to give their services and their lives, if need be, to preserve the integrity of the Union, is due the memory of the late John Hunter, of Clay township, this county, who at the time of his death, owned a farm of one hundred and twenty-two acres of excellent land on the Greensburg pike.

The late John Hunter was born on May 2, 1842, the son of Lewis and Maria (Martin) Hunter, natives of Indiana. When a young man he came to this county and became a successful farmer.

During the early period of the Civil War, when the Thirty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry was being recruited, John Hunter joined Company H, of that regiment, and served altogether three years and forty days. He was a brave and efficient soldier and returned home with honors for his valiant service. In the severe engagement at Dug Gap, Georgia, he was wounded and was laid up three months.

At the close of the war, Mr. Hunter came back to Decatur county and

was married on August 16, 1866, to Mahala Davis, a daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth (Miers) Davis, natives of Decatur county and members of old and prominent families. To this union were born eight children, namely: Mrs. Annie Hunter, deceased; Lewis M., of Montana; George W., deceased; Mathias D., who lives on a farm five miles east of Greensburg, in this county; John F., of Colorado; William R., deceased; Albert E. E., of Clay township, this county, and Everett R., also of Clay township, this county. On July 27, 1908, Everett R. Hunter was united in marriage to Minnie Ramer, of Shelby county, this state, daughter of Joseph and Etna (Risk) Ramer, the former a native of Ripley county, Indiana, and the latter a native of Decatur county, who are now living on a farm in Clay township, this county, and to this union has been born one child, a son, John L. B., born on September 8, 1909.

Mrs. Mahala Hunter died on December 8, 1891, and on May 2, 1893, Mr. Hunter married, secondly, Kittie Miers, a daughter of T. J. and Oliva (King) Miers, the latter of whom was the daughter of John G. and Sarah (Ewing) King, well known in this county. John G. King was a prosperous farmer and, at one time in his life owned several hundred acres of land. His family were early settlers in Decatur county and became permanently established in the agricultural life of this section and in the affections of the people. To this second marriage there were born four children, as follow: Mary J., born on March 28, 1894; Joseph Dewey, May 25, 1898; Roberta E., November 8, 1899, and Edith Irene, July 12, 1901. The Hunter family is considered one of the well-to-do and prominent families in this county. The Hunter farm is one of the richest in Decatur county and is composed mostly of level black soil of great fertility.

Mrs. Hunter was educated in the common schools of Decatur county and in the teachers' training school at St. Paul, Indiana, which was in charge of L. D. Braden at that period. After finishing her education, Mrs. Hunter taught school for one year before she was married. She is a woman of most genial presence, kind and loving, broad-minded and liberal in her views; a typical woman of this century.

The late John Hunter was always a Republican, taking a great interest in the welfare of his party, yet he was somewhat independent in his voting, more of a patriot than a partisan. He was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Greensburg. He passed away on September 25, 1910, at the age of sixty-eight years, full of honors in the community where his life had been spent. John Hunter was a progressive citizen in the broader sense of the word and his loss was keenly felt and widely mourned by the people of the township in which his influence had so long been exerted for good.



## JOHN A. MIRES.

It is interesting to note the growth and development of the county from the beginning, to follow its lines of progress and especially the vocational bent of its citizens in the work of advancing the material interest of the community. John A. Mires, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county, and the proprietor of a beautiful and fertile farm of one hundred and twenty acres on the Columbus & Greensburg pike, six miles from Greensburg, is one of the strong and sturdy citizens of Decatur county, who has especially helped to promote the agricultural development of the county; who is an up-to-date farmer and business man, a public-spirited citizen and progressive in all of the relations of life.

John A. Mires was born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1867, the son of Thomas J. and Sarilda (King) Mires, both natives of Decatur county, the former of whom was the son of Anderson and Euphemia (Braden) Mires, Euphemia Braden having been one of the daughters of Jackson Braden, a prominent pioneer of this county. Thomas J. Mires early in life purchased the Abe Ewing farm near the Ewington postoffice on the Columbus & Greensburg pike, and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring when he was about fifty-eight years of age. He was a successful farmer and had a host of friends. About 1865 Thomas J. Mires was married to Sarilda King, and to this union six children were born of whom John A., the subject of this sketch, was the eldest.

After living at home until he had reached his majority John A. Mires was married, in 1888, to Fannie Pavy, daughter of Ralph P. and Nancy (Davis) Pavy, the former of whom was the son of John and Mary (Stewart) Pavy. John Pavy was born near Vevay, in Switzerland county, this state, and was a brother of Jefferson Pavy, the father of the Pavy sisters, further reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Born in Vevay, Indiana, on July 25, 1824, Ralph P. Pavy came to Decatur county in 1837 and settled in Clay township on the farm where he spent the rest of his life, his father also dying there. Ralph P. Pavy was a man of literary talent, though handicapped by meager educational advantages. He had a powerful mind, the influence of which was felt in Decatur and surrounding counties. A teacher by profession, he taught his first school in Clay township in 1844, when twenty-five years old, and was intimately acquainted with Edward Eggleston. He was deeply interested in civic affairs and served as county assessor of Decatur county. His father, John Pavy, was a skillful carpenter,



who built the house which is still standing on the farm owned by John A. Mires, the farm still being known as the old Pavy farm. This house was built in 1839 and is one of the oldest houses standing in Decatur county. John Pavy also was a Baptist preacher and was said to have been the most highly educated minister of his day in this section. Though farming was his occupation, he preached on Sundays at Greensburg; a pure labor of love, for he received no pay for his services.

In 1846 Ralph P. Pavy was married to Nancy Davis, who was born in Kentucky in 1827 and who died in March, 1915, at the age of eighty-eight years. She was a daughter of James and Martha (Smothers) Davis. James Davis was a prominent farmer of Frankfort county, Kentucky, a member of the Baptist church and a man of strong religious convictions, who went to Jennings county, Indiana, and settled on a farm where he spent the rest of his life, rearing a family of eleven children, of whom all are now dead save Mrs. Elizabeth Brett, widow of Thomas Brett, of Bartsville, Bartholomew county, this state. To Ralph P. and Nancy (Davis) Pavy were born the following children: Jane, who married John Burney; W. S., who married Eliza McCintic; Lucy, who married John Umpshire; Mary, who married Commodore James, and Fannie, who married John A. Mires.

Always interested in politics, the late Ralph P. Pavy cast his first vote for General Scott, the Whig candidate for President, in 1848. In 1856 he became a Republican and was a patriotic supporter of the Union army during the Civil War. He was a member of the Christian church at Milford and when he died his funeral was the largest ever witnessed in Decatur county up to that time.

Mrs. John A. Mires was born on November 11, 1866, in Clay township and was educated in the common schools of that township and at Hartsville College, where she studied music. After her graduation, she taught music in Decatur county for five years or until her marriage in 1889 to Mr. Mires. Mr. and Mrs. Mires have had one son, Ralph, who was born on September 15, 1892. He married Alpha Hancock and the young couple live with Mr. and Mrs. Mires. After their marriage, John A. Mires and wife started life on the old Pavy farm, which they still own and where they still live. From 1903 until her death, Mrs. Mires's mother lived with them.

At the close of Cleveland's last administration, Mr. Mires purchased his farm, going in debt for the entire tract, and it is now clear of all encumbrances. John A. Mires is a man of pleasing manners and well respected by all who know him. He is a progressive farmer and has a fertile and highly-productive farm, which he is operating with much success, specializing in the

raising of hogs and mules. He is a Republican, but more a patriot than a partisan. A man of strong convictions, his party must be right to win his support. Mr. and Mrs. Mires are members of the Christian church at Milford and are held in the highest esteem throughout that section of the county in which their influence has been for years so strongly exerted in behalf of all goods things.

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### JONATHAN L. ALLEY.

Jonathan L. Alley, a farmer living four and one-half miles southeast of Burney, in Clay township, this county, was born in 1865, the son of Samuel B. and Nancy (Selby) Alley, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, this state, on January 6, 1819, the son of Cyrus and Charity (Nelson) Alley, the latter of whom was the daughter of Daniel Nelson, whose brother, Thomas Nelson, Jr., was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Cyrus Alley was born in Virginia in 1792, the son of Samuel Alley, whose wife, a Hollander, was one of a shipload of Dutch girls sent over from Holland, whose passage was paid for by their prospective husbands, one hundred pounds of tobacco being the fare for such passenger. Samuel Alley was a native of England, a member of an aristocratic family and one of the early settlers of Virginia. Cyrus Alley migrated with his family from Virginia to the spot where Cincinnati, Ohio, is now situated and after remaining there for a short time pushed on to Franklin county, this state. Later he came to Decatur county, bringing with him his family, and his father, Samuel, who received the first deed in Clay township. Cyrus Alley arrived in Decatur county about 1828 and entered land in Clay township, where his descendants live to this day. He was a prosperous farmer and a broad-minded man and reared a large family of children, of whom Samuel B. was one of the youngest.

When Samuel B. Alley was about twenty-two years old he was married to Nancy Selby, who was the daughter of Joshua and Lydia (Townsend) Selby, the latter of whom was born in 1824 in Harrison county, Kentucky. Joshua Selby was a native of England, who came to America when a young man, settled in Virginia and later migrated to Kentucky, where he married and reared his family. He was a minister in the New Light church and a large slave-holder, who, after going over to the Christian church, became convinced that slavery was not consistent with religion, and one Sunday morn-

ing after holding a meeting of prayer, freed his slaves. This action was so strongly condemned by the people of his community that he left Kentucky and came with his family to Decatur county, where he became a strong factor in the life of the newer community. He and his wife reared a large family, Nancy, the mother of J. L. Alley, being one of the youngest of these children. She was married to Samuel B. Alley in Decatur county. They settled on a farm in Clay township and became prosperous. Samuel B. Alley was a member of the Christian church and a man of resolute and fearless character as well as of generous disposition and was widely known in this county, his home being famous for its hospitality, a popular stopping place for stock buyers and travelers. He died in September, 1892, his wife having preceded him to the grave about eight years before, her death having occurred in February, 1884.

To Samuel B. and Nancy (Selby) Alley were born seven children, as follow: Mary E., who married Newton Hanks, now deceased; Mrs. Charity Henderson, who lives in Oklahoma; Hiram O., of Oklahoma City; Joshua S., of Shelby county, Indiana; Mrs. Elizabeth Wasson, of Burney, this county; Mrs. Ida M. Howard, wife of James Howard, who lives on a part of the old Samuel B. Alley homestead, and Jonathan L., the subject of this sketch.

Born on the old Alley homestead on September 27, 1865, Jonathan L. Alley grew to manhood on the Clay township farm and was educated in the common schools of that neighborhood. When he was twenty-two years old he was married to Lucy Ewing, a daughter of Joshua Ewing, one of the triplets born to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ewing, pioneers of this section, whose family history is to be found elsewhere in this volume, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Samuel B., Jr., who died on July 12, 1889; Alice E., who died on February 6, 1893; Hester Allie, wife of Dr. E. A. Porter, of Burney, and Gail S., at home.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Alley settled on a farm near the Noroo school and accumulated considerable property. But a chain of unfortunate circumstances befell them and with fires, droughts and the panic of 1893 they suffered considerable financial loss. In connection with his general farming, Mr. Alley engages extensively in stock raising, in which he has had much success, making a specialty of Duroc-Jersey hogs, also maintaining quite a herd of dairy cattle.

Like his ancestors, J. L. Alley is a Democrat in politics. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias, and was master of the Milford lodge for three years. His father

also a Mason. While Mr. Alley does not own land, he is what might be called a large farmer, and is one of those men who may be depended upon to regain his fortune. He is well known and well liked in the community in which he resides and is held in high esteem.

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### LAWRENCE O. BLACKMORE.

The late Lawrence O. Blackmore, scion of an old American family, was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, in 1818, the son of Owen W. and Eliza (Fulton) Blackmore, and the eldest of a family of six children. In 1835 Owen Blackmore and his family came to Decatur county and settled on a farm in Washington township, now owned by W. E. Jackson, where they lived for several years, later moving to another farm which they purchased. A man of strong and generous characteristics, Owen Blackmore was highly respected. He was a Republican and a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He died in 1885.

Lawrence O. Blackmore was born in Kentucky in 1818, and in 1840 was married to Elizabeth Finley, who died in 1842. In 1844 he married, secondly, Nancy Jane Houston, to which union was born one son, James Blackmore. Mr. Blackmore's second wife died in 1846, and in 1848 he married Frances W. Wallace, a daughter of John and Jane (Quigley) Wallace, the former of whom was a native of Maryland, the scion of an old and wealthy family of that state, who came to this county with his family from Rockridge county, Virginia, in 1837. To this third marriage seven children were born, namely: Mrs. Eliza Jane Smiley, the widow of George W. Smiley; Lawrence O., of Clay township, this county; Sarah H.; Samuel Edgar, of Shelby county; Elisha W., deceased; Lenora Anne, who died in infancy, and Mrs. Frances Olive Crawford, the wife of Doctor Crawford, of Milford. Of these children Miss Sarah H. Blackmore owns ninety-six acres of gently undulating farm land and lives in the old ancestral home of the Blackmores, called "The Pines." She was born on August 20, 1852.

Lawrence O. Blackmore was one of the substantial citizens of Decatur county and was highly respected. One of his strong characteristics was his generosity. He reared a large family, but was always helping others who were less fortunate than himself. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Methodist church. He was a man of strong convictions and of great culture and wide information, possessing a great love for his family.

He died on September 18, 1893, and his passing was widely and sincerely mourned. He was a man who always saw the higher side of life and his daughter, Sarah Blackmore, accounts for his sturdy traits of character as having been inherited from his father's family, and for his refinement and culture as having been inherited from his mother's family.

Of Owen W. Blackmore, it may be said that he was born in Maryland or Virginia in 1793. His father's Christian name is not known, but his mother's maiden name was Mary Wilson. She was a daughter of John Wilson, a native of Maryland, of English origin, members of a wealthy and distinguished family that owned a great deal of land where Washington, D. C., now stands. John Wilson was a Federalist in politics and a man of large mold, both mentally and physically. He was one of the patriots of his time, strong in his convictions and a natural leader of men. He owned a palatial home and a vast estate in Maryland. It is said that he owned so many slaves that he did not knock all of them. He was the father of a large family, of whom Mary Wilson, the grandmother of Miss Blackmore was one.

About 1816 Owen W. Blackmore was married in Kentucky to Eliza Fulton, daughter of David and Nancy (Rankin) Fulton, who was born in 1798 and died in 1847, at the age of forty-eight. Her father, David Fulton, was born in 1771. The Fultons were an old and aristocratic southern family, distinguished in many lines of endeavor in which they engaged. Nancy (Rankin) Fulton, the great-grandfather of Miss Sarah Blackmore, was born in 1776, the year made historic by the declaration of American Independence. Her grave and that of her husband are enclosed by a stone wall in a field on the old Fulton farm in Shelby county, Kentucky, the only graves on the farm, the substantial old wall being a monument to the noble character of the deceased as well as a mark of the love of their descendants, who have too much reverence for the graves of their venerated ancestors to erect a more pretentious monument.

When Owen W. Blackmore was a mere lad his father died and his mother married a second time, which act so enraged her father and her brothers-in-law, that they kidnapped the lad and took him to Kentucky, where he grew to manhood.

On the old Blackmore farm in Clay township, Decatur county, now owned by Miss Sarah Blackmore, is a spot made historic by the "Hoosier School Master." Before the robbery recounted in that story, the robbers met at a place on Miss Blackmore's farm and she has seen the poplar fence rail which the robbers whittled while they were waiting. Miss Blackmore's

mother relates an interesting incident of Revolutionary days, a tradition handed down by her father. During the Revolution, John Wallace, then a little boy, was sent by his mother to town to buy a teakettle and to pay for this kettle he was given five hundred dollars in Continental money. John Wallace, the grandfather of Miss Blackmore, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and Owen W. Blackmore, her grandfather, was also a soldier in this war.

The Blackmores, the Fultons and the Wallaces, ancestors of Miss Sarah Blackmore, have been prominent in the life of this country and have added distinction and honor to Decatur county, in which many of the members of this family and of their descendants have figured so conspicuously.

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### ESTILL A. GIBSON.

Very few young men living in Clay township, this county, are so well known as Estill A. Gibson, for many years a capable and successful teacher of Decatur county, who is now engaged in the mercantile business at Horace.

Estill A. Gibson was born in Grant county, Kentucky, on September 16, 1885, the son of William and Mary (Dunn) Gibson, natives of Grant county, Kentucky, the former of whom was born there about 1857, and who came to Decatur county in 1905, purchasing a farm near Burney, where he now lives in a pleasant, modern home. William Gibson is the son of William Gibson, Sr., a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, who in his early life removed to Kentucky and became an intimate companion of Davy Crockett, with whom he experienced many thrilling adventures in different parts of the country. William Gibson, Sr., accompanied Davy Crockett on his famous western trip and made many exploring expeditions with him. He was a Democrat in politics and a man of great natural ability, being especially well informed on Biblical literature and kindred topics. Although a great reader he had had few educational advantages. Born in 1810, he died in 1896, leaving five children, of whom William Gibson is the eldest. The latter was born in Kenton county, Kentucky, in 1857 and, like his father, endured the hardships of pioneer life. He had not the advantages of a liberal education, but was a natural lover of reading and educated himself largely by home study, possessing today a wide knowledge of historical literature, having read a great deal of "Ridpath's History of the World." As was his father, William Gibson is a Democrat and has always been interested in politics. He is a mem-



ber of the Baptist church, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and active both in the church and the lodge. In 1884 he was married to Mary Dunn, who was born in 1859, the daughter of James Harry and Caroline (Barker) Dunn, natives of Kentucky, members of old and well-established families in Harrison county, that state, the Barkers being a very prosperous family, in whose veins flowed a strong strain of the blue blood for which the state of Kentucky is famous, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Estill H., the subject of this sketch; Ernest, who lives in Minnesota; Caroline, the wife of Clyde Layton, of Decatur county; Cora, who died in 1897, and Floyd, who is at home.

Beginning life for himself at a very early age, Estill A. Gibson has attained a practical and broad education by dint of hard work and in the face of many discouragements. He received the rudiments of an education in the common schools of Grant county, Kentucky, later attended the Williamstown high school and, since coming to Indiana, the Marion Normal School. He began teaching in 1903 in Kentucky and after his first term attended the University of Kentucky at Lexington. After teaching another year in Kentucky he came to Decatur county with his parents in 1906, and began teaching in Decatur county in the winter, attending normal schools in the summer. After teaching for nine consecutive years he abandoned the profession and entered the mercantile business at Burney. After being thus engaged for a short time, he sold his store at Burney and moved to Horace, where he is now engaged in business and is doing very well.

In 1908 Estill A. Gibson was married to Stella E. Porter, the daughter of Mathias R. and Mary S. (Sturgis) Porter. Mathias R. Porter was born in Decatur county in 1848. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted in the Seventieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for three years, being a participant in numerous severe engagements. He finally was severely wounded and was brought home. Mrs. Gibson was one of several children born to her parents. Her sister, Georgia, married Orlando Robinson, of Horace. She herself was born on July 16, 1884, in Clay township and was educated in the common schools of Decatur county and at the State Normal School at Terre Haute. When seventeen years old she, too, began teaching, and taught for nine terms. To Mr. and Mrs. Gibson one child has been born, a son, Rupert Porter Gibson, who was born in 1912.

Like his father, E. A. Gibson has always been interested in politics and is one of the leaders in the councils of the Democratic party in this county. He has a good business in the town of Horace, where he lives, and is highly spoken of by the people of that community.



## WILLIAM DAVIS.

Not many years ago in Clay township, this county, a young farmer began his married life with less than one thousand dollars and within seven years he owned five hundred and thirteen acres of land, all of which he made and paid for himself. This enterprising farmer is William Davis, a well-known citizen of Clay township, whose home farm of two hundred and eleven acres lies eight miles southwest of Greensburg.

William Davis, the son of George T. and Mary (Case) Davis, was born in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, in 1848, and lived on the old home farm until twenty-one years of age. George T. Davis was a native of Franklin county, born in 1818, who died on January 17, 1909, at the age of ninety-one years. He came to Decatur county when a young man, after his marriage, and settled on a farm in Sand Creek township, where he spent the rest of his life. He was a successful farmer and accumulated considerable land, being the owner of one hundred and eighty acres at the time of his death. George T. Davis was the son of Robert Davis, who came to Decatur county in pioneer times and entered three eighty-acre tracts, which, later in life, he gave to his children. At the time this land was given to George T. Davis by his father he set out some locust trees that are still standing. A member of the Whig party until 1856, George T. Davis became a Republican upon the formation of the latter party. He was a member of the Masonic lodge at Westport and of the Baptist church at Letts. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom seven are still living, namely: William, the subject of this sketch; Isane, of Iowa; Thomas C., of Tennessee; Martha, of Vernon, Indiana; John, of Letts Corner, this county; Lavina, who married John Jerris, of Marion township, this county, and Mrs. Hannah Brown, of Connersville, Indiana.

In 1870 William Davis was married to Harriet Hunter, the daughter of Lewis and Mirah (Martin) Hunter, both natives of Dearborn county, this state, the former of whom was born in 1806 and died in 1859, and the latter of whom was born in 1814 and died in 1848. Lewis Hunter moved from Dearborn county to Jennings county in an early day and spent the rest of his life in that county. After the marriage of Mr. Davis, in 1870, he and his wife lived on a farm and he worked by the month. After a few years of hard and diligent labor, he rented a farm and finally purchased two hundred and ninety-nine acres, paying seven or eight thousand dollars for the property. He paid this debt off in seven years and then purchased two hundred

and thirteen acres more, having come to own, within seven years, five hundred and thirteen acres. At that early period he received no financial assistance and was not benefited by any legacies. He has made his money from the live-stock business, buying, feeding and selling cattle and hogs. For years he was a large dealer in live stock and some weeks shipped between five and ten thousand head of hogs, mostly to Louisville.

To William and Harriet (Hunter) Davis two children have been born, James G., who farms the home place, married Mrs. Dora Stout, widow of Albert Stout, and daughter of Herman Myer, and has three children, George W., Mary and Denzel D., and Nora, who married Ralph McGee, of Greensburg, a farmer, and has one child, a daughter, Orpha. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are members of the Baptist church and are regarded as among the leaders in the good works of their community.

Mr. Davis is a Republican and is a strong believer in the Republican principles. He was beaten by only one vote for trustee in Sand Creek township, at a time when the normal majority of the opposition was one hundred. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Greensburg. First and last a stockman, Mr. Davis feeds about fifty head of cattle every year and has two silos. The land is gently rolling and originally grew sugar trees and walnut, as well as yellow poplar. Broad-minded in his views and charitable in his attitude towards others, Mr. Davis is always ready to help the unfortunate and is a good, strong, substantial citizen.

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#### LAWRENCE O. BLACKMORE.

On a beautiful farm of three hundred acres, one-half mile east of Milford, in Clay township, Decatur county, there live Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Blackmore, among the most prominent and influential residents of the county. They are well-to-do farmers, surrounded with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries which life in the country now so generously offers. Mr. and Mrs. Blackmore are very well circumstanced and spend their winters in Florida.

L. O. Blackmore, son of Lawrence O. and Frances (Wallace) Blackmore, was born in 1850 on the old Blackmore homestead in this county. The late Lawrence O. Blackmore was the son of Owen W. and Eliza (Fulton) Blackmore, the former of whom was born in Maryland or Virginia in 1793, his mother, a daughter of John Wilson, a native of Maryland, of English

origin, member of a wealthy and distinguished family that owned a large amount of land where Washington, D. C., now stands. Eliza Fulton was the daughter of David and Nancy (Rankin) Fulton, of an old and aristocratic southern family, distinguished in many lines of endeavor. On another page of this volume there is presented in detail, in a memorial sketch relating to the late L. O. Blackmore, father of the subject of this sketch, a history of these interesting families, to which the reader is respectfully referred in this connection.

The late Lawrence O. Blackmore was the eldest of a family of six children. He married Frances W. Wallace, daughter of John and Jane (Quigley) Wallace, the former of whom was a native of Maryland, who came to this county with his family from Rockridge county, Virginia, in 1837, and to this union were born seven children, as follow: Mrs. Eliza Jane Smiley, widow of George W. Smiley; Lawrence O., the subject of this sketch; Sarah H.; Samuel Edgar, of Shelby county; Elisia W., deceased; Lenora Ann, who died in infancy, and Frances Olive, the wife of Doctor Crawford, of Milford.

L. O. Blackmore was educated in the common schools of Decatur county and spent one year at Holbrook Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. He was about ten years old when the Civil War broke out and, near the close of that struggle, tried to enlist, but his father, finding out his intentions, promptly put him to work hoeing corn, which soon dissipated his desire for warfare. When about twenty-five years old, Mr. Blackmore began life for himself. He rented land for six years and during that time accumulated some two thousand dollars, which sum he paid on the farm of one hundred and twenty acres. As a matter of fact, he spent one thousand dollars in improvements and thus had only a one-thousand-dollar equity in the farm, which cost him six thousand dollars. Mr. Blackmore has added to this original tract until he now owns three hundred acres, having paid from fifty to one hundred and ten dollars an acre for his land. His money has been made from corn, hogs and cattle, and he now has an admirably improved farm. A partner whom he took into the farming business eight years ago is now worth at least ten thousand dollars, a distinct evidence that agriculture on the Blackmore farm is being made to pay.

In 1877 L. O. Blackmore was married to Fannie C. O'Byrne, the daughter of Henry O'Byrne, a native of Ireland, who came to America and settled in Franklin county. Mrs. Blackmore's mother, who was a Barbour, was a native of that county. Henry O'Byrne was a successful business man and farmer and died at the age of about fifty years, being the owner of about twelve hundred acres of land. Mrs. Blackmore spent five years in the Oxford

Female College at Oxford, Ohio, and was graduated in 1875. Upon her graduation she went to Indianapolis and spent two years there, at the end of which time she and Mr. Blackmore were married. She is a cultured and refined woman and a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Milford, to which church Mr. Blackmore also is attached, they being regarded as among the leaders in all good works thereabout. Mr. Blackmore is a Republican and takes an intelligent interest in the political affairs of the county. He is a stockholder in the Third National Bank at Greensburg and prominent, not only in agricultural circles, but in the financial circles of this county. There are no more highly respected citizens living in Decatur county than Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Blackmore, and they are held in the highest esteem in their large circle of friends.

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### JAMES HOWARD.

One of the successful farmers, strong and conservative characters, good citizens and ardent Democrats of Clay township, this county, is James Howard, who owns sixty-six acres of splendid land in that township, three miles northwest of Burney and three miles southwest of Milford.

James Howard was born in Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, in 1861, the son of John and Mary (Pullen) Howard, the former of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio, the son of Aaron Howard, a native of Ohio. John Howard came to Decatur county when he was eight years old with his father, Aaron, who settled on a farm in Washington township, west of Greensburg, known as the Ralston farm. Aaron Howard was a prosperous farmer and a well-known citizen of this county. For twelve years he served as county assessor and, being an ardent Democrat, he was prominent in the councils of his party. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom John Howard, the father of James, was the second child. He was born in Ohio and grew to manhood on his father's farm in this county. When about twenty-five years old, he was married to Mary Pullen, a native of Virginia, born in 1831, the daughter of William and Martha (Hogue) Pullen, both natives of that state. William Pullen, a farmer by occupation, came of a good old Virginia family, all of whom were Democrats of the old school.

To John and Mary (Pullen) Howard were born seven children, namely: Dennis, who is a resident of Shelbyville, this state; James, who is the subject

of this sketch; Sarah Jane, who is the wife of John Moore, of Johnson county, Indiana; Jessie, who lives in Michigan; Mattie, who is the wife of William R. Braden, of Shelby county, Indiana; Othor, also a farmer of the same county, and Oscar, who also lives in that county.

After being reared to manhood on his father's farm, James Howard was married in 1882 to Ida Alley, a daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Selby) Alley. A history of the Alley family is presented elsewhere in this volume in the biographical sketch relating to J. L. Alley. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Howard began life on a farm in Shelby county, where they lived until about 1885, when they moved to the farm upon which they now live. To them four children have been born, two of whom are living and two deceased, namely: Opal, who married Conda Steward, of Bartholomew county, this state, and has one son, Howard Donald, who was born on October 12, 1914; Alley, who died at the age of four years; a child who died in infancy, and Oscar, who lives at home with his parents. Mr. Howard is very proud of his only grandchild and especially proud because Howard Donald is a very lively little youngster.

James Howard is a Democrat, stanch and true to the mandates of his party organization and the principles for which his party stands. He has always a deep interest in politics and is one of the leaders of his party in Clay township. Mr. and Mrs. Howard and family are members of the Christian church at Milford. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Geneva, in Shelby county. Progressive, public-spirited, liberal and broad-minded, he has contributed in a rather large measure to the material advancement of this county and no man is more popular in the neighborhood where he lives than he.

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### JOHN W. CORYA.

Practical industry and good management never fail to bring success, carrying the worker onward and upward and bringing out the strong points of his character at the same time, acting as powerful stimulants to the efforts of others. It is always refreshing to consider the character of self-made men, among whom may be mentioned John W. Corya, a prosperous Clay township farmer, living three and one-half miles northwest of Burney and three and one-half miles southwest of Milford, who owns four hundred and seventeen acres of splendid farming land.

John W. Corya was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, in September, 1858, the son of Francis M. and Lucinda (Phillips) Corya, the former of whom was a native of that same county, the son of Philip and Isabella (Boicourt) Corya. Philip Corya was a native of Pennsylvania, of German origin, who was brought when a mere lad to Jefferson county, Indiana, by his parents, who were well-respected German farmers. Isabella Boicourt was a native of Decatur county and the Boicourt family is of French extraction. Although Lucinda Phillips's mother, who was a Wilson, was a native of this county, her father was a native of Ireland, reared as a Protestant.

John W. Corya left home when about six years old to live with an uncle in Jefferson county, Indiana, where he remained until thirteen years of age, at which time he began life for himself by working in a store in Jennings county. After working in this store as a clerk for seven years and learning the principles of good business, he spent a short time in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the produce commission business. He then went to Colorado, where he was employed in gold and silver mines, running a pack-train of burros, carrying ore and supplies to and from the mines.

The Marshall Pass Basin of Colorado every winter fills with snow and until late in the spring is impassable. While engaged in running the pack-train, in the spring of 1883, John W. Corya, then a young man of twenty-five, went through this pass with his train of burros earlier in the season than anyone before him had ever been able to make the trip. After spending five years in the mines, he returned to Indiana and settled in Jennings county, where he was married to Flora Galloway, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Parker) Galloway, the former of whom was a native of Indiana, whose father came from Kentucky, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Enoch Parker, a native of Jennings county, Indiana, a member of an old and established family of that county.

After his marriage, in 1887, John W. Corya located at North Vernon, this state, where he engaged in the produce business. One year later he and his wife went to West Virginia and after staying there but a very short time, came back to Indiana and settled in Decatur county. One year later they moved to the northwestern part of Missouri, where Mr. Corya rented a farm, on which they lived for three years. There he was fairly successful but eventually he returned to Jennings county, Indiana, and for ten years was engaged in the mercantile business. Upon selling out this business, in December, 1902, he came to Decatur county and purchased a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Clay township from Joseph Burney. The buildings on the farm were dilapidated and hardly fit for human habitation. There



were scarcely any fences and the farm was very much run down in every particular. That was twelve years ago and today John W. Corya owns four hundred and seventeen acres of land and has erected on the farm a splendid home of nine rooms, modern in every respect and costing five thousand dollars. He has two large and substantial barns, one sixty by one hundred and twelve and the other fifty by sixty-four feet. Besides the home farm in Clay township, Mr. Corya owns a farm of one hundred and thirty-seven acres of well-improved land in Bartholomew county.

When John Corya started on the farm in Clay township, he had twelve thousand dollars and today he could "cash out" any time for more than fifty thousand dollars, success having crowned his efforts in these short twelve years. It may be said in passing that neither Mr. Corya nor his wife has inherited to exceed five hundred dollars, their large success being the result of their own hard work and prudent management. Mr. Corya has specialized in breeding Western lambs and usually feeds about one thousand head of sheep. He is preparing to extend his operations so that he may feed fifteen hundred or more. There are two silos on one of his farms, a great help in feeding.

To John W. and Flora (Galloway) Corya four children have been born, namely: Delta, who was born in North Vernon in 1888 and who lives at home; Horace, who was born in Jennings county in 1893 and who is also at home; Russell, born in Jennings county in 1889, and Erma, who was born in 1906, died in 1907.

There are no more stanch or true Republicans living in Decatur county than John Corya, who is steadfast to the principles of the party of Abraham Lincoln and who believes that party is eminently capable of administering the affairs of this government. He is regarded as one of the leaders in the councils of the Republican party in Decatur county. Formerly, Mr. Corya was a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at North Vernon. Russell Corya, the youngest son of Mr. Corya, who is now a student of the agricultural course at Purdue University, won a prize for the best acre of corn raised in Clay township in 1914.

John Corya is a man of more than ordinary ability. He has a liking for and an aptitude for politics. Being a pronounced optimist in his views, he is naturally popular with his neighbors and fellow citizens. With all of his public interests he is, nevertheless, a man of strong domestic temperaments and devoted to the interests of his family, all of whom are held in high esteem throughout the section of the county in which they reside.



## JAMES A. PUMPHREY.

James A. Pumphrey, the proprietor of "Spring Dale Farm," comprising one hundred and ninety-five acres of fertile land located one and one-half miles north of Burney and one and one-half miles southwest of Milford, is one of the prosperous citizens of Clay township, this county. This farm not only lies in the garden spot of the great Hoosier commonwealth, but is itself, in fact, one of the most desirable farms in the community. No better land is to be found anywhere. "Spring Dale Farm" is so named from a fine spring which never freezes and never goes dry. The picturesque springhouse was built over this spring more than a half century ago. The farm was entered by Captain Lowry, who came to Decatur county in 1823. It has changed hands only twice since that time, once when Captain Lowry deeded it to the late William Pumphrey and the second time when the latter deeded it to his son, James A., the subject of this sketch.

James A. Pumphrey was born on the old Pumphrey homestead in Clay township in 1863. He grew to manhood on that farm and was educated in the district schools of Clay township, after which he began the business of life for himself.

On February 7, 1884, James A. Pumphrey was married to Mary E. Mandlove, a daughter of William A. and Nancy J. (Edwards) Mandlove, the former of whom was the son of James and Sarah (Bean) Mandlove. James Mandlove, a native of Kentucky, was born in 1816 and died in 1862. His wife was born in England in 1820, the daughter of William and Sarah Bean. William Bean was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church in England, who immigrated to America late in life, when Sarah, the grandmother of Mrs. Pumphrey, was only two years old. The voyage required nine weeks and one of Sarah's sisters died and was buried at sea. James and Sarah Mandlove began life in Decatur county on a farm, after having settled in Clay township on the site of the present town of Burney. In that day Clay township was a dense wilderness, the few inhabitants marking the trails through the dense forests by "blazing" the ways, gashing the trees to mark the little-traveled routes. The grinding for the household was done at the Critser mill on Clifty creek, which mill is still standing and still in operation. James Mandlove was one of the prominent citizens of Decatur county during his day, at one time being rated as the wealthiest man in the county. He died in 1862, at which time he owned a large tract of land and a store at Milford which in that day was a thriving town. He was a Democrat and a member of the Methodist church.

After his marriage, Mr. Pumphrey and his wife moved to a farm owned by his father, which he rented. There they lived for about one year, when they moved to Burney, where he was engaged in the mercantile business for six years, at the end of which time he sold the store and purchased "Spring Dale Farm." The original tract comprised only fifty-five acres and was bought in 1891, since which date Mr. Pumphrey has added to the farm until it now comprises one hundred and ninety-five acres.

To James A. and Mary E. (Mandlove) Pumphrey have been born two sons, Edgar Ray and William Falonzo. Edgar Ray Pumphrey was born on October 31, 1888, and was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county. After graduating from high school in 1907, he entered Purdue University and was graduated from the electrical engineering department with the class of 1911. He now holds a responsible position with the Fairbanks-Morse Electric Company, of Indianapolis. He is a popular young man and familiarly known in this community as Ray. William F. Pumphrey, who was born on May 1, 1892, was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county and later attended the Winona Technical Institute at Indianapolis. He is an automobile expert, engaged in his calling at Hope, Indiana.

James A. Pumphrey is a stanch and true Democrat and is a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford and of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney. Mr. Pumphrey is a stockholder in the Burney State Bank and is regarded as one of the most substantial residents of that community, he and his family enjoying the highest esteem of all who know them.

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#### EDWARD PUMPHREY.

Practical industry never fails to bring success, especially when consistently and wisely managed. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulant to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means, the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense. The everyday life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunity for acquiring experience. Edward Pumphrey, a well-known farmer, scion of an old family in Decatur county, living a mile north of Burney, is one of the most substantial citizens and farmers of Clay township.

Edward Pumphrey was born on the old Pumphrey homestead in Clay

township, this county, in 1869, the son of William and Loduska (Jewell) Pumphrey, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, the son of Andrew Pumphrey, whose family, of English origin, emigrated to Kentucky in pioneer times. Andrew Pumphrey emigrated to Decatur county at an early day in the settlement of this section and located in Clay township, west of where Burney is now situated. He was a well-known and successful farmer, a Democrat in politics, and well respected. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom William, the father of Edward, was the fourth in order of birth. William Pumphrey grew to manhood on his father's farm and began life for himself at the time of his marriage to Loduska Jewell. They settled on a farm which William Pumphrey owned and gradually added to this tract, until at the time of his death, when eighty years of age, William Pumphrey owned thirteen hundred acres of land, all in Clay township. He was a very successful farmer and business man, a Democrat in politics and a member of the Methodist church. A man of decided convictions and moral courage, he was more than the ordinary type of citizen. Generous in his impulses, he had a host of friends in this county, where he was favorably known. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, namely: James A., Francis M. and Edward P., residents of this county; William P., a resident of Shelby county, this state; Doad P., deceased; a child who died in infancy; Elizabeth, who married Frank Alexander; Mrs. Fannie Miner, of Decatur county; May, who married Clyde Elliott, and Josephine, who married Earl Littell and lives in Indianapolis.

Educated in the common schools of Clay township, Edward Pumphrey began life for himself after his marriage in 1890 to Jennie Johnson, the daughter of William and Lucretia Johnson, the former of whom was a prosperous farmer of Jackson township, a native of Ohio, and well known and highly respected by the citizens of this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey have a lovely little home and enjoy life. He is a progressive broad-minded citizen, well known and highly respected. A stanch Democrat, he has always taken a prominent part in the campaigns of his party, especially in Clay township. Between 1905 and 1909 he was trustee of Clay township and was very successful in the management of the township's business, having retired from office with the respect and confidence of all the people. Mr. Pumphrey is a stockholder in the Third National Bank at Greensburg, and a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey are members of the Baptist church at Burney. He and his good wife believe that there are other things in life besides the accumulation of money. They believe in the enjoyment of life and they have enjoyed it so far as it has been possible to do so.

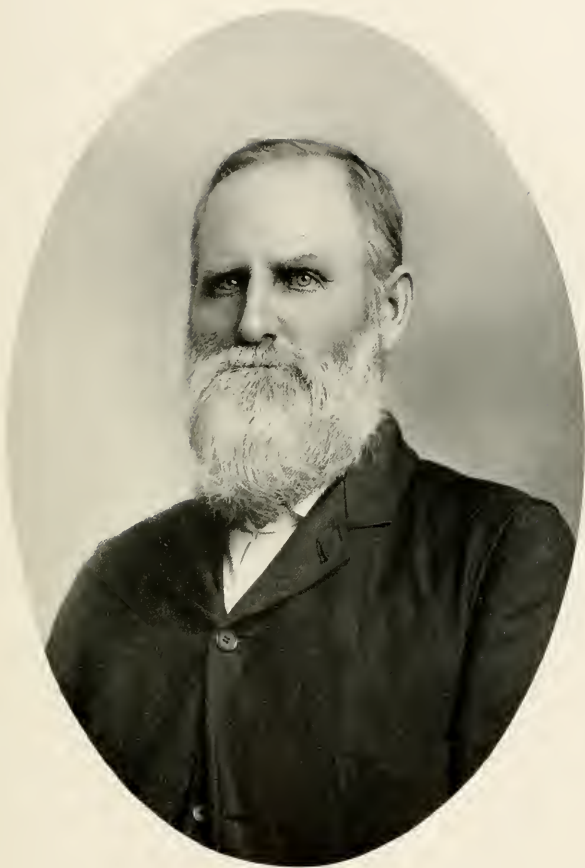
## JOHN WESLEY SPEARS.

Every community has, within its boundaries, men of exceptional ability and influence, to whom it points with pride and of whom it has every reason to be proud. Jackson township has many men who are well known throughout Decatur county by their success in agriculture, their prominence in business and their worth as citizens. Farmer, merchant, banker, public official and public-spirited man of affairs, John Wesley Spears, former county commissioner of Decatur county and now a retired merchant of Alert, is a man who has always stood high in the estimation of his fellows; whose judgment has always been recognized as pre-eminently sound and whose counsel has been widely sought in the affairs of the community where he has lived. He has to his credit from the standpoint of length of service, perhaps the longest record of business of any man living in Jackson township. From 1870 to 1908 he was continuously engaged as a merchant at Alert, during which period of nearly forty years, he naturally became well acquainted with the people, not only of Jackson but of surrounding townships and men learned to admire him for his many commendable traits of character.

Mr. Spears was born on March 23, 1847, in Switzerland county, Indiana. His father and mother were also natives of this county, the former, Abraham L. Spears, having been born in 1828 and died in 1896, and the latter, who before her marriage was Martha Jane Day, having been born in 1829 and died at the age of forty-two years in 1872. Subject's father was a blacksmith and merchant and was well known in the southeastern part of Indiana, having followed his trade for many years and also having conducted general stores at New Marion, Zenas, Hartsville and Holton, the last named in Ripley county, where he died. John Spears, who was the father of Abraham L. and the founder of the family in America, settled in Indiana after having immigrated to this country from England. He was a well-known farmer during his life.

Six children were born to Abraham L. and Martha Jane Spears, of whom three are now deceased: John Wesley, who was the eldest; Tillman Webster, who was born on March 1, 1849; Phoebe Elizabeth, who died in 1854, at the age of two years; Stephen D., who died in 1912; Abraham, who is a farmer near Alert; and Mrs. Lucinda Jane LaRue, who is the wife of Oliver LaRue, of Holton, Indiana, and William Aaron, who died at the age of twenty-six years.

During the boyhood of John W. Spears, the Hartsville Academy was



JOHN W. SPEARS.



perhaps the leading institution in this section of the state. After he had completed the course in the common schools near Zenas, where his family lived at the time, he attended Hartsville Academy for a time. During vacations, he assisted his father in the store and here learned the mercantile business. When he was twenty-two years old, he engaged in business with his father at Alert. This partnership continued for six years or until 1875, when the son purchased the interest of the father and operated it alone until 1908, at which time he retired from the active management of the store. In the meantime, he had erected a large brick building, in which the store is housed, to replace a frame building which burned in January, 1906. Not very long ago, he erected a new house in Alert, one of the most comfortable homes in this section. Mr. Spears has eighty acres of land in Jackson township, in Decatur county, and one hundred and fifty-nine acres in Bartholomew county. Although he himself has never been actively engaged as a farmer, his farm has proved a very profitable investment under the direct operation of tenants.

In 1888 at a barn raising in this community, Mr. Spears suffered a very painful and dangerous injury. While the barn was being raised, the plate breaking loose, fell to the ground, striking him on the back and breaking his thigh. Nevertheless he recovered from the injury, a very marvelous circumstance probably due to his wonderful vitality. Today he is still active and strong, although now about sixty-eight years old.

In 1914 Mr. Spears took a leading part in the organization of the Alert State Bank, which is capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars and, when the directors were elected, Mr. Spears was chosen as one; later, when officers were elected, he was selected president of the institution. Although a very young institution, the bank is already doing a most satisfactory business. The vice-president of the institution is Dr. Thomas J. Norton and the cashier is Roy Campbell, formerly of Jennings county, Indiana. The directors include, besides Mr. Spears, Dr. Norton, James D. Anderson, John H. Denison, Samuel Kelly, William James Carson, of Jennings county, and George Beasley.

In 1914 five of the leading business men of Jackson township also organized the Alert Telephone Company with a capital of twenty-five hundred dollars and sixty subscribers. Mr. Spears became president of this company. The board of directors include Dr. Ray Bannister of Alert; Rev. Nicholson, Dr. Clarence L. Hill, a minister and farmer, who lives one mile north of Alert; J. W. Spears, and D. H. Pike.



On September 5, 1869, John W. Spears was married at Zenas to Mary L. Galloway, a native of Jennings county and the daughter of William Galloway. They have no children.

Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Spears are members of the Christian Union. Fraternally, Mr. Spears is a member of Alert Lodge, No. 395, Free and Accepted Masons. A Democrat in politics, he served eight years as a justice of the peace in Jackson township and in 1897 was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, on which he served for three years, giving the very highest measure of satisfaction.

It is a matter of interesting speculation to dwell on what men with the same ability as John W. Spears accomplish where the opportunities are wider. It is a matter of interest to consider what he might have accomplished had he by chance been reared in the city, where the opportunities for commercial and financial success are perhaps greater than they are in rural communities. Here, at least, Mr. Spears is a recognized leader in almost every form of enterprise, and there is good reason to believe that he might have become an equally successful leader in larger forms of enterprises in a larger community. He is first and foremost a man of character, and, as is usually the case, character is the determining factor in the life of an individual. There is no occasion for surprise that John W. Spears has enjoyed a large measure of success.

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#### CYRUS W. PUMPHREY.

Of the well-known farmers of Clay township, this county, Indiana, there should be mentioned Cyrus W. Pumphrey, who owns a farm of sixty acres one-half mile west of Burney, who was born in that township on October 24, 1865, the son of Andrew and Melvina (Cooper) Pumphrey, the latter of whom was born in Clay township, and whose parents died when she was a small girl. After their death she lived with the family of John P. Elliott, and received her education in Clay township. Andrew Pumphrey was a native of Franklin county, born on the banks of the White Water river. His father, Andrew Pumphrey, who was a native of Kentucky, left Franklin county with his family when Andrew, Jr., was only two years old, and came to Decatur county, settling on Clifty creek, in Clay township, where he entered land, to which he added from time to time until at the time of his death he owned about one thousand acres in that township.

Andrew Johnson Pumphrey was one of the unique characters of his day.

An ardent Democrat, he was prominent in the councils of his party. After his marriage to Elizabeth Lawrence in Kentucky, he moved to Franklin county, Indiana, and from Franklin county to Decatur county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days. Both Andrew Johnson Pumphrey and his wife were of English origin, their parents having come from England. Elizabeth (Lawrence) Pumphrey was heir to a large estate in England, but due to the trickery of lawyers was unable to establish proof of her claim. Andrew Johnson Pumphrey died about 1876, and his wife about 1875, the former at the age of eighty-two years. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom Andrew Pumphrey was the sixth child in order of birth. He grew to manhood in Clay township on the old home farm and when about thirty-two years of age was married to Melinda Cooper. They spent their entire married life on a farm situated on the banks of Clifty creek. Although Andrew Pumphrey was a prosperous farmer and a well respected citizen, he was not a man of great wealth. He was a Democrat and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. Rugged honesty was one of his strong characteristics. After suffering for sixteen years with rheumatism, which he contracted in middle life, he was freed of this malady when about sixty years old and enjoyed several years of good health. He was a man who was especially kind to his family, and children, of whom there were five, namely: May, who married James B. Critser, both now deceased; Cyrus W., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Drautz, who lives on the old home place in Clay township; Harvey, a resident of Hope, Bartholomew county, Indiana, and Mrs. Laura M. Applegate, who lives at Greensburg.

Cyrus W. Pumphrey lived on the old home farm until his marriage in 1894 to Cora D. Myers, daughter of John and Semantha (Stevens) Myers, who was born in Westport, Sand Creek township, and who there grew to womanhood. After her mother's death she lived with her grandmother until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey, after spending a short time in Burney, lived for three years on the old Andrew Pumphrey farm, at the end of which time he purchased twenty acres of land where he now lives. This land was without buildings of any kind, and Mr. Pumphrey was without funds, having purchased his land on his own note. Today he has sixty acres of as fine land as there is in Decatur county and a beautiful modern home. Ordinarily he feeds about two carloads of hogs every year. He is a stockholder in the Burney State Bank and gives thoughtful attention to the best interests of the community in which he lives.

A prominent Democrat of Clay township, Mr. Pumphrey several times

has been a delegate to the district conventions of his party and is keenly interested in politics. He is a progressive farmer and a good substantial citizen, well known and well liked by the people of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey are members of the Baptist church, are interested in all local good works and enjoy the most cordial esteem of all their neighbors.

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### MRS. BENJAMIN F. LITTELL.

Few names in this section of Indiana are better known than those of the Littells and the Collicotts and few families hereabout have exerted a wider or more beneficent influence upon the general welfare of the community than these two. By the marriage, thirty-two years ago, of Benjamin Franklin Littell, Jr., and Diantha Collicott there was effected a most happy union of these two honorable and influential families, and it is a pleasure on the part of the biographer to present here some of the salient points in the local history of these two interesting families, as a memorial both to the late Benjamin F. Littell, Jr., and to the Rev. John Collicott, of blessed memory throughout this section of Indiana.

Benjamin Franklin Littell, Jr., who died at his pleasant farm home in Washington township, this county, on August 7, 1907, at the age of fifty-eight years, was the son of the late Benjamin Franklin Littell, a well-known pioneer of Decatur county, who died in 1915, at his home in Greensburg, at the age of ninety-four years. The elder Benjamin F. Littell was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, the son of Benjamin F. Littell, who died during the cholera epidemic, leaving a widow and four children, Benjamin F., Elizabeth, Sarah Ann and Clara. The firstborn of these children, the only son, remained in Cincinnati until he had reached manhood's estate, at which time he married Jane Van Sant, daughter of Reuben Van Sant, one time treasurer of Hamilton county, Ohio, and moved to Mt. Pleasant, nine miles north of Cincinnati, where he made his home until 1856, in which year he moved with his family to Ripley county, Indiana, where he engaged in farming until 1863, in which year he came to this county, locating at Greensburg, where he erected a brick-making plant, in the operation of which he subsequently became very successful, being counted among the most substantial citizens of Decatur county. This brick plant is now owned and operated at Greensburg by its founder's son, George S. Littell, a biographical sketch of whom,

presented elsewhere in this volume, contains much additional information regarding the Littell family in this part of the state.

To Benjamin F. and Jane (Van Sant) Littell were born ten children, namely: Alanson, a retired merchant of Greensburg, this county; William T., a contractor in brickmasonry at Indianapolis; Benjamin F., deceased; Mrs. Adelia McCoy, housekeeper for her brother, George; George S., brick manufacturer, of Greensburg; Eliza, who married Phillip Weyman, of Greensburg; Samuel B., a Greensburg merchant; James S., a Greensburg merchant; Mrs. C. D. Tillson, of Greensburg, and Curtis R., of Washington, D. C. The mother of these children died in 1900, at the age of seventy-eight years, and the venerable father is making his home with his son, George, in Greensburg.

Benjamin F. Littell, Jr., was about fifteen years of age when his parents moved to Greensburg and he completed his schooling in that city. Upon reaching manhood he engaged in the grocery business in Greensburg, soon becoming one of the most popular and one of the most successful merchants in the city. The close confinement, however, was found to be detrimental to his health and he decided to live in the open and later purchased the beautiful farm on which his family now lives, and there spent the last twenty years of his life, his death occurring in 1907; the widow and six children being left to mourn their irreparable loss. These children, in the order of their birth, are: Elsie, who was graduated from the Greensburg high school, lives at home; John, who is very successfully managing the home farm, taking great interest in operating the same along the lines laid down by modern agriculturists; Lena, a successful milliner in Greensburg; Mrs. Charles Davis, of Greensburg, who has one child; Anna, a teacher in the public schools, and Della, who was graduated from the Greensburg high school with the class of 1915.

Mrs. Diantha Littell, widow of B. F. Littell, Jr., was born in Ripley county, Indiana, daughter of Rev. John and Ruth (Williams) Collicott, the former of whom was a native of North Carolina and the latter a native of New Jersey. When a young man, John Collicott emigrated from North Carolina to Indiana, locating in Ripley county, not far from the Decatur county line, where he became a successful farmer and influential citizen. He was also a local Methodist preacher and few men of his day in this part of the state exerted a wider or more beneficent influence upon their fellowmen than he. He was noted for his tender-hearted ministrations in the community in which he so long was so useful a factor, his hand ever being extended in behalf of those less fortunate than himself. The Rev. John Collicott possessed a most effective manner in the pulpit, his ability to impress

upon his hearers the beauties of the Word, and to impart to them the wonderful lessons contained therein, being recalled to this day among those whose privilege it was to "sit at his feet." His knowledge of the Bible was accurate and profound and his great desire to extend the message of the Gospel ever was heavy on his heart. He was a splendid singer, an accomplishment which added much to the effectiveness of his manner of conducting public services. During the trying days of the Civil War, the Rev. John Collicott was a tower of strength in behalf of the Union cause hereabout, and gave two of his sons for the nation's preservation. Few men in the community in which he labored are held in such high esteem, and it is but fitting that a history of Decatur county should carry this modest memorial. During the last fifteen years of his life Mr. Collicott was sadly crippled, but affliction did not dampen his ardor; the influence of his cheerful example under trial being radiated in all directions throughout the neighborhood of his home.

The first wife of Rev. John Collicott was Edna Goins, who died a few years after their marriage leaving no children. By his union with Ruth Williams, his second wife, there were born ten children, namely: Mary Jane, the wife of Wesley York, both deceased; Stephen, a soldier in the Union army, who went through the Civil War and died soon after the close of that great struggle, from the effects of the hardships he had endured; Henry, who also enlisted in the Union army and died during the early part of that struggle of measles contracted in the service; John, who died when eight years of age; Letitia, deceased; Angelina, deceased, the wife of Steward Ross, deceased, and the mother of Charles Ross living near Moore's Hill, Indiana; George, deceased; Eliza, deceased; Dora, deceased, and Diantha, the widow of Mr. Littell. The mother of these children was a woman of noble character, an able helpmate to her husband in his difficult ministrations; a woman of rare sympathy and understanding, who was greatly beloved throughout that whole countryside.

By his union with Hannah Thackery, the Rev. John Collicott was the father of the following children: Curtis, a well-known farmer of this county, who lives about three and one-half miles from Greensburg on the Vandalia pike; Jacob G., one of the best-known educators in the country, the present superintendent of the Indianapolis public schools; Harmon, who died in 1902, while pursuing his studies in the Greensburg high school, and Lettie, who married Charles Williams, a prosperous farmer of this county, whose home is near New Point. The mother of these children was a woman of refinement and education, who left the impress of her gentle character upon

all with whom she came in contact, being also a great help to her husband in his ministrations and especially during his last feeble years.

Mrs. Littell has a delightful home in Washington township, where, with her children, she is quite comfortably situated. Active in all the good works of the community and devoted to the care of her children her influence is exerted toward the promotion of all measures designed to further the best interests of the common good and she is held in the highest esteem by all who know her.

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### THOMAS E. DAY.

In the industrial annals of Decatur county there is no more notable example of the invariable rule that fitting rewards will attend faithful, energetic and industrious application to the duties of life, than is contained in a review of the life's history of the gentleman whose name serves as a caption for this interesting biographical sketch. Doing well what his hands found to do; faithful in all the relations of life, Mr. Day has risen from a position, which to one of less energy would have seemed disheartening indeed, to a position of commanding importance in the industrial life of Decatur county. Beginning life for himself upon attaining his majority without a dollar of capital, Mr. Day had the courage and the initiative to strike out on somewhat broader lines than most men so circumstanced and he has succeeded, as he deserved to have succeeded, so that now, in the vigor of his useful manhood, he has built up an industry which employs many men in useful and productive service in this county and through which there is distributed annually in wages no less a sum than fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Day's lumber manufacturing industry is one of the most important enterprises in Decatur county and a review of the life of the man who has built up this industry to its present extensive proportions is a very proper tribute to the energy which made possible the building up of this industry.

Thomas E. Day, manufacturer of hard-wood lumber and wholesale dealer in the same at Greensburg, Indiana, was born on a farm in Ripley county, Indiana, on December 22, 1868, the son of Thomas G. and Rebecca (Spenddiff) Day, both natives of England, born in the county of Kent, the former on August 3, 1841, and the latter on June 4, 1841.

Thomas G. Day came to America with his father, Thomas Day, in the year 1844, the family locating on the shores of Rockland lake in the state of New York, where the elder Day established a nursery for the culture of fruit



trees. The family remained in New York state until 1851, in which year they moved to Madison, Indiana, where the elder Thomas established another nursery on the edge of the city, where he spent the remainder of his life. It was in the town of Madison, this state, that Thomas G. Day grew to manhood, getting a start in life that enabled him in 1865 to buy a farm in Ripley county, on which he is still living, despite a succession of serious wounds and shocking experiences during the progress of the Civil War that certainly would have killed any man of less rugged constitution than that possessed by him.

Upon the breaking out of the war in 1861, Thomas G. Day enlisted in Company E, Third Indiana Cavalry, for the sixty-day service called for at that time. At the close of this service he re-enlisted for the term of the war and served until peace had been declared. He participated in many battles, being in some of the bloodiest engagements of the war, and twice was left for dead on the field of battle. He suffered all the horrors of the Confederate prison pens, having been an inmate of Libby prison, Belle Isle, Florence and Andersonville. Of the squad of one hundred men with whom he was incarcerated in the latter prison, he was one of but two who survived to reach freedom and regain their own lines. He was once captured by John S. Mosby, the guerilla chief, who, with his men, was masquerading as a Unionist. On this occasion Mr. Day dropped his carbine. Many years later he revisited the scene of his capture and was surprised as well as delighted to find the old army carbine in the hands of the farmer who had picked it up at the time of the capture. Needless to say he has preserved the recovered firearm as a priceless relic of his service.

Upon returning to the pursuits of peace at the close of the war, Thomas E. Day married Rebecca Spenddiff, who was the daughter of James Spenddiff, a native of the same neighborhood in England in which Mr. Day was born. James Spenddiff came to America and spent three years working for enough money to pay the passage of his family to this side. The family arrived in 1850, the passage over requiring nine weeks on a slow-sailing vessel, most of which time heavy storms were raging. The Spenddiffs located first in the Rockland lake district of New York, neighbors to the Days, and later came with the latter family to Indiana, also locating at Madison, where James Spenddiff and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

To Thomas E. and Rebecca (Spenddiff) Day were born eleven children, eight of whom are still living, namely: Mrs. Harriet Livingston, of Greensburg, this county; Thomas E., the immediate subject of this sketch; Frank G., who lives at Cincinnati; Walter R., a farmer of Jefferson county, this



state; Mrs. J. A. Bovard, of North Salem, Indiana; Mrs. William Strubbe, of Versailles, Indiana, and Bertha and Cora, who remain with their father at the family home in Ripley county. The mother of these children died on April 10, 1908.

Thomas E. Day was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the district schools of his home township and in the high school at Osgood. When he was twenty-one years of age he bought a farm of ninety-six and one-half acres in Ripley county, adjoining his father's farm, for which he went in debt to the amount of eleven hundred dollars. For nine years he taught school in his home county and by the time he had his little farm half paid for he had incurred an obligation for forty acres additional, adjoining, all of which he gradually paid out of his earnings as a teacher and from the profits on the farm. While engaged in farming he secured the county agency for a well-known brand of buggies of that time. The first year in which he held this agency he sold four buggies, but gradually increased his sales until he was finally disposing of as many as three hundred and twenty-five buggies annually in that part of the state. In the year 1893, Mr. Day engaged in the lumber business in Ripley county and has had phenomenal success. He has five mills for the manufacture of hard-wood lumber, one at Newpoint, one at Westport, two at Millhousen, all in this county, and one at Peach Orchard, Arkansas, in which he employs the services of fifty men. Mr. Day employs ten men at each of his mills and in the course of a year pays out as much as fifty thousand dollars in wages. Though retaining his farm in Ripley county, Mr. Day makes his home in Greensburg, to which city he moved in 1903, buying there a residence, where he and his family are very comfortably situated.

On April 10, 1892, Thomas E. Day was united in marriage to Lucy B. Horton, who was born and reared in Switzerland county, this state, the daughter of John M. and Maria A. Horton, who moved from Switzerland county to Ripley county, and to this union four children have been born, two daughters and two sons, as follow: Hazel, who is a member of the class of 1916, DePauw University, and who was honored while in her sophomore year by election to the office of president of the Young Women's Christian Association of the university and in 1915 vice-president of the student body and student annual; Mabel, who is a member of the class of 1917, same university; Thomas, aged ten, and Raymond, aged eight.

Mr. and Mrs. Day are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg and their children have been reared in the faith of that church. They are active not only in the many good works of the church to which

they belong, but are warmly interested in all movements having to do with the elevation of the ideals of the community at large and enjoy the highest respect and esteem of a large circle in and about Greensburg. Mr. Day is a Republican and takes a good citizen's part in local political affairs. He is a Mason and belongs to both the chapter and the council of that order.

Mr. Day is a hustling, energetic man who does things in a large way. It is his custom to buy land, cut the timber on the same and then sell the land. In the vicinity of Newpoint there is much land which he has treated thus which is worth three or four times what it was worth before the timber was removed. In 1912 Mr. Day went to Arkansas and bought timber to the amount of twelve thousand dollars, going in debt for the same, speedily discharging the debt from the proceeds of the timber which he secured from the tract. Mr. Day has the confidence of business circles throughout this part of the state and is held in the highest regard by all.

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### WILLIAM E. JACKSON.

The best history of any community or of any county is that which deals especially with the lives and activities of its people, especially those who, by their own personal energy and consistent, unflinching endeavor, have forged to the front ranks of the citizenship of their county. In this brief review is to be found a record of the career of William E. Jackson, an enterprising farmer living four and a half miles northwest of Greensburg in Washington township, who owns two hundred and sixty-four acres of land which is a tangible monument to his own energy and good management.

William E. Jackson was born in 1866 on the old Jackson homestead, which he now owns, the son of William T. and Margaret (Miers) Jackson, the former of whom was born in Cincinnati about 1829 and who died in 1889 at the age of sixty years.

The late William T. Jackson was the son of William D. and Amelia (Hillman) Jackson, the former of whom was born near the mouth of the Chickahominy river in Charles City county, Virginia, on October 13, 1797. The family originally lived in York county, a few miles east of the Chickahominy river, a very unhealthy region. William D. Jackson's parents were stricken with malarial fever, and died leaving a large family of destitute children. The boys in the family were bound out to farmers in the neighborhood and to a life of hardship and toil and the girls were sent to the poor-

house. William D. Jackson was one of these boys and was compelled to work in the fields with negro slaves of his master under a cruel overseer. Being of Irish origin and of a fiery Celtic nature, he could not endure this life very long and one day crossed the James river and left the scene. After walking about thirty miles, he reached Petersburg and engaged himself to a tailor, thoroughly mastering the trade. In 1823 he married Amelia Hillman, daughter of Samuel Hillman, a trader and merchant, who kept a store at Crookes Ferry. In 1831, William D. Jackson and family emigrated across the Alleghany mountains in a covered wagon to the source of the Ohio river. They came down the river by boat to Cincinnati, where they landed with scarcely any of this world's goods, but with boundless courage and ambition. There William D. Jackson met Nicholas Longworth, a capitalist, and soon found work in the largest merchant-tailoring establishment in the city. His acquaintance with Mr. Longworth proved to be of great value to him, for he presently engaged in the real estate business and in a few years had accumulated a snug fortune, which in 1840 he invested in a farm of a quarter section in Fugit township, this county. He remained in Cincinnati until 1844, when he moved to his farm in Decatur county. In 1847 he sold his Fugit township farm for a profit and moved eight miles west of Greensburg, to a less settled and wilder section of the county, though the land was of a better quality and cheaper. At that time there were still many panthers, bears and wild cats in the forests and deer were abundant. Those were the days of the husking bees, log rollings, apple parings, barn raisings and countryside weddings.

In 1853 William D. Jackson sold his farm and moved to another farm two and one-half miles west of Greensburg, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a man of no ordinary character. His mind was cast in a large mold and, though uneducated, he achieved success. His brain was keen and alert and he was a deep, broad thinker. He was a patriot of the best type. When the Civil War broke out, though an old man, he urged his grandsons to go and do their duty. He was a lover of justice and hated all shams; of that high type of citizens which has made this country what it is, ever standing for the highest and best that life afforded.

William T. Jackson, son of William D. and Amelia Jackson and the father of William E., the subject of this sketch, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1829. After coming to Decatur county, his experiences were those of the average pioneer boy of the day. He was about eighteen years old when the family moved to this county. Later he was married to Margaret Miers, who was the daughter of Thomas Miers, one of the early settlers of Decatur county and one of the wealthiest and most prominent men of pioneer times. Will-

iam T. Jackson and his young wife began their married life on a farm in Clay township and became very prosperous, he becoming a large landowner. He did not confine himself to farming altogether but subsequently engaged in the mercantile business in Danville, Hendricks county, Indiana, in which he also was quite successful. He was a man of strong individuality and engaging personality, widely and favorably known throughout this section. Although reared a Democrat, he became a Republican. William T. Jackson was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and an officer in the grand lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Indiana. Margaret Miers was only fifteen years old when she was married to William T. Jackson. She died in 1912 at the age of seventy-eight years. They were the parents of six children, Mrs. Anna Pavy, James, deceased; Mrs. Adelaide Bonner, William E., the subject of this sketch; Charles, who died in infancy, and Harry. One can hardly wonder that the representatives of the Jackson family in this county have been successful. They can hardly wonder that William E. Jackson has achieved a flattering success as a farmer. The Jackson family has had the habit of success and William E. inherited that habit.

William E. Jackson was married in 1889 to Alta Moore, the daughter of B. F. and Anna (Bentley) Moore, the former of whom was a native of Decatur county, whose father was a native of Ohio. B. F. Moore was a successful farmer and a highly respected citizen of this county. He and his wife were the parents of four children: Edgar N., of Letts Corner; Mrs. Alta Jackson; Anna L., of Letts; and Luna Roszell of Decatur county. Mrs. Jackson was born on October 22, 1868, in Decatur county.

To William E. and Alta (Moore) Jackson have been born three children, Mary, born in 1897; Jessie, 1901, and Paul, 1904.

After their marriage in 1889, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson began the business of life on a very modest scale. He now feeds about one hundred and fifty thoroughbred Hereford cattle every year and has been very successful as a stock breeder, having specialized in black Poland-China hogs. William E. Jackson is a man who believes in quality, so far as live stock is concerned, this having been the secret of his success. He keeps his land in a high state of cultivation and it is well drained. The corn averages from seventy-five to eighty bushels to the acre.

William E. Jackson is a Republican and takes a deep interest in the political welfare of his country. He and his good wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. A progressive, up-to-date business man, he is broad and liberal in his views, respected and loved by his family, honored and admired by his neighbors.

## EVERETT L. DEUPREE.

Among the numerous sons of Decatur county who have gone elsewhere seeking fame and fortune, few have achieved a larger measure of well-deserved success than the gentleman whose name the reader notes above, a prominent attorney and financier of Indianapolis. Mr. Deupree was reared at Westport, this county, where he grew to useful young manhood; for a time having been a teacher in the schools of Westport, his excellent influence in that capacity being still a matter of pleasant memory there. He received his education in the schools of his home town and in one high school at Edinburg, this state, completing the same in Indiana State University, and was graduated from the Indiana Law School in 1904. Thus equipped he entered the practice of the law at the state capital and has been singularly successful. His sound judgment and thorough insight into matters of corporation law have given him a wide and influential clientele in the capital city and few attorneys there are better known or have a more lucrative practice than he. Though for many years he has been absent from the scenes of his boyhood in Decatur county, Mr. Deupree takes the liveliest interest in affairs hereabout, and it is but fitting that in a biographical history of the county in which his preparatory years were spent, proper mention should be made of his life and his labors.

Everett L. Deupree was born on December 24, 1880, on a farm near the town of Edinburg, in Johnson county, Indiana, a fine tract of land which was entered by his great-grandfather, Thomas Deupree, a Kentuckian, in 1821. Thomas Deupree was drowned in the Muscatatuck river while returning to his new Indiana home from Kentucky, he having gone back to his native state to settle his affairs there after having located his family on the Johnson county land grant. Thomas Deupree was succeeded by his eldest son, Abraham C. Deupree, who assisted his widowed mother, who before her marriage was Martha Hatchett, a member of a well-known pioneer family in Kentucky, and was instrumental in keeping the new homestead intact. Abraham C. Deupree married Hannah B. Carter, a descendant of the Carter who accompanied William Penn's Quaker colony to this country. Their son, William N. Deupree, married Martha A. Matthis, member of a pioneer family of Johnson county, and is still living on the old home farm, near Edinburg, in that county, at the age of eighty-two years. Thomas M. Deupree, son of this latter union, moved from Johnson county to the town of Westport, in this county, in January, 1885, and for many years was prominently connected

with the business life of that village, and is now, with his wife, living retired at Indianapolis. Thomas M. Deupree married Laura B. Pritchard, who was born near the town of Edinburg, in Johnson county, this state, daughter of John M. and Louisa (Robinson) Pritchard, both natives of Johnson county, the former of whom is still living, and to this union seven children were born, six of whom are still living, and of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest. For further information regarding this interesting family the reader is referred to a biographical sketch of Thomas M. Deupree, presented elsewhere in this volume, as well as to a sketch of Clarence C. Deupree, cashier of the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis, presented on another page.

When Everett L. Deupree was four years of age, his parents moved from the Johnson county farm to the village of Westport, in Decatur county, and there the subject of this sketch grew to manhood. He received his primary education in the schools of Westport and at the age of thirteen entered the high school at Edinburg, from which he was graduated in 1898. He then attended the normal school at Greensburg, preparatory to a term of service as a teacher in the public schools, and for a time taught school at Westport. He then entered Indiana University and, was graduated from the Indiana Law School with the class of 1904. Upon receiving his diploma, Mr. Deupree formed a partnership for the practice of law with Edwin H. Emrick, with offices at Indianapolis, and the two have practiced together at the capital city ever since. They have a fine suite of offices in the Law building at Indianapolis and have built up a large and lucrative practice. During the past four or five years Mr. Deupree has given special attention to the practice of corporation law and has been very successful. Real-estate law also has appealed to him strongly and his practice in that particular department of jurisprudence has gained for him quite as wide a reputation for acumen and grasp of the niceties of this form of practice as has his practice of corporation law.

In addition to his extensive law practice, Mr. Deupree has found time in his busy career to enter largely into the practical side of the real-estate business. He and Edward Sourbier and Edwin H. Emrick some years ago organized the Sourbier-Emrick Realty Company, incorporated for the purpose of building and loaning money on real estate, and during the past two or three years probably no company in Indianapolis has built and sold as many houses as has this company. Mr. Deupree also is actively engaged in the financial life of the capital city. In May, 1912, he and J. M. Gaston, also of Decatur county, and J. L. Duvall organized the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis, in which he is a director. For some years he also has been



a director in the Citizens State Bank of Indianapolis and is regarded as one of the most prominent of the younger financiers of the capital city. He also is a member of the board of directors of various other corporations in Indianapolis; secretary and director of the Home Insurance Agency of Indiana and vice-president and director of the Marion Securities Company, of Indianapolis.

On March 13, 1904, Everett L. Deupree was united in marriage to Edith Wheeler, who was born at Salem, Oregon, daughter of Hillis A. and Elizabeth (Linton) Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler, who was born near Millersville, Marion county, Indiana, is an old-time beef-packer and is well known as a partner in the Wheeler Dressed Beef Company of Indianapolis. His wife, Elizabeth Linton, was born at Wilmington, Ohio.

Mr. Deupree is a member of Indianapolis Lodge No. 13, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is past chancellor of Excelsior Lodge No. 25, Knights of Pythias, of Indianapolis; a member of Commanche Tribe, Improved Order of Red Men, and of the Marion Club in the same city. He is active, enterprising and energetic and during his residence in the capital city has gained a very wide and influential acquaintance, an acquaintance extending to all parts of the state, and has made a large number of very firm friends, among whom he and Mrs. Deupree are held in the highest regard, their admirable social qualities making them prime favorites in the extensive social circle in which they are regarded as among the prime movers. Though his active life prevents him from revisiting the scenes of his youth as often as he would like, Mr. Deupree has a warm spot in his heart for Decatur county and Decatur county people and is never more congenially engaged than when reviving pleasant recollections of "boyhood's happy hour" with old home folk.

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#### HON. ZACHARIAH THOMPSON RILEY.

It will be impossible for the reader of this volume of biography to escape the conviction that Decatur county originally was peopled by a most worthy class of pioneers, men and women of high ideals, pure motives and lofty purposes. In the main, these original settlers were soldiers of the American Revolution who pushed Westward after independence had been gained for the thirteen original colonies, or by their sons and daughters, who came west in response to the lure of the farther boundaries, seeking a wider horizon, a broader outlook for their adventuresome spirits; men and women of the true



pioneer breed who dared much, braving the perils of the wilderness, "blazing" the ways—their intrepid souls bent only on realizing the glorious vision of new homes and a wider freedom for those who should come after. Among these pioneer families there were few who added more to the renown of this section than the Riley family, or who were more largely responsible for the creation of stable conditions in this now well-established community. A worthy scion of this family, a man whom his neighbors ever delighted to honor, the late Hon. Zachariah Thompson Riley, was, in his day and generation, one of the most influential residents of Decatur county and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to set out some of the salient points in Mr. Riley's interesting career, together with a genealogical statement regarding his family.

Zachariah Thompson Riley was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, on April 22, 1828, and died at his home in Greensburg, Indiana, on May 17, 1907. He was the son of Williams Wright and Elizabeth (Thompson) Riley, natives of Fayette county, Kentucky, and early settlers in Decatur county.

Williams Wright Riley was born in Kentucky in 1804, the son of Gerard and Francis (Wright) Riley, the former born in Kentucky, the son of Ninion and Elizabeth (Taylor) Riley, and the latter born in North Carolina, daughter of John and Ann (Williams) Wright. John Wright was born in Ferguson county, Virginia, in 1728; enlisted from North Carolina in the patriot army for service during the Revolutionary War and died in Surrey county, North Carolina. Ninion Riley, who was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, in 1726, was the son of Solomon Riley, a native of the same county, whose father came to America in 1680. Ninion Riley married Elizabeth Taylor, of Montgomery county, Maryland, and emigrated to Fayette county, Kentucky, where he became prominent in the pioneer affairs of that section of the state and where he spent the remainder of his life.

Following his marriage to Elizabeth Thompson, Williams Wright Riley for a time lived in Clermont county, Ohio. In the year 1835 he and his wife came to this county, settling in the Williamstown neighborhood, where for a time they farmed, later moving to the village of Adams, this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were leaders in that part of the county, taking a prominent part in the social and civic life of the community. Active in the work of the Christian church, they were among the leaders in all good works in that part of the county and were held in the highest esteem by all. In 1856 Mr. Riley was elected to the office of justice of the peace for Clinton township and served in this magisterial capacity for many years, his judgments in such local disputes as arose within his jurisdic-

tion ever being accepted as final. He was an ardent Mason, having become attached to Bethel lodge of that order in Clermont county, Ohio, in 1839. He was a charter member of Greensburg Lodge No. 136, at Greensburg, this county, being the first junior warden thereof, and was the first worshipful master of the lodges of the same order at Milroy, St. Paul and Adams, in this county. He died in 1886 at his home in Adams and his passing was sincerely mourned.

To Williams Wright and Elizabeth (Thompson) Riley were born six children, of whom but one now survives, Mrs. Izora Jones, of Adams, this county. The others were the late Hon. Zachariah Thompson Riley, Mrs. Nancy Wyatt, who died in Kansas; John W., whose last days also were spent in Kansas; Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart and the late Dr. S. H. Riley.

Zachariah Thompson Riley learned the trade of cabinet-maker in the village of Williamstown, but later became a farmer and owned a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Clinton township. His native force of character made him a natural leader and he early took a prominent part in the affairs of his home community. He helped to organize the first Farmers Club in this county, in 1882, and was greatly interested in the betterment of farming conditions throughout this county, his influence in that direction undoubtedly producing wholesome and permanent results. He was elected to a seat in the Indiana state Legislature in 1876 and served in the lower house of the General Assembly in a manner very acceptable to his constituents. His first public service was in the capacity of justice of the peace in Clinton township, a form of service performed with the same regard for justice and equity as had marked his father's service in the same connection. He was a member of the Masonic lodge at Adams and ever took an active and prominent part in the affairs of that lodge. For a time he was engaged, in association with Charles Kemble, in the publication of a newspaper at Williamstown.

In 1853 Z. T. Riley was united in marriage to Frances McLaughton, who died in 1854, and in 1857 he married, secondly, Mary Jane Anderson, who was born near Springhill, this county, in 1835, the daughter of Samuel McClure and Mary (Meek) Anderson, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in Boone county and the latter in Fayette county, that state. Samuel McClure Anderson was the son of John and Ann (McClure) Anderson, natives of Virginia, who emigrated to Kentucky and came thence to this county where they took a prominent part in the pioneer affairs of the Springhill neighborhood. To Samuel McClure and Mary (Meek) Anderson were born seven children, all of whom now are deceased save Mrs. Riley, who is

living at her home in Greensburg, at the ripe old age of eighty years, honored and respected of all, and Sophia, who married Robert Tate and lives at Indianapolis. The other children were Mrs. Martha Ann Martin-Tanner, John C., who married Catherine Martin; Thomas M., James A. and Samuel Davis.

To Zachariah T. and Mary Jane (Anderson) Riley were born four children, Mary Libbie, who died at the age of sixteen years; Vessie, who lives at home with her aged mother; Dr. Eden T. Riley, a well-known and prominent physician of Greensburg, and one child who died in infancy.

Such lives as that of the late Zachariah T. Riley do not go out; they go on. In Decatur county Mr. Riley's influence was strongly impressed upon many lines of human thought and conduct, and invariably for the good. Therefore his influence persists, even though he long has been absent from the scenes which once knew him so well, and his memory long will be cherished in the community of which he once was so forceful a part.

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#### WILLIAM THOMAS BOICOURT.

Although Decatur county is famous throughout the great Hoosier state for its many old families, families whose ancestors have lived here for nearly a century, there is perhaps no family of prominence today in Decatur county, whose ancestors came to the great Hoosier commonwealth quite as early as the progenitors of William Thomas Boicourt, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Adams township, whose paternal ancestor, the founder of the family in America, was a soldier in General Lafayette's army and remained in this country at the close of the Revolutionary War. The grandparents of William T. Boicourt migrated from Virginia to this section about 1812, four years before Indiana Territory was admitted to the Union as a state.

William T. Boicourt was born on April 28, 1858, a mile and one-half east of Westport, the son of David and Mary (Holmes) Boicourt, the former born in June, 1822, and the latter born on October 25, 1828, both of whom died on September 25, 1898. The deaths of these worthy Hoosier pioneers occurred just thirteen minutes apart and their remains were interred in the same grave.

The late David Boicourt, who was a native of Clark county, Indiana, was the son of Felix and Anna Boicourt, natives of Virginia, who came to Indiana about 1812, thus having been among the very earliest settlers of this state. They first settled near Louisville, Kentucky, from which place they

crossed the river to Clark county, Indiana, and subsequently, in 1831, came to Decatur county. They entered government land in the southern part of the county, built a cabin and reared their family. The remains of Felix Boicourt are buried in Horseshoe Bend cemetery, east of Westport. Felix Boicourt was of French descent, his parental ancestor having come to America as heretofore stated, as one of Lafayette's soldiers. At the age of twenty he migrated from Virginia to Pennsylvania, settling near Pittsburgh, where he married Anna Elliot, of Puritan ancestry, who had migrated from Massachusetts to Virginia and later to Pennsylvania. From Pennsylvania they migrated to Kentucky and in 1812 to Clark county, Indiana. After settling in Indiana, they lived in a double log cabin near Millstone creek. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Absalom, who died in White county, Indiana, in 1892, at the age of eighty-two; Mrs. Julia Ann Stonesifer, who died near Fredonia in 1886, at the age of eighty-two; Mrs. Isabella Corya, who died in Jennings county at the age of seventy-nine; William, who died near Westport in 1904 at the age of ninety; Mrs. Christina Canfield, who died in 1901 at the age of seventy-eight; James, who died in Missouri in 1904 at the age of seventy-six, and Ruth, who married John Holmes and died in 1881.

Of the children born to David and Mary (Holmes) Boicourt, representatives of the second generation of the Boicourt family in Indiana, William, the subject of this sketch, is the fifth in order of birth. There were six children, four sons and two daughters, as follow: Aaron, who lives a mile and one-half southeast of Westport; Zachariah, of near Westport, who has gained a state-wide reputation in connection with the annual picnics held for sixteen years in the grove on his Decatur county farm; Mrs. Catherine Higgins, of Indianapolis; George, deceased, who resided one and one-half miles from Letts Corner; William T., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Rebecca Corya, who lives on the old home place one and one-half miles east of Westport.

The mother of these children was the daughter of James and Sarah Holmes, natives of Butler county, Ohio, who came to Decatur county, in 1821 and settled near Greensburg. The father helped to clear the land where the Decatur county court house now stands. After settling on a tract of land south of Greensburg, he spent his life as a farmer, principally in clearing his land. The Boicourt family were lifelong members of the United Brethren church, David having become a member in early boyhood. He was a Republican in politics. For more than fifty years, he was a miller by trade and operated the Horseshoe Bend water mill and afterwards a steam roller mill

at Westport, which finally was destroyed by fire. He had erected a mill at Horseshoe Bend, succeeding the grist-mill, and, in partnership with his brother, George, erected the Westport mill.

Educated in the old Patterson school house east of Westport, a famous old school which stood near his home; later at the old Binninger school northeast of Westport and still later at the Poplar Grove school two miles northeast of Westport, William T. Boicourt's early life was spent in doing the customary work which falls to the lot of the country boy. For two years he worked for his father in the flour-mill and then operated a stone quarry near Westport for four years. In this enterprise he lost considerable money, and in 1885 rented the farm upon which he now lives and which he now owns. Later Mrs. Boicourt inherited a farm and they have since improved the farm in many ways, making it one of the most beautiful country homes to be found anywhere in this section. The farm consists of two hundred and forty-five acres. They now have a thoroughly modernized home which has recently been remodeled. Mr. Boicourt is an extensive stockman and specializes in Duroc-Jersey hogs. In 1914 he sold one hundred and thirty head for two thousand and twenty-seven dollars and in the same year sold fifty-eight head of cattle, which brought him nearly forty-one hundred dollars. Mr. Boicourt also sold five hundred bushels of wheat in 1914. This farm, which is the old Boyer homestead, the homestead of Mrs. Boicourt's maternal grandfather, lies along the river in one of the most picturesque sections of Decatur county, the scenery in that section being beautiful.

On October 10, 1883, William T. Boicourt was married to Lydia Doggett, who was born at Little Flatrock, one mile east of Downeyville, on October 25, 1857, the daughter of Henry and Margaret Emily (Boyer) Doggett, the former of whom was born in 1824 and died on June 27, 1896, and the latter, born in December, 1826, and died on May 28, 1902, a daughter of Daniel Boyer, a native of Pennsylvania and an early pioneer and prominent citizen of Decatur county, who served as county commissioner for many years. Henry Doggett came to this state from Kentucky when eleven years old with his father, Henry Doggett, Sr., whose wife, who was Nancy Smith, of Virginia, was the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier. Henry and Margaret Emily Doggett were the parents of six children, namely: Mrs. Nannie Mobley, deceased; Lydia, the wife of Mr. Boicourt; Ira, who lives in Wyoming; Lafayette, who lives on the old Doggett homestead; Mrs. Loella Glover, deceased, and Frank, who died at the age of thirteen. It is an interesting fact that the first Henry Doggett mentioned in this genealogy married Nancy Smith, of Virginia, the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier.

To William T. and Lydia (Doggett) Boicourt have been born four children, as follow: Mrs. Vessa White, who was born on November 30, 1884, lives in North Dakota and has one child, Ethel Juanita; Forrest Leroy, January 9, 1887, died on May 7, 1898; Ora Hazel, November 11, 1889, who married Pleasant Redington, lives on the old home place and has one child, Walter Lavelle, and Mrs. Ethel Emily King, September 11, 1892, died on March 20, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Boicourt have adopted a son, William B., who was born on April 21, 1899, and who now lives at home with his fosterparents.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Boicourt was a candidate of his party in the campaign of 1914 for county commissioner, but was defeated with the remainder of the ticket. Mr. and Mrs. Boicourt are active members in the Baptist church and are held in high esteem in the neighborhood in which they have for years been regarded as among the leading factors, their influence ever being exerted in behalf of the general good.

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### SOLOMON APPLE.

Solomon Apple, who for fifty-one years has lived on a farm in Adams township, this county, and who, during that time, has established his right to be regarded as one of the successful farmers and efficient, honorable citizens of Decatur county, belongs to a family which was established here in 1849. In his declining years, Mr. Apple is surrounded with all of the comforts which the countryside affords and has the satisfaction of knowing that his two living children, a son and a daughter, are well situated with regard to the material comforts of life. Long residence in one locality will either prove or disprove one's right to the respect of his fellow citizens and it cannot be denied that during the period of his long residence in this community, Solomon Apple has well earned his present enviable standing as an honored citizen.

Solomon Apple was born on October 20, 1839, in Montgomery county, Ohio, the son of Elias and Magdalena (Slifer) Apple, and was ten years of age when brought to this county by his parents. Elias Apple, who was born on January 26, 1817, and who died in July, 1900, was a native of Ohio, who came to Decatur county in the spring of 1849 and later settled in Rush county, still later going to Waldron, in Shelby county, where he died. His wife was born in February, 1817, and died in 1895. They were married on January 4, 1837, and were the parents of eight children, three of whom, Philemon, Mrs.



Lucinda Pence and Elias, Jr., are deceased. The living children are: Solomon, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Susan Griffy, who lives in Rush county; Mrs. Vandaelna Isley, who lives in Illinois; Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe, of St. Omer, and Mrs. Sophia Thompson, of St. Paul, this county.

Solomon Apple, who lived at home with his parents during his youth and early manhood, was married on November 12, 1863, to Caroline Kelley, who was born in Rush county, this state, on January 27, 1843, the daughter of Ezekiel and Nancy (Ballard) Kelley, the former of whom was born on November 29, 1800, and died on August 4, 1879, and the latter of whom was born in 1811 and died on March 24, 1877. They were married in 1827.

After his marriage, Solomon Apple gave his father one thousand dollars for the first eighty acres of land that he owned and immediately set to work to clear the land. For a time he and his wife lived in a one-room log cabin, but later caused to be erected a large frame house, which eventually was succeeded by the fine brick house in which they live today. After a time, they were able to buy eighty acres across the road from Mr. Apple's brother's home and this farm was later presented to Mrs. Charles Allison, a daughter, after which they purchased another eighty-acre tract and presented it to their son, Daniel. At one time, therefore, they owned altogether two hundred and forty acres which has been reduced by the gifts to their two children to eighty acres of land. This farm, the original tract, is now equipped with all of the conveniences for farming, including a large bank-barn. The house may be seen from the roadside, in a beautiful location, surrounded by trees and shrubbery and set on a hill overlooking the roadway. On the farm is a natural gas well, from which is derived gas for light and fuel.

To Solomon and Caroline (Kelley) four children were born, namely: John W., born on April 15, 1865, and died on February 3, 1875; Daniel W., December 9, 1866, married Minnie Allison and has six children, Ethel, George, Gladys, Charles, Forrest and Caroline; Nina, December 9, 1874, married Dr. Charles D. Allison, of Illinois, and has four children, Nina, Mary, Charles and Caroline, and Nannie, October 28, 1877, died on March 13, 1912, married William Kelsoe and bore him one child, Russell, who has been reared by his grandparents.

Solomon Apple is a quiet and unpretentious citizen, a man who lays no particular claim to greatness and one who never boasts of his accomplishments or achievements. Though a Democrat, he has always been more or less independent in voting, since he believes that in this way he can best serve the purposes of good government, hence serving not only himself as a citizen



of the government, but his neighbors as well. The only office he has ever held is that of supervisor of highways. Mr. and Mrs. Apple are members of the United Brethren church at St. Omer and have been for many years. Both are possessed of strong religious feelings and are naturally governed by these feelings in their attitude toward the church and the principles for which the church stands. To Solomon and Caroline Apple it has been granted that their lives should be spared to see their children established in their own homes and with children at their own thresholds, their satisfaction consisting in having had an affectionate and tender interest in their children's welfare.

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### HARRY STEWART HOPKINS, D. D. S.

The improvements made in the practice of dentistry during the past fifty years would be a matter of deep interest to our pioneer settlers, could they but return to earth and visit one of our modern dental parlors. Everything is so shining and up-to-date, they would almost be tempted to have a tooth pulled, just to see for themselves whether or not dentistry has been robbed of any of its terrors, and to prove the truth of the statement that teeth may be extracted without pain, which statement usually is interpreted as meaning without pain to the dentist. However, due credit must be given to the dentist of today, for he is always on the lookout for the aids that help to lessen the hurt, as well as for those that improve the appearance of his work, in which class of up-to-date dentists none is better known hereabout than Doctor Hopkins, a popular dental surgeon at Greensburg, this county.

Harry Stewart Hopkins was born on May 30, 1874, on a farm near Kingston, this county, a son of James Burney and Susan (Stewart) Hopkins. He was reared on a farm, and attended high school, later attending the Ohio Dental College, at Cincinnati, from which he was graduated in 1896, entering upon the practice of his profession at Greensburg, in the fall of the same year. Doctor Hopkins has been very successful, and has built up an excellent practice. In politics, he is a Republican, and in religion, a Presbyterian. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

James Burney Hopkins, father of Doctor Hopkins, was a native of Dearborn county, born in 1838. He died at the home of his daughter, three miles east of Greensburg, in 1901. He was a farmer all his life, and did service in the Union army, during the Civil War, spending thirty days in an effort to

resist Morgan's raid into Indiana. His wife was born in Ohio in 1845 and died in 1890. She was a daughter of Samuel Stewart, a native of Ohio, who came to Decatur county about 1850. They were the parents of three children, Nellie, Elizabeth and Harry Stewart. Nellie married a Mr. Doles, and lives on a farm east of Greensburg. Elizabeth married Bruce McCoy and died in 1901. George Washington Hopkins, of Kentucky, Doctor Hopkins' paternal grandfather, was one of the pioneer settlers of the Kingston neighborhood, having located in this county in 1821.

In 1897 Dr. Harry Stewart Hopkins was united in marriage to Ida C. Hollensbee, daughter of Henry Hollensbee, and to this union two children have been born, Mary and Helen.

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### CHARLES S. TEMPLETON.

Charles S. Templeton is a well known farmer of Adams township, this county, who owns two hundred and twenty acres of land, of which eighty acres is situated in Daviess county. Representatives of the Templeton family have resided in this county since 1869, when Robert Templeton, a native of Virginia, came to this county. He died at the age of eighty-seven in this county. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Holland, is a native of Franklin county, Indiana, and is now living on the home farm at the age of seventy-eight years. The old home farm consists now of sixty acres, but formerly comprised a tract of one hundred and sixty acres.

Charles S. Templeton was born on July 25, 1861, in Franklin county, Indiana, the son of Robert and Mary (Holland) Templeton, being the fourth child born to his parents, and one of a family of eleven children, the others being as follow: George, who lives south of Adams, in this county, and is engaged in farming; Lillie, who died at the age of seven years; David, who lives at Spiceland, Indiana; Mrs. Anna McKee, of Adams township, this county; Mrs. Nannie Bailey, deceased; Morton, of St. Paul, Indiana; Dora, of Hope, Indiana; Dudley, a well-known merchant of St. Paul; Stella, who lives at home with her mother, south of St. Paul, and Roy who is a telegraph operator in Connersville.

Charles S. Templeton was educated in the public schools of this county and began farming at the age of twenty-two years on the farm owned by his father-in-law, the late James Davis. He was located there for three years, and then moved to a farm farther south where he lived for three years,

at the end of which time he moved to Daviess county, where he lived for nine years. Returning to Decatur county, Mr. Templeton located in Adams township, and after living on a farm for six years moved to Adams, where for two years he was engaged in the livery business. He then purchased his present home farm of sixty acres. In the meantime Mr. Templeton has acquired additional land until now he owns two hundred and twenty acres.

On January 15, 1882, Charles Templeton was married to Mary E. Davis, who was born in Adams township, this county, the daughter of James and Sarah E. (Holland) Davis, both now deceased, to which union one child has been born, Luna, who married M. T. Platt, of Adams, this county, and has one son, William Templeton.

Mrs. Charles Templeton was born in Adams township, this county, on December 10, 1861, daughter of James and Sarah E. (Holland) Davis, the former of whom was born on April 26, 1829, and died on May 5, 1904, and the latter of whom was born in this county on January 10, 1837, and died on June 12, 1911. James Davis came to this country from County Mayo, Ireland, in 1840, at the age of eleven years, a poor lad without friends and without resources. Settling in Adams township, this county, he lived there for many years and prospered. A good trader and financier, he became in time a very successful man, at the time of his death being the owner of nearly three thousand acres of fine land. He was a man known far and wide for his sterling integrity and rugged honesty, his word ever being regarded to be as good as his bond. Twelve hundred acres of Mr. Davis' land was situated in Daviess county, the remainder being located in Decatur and Shelby counties. That he was recognized as an honorable and upright citizen is proved by the fact that on many occasions he was called on by the courts of different counties to administer estates, a most trustworthy and responsible position. During his life he dealt heavily in live stock, and was an extensive shipper in this section. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, as follow: Euphemia Jane, deceased; George M. C., deceased; John H., deceased; Mrs. Templeton; Robert J., of Clay township; James G. and Edward W. (twins), the former of whom lives on the home farm, and the latter near Milford, and Mrs. Luna Smith, of Clay township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Templeton have come an extraordinary measure of the comforts of life, and they have lived together these many years devoted and loving companions on the pathway of life. Mr. Templeton's standing in the community, as well as his standing among the members of his own family, is adequately proved by the fact that at the death of the late James Davis, his father-in-law, he was called upon by the court and by the

family to administer this large estate and performed the duties of that exacting trust not only with credit to himself, but to the entire satisfaction of the members of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Templeton are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Adams and active workers therein, contributing liberally of the means with which fortune has favored them to religious works. Mr. Templeton is a Republican and takes an earnest and intelligent interest in the political affairs of the county, being regarded as a leader in his community.

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### WILLIAM W. ROBERTSON.

The preservation of the personal annals of prominent citizens of this generation is not only a pleasing, but a most useful work; one for which the succeeding generations of those represented in the pages of such annals should be very grateful. William W. Robertson, a well-known farmer of Adams township, this county, one of several brothers who have done so much for the agricultural development of Adams township, for many years has stood in the front ranks of agricultural vocational life in this community. Coming from an old and respected family of Decatur county, he is naturally a man who is well known here, where his life has always been an open book, subject to the most searching scrutiny. He has responded nobly and faithfully to all the duties which citizenship in a free country impose upon a man, and has amply won his spurs in the race for success.

William W. Robertson was born on March 20, 1858, on the old Robertson homestead, the son of Oliver Perry and Mary A. (Davis) Robertson, early settlers in Adams township, the former of whom was born in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, on August 1, 1825, the son of John and Ruth (Ridlen) Robertson, natives of Maryland and early settlers in Dearborn county. After coming to this county, locating in Adams township in 1829, the family became quite prosperous and widely recognized as one of the leading factors in the agricultural life of the community. Mrs. Mary A. (Davis) Robertson, who was the second wife of Oliver P., was born on June 15, 1833, the daughter of John W. and Sarah (Forsythe) Davis, natives of New Jersey, who came to Decatur county about 1830 and settled in Adams township. Mrs. Mary A. (Davis) Robertson died on May 25, 1907. She was the mother of seven children, of whom all are living. Of these children, Josiah W., Franklin, Edward and William W. are farmers in Adams town-

ship, this county; Charles lives at Acton, Marion county, Indiana; Lydia is the wife of Elmer Shelhoun, and Ruth is the housekeeper for her brothers, Josiah W. and Edward. The late Oliver P. Robertson, who passed away in 1907, was first married to Nancy Edrington, who was born in 1831, and who died in June, 1852. She was the daughter of Hiram and Rhoda Edrington, natives of Kentucky and pioneers in Adams township. To that union there were born two children, Louisa L. (deceased) and Lafayette, also a farmer of Adams township, this county.

Until he was twenty-five years of age, William W. Robertson lived on the old homestead and in 1883 purchased his farm of one hundred and twenty acres, the farm on which he now resides and where he has lived continuously for a period of thirty-two years. In 1887, four years after purchasing his farm, Mr. Robertson was married to Josephine Thomas Perry, who was born on October 12, 1855, near the Franklin-Decatur county line, the daughter of James and Martha (Ryan) Perry, natives of Indiana and early settlers of Decatur county. Subsequently they moved from Decatur across the line to Franklin county, and thence back to Decatur. When Mrs. Robertson was a child her parents moved to Illinois and settled in Jasper county, where the father died. The mother returned to this state and died in Seymour, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Perry were the parents of four children, namely: Sarah Elizabeth, who married a Mr. Chapman, and died in 1913; Mrs. Mary Isabelle Smith, of Rushville; Mrs. Martha Jane Terhune, of Urbana, Illinois; and Josephine Thomas, who returned to Indiana from Illinois and was here married. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, but they have one foster daughter, Mrs. Lillian Leonora Hinkle, who lives in Shelby county.

William W. Robertson is a Republican and for many years has been prominent in the political life of Adams township; well known throughout the county for his political following in the section of the county in which he lives. From May 1, 1906, to January 1, 1909, he was trustee of Adams township. He and his wife have a fine home, which is reached by a driveway from the main road. Their land is fertile and highly productive and as Mr. Robertson is a good farmer, the most has been made of the opportunities thus afforded, with the result that they have prospered. Mr. Robertson's election as township trustee is an evidence of the regard in which he is held by the people of his home community and both he and his wife enjoy the highest esteem of their neighbors.

## ORLANDO LEE.

One of the enterprising farmers of Adams township, this county, well known for his efficient public service in the office of county commissioner, where he served for six years, is Orlando Lee, who lives in the northeast corner of that township. Although he owns forty acres of land, he was formerly engaged in operating three hundred acres of rented land. His claim to distinction in this county is based not only on his record as a successful farmer, but in the fall of 1904 he was elected to the office of county commissioner by the largest majority ever given a candidate for that office, being elected on the Republican ticket. His repeated re-elections afforded the most tangible evidence that could be cited of his efficient service and the universal satisfaction which he gave in that office.

Orlando Lee was born on August 30, 1850, in Tipton county, Indiana, the son of Randolph and Eliza (Summerville) Lee, who came to Decatur county on September 26, 1863, Orlando being then thirteen years of age. Randolph Lee, who was born in Kentucky in 1824, came to Decatur county first in 1842 and here learned the wheelwright's trade from the late Samuel Hood. He was married in 1846 and two years later moved to Tipton county and fifteen years later returned to Decatur county. In 1877 he moved to the state of Kansas, where he spent the rest of his life. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was a Scottish Rite Mason of the thirty-second degree. His wife was the daughter of Joseph Summerville, a pioneer settler of Fugit township, this county. To them were born ten children, namely: Philander, deceased; Orlando, the subject of this sketch; Amanda, who died in Rush county on March 22, 1875; Joseph, who lives at Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Mrs. Mary Barlow, who lives at Stillwater, Oklahoma; Ira, who lives at New Albany, Kansas; Mrs. Margaret Ridgeway, who resides in Koweda, Oklahoma; John, deceased; William, who lives at Ramona, Oklahoma, and Randolph, Jr., deceased.

In 1867, when the Lee family moved to Rush county, Indiana, they were accompanied by their son, Orlando, the subject of this sketch, who lived there until 1892, in which year he purchased his farm in Decatur county, giving one thousand dollars for the tract. At the time he went heavily in debt for the land but has since been able to pay for the farm and has lately refused one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. Mr. Lee has a beautiful country home, of which he has every reason to be proud. In 1914 he raised ninety-six acres of wheat and seventy-two acres of corn. On January 12, 1915, at a sale, he sold sixty head of hogs and seven head of horses. In late years



he has been engaged in the sale of fertilizer throughout Decatur county, as a representative of the Reed Phosphate Company, and has been very successful, selling large quantities of fertilizer in this county.

On September 30, 1875, Orlando Lee was married to Katie Hardesty, who was born on March 18, 1849, near St. Omer, in Adams township, the daughter of George Hardesty. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are members of the Milroy Christian church and for years have been considered among the leaders in all good works in that community, being held in the highest regard by all who know them.

In the community in which he lives, Mr. Lee is known as one of those men whose word is as good as his bond and who maintains a friendly and sympathetic interest in the welfare of his neighbors, a cordial and intimate relationship with his fellow citizens and a patriotic, optimistic attitude toward the government of which he is a part. He is a good citizen, who stands first and foremost for law and order and one who believes that good government is the result of electing to office men, who are not only right in intentions and possessed of honorable purposes, but men who likewise understand the needs of those whom they would serve.

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#### ISRAEL D. JEWETT.

The gentleman whose name appears above is widely known as one of the honored old residents of Decatur county. For nearly three-quarters of a century he has been identified with this community, while, since attaining mature years, he has been a valued factor in the development of the county, being prominently identified with the various interests of his locality. His well-directed energies in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests and his sound judgment have demonstrated what may be accomplished by a man of energy and ambition, who, persevering often in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, has proved that he is the possessor of those innate qualities necessary to bring success, if properly directed.

Israel D. Jewett was born in Adams township, this county, on March 15, 1842, and has lived continuously in that township. The brick house in which he now lives was built by his father and the place is numbered among the best old homesteads of that part of the county. The father of Israel D. Jewett, Hiram D. Jewett, was born on January 17, 1822, and died on March



25, 1890, and his wife, Malinda (Israel) Jewett, was born on May 7, 1823, and died on October 22, 1880. She was the daughter of Thomas and Christina (Deem) Israel, the former of whom died on August 17, 1858, and the latter on May 25, 1834. The paternal grandparents of Israel D. Jewett were David and Elizabeth (Crosby) Jewett, natives of New Jersey, where David Jewett died on April 30, 1860. The Jewetts were among the first settlers of Adams township, this county, locating near the present site of Downeyville, where he built a stone house and acquired a large tract of land. He built the old Picayune mills and in the early days was a distiller of whisky and also operated a tannery. He built the first saw-mill on Flat Rock river and also the first grist-mill. He served as justice of the peace, or "squire," for many years and was widely known for his honesty and high sense of justice. He was, as stated above, a pioneer in his community and a leader in all movements for the advancement of the welfare of the locality in which he lived.

Hiram D. Jewett was reared and married in Adams township and for a time operated a farm on Flat Rock, later settling on the farm now owned by the subject of this sketch. For a number of years he operated a general store at St. Omer, which he sold and with the proceeds bought a tract of land which he gradually enlarged, until his real estate holdings amounted to three hundred and ninety-six acres. Hiram D. Jewett was prominent in the community and for years served efficiently as trustee of Adams township.

Israel D. Jewett was educated in the schools of St. Omer and, upon reaching manhood, opened a general store at Adams, which he operated for two years. He then engaged in the mercantile business at St. Omer, which occupied his attention from 1872 to 1888, after which, for four years, he was engaged in business at Williamstown. He then moved to Greensburg, where he bought property, erected a comfortable home and remained for fifteen years, at the end of which time he moved to the home farm and has remained there ever since. He has now practically retired from active business, although he maintains an active supervision of the three hundred and ninety-six acres comprising his estate, from which he derives a very comfortable income.

Mr. Jewett has always allied himself with the Republican party and has been stanch in his espousal of its principles. He formerly was a member of the Masonic order and has, in his life, demonstrated the nobility of its teachings. Though practically retired from active life, Mr. Jewett retains a warm interest in the welfare of the community with which his entire life has been identified and has done much for its advancement and progress. He is the owner of the Jewett Telephone Company, which has proved to be one of the

best public-utility corporations in this section of the state and, in other ways, has demonstrated that he is a man of sound business principles, progressive ideas and untiring energy.

On March 22, 1870, Israel D. Jewett was married, at Indianapolis, to Samantha J. Mann, who was born in Brown county, Ohio, on March 14, 1848, the daughter of John W. and Sarah (Dye) Mann, natives of Ohio, who died in Brown county, Ohio, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, respectively, the latter on December 31, 1883. Upon the death of her father, when she was quite young, Samantha Mann was cared for by an uncle in Rush county, Indiana; her mother going to one of the southern states, where she afterwards remarried. Mrs. Jewett has neither father, mother, sister nor brother. She received her education in the public schools and taught school in Decatur and Shelby counties, beginning this vocation before she was eight years of age. She later attended Franklin College and received a well-rounded education. She is a woman of splendid attainments and is held in the highest regard by all who know her. To Israel D. and Samantha J. (Mann) Jewett have been born the following children: Ora H., born on September 17, 1871, who lives in Indianapolis, married Jennie Thomson and has three children, Robert, Marie and Caryl, the latter deceased; Ettie M., October 31, 1872, died on April 5, 1909; and Earl D.

Earl D. Jewett was born on March 31, 1880, and received his education in the public schools. Following his graduation from the Greensburg high school, in furtherance of his desire to make the practice of medicine his life work, he matriculated in the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis and subsequently became a student in the Illinois Medical College at Chicago, from which latter institution he was graduated in 1904. He then went West, locating in Grant's Pass, Oregon, where he practiced his profession for one year and six months, at the end of which time he returned to Indiana and for three years was located at Richland and Milroy, later moving to St. Paul, this county, where he has ever since continued in the practice of his profession. Well trained and keeping abreast of the times in his profession, Doctor Jewett has met with well-deserved success and is now numbered among the successful and prominent physicians of this community. Doctor Jewett is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society and takes a deep interest in its proceedings. In addition to his professional interests, Doctor Jewett is engaged in the operation of the Jewett Telephone Company, which was established by his father in 1894 and which has been under the doctor's management since 1909. The lines are connected with a number of other exchanges so that the subscribers receive the best of service and are connected with all

points in Rush and Decatur counties. Doctor Jewett is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and is physician for that order in Decatur county.

In 1906 Dr. Earl D. Jewett was united in marriage to Maude Yeager, a daughter of Samuel Yeager, of Blue Ridge, Shelby county, and to this union have been born two children, Justine Ione and Emma Fern.

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### EZRA L. PLEAK.

Among the well-known farmers of a past generation in Decatur county, Indiana, was Ezra Larkin Pleak, who, prior to the time of his death, February 13, 1913, owned three hundred and eighty acres of farming land in this county. Of him it may be said that he began life in humble circumstances, but slowly and gradually worked his way up to a position of prominence among the farmers of this township. Ezra Larkin Pleak had the good fortune to select for his wife, not only a good woman, but one of superior business ability, and one who proved of great assistance to him in their struggles for success. He died on his farm in Jackson township within ten feet of where he was born.

Ezra Larkin Pleak, until his death a successful farmer of Jackson township, was born, October 24, 1844, the son of Llewellyn and Emily (Menifee) Pleak, the former of whom died in 1850 and the latter of whom, born, April 18, 1818, in Scott county, Kentucky, was the daughter of Larkin and Charity Menifee, who removed from Kentucky to Indiana in 1832 and settled in Decatur county. Emily E. Menifee was married to Llewellyn Pleak, November 5, 1840, and after her husband's death, in 1853, married William Cure. At her death, March 3, 1902, she had two sons living: Ezra Larkin, the subject of this sketch, and Joseph Cure, who died in April, 1915. A sister, Barthena Pleak, the wife of Thomas J. Clark, was born, June 6, 1842, and died July 8, 1900.

The Pleak family in Decatur county had its origin in this country through Johann Pleak, a Hollander, who came to America in the middle of the eighteenth century and settled in Kentucky, in the neighborhood of Castletons Fort, now Mt. Sterling, where he married a Miss Wade, a sister of General Wade, of Revolutionary fame, and to them was born a son, Fielden Blickenstorfer Pleak. In 1818 Fielden Blickenstorfer Pleak married Sabina Virt, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and of Dutch descent, who was six months old when her parents emigrated to Bryants Station, Kentucky,



MR. AND MRS. EZRA L. PLEAK.



and where she lived at the time of her marriage. Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Fielden Pleak moved across the Ohio river, settling at Cress-plains, Jefferson county, Indiana, where they remained only a short time. On March 11, 1822, they came to Decatur county, entering a farm in Washington township; this farm is still in possession of the Pleak family.

Johann Pleak, whose mother was a Blickenstorfer, born in Holland, April 15, 1826, came with his two brothers and a sister to America, landing at Jamestown. Joseph, one of the brothers, went to North Carolina and was never heard of again. The sister was married in Pennsylvania to a man by the name of Throgmorton, and reared a large family. Johann presently settled in Kentucky, where he purchased a tract of land. He became a well-known scout in this pioneer state in the neighborhood of Castletons Fort, and had many interesting experiences with the Indians, who were very much afraid of him. He was married to the sister of General Wade at Castletons Fort. They had three sons and three daughters. One son was slain by the Indians; the other two were Dawson and Fielden, heretofore referred to.

The first shelter which Fielden Pleak set up in Decatur county after his removal here was a brush lean-to, covered with branches of trees and blankets, which served as a home until a log cabin could be erected. After being in Decatur county a short time, Fielden returned to Kentucky to bring back his furniture. Upon his return he found that his wife during his absence had sawed logs and erected the first four courses of a log cabin, and here the family was reared. Fielden Blickenstorfer Pleak, who was born, December 24, 1792, died, December 29, 1835. His wife, Sabina Virt, died December 24, 1875. They were married, June 9, 1814, and had a family of thirteen children, of whom Llewellyn, the father of Ezra Larkin, was the second born. The names of the children in the order of birth were as follows: Louisa, who married Charles Miller; Llewellyn, Joseph Dawson, John Isaac, George G. W. B., Catherine, Joseph D., Eletvan, America, Susannah, Norcus Baron Steuben, Isaac Henry Fielden and Louis.

Ezra Larkin Pleak, the son of Llewellyn Pleak and the grandson of Fielden Pleak, and the great-grandson of Johann Pleak, the founder of the Pleak family in America, was an orphan at the age of five, and was reared by his uncle, Steuben B.

On August 16, 1866, the late Ezra Pleak was married to Lucinda Bruce, who was born, November 10, 1849, in Jackson township, the daughter of Hiram and Mary Ann (Nevitt) Bruce, the former of whom was born, January 10, 1825, in Dearborn county, Indiana, and who died, April 28, 1900,

and the latter of whom was born, December 16, 1831, and who now lives in Westport. Hiram Bruce was the son of Stephen Bruce, who married a Miss Rivers, and who was the captain on a steamboat. Stephen came to Ripley county in 1828. Hiram Bruce was employed on a steamboat on the Ohio river and married Mary Ann Nevitt, January 1, 1849. After their marriage they removed to Decatur county, Indiana, in the spring of 1850, erecting a log cabin and clearing a farm. The children were compelled to blaze their way to school through the wilderness. In 1853 the parents built a frame house. Subsequently, they owned two hundred and forty acres of land, which they inherited from David Nevitt, Mrs. Pleak's maternal grandfather. Hiram and Mary Ann (Nevitt) Bruce had ten children, of whom four are deceased. The names of the children in the order of birth are as follows: Mrs. Lucinda Pleak, Mrs. Mary Gartin, Mrs. Alice Gartin, Mrs. Belle Lemasters, Mrs. Lizzie Lemasters, deceased; Mrs. Ida Gwynn, deceased; Charles, deceased; John, who lives with Mrs. Pleak; Hiram, who was killed in a railroad wreck near Cleveland, Ohio, and George, of North Vernon.

Mr. and Mrs. Pleak began their married life with sixty acres of land, which he inherited. Later, they purchased sixty acres from his sister. It was bare land without any improvements except an old log cabin in a bad state of repair. They were compelled to clear the land. Ponds stood on the place and it was necessary to install elaborate drainage. Later they were able to build a good home on high ground, and prospered. Of the three hundred and eighty acres which Mr. and Mrs. Pleak owned at the time of his death, eighty acres of it belonged to Mrs. Pleak in her own right, which she acquired as the result of raising chickens in a period of three years. She now owns the whole farm, having purchased the interest of the heirs, and has since sold sixty acres, and she now has three hundred and twenty acres in her own right. Mrs. Pleak and her brother operate one hundred and twenty acres, and her sons operate the other land. Some of the many buildings on the farm have been built by Mrs. Pleak since her husband's death.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Larkin Pleak were born six children, one of whom is deceased: Mary Louisa, who was born, September 13, 1867, and died, July 27, 1894, was the wife of John H. Spear, to whom she was married, May 23, 1886, and who at the time of her death left one son, Oda; Dr. Ezra H., who was born, May 30, 1869, and lives at Evansville, and who has been married three times, his first wife being a Miss Anthers, has four children, Carl E., Freda M., Thelma N. and Mary L., who have been partly reared by their grandmother; Orda E., who was born, March 12, 1871, and lives at Letts, married Nevada Evans and they have eight children, Asa D., Mary Leone,



Wayne F., Alfonso Lee, Bernice I., Ardra, Dale and Gerald; Steuben D., who was born, January 1, 1873, married Marie Vanosdal, August 19, 1911; Charles F., who was born on December 9, 1874, and who lives in Jackson township, was married, August 15, 1897, to Daisy D. Borden, and they are the parents of eight children, Vera F., Cecil F., Gladys M., Iola B., Norma Louisa, Naomi L., Orion E. and Helen Leota; Walter E., who was born, March 1, 1877, married Gertrude Dunden, April 8, 1903, and they have two children, Maurice D. and Ruth Isabel, living in Jackson township, near Sardinia.

The late Ezra Larkin Pleak was a member of Mt. Aerie Baptist church, as is also his wife. He was a Republican in politics and recorded his first vote for Lincoln. A skillful and enterprising farmer, an efficient and upright citizen, a kind husband and loving father, the late Ezra Larkin Pleak was widely mourned by the people of Jackson township, where he had many friends. Although his work is ended here, his influence goes on to mold for good the lives of his children and the lives of those with whom he came in contact during life.

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### LORIN A. JEWETT.

No resident of Adams township, this county, is better known in the township, or in this section of the state, since Mr. Jewett's acquaintance extends through several counties, than the subject of this sketch. He belongs to an old and highly respected family in this section, his grandfather having been one of the pioneer settlers in Adams township, having entered, upon his arrival here in 1823 from New York state, three thousand acres of land in that part of the county, much of which is still held by the Jewett family. Mr. Jewett is the township trustee and a well-known merchant of St. Paul, this county, senior member of the firm of L. A. Jewett & Son.

Lorin A. Jewett was born on October 28, 1861, on a farm three miles north of Adams, the son of Orin C. and Phoebe (Smith) Jewett, the former of whom was born in 1829, and who died in 1907, and the latter of whom was born on July 29, 1829. Orin C. Jewett was born on the farm entered by his father, David Jewett, and the two-story stone house still standing on the land was built by the latter. Orin C. Jewett built a house a quarter of a mile distant from the stone house of his father. The Jewett family, which was established in this section by David Jewett, who died in 1861, is one of the leading families in Decatur county. The founder of the family in this section

was an Englishman who married a German woman. Their son, Orin C. Jewett, spent all his life, with the exception of six months, on the old homestead farm in Adams township, and at the time of his death was the owner of four hundred and thirteen acres, having begun with two hundred and forty acres. David Jewett erected a grist-mill at Downeyville, on the Little Flat Rock river, and for many years operated that mill, the pioneers coming from a distance of twenty miles to have their grain ground. Lorin A. Jewett was one of six children born to his parents, the others being as follow: Charles and Frank D., who live in Greensburg with their mother and who operate the home farm; Effie, the wife of J. T. Kercheval, a farmer living in Washington township, two miles east of Greensburg; Mrs. Mary Farlow, of Greensburg, and Mrs. Bertha Bentley, whose husband is a farmer of this county.

Reared on the farm and educated in the public schools of Adams township, Lorin A. Jewett taught school for twenty years in Decatur county. For three years he was a student at Hartsville College, and for two years was in attendance at the Central Indiana Normal School at Danville, Indiana. In college he prepared himself for teaching and bookkeeping. In the fall of 1906 he engaged in business at St. Paul, in a large brick building, and has been thus engaged since that time. He has a large stock of merchandise and has built up an excellent trade. His store is arranged on the department plan, and is admirably managed. Mr. Jewett has an extensive trade, not only in Adams township, this county, but over the line in Shelby and Rush counties, his store being one of the most popular thereabout.

On December 25, 1887, Lorin A. Jewett was married at Danville, Indiana, to Sallie Green, daughter of Henry Green, of Danville, and to this union has been born one son, Kenneth L., born on December 6, 1888, who is engaged in business with his father, as the junior member of the firm of L. A. Jewett & Son.

Lorin A. Jewett was elected township trustee of Adams township on the Democratic ticket in the fall of 1914. For five years he has served as secretary of the St. Paul Building and Loan Association. The Jewett family are all earnest and faithful members of the Christian church. Fraternally, Mr. Jewett is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Improved Order of Red Men, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, in all of which organizations he takes an active interest. He holds membership with the Knights of Pythias lodge at Greensburg, with the Red Men and Odd Fellows at St. Paul, with the Eagles at Greensburg, and with the Masonic fraternity at Waldron.

A successful merchant and a well-known citizen, L. A. Jewett deserves to rank as one of the representative citizens of Decatur county, a man of generous impulses, of splendid business ability and of pleasing personal parts.

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### ALBERT G. TAYLOR.

Albert G. Taylor, a well-known farmer of Adams township, this county, who owns a highly-profitable farm of two hundred acres in that township, belongs to a family which was established in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, in 1842, when that township was practically a wilderness. Although Mr. Taylor is neither one of the largest farmers nor the largest stockmen of this county, he has made a very gratifying success of his two-hundred-acre tract and has an annual output of about two hundred head of hogs and some forty or fifty head of cattle.

Born on March 10, 1847, Albert G. Taylor, who has lived in Adams township for the past twelve years, is a native of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, the son of George and Anna (Hill) Taylor, who are natives of Pennsylvania, born and reared in that state. After their marriage they came west in 1842 and settled in Sand Creek township, this county, where they purchased three hundred acres of timber land, built a log cabin and made ready to clear and develop their farm. In this they were very successful, and presently came to be regarded as among the well-to-do residents of that community. George Taylor died at the age of seventy-five years and his wife died at the age of sixty-five.

Of the ten children born to George and Anna (Hill) Taylor, seven are still living. Isaac died in 1905, Mrs. Elizabeth Robbins died in 1885, and Mrs. Jane Samuels died in 1890. The living children are as follow: Albert G., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Anne Bayles, of Carroll county, Indiana; Frank, of Greensburg, this county; Mrs. Alice Myers, of Sand Creek township, this county; John Anderson; Merritt, of Jackson township, and Belle, who makes her home with her brother, Albert G.

After attending school in Sand Creek township, and living at home with his parents until twenty-three years of age, Albert G. Taylor rented a farm in Sand Creek township, having previously engaged in farm work for hire in that neighborhood. From his savings Mr. Taylor was able eventually to buy one hundred and forty-two acres in Sand Creek township and later to add forty acres to this original tract, making one hundred and eighty-two acres in

all. There he lived until 1903, in which year he sold that farm and removed to Adams township, purchasing his present farm of two hundred acres.

In 1869 Albert G. Taylor was married to Rachel Stout, who was born in Franklin county, this state, in 1849, the daughter of the Rev. Joab Stout, a pioneer Baptist minister, who came to Decatur county from Franklin county when Rachel was an infant. The marriage proved a very happy one, and Mr. Taylor and his wife lived together, true and devoted companions, until Mrs. Taylor's death, December 26, 1910. To them six children were born, namely: Alpha H., who became a teacher in the Decatur county schools at the age of seventeen, later taking a course at Franklin College, going thence to the Indiana State Normal School at Terre Haute, from which she was graduated, and is now a teacher in the public schools of Gary, Indiana. Mrs. Myrta Myers, of Connersville, Indiana, who has one child, Dorothy; Mrs. Luna Burton, of Atlanta, Georgia, who has one child, Wynne; May, who lives at home with her father; Mrs. Edith West, of Indianapolis, who has two children, Albert and Robert, and Luther, who lives at home and is engaged in farming.

Mr. Taylor is a member of the Baptist church, as was Mrs. Taylor before her death, and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Taylor has lived to rear a large family of children, all of whom are leading honorable, useful and successful lives and has the gratification of knowing that his own career in this respect has been successful. He has the further satisfaction of knowing that he enjoys the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and fellow citizens, all of whom hold him in the highest regard.

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### LAFAYETTE ROBERTSON.

In these latter days farming has become a vocation for highly trained and educated minds and the haphazard processes of former generations must be given up if men are to succeed in this generation. Many far-seeing farmers have anticipated this modern development in agriculture and themselves have adopted and followed improved methods and scientific processes for many years. Lafayette Robertson, a well-known farmer of Adams township, is a man who not only understands the business of farming as a business, but who practices farming as a business and who has managed to make it pay him handsome returns.

Lafayette Robertson was born in Decatur county, Indiana, on March 15,

1852, the son of Oliver Perry and Nancy (Edrington) Robertson, the former of whom was born in 1825 and died in 1907, and the latter born in 1831 and died in June, 1852. Oliver Perry Robertson, a native of Decatur county, was the son of John and Ruth (Ridlen) Robertson, the former a native of West Virginia, who settled in this county in 1823. Mrs. Nancy (Edrington) Robertson was the daughter of Hiram and Rhoda Edrington, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers in Adams township, this county, where they cleared the land for their farm, built a log house and later erected a large brick house, now owned by E. Shelhorn.

When Lafayette Robertson was only four years old, his father moved to the old Robertson homestead, which is in sight of Lafayette Robertson's present home. The late Oliver P. Robertson lived to rear a large family of children and to become quite well-to-do, owning, at the time of his death, one hundred and sixty acres of land. By his first marriage two children were born, Louisa L. (deceased) and Lafayette, the subject of this sketch. After the death of his first wife, Oliver P. Robertson married, secondly, Mary Ann Davis, who died in 1909. To this second union eight children were born, namely: Warren, who lives on a farm west of Adams; John; Frank, who lives in Adams township, south of his brother Warren's residence; William W., who lives three-quarters of a mile west of the old Edrington home; Charles T., of Marion county, Indiana; Edward, who resides with Warren; Ruth, who lives in Adams township, and Mrs. Lydia Shelhorn, who lives in the old Edrington home. Lafayette Robertson lived at home until seventeen years of age and then worked as a farm hand for six years. After his marriage, he lived on the old homestead for two or three years and then rented and moved to the Nelson Jewett farm, which he bought several years later and has lived there for thirty-seven years.

On April 7, 1875, Lafayette Robertson was married to Emma Jewett, who was born on July 31, 1855, in a brick house on the same farm where she is now living, the daughter of Nelson and Ruth (Hayes) Jewett, the former of whom was born in 1820 in Hamilton county, Ohio, the son of David Jewett and who died on September 28, 1882, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Jacob Hayes, an early settler of Jackson township, who was born in 1824 and who died on September 29, 1887. Mrs. Robertson is the third in order of birth of the children born to her parents, the others being as follow: Mrs. Julia Hill, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth McCoy, who died on January 22, 1915; Mrs. Fannie White, of Greensburg; Mrs. Clara White, also of Greensburg, and several who died in infancy.

To Lafayette and Emma (Jewett) Robertson have been born three

children, one of whom died in infancy, those living being Mrs. Myrta Anderson, of Adams township, this county, and Mrs. Nellie Mullikin, who lives in Ridgeville, Indiana, and has one child, Robert Stanley.

At one time Mr. Robertson served a term as a member of the county council. Politically, he is now identified with the Progressive party. He is a man well known throughout Adams township and today is regarded as a leader in the agricultural affairs of this township, a man of gracious personality, who has mastered the vocation in which he is engaged and whose efforts have met with a most satisfactory and gratifying degree of success.

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### WILLIAM S. KETCHUM.

William S. Ketchum was born in 1834 in Hamilton county, Ohio, the son of Benjamin and Rhoda (Beem) Ketchum, the former of whom was a native of New York and who came to Ohio, where his son, William S., the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood.

At the age of twenty-two years William S. Ketchum married Elizabeth Bevington, a native of Miami county, Ohio, to which union six children were born, four of whom are still living, namely: Benjamin K., of Grant county, Indiana; William E., of Decatur county, a farmer and preacher living near Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Arminta Knaar, the wife of Adam Knaar, of Greensburg, and Isom Ketchum, of Indianapolis. The mother of these children died in the early seventies and William S. Ketchum, in 1879, married, secondly, Mary M. Williams, the daughter of Peter and Eliza (Palmer) Williams, the latter of whom was the daughter of David and Annie (Hammond) Palmer, natives of New York state. Annie (Hammond) Palmer came with her parents from England, where she was born in 1794. When eighteen years old she was married to David Palmer, who shortly afterwards became a soldier in the War of 1812, serving as a member of the troop of light horse artillery recruited in New York state. Annie (Hammond) Palmer was ninety-four years old when she passed away in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1888, to which county she and her husband had come from their home in New York state, and where her husband died in 1853. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Eliza (Palmer) Williams, the mother of Mary M. (Williams) Ketchum, was the third child. Eliza (Palmer) Williams was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1819, shortly after the removal of the family to this state. She grew to womanhood there and in 1842 married Peter



Williams, a native of Kentucky, and one of the descendants of Roger Williams. Peter Williams died in Dearborn county, Indiana, about 1844. His widow married John Fawcett, a native of Ohio, about the year 1853, and they spent the rest of their lives in Dearborn county, she having been one of the oldest citizens of that county at the time of her death.

William S. Ketchum saw service in the Union army during the Civil War as a soldier in Company G, One Hundred and Tenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving under Colonel Kiefer. This regiment was attached to the army of General Grant and was present at eighteen decisive and severe battles, of which the battles of the Wilderness, Mission Ridge, Gettysburg and Winchester were among the most famous. In 1862, in front of Petersburg, on the skirmish line, Mr. Ketchum was shot through the lungs and after that was confined in the hospital for six months. When he recovered the war was over and he came to Decatur county, where for years he was successfully engaged in farming, and is now living retired at his pleasant home in Greensburg.

Mr. Ketchum is a Democrat of the Andrew Jackson variety. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Greensburg, and of the Baptist church. He is known as a good man, a patriotic citizen and as one who has been a brave and efficient soldier. Naturally, he is highly respected by the people of this county, who hold him in high esteem.

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#### GEORGE W. SHUPERD.

George W. Shuperd, a retired citizen of Adams township, this county, the son of a veteran of the Civil War, and himself a soldier of that great war, was one of the color bearers on the morning that General Johnston surrendered to General Sherman, one of the concluding events of the great Civil War.

George W. Shuperd was born in 1841, in Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of John and Elizabeth (Wood) Shuperd, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Decatur county about 1823 from Pennsylvania, the family being of Pennsylvania-Dutch origin. Elizabeth Wood was a native of Virginia, a daughter of James Wood, a member of one of the old families of Virginia, of English origin. John Shuperd and Elizabeth Wood were married in Decatur county, and to that union twelve children were born, of whom George W. was the fourth in order



of birth. John Shuperd, a well-known cooper of this county, was sixty years of age when the Civil War broke out, but despite his years, enlisted in the Eighth Indiana Cavalry, under Colonel Jones, and served over two years, being discharged for disability. He was a brave and efficient soldier and a man of much strength of character, a useful factor in his community. He died in 1899.

George M. Shuperd was reared to the life of the farm and in 1861 married Emily Byrum, daughter of James and Nellie (Davis) Byrum, the former of whom was a native of North Carolina, of English ancestry. Members of the family were early settlers in Virginia. James Byrum was married in Kentucky, and soon after his marriage came to Decatur county, where he entered land in Adams township, and became a prosperous and successful farmer. He and his wife reared twelve children, of whom Emily, born in Decatur county in 1843, was the youngest.

One year after his marriage, in 1862, George W. Shuperd enlisted in the Thirty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and Eighth Cavalry, recruited in Indiana, and served until the close of the war. He was with General Sherman on his famous march to the sea, and was one of the color bearers when General Johnston surrendered to General Sherman, which event practically marked the close of the war. Mr. Shuperd saw strenuous service in this, the greatest of his country's wars. He is authority for the statement that during one of General Kilpatrick's campaigns "for twenty-one days the saddle was not taken from his horse and when it was removed the hair and hide came with it." Mr. Shuperd retains a vivid recollection of the stirring scenes through which he passed during the war. His regiment, which went into the war eleven hundred strong, was mustered out with only two hundred and fifty soldiers remaining. After the surrender of Johnston, Mr. Shuperd was detailed to break up the bands of guerrillas, the remnants of the armies of Morgan, Forrest and Wheeler which had disintegrated into roving and pillaging bands. He came home from the army in August, 1865, and began farming, which he followed for about ten years, at the end of which time he entered the butcher business, in which he was quite successful.

To George W. and Emily (Byrum) Shuperd three children have been born, two of whom, namely: Oliver, born on January 19, 1862, who died on March 30, 1873; Sarlinda, born in June, 1866, died when fourteen months old; John, born in 1872, who lives in Adams township, married Jane Waits, who died on May 5, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Shuperd have also reared three grandchildren, Dolly Ray, Pearl May and Carlos Melvern Shuperd.

George W. Shuperd has been a life-long Republican and is proud of the fact. He is a man of remarkably strong body and mind. Mr. and Mrs. Shuperd are members of the Christian church and enjoy the highest regard of their many friends.

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### ROBERT ANDERSON.

The venerable Robert Anderson, of Clay township, this county, is another of those distinguished sons of '61 to '65, who, at the call of his country for the preservation of the Union, abandoned the peaceful pursuits of life and went out on the field of battle to yield up his life, if necessary, in behalf of the cause of freedom.

Robert Anderson was born in Butler county, Ohio, on October 26, 1838, son of Robert and Elizabeth (Frazier) Anderson, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, who migrated to Butler county, Ohio, in pioneer times and settled there on a farm. He was a Democrat in politics and a substantial citizen of the county, well known and highly respected throughout that section.

In August, 1862, Robert Anderson, Jr., enlisted in Company C, Ninety-third Regiment, Rosseau's Brigade, Third Division, Fourth Army Corps, as a private. At the battle of Missionary Ridge he was wounded in the shoulder and was confined to the hospital until the spring of 1864, when he again joined his command. In the summer of 1864, still unable, on account of his severe wounds, to resume active service he guarded cattle below Chattanooga, and drove them to Big Shanty, where he turned them over to the Fourth Army Corps and then returned to his regiment. He remained with the regiment until June 15, 1865, when he received an honorable discharge and returned home.

Among the many severe and bloody battles in which Robert Anderson was engaged were those of Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Franklin, Nashville, New Hope church, and various engagements of the Atlantic campaign. After the battle of New Hope Church he was taken ill and was sent to the hospital camp at Chattanooga. Mr. Anderson had two brothers in the war, both serving in the same regiment with him. They were captured by the enemy and compelled to endure the horrors of both Libby prison and Andersonville.

On September 24, 1868, Robert Anderson was married to Elizabeth Ferguson, daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Nicholson) Ferguson, of Decatur

county. To this happy union were born the following children: Alvin E., of Shelby county; Henry R., of Greensburg; Albert F., of Adams township; Mrs. Orpha Altizer and Mrs. Daisy Wright, of Greensburg.

Upon the close of the war Robert Anderson, who then was without funds, worked at various occupations until about 1875, when he purchased sixty acres of land south of Greensburg. After owning the sixty acres about three years, he sold it and purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Adams and Clay townships, going in debt for the same to the extent of five thousand dollars, and after ten or twelve years of diligent effort was able to remove this indebtedness. Today he is regarded as a solid and substantial citizen of Decatur county, intensely patriotic in his devotion to his country and the flag; a man of good business ability and strong moral fiber.

Though always a Republican in politics, Mr. Anderson is more a patriot than a partisan. His first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln and he has never wavered in his allegiance to the party of the great emancipator. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Greensburg and of the Methodist church, with which church Mrs. Anderson also is connected. Mr. Anderson has been living a retired life for about fourteen years and is comfortably situated and able to enjoy life, he and his wife enjoying the utmost respect and esteem of their many friends.

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### ISAAC D. WAITS.

It is doubtful whether there is living in Decatur county today any man more patriotically devoted to the cause of human freedom and the cause of his glorious country than the venerable Isaac D. Waits, a veteran of the Civil War, who gave four of the best years of his life to the service of his country and its flag.

Isaac D. Waits, who was born on October 8, 1840, was twenty-one years old on the day he enlisted as a soldier in the Union army for service during the Civil War, October 8, 1861. He joined Company E, Fiftieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which was veteranized on March 2, 1864, and consolidated with the veterans of the Fifty-second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, attached to the army of General Thomas, in middle Tennessee. After departing from Louisville, Kentucky, Mr. Waits' first engagement was at Bowling Green, Kentucky, where the regiment had its first fight. After this he was stationed at Nashville, Tennessee, for one

year and was engaged there in fighting Morgan's guerillas. In the invasion of western Tennessee the army saw a great deal of hard fighting, especially in the pursuit of General Forrest, who was defeated on the Tennessee river. Being taken ill about this time, Mr. Waits was confined in the hospital at Memphis during the winter of 1863, and in the spring rejoined his regiment at Little Rock, Arkansas. On account of the delay occasioned by failure to get transportation, he ran away from the hospital and found his way by boat and otherwise to Little Rock. The winters of 1863 and 1864 were spent at Lewisburg, Arkansas. During the famous cold New Year's day of 1864 he nearly froze to death, having been on guard duty uninterruptedly for forty-eight hours. In February, 1864, on the regiment's return to Little Rock, began the Camden campaign, which lasted for forty-two days, during which time there was continual fighting. During this campaign occurred the battle of Saline river, which lasted seven hours, one of the fiercest and hardest-fought battles of the war. For more than seven hours, on account of the incessant din of battle, Mr. Waits was unable to distinguish the crack of his own gun, and could discern its fire only by the "kick." In that campaign eight thousand Union soldiers defeated forty-four thousand Confederate troops under General Smith.

After Mr. Waits' re-enlistment in the Fifty-second, that regiment was engaged by General Smith at Mobile, Alabama, an engagement which lasted thirteen days. During the progress of this battle Lee's surrender was announced and Lincoln was killed. When the army received word of Lincoln's assassination it sent one hundred shells into the rebel fort. On the first day of the fight Mr. Waits was wounded by a spent six-pound solid shot, which struck his gun, and which also paralyzed his right leg. He was unable to use this leg for seven weeks, and, although he was sent to the hospital, his spirit was so aroused after the death of Lincoln that he limped away from the hospital and rejoined his regiment, using his gun for a crutch. Afterwards he marched sixty miles on crutches. At the Tom Bigby river the regiment was discharged, December 19, 1865, and came home by the way of Atlanta and Chattanooga. After two weeks in camp at Indianapolis the soldiers were paid off and discharged.

Isaac D. Waits is the son of William and Catherine Ann (Hicks) Waits, the former of whom was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, in 1798, the son of John Waits, a native of Maryland, who migrated to Kentucky during the pioneer days and became a prosperous farmer of Harrison county, that state, where he reared a large family, of whom William Waits was the eldest child. The latter grew to manhood in Kentucky and in 1822 came to

Indiana, locating in Rush county, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land. About 1816 he was married in Kentucky and to that union there were born six children before the family came to Indiana in 1822. Seven more children were born after their arrival in this state, making thirteen altogether, of whom Isaac D. was the last born. Catherine Ann Hicks was the daughter of Joshua and Ann (Chambers) Hicks, both natives of Ireland, who came to America some time before the American Revolution. Joshua Hicks, a molder by trade, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and was detailed to mold cannon balls, serving valiantly throughout the War of Independence. A young man when he came to America, he was not married until after the beginning of the Revolution, when he was thirty years old, his wife, Ann Chambers, being fifteen years old at the time. They lived together as man and wife for eighty-five years, their deaths occurring within a few hours of each other, and their remains were buried in the same grave. They were the parents of seventeen children, of whom Catherine Ann (Hicks) Waits, the mother of Isaac D. Waits, was the last born. Joshua Hicks also served as a soldier in the War of 1812, doing duty in the same capacity as in the Revolutionary War, as a molder of cannon balls. His eldest son, Isaac, then about eighteen years old, was a helper.

After the discharge of Isaac D. Waits from the Union army he returned home to Rush county, Indiana, to which section his father had moved in 1856, and on February 23, 1866, was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Akers, the widow of John F. Akers, a soldier of the Civil War, a member of Company H, Second Indiana Cavalry, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Barnell Station, Georgia, and died in Andersonville prison in September, 1864. Mrs. Waits is a daughter of William and Margaret (Chowley) Gibson, who were natives of Ohio county, Indiana, of Pennsylvania stock. Mr. and Mrs. Waits began life together on a farm in Ohio county, where two of their children were born. In February, 1870, they came to Decatur county, settling in Adams township, where they lived for two years, at the end of which time they removed to Clinton county, Indiana, where they remained for two years, after which they returned to Adams township, this county. After living on a farm there for a short time they moved to the village of Adams, where they have lived ever since.

To Isaac D. and Elizabeth (Gibson) Waits six children have been born, as follow: Minnie J., who is the wife of Clay Aldridge, of Greensburg; Cora, who is the wife of William E. Laws, of Adams township; Eddie L., whose home is at Adams, but who is at present at Lexington, Kentucky;

Jane F., the deceased wife of John Shupherd; Frank, who died at the age of eleven years, and Pearl M., who died at the age of four.

Despite the weight of their years, Mr. and Mrs. Waits are in good health and spirits and retain the liveliest interest in current affairs. A Republican in politics, Mr. Waits is stanch and true to the party of Lincoln. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Mrs. Waits belongs to the Ladies' Relief Corps. Both are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends in this county.

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### JOHN C. BLACK.

John C. Black, a diligent and prosperous farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns ninety-five acres of land and a beautiful home, was born, October 25, 1855, in Sand Creek township, the son of David Black, who was born in 1807 and who died in 1884 at the age of seventy-three years, six months and sixteen days. David was a native of Augusta county, Virginia, and when a young man rode horseback from Virginia to Franklin county, Indiana, settling near the Marion county line, where he was married to Susan Heimlich, a native of Franklin county. In April, 1855, they moved to Sand Creek township and settled on the old Kepper farm near Letts Corner. They died at Letts. They had seven children, three eldest of whom, Andrew, Elizabeth and Nancy, and the youngest, Rachel, are deceased. The children living are Jacob, Helen and John C., the subject of this sketch.

On December 24, 1879, John C. Black was married to Alice Parker, daughter of John G. Parker, of Sand Creek township. After his marriage Mr. Black lived for three years, one month and ten days on the Alexander farm in Jackson township, until October 25, 1883, when he located on his present farm. In 1895 he purchased this farm for forty dollars an acre. He has invested hundreds of dollars in various kinds of improvements and now has a commodious farm house, attractively painted and a large barn. This farm, which he originally purchased at forty dollars an acre, is now worth in excess of one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre.

In politics Mr. Black is a Republican but has never taken any part in the councils of his party, preferring to devote himself exclusively to farming. He is a member of Greensburg lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons. Mrs. Black is a member of the Baptist church. Although Mr. Black is not a member of any church, his parents were leading Presbyterians in this section.



## JOHN W. TAYLOR.

In all of the history of Decatur county, no better citizen has ever lived within its borders than the late John W. Taylor, a successful farmer and a well-known veteran of the Civil War.

John W. Taylor was born in Bracken county, Kentucky, in 1837, the son of William T. and Maria (Adams) Taylor, natives of Kentucky, the former born in 1784 and the latter in 1806, who were the parents of five children, of whom John W. was the eldest son.

When John W. Taylor's parents died, the family of small children were left to the mercy of a cruel and difficult existence, hence early in life John W. developed the habit of self-reliance and patient endurance. The responsibilities thrown upon his shoulders when a mere lad, probably had much to do with making him a strong and sturdy character.

In April, 1862, John W. Taylor answered the call of his country for help in the great struggle for the preservation of the Union, and enlisted in Company H, Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in which he served with distinction until the close of the war, being mustered out as a corporal. In many hard-fought battles, he was a brave soldier and had a distinguished record. At the termination of his service he returned to Decatur county and took up the occupation of farming, in which he was quite successful.

In 1906 John W. Taylor was married to Mrs. Nancy (McCoy) Altizer, widow of John Altizer. She was born in 1842 in Jefferson county, Indiana, the daughter of Daniel and Rachel (Phillips) McCoy, both of whom were natives of Kentucky and who moved to Jefferson county, Indiana, when that section of the country was a wilderness. Her father was a carpenter by trade and many houses are still standing in Jefferson county as a monument to his skill and honesty. Mrs. Taylor was educated in the district schools, but her advantages for obtaining an education were limited to three months a year and she was compelled to walk two and one-half miles to school.

Mrs. John W. Taylor was first married in 1858 to John Altizer, who was born in 1840 and died in 1881. He was the son of Isaac and Sarah Altizer, of Jefferson county, Indiana, the former of whom was a native of that county. The Altizers comprised a good old substantial family, prominent in the affairs of Jefferson county. Four years after the marriage of John Altizer and Nancy McCoy, the former enlisted in the Union army and served for one month, or until he was severely wounded during the battle of



Franklin. After several months in the hospital, he was discharged for disability. The wound received in his gallant service for his country caused a lingering illness from which he never fully recovered. On account of lameness he was unable to engage in any strenuous labor after the war. However, he took up milling and was very successful in that business, accumulating considerable property. He was the father of five children: Morton, who lives in Missouri; Ella, the wife of James Kenipp, of Illinois; Robert, of Adams, and Oscar and Gilbert, both deceased. John Altizer was a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The late John W. Taylor was also a Republican in politics, intensely loyal to his country and a patriot of the highest type. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of which he took a warm and active interest. He was a member of the Methodist church at Adams at the time of his death and one of the every-day kind of Christians, widely known for the high character of his life. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the Methodist church at Adams, with which she became affiliated when fourteen years old. She is a woman of generous impulses, dearly loved by her children and esteemed and respected by her neighbors.

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### CHARLES F. RISK.

Instances are very rare in which men who have been trained to a trade in the city become successful farmers, yet Charles F. Risk, a young farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, at the time of his marriage abandoned carriage trimming, a trade which he had followed in Greensburg and in Indianapolis, and having removed to the farm has become one of the successful agriculturists of the county.

Charles F. Risk was born on August 5, 1874, in Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of John A. and Eliza (Flemming) Risk, the former of whom was born in 1852 in Kentucky, came to Decatur county in 1872, and now lives in Greensburg, where he moved in 1903 and where he is a well-known and successful business man. The latter was born in 1844 in Ohio. All of the six children, born to James A. and Eliza (Flemming) Risk, are still living, and are as follow: Mrs. Libbie M. Weaver, Crawfordsville; Charles F., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Carrie Glass, of Marion township; Eva; Frank M., of Chicago, and Della.

In 1902 Charles F. Risk was married to Melissa Sparks, who was born in 1874 in Montgomery county, Indiana, the daughter of William O. and Lucy P. (McCracken) Sparks, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively, the former of whom was born, October 27, 1844, and died, December 10, 1879, when Melissa was five years old, and the latter of whom was born, January 27, 1844, in Clinton township, the daughter of Hugh McCracken, an early settler of Decatur county, and died, September 29, 1884. William and Lucy P. (McCracken) Sparks were married in Decatur county, but immediately removed to Montgomery county, and there spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are now deceased. Of the deceased children, Alvin was born September 30, 1870, and John, the youngest, born March 5, 1878, died in 1879. The three living children are as follow: Hugh, born February 15, 1872, lives in Rush county; Melissa, born March 29, 1874 and married Charles F. Risk; and Ellen, born December 4, 1875, lives in Ft. Wayne.

After the death of her parents Mrs. Risk came to Sand Creek township, and made her home with Silas White and Margaret Susan (McCracken) Garrison, her uncle and aunt. The former was a son of Mary Fugit, a daughter of Judge John Fugit, one of the early settlers of Decatur county, who came to Fugit township in 1818, settling one mile east of Clarksburg. John Fugit was born, October 5, 1832, and died, December 21, 1900. Silas White Garrison, a native of Decatur county, born in Clay township, was the son of David and Mary (Fugit) Garrison. His wife, who before her marriage was Susan McCracken, was born, January 29, 1839, in Clinton township, and died May 12, 1914. Silas White Garrison was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, and served one hundred days in the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

The farm of a hundred and thirty-seven acres in Sand Creek township, on which Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Risk live, was the Garrison home place, bequeathed to Mr. Risk and his wife by her uncle and aunt. They moved to this farm immediately after their marriage at which time Mr. Risk abandoned his trade and engaged in farming. He also owns eighty acres of land in Marion township. On the home place there is an attractive farm house situated on a graveled road and well shaded with magnificent trees. The farm also has good barns and other out-buildings. Mr. Risk ordinarily raises a hundred head of hogs annually, and breeds a cross between Duroc-Jerseys and Poland Chinas. He has been very successful as a farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Risk have one child, Geneva, who was born on December 13, 1910. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Risk

is a progressive Republican. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Letts. Although Mr. Risk has lived in Sand Creek township a comparatively short time, he has made a host of friends since coming here and is a man who during his comparatively brief residence has won the confidence and esteem of his neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. Risk are both well liked in the community where they live.

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### LEROY A. ECKHART.

Among those conspicuous in the financial affairs of this county as well as township, is a young man whose stalwart integrity of character won for him friends and associates soon after he entered the business circles of Letts. Although born in another state, Indiana became the home of his adoption at an early age, and this state is now proud to claim him as her own, for he has contributed loyally to her citizenship and also to her material resources. The honest, straightforward business man is an asset to any community, for the force of his integrity is felt beyond the limits of his own associates in the commercial world, and becomes a distinct moral influence. Leroy A. Eckhart, cashier of the Letts State Bank, was born in Livingston county, Missouri, March 19, 1881.

Mr. Eckhart, as the eighth of a family of nine children, early in life acquired those habits of self-reliance which became valuable later on in his active career. His father, John A. Eckhart, was of sturdy pioneer fibre, coming to this country from Germany where he was born on December 18, 1839, near Frankfort. When only twelve years of age he moved to DeKalb county, Indiana, and ten years later married Lucinda D. Barrett, the marriage taking place on April 17, 1861. His wife was a native of Lagrange county, Indiana, and was born on March 25, 1844. Mr. Eckhart was known as a successful farmer. In 1880, Mr. and Mrs. Eckhart moved to Livingston county, Missouri, and in the following year, the subject of this sketch was born. In 1889 the family left their Western home for Miami county, Indiana, and seven years later, removed to Shirley, Indiana. In 1897, they again changed their place of residence to Scott county. On October 2, 1902, John Eckhart died on his farm eight miles from Scottsburg, and was buried in Galveston, Indiana. His widow is now living in Pasadena, California.

John A. and Lucinda D. (Barrett) Eckhart were the parents of a large family, but in spite of the hardships of pioneer days, there was no lack in parental love and care. John, the first-born of this household, was born on

January 14, 1863, and died at Tribune, Kansas, on January 8, 1908. The first daughter, Elinore I. was the wife of Will Jacobs, was born on September 12, 1864, and passed away on March 15, 1915, at Coyle, Oklahoma. Cora C. Hudson was born on July 16, 1866, and now lives in Montalvo, California. Arclemena D. died in infancy. Lillie M. McCormick was born on April 16, 1870, and her present home is in Los Angeles, California. Martha A. Haynes was born on February 20, 1872, and lives near Milford. Charles Victor was born on January 4, 1874, and lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. Leroy A. born on March 19, 1881, the subject of this sketch. The youngest child, Grace Leonore, born on June 1, 1883, married Fred L. Thurston, and resides with her mother in Pasadena.

Leroy A. Eckhart attended the schools of Scott county, and graduated from the Seymour Business College. Like the majority of the youths who were farmers sons, he worked for a while after his school days were past, on his father's farm, but this did not prove entirely congenial, and as mathematics had been a favorite study, his tastes found interesting employment when he began his duties as bookkeeper of the Scott County State Bank. Later, he was engaged by the Salem Citizens' State Bank, a position he retained for four months. He left Salem to organize the State Bank of Letts, and from that time until the present, has been its leading spirit. He is now one of the directors, as well as its cashier.

On November 27, 1901, Leroy A. Eckhart married Opal E. Rice, whose ancestors were pioneers of the Hoosier state. Mrs. Eckhart was born on the Scott county farm of her parents, February 17, 1884, her father being Giles J. and her mother Rhoda A. Rice. The latter was a native of Jefferson county, and the former, of Scott county. Mrs. Eckhart is an only child. Her paternal grandfather was Ebenezer Rice, a native of North Carolina, and his father, also named Ebenezer, was an early settler of Scott county, entering the land where Giles, who was born on June 29, 1845, now lives. The mother of Mrs. Eckhart was the daughter of Samuel McCurry of North Carolina, who came to Indiana in her early history, settling in Jefferson county. Rhoda A. Rice was born on January 27, 1849. Giles J. Rice has been a successful farmer, now in possession of farm lands amounting to four hundred and eighty acres, having recently sold forty acres of his five hundred and twenty.

As the Letts Corner State Bank has played an important part in the life of our subject, it may be of interest to note a few facts regarding this well-known business institution. The Letts State Bank was organized by Leroy A. Eckhart on October 2, 1913, with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand

dollars and deposits amounting to forty-two thousand dollars to forty-five thousand dollars. The bank is operated in its own building, a substantial and artistic structure of brick and stone with dimensions twenty-four by fifty-four feet. The interior furnishings include a tiled floor of beautiful design, handsome office fixtures, and a fire and burglar proof iron vault and safe. The officers of the bank, are: President, Dr. J. A. Welch; vice-president, K. L. Adams; cashier, Leroy A. Eckhart. The directors are J. A. Welch, K. L. Adams, L. A. Eckhart, W. C. Marshall, A. M. Alexander, M. B. Taylor, and Delger Moor.

Mr. Eckhart's political interests have been identified with the Democratic party, and while he has not ranked as a politician, he has always stood for the measures and movements that mean good citizenship. Mr. and Mrs. Eckhart are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which their influence has been a distinctive force for good. Mr. Eckhart believes in the beneficial effects of social organizations, and is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Deputy, Indiana, and of Lodge No. 506 at Beechwood.

As an evidence of Mr. Eckhart's business ability, it may be noted that he is the owner of eighty acres of valuable land in Scott county.

It may be seen from the above brief sketch that, although its subject is a young man, his life and work have already come to occupy an important place in the economic and social affairs of the town in which he has made his home since boyhood. Although his life has not been characterized by adventure or unusual incident, it has had in some degree the elements of greatness. It has been marked by honor and integrity in business transactions, by fidelity to high ideals, and by a uniform courtesy and kindness in associations with his fellowmen. Such a career cannot fail to be an incentive to others.

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#### HENRY C. KIRBY.

A career of earnest and indefatigable application to the peaceful pursuits of life was that of Henry C. Kirby, a veteran of the Civil War, and for many years an honored resident of Adams township, this county. His fidelity as a soldier during the Civil War and his high patriotism as a citizen of the American union of states were distinct characteristics of his honorable life. In all his relations with his fellowmen, he gained and held the confidence and esteem of the public and at his death his loss was widely mourned by the people of Adams township.

Henry C. Kirby, who was born in Decatur county, Indiana, was the son of Clay Madison Kirby, a native of Kentucky, whose wife, the mother of the late H. C. Kirby, died when the latter was a small child. Some years after her death, Clay M. Kirby married, secondly, Tirza Meek, a member of one of the old and respected families of this county. H. C. Kirby grew to manhood on his father's farm in Decatur county and when the Civil War broke out, enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving until he was taken ill and discharged for disability.

After the war, Henry C. Kirby began farming in Decatur county. He married Epsie Guthrie and after her death, about ten years later, was married, in 1881, to Ada McClerkin, the daughter of James and Martha (Meek) McClerkin, the latter of whom was the daughter of Thomas Meek, a son of Adam Meek, one of the prominent pioneer settlers of this county. James McClerkin was a native of Decatur county, a farmer by occupation and a well-known and well-respected citizen of the county. To this second union one child was born, a son, Harry M., born on March 9, 1884, in Adams township, this county.

After the second marriage of the late H. C. Kirby, he and his wife began life in Adams township on a farm. He was an ardent Republican and patriotic citizen. He was a devoted member of the Baptist church, as is his widow, and their son was reared in that faith. Mr. Kirby died on March 19, 1905, and he was widely mourned, for he was a good man.

Among the prosperous young farmers of Adams township, Harry M. Kirby, the son of the late H. C. Kirby, takes high rank. He owns a fine farm of one hundred and ten acres, lying to the north of Adams, land of the very finest quality. Mr. Kirby is known as one of the most progressive young business men and farmers in that part of the county, specializing in pure-bred, big type Poland China hogs.

Upon completing the course in the Adams high school, Harry M. Kirby studied and mastered telegraphy. After an apprenticeship of about ten months, he was given a position with the Big Four Railroad, which he held for nine years. During the past five years, however, he has devoted his energies to the business of progressive farming, to which he intends to devote the remainder of his life. Mr. Kirby is a bright young man with a promising future before him. He is possessed naturally of a likeable personality and is so constituted that his friends predict he will win recognition in his chosen field of endeavor. He is one of the "true-blue" variety of Republicans in his political affiliation and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows



at Adams and has attained to the encampment of that order. He is also a member of the Baptist church, as is his mother. Mrs. Kirby is a woman of strong and forceful character, of grace and charming personality. Possessed of a cheerful, optimistic disposition, she is popular in a large circle of friends and especially popular in church work, to which she devotes a considerable portion of her time.

The Kirby family for two or three generations has been prominent in the agricultural, civic and political life of this township, earnest and sincere people, conscientious in giving to the world a full measure of performance in all of the duties of life.

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### EDWIN DOBYNS DONNELL.

Nowhere in Indianapolis is there held out a warmer welcome on behalf of Decatur county folk than in Room 11, the state house, where Edwin D. Donnell, clerk of the bureau of public printing of the state of Indiana, holds forth; and visitors from this county are assured that the latch string of Room 11 ever is hanging free when they are passing through the corridors of the state capitol.

Mr. Donnell, who is a native son of Decatur county, has had an interesting career as a printer and newspaper man. In 1911 he was honored by the Indiana State Legislature, receiving in January of that year the appointment by the Legislature to the important position of purchasing agent of the General Assembly, a position in which he displayed such a fine grasp of the state's needs in the way of public printing that the state bureau of public printing further honored him by making him clerk of the board, a position which he since has held and the duties of which he has discharged with such fidelity and with so high a regard for the state's best interest as to merit the praise of those in authority; a meed of praise which is given as ungrudgingly as it is well deserved. During former sessions of the Legislature the alleged looseness with which affairs connected with the printing department and the furnishing of legislative supplies had been conducted amounted at times almost to an open scandal and the 1911 Legislature determined to put a stop to this loose manner of conducting affairs in that department. To this end it was decided to put the whole matter of the purchasing of supplies into the hands of an accredited agent of the General Assembly. It was a matter of general congratulation on the part of Decatur county folk when the news was given out that a Decatur county man, Edwin D. Donnell, had received



the appointment to this highly responsible and important position. That Mr. Donnell did his work well was attested when, at the close of the session of the Legislature, the state printing board appointed him to the responsible position of clerk of the bureau of public printing, the department of state which conducts the business connected with the large amount of printed matter which is required for state uses. Mr. Donnell is very popular with the Decatur county colony at the state capital and still retains the warmest interest in Decatur county affairs. Few native sons of this county have a wider acquaintance hereabout than he and the following biography will be read with interest by all.

Edwin Dobyns Donnell was born at Clarksburg, Decatur county, Indiana, November 11, 1861, son of William Addison and Mary E. (Dobyns) Donnell, the former of whom also was born in Clarksburg, a son of Luther S. and Jane Wright (Braden) Donnell, natives of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county at an early day and settled on a farm one mile southeast of Clarksburg, becoming prominent in the pioneer life of that community. In later years they moved into the town of Greensburg, where Luther S. Donnell died. Jane Wright Donnell, who lived to the age of ninety-two, spent her last years in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hamilton, at Clarksburg.

William Addison Donnell was reared on the paternal farm near Clarksburg, remaining there until 1865, in which year he moved to Greensburg, this county, where he engaged in the hardware and farm implement business, later buying the Greensburg foundry, which he operated for some time. In 1878 he purchased the *Decatur County Press*, changing the name of the same to the *Decatur News*, and it was on this paper that Edwin D. Donnell received his initiation into the printing and newspaper business. In 1885 Mr. Donnell sold the *Decatur News* to James E. Mendenhall, present mayor of Greensburg, who gave the paper a new name, the *New Era*.

In 1886 Edwin D. Donnell bought an interest in this paper, retaining the same for three years, at the end of which time he sold his interest to Mr. Mendenhall and in 1889 went to Greeley, Colorado, where for four years he published the *Greeley Sun*, selling the paper in 1893 to Brent Patton, another Decatur county boy. Mr. Donnell then returned to Greensburg, shortly afterward going to Springfield, Ohio, where, from April to September, he was foreman of the mechanical department of the *Springfield Republic-Times*. He again returned to Greensburg and for one year was associated with Allen W. Clark in the publication of the *New Era*, as foreman of the composing room. At the end of this time he bought a third interest in the *Greensburg Review* and was thus connected with the publication of that paper for one

year and six months. He then went to Elwood, Indiana, where, for a year, he acted as head of the advertising department of the *Elwood Courier*. In 1899 Mr. Donnell moved to Cincinnati, in which city he was employed in a job-printing house until the fall of 1905, at which time he went to Nashville, Tennessee. In January of 1906 he returned to Greensburg, taking the position of superintendent of the mechanical department of *The Baptist Observer*, a position which he retained for more than three years. He then was engaged for a year as foreman of the composing room of the *Greensburg News* and in June of 1910 went to Indianapolis, in which city he was employed as foreman of the plant of the Capitol Printing Company until January, 1911. At that time he was appointed purchasing agent of the Indiana Legislature, and at the close of the session of 1911 was appointed clerk of the state bureau of public printing, a position which he is still filling to the entire satisfaction of the authorities composing that important bureau of the state service.

Mr. Donnell received his education in the Greensburg high school and in the Agricultural-Mechanical College at Ashland, the old home of Henry Clay, near Lexington, Kentucky. In 1888 Edwin Dobyns Donnell was united in marriage to Ollie Rogers, who was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, daughter of Edward H. and Mary Jane (Shull) Rogers, both of whom were born near Vevay, Switzerland county, the former of English and the latter of German descent. During her early childhood the parents of Ollie Rogers moved to Greensburg and it was in that city Mr. Donnell's wife was reared and there she received her education. Edward H. Rogers traveled for the Standard Oil Company for a period of thirty years or more and died at Hope, Indiana, in 1909.

To Edwin D. and Ollie (Rogers) Donnell one child has been born, a son, Clifton E., who was born at Greeley, Colorado, in 1892. He was graduated from the Manual Training high school at Indianapolis and is a member of the 1916 class of the Indiana Dental College.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnell are members of the Christian church and take an active interest in church work. Mr. Donnell is a member of the Masonic lodge at Irvington, his home being located in that beautiful suburb of Indianapolis, and is a member of Keystone chapter, of the same order. He also is a member of the Knights of Pythias, retaining his membership in lodge No. 148 of that order at Greensburg. He is a member of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Indiana Democratic Club. He is exceedingly popular among his associates and enjoys the highest confidence and esteem of state-house circles.

## GEORGE W. MOOR.

One of the large commercial enterprises of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, is the mercantile firm of Moor & Crise, located at Letts, Indiana, and capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars. This firm had its beginning about twenty-five years ago, when George W. Moor engaged in the hardware business at Letts. This firm now operates a grain elevator and has a large retail trade in seeds and flour. It also operates a lumber and coal yard and sells all kinds of building material, lumber, cement, lime, plaster, tile and stone to the people of Jackson, Sand Creek and Clay townships.

George W. Moor, the senior member of the firm of Moor & Crise, was born, December 31, 1853, in Decatur county, Indiana, on a farm, the son of William Oliver and Margaret J. (Forbes) Moor, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Indiana, September 23, 1825, and who was killed by a fall from a horse, in Sand Creek township, June 27, 1885. The latter also was born in this state. William Oliver Moor was a son of Edwin, a native of New York, who when a boy of nine years was brought to Ohio by his father, Ezra Moor, who, after living for a time near Cincinnati, removed to Franklin county, and later entered a tract of land in Jackson township, the farm where M. B. Taylor now lives. Here he cleared the land and lived until his death. As nearly as it can be ascertained he must have come to Jackson township during the early forties. William Oliver Moor, who was a carpenter by trade, followed this occupation in Jackson and Sand Creek townships and farmed to some extent. He died at the home of his son, George W., the subject of this sketch. His wife, who before her marriage was Margaret J. Forbes, died in 1872. They were the parents of seven children, as follow: John E. lives in Iowa; George W. is the subject of this sketch; Riley F. lives in Kansas; William L. lives in Washington; James M. lives in Mason City, Iowa; Mrs. Ina L. Birch lives in Seattle, and Mary E. is deceased.

Educated in the common schools of Decatur county and in the Hartsville school, George W. Moor was for fifteen years a teacher in Jackson, Sand Creek and Adams townships. Five years of this period were spent as a teacher in Harris City. During the last five years of Mr. Moor's experience as a teacher he was also engaged in farming, and later he devoted himself exclusively to farming for five years in Sand Creek township. From 1891 to 1895 he was engaged in the hardware business, and this business was the beginning of his present large enterprise. In 1895 he also engaged in the grain business and in 1910 he took Mr. Crise as a partner in the firm. They

have a large and profitable trade in this part of Decatur county, and one which has been builded upon careful business methods and a careful regard of the wants and needs of their patrons. The success is due in no small measure to the cordial relations that Mr. Moor has sustained towards the public.

In 1876 George W. Moor was married to Mary Ferris, daughter of Andrew Ferris of Marion township, who is the brother of J. W. Ferris of the same township. Mrs. Moor was born, September 23, 1851. To Mr. and Mrs. George W. Moor have been born five children, Forrest G., Jessie, Stella, Raymond and Carol. Of these children, Forrest G., of Warren, Ohio, is a mechanical engineer and superintendent of the Chicago and Cleveland Car Roofing Company. He married Louise Cooper, and they have three children, Dorothy, Gladys and Eleanor. Jessie is the wife of Grover W. Crise, Mr. Moor's partner. They have four children, Mary, David, Amy and Roger. Stella lives at homes and is a teacher in the Letts high school. She was graduated from DePauw University with the class of 1911. Raymond F., of Warren, Ohio, was associated with his brother, and is now working with his father. He married Zora Purvis. Carol W., a book-keeper for his father's firm is a graduate of the Letts high school.

In politics, George W. Moor has always been an ardent Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Moor and family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They are well known throughout Sand Creek, Jackson and Clay townships and are highly respected residents of this community.

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### JAMES M. WOOD, M. D.

Among the prominent physicians of Greensburg, Indiana, who have been well educated for the medical profession is Dr. James M. Wood, who has been practicing in this city since 1897, a period of eighteen years. In this period he has not only built up a large and extensive practice in Greensburg and Decatur county, but he has also firmly established himself as one of the leading citizens of the city and county and is today a man well known not only in professional circles, but in religious and fraternal circles as well.

James M. Wood was born on October 5, 1860, on a farm six miles south of Greensburg in Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Lorenzo D. and Elizabeth (Martin) Wood, natives of North Carolina and Decatur county, respectively.

Lorenzo D. Wood was born in Kentucky in 1812, and was left father-

less while very young. With his mother, his uncle Asa and other children, he came to Decatur county in the early twenties. The uncle obtained a farm which is still in possession of the Wood family. Lorenzo D., who entered one hundred and twenty acres of government land and later purchased forty acres, cleared the land and built a log cabin where James M. Wood, the subject of this sketch, was born. The father died of tuberculosis, developing from a cold which he caught while working on a straw stack. James M. Wood's mother, who before her marriage was Elizabeth Martin, was born on November 26, 1819, and died on November 26, 1900. She was the daughter of John and Polly (Meredith) Martin, the latter of whom was the daughter of William Meredith, one of the pioneers of Decatur county. John Martin, a Kentuckian by birth, settled in Decatur county in 1815 and lived to be a very old man. Lorenzo D. Wood, the father of James M., died in 1863.

Reared on the farm and educated in the country schools of Decatur county, James M. Wood obtained his professional education in the medical department of the University of Tennessee at Nashville, being graduated with the class of 1888. In the meantime, he had taught school for five years to earn money with which he might attend medical college. During this period he was located on the old home farm with his mother near Gaynorsville. After graduating from the medical department of the University of Tennessee, Doctor Wood was located for ten years on the home farm with his mother. Shortly after being graduated from the University of Tennessee, he attended the Chicago Polyclinic College, taking a post graduate course and in 1897 he was a student at the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati. On December 1, 1897, Doctor Wood moved to Greensburg, Indiana.

Doctor Wood is a member of the Decatur County, the Indiana State and the American Medical Association. He is the owner of a farm of one hundred and four acres two and one-half miles southeast of Greensburg, which is devoted to general farming and which he personally oversees. It is one of the best farms to be found in Decatur county. Doctor Wood has his residence at 418 North Broadway.

In November, 1897, James M. Wood was married to Laura M. Fiscus, the daughter of George W. and Catherine Fiscus, natives of Decatur and Franklin counties, respectively. Mrs. Wood was born October 29, 1865 and died November 27, 1913, leaving one child, Eura, aged eleven years. Her death came as a distinct shock to her husband and to the community at large by whom she was greatly admired. A woman of noble instincts, considerate, loving and tender in the home, her loss is keenly felt.

Dr. James M. Wood is a member of the Baptist church and, as far as it is

consistent with the practice of his profession, is a regular attendant at religious services. He is independent politically, supporting principles which he deems to be expedient and sound politically and economically, rather than party emblems. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

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### JOHN FEAR.

John Fear, a retired farmer living with his daughter one and one-half miles west of Letts in Sand Creek township, was born ninety-two years ago in Harrison county, Kentucky. Twelve years after his birth he was brought to Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, by his parents. He has lived ever since in this county. Today he is one of the few remaining pioneers of the county and has seen the county developed from a primeval forest, its log cabins, its log rollings, its spelling bees, all the hardships incident to pioneer life, to its present proud position as one of the pre-eminent agricultural sections of this country. Life is vastly different today from what it was a century ago when there were no roads, few houses and few neighbors. Today the county is thickly populated with progressive and prosperous citizens, who enjoy most of the comforts available to people in the cities. The venerable John Fear has had a part in this wonderful transformation and all of it he has personally witnessed.

John Fear was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, on September 3, 1823, the son of William H. and Delilah (Lantern) Fear, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, but who emigrated to Kentucky with his mother when a young man and settled in Harrison county, Kentucky, where he was married. It was there that six of the seven children were born. In 1835 William H. Fear emigrated to Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, and settled on a farm, where he lived for three years. This farm was owned by Abel Todd. Subsequently, he entered land of his own, and as soon as the trees were deadened, he built himself a log cabin in the wilderness and moved to his own domain. The farm entered by William H. Fear lies in the southern part of Clay township, and is now owned by Elmer Woodruff. Here John Fear started his life in this county, grew to manhood and performed the tasks which fell to the lot of the average pioneer boy.

John Fear was married, when twenty-nine years old, to Harriett Williams, a daughter of Samuel Williams. Samuel Williams was born in Virginia, and came to Decatur county when a young man. Mr. and Mrs. John



Fear started life on a farm in Jackson township, Decatur county, and after renting land for some three years, Mr. Fear purchased forty acres and added to this tract from time to time until he owned a hundred and seventy-four acres. Mrs. Fear died on August 19, 1911. Since that time, John Fear has made his home with his daughter. He and his wife had eight children, of whom only three are living, as follow: Mrs. Julia (Fear) Holmes lives in Sand Creek township; Edmund lives near Hartsville, in Jackson township; and William Samuel lives four and one-half miles west of Letts in Jackson township.

Mr. Fear is a Democrat and is not afraid to express his political thought and sentiments. He is a member of the Baptist church.

John Fear has been a good citizen, a man who has always taken a worthy interest in the happiness and comforts of his neighbors and one who has performed well all the duties of life, both public and private. He has helped to clear the forests, drain the swamps and establish a comfortable home in the wilderness. Today he is held in high regard by a host of people in Sand Creek township who have known him for many years.

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#### ABRAM F. VENNER.

To begin life on the farm with no capital except health, strength and determination, and to win success by industrious service, patience and frugal living entitles a man to the respect of his neighbors, and to distinct rank among successful men. This, in brief, is the history of the career of Abram F. Venner, proprietor of "Midway Farm," who owns a rich body of land, consisting of a hundred and twenty acres in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana. Not only does he have land which is naturally productive, but he has increased its fertility by scientific drainage, and by clearing a heavily-wooded tract of thirty-five acres. This farm as it stands now, well fenced and well ditched, with an equipment consisting of a comfortable house, two barns, a granary, wagon shed, tool house, garage, hen houses, and hog houses, has no superior, from the standpoint of earning capacity, in Decatur county.

Tracing back the ancestry of Abram F. Venner we find that he is a great-grandson of a German emigrant, who came to this country about a century ago to establish for his family and himself a home in the new world. In view of the thrift and frugal habits of the German people it is no wonder



Abram F. Venner has carved out for himself the career of a successful man. Abram F. Venner was born on February 10, 1847, in Harrison county, Indiana, the son of John Adams and Jane (Wiseman) Venner, natives of Pennsylvania, and Kentucky, respectively, the former was the son of Jacob Venner, who was in turn the son of the founder of the Venner family in America. After removing from Harrison county to Hartsville to educate his son, John Adams Venner returned to Harrison county, where he died. His younger sons were all educated in Hartsville College. His children in the order of their birth were Elizabeth, Rosann, Malinda, Mary Catherine, John, Daniel, George, William and Abram F.

Educated in the public schools of Harrison county, and in Hartsville College, where he lacked six months of graduation on account of illness, Abram F. Venner taught school for three years at Lanesville, Bogart Springs and Middletown. Well informed and well trained in methodical and careful thinking, Abram F. Venner has applied to the problems of agriculture the logical and consistent reasoning which he acquired during his school days.

It was at Hartsville College that Mr. Venner met his future wife. Abram F. Venner was married, August 12, 1869, to Louisa Belle Rhoher. After their marriage they came at once to their farm, and here they have lived for forty-six years. Mrs. Venner was born, October, 1851, and is the daughter of Simeon and Sarah (Collier) Rhoher, the former of Pennsylvania ancestry, and the latter of Kentucky. Simeon Rhoher moved from Ohio to Indiana. The Rhoheres were early settlers in Jackson township, most of them taking government claims and clearing the land for cultivation. Simeon Rhoher's father, John Rhoher, owned one thousand acres of land. He himself owned three hundred acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Abram F. Venner have been born two children, Jessie (deceased) and Corda De Ella. On March 3, 1887, Corda De Ella married John Warren Smith, who lives with Mr. and Mrs. Venner, and who cultivates eighty acres of land in addition to the Venner farm.

John Warren Smith was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, February 4, 1861, and came to Decatur county, Indiana, in the fall of 1885. He was a school teacher in Kentucky and Indiana several years. Mr. Smith has been one of the leading farmers. Mr. Venner and Mr. Smith have made a specialty of Hereford cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs, Shropshire sheep and Plymouth Rock chickens.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one child, Bessie Venner, who married Harold Brown Ogden, of Forest Hill, April 7, 1915.

Harold Brown Ogden was born on October 12, 1885. He is a graduate

of Hanover College, Indiana, and took post-graduate work in science at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and Purdue University, Indiana. Mr. Ogden was professor of science for two years at Park College, Parkville, Missouri. He is now farming in Jackson township, this county.

Mr. Venner's career has been too busy to permit him to take any considerable interest in politics, but he is identified with the Republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Venner and family are members of the United Brethren church at Mt. Pleasant.

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### JOHN G. GARTIN.

For years known as one of the most extensive breeders of pure-bred stock, both cattle and hogs, in the middle states; the breeder of a bull, the famous "Monitor," which took first prizes at the state fairs at Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri; Springfield, Illinois, and at the great cattle show at Madison Square Garden, in New York City, and later and at present known far and wide as the "baby-beef" man, John G. Gartin, a singularly successful farmer of Clay township, this county, needs no introduction to Decatur county readers of this book, but in the interests of history and that future generations may be informed regarding the activities of the Gartin family in this county for the past three or four generations, it is fitting that a genealogical sketch of Mr. Gartin be presented at this point in this volume of biography.

John G. Gartin was born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, just one mile west of where the town of Burney now is situated, on June 14, 1865, the son of Felix and Dorcas (Pavy) Gartin, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families, the latter of whom was the daughter of John T. and Nancy Pavy, also natives of Clay township, who were born not far from where the family now lives. For details regarding the genealogy of the Pavy family the reader is referred to the memorial sketch relating to the late John T. Pavy, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Felix Gartin was the son of Griffith and Mary (Fear) Gartin, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county in the year 1823. Mary Fear was the daughter of William H. Fear, a Virginian, who came to this county with his parents in the year 1825. Both the Gartins and the Fears became prominent in the pioneer affairs of the county, clearing fine farms from the forest wilderness and becoming recognized as



JOHN G. GARTIN.



among the substantial families of that section of the county in which they settled. Griffith Gartin was a man of fine executive ability, energetic and enterprising, and was very successful, being the owner of seven hundred or eight hundred acres of land at the time of his death. He was a thorough-going business man and became one of Decatur county's most successful dealers in live stock, his specialty being mules and cattle, his eight sons taking charge of his extensive farming interests. He was an ardent Whig and exerted considerable influence over the political destinies of the county. He and his wife were devoted adherents of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith, the family becoming a strong moral influence throughout that whole section of the county. Griffith Gartin is recalled by those of his contemporaries who are still living as a man of noble characteristics, generous to a fault and ever ready to lend a helping hand to those less comfortably circumstanced than himself. He died at the comparatively early age of forty-nine years, just in the prime of his life and in the midst of his greatest activities and was sincerely mourned throughout that whole region.

To Griffith and Mary (Fear) Gartin were born nine children, namely: Felix, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, who died on January 24, 1902; Edmund, who married Alice Bruce, of Sand Creek township, this county, and lives at Marion, Indiana; Rev. C. M. (deceased), a one-time well-known minister of the Baptist church; William H., who lives at Spannborg, Texas; Mrs. Nancy Ann Hanna-Cristler, who lives in the state of Pennsylvania; Nugent, who lives at Columbus, Ohio; Z. T. (deceased); W. H., a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county, and Griffith, of Muncie, Indiana, one of the most widely-known auctioneers in that part of the state.

Felix Gartin received a careful training on the home farm, as did all of Griffith Gartin's sons; he was educated at Hartsville College and early prepared to take an active part in the affairs of the community. When the call to arms came at the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union cause and was attached to the Eleventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a part of General Sherman's army, known to fame as "the bloody Eleventh." He served through the historic siege of Vicksburg and on July 12, 1863, during the memorable battle at Jackson, Mississippi, received a severe wound, from which he never fully recovered, suffering from the after effects of the same all the rest of his life. The disability due to this wound became so pronounced that in November, 1863,

he was discharged from the service, returning home shortly thereafter, and was unable to re-enlist.

In August, 1864, Felix Gartin was united in marriage to Dorcas Pavy, a member of an old and prominent family in this county, and to this union the following children were born: John G., the subject of this sketch; Nancy Ann, wife of John E. Robbins, of Sand Creek township; James W., of Rushville, Indiana; Tillie, deceased.

Felix Gartin was a man of high ideals and in his neighborhood ever was recognized as a man whose "word was as good as his bond." He and his good wife were leaders in the social and religious life of the community in which they lived and ever exerted a wholesome influence upon the lives of those about them. They were members of the Baptist church and were among the leaders in the local congregation, being active in all good works, and were held in the highest regard throughout that whole section. Felix Gartin was a charter member of the lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Burney, and ever took an earnest interest in the affairs of that popular fraternal organization. He was an extensive feeder and shipper of live stock, his specialty being Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, the firm of F. Gartin & Sons, shippers, being well known in live stock circles throughout Indiana and neighboring states. He had hosts of firm friends throughout the county and all through this part of the state and his death, in 1902, was widely mourned. His widow, who was a most excellent woman, died on March 10, 1915.

John G. Gartin was reared on the old home farm and was educated in the common schools of this county, this schooling being supplemented by a course at Hartsville College and a course at Franklin College. His health failing before his studies were completed, he was unable to graduate, much to his regret, and upon returning home became an active assistant in his father's extensive farming and shipping operations. The breeding of pure-bred hogs became his specialty, Poland Chinas being his choice of this form of stock. A little later he began in earnest the breeding of Shorthorn cattle and while thus engaged bred the champion herd leader, "Monitor," the victories of which famous bull in the way of prizes in the great stock shows of the country are detailed in a preceding paragraph of this narrative. Mr. Gartin became an unusually successful cattle breeder and for four years served as secretary of the Shorthorn Breeders' Association and for two years was honored by the election to the presidency of that organization. He also gave considerable attention to the breeding of pure-bred horses, both speed and draft, but years ago discontinued that line of the stock business. In 1893

he sold his famous Shorthorn herd and retired from the business, but in 1900 he restocked his farm with the same favorite breed of cattle and achieved new successes as a breeder, continuing in the business until 1913, in which year he again sold his herd. In recent years Mr. Gartin has achieved a wide reputation as the "baby-beef man," he being a pioneer in the now well-recognized line of handling fine hand-fed stock for select markets. He was the first man in this part of Indiana to take up the "baby beef" business and has become one of the most successful dealers in that form of stock in the country, having created a very choice market for his "baby beef" in the East, his product being quite too choice for the demand of the Chicago and Indianapolis markets. In preparing his "baby beef" for the market, Mr. Gartin feeds from sixty to seventy-five pounds of "black-strap" feeding molasses and from thirty to forty tons of cotton-seed meal, this diet imparting to the flesh of his stock that fine flavor so much desired by Eastern epicures. He feeds an average of one hundred to one hundred and ten head each year.

On February 4, 1886, John G. Gartin was united in marriage to Mary R. Alexander, who was born in this county, daughter of A. J. and Charlotte (Steward) Alexander, members of two old and influential families hereabout, the genealogy of the Alexander family being set out in the biographical sketch relating to Frank Alexander, presented elsewhere in this volume. A. J. Alexander was a native of Ohio, of Scottish extraction, and Charlotte Steward was a native of Ireland.

To John G. and Mary R. (Alexander) Gartin three children have been born, namely: Earl F., born on April 4, 1888, a well-known auctioneer, of Burney, this county, who owns a farm west of the home place and lives in Burney; Lottie D., January 9, 1891, who married Donald Webb and lives in Shelby county, this state, and Charles A., August 29, 1898, living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Gartin are members of the Baptist church and are devoted to the welfare of the community in which they live, being among the leaders in all good works thereabout. Mr. Gartin is an active, energetic, enterprising citizen and is regarded as one of the most substantial men in Decatur county. He and Mrs. Gartin have hosts of friends throughout the county and they and the members of their family are held in the highest regard by all.

Mr. Gartin is a Republican and has held township offices. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias, in which fraternity he has filled all the chairs and is past chancellor. Mr. Gartin is one of the heavy stockholders in the bank at Burney, Indiana.



## ISAAC NEWTON WYNKOOP.

It is interesting, especially to young men just starting out on the highway of life, to understand the story of the toil and struggle of men whose success in life has already been attained. There is a flavor of romance in the career of any successful man. For instance, Isaac Newton Wynkoop, a farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, began his married life in 1874, when he had less than one hundred dollars in money or property. During the first years of his married life he and his wife lived in an old log house and rented land. His first financial venture was the purchase of eighty acres of land on credit, which he eventually paid for, and then purchased forty-one acres on the west of his original farm. Subsequently he bought forty acres more, for which he was able to pay cash. Still later he purchased a hundred and thirty acres of improved land, but this was only four years ago. At this time, however, when eleven thousand dollars was required to pay for the farm, he paid all of it in cash except fourteen hundred dollars. For his first tract of eighty acres Mr. Wynkoop paid forty dollars an acre. For the second tract of forty-one acres he paid fifty dollars an acre; for the third tract of forty acres he paid seventy-five dollars, and for the last he paid practically eighty-five dollars an acre. Thus has the value of farming land increased in the past quarter century.

As Mr. Wynkoop's wealth grew he was able to provide himself, his wife and his children with greater comfort and about 1894 began extensive building operations. He now has one of the most attractive homes in Sand Creek township. There are four barns included in two sets of buildings. Altogether Mr. Wynkoop owns now two hundred and ninety-one acres of land, worth probably thirty thousand dollars. His home farm is worth at least two hundred dollars an acre and is well improved. Mr. Wynkoop rents out his corn land.

Born on February 24, 1850, on a farm in Franklin county, Isaac Newton Wynkoop is the son of James and Barbara (Hetterick) Wynkoop, the former was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1817, and died, February 27, 1893, and the latter was born, January 23, 1817, in Pennsylvania, and died, November 30, 1903. James Wynkoop was brought to Franklin county, Indiana, by his parents when a lad of four years, and they, in 1853, came to Decatur county, purchasing a farm where the village of Horace is now situated. Mrs. Barbara Wynkoop was the daughter of John and Catherine Hetterick. She was married to James Wynkoop, February 27, 1840. Of the ten children born to James and Barbara (Hetterick)

Wynkoop all are now living except two, Mrs. Mary McCracken who was the wife of Thomas McCracken, and Mrs. Rebecca McCracken who was the wife of James McCracken. They were the third and fourth born in a family of five sons and five daughters. The living children are as follow: Mrs. Sarah Howell, of Kansas; William, a veteran of the Civil War and a farmer of Clay township; Mrs. Martha Myers, the wife of J. A. Myers, of Washington township; Isaac N., the subject of this sketch; John, who lives near Waldron, in Shelby county; James, of Sand Creek township; Charles, who lives with his brother William, in Clay township; and Mrs. Nevada Davis, the wife of John L. Davis, of Letts Corner.

On September 31, 1874, at the age of twenty-four, Isaac Newton Wynkoop was married to Mary Elizabeth McGee, who was born on April 8, 1854, in Sand Creek township, within one-half mile of her present home. Mary Elizabeth McGee was the daughter of Ralph and Sarah (Jones) McGee, the former was born, January 8, 1827, and died, June 20, 1909, and the latter was born, April 12, 1832, and died, February 3, 1906. Ralph McGee was the son of John McGee, a native of Ireland, who emigrated to Butler county, Ohio, in 1810. John McGee was a soldier in the War of 1812. A tailor by occupation, he married Jane Cassell. The late Ralph McGee, who began life a poor boy, became a very wealthy man, and in March, 1853, removed to Decatur county, Indiana. He was a pioneer breeder of Poland China hogs, and established a tile factory in this county, which he operated for many years. He was known as a good man and a faithful and loyal member of the Baptist church. In politics he was a Republican. His wife was a woman of most lovable disposition, a woman of strong religious nature, conscientious and kind-hearted not only in her own family, but in the neighborhood where she lived. She knew what it meant to toil as did also her husband, who had made his own way in the world from the time he was ten years old. At the time they came to Decatur county in 1853 they purchased a hundred and forty-one acres of land in Washington township, and here they lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. Ralph McGee's land was well improved and especially well drained with tile which he himself had laid.

The McGees have an especially splendid record for longevity. All of the nine children of Ralph and Sarah (Jones) McGee are living. The names of the children in the order of their birth are as follow: John Philip, of Clay township; Mrs. Sarah J. Lundy, of Clay township; William H., of Clay township; Mrs. Mary E. Wynkoop; Charles L., of Greensburg; Ralph T., of Greensburg; George M., of Greensburg; James A., of Washington township; Mattie M., the wife of Edward Samuels, of Washington.

To Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Newton Wynkoop there have been born three children (daughters), two of whom are married, and all of whom are living. Cora, married Ira A. Moore. They have two children, Mabel and Mary, and reside in Clay township. Gertrude married Walter Boling, of St. Paul, Indiana, who is the proprietor of the feed and grist-mill at that place. Martha, the youngest of the family lives at home with her parents.

It can hardly be expected that Mr. Wynkoop has ever busied himself with very much else but his own business. He is a Republican, but has never taken an active interest in politics. He has been too busy with his own personal affairs, providing for himself and his family a competence. Mr. and Mrs. Wynkoop are people of strong religious instincts, and devout and faithful church members. They belong to the Liberty Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. Wynkoop stand high in the community where they live. Their success is not accidental and their fortune is self acquired. They are delightful people to know, hospitable in their home, kind and considerate to those who have been less fortunate and less successful.

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### WILLIAM GILMAN STYERS.

Our affection rises and the tenderest and sweetest sentiment of which we are capable flows freely from our hearts when the memory of those whom we have loved comes back to us. This is especially true of the memory of a man who, upon passing to the other shore, leaves behind a devoted wife and loving children. It is a grim fact that we never quite appreciate those who are near and dear to us until their work is fully ended and they are gone from us. Somehow it is difficult to get or retain proper perspective on the life of one who lives among us. This may be especially true of a father or a mother, or a son or daughter. The late William Gilman Styers, of Sand Creek township, was a man who performed worthily the common and simple duties of life, who gave a full and liberal measure of service and unstinted love and affection to his wife and to his children. And notwithstanding the fact that he now belongs to a past generation, his work and his love and his tenderness go on to affect for good the lives of those whom he knew best and loved best on this earth.

William Gilman Styers was born on January 16, 1844, in Greensburg, Indiana, and died on March 20, 1915, on the old home farm in Sand Creek township. His parents were intimately connected with the very earliest his-

tory of this county. His father and mother moved to a farm south of Greensburg, where was located the famous old House mill in 1854. The father died on the farm, but his wife lived in Greensburg during the six years immediately preceding her death. William and Sarilda (Robbins) Styers, the parents of William Gilman, had three other sons. Only one member of the family, Charles F., who was born on March 16, 1856, is now living. His home is at Indianapolis. Of the deceased children, John M., the eldest, died in infancy; William G. was the second born; Samuel E., the third born, was born on July 8, 1868.

William Gilman Styers' mother, who before her marriage was Sarilda Robbins, was the daughter of William and Eleanor (Anderson) Robbins, and was born in October, 1823. She had three brothers, as follow: John E., who was born on February 20, 1825, and who married Nancy O. Hunter; James G., who was born on June 10, 1827, and who married Elmira Stout; and Merrit H., who was born in 1829, and who married Jeannette Gilchrist. William Robbins died on February 3, 1868, and his wife, Eleanor, died four years later.

The genealogy of the Robbins family in America begins with Bethiah Vickery, who was born December 1, 1760, and who married William Robbins. To them were born three children, Albe, Charity and Benjamin. William Robbins was killed in the Revolutionary War soon after enlisting and his widow married a second William Robbins in Guilford county, North Carolina. To this couple were born nine children, namely: Elizabeth, born on February 5, 1788; Marmeduke and Jacob, May 15, 1783; Polly, April 9, 1791; Nathaniel, April 5, 1793; John, February 8, 1795; William, August 6, 1797; and Dosha, May 20, 1804. William Robbins, the second husband of Mrs. Robbins, was born on October 21, 1761, in Randolph county, North Carolina. In October, 1777, when sixteen years of age, he enlisted in the Revolutionary army, serving until 1781 under Capt. Joseph Clark and Colonel Dugan and Col. Anthony Sharp. He left Virginia for Henry county, Kentucky, and 1821 came to Decatur county, settling nine and one-half miles south of Greensburg. Here he made a home among the timbered hills. Trees were cleared away and a new log house of one room was erected, with a shed in which was built a loom for weaving carpet and many kinds of cloth. On September 11, 1834, William Robbins passed away and was buried at Mt. Pleasant cemetery. The third William Robbins, heretofore referred to in the children born to the second William Robbins and Bethiah Vickery, was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. He was taken by his parents to Henry county, Kentucky, and accompanied them to Indiana, when the

family came in 1821, when he was twenty-four years of age. He selected the site for a home for himself about one and one-half miles north of his father's home, but the next year returned to Kentucky and was married to Eleanor Anderson, of that state. Upon returning to his new home with his bride, three sisters and two brothers, John and Nathaniel, settled in the same vicinity. A short time later other relatives of the Robbins family came to the same township. The Robbins family became prominent both as to numbers and influence in the early affairs of this section. Nathaniel Robbins was the first justice of the peace in Sand Creek township. William and Eleanor Robbins lived on the farm originally selected as their home the remainder of their lives.

On May 16, 1868, William Gilman Styers was married to Dorinda Frances Wright, who was born on March 28, 1848, north of Harris City, and who is the daughter of Thomas A. and Mary J. (Wallace) Wright, natives of Rockbridge county, Virginia, and early settlers in Decatur county. Mrs. Styers' mother died when she was four years old. Thomas A. and Mary J. Wright were the parents of seven children. Of these children, George W., the oldest, died in 1890 at the Styers home; James, in the Odd Fellows home in Greensburg; Franklin is deceased; Charles Whitcomb lives in Indianapolis; John M. is deceased; Mrs. Styers was the next born; Joseph A., the youngest, who lives at Madison, Indiana, was born in 1851. Joseph A. was reared in Decatur county and has made his home in Madison for twenty years. He is a traveling salesman and married Mary Squires, who is now deceased. They had one child, Emma.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Styers they began housekeeping just south of Greensburg in a little cottage on the hill, where they lived for two years, and then moved to a farm a short distance away. Subsequently they removed to another farm, where they lived for one year, and in 1873 moved to Missouri. Seven years later they returned to this state, and purchased a farm near Harris City, where Mr. Styers now resides. Originally, Mr. and Mrs. Styers owned a hundred and seventy-five acres, but they have sold a part of the land, and now have a hundred and forty-three acres.

William Gilman Styers served in the hospital corps of the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War. He was a Republican in politics until 1905, when he identified himself with the Prohibition party, on account of his strong and violent dislike of the liquor traffic. A member of the Baptist church before his marriage, he later identified himself with the Union Baptist church. For many years before his death he had charge of the cemetery where he is now buried.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gilman Styers had four children, the youngest, Charles, died in 1896. Of the other children, Mrs. Effie Robbins, the wife of Charles Robbins, of Horace, has five children, Harry Walter, Marie, Corina and Millard, of whom Walter married Grace Ferris and they have three children, Gerald, Roy and an infant. William T., the second child, who lives in Indianapolis, married Parl Wright, of Adams, and they have two children, Wayne and Mary. Mrs. Minnie Jackson, the third child, has three children, namely: Mabel, who married a Mr. Samuels and has one child, Martha; Ruby Frances, who married Charles Folkerson; and Hazel.

The memory of the late William Gilman Styers will not fade as the years go by, or be dimmed by passing events. His place in the hearts of his family, his neighbors and his friends is secure. He was a good husband, a good father and a good citizen.

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#### WILLIAM S. FEAR.

Among the farmers and citizens of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, who are natives of this township and county and who in the course of long lives have established comfortable homes here and taken a place in the foremost ranks of the citizens of this county is William S. Fear, who owns a hundred and thirty-three acres of land in Jackson township. Mr. Fear purchased this farm in 1900, and took up his residence there the same year. He has a splendid farm home situated on a well-graveled and widely-traveled highway, a farm which is well improved and made up of very rich soil, one of the best to be found in Jackson township.

William S. Fear was born on August 22, 1860, in Jackson township and has lived in Decatur county all his life. He is the son of the venerable John Fear, who is now a resident of Sand Creek township, and who was born in 1823 in Kentucky. At the age of ninety-three years he is now one of the oldest men in Decatur county. At present he makes his home with Julia Holmes, of Sand Creek township. He is the son of William H. Fear, also a native of Kentucky, who brought his family to Decatur county and settled in Clay township in 1833 with the Gartins, of Clay township. John Fear married Harriet Williams, the daughter of Samuel Williams, a native of Virginia, who came to Jackson township about 1830. Mrs. John Fear was born in 1833 and died in August, 1911, at the age of seventy-eight.

Eight children were born to John and Harriet (Williams) Fear, as fol-



low: Mrs. Julia Holmes, of Sand Creek township; Levi, a resident of Jackson township; Mrs. Artemesia Holmes is deceased; William S. is the subject of this sketch; Barrett, John, Ida and Nancy Ann are all deceased. John Fear is a Democrat and is a member of the Baptist church.

On April 12, 1899, William S. Fear was married to Mattie E. Thurston. They immediately purchased their present farm and built on it a new residence in which they have since lived. Mr. Fear has greatly improved the farm by fences, drains and the erection of out-buildings.

Mrs. Fear was born on November 21, 1864, in Jackson township, the daughter of William and Mary (Evans) Thurston, the former of whom was born in 1839, and died on September 11, 1897, and the latter was born in 1845 and died on August 27, 1897. William Thurston was a native of Jackson township, the son of Lewis and Martha Thurston, natives of Virginia and Franklin county, Indiana, respectively. Lewis Thurston was an early settler of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana. Mary Evans Thurston, a native of Jackson township, was the daughter of Ratliff Evans, who died in 1910 in the West. William and Mary Thurston lived and died in Jackson township on the old Thurston homestead. Of their children, Edward A. lives in Jackson township, Jacob L. lives in Jackson township, and Ora A. in Bartholomew county.

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Fear are members of the Christian church. Mr. Fear is a Democrat.

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#### ROBERT J. DAVIS.

The farm is the granary to the office, the store and the shop. It is the farm which must feed and clothe that section of the population which produces no food or raw material for clothing. Prices for food and clothing have experienced an upward trend for many years and are becoming next to prohibitive for great sections of the population. The conclusion is obvious that the production must be increased if the non-producers of food are to be fed. It is very generally agreed that a shortage of supply has enhanced the price for all classes. There are many causes and explanations for this condition, but the chief cause perhaps is that many of the more capable young men who might be successful farmers are moving into the cities. Consequently, when we find a young man who was reared in the country and who chooses agriculture for his life's vocation and strives to increase the productivity of his land, we must recognize he is doing a social service of inestimable



value. Robert J. Davis, a farmer of Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, who inherited from his father a large tract of land in Clay township, and who might have chosen any occupation or vocation, by remaining upon the farm has conferred upon society a distinct benefit which future generations will not be slow to recognize, since it is such men as he who are helping to maintain the balance between the producers in the country and the consumers in the city.

Robert J. Davis was born on August 3, 1870, in Adams township, on the old Davis homestead, the son of James G. and Sarah E. Davis, both of whom are deceased. The former was born April 26, 1829, and died May 5, 1904. The latter, who, before her marriage, was Sarah E. Braden, was born January 10, 1837, in Decatur county, Indiana, and died June 12, 1911. James G. Davis came to this country from Mayo, Ireland, in 1840, at the age of eleven years, a poor Irish lad, without friends and without resources. Settling in Adams township, Decatur county, he lived there for many years and prospered. A natural trader and financier, he became very wealthy and at the time of his death owned nearly three thousand acres of land. He was a man known far and wide for his sterling integrity and rugged honesty. Of his great holdings in real estate, twelve hundred acres were situated in Daviess county and the remainder in Decatur and Shelby counties. On many occasions, he was called upon by the courts of many counties to administer estates, a most trustworthy and responsible position and one which bears evidence of his reputation, not only of honor and integrity, but of ability as well.

James G. and Sarah E. Davis were the parents of eight children, as follow: Cecelia Jane, deceased; George M. C., deceased; John H., deceased; Mrs. Charles Templeton; Robert J., the subject of this sketch; James G. and Edward W., twins, the former lives on the home farm and the latter near Milford; and Mrs. Luna Smith, of Clay township.

After living on the home place with his parents until he had reached his majority, Robert J. Davis was married and moved to the farm in Clay township. The next year he erected a new house on this land and here he has lived ever since.

On August 13, 1891, Robert J. Davis was married to Jennie Copeland, daughter of Jerome and Nancy O. Copeland. The former was born in Shelby county in 1834 and died on August 17, 1913, and the latter was born on September 15, 1832, in Tennessee, and died on March 25, 1906. Jerome Copeland was the son of Milton L. Copeland, an early settler in Shelby county, Indiana. Mrs. Robert J. Davis, who was the only child born to her

parents, was born August 30, 1873, in Shelby county. He married, secondly, Myrtle Harmon, and they had four children.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Davis are the parents of five children, all of whom are now living, namely: Fern, born July 13, 1893; Ligonel Wellington, March 4, 1896; Fay, March 9, 1898; Roland J., March 16, 1904; and Violet, January 18, 1909. Ligonel W. was graduated from the Greensburg high school in 1913. Fay was graduated from the common school in 1913.

Mr. Davis received four hundred and eighty-seven acres of land, his present farm in Clay township, from his father and has kept the farm in a very high state of cultivation. He has one of the best tracts of land to be found anywhere in the township and it is especially so because of the skillful methods used by its owner. Mr. Davis is a well-known citizen of Decatur county and is recognized today as one of its leading farmers and business men. Mrs. Davis is a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. Davis is a stanch Democrat but has never aspired for office.

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### JOHN H. WOODRUFF.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch has been content to let "well enough" alone, and make the best of the goods the gods provided, with the result of which he should be more than satisfied. He has also done his share towards developing good citizenship in the township in which he resides. He is second to none in his standing in the estimation of his neighbors, and his business transactions have always borne the stamp of honest dealing.

John H. Woodruff, of "Maple Hill Farm," Jackson township, was born, August 10, 1862, on the old Woodruff farm, now owned by Doctor Oldham. He is a son of Enos and Susan (Nowen) Woodruff. After his marriage, Mr. Woodruff lived on the home place until 1902, and after renting for one year he bought the ninety-acre tract on which he now lives. In politics he is a Democrat, and his fraternal membership is with the Knights of Pythias at Letts, Indiana.

Enos Woodruff, father of our subject, was born in September, 1822, in Butler county, and died, August 12, 1899, in Bartholomew county. He was a son of Samuel Woodruff, an early settler of Butler and Franklin counties. His wife was Susan (Bowen) Woodruff, who was born in 1824, and who was a native of Franklin county. She died in August, 1908. They were

married in the thirties, in Franklin county, and came direct to Jackson township, where Mr. Woodruff became a prosperous farmer. To Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff were born the following children: William, Nathan, Eliza, Ezra and John. William Woodruff lives in Hartsville, Indiana; Nathan lives in Jackson township; Eliza became the wife of a Mr. Williams, and lives in Clay township; Ezra lives in California.

John H. Woodruff was united in marriage on January 1, 1888, with Emma Wilson, who was born, December 15, 1863, in Bartholomew county, four miles northeast of Hope. She is a daughter of John and Rachel Wilson, natives of Franklin and Decatur counties, respectively. They moved from Bartholomew county to Jackson township, Decatur county, in 1867, where Mr. Woodruff met his future wife.

John and Rachel Wilson, the parents of Mrs. Woodruff, settled on a farm and lived there until Mrs. Wilson died, on June 18, 1899. Mr. Wilson later moved to Hartsville, where he died May 30, 1910. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom the following grew to maturity, namely: Mary, Barton, Emma, Lida, Nannie, Hattie, Henry and Roy. Mary lives in Berney; Barton is now living at Elizabethtown; Jane is deceased; Lida is living at Hartsville; Nannie married a Mr. Carroll, and lives at Hartsville; Hattie lives at Hartsville; Henry lives in Clay township, and Roy is living at Elizabethtown.

Mr. Woodruff is well respected by all who know him, and has always been an industrious, quiet, law-abiding citizen and active in his attention to his business interests.

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### GEORGE M. MYERS.

For thirty-five years George M. Myers, a successful farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, has lived on the same farm in this township. Here he has followed farming from year to year, and here he has grown prosperous with each succeeding harvest. He and his good wife have lived to rear a family of two children, who now have homes and families of their own. Here in Sand Creek township the people have had opportunity to know George M. Myers and their verdict should be accepted as to his worth as a citizen. He is a man who is popular in the neighborhood where he lives and a man who is admired for his strength of manhood and moral courage.

George M. Myers, who owns a farm of seventy acres in Sand Creek

township, where he has lived since February 24, 1880, was born on August 11, 1849, near Horace, the son of William H. and Elizabeth (Annis) Myers, the former of whom was born on August 6, 1824, and died on August 8, 1904, and the latter was born on June 29, 1827, and died on May 1, 1900. William H. Myers was a native of Kentucky, the son of George Myers, who settled in Decatur county in the early thirties one mile east of Horace in Sand Creek township. He was a well-known citizen during his day and generation. He was one of four children born to his parents, but he was the only son. The father died at his son's house in 1875. After settling on land one mile east of Horace, William H. Myers subsequently removed to a farm in Sand Creek township. He was known in this community as a hard working, industrious and honest farmer.

William H. and Elizabeth Myers were the parents of ten children, as follow: James A., who was born on July 22, 1847, is a well-known farmer of Washington township; George M., the second born, is the subject of this sketch; John Thomas, October 21, 1851, a farmer of Clay township; William R., July 24, 1854, died in infancy; Alice, July 21, 1857, married a Mr. Sanderson, died, September 11, 1897, near Forest Hill; Eliza L., February 21, 1859, lives in Webb City, Missouri; Harvey M., October 18, 1861; Merritt E., November 25, 1864, lives in Indianapolis; Mrs. Nancy Berry, September 26, 1871, lives in Indianapolis.

George M. Myers was married on March 19, 1873, to Mary A. Taylor, who was born on June 20, 1852, in Sand Creek township, the daughter of George and Hannah (Hill) Taylor, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Myers are the parents of two children, as follow: Wilbur Taylor, of Indianapolis, married Lillie Van Treese, and they have one child, Walter; Grace Pearl married William H. Mobley, a mule dealer of Clay township, and they have two children, Mary and Franklin Wayne.

Before Mr. and Mrs. Myers removed to their present farm they lived in Clay township for a few years, and after renting land in Sand Creek township for a few years the farm was purchased in 1880. They first purchased fifty-three and one-third acres, most of which was covered by timber. This land has been cleared and in the meantime they have added two tracts until the farm now consists of seventy acres. Originally they lived in an old log cabin made of round logs daubed with mud, having a brick chimney. Several years later Mr. Myers erected a frame dwelling and now has a comfortable country home, well kept and adequate outbuildings, and good fencing. He and his good wife have endured many hardships, but they have as a

result of their early toil and labor a substantial competence for their declining years.

Mr. Myers is a Democrat. The Myers family are all members of the Mount Aerie Baptist church and active in the affairs of this congregation.

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### JOHN FRANK ROBERTSON.

Farming is becoming in these later days a vocation for highly specialized and trained minds. Perhaps there will never come a time when farmers will be able to avoid manual labor altogether. Nevertheless, the work of the farmer has been greatly lightened by the invention of many modern devices and the improvements of many of the instruments of agriculture which it is necessary for the farmer to use. Among other things, farming requires careful planning, the inauguration of a system which is the equal of systems in business. The farmer of the present generation who has failed to catch the progressive spirit of the twentieth century is one who will be left behind sooner or later. With the devices which are now available to the man in the country, the devices which are used for the conveniences not only for the farmer, but also his wife in the home, he is able to live in comparative luxury, while his forefathers were compelled to struggle against much greater odds. John Frank Robertson, a farmer of Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, is prosperous mainly because he has caught the spirit of the twentieth century, and has made of farming a real business.

John Frank Robertson, who is the owner of one hundred and twenty-four and five-tenths acres of land in Adams township, where he has lived for nearly thirty-five years, was born on June 17, 1856, in the township where he resides, three-fourths of a mile from his present home. He is the son of Oliver P. and Mary Ann (Davis) Robertson. Oliver P. Robertson was born on August 1, 1825, and died in 1905, while his wife was born on June 15, 1833, and died on May 25, 1907. Oliver P. Robertson, an early settler of Adams township, though born in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, was a son of John and Ruth (Ridlen) Robertson, natives of Maryland and early settlers in Dearborn county, Indiana. After coming to Adams township in 1829, the family became prosperous, and for nearly a century was recognized as one of the leading factors in the agricultural life of the community. Mary Ann (Davis) Robertson was a daughter of John W. and Sarah (Forsythe) Davis, natives of New Jersey, who came to Decatur

county about 1830, and settled in Adams township. Oliver P. and Mary Ann (Davis) Robertson were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living, namely: Josiah W., a well-known farmer and stockman of Adams township; John Frank, the subject of this sketch; William, also a resident of Adams township; Charles, living at Acton, Marion county, Indiana; Edwin, a farmer of Adams township; Lydia, the wife of Elmer Shelhorn, and Ruth, living with her two brothers, Josiah and Edwin, for whom she is house-keeper.

Oliver P. Robertson was first married to Nancy Edrington, who was born in 1831, and who died in June, 1852. She was a daughter of Hiram and Rhoda Edrington, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers in Adams township, in this county. After coming here they cleared land, built a log house and later erected a large brick house, now owned by E. Shelhorn. Oliver P. and Nancy (Edrington) Robertson had two children, Louisa L., who is deceased, and Lafayette, a farmer of Adams township.

John F. Robertson was educated in the public schools of Adams township and remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-five years of age. Soon after his marriage, he came to his present farm in Adams township and here he has resided ever since.

John Frank Robertson was married on February 22, 1882, to Jennie M. Patterson, who was born on June 3, 1858, in Clinton township, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Bird) Patterson. The former was a native of county Antrim, Ireland, born on July 12, 1839, the son of Roger and Mary Jane (Hall) Patterson. Roger Patterson, after coming to America, in 1845, located in Clinton township, bringing his family of two sons to this country. He died at the age of thirty-seven years in 1855. The mother was later married to Michael Ryan and had three children by the second marriage. She lived to an advanced age.

In September, 1857, Joseph Patterson was married to Mary Bird, the daughter of William and Maria Bird, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively, who came to Decatur county, Indiana, in the late twenties. William and Maria Bird had eight children, of whom Mrs. Patterson was the seventh. She was born on July 31, 1839, and died on May 1, 1908. Four years after her death, Joseph Patterson married Minerva Bird, a sister of his first wife. The marriage took place on December 9, 1912. Of the children born to Joseph and Mary Patterson, Mrs. Robertson was the eldest. The others were, Harriet, Elizabeth, Nora, John William, James, Charles and Ina.

To Mr. and Mrs. John F. Robertson has been born one child, Millie E..



She was born on February 9, 1884, and was married on February 25, 1907, to Charles W. Lines, who was born on March 1, 1880, the son of William and Lina (Snedeker) Lines, of Rush county. They have one child, Edith Robertson, seven years old, who was born on November 23, 1907.

Mr. Robertson is a Progressive. He and his wife attend the Baptist church at Adams. John F. Robertson is a man who is well known for his industry, his rugged sincerity and his noble and kind impulses. He is pre-eminently worthy to be regarded as one of the representative citizens of Decatur county.

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#### EDWARD A. PORTER, M. D.

Representative of one of the oldest and best-known of the pioneer families of Decatur county, no citizen of this county is imbued with a loftier spirit of public service than that which animates the life of Dr. Edward A. Porter, a well-known and popular physician of Burney, this county. Interested in all measures which have as their object the elevation of the communal interests hereabout, Doctor Porter brings to the exercise of his duties of citizenship the highest ideals and loftiest impulses; being regarded as one of the most influential of the younger professional men in the county. Admirably trained in the best practices of the healing art, he brings to his practice a mind devoted to the cause of the amelioration of human ills. Capable and conscientious, it is but natural that Doctor Porter should have a wide and constantly growing practice in the neighborhood in which he has labored so earnestly and unselfishly, and it is not improper to say that no physician in the county enjoys a fuller measure of popular esteem than he. To his public service he brings the same high impulses that actuate his professional services and is regarded as a most useful and helpful citizen, one to whom his fellow citizens are bound by many ties of social obligation. Though having been in practice less than a decade, Doctor Porter has established himself in a manner that speaks well for his professional skill, and his professional brethren in this and neighboring counties extend to him frequent evidences of their confidence and high esteem.

Edward A. Porter was born on a farm in Washington township, three and one-half miles southwest of Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, June 16, 1881, son of Matthew E. and Clarissa (McKinney) Porter, both members



of pioneer families in this county. Matthew E. Porter was born in 1836 in a log cabin that is still standing on the Porter farm in Washington township, and was the son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Elder) Porter, the former of whom was born in Dearborn county, this state, son of a Virginian, who was one of the earliest settlers of Indiana Territory, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Rev. Matthew Elder, a pioneer preacher of the Baptist church, who built the first church in Union county, and was a power for good throughout this entire section of the country. In a biographical sketch relating to James Porter, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in full a genealogy of the Porter family from pioneer times and the reader is respectfully referred to that genealogy for further details regarding Doctor Porter's interesting family connection.

Edward A. Porter was reared on the home farm and was given excellent educational advantages. Following his completion of the course in the local schools, from which he was graduated in 1900, he entered the medical department of the University of Kentucky, where he studied for two years. He then entered Indiana University and in 1908 was graduated from the school of medicine of that institution. Upon receiving his diploma he entered upon the practice of his chosen profession at Burney and from the very start was successful, completely refuting the oft-repeated statement that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." Previous to beginning his practice, Doctor Porter had endeared himself to the community by a period of intimate public service in which he gave the best there was in him to the common weal, even as he has done since entering upon his practice. For six years before finishing his medical course, he had taught school in and about Burney, pursuing his medical studies during the summer months and teaching during the winter months. He loved teaching and devoted the whole of his ardent nature to the interests of the children entrusted to his care, with the inevitable result that he made a decided success as a teacher, endearing himself to the whole community by his unselfish and faithful service. Upon entering upon the practice of medicine he continued the same ungrudging and unselfish service to the people and, naturally enough, has built up an extensive practice, having achieved a notable success, both from a professional and financial standpoint. Doctor Porter very modestly takes some measure of pride in the success which has attended his practice in the treatment of the diseases of children and in the practice of obstetrics, in both of which he has enjoyed an unusual degree of success.

On August 23, 1910, Edward A. Porter was united in marriage to Hester M. Alley, a member of an old and prominent family in this county,

daughter of J. L. and Lucy (Ewing) Alley, the latter of whom was the daughter of Joshua Ewing, one of the famous triplets in the family of Patrick Ewing. On other pages of this biographical history there are presented genealogies of the Alley family and the Ewing family, to which the reader is respectfully referred for additional details concerning Mrs. Porter's interesting family connections. To Dr. Edward A. and Hester M. (Alley) Porter have been born two children, Martha Lucile, born on October 14, 1911, and Jonathan Edward, June 10, 1913.

Doctor and Mrs. Porter are members of the Baptist church at Burney and are consistent in all good works of the community to which their lives are so earnestly devoted, being regarded as among the leaders in the better thought of the neighborhood. Doctor Porter is a Democrat and his ardent public spirit is a continual stimulus to his unselfish efforts on behalf of good local government, his intelligent interest in political affairs giving him a prominent place in the councils of the party managers in this county. In January, 1914, Doctor Porter was appointed coroner of Decatur county, and has given to the administration of the affairs of that important office his very best thought, even as he gives his very best thought to all his duties as a physician and as a citizen. As a family physician, Doctor Porter necessarily has been brought into the most intimate relations with the people of the community and in all his relations in life has so comported himself as to merit the confidence and esteem of the whole countryside.

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### HENRY TOWNSEND.

Generally speaking, the man who remains in one place, using the opportunities which are within his grasp and is satisfied with a reasonable measure of progress or profit at the end of each year, makes on the whole the greatest success of a vocation whatever it may be. This is particularly true of farming and it is no matter for wonderment that Henry Townsend, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, has achieved a satisfactory measure of success on the farm. Now fifty-five years old he lives in the neighborhood where he was born, and it is here that all his struggles and his toil have been staged. By saving something from the profits of each year's work he has been able to buy more land from time to time until he now owns three farms—ninety-four acres in the home place, eighty acres across the road and a hundred and twenty acres southwest of his home

—two hundred and ninety-four acres in all. Here he has found a realization of his boyhood ambition, and here he has been able to surround himself with all of the comforts which life in the countryside may afford.

Born on December 27, 1860, Henry Townsend is the son of James C. and Susan (Warren) Townsend, the former of whom was born on December 22, 1826, in Decatur county, Indiana, the son of James and Sarah Townsend. James Townsend was a native of New Jersey and came to Decatur county in 1830 and purchased a tract of a hundred and sixty acres of timber land. Susan Warren was a daughter of James Warren, who entered land on the south side of the road opposite the tract entered by the Townsends. James C. and Susan Townsend became the owners of a tract of land comprising two hundred and eighty acres in all. Mrs. Townsend was born in 1818, and died in October, 1889. Of their four children, Henry, the subject of this sketch, was the youngest. The other children were Mrs. Sarah Bailey, of St. Paul; John, a farmer near St. Paul, and James S., a farmer.

After attending the schools in the neighborhood where he was born, and especially the Murphy school, Henry Townsend lived with his parents after his marriage, and when his mother died he remained on the home farm. When he purchased his first tract of forty acres he bought it with the intention of moving to the farm, but changed his plans and continued to reside on the home place. His land has been acquired by the purchase of forty acres at a time, and he has thus not only grown in wealth and affluence, but he has grown in influence as well, since his success is pointed out as a splendid example of what may be accomplished by diligence and unceasing effort. Not so very long ago Mr. Townsend erected a splendid modern home of ten rooms on his home farm, costing approximately four thousand dollars. With well-kept and attractive outbuildings the farm is equipped for the most successful operations. He no longer, however, is engaged in active farming, but during recent years has been accustomed to rent out his land to others.

On December 13, 1887, when he was twenty-seven years old, Henry Townsend was married to Maggie Garrigan, the daughter of Patrick Garrigan, a native of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Townsend had only one child, Maudie Cecil, who died at the age of eleven years.

For at least three generations Democracy has been the prevailing politics of the Townsends, Henry Townsend's father and grandfather both having been identified with the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Townsend are members of the United Brethren church, and belong to the Union Chapel church in Adams township. He is a worthy citizen of the township and county where he resides and where he has always lived. Men who know

Henry Townsend admire and respect him for his rugged honesty and his interest in the comforts and happiness of his fellows. He makes no pretention of great achievement, but nevertheless all are ready to say that his life has been well spent in sowing seeds of good. He takes a commendable interest in all worthy public enterprises, believes in good roads, public improvements, and especially in good farming.

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### FRANK S. ALEXANDER.

Frank S. Alexander, who owns a farm of two hundred and seventy-six acres two miles south of Burney on the Columbus pike, is one of the representative farmers and stock breeders of Decatur county and one of the alert and progressive business men of this community. He has never permitted himself to fall into the rut which has ruined so many otherwise capable men but has studied and experimented in every department of agriculture and has thus been able to obtain the maximum results from his efforts. Not only this, but he has so ordered his career as, at all times, to command the confidence and respect of the people of this county. The time has been when he was a great borrower of money and the substantial credit which he enjoyed at a time when credit was necessary to large-scale operations, is the basis of his present affluence and prosperity. A man interested in public improvements, he has played no small part in the progress and prosperity of the county as a whole.

Frank S. Alexander was born in 1871, in Bartholomew county, near Hartsville, the son of A. J. and Charlotta (Steward) Alexander, the former of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio, born in 1839, and who moved to Bartholomew county when he was eighteen years old. He owned eighty acres of land near Hartsville but traded this for one hundred and sixty acres where his son, Frank, now resides, to which he moved and where he spent the remainder of his active business life. Charlotta Steward, who was born in Ireland, came with her parents to America when six years old. They settled in Bartholomew county, Indiana, where she was married to A. J. Alexander. By industry, economy and shrewd management, they became prosperous farmers of the county.

Born and reared on a farm, Frank S. Alexander established the foundation for his business success by working for his father on the farm he now owns for one dollar a day. After working this way for two years,

he purchased sixty-acres of land on the banks of Clifty creek and there lived for four years. Upon selling this farm he moved to Tipton county, where he purchased one hundred and five acres of land. The purchase and sale of this land was really the substantial foundation of his greater fortune. After selling seven hundred dollars worth of timber from the farm, he sold it in two years at an advance of fifteen dollars an acre. He came back to Decatur county and purchased the old home farm, where he now lives. On the day that President William McKinley was killed he paid his father one thousand dollars to close the deal for the purchase of the home farm. Since 1901 his rise in the business world has been rapid. Mr. Alexander owns two hundred and seventy-six acres of land and has a modern home worth at least five thousand dollars. He is a heavy stockholder and a director in the Burney State Bank. He handles two carloads of cattle and six carloads of hogs every year as well as four loads of mules. He has a large silo and two barns, one sixty by eighty feet, and one forty by fifty feet. In 1914 he raised eight thousand bushels of Yellow Dent corn on one hundred and thirty-two acres. Mr. Alexander has always farmed on a large scale and to some extent has been a land dealer. In 1909 he purchased eighty acres of land near the home farm and after cultivating it for two years, sold it at a profit of two thousand dollars. In fact, Mr. Alexander has been alert to every possible opportunity for making money, being quick to recognize a bargain. He is a man of courage in business and, while not now a borrower, formerly operated his land on a considerable amount of borrowed capital.

Frank S. Alexander married Elizabeth E. Pumphrey, the daughter of William and Loduska (Jewell) Pumphrey, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky and the son of Andrew Pumphrey, whose family was of English origin and who came to Kentucky in pioneer times. Andrew Pumphrey immigrated to Decatur county in pioneer times and settled in Clay township, west of where Burney is now situated. He was a successful farmer, a Democrat in politics and well respected as a citizen. He had seven children, of whom William, the father of Mrs. Alexander, was the fourth. William grew to manhood on his father's farm and began life for himself after his marriage to Loduska Jewell. They settled on a farm which William Pumphrey owned and to which he added until, at the time of his death, he owned thirteen hundred acres of land, all in Clay township. He was a very successful farmer and business man, a Democrat and a member of the Methodist church. A man of decided convictions and moral courage, he was more than the ordinary type of citizen. Generous in his

impulses, he had a host of friends in this county and township. He died at the age of eighty years. William and Loduska Pumphrey reared a family of ten children, eight of whom are now living, namely: James A., Francis M. and Edward P., all of whom are residents of Decatur county; William P., who is a resident of Shelby county; Doad P. and an unnamed child are deceased; Elizabeth E., who is the wife of Mr. Alexander; Fannie, who is the wife of a Mr. Miner, of Decatur county; May, who is the wife of Clyde Elliott; and Josephine, who married Earl Littell, of Indianapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Alexander have six living children, as follow: Ralph, born on June 25, 1894; Ethel, April 14, 1900; Paul, November 6, 1904; Ruth, June 28, 1909; Dennis, July 12, 1912, and Mazie E., June 6, 1915.

For many years Frank S. Alexander has been prominent in the councils of the Republican party of Decatur county and, in a measure, his services were rewarded by his party when in 1908 he was elected a member of the Decatur county board of commissioners, an office in which he served until 1912. Politics is the one diversion from his personal business which he permits himself to enjoy. One might search the length and breadth of Decatur county and not find a man, who, in the same length of time, has enjoyed a more rapid rise in farming and in business than Frank S. Alexander. He has been successful in life because he has applied himself assiduously to his business and because he is so constituted that he has not feared to take reasonable chances. In an official way he is well known to the people of this county because of his efficient record as a public officer. In a private way he is known as an estimable citizen and a prosperous farmer.

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### JAMES M. BOSTIC.

The Union soldier during the great war between the states builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and hardships, through the horrors of prison pens and amid the shadows of death he laid the foundation of the greatest temple ever erected and dedicated to human freedom. The world looked on and called those soldiers sublime, for it was theirs to reach up a mighty arm of power and strike the chains from off the slaves, preserve the country from dissolution and to keep unfurled to the breeze the only flag that has ever made tyrants tremble. One of the noble men, now deceased, who contributed his time and effort to this honorable struggle, was James M. Bostic.



James M. Bostic was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1846, the son of Titus and Sarah (Jones) Bostic, both natives of Dearborn county, who removed to Decatur county in pioneer times, and here lived the balance of their lives.

After being reared to manhood on his father's home farm, James M. Bostic enlisted in 1862, in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a regiment which saw very hard service during the Civil War. It was attached to Grant's army of Middle Tennessee, and participated in the battle of Vicksburg, the battle of Fort Donelson and many others. James M. Bostic came through the strenuous struggle without ever receiving a wound, and without having been sick. He was a brave and efficient soldier and was actuated by the highest motives of true patriotism. He possessed a hatred of slavery and its injustice, and was willing, if necessary, to give his life to suppress the institution.

At the close of the war, James M. Bostic came home to Decatur county, and in 1867 was married to Melissa Hancock, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Lemonds) Hancock, the latter of whom was a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lemonds, natives of Lawrence county, Indiana, and of English extraction. They moved to Lawrence county, Indiana, direct from North Carolina, where the first Lemonds family settled on their arrival from England in America. John Hancock was born in North Carolina and moved to Lawrence county about 1840, bringing with him his wife and two small children. After remaining in Lawrence county for some eight years, the family came to Decatur county, and settled near St. Paul, in Adams township. Later they moved to Clay township, and settled near Milford. Here John Hancock lived the remainder of his life. He was a well-known, honest and respected citizen. Of his six children, Mrs. James M. Bostic was the fourth in order of birth. She was born in Lawrence county in 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Bostic began life together in Milford, where Mr. Bostic followed the occupation of a farmer until some twenty-five years ago, when he retired.

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Bostic were the parents of eight children, as follow: George, a resident of Shelby county, Indiana; Fannie and Carrie, residing at home with their mother; Stella, the wife of Charles Mote, of Jackson township, this county; Emmett, living at home; Nannie, the wife of James Thornburg, a resident of Daviess county, Indiana; Isophene, the wife of Roy Herndon, lives at St. Paul, where her husband operates a saw-mill and threshing machine; and Ora Dale, who lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

James M. Bostic was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, having been affiliated with Pap Thomas Post at Greensburg. For six years



he served as township assessor, and was well known and well liked by the citizens of Decatur county. A Republican in politics, he was staunch and true to the principles of the party of Lincoln, and it is not too much to say that he belonged to that class of citizens of whom Decatur county may well be proud. Mrs. Bostic is a member of the Presbyterian church. Although now sixty-seven years of age, she enjoys good health. She is a woman of noble Christian instincts, and has a large circle of friends in this township.

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### ANDREW WILLIAMS.

On the Columbus and Greensburg road four and one-half miles southwest of the pleasant village of Burney, in this county, there is situated a comfortable farm house within whose walls good cheer and cordial hospitality ever reign. Here live a delightful old couple who have made their home on that spot since their marriage in 1867 and who are known far and wide throughout that community, being held in the highest regard by all. Andrew Williams was born on that spot, his present home being a part of the original tract entered by his father from the government back in pioneer days. His wife, who was a Woodruff, also was born in this county, member of a prominent pioneer family, and the two have witnessed the development of the wilderness to its present high state of cultivation. Beginning their home life on this spot in a little log cabin, they prospered and presently their present comfortable and commodious home was erected, where they are living in peaceful content, enjoying the confidence and esteem of all who know them. Mr. Williams has displayed enterprise and energy in the operations of his farm and is recognized as one of the most substantial citizens thereabout. He has always been a hard worker and is now enjoying the fitting reward of his life of well-directed toil. Mrs. Williams is one of the gentlest of women, whose benignant ways have endeared her to the entire neighborhood. A woman of exceptional native ability, she has been a helpmeet indeed to her husband and shares with him the ample rewards of their life of earnest endeavor. Mrs. Williams is of the broad-minded type, charitable to all and a good Christian woman. She has the utmost reverence for the memories of the earlier days in that part of the county and delights to talk of those days, her fund of reminiscences making her a very entertaining conversationalist.

Andrew Williams was born on the farm on which he now lives, in

Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, November 16, 1844, a son of Richard and Dorcas (Dunn) Williams, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, born on July 4, 1804, son of Felix Williams, of English extraction, and the latter of whom was a native of this county, a member of one of the earliest settlers in that part of the county.

Richard Williams came from Virginia to this county about the year 1825 and entered a section of land in Clay township. He then returned to Virginia, but presently returned to Decatur county and proved up his claim. He married Dorcas Dunn, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Swinney) Dunn, prominent pioneers of this region, and to this union were born nine children, namely: Mrs. Nancy McClintick, of Clay township; Mrs. Martha Evans, deceased; James, deceased; Felix, living in Hartsville; Andrew, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Mitchell, deceased; Mrs. Louisa Pumphrey, deceased; John, deceased, and Mrs. Minerva Smith, deceased; one died young. Richard Williams became one of the heavy landowners of Decatur county, adding to his original tract until he owned fifteen hundred acres of land. He was a man of strong character and one of the shrewdest farmers in the western part of the county. He was reared a Whig, but upon the dissolution of that party entered the ranks of the Democrats, and remained faithful to the principles of Jefferson and Jackson the rest of his life, his death occurring on November 16, 1882.

Andrew Williams was reared on the home farm in Clay township, receiving such educational advantages as the somewhat limited facilities for schooling offered in those days, and grew up properly trained for a life of farming. On October 30, 1867, he was united in marriage to Eliza Woodruff, daughter of Enos and Susan (Bourne) Woodruff, early residents of Jackson township, this county, the former of whom was a native of Delaware and the latter of whom was a native of Massachusetts, of English and Dutch ancestry, respectively.

Enos Woodruff and his wife came to this county from Ohio at an early day in the settlement of this region, settling in Jackson township, where they prospered, having been numbered among the most substantial and influential residents of that part of the county. Enos Woodruff was born on September 22, 1822, and died in August, 1899; his wife having been born on January 8, 1824, and died on August 4, 1908. They were members of the United Brethren church and were prominent in the good works of their neighborhood. Mr. Woodruff was a Democrat and took an intelligent interest in the political affairs of the county.

To Andrew and Eliza (Woodruff) Williams have been born four chil-

dren, as follow: Mrs. Lena Galbraith, born on December 30, 1868, lives southwest of the village of Burney, in this county; John Wesley, May 16, 1871, lives in Bartholomew county, this state; Elza Edgar, August 3, 1874, lives in Clay township, and Susan Elsie, 1890, married Clyde Thorpe, lives at Milford.

Upon their marriage, in 1867, Andrew Williams and wife settled\* on a part of the Williams home acres, for some time living in a log cabin thereon, but as their affairs prospered and the demand of the growing family required more room, they built a comfortable residence and are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Williams is a Democrat, following the earnest convictions of his father in his political faith, and takes an earnest interest in political affairs, being much interested in good government. He has a farm of two hundred and sixty-five acres, which is under excellent cultivation, and he has been quite successful in his farming operations. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for the past thirty years.

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### JOHN W. TREMAIN.

It was, indeed, a rough road over which many of the earlier settlers had to travel. The wonder is that they arrived at all and not that they carried with them on their arrival especial honors; but John W. Tremain, the subject of this sketch, not only traveled the road, but, too, arrived with especial honors, for he has succeeded from the financial standpoint, and his fellow neighbors have, again and again, elected him to some office of service as a mark of honor, the last of which he still holds, the office of county commissioner of the third district of Decatur county.

John W. Tremain was born on June 11, 1851, in Johnson county, Indiana. He was the son of George W. Tremain, who was a native of Decatur county, and who was born in 1830. George W. Tremain was a son of Reuben and Elizabeth (Hardy) Tremain. Reuben Tremain was a native of New York and immigrated to Decatur county in 1823, where he, with two brothers, Homer and Simeon, entered a tract of one hundred sixty acres of land in what is known as the Robbins neighborhood three miles southeast of Greensburg. After entering this land, these brothers divided it, each building a log cabin, cleared, improved and cultivated the land. Homer and Simeon died here on this land. Reuben Tremain immigrated to Johnson county, where, in 1848, his son, George W. Tremain, married Phoebe Nay,

a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Samuel Nay. Samuel Nay settled in Johnson county in 1832, after traveling afoot, with six companions, from Madison, Indiana. After their arrival in Johnson county they built a house with axes and saws which they had carried with them, and here Samuel Nay lived and died. Phoebe Nay was born in 1828 and died in 1901.

George W. Tremain went back to Decatur county in 1868 and bought a farm where he lived until his death, in 1903. To George W. and Phoebe (Nay) Tremain were born seven children, namely: John W., the subject of this sketch; Samuel J., deceased; Milton R., of Columbus, Indiana; George B., of Celina, Kansas; Caroline, deceased; Mary married a Mr. Munns, of Oxford, Ohio, and Martha married Louis Youman, of Bartholomew county.

John W. Tremain, like many of the earlier settlers, secured most of his education in the "School of Life Experiences." He had only three months' schooling after he was thirteen years old. He lived with his parents until his marriage, at the age of nineteen. He was married on August 4, 1870, to Eliza Jane Jones, the daughter of Horace Jones, one of the early settlers of Jackson township. In about 1880 John W. Tremain settled in Jackson township and bought a tract of eighty acres, and here they lived until Mrs. Tremain's death, at the age of fifty, in 1900. To this union were born five children, three of whom are now living: George L., of Greensburg, county attorney; Dr. Milton A., a practicing physician of Adams, who is the father of one child, Margaret, eight years old, and Emma, the wife of Forrest Stewart, a former teacher of near Adams and who attended the University of Chicago, and will teach at Hiram, Ohio, at a school of the Christian church of Ohio.

After the death of Mrs. Tremain, Mr. Tremain lived on the farm until in 1904 he sold it and bought an eighty-acre tract south of Sardinia, on which he lives at the present time. This is a highly-improved piece of land with modern buildings and a fine brick residence.

On March 30, 1905, John W. Tremain was united in marriage to Nancy (Webb) LaForge, who was the widow of John LaForge, an early settler and a native of Decatur county. Nancy Webb was born in Jackson township in 1856 and was the daughter of Jonathan and Nancy Dilman Webb, now deceased and natives of Indiana and Ohio, respectively, who settled in the woods in Jackson township, in Decatur county, when they were first married. They were the parents of thirteen children, the following having attained maturity: Phoebe Ann, Julia Ann, Joseph Jemima, Monroe and America, now deceased, and the following are still living: John, of Columbus; Jane, married Mr. Misner, of Franklin; Smiley, of Jennings county; Mollie, of

Jennings county; Anna Maria, who is the wife of Nathan Watson, of near Burney, and Emma, who is the wife of D. H. Pike, of Jackson township.

Nancy Webb LaForge was the mother of one child by her first husband, Vinnie, who married Harry Tarkington, of Bartholomew county.

In politics, John W. Tremain has always been an active and ardent Democrat. He has often been elected to offices of trust, all of which he has filled with credit and honor. For ten years he held the office of justice of the peace, he was a school director for a time, and for five years he was trustee of Jackson township, and at the present time he holds the office of county commissioner from his district. He is a stanch and active member of the Christian church.

It is, indeed, a mark of worth and a creditable example to have "hewn through the rocks of adversity" of such a rough road and to have traveled over that road, with little but self-education, with sturdy, resolute step to a place of honor and trust in the gift of his neighbors, and such is the accomplishments of John W. Tremain.

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### WILLIAM H. DENISTON.

When one thinks of Scotland and its limited area of land with its dense population, in comparison to the vast area of the United States with its scattering population of one hundred years ago, one does not wonder that when John Deniston, in his youth, came with his parents to this country they had to "look around" before they could decide just where they wanted to go; but after a while they decided to go to the far West, which, at that time, was Indiana, and here on December 30, 1836, William H. Deniston was born.

In Scotland almost every man has some industrial training, and so we find John Deniston, instead of taking up farming for a livelihood, going into the business of a tanner and shoemaker, while in contrast to such a business life his son, William H. Deniston, the subject of this sketch, takes as his vocation the life of a farmer.

John Deniston was born in Scotland in 1795 and came to this country with his parents when a child. Later in life he settled in Franklin county, Indiana, where for a time he engaged in the business of tanning leather and making shoes, removing to Butler county, Ohio, where he operated a tannery and made boots and shoes on a large scale until his death there in 1862. John Deniston married Sarah Lines, who was born in 1797 and who died in

1853. They had eight children, as follow: George died in California; Martha, died in Mt. Carmel, Indiana; David, died in Kokomo, Indiana; Sarah Jane, died in infancy; James, died in White county, Illinois; Helen died in Iowa; Frank, died on a farm near Sardinia, and William H., the subject of this sketch.

William H. Deniston came, with his brother Frank, to Sardinia, March 14, 1867 and bought a tract of two hundred and nine acres of land which they operated in partnership until 1879, at which time William H. sold his interest and purchased a sixty-eight acre tract of his own. This venture proved a successful one and it was not long until he increased his holdings by the purchase of a two hundred and forty acre tract near Sardinia, and to this he has added a seventy-five-acre tract on which his son now lives. He also owns sixty acres which his son William J. operates.

Mr. Deniston has not been willing to rest at the simple ownership of this fine body of land but has increased its value and usefulness by added improvements, until, today, he has each farm well equipped with residences, barns and granaries, having three good residence buildings and four good barns.

William H. Deniston was married on May 21, 1862 to Celeste Doty, of Butler county, whose mother was a Shields and whose father was John Doty. Mrs. Deniston was born in 1843 and was the mother of three children, as follow: William J., lives on one of his father's farms near Sardinia and has two daughters, Cecil Bonnie and Dale at home; Annie Maude married William Hubbard, and is the mother of one son, Lowell C.; Charles E. is married and lives on one of his father's farms, and has one son, Noble Graham.

After the death of his first wife, which occurred on October 8, 1884, William H. Deniston lived with his daughter on one of his farms. The daughter was married in 1892 and Mr. Deniston continued to make his home with her until on June 7, 1911, he was married to Sarah Elizabeth (George) Powell, widow of Charles Powell, of Indianapolis, when he left the farm and moved into Sardinia where he now lives.

Sarah Elizabeth George was the daughter of Andrew George, who left Butler county, Ohio, to settle in Henry county, Indiana.

William H. Deniston has long been one of the active "wheel horses" of the Democratic party in Decatur county. In his earlier days he filled several minor township offices with honor. Mr. Deniston is an active member of the Universalist church.

The forefathers of some of our most worthy and substantial citizens came to this country from a foreign shore, and among these might be men-



tioned William H. Deniston, whose father, John Deniston, was brought to this country by his parents from Scotland. Surely, William H. Deniston has proven a worthy and creditable accession to our citizenship.

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### EDGAR EDDELMAN.

The name heading this sketch is that of a gentleman whose ancestors were of good old pioneer stock, and who could, if alive today, tell of many thrilling incidents with the Indians, and the hardships that belonged to the life in the wilderness. These stories have the same fascination for the listener that the war stories of today have, provided one is not called upon to take an active part in them. It is not difficult to be brave in time of peace, and the early parents who faced the murderous Indians, with neighbors and all assistance beyond call, were made of sterner stuff than the man who faces a sixteen-inch war-gun today.

Edgar Eddelman, of Jackson township, was born on October 17, 1875, on a farm one mile north of where he now resides. He is the son of Amos Henry and Abigail (Shinault) Eddelman. His home of one hundred and forty-three acres in Jackson township is one of the most prosperous in the county, in addition to which, he owns seventy-three acres one mile north, making, in all, two hundred and sixteen acres, with two sets of buildings. Mr. Eddelman does a general farming business, and raises from fifty to seventy-five hogs annually. His political views are in harmony with the Democratic party.

Amos Henry Eddelman was born in 1850 and died in 1905, on the farm where Edgar now lives. He was a son of William H. and Rachel (Wheldon) Eddelman, who gave him a farm one mile north. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a member of the Baptist church. Abigail Shinault, who married Amos Henry Eddelman, was born in 1849, in Jennings county, and is a daughter of George Shinault, born of German immigrant parents.

The paternal grandfather was William H. Eddelman, a native of Jefferson county, Indiana, and a son of Daniel Eddelman. His wife was Rachel Wheldon, also a native of Jefferson county. He was twice married, had two children by the first wife and eleven by the second.

When Kentucky was a wilderness, Daniel Eddelman, great-grandfather of Edgar Eddelman, with his mother and brother, was sheltered in a strong cabin at Bryant's Station, and while here they were attacked by



Indians and Daniel was taken by them to near Lafayette, where he was kept until he was twelve years old, when he was returned to Kentucky and claimed by his mother. It is thought that Daniel's brother, James, was killed or burned to death by the Indians. Daniel died in Jackson county, Indiana, when ninety-eight years of age. He was a hunter and trapper, and loved hunting better than farming. He learned the Indian method of counting, which goes as follows, by using fingers: "Nequita, nesway, netheny, narrowway, nollony, cutatha, nesothy, sathaky, sockaty and metathy," and then counting up to one hundred or more by doubling the hands, etc. The Eddelmans came to Decatur county in the early twenties, and settled in Jackson township. A log cabin was their home until it was replaced by a new house.

Edgar Eddelman was united in marriage on December 22, 1907, with Christina Margaret Geiling, who was born on October 25, 1877, in Jennings county, Indiana, a daughter of George Geiling. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Eddelman are the parents of four children, namely: Alice Blanche, born on January 27, 1909; Daniel Amos, July 1, 1910; George Albert, February 12, 1912; Thomas Edgar, December 9, 1913.

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### JOHN E. ROBBINS.

When any man serves himself in a fair and honorable manner he serves his community, but there are certain types of citizens who, in addition to serving themselves well, perform an especial service to their community. At the present moment there is a movement being inaugurated by the government to increase the efficiency of the farmer, not only in the improvement of soil and soil products, but in scientific improvement of animal breeding and animal industry. It is a notable fact that this interest has been largely initiated through the pioneer efforts of individual stock raisers and breeders, who, while their prime object might have been individual profit, nevertheless have rendered a notable service, not alone to themselves and to their immediate community, but to the country as a whole. Indiana has, by no means, stood in the background in this movement, and among the Indiana breeders there have been few of more prominence than John E. Robbins, of Decatur county.

John E. Robbins was born in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, on October 6, 1861, on the farm on which he still resides. This farm, consisting of a three-hundred-fifteen-acre tract of improved land, has descended

to its present owner from his grandfather, William Robbins, who settled on this land in 1823, and who, at that time, built a log cabin on what is now the site of the palatial farm residence of John E. Robbins.

John E. Robbins is the son of James G. Robbins, who was born on June 10, 1829, in a log cabin which stood where John E. Robbins now lives. For further history of James G. Robbins see history of Robbins family under J. B. Kitchin sketch, elsewhere in this volume. The mother of John Robbins was Elmira H. Stout, who was the daughter of Joab Stout, and who was born in September, 1832. Her lineage can be traced to the early history of America.

Richard Stout landed at New Amsterdam in 1618. His wife, progeny of Von Princess, with her first husband was shipwrecked off Sandy Hook and captured by Indians, the children and husband were killed and the wife was held, but later ransomed, afterwards marrying Richard Stout. They had six children: Jonathan, John, Richard, James Peter, Daniel Benjamin, Mary Sarah and Alice. Jonathan Stout was the founder of Hopewell, New Jersey, and his son, Joab Stout, was the father of Joab Stout, who was the father of Elmira H. (Stout) Robbins.

Joab Stout served throughout the Revolutionary War and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. He married Rhoda Howell at close of the war and settled at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania, in 1778. Later, with a party of emigrants, he made what was then, on account of Indian hostilities, a very dangerous trip down the Ohio river and landed near the present site of Louisville, Kentucky. Later he went to Lexington and then to Bracken county on the Licking river, where he remained for a number of years, and then moved to near Cincinnati, where he lived for a short time, and in 1812 he moved to Franklin county, Indiana, where he died on February 28, 1883.

To Joab and Rhoda Stout were born the following children: Jonathan, who married Nancy Thompson in Kentucky; Rachel, who married William Cummins; Mary, who was the wife of Andrew Shirk; Elizabeth, who was the wife of Samuel Shirk; Abner, who married Malinda Tyner; Joab, who married Amanda Rariden, and after her death Rebecca Wynkoop; David, who married Rhoda Wiles; Margaret, who died in infancy; Rebecca, who was the wife of Samuel Goudie; Ira, who married Eliza McNutt; Sarah, who was the wife of Paul Holliday; Aaron, who married a Mrs. McKinney, and Anna, who was the wife of William Waldroff.

Joab Stout, the sixth child of this large family, was born on January 15, 1802, in Bracken county, Kentucky, and died at Letts Center, Indiana, on

November 11, 1877. He, like his own father, was the father of a large family. He was twice married and his first wife was the mother of the following children: Milton S., who died on June 8, 1830; Jonathan R., who died in September, 1835; Rhoda E.; Elmira H., who was the mother of the subject of this sketch, and Mary E., who died on September 24, 1876. The following children were born under his second marriage: Joab H., deceased; Sarah A., who died on January 10, 1872; John W., who lives in Greensburg; Isaac N., who died on April 8, 1871; Rachel J., deceased; Mrs. Helen Eubank, who lives in Greensburg; Mrs. Frances R. Templeton, who lives in Greensburg and who is now a widow; Clara E., who died on January 4, 1863.

John E. Robbins was educated in the common schools and the high school of Greensburg. His land possessions came chiefly as his share from his father's estate. He has improved this land until today it is one of the most up-to-date farms in Indiana. Since 1882 Mr. Robbins, with his father and brother as partners, has been doing extensive breeding of improved Shorthorn cattle, and at the present time he has a herd of over ninety head of the best examples of this breed to be found in America. The firm has recently imported a number of very fine cattle from Scotland. Some of these are of almost priceless value because of their breeding.

The partnership was established, and is still carried on under the firm name of J. G. Robbins & Sons, breeders. This firm has shown in competition with state and national breeders every year except one (1898) at national, state and county shows, and has never failed to carry off their proportion of the prizes offered. The reason of their failure to show in 1898 was because they sold their show herd for that year, but the buyers of the herd exhibited it at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, where it won every premium offered in its class. At the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 John E. Robins & Sons, breeders, won the beef-herd championship with five head of cattle and won the diploma for breeding the most winners in the Shorthorn class at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1903. This firm has won numerous championships at International Stock Shows at Chicago, and the American Royal Shows at Kansas City. They won all prizes offered in two shows at Madison Square Garden, New York City, and they won numerous prizes at the Lewis and Clark Exposition at Portland, Oregon. In addition to these they have won prizes at the following state fairs: Minnesota, Montana, Kentucky, Virginia and at Toronto, Canada.

John E. Robbins has come to be known as one of the best expert judges of cattle in this country, and among some of the organizations which have sought his service in this capacity are the New York state fair, the Ohio state

fair, the Wisconsin state fair, the Minnesota state fair, the Kentucky state fair, and the Memphis tri-state fair. He was expert judge at seven different international shows in Chicago, at Portland, Oregon, and Ft. Worth, Texas, besides at a great number of county fairs and local shows. Will S. Robbins, the brother in the firm, has, also, in many states, served as an expert judge.

While John E. Robbins has been much engrossed in productive and industrial activities he has not failed to know and fill his obligations as a citizen, politically, socially and religiously. He always has been a staunch Republican in politics. His grandfather was a Whig. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are members of the Liberty Baptist church, of which Reverend Joab Stout was pastor for many years. There is an association of the Stout family and for many years this association has been holding annual reunions. Miss Geneva Robbins is secretary of this association and for the last three years these meetings have been held at the Liberty Baptist church and were attended by scores of the descendants of the Robbins family.

Too much praise cannot be given earlier settlers, who have through their individual efforts sought scientifically to increase and improve live stock production. Oftentimes this has seemed almost a hopeless and thankless task. When one has the full understanding of just what such an undertaking means and fights on to accomplish his purpose, it matters little whether he succeeds from a financial standpoint or not, he has been a benefactor to humanity, and such service, when it brings both the compensation to the individual and the benefits to the community, is indeed a double blessing.

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### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DENHAM.

It is extraordinary in this country to find a man who is almost a septuagenarian capable of performing any considerable amount of work. It is even more unusual to find a man at this advanced age who is capable of doing manual work, yet Benjamin Franklin Denham, a farmer and stockman of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, was found plowing in the field when sought for the facts of his personal life. It is a strong testimonial to the rugged stock from which he is sprung that he is still able to engage in exacting toil at this age. His career has been a most active one and his body is still strong and his mind alert. Mr. Denham is a noble-minded, public-spirited citizen of this great county.

Benjamin Franklin Denham was born on January 24, 1846, in Cler-

mont county, Ohio, the son of Benjamin, Sr., and Mary Ann (Patchell) Denham, the former of whom was born in 1806 and died in 1880, and the latter died in 1858. The father, who came from Scotch-Irish stock, was a native of New York and immigrated to Ohio. He was a Baptist preacher, miller and millwright. He preached, however, for the love of the work and operated a mill as his real business in life. Coming to Decatur county in 1848, he erected the Harwood mill on Sand creek and for two years, in conjunction with his brother, Daniel, operated this mill. They taught the owner of the mill how to run it. In 1850 Benjamin Denham, Sr., built a mill two miles north on Sand creek, which was operated by water and there he was engaged in sawing lumber and grinding grain for several years. Subsequently, he became the sole owner of the mill and operated it for twenty-five years. In the meantime, he preached in the local churches of the county. Finally he traded the mill and thirty-three and one-third acres of land for one hundred and sixty acres of land in Kansas, but later traded this land. For some time he was engaged in preaching at Alert and then operated a mill at Forest Hill for two years, when he returned to Sand Creek township and operated the Harwood mill, finally buying it and operating it until his death.

Benjamin and Mary Ann (Patchell) Denham were the parents of eight children, the five eldest of whom, Elizabeth, Sarah, Maria, Jemima and Delilah, are deceased. The others are as follow: James B. lives in Missouri; Benjamin Franklin is the subject of this sketch, and John Edward lives in Missouri. After the death of his first wife, the father married a Mrs. (Deweese) Miller, who bore him three children, two of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Hattie Allen, of Greensburg, is the only living child of this marriage.

Educational opportunities were somewhat limited during the boyhood and youth of Benjamin F. Denham and he had comparatively little schooling. For some time he attended the Sharp's school near Letts, Pinhook and the Rodney school in Sand Creek township. In the meantime, he partially learned the miller's trade and helped to conduct the saw-mill.

Leaving the mill near Adams in 1863, he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served a period of twenty-three months in the Union army. He was recruited for the Thirty-seventh but was transferred to the Eighty-eighth and then to the Thirty-eighth Regiment, which was a consolidation of the Thirty-seventh and Eighty-eighth. Among the severe engagements in which he was engaged during the Civil War, were the battles of Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Pumpkin Vine, Big Shanty, Resaca,

and Marietta. He was also engaged in the Atlanta campaign and was in the great battle fought twenty-five miles south of Atlanta just before the surrender of the Confederates at Atlanta. He was in the march with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea and participated in the battle fought five miles from Savannah. He was also in the battles of Columbia, South Carolina; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Jonesboro, North Carolina. From Jonesboro he was sent to Richmond, Virginia, after Lee's surrender and, after having participated in the Grand Review at Washington, was sent to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and from there to Louisville, Kentucky, from which place he expected to go to Texas. He was mustered out at Louisville, paid off and discharged at Indianapolis. Being very sick, he rested at home for six weeks and then began working as a farm hand near Greensburg.

For some time Mr. Denham worked for Reverend Tisdale and Mr. Gilman. Later he worked as a hay baler for Attorney Platt Wicks. Having learned the blacksmith's trade, he worked at this trade at Old Gaynorsville for two years. During the twenty-two years succeeding this, he operated a shop at Newburg and, by saving his money, was able to purchase eighty acres of land, a part of the farm he now owns. He and his good wife saved every cent that it was possible to save and were finally able to buy one hundred acres of land adjoining the original eighty. Eight years later they were able to buy one hundred and twenty acres more. They now have three sets of buildings on this land. Mr. Denham erected a large barn in 1909 to replace one which burned.

On November 30, 1870, Benjamin Franklin Denham was married to Mary E. Petree, who was born near Sardinia on August 31, 1845, the daughter of David and Jane (Landphair) Petree, the former of whom was a native of Franklin county, Indiana, and the latter a native of Butler county, Ohio. David Petree was the son of Adam Petree, an early pioneer of Jackson township, who was probably born in Franklin county. David Petree died in 1855. Jane (Landphair) Petree died at her home in 1912. Mrs. Denham, before her marriage, was a milliner at Forest Hill. For ten years Mrs. Denham operated the store at Newburg, assisting her husband in every way possible. Much credit for their joint success is due to her able assistance. Mrs. Denham's parents had gone to housekeeping on the farm, which came to be known as the old homestead and which is now a part of the Denham farm, in a house which is still standing.

Of the six children born to Benjamin F. and Mary E. Denham, Frank, the eldest, who was born on May 9, 1872, is deceased. He died in 1903. The other five children, all of whom are living, are as follow: Charles, born



in 1874, who is farming the home place, married Elizabeth Eddleman and has two children, Margaret and Robert; Fred H., 1876, who lives in North Dakota, married Fannie Talkington and has two children, Eveline and Bernice; Enrie, 1878, who is the wife of Clave Bennis and has two children, twins, Edna May and Mary June; Dora and Tracy O., both of whom are at home.

Mr. Denham was a Republican until the formation of the Progressive party in 1912, when he identified himself with this party. He voted for the first candidate for president which the Republican party elected, Abraham Lincoln. For fifteen years Mr. Denham served as a school trustee in Forest Hill or Newburg. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and has been an elder at Sardinia for the past ten years.

As a veteran of the Civil War, as a successful farmer and stockman, Benjamin F. Denham can look back upon his career with consummate satisfaction. The owner of three hundred acres of good land in Jackson township, he has lived on the farm since 1890. His success as a farmer is due principally to his extensive interest in live stock. Ordinarily, he sells one hundred head of hogs every year and a carload of cattle. Mr. Denham found the road to success and found the road unaided and alone except for the help which he received from his good wife. Today he is an honored and esteemed citizen of Jackson township, a man who enjoys the confidence of his fellows.

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#### ALEXANDER BENTLEY.

The casual traveler in Jackson township, this county, is attracted to the fine appearance of "Maple Grove Farm," one of the best kept and most attractive places in that part of Decatur county. Alexander Bentley, the owner of "Maple Grove Farm" and one of the most progressive and prosperous farmers in his section, is the first man in that township to inscribe upon his mail box the name of his farm; his example in that respect having proved so worthy of emulation that now it is a rarity to find a mail box that is not so adorned. Mr. Bentley has a beautiful farm to which he gives the most devoted care. The fact that this has been the place of his residence for sixty-seven years, ever since he was two years of age, and that, with this exception he has spent his whole life thus far upon the home acres gives to his ownership a sentimental interest which incites him constantly to greater endeavors to make of the farm an ideal place of its kind. He has a fine



home, his house being of good size, and his barns and outbuildings, all of which are painted white to match the house, are kept in a fine state of repair. This cluster of white buildings sitting amidst a beautiful grove of maple trees, from which latter the farm takes its name, presents an exceedingly attractive appearance and speaks loudly for the good taste and careful management of Mr. Bentley and his family.

Alexander Bentley was born in Butler county, Ohio, on March 17, 1844, the son of William and Sarah M. (Howe) Bentley, the former of whom was a native of New York state and the latter of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio. William Bentley was born on March 22, 1795, and upon reaching manhood's estate left New York and immigrated to Ohio, locating in Butler county where he married Sarah M. Howe, who was born in that county on June 8, 1804, the daughter of William and Sarah Howe, the latter of whom lived to be ninety-seven years of age, her death occurring at College Corners, Ohio.

William Bentley and his family moved from Ohio to this county in February, 1847, settling in Jackson township and locating on a tract of land in the deep timber, on what is now known as the Tyner farm, where James Pavey lives. He built a house of hewed logs on that part of the farm which is now occupied by his son and there he spent the rest of his days, his death occurring on May 18, 1853. His widow long survived him, her death not occurring until April 22, 1881. William Bentley and his wife were excellent citizens and their influence was very helpful in the early days of Jackson township. They were among the founders of the old Dry Fork Baptist church and helped to build that church. Mr. Bentley was an ardent Whig and took an active part in the political affairs of the county.

To William and Sarah M. (Howe) Bentley were born eleven children, namely: Adolphus G. (deceased), born on March 10, 1822; Ebenezer H. (deceased), October 16, 1824; Alvin (deceased), November 18, 1826, was a veteran of the Union army in the Civil War and died in Illinois; Hazel, January 19, 1828, died at the age of two years; Gideon H., May 4, 1830, died at Adams, this county, on February 8, 1915; Calvin H., May 16, 1832, a veteran of the Civil War, went to Putnam county, Missouri, thence to the state of Washington, where he died; Mrs. Louisa H. Brunton, January 4, 1835, lives in Delaware county, this state; Mrs. Sarah H. Linch (deceased), February 1, 1837, the mother of Mrs. Louisa M. Cory; Mrs. Anna T. Moore (deceased), December 2, 1838; Alexander, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Eleatha H. (deceased), July 4, 1846.

Alexander Bentley has lived on the home place since the days of his

infancy. Upon the death of his father he bought out the interest of the other heirs in the original eighty acres and cared for his mother until her death. Later he bought eighty acres on the southwest, which he sold some years ago, and in the fall of 1914 bought an adjoining tract of one hundred and two acres, upon which some improvements had been made. In 1875, Mr. Bentley erected the handsome residence which he is now occupying, which he since has remodeled from time to time until he now has one of the best and most modern farm houses in the county, in which he is passing the evening of his life in peace and calm content.

On October 1, 1872, Alexander Bentley was united in marriage to Mary Miles, who was born in Franklin county, this state, June 3, 1848, the daughter of Joseph and Eliza Ann (Barrickman) Miles. Joseph Miles, born in 1809, died in 1884, was a native of Virginia who moved with his parents from that state to Ohio, in 1818; upon the death of his father he moved, with his widowed mother, to Franklin county, this state, where the remainder of his life was spent. Eliza Ann Barrickman, who was born in the Templeton creek neighborhood, in Franklin county, May 16, 1813, and died near Springfield, in the same county, December 15, 1893. She was a daughter of Jacob and Jane Barrickman, who immigrated to Indiana Territory in 1807, locating on what is now known as the Peck farm in Franklin county, where they lived until 1810, in which year they moved to the Templeton creek neighborhood, where they became substantial farmers, influential in the early affairs of that community. They were the parents of four sons and seven daughters. An aunt of Mrs. Bentley, Keturah Barrickman, was the daughter-in-law of Robert Templeton, who, on October 16, 1804, entered the northwest quarter of section 28 in Brookville township, Franklin county, this state. His son, James, married Keturah Barrickman. The children of Joseph and Eliza Ann (Barrickman) Miles were: William, who died in November, 1893; John, a prominent farmer of Franklin county; Mrs. Jennie Barbour, who lives at Letts, this county; Ann, deceased; Mary, who married Mr. Bentley; Hattie and Hettie (twins), deceased; Mrs. Kate Clarkson, of Tippecanoe county, this state; James, who lives at Liberty, Indiana, and Mrs. Margaret Lynch (deceased), who lived in Union county, this state.

To Alexander and Mary (Miles) Bentley four children have been born, namely: Estella, born on September 7, 1873, married John Sanders, of Jackson township, this county, and has two children, Noble and Mary; James Clifford, June 11, 1876, lives on the home place with his parents; an infant, April 9, 1879, died on June 16, 1879; Joseph Earl, February 13, 1885, a

farmer living near Letts Corner, married Nellie, daughter of George Boicourt, and has one child, Elvin.

Mr. and Mrs. Bentley are members of the Union Presbyterian church in Jackson township and their children were reared in the faith of that church. Mr. Bentley is a Republican and always has given an intelligent attention to political affairs in this county, though never having been included in the office-seeking class. He and his wife are deeply interested in the good works of the community of which they so long have been an influential part and they enjoy the unqualified confidence and esteem of their neighbors, being held in the very highest regard by all who know them. Their pleasant home is the center of much genial hospitality and they are very popular in that part of the county.

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### SAMUEL DAVID FULTON.

The struggle which some of the earlier settlers had to exert for existence was such a hard battle that the wonder seems not that so many of these received but a meager education but that they received any at all. Difficulties thrown in the path of Samuel David Fulton appear almost insurmountable, because, in addition to the natural struggle, he was the only son and youngest child in a family of seven, who were left fatherless in the time of need. In the case of Samuel David Fulton the question is brought up as to whether these difficulties and the determination to rise above them did not prove a blessing rather than a hindrance, for the history of his life shows that he became a well-rounded, well-balanced man and a worthy, useful and exemplary citizen.

Samuel David Fulton was born on July 26, 1848, in Jackson township, Decatur county, on the farm on which he now resides. He was the son of William Fulton, who was born in Kentucky in 1807 and died in Decatur county in 1853, and of Susanna Ratcliffe, the daughter of Samuel Ratcliffe. Susanna Ratcliffe was also a native of Kentucky and was born in 1809 and died in 1881.

William Fulton was married in Kentucky and came with his father, David Fulton, to Decatur county in about 1835 and entered a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, a part of which tract Samuel David Fulton now owns. After a year's residence in Greensburg, William Fulton cleared a strip of this land, built a home and took up his residence there. He increased his holdings until, at one time, he owned three hundred and twenty acres.

The same year of his death, in 1853, his residence burned, and was afterward rebuilt by his widow. This house is the present home of Samuel David Fulton, but has been remodeled by him, since his mother's death, into a beautiful modern farm residence. It is one of the finest farm residences to be found in Decatur county. It is set far back from the main road, is reached by a beautiful driveway, and is surrounded by modern farm buildings, a large catalpa grove and a fine, up-to-date orchard.

William and Susanna (Ratcliffe) Fulton were the parents of seven children, six daughters and one son, as follow: Kittie Ann, deceased, married Joseph Keislang; Eliza Jane, aged eighty, the wife of Samuel McCullough, of Westport; Mrs. Paulina Morrow, deceased; Mrs. Martha Law, of Illinois, deceased; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Shirk, deceased; America, deceased, and Samuel David, the subject of this sketch.

Samuel David Fulton deserves especial credit for the success he has made through seemingly insurmountable difficulties. His father died when he was but five years of age, and when he was a mere lad he took hold of the farm work and helped his mother in her struggle. Today Samuel David Fulton is a man far above the average in intelligence, although he had only a district school education. He is a great reader, and to this fact and his life struggles he owes his present education. He bought out the interest of other heirs in the home place, and with what his wife inherited and what he acquired through subsequent purchase he is now in possession of about two hundred and eighty acres, which lies in two tracts.

He is a breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs and raises about two hundred of these annually. He is also a buyer and feeder of both cattle and hogs.

Samuel David Fulton was married on September 25, 1883, to Mary A. Biddinger, who was born in Jackson township in 1861, the daughter of Dr. Solomon Wesley Biddinger and Eliza (Scott) Biddinger. Doctor Biddinger was born near Rising Sun, Indiana, and lived for many years in Decatur county. He practiced medicine for over sixty years, and is at the present time living in Bartholomew county.

To Samuel David and Mary Ann (Biddinger) Fulton were born the following children: Wesley, a teacher at Alert and a graduate of Valparaiso University; Ratcliffe, farming at home after being graduated at Valparaiso University and studying two years in the Indiana State University; Ray, a graduate of Valparaiso University and at present a student in the Indiana State University; Sherman, in the district schools, and William Ira and Mabel who died in infancy.

Samuel David Fulton has fully demonstrated his belief in the neces-

sity of higher education by what he has done for his own children along that line. He knew how much he wanted an education and how hard he had to struggle to secure this and so has determined that it shall be easier for his children. Mr. Fulton has always been affiliated with the Republican party and has filled minor township offices. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is always a willing worker in the ranks of that denomination.

Mr. Fulton has reared his family with highest dignity and devotion, and has attained to a position of influence and worth in his community by hard and persistent effort throughout life.

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### MARION M. ELLIOTT.

The recent development in agriculture which has sought to increase the productivity of agricultural land, especially corn land, has done very much for the farmers of this state. As an individual state Indiana ranks high not only in the acreage sown but in the average production of corn per acre. Nevertheless, we are still far behind other cereal producing countries in yield per acre, and the fact that a few farmers have in scattered sections of the state been able almost to double their production of corn is sufficient proof of what may be accomplished in this direction.

Marion M. Elliott, a well-known farmer of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, was one of the first citizens of this section to take an interest in increased productivity of land planted to corn, and his results have been especially gratifying. Two or three principal factors enter into Mr. Elliott's success as a corn grower, and these factors are common to the similar success of other men. In the first place, soil must be reasonably fertile naturally, or made so by the use of decayed vegetable matter or commercial fertilizers. In the next place, the land must be well drained, and therefore well ventilated. In the third place, the soil must be kept carefully prepared, and in the last place the seed must be carefully selected. Of course, there are many elements which enter into the cultivation of the crop once it is planted. Of all these factors, perhaps the quality of the seed is the most important. In any event, Mr. Elliott has mastered the modern processes of increased corn production, and has won for himself in this connection an enviable reputation as a farmer in Decatur county.

Marion M. Elliott, who owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in

Jackson township, where he has lived for nearly twenty years, was born on February 9, 1868, in Jackson township, the son of Daniel Webster and Cordelia (Bake) Elliott, the former of whom was born in Jennings county on April 3, 1841, and who died on May 4, 1897, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Eli and Catherine (Risley) Bake. Daniel Webster Elliott was the son of David and Lucinda (Spears) Elliott, who came to Decatur county when he was a mere lad. He was married to Cordelia Bake on May 29, 1864, at Sardinia. Mrs. Elliott's father, Eli Bake, was born in Union county, Indiana, June 23, 1813, and died, January 9, 1899. Eli Bake married Catherine Risley on December 24, 1834. They had twelve children, three of whom died in infancy. Catherine (Risley) Bake was born on October 6, 1817, in New Jersey, and died on March 7, 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Webster Elliott were the parents of seven children, of whom Marion M. was the second born. The others were as follow: Minerva Alice, born on September 27, 1865; Cora May, November 18, 1870; Rozenia, July 31, 1873; Harry Clinton, March 19, 1886; Lucinda Isophene, and Eveline, at home with her parents.

Educated in the Big Horn school of Jackson township, Marion M. Elliott began farming for himself in 1893, when he rented land of Isaac Shira for three years. In 1896 he moved to his present farm, and three years later purchased the farm at thirty-seven and one-half dollars an acre. The farm is now worth more than a hundred dollars an acre. In the meantime he has built a barn, forty-eight by sixty feet, erected a garage and granary, and remodeled his house. The color scheme of the buildings is white, and they present an attractive appearance to the passerby. He is an extensive breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs, and keeps registered pure-bred stock. Ordinarily, Mr. Elliott raises about a hundred and fifty head of hogs every year.

On December 26, 1893, Marion M. Elliott was married to Grace Moore, the daughter of D. J. and Amanda Moore, early residents of Jackson township, natives of Decatur county, and whose parents were of German ancestry. Grace Moore was born in December, 1871, in Jackson township.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion M. Elliott have one son, Lester, who is now nineteen years old. He was born on January 16, 1896, and was graduated from the Westport high school with the class of 1915. In 1908, when Lester was only twelve years old, he received a prize for the best ten ears of corn grown by the boys of Decatur county, in the corn show at Greensburg, Indiana. At this time he raised the Gold Standard variety. In 1913 Mr. Elliott produced eighty bushels of corn to the acre on his farm, and is now



competing in the Decatur county contest in the class which has undertaken to grow one hundred bushels to the acre.

Marion M. Elliott is a progressive, enterprising and broad-minded citizen. Not only this, but he is a well-to-do citizen and a man favorably known in Decatur county. A Democrat in politics, he served three years, 1912, 1913 and 1914, as a member of the Decatur county council. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott and son are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Elliott is a member of Westport lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Sardinia Lodge No. 146, Knights of Pythias.

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### MILTON E. EVANS.

Milton E. Evans, whose name heads this sketch, started in with the belief that a farm would yield him a better percentage of profit than any other field in which he could invest his funds, and with this end in view, he set to work to do his part in bringing about the desired result. He co-operated with his investment in every possible way, knowing that money and land alone would accomplish but little without the willing hands and good management, which were, after all, the principal factors of his success.

Milton E. Evans, of Jackson township, was born on August 27, 1862, and is a son of William A. Evans and Emily M. (Hice) Evans. He began his career with one hundred and twenty acres, just west of his present home. On his father's death, received one hundred and sixty acres of the estate. He later bought eighty acres, to which he subsequently added forty acres more. He has improved the place with a fine modern home of eight rooms, and has fitted it up with acetylene gas, water and bath. He also has a fine, large barn fifty by fifty feet, with shed adjoining. He has still further added to the beauty and value of his farm by planting shade trees, and building an iron fence. In the stock line, he makes a specialty of Duroc-Jersey hogs, and an annual output of about two carloads of cattle. He is now (1915) preparing to plant one hundred acres of corn, and has the same amount in wheat. His farm contains three sets of buildings. In politics, Mr. Evans is a Republican. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

William A. Evans was born in Ohio, November 3, 1835, and died in 1909. He was the son of William, Sr., and Martha Evans. Of his wife, Emily (Hice), little is known, except that she was a native of Pennsylvania, and that she was a sister of Samuel Logan, a pioneer. William A.



Evans lived on the Cross Roads farm all of his life, with the exception of two years, spent at Colorado. He owned three hundred and ninety acres of fertile land. His children were: Winston L., deceased; Milton, the subject of this sketch, and John C., whose death in 1914, was caused by a fall from a barn loft.

The paternal grandfather, William Evans, Sr., was a native of New Jersey, and immigrated to Ohio, and later, in 1837, to Indiana. The Evans family is of Welsh extraction. They settled in the woods, and the first thing their children did was to gather up a bucket of hickory nuts. They lived in a log cabin, and operated a grist-mill by horse power. They cleared land, and owned nearly five hundred acres at the time of Mr. Evans' death, which occurred about 1864.

Milton E. Evans was married on March 6, 1890, to Lillie M. Swope, who was born in Jackson township on May 27, 1863, a daughter of J. R. and Mary Swope, early settlers of Jackson township. Mr. and Mrs. Evans are the parents of two children (twins), Guy and Glen R., born on July 30, 1897. Guy died at the age of seventeen days. Glen R., now a student in Letts high school, will graduate in the class of 1916, when he will go into partnership with his father. He attended school six years without absence or tardiness.

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### JOHN J. SHAW.

During the years that have elapsed since the first settlers came to this state many changes have taken place and many wonderful inventions perfected. A great part of the farm labor is now done by machinery, which was unknown to the pioneers. Railroads and telephones make travel and communication rapid and accessible. Homes are provided with comforts and conveniences that are in striking contrast to the conditions which once prevailed. The subject of this sketch is among those who have seen these changes take place, and whose labors have helped to make this state a pleasant place in which to live.

John J. Shaw, of Jackson township, was born on December 30, 1847, in Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, a son of John Shaw and Eliza (Hunter) Shaw. He lived for a time in Marion township, going in young manhood to Ripley county. His present home place was purchased in 1882. At first it consisted of twenty-three acres, and he afterward added to this, and it now amounts to one hundred and twenty acres. He is a mem-

ber of the Progressive party, and a member of Owen post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Westport. He went to the army, at the last call, in 1865, in Company I, Thirteenth Regiment Volunteer Infantry, and saw service the same summer in North Carolina. Mr. Shaw is retiring in his nature, and has always preferred the quiet life of a farm to that of the more active business life. He has built a neat, comfortable cottage and a large barn, both of which are well kept up. In the line of stock, his attention is devoted principally to Jersey cows.

John and Eliza (Hunter) Shaw were natives of Ohio, the former being a son of John Shaw, also a native of Ohio, and after his marriage lived for a time in Marion township. His wife, Eliza Hunter, was born on November 17, 1817. She was a daughter of Nathaniel Hunter, a noted pioneer of Decatur county, who came to the county and entered land in the twenties, and where he farmed all his life. John and Eliza (Hunter) Shaw were the parents of the following children: Thomas, deceased; Sarah, who became the wife of a Mr. Stevens; Rebecca became the wife of a Mr. Bailey; Charlotte, who married a Mr. Baker; John J., the subject of this sketch; Nathaniel lives at Bloomington, Monroe county, Indiana; Lucinda, deceased; Anna, deceased.

Nathaniel Hunter, the maternal grandfather, was born in 1787 or 1788, at Boone's Station, Kentucky, and was a son of Capt. Charles and Rebecca (Dumford) Hunter, who were married within the stockade walls of Boone's Station. Captain Hunter was killed by a shot from an Indian ambuscade, and his body was buried at Boone's Station, Kentucky. After his death, Mrs. Hunter married one Daniel Burch, and when Nathaniel was a lad of twelve the family moved to Butler county, Ohio, and later to Reading, Hamilton county. Nathaniel worked and gave his earnings to his stepfather. He was a pack-horseman and teamster in the quartermaster's department during the War of 1812.

On November 3, 1814, Nathaniel Hunter was united in marriage with Elizabeth Ferris, daughter of John and Mikey (Mires) Ferris, of Sheridan, Hamilton county, Ohio. Elizabeth Ferris was born, July 25, 1797. Her mother's family were of Holland descent. This pioneer couple began life by working out the first six months. Mr. Hunter received twelve dollars a month, and his wife seventy-five cents a week. He next engaged to John Merry for twenty dollars a month to work about the mills and distillery, remaining here two years, at the end of which time he invested the money he had saved in a flat-boat and a cargo of flour for the lower river trade. He was gone five months, going down the river as far as Natchez, sold his

flour for less than it cost him, disposed of his boat, and arrived home with three dollars. His next business engagement was with a millwright for a few months, and soon after he leased twenty acres, built a cabin and cleared off a little land. This was on the Mill Creek Bottoms, thirteen miles from Cincinnati, on the Dayton road. His next venture was as a contractor on the Miami Canal, where he built half a mile of that work, between Hamilton and Redding. After this he was employed by the Cincinnati & Dayton turnpike officials, where he made sometimes as high as ten dollars a day. With the money thus earned, Mr. Hunter invested in one hundred and seventy-four acres of land in Springfield township, Franklin county, Indiana, for which he paid about four hundred dollars. This was in 1828. Having built a fine brick house, good barn, and planted an orchard, he sold the place for four thousand five hundred dollars, and came to Sand Creek, Decatur county, and bought one hundred and sixty acres for seven hundred dollars. He moved on to this land in October in 1839, and soon bought one hundred and forty acres adjoining for two thousand dollars. After making this his home for about a quarter of a century, he disposed of it for eleven thousand dollars, and after living with his son-in-law, John E. Robbins, a few months, bought a home in Greensburg, where he spent his declining years.

To Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Ferris) Hunter were born the following children: John, born on September 17, 1815, died in 1817; Ann Eliza, November 12, 1817, married John Shaw; Rebecca, October 2, 1819, married Robert Wallace, died in Jasper county, Missouri, May 25, 1876; Sarah, March 25, 1822, married William W. Stephenson, died in Sand Creek township, in 1864; Nathan, September 25, 1824, married Sarah M. Anderson, and resided in Washington township; Nancy, December 8, 1826, married John E. Robbins and lived in Washington township; Charlotte, August 16, 1829, died October 18, 1834; Peter, April 18, 1834, married Caroline Blackmore, a daughter of Owen and Eliza Blackmore, early settlers of Washington township.

John J. Shaw was united in marriage, in 1870, with Eliza R. Skiles, who was born in Butler county, in 1843, a daughter of Isaac and Jane (George) Skiles, natives of Ohio, who came to Decatur county. To Mr. and Mrs. John J. Shaw was born one son, Edwin L., who attended West Point Military Academy and is now in the insurance business. He married Alice Harrell, and they have had one child, who died in infancy.

Mrs. Shaw is a member of the Christian Union church.

## BARTON W. JAMESON.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch has the proud distinction of belonging to a class of brave men of but whom few remain. He served his country well and faithfully during the Civil War and feels that he has done his part toward the land of his birth. His record will make interesting reading for his descendants, who will, in turn, be able to tell their children what a brave and loyal man their ancestor was.

Barton W. Jameson, retired farmer, of Jackson township, was born on August 28, 1843, in Berks county, Pennsylvania, a son of Phineas P. and Jane (Wilson) Jameson. He lived at Milford with his father until his marriage, when he rented a place, on which he remained two years, and then moved to the old Handley farm in Jackson township. After living here for thirty-five years, Mr. Jameson moved to his present home, which, at that time, consisted of forty acres, to which he has since added twenty acres more, making sixty acres in all. Valuable improvements have been made on the place, including a comfortable house. After Mr. Handley's death, he took charge of his estate, and cared for his three sisters-in-law until their death. He went to war September 17, 1862, in Company E, Eighty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, and arrived home, June 12, 1865, nearly three years later, after taking part in the following battles: Yazoo River, Siege of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Atlanta campaign, and Sherman's march to the sea. He was in Savannah, and went from Columbia to Goldsboro. He claims that the Confederates set fire to cotton piled in the streets of Columbia, thus causing the burning of that city—the Union soldiers were not to blame. Mr. Jameson was also in many minor battles and skirmishes. His division made a charge on the Savannah forts, and he was in the thick of the fight, from which he escaped without a wound, and was never in a hospital. Mr. Jameson is a Republican. He is a member of the Christian church, and is a member of the West Point Fred Small Post No. 531, Grand Army of the Republic.

Phineas P. Jameson was born on September 19, 1815, and died, April 12, 1883. His wife, Jane (Wilson) Jameson, was born on February 5, 1810. Phineas P. Jameson was of old pioneer stock, and a native of Pennsylvania. His father was the Rev. Jacob Jameson. Phineas P. came to Bartholomew county in the spring of 1858, moving later to a farm on the county line, going later to a farm near Milford, after which he moved to the William Fix farm, three miles east of Hartsville, and then to the Levi

Moore farm on the Hartsville pike. From there he went to the Davis farm west of Burney, finally settling on the Venner farm, where he died.

To Phineas and Jane (Wilson) Jameson were born five children, as follow: Mary Ann was born on October 5, 1836, and died on May 22, 1873; Sarah Jane, September 11, 1840, married Davis Hinton; Barton W., August 28, 1843, the subject of this sketch; Martha F., April 28, 1847, married William Pumphrey; Caroline L., March 18, 1853, married Joseph Oliphant.

The paternal grandfather was the Rev. Jacob Jameson, who was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, December 6, 1793, and was married, July 27, 1813, to Mary A. Saylor, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and united with the Baptist church, August 27, 1814, at Springfield, Pennsylvania, where he was licensed to preach, February 27, 1827. He was ordained a deacon in May, 1823, at Philadelphia. He later moved to Lawrenceburg, and was an elder there in 1839. His wife, Mary, died in 1868, and he afterward married Jane Smith, of Harrison, Ohio, who died in 1879. He died on March 22, 1881.

Barton W. Jameson was married, October 20, 1867, to Lizzie M. Handley, who was born, May 11, 1844, in Ohio, and died, March 4, 1874. She was a daughter of Robert and Nancy Handley, and came with her parents to Decatur in 1846. Robert Handley was born on November 6, 1801, and died in Decatur county on January 6, 1873. When he first came to Decatur county, he settled in Jackson township. His wife, Nancy, died on December 19, 1861. They were the parents of eight children, namely: James, Samuel, Margaret, Jane, Catherine, Rebecca, John and Elizabeth.

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### DANIEL WEBSTER ELLIOTT.

Among the successful farmers of a past generation in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, was Daniel Webster Elliott, who was born on April 3, 1841, in Jennings county, and who died on May 4, 1897.

Daniel Webster Elliott was the son of David and Lucinda (Spears) Elliott, who came to Decatur county when Daniel Webster was a mere lad. The father having died when Daniel W. was a lad, his widow, the mother of Daniel W., lived in Greensburg for some time.

Daniel Webster Elliott was married on May 29, 1864, at Sardinia, to Cordelia Bake, the daughter of Eli and Catherine (Risley) Bake, the for-

mer of whom was born on June 23, 1813, in Union county, Indiana, and who died on January 9, 1899. Eli Bake was married to Catherine Risley on December 24, 1834. She was born on October 6, 1817, in New Jersey, and died on March 7, 1904. Eli Bake moved to Decatur county in 1842, where he and his wife reared a large family and prospered. Of their twelve children, three died in infancy, Catherine, Elizabeth and one who died unnamed. The other children were as follow: Louis; Mrs. Amanda Gant, of Minneapolis, Kansas; Mrs. Clara Gant, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; Mrs. Cordelia Elliott, widow of Daniel W. Elliott; Perry, of Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Lucinda Matthew, deceased; Mrs. Martha Reilley, of Sardinia; William, of Jackson township, and Mrs. Louisa Shaw, of Westport.

Eli and Catherine Bake came overland from New Jersey to Indiana, and after coming to this state faced many hardships, being compelled to live for a time on parched corn. Eventually, however, they became well-to-do, and Eli Bake, who was always a hard worker, kept three hands and owned several farms. During a part of his life he operated a broom factory and sold his brooms in Louisville, Kentucky, and in many other cities.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Webster Elliott lived the first year on a farm northeast of Westport and then moved to a farm one mile north of Sardinia, where they lived for three years. Subsequently, they purchased eighty acres of land, which is a part of the present farm, and in 1894 purchased eighty acres additional. After Mr. Elliott's death, Mrs. Elliott built a splendid new house and moved the barn. She has a very attractive place on a widely-traveled highway and is surrounded with all of the comforts possible on the farm.

To Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Webster Elliott were born seven children, namely: Mrs. Minerva Alice Gardner, born on September 27, 1865; Marion Monroe, a farmer, February 9, 1868; Cora May, November 18, 1870, married a Mr. Gant and lives at Columbus; Mrs. Rozenia Anderson, July 31, 1873, lives near Hartsville in Bartholomew county; Harry Clinton, March 19, 1876, lives in Elizabethtown, Indiana; Mrs. Lucinda Isophene Tremain lives at Adams; Mrs. Lena Osthimer lives at home.

Mrs. Elliott has thirteen grandchildren, as follow: Mrs. Minerva Gardner has three children, Agnes Collins, Olsa and Dora; Mrs. Cora Gant has four children, Audrey, Guy, Gertrude and Kenneth; Mrs. Rozenia Anderson has three children, Garnet, Hazel and Opal; Harry has one daughter, Thelma; Marion has one son, Lester, and Lucinda has one daughter, Margaret.

The late Daniel W. Elliott was a Democrat. He was a member of the



Methodist Episcopal church, and was active in church work throughout his life, and was a steward at Wesley Chapel. He joined the church in January, 1876, during the pastorate of Reverend Lathrop. Mrs. Elliott is a refined and cultured woman, a woman of exquisite tastes and one who is possessed of a keen sense for the beautiful. She is especially well known in Jackson township, as was her husband during his life.

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### JOHN S. OWEN.

A native Hoosier son, John S. Owen has been for many years a farmer in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, where he and his sister own the old Owen homestead, comprising a hundred and twenty acres. He is one of a large family of children, of whom two brothers fought valiantly in the cause of their country during the Civil War, one of them giving up his life on the field of battle. These early days were associated with the first struggles of the Republican party, and with its first candidate elected to the presidency, Abraham Lincoln. It is not, therefore, surprising that he has been a Republican. His early recollections are associated with the enlistment of his two brothers and with their service during a period in which the new party and the beloved man it had elected to the chief executive office of this land were on trial.

John S. Owen, now a well-known farmer and the joint owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Jackson township, was born on September 13, 1847, in Fayette county, Indiana. His parents, Thomas and Mahala (Walker) Owen, were natives of South Carolina and Pulaski county, Kentucky, respectively. The former was a son of Edward Owen, a native of Scotland, who came to this country with his parents and settled in South Carolina in pioneer times. Thomas Owen was one of a large family of children, who made his way northward from South Carolina to Indiana, and here married. In 1849 he settled on a farm in Decatur county. This farm was located in Jackson township, and here he built a log cabin, and proceeded to establish a home in the wilderness. Some years later, in 1866, he built a frame house. Two of his sons, William and Anderson, served in the Civil War. William, who enlisted in Company D, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was killed on June 18, 1864, at the assault on Petersburg, Virginia. Anderson was a private in Company E, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Other children



of Thomas and Mahala Owen, several of whom died in infancy, were Mrs. Polly Johnson, deceased; Louisa, who is the housekeeper for the subject of this sketch, and who with him owns the old home farm; Mrs. Matilda Johnson, of Greensburg; Thomas, deceased; Mrs. Fannie M. Lett, of California, and Richard M., who lives on the home farm. Thomas Owen died in February, 1884, at the age of seventy-seven, his wife surviving fourteen years and passing away at the age of eighty-four in 1898.

John S. Owen has always lived on the home farm, and until the death of his parents cared for them tenderly in conjunction with his beloved sister. Mr. Owen is a good farmer and has a highly productive farm in this township, a man honored and respected by the people of his community, devoted to all good works and all worthy public enterprises. Although an ardent Republican, he has held only minor township offices. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons No. 36, at Westport. Neither Mr. Owen nor his sister, Miss Louisa Owen, has ever married.

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### JACOB LESLIE THURSTON.

Since the creation of the office of advisory board in Indiana some fifteen years ago, a board whose purpose it is to keep tab on the expenses and expenditures of the county and township, it is a known fact that in the men who have been elected to fill this office the farmer as a class has been far in the majority. The farmer as a class is often the butt of the humorist and is the stock in trade for the slapstick actor and the funny-column writer, but when it comes to filling a place that is of particular importance from the standpoint of substantial honesty, the farmer is most often the man chosen, and so when Jackson township wanted a man of particular honesty and substantial worth to fill a vacancy on her advisory board, she choose Jacob Leslie Thurston.

Jacob Leslie Thurston was born on November 4, 1869, one mile north and one mile east of where he now resides, and when he was eighteen months old his father moved to the present site of the home of Mr. Thurston in Jackson township.

Jacob Leslie Thurston was the son of William and Mary Jane (Evans) Thurston. William Thurston was born on November 26, 1838, and died on September 11, 1897, and his wife, Mary Jane (Evans) was born on January 23, 1845, and died on August 27, 1897.

William Thurston was the son of Lewis Thurston and Martha (Birch) Thurston. Lewis Thurston was born on January 1, 1806, in Pennsylvania, and came to Indiana when quite young and settled in Jackson township, where, on November 14, 1830, he married Martha Birch, who was born in Indiana, on May 31, 1813. To this union were born ten children, six sons and four daughters, namely: Elizabeth, who was born on August 15, 1831; Charles, January 14, 1834; Mary, August 31, 1836; William, the father of the subject of this sketch; Enos, July 4, 1841; Sarah, September 26, 1845; Benjamin, January 26, 1845; Thomas, December 19, 1848; Emily, May 28, 1852, and Morgan, January 24, 1854.

Lewis Thurston was one of the very earliest settlers in Decatur county and at the time of his death he was the owner of a fine tract of two hundred and seventy-five acres of land. William Thurston, who was the fourth child of Lewis Thurston, and the father of the subject of this sketch, was born and reared in Jackson township, and was the owner of two hundred and fifty-three acres of land. He was an active and stanch churchman and was an elder in the Christian church for many years. He married Mary Jane Evans on October 8, 1863.

Mary Jane Evans was the daughter of Ratcliffe and Melissa Lane (Vailes) Evans, who were married on August 7, 1829, and who were the parents of the following children: Laban, Daniel, Mary Jane, John Russ, Martha Ann, Sarah Ellen, James, William Calvin, Melinda Emeline, Thomas and Charles.

William Thurston was the father of the following children: Martha Helen Fear, who is the wife of S. W. Fear; an infant son, who died on March 29, 1866; Edward, who was born on April 23, 1867; Jacob Leslie, the subject of this sketch; Charles, March 31, 1874, and who is now deceased; Clarence, July 22, 1882, and who is now deceased, and Ora, January 6, 1892.

Jacob Leslie Thurston was educated in the common schools and began, at the age of twenty-two, to do for himself. He farmed on his own initiative on his father's farm for three years, and then, on January 12, 1895, he was married to Mabel E. Anderson, and they continued to live for another year with Mr. Thurston's parents, and then built a small cottage, in which they lived until the Thurston parents died, and the home place was then sold, and they purchased a portion of this (one hundred acres), on which Mr. Thurston, practically with his own hands, built one of the most beautiful farm houses to be found anywhere. This house is equipped with its

own gas plant for lighting, with a water system, and it is heated by a furnace. A fine orchard is near the house.

Mabel E. (Anderson) Thurston, the wife of Jacob Leslie Thurston, was born in Bartholomew county near Clifty Falls on March 15, 1873. She was the daughter of Combs and Margaret Tetrick, natives of New Jersey and Ohio, respectively. Margaret Tetrick died on January 3, 1877, and her husband died on April 18, 1911.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Leslie Thurston are: Ruby May, who was born on March 25, 1897, and was graduated from the Greensburg high school in the class of 1915, and Marion Earl, who was born on November 6, 1899, and who is now in the Waynesburg high school.

Mr. Thurston takes great interest in local politics and affiliates with the Democratic party. He was elected a member of the advisory board of Jackson township in 1914. He is a deacon in the Christian church of Waynesburg, and is a man of power and influence in his community.

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### NICHOLAS ANDERSON.

No farmer of Jackson township is better known than Nicholas Anderson, who has lived on the farm he now occupies for a period of forty-one years. He has lived in this community a life of rare consecration, not only to his life's vocation, but of rare consecration as well to the interests of his neighbors and fellow citizens generally. He has lived to rear three children, who are well established in homes of their own and have families of their own. He has assisted his children to get a start in the world as only a kind, loving and wise father could do. He and his good wife have always been hard workers and, as a consequence of their frugal living, economy in many lines and saving, they have prospered until now they have, aside from the help they have given their married children, a substantial competence which will keep them in comfort the rest of their lives.

Nicholas Anderson was born on October 1, 1844, in Jackson township, two and one-half miles north of Alert in a log cabin, the son of Charles and Lottie (Gross) Anderson, the former of whom was born in New Jersey. He was the son of Nicholas Anderson, the first to come to Decatur county at the time of the "Fallen Timbers" or during the thirties. Here he entered land and cleared it of the timber, establishing a home in the wilderness. Here Charles Anderson was reared and married to Lottie Gross, the daughter of

Frederick Gross, a native of Germany, who came to this country when his daughter Lottie was a mere infant. Charles and Lottie Anderson had six children, of whom Nicholas, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest. The other children were Fred, John, Charles, Catherine and Margaret. John and Margaret are deceased. Charles makes his home with his brother, Nicholas. Catherine married a Mr. Irvin and lives in Nebraska. The mother of these children died in 1861 and after her death Charles Anderson married Mrs. Louisa Coleman. By this marriage there were five children: Mrs. Mary Etta Tremain, of Columbus; Annie, who lives in Kokomo; William, who resides in Connersville; Mrs. Cora Swartz, of Hope; and James, who lives at Alert.

On February 8, 1877, Nicholas Anderson was married to Hannah L. Carson, who was born on October 22, 1858, in Geneva township, Jennings county, Indiana, the daughter of David and Hannah (Bennett) Carson, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter a daughter of Samuel Bennett, a nobleman and excise officer, who, displeased with the government, left England quietly in 1820 and settled in Jennings county, Indiana. There he purchased over six hundred acres of land and became, within a few years, a famous leader of the people in his community. He was a justice of the peace for many years and, being a man of education and rare intelligence, transacted for the settlers of Decatur and Jennings counties all of their legal business. David Carson was the son of Hiram Carson, of Pennsylvania, who came to Jennings county in 1831.

Hannah L. Carson was one of eight children born to her parents, she being the seventh. The others were as follow: George, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who served three years and eight months in the Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War; James B., of near Celina, Kansas; Dr. C. H., who died in Kansas City, Missouri; Mary A., deceased; David Taylor, deceased; Elizabeth, the wife of D. F. Shera, of Columbus; and Mrs. Rachel Galloway, of Jackson township.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have lived on their present farm for thirty-eight years together and Mr. Anderson has lived on it for forty-one years. He bought his first tract of forty acres in 1874, when he had only five hundred dollars, paying fifty dollars an acre for the land. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of three children, namely: George E., who lives in the north-western part of Missouri, married Edith Strader and has four children, Jeannette, James, Marguerite and Mildred; James D., of Jackson township, who married Mollie Beesley and has two children, Beatrice Elizabeth and Ruth Helen; and Leroy, who died in 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have

given each of the two married sons forty acres apiece and, including the land which has been given to the sons, they have owned three hundred and forty acres altogether. Eighty acres of the farm land belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson is located in Bartholomew county.

Democracy it seems is a political prepossession of the Anderson family, the family having been Democrats for several generations. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Christian Union church. They have done their part not only to promote the physical development of the soil of Jackson township, Decatur county, but they have done their part to develop a wholesome and interesting community spirit. Mr. Anderson is a man of strong convictions and a leader in his neighborhood. He is a man whose opinions and belief are respected by all who know him.

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### SAMUEL KELLY.

The burdens of the Civil War were not alone on the men who went out in the field to fight, but often on the mothers and children who were left at home and in too many cases were orphaned and widowed. The immediate burdens of war are scarcely ever as terrible as the subsequent burdens that are inflicted on its victims. Many a son is compelled in his early youth to take up the family burdens of a father lost in war. Such was the case of the subject of this sketch, Samuel Kelly.

Samuel Kelly was the son of John W. and Harriet (Russell) Kelly, natives of West Virginia, who came to Decatur county at the time of their marriage. John W. Kelly enlisted in the Eighty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry and contracted measles at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1865, and died. Harriet (Russell) Kelly died in 1901.

John W. and Harriet (Russell) Kelly were the parents of six children, all now deceased except Samuel and Matthew. There were three sons, Samuel, Joshua and Matthew, and three daughters, Minerva, Mary A., and Anna.

Samuel Kelly, after his father's death, lived with Matthew Kelly, a great-uncle of his father, south of Waynesburg until he was twenty-one years old. He then took employment in Columbus for a year with Mooney & Company, tinnerns. He then married and settled two years in Grant county and then came to Alert and engaged in a profitable nursery business which he conducted until 1912, when he sold out this business and engaged in the grain

and coal business in Alert until in the spring of 1914, when he again sold out his business and worked for the company to which he had sold until November at which time he was elected to the office of township trustee for Jackson township. His term of office was not to begin until in January of 1915, but on account of the death of Trustee Evans, he was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Evans' death and so began his duties as township trustee at once.

Samuel Kelly has been an active worker in the Democratic party in Jackson township for many years. He has served as township chairman of his party and was elected and re-elected to the office of township assessor for a period of ten years and was four years a deputy in this office. He is always present at township and county conventions of his party and has served more than once as a delegate to state conventions. He is a member of the Methodist church, and is an active and loyal lodge man, holding membership in the following fraternal organizations; the Free and Accepted Masons, of Alert and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Westport.

Samuel Kelly was married on March 16, 1880, to Cynthia A. Hamilton, a native of Decatur county, and the only living child of William and Nancy Hamilton, who came to Decatur county from Kentucky and settled in Sand Creek township.

Samuel Kelly is a fair type of the citizen who has struggled against hardships and has won a position of trust and influence among his neighbors.

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### JAMES HAMLIN SHAFER.

One of the well-known farmers of Jackson township, the proprietor of "Maple Leaf Farm," located one-half mile south of Alert, a man who is well known in this part of Decatur county, and who comes from an old family, is James Hamlin Shafer.

James Hamlin Shafer, who was born on the old Shafer homestead in a covered log house on May 21, 1853, is the son of a pioneer Methodist minister in this section, Rev. Daniel W. Shafer, who was born in 1817 and who died in April, 1897. He was a native of Franklin county, the son of John Shafer, of Pennsylvania, and came to Decatur county with his father at the same time the father of W. M. Shafer came here. James H. is a cousin of W. M. Shafer, of Westport. After coming to Jackson township about 1848, the Rev. Daniel W. Shafer became a prosperous and well-to-do citizen of this



community. He assisted in the building of Wesley Chapel and also of Mt. Olivet, located near his home, as well as in the construction of several neighboring churches, all of which he served as a minister. Before the breaking up of the Whig party, he was firmly attached to the principles of this party and when the Republican party was organized, he became a Republican and remained so all of his life. In 1878 he built a fine large house which is now occupied by his son. The home of James H. is just across the road from the old Shafer homestead, and the log house in which many members of the family were born and reared is partly standing today. Rev. Daniel W. Shafer married Audriah Spera, a native of Ireland, who was born in 1815 and who died in August, 1892. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are living: William Glover, a veteran of the Civil War, who lives in Kansas City, Missouri; John Whitmore, who lives at St. Paul, Minnesota; Mrs. Eliza Ann McGaughey, of Rogers, Arkansas; Sarah Ellen Shafer, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Julia Frances White, of Albany, Indiana; and James H., the subject of this sketch. At the time of his death, Rev. Daniel W. Shafer owned one hundred and sixty acres of land and his son, James H., received a sixth interest in this estate and, after eighty acres were sold, purchased the interest of the other heirs in the remainder. He has fifty-eight acres of land in his present farm and one hundred and sixty acres in Colorado. In 1910 Mr. Shafer and his wife went to Colorado and homesteaded a quarter section of government land. It is a splendid farm and is located near Ft. Morgan, Colorado.

James Hamlin Shafer received a liberal education early in life and for seven years was a teacher in the public schools of Decatur county. His education having begun in the common schools of Decatur county, it was finished in Hartsville College.

On April 20, 1886, James Hamlin Shafer was married to Kate Wright, who was born on September 6, 1860, near Burnsville in Bartholomew county. She was the daughter of John H. and Ann (Brown) Wright, natives of Delaware and Ohio, respectively. Both are now deceased, the father having died in August, 1892, and the mother on April 21, 1885. Mrs. Shafer's mother belonged to the Randall family, an old and wealthy family of Revolutionary ancestry. Mrs. Shafer had four brothers in the Civil War: Dr. Charles H., who died near Madison, Indiana, and who was an orderly sergeant; George Washington, who was captain of an Indiana company; John Francis, who was a teacher for many years and who was a corporal in the Union army, now lives at Topeka, Kansas; and James Kellogg, who was also a soldier and who died at the age of twenty-two years. Mrs. Shafer also



had two sisters: Mrs. Mary J. Shafer, the wife of William Shafer, of Kansas City; and Sidney Ann, who died in 1910.

With the exception of nine years in which Mr. Shafer was engaged in the furniture business at North Vernon, he has lived on his present farm practically all of his life. James Hamlin and Kate (Wright) Shafer are the parents of seven children, as follow: Daisy B., who is at home; Edna A., who is a teacher in the Amora schools; Lloyd Hamlin, who was a student in Moores Hill College and was graduated with the class of 1915; Ruth, who is a teacher at Sunman, in Ripley county; Sydney Daniel, who is a student at Moores Hill College; Olive and Irene, who are students in the school at Alert. Mr. Shafer's eldest son served one year in the United States army.

Mr. and Mrs. Shafer have lived to rear a splendid family of children and one of which they have every reason to be proud. All of the members of the family are bright and capable young men and women who will undoubtedly achieve for themselves marks of no small importance. In Jackson township, the Shafers are well known for their interest in education, Mr. Shafer having been during all of his life, one of the ablest and ardent exponents of public education. The Shafer family stands very high in this community.

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### CALEB STARK WRIGHT.

Few men now living in Clay township, this county, have exerted a wider or more beneficent influence therein than Caleb Stark Wright, former township trustee and one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers in the western part of Decatur county. Mr. Wright has a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-three acres in Clay township, on which he has erected one of the best farm houses in this part of the state, his home being one of the pleasantest and most delightful homes thereabout. The mammoth barn and large silo, together with the other outbuildings on the place, bespeak the enterprise of the owner and attest his excellent business qualities; for Mr. Wright looks upon farming as a business instead of a mere haphazard proceeding in which the elements of nature are expected to relieve the tiller of the soil of any responsibility in the matter. The hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Wright is of that type so often referred to as real "old southern hospitality," and their home is one of the most popular gathering places in that whole neighborhood. In his public service Mr. Wright placed Clay township under a debt of obligation which never properly can be paid and his fellow citizens hold him in

the highest esteem, his counsel and advice being sought generally on matters of public concern. He is warmly interested in the educational affairs of the township and during his administration of the office of trustee devoted the most thoughtful care to the interests of the schools, it being his theory that in the education of the children none but the very best and most approved methods should be employed. It was during his administration that the fine high school building at Burney was erected and the people of Clay township are unanimous in the declaration that the schools of the township were very largely advanced by reason of his constant application of sound business principles thereto.

Broad in his views and liberal in his dealings with his fellow men, Mr. Wright has a well-deserved popularity in the part of the county in which he resides, this popularity having been proved upon the occasion of his election to the office of trustee. Though the head of the Republican ticket carried the township by a majority of about thirty-five, Mr. Wright, who stood for election on the Democratic ticket, was elected by a clear majority of twenty-seven votes, amply attesting the esteem in which he was held. The same broad business policies enter into his transactions in connection with his extensive farming interests. He believes in handling only pure bred stock and his sales of live stock prove the soundness of his judgment in this direction, his stock invariably bringing fancy prices; a policy which has proved highly profitable to him. Mr. Wright has his own gas well on his farm and the question of light and heat, so far as he is concerned, is thus effectually solved. Energetic, industrious and capable, Mr. Wright, now in the sixth decade of his life, finds himself quite well circumstanced and capable of enjoying life to the full. Full of the zest of living, he takes a close interest in current affairs and is fully informed on all matters of public concern, being a most entertaining conversationalist and a right genial gentleman.

Caleb Stark Wright was born on the farm on which he still lives, in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, five miles southwest of the town of Greensburg, sixty-three years ago and has consequently seen the greater part of the development of that section of the county and has been an active participant in the same. He is the son of Richard and Lovica (Stark) Wright, pioneers of Clay township, the former of whom was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, in 1821 and died at his home in this county in 1884. When about twenty-one years of age Richard Wright came to Decatur county from Virginia, settling in Clay township, near the village of Liberty. The Christian church in that village now stands on the part of the farm which he bought at the time of his arrival in this county. He bought a quarter section

of land which practically was in its primeval state, and in the wilderness made his home, gradually bringing the farm to a fine state of cultivation, the same now being of the very first quality. The Wright family is of English origin and Richard Wright was the son of Charles Wright, the latter of whom came to this county from Virginia some time after his son, Richard, had located here and spent the rest of his life in the home of his son, dying when Caleb S., the subject of this sketch, was about seven years of age.

Richard Wright became one of the substantial residents of Clay township and was held in very high repute in that neighborhood. He married Lovica Stark, daughter of Caleb and Anne (Boone) Stark, who came to Decatur county from Kentucky in 1826, settling in Clay township, and founding the well-known Stark family of this county, a now numerous progeny. Caleb Stark was the son of Joseph Stark, who was a son of John Stark, a native of New Hampshire, who moved from that state to Virginia, later migrating to Kentucky, where he became an influential pioneer in Henry county, in the latter state. Joseph Stark was a member of the local guards of Virginia, the "minute men," who constituted the militia organization of the Old Dominion, and was sent with his company into what then was known as Kentucky county, Virginia, now the state of Kentucky, to put down an uprising of the Cherokee Indians, and for two years was engaged in Indian warfare. During that time he became so impressed with the value of Kentucky lands, particularly in the blue-grass region, over which he had ranged as an Indian fighter, that he decided to locate there as soon as the opportunity presented. In 1780 when Daniel Boone headed his famous band of Virginia settlers into Kentucky, Joseph Stark joined the colony; first settling in Shelby county, where his children were born and where his wife died. Upon the death of his wife he moved to Henry county, in Kentucky, where he bought a farm at Floyd's Fork, near the headwaters of the Little Kentucky river and established his home, remaining there the rest of his life and founding a numerous family, the descendants of which now are widely scattered.

The Stark family is of ancient and honorable descent, having had its origin in Scotland in the days of the last James, when John Muirhead, a German soldier, for an act of signal bravery by which he saved the life of the king, was created bishop of Glasgow and his name changed, by royal decree, to Stark, German for "strength." In succeeding generations the first son in the family invariably was christened John until John Stark, born in 1665, named his first son Archibald. This John Stark was the founder of the family in America, he having emigrated to this country in 1710. His eldest son, Archibald Stark, was the father of General Stark, of Revolution-

ary fame. John Stark, the founder of the American family of that name, was the father of nine children: Archibald, born in 1693; James, 1695; John, 1697; Richard, 1699; Louise, 1701; Daniel, 1703; Samuel, 1705; Susannah, 1707; Silas, 1709. In 1716 James Stark married Elizabeth Thornton, of Londonderry, New Hampshire, sister of Matthew Thornton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and in 1730 moved with his family to Stafford, Virginia.

To James and Elizabeth (Thornton) Stark were born fifteen children, namely: John, born in 1717; James, 1719; Thomas, 1721; Jeremiah, 1722; William, 1725; Mary, 1727; Susannah, 1729; Elizabeth, 1730; Sarah, 1731; Jane, 1733; Anne, 1736; Benjamin, 1738; Donald, 1744; Isabella, 1746; Lydia, 1748. It is to the firstborn of this family, John Stark, born in 1717, that the Stark family in Decatur county owes its descent. John Stark was a minister of the gospel. In 1746 he married Hanson Porter, who died, whereupon he married, secondly, in 1756, Hannah Eaves, a beautiful English governess who had been giving lessons in the family. To this first union there were born the following children: Anne, born in 1746; Eliza, 1749; Sarah, 1752, and William, 1754. To the second union there were born: James, born in 1757; Thomas, 1759; John, 1761; Mary, 1762; John, 1766; Susan, 1768, and Joseph, 1771, the latter of whom moved to Kentucky, as noted above and was the father of Caleb Stark, who married Anne Boone and was the father of Lovica Stark, who married Richard Wright and is the mother of Caleb Stark Wright, the immediate subject of this sketch. Joseph Stark had three other sons beside Caleb, they being Effner, Phillip and Rheuben.

John Stark, the Virginian, the great-great-grandfather of Mr. Wright was a man of superb courage and a great hunter. On one occasion while hunting in the depths of the great forest in the vicinity of his home he was captured by Indians and taken to the Indian camp, where the chief decided that he should be compelled to "run the gauntlet." Stalwart warriors of the tribe were lined up in parallel rows, each brave armed with a war club, and Mr. Stark was commanded to seek what safety he might find in flight between these two formidable rows of armed redskins. With a cat-like spring, the courageous hunter leaped upon the two nearest redskins and tearing from their hands the clubs which they held, laid about him, right and left, knocking the two astonished warriors to the ground, rendering them *hors de combat*. This act of strength and courage so impressed the magnanimous chief that he gave Mr. Stark his liberty and a safe escort to his home, there ever afterward existing a firm friendship between the chief and the mighty

hunter. Afterward this same John Stark served as a colonel in the British army in the French and Indian wars.

To Richard and Lovica (Stark) Wright were born nine children, four of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Mrs. Sarah L. McGee, who lives in Iowa; Caleb Stark, the subject of this sketch; Richard Todd, who lives in Colorado; Mrs. Minnie M. Myers, of Clay township, this county, and Loda, who lives at Westport, this county.

In 1882 Caleb Stark Wright was united in marriage to Alpha B. Robbins, member of a pioneer family of Decatur county, daughter of Holman Robbins, who was a son of William Robbins, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Alma, who married James Calvin Thornburg, of this county, and has one son, Merritt, who was born on March 25, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright are members of the Baptist church and always have taken a deep interest in the moral development of the community in which for so many years they have labored with an unselfish devotion to the common good. They are active in all good works affecting that community and are held in the very highest esteem throughout that whole countryside.

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### ALEXANDER PORTER.

In the industrial life of Decatur county there is one name, a firm of large building contractors, that stands out strong and dominant, and no review of the history of the times in this county would be complete without fitting mention of the same, together with proper reference to the men who have brought the business which they represent to its present proud eminence. Alexander Porter, of the firm of Pulse & Porter, contractors and builders, at Greensburg, Indiana, the biggest concern of its kind in the state, is too well known locally to require an introduction to the readers of this volume living in this county, but, in the interest of the future, the biographer takes pleasure in setting out at this point a brief resume of his notably successful and useful career.

The firm with which Mr. Porter is associated, Pulse & Porter, was organized in December, 1886, by William C. Pulse, William R. Porter and Alexander Porter. This firm has employed as high as seven hundred men at one time, and has been engaged in the construction of some of the most notable buildings in Indiana, among which may be mentioned the Baptist church, the Swan block, two main buildings of the Odd Fellows' state home,

the Odd Fellows' block, the Carnegie library, remodeling the Presbyterian and the Centenary Methodist churches, the high school building, the sanitary sewer system, all at Greensburg; the power-house of the Indiana Union Traction company, at Anderson; power-house of the Indianapolis & Newcastle Railroad Company, at Newcastle; the Maxwell-Brisco motor plant, at Newcastle; the Gentry hotel, at Bloomington; Science hall, at Indiana State University; Science hall, at Hanover College; Hendricks library, at the same college; Spring Hill Presbyterian church and the Southeastern Indiana Hospital for the Insane, at Madison, the latter contract involving the expenditure of one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Alexander Porter was born on a farm three and one-half miles southwest of the city of Greensburg, Indiana, December 2, 1861, the son of Matthew E. and Rebecca (McKinney) Porter, the former of whom also was a native of Decatur county, and the latter of whom was born in Orange county, this state.

Matthew E. Porter was born on July 5, 1836, a son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Elder) Porter, the former of whom was the first white child born in Dearborn county, Indiana. Alexander Porter was born in 1799, the son of David Porter, a native of Virginia, who, after having served for five years as a British soldier in the French and Indian wars, took up arms in the cause of the patriots during the Revolutionary War and for five years served valiantly in the army of General Washington. Following the Revolution, David Porter came west and for a time was located at the point where the city of Cincinnati later sprang up. While there, in 1795, he waited until General Wayne made a treaty with the Indians. He later proceeded down the river and settled in Dearborn county, this state. At that time there was but one brick house in Cincinnati and but one log house in what since has come to be the city of Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Locating permanently in Dearborn county, David Porter carved a home out of the wilderness and there reared his family, his other children, beside Alexander, above mentioned, being David, John, James and Mrs. Mary Evans.

Alexander Porter left his father's place in Dearborn county when he was twenty-three years of age and moved to this county, where he for a time leased school land, later entering from the government the land three and one-half miles southwest of Greensburg on which his grandson and namesake, Alexander Porter, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born, and which is still owned by the family, Mr. Porter and his two brothers being in possession of the same. On this farm of two hundred and fifty-



six acres this pioneer spent the remainder of his life and on the same farm his son, Matthew E., father of the present Alexander Porter, spent his entire life, rearing his family there.

When he was thirty-six years of age, Alexander Porter married Elizabeth Elder, the daughter of the Rev. Matthew Elder, a pioneer Baptist minister, who came to Decatur county in 1824 and located four miles south of Greensburg, where he founded the Union Baptist church, which still is in existence. He was a farmer as well as a preacher, and there he reared his family, living to a ripe old age, proving a very tower of strength to the pioneer settlement. Rev. Matthew Elder organized the first Baptist church in Decatur county. He died on July 7, 1865, at the age of seventy-nine years. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, namely: Mrs. William Goodwin; Elizabeth, who married Alexander Porter; Jane, who married Silas Porter; Martha, who married Elijah Goodwin; Rebecca, who married William McCormick; Andrew, deceased, married a Miss Jackson, and Asenath, who married Peter Martin. To Alexander and Elizabeth (Elder) Porter were born two children, Matthew E. and Asenath, the latter of whom died at the age of three years. Alexander Porter died on September 9, 1891, aged ninety-two, and his widow died on October 22, 1893, at the age of eighty.

Matthew E. Porter remained on the home farm all his life, being the stay and comfort of his parents in their latter days. In 1857 he was united in marriage to Rebecca Clarice McKinney, who was born on February 20, 1836, near Paoli, in Orange county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Martha (Van Cleave) McKinney, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Indiana, where John McKinney was a prominent farmer in the neighborhood in which he lived, an ardent Republican and a leader in the congregation of the Presbyterian church thereabout. John McKinney and his wife were the parents of the following children: James; Mrs. Sarah J. Porter; William R.; Margaret; Mary, wife of William Goddard; Rebecca, wife of Matthew E. Porter; Emily, wife of John Pulse, and Matthew, who died in his youth.

To Matthew E. and Rebecca Clarice (McKinney) Porter were born nine children, namely: Martha A., who married J. W. McConnell and lives on a farm six miles south of Greensburg; Alexander, the immediate subject of this sketch; John, who died in 1893, at the age of twenty-nine years; Elizabeth, who died in 1881, at the age of eleven years; William R., a member of the firm of Pulse & Porter, in charge of the branch plant at Hope, Indiana; Barton, who died in 1902; Dr. Edward A., a practicing physician



at Burney, Indiana; James, who occupies the old home farm in this county, and Andrew, who resides in Greensburg. These children all were born in the house in which their father had been rocked in the cradle and all were rocked in the same cradle in which their father had been rocked. While remaining on the old homestead, Matthew E. Porter made an extensive addition thereto, in 1892 buying a farm adjoining and erecting a fine home, in which he and his wife spent their last days in happy comfort. He was recognized as one of the most solidly-established farmers in Decatur county. He was one of the organizers of the well-known Farmers Insurance Company and was active in all works looking to the development of the best interests of the community in which his whole life was spent. His death occurred in 1908, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1901.

Alexander Porter received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, following which he spent one year at the normal school at Danville, Indiana, and three years at the Indiana State Normal at Terre Haute. He then taught school for four years, at the end of which time he engaged in the lumber and construction business, in 1886 forming the association with his brother, William R., and William C. Pulse, mentioned in the introductory paragraph of this review, which, from a small beginning, has grown to the great concern which is now recognized as the leading construction company in the state of Indiana.

In 1892 Alexander Porter was united in marriage to Ada R. Richardson, of Hartwell, Ohio, the daughter of Colonel Richardson, of Civil War fame. To this union five children have been born, as follow: Elder A., who is a student in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor; Sarah M., who is a student in the Randolph-Macon School, at Lynchburg, Virginia; William B., a student in the Greensburg high school; Marietta, who is still in the grade school, and one son, John, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Porter are members of the Presbyterian church and have reared their children in the faith of that church.

Mr. Porter is a Democrat and gives the most earnest attention to the political affairs of his home county. Notwithstanding his extensive private business, he ever has been able to find time to devote a good citizen's attention to the public business, and served as city treasurer of Greensburg for six years, 1898-1904. He is one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of Decatur county and no movement having to do with the welfare of the county finds him hanging back when it comes time to promote the same. He and his wife take an active part in the social affairs of their home town and are deservedly popular in their large circle of friends. Mr. Porter

also is actively concerned in the fraternal societies of the town, and is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, an Elk and a Red Man, in the affairs of which lodges he is warmly interested.

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### CLARENCE LEORA HILL, D. D. S.

Clarence Leora Hill, who was educated for the practice of dentistry and practiced this profession of six years in Valparaiso, Indiana, is a striking example of a man who has turned his attention from professional life to the farm and it must be admitted that he has enjoyed since coming to the farm in 1907 a most gratifying success in agriculture. He is a man who is fond of life in the open, having been reared in the country and having spent the most of his life there.

Clarence Leora Hill, farmer and dentist of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns one hundred and twenty acres of land at his home place one mile north of Alert, and a hundred and sixty-five acres one-half mile north and one and one-half miles west of Sardinia, was born on May 24, 1877, in Bartholomew county, near the Bartholomew and Decatur county line. He is the son of Martin and Elizabeth (McManiman) Hill, the former of whom was a native of Bartholomew county, born in 1848, and the latter of whom was a native of Decatur county, born in 1852. Elizabeth McManiman was the daughter of William McManiman, an early settler of Decatur county, who lived near Waynesburg. In 1884 Martin Hill moved to a farm one-half mile east of Waynesburg, and there he still resides. He is the son of J. C. Hill, an early settler of Decatur county.

Clarence Leora Hill was educated in the district schools of Decatur county, at the Danville Normal School, the Indianapolis College of Commerce, the Louisville College of Dentistry, and the Indiana Dental College at Indianapolis where he was graduated in 1901. He practiced his profession at Valparaiso, Indiana, for six years after his graduation, and then came to Decatur county, Indiana, to take charge of his firm.

About a year after his graduation from the Indiana Dental College at Indianapolis, Clarence Leora Hill was married on August 1, 1902, to Joeva Green, of Rensselaer, Indiana, who is a native of Ohio, and the daughter of Joseph and Jane (Crumley) Green. The Greens came from Ohio to Indiana, and settled near Rensselaer, where Joseph died. He was a "forty-niner," having gone to California when gold was first discovered. Mrs. Hill's mother

resides in the home of her daughter and son-in-law in Decatur county. Doctor and Mrs. Hill have had six children, Joseph Graydon, Martin Dwight, Mary Josephene, Paul Eugene, Rose Wendall and John Wesley.

On Doctor Hill's farm, located one mile north of Alert in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, there are two sets of buildings. He has a modern house, a large barn, fifty by sixty-eight feet in diameter, and a silo which was erected in 1914. Doctor Hill is an extensive raiser of mules. He buys weanling mule colts, and raises them until they are ready for the market. At the present time he has twenty-five head on the farm. Aside from his interest in mules he is engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Although a Democrat in politics, Doctor Hill has never taken any special interest in political matters. He is a member of Porter Lodge No. 137, Free and Accepted Masons.

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#### CHARLES CLAY ROBBINS.

Occupying a commanding position on a hill, overlooking the river valley in Sand Creek township, this county, the elegant farm house of Charles C. Robbins presents to the eye of the traveler who may be journeying that way a most attractive appearance. This eleven-room farm house, erected in 1911, is one of the best-appointed houses of its kind in Decatur county. It was built along modern plans, is enclosed on three sides with an ornamental stone wall and is piped throughout for gas and water. Mr. Robbins has an admirable water-pressure system on his farm, and his private gas well, which flows with a pressure of three hundred and twenty-five pounds, gives him, in addition to ample gas for heating and lighting purposes throughout the house and barn, fine power for the operation of grinding-machines and other machinery on the place. His beautiful grounds also are well lighted from the gas thus supplied. The water plant not only supplies the house and barn with running water, but affords ample irrigation for the grounds and garden.

Mr. Robbins' farm of one hundred and seventy acres is one of the most fertile and productive in the county, including a fine stretch of river bottom, one hundred acres in extent, and seventy acres of hill land. The bottom lands produce about eighty bushels of corn and twenty bushels of wheat to the acre. There is excellent pasture land, through which a pretty, never-failing stream flows, and his meadows produce as much as two tons of hay to the acre. A copiously-flowing well, driven to a depth of one hun-

dred and fifteen feet, supplies water to the uplands. The barn, a commodious structure, sixty by one hundred feet, is equipped with cement floors for the stalls and has all the modern appliances for the most expeditious operation of a well-conducted farm. The carriage house, fifty by fifty feet, also has cement floor, as have the ample corn cribs and granaries, while the cement watering troughs are well shaded, a pleasant sidelight on Mr. Robbins' humane regard for his live stock.

One of the attractive features of the Robbins farm is a beautiful grove of sugar-maple trees, seventy-five or more in number, which supplies the Robbins table with a fine quality of maple syrup, besides quantities of choice maple sugar. A well-kept chicken park offers a fine range for the extensive brood of Plymouth Rock chickens which Mr. Robbins raises. There are few farms in Decatur county more carefully tended than is that of Mr. Robbins, and it is but natural that he takes a high degree of pride in his place, finding much comfort and content thereon. In addition to his general farm operations, Mr. Robbins is an extensive breeder and feeder of live stock. He formerly handled from sixty-five to seventy carloads of stock annually, but lately has reduced his operations in this direction and now handles about twenty-five car loads annually, his stock all being of high grade.

Charles C. Robbins has lived all his life on this same farm, having been born there on September 2, 1860, the son of Merritt Holmand and Jeannette (Gilchrist) Robbins, the former of whom, born on August 30, 1832, died on August 14, 1882, was the son of a pioneer settler of Decatur county, and the latter of whom, born on June 25, 1837, died on February 13, 1911, was a native of Steubenville, Ohio. Merritt H. Robbins was the son of William Robbins, who settled in this county in an early day and became one of the most influential pioneers of Sand Creek township. William Robbins was the son of William Robbins, a Virginian who served in the arm of the patriots during the War of the Revolution and located in Kentucky after the close of that war. Further interesting details regarding the genealogy of this family may be found in the biographical sketch relating to J. B. Kitchin, presented elsewhere in this volume. Jeannette Gilchrist was the daughter of Hugh Gilchrist, one of the early and influential settlers of this county.

Merritt H. Robbins and his wife were members of the Liberty Baptist church and took a large part in the good works of their community in an early day. Mr. Robbins was a Republican and was one of the leaders of

that party in his part of the county. He was not inclined to seek office, however, and several times declined to accept positions of public trust and responsibility which his neighbors sought to thrust upon him. He was an active, energetic farmer and became the owner of four hundred and eighty-four acres of fine land in Sand Creek township. At the age of fifty, Mr. Robbins was overcome by an illness which would not respond to local treatment. He was taken to Sheppard sanitarium at Columbus, Ohio, where treatment likewise proved unavailing, and there he died. His land was all sold with the exception of the tract of one hundred and seventy acres surrounding the home, and which now is occupied by his son, Charles C.

To Merritt H. and Jeannette (Gilchrist), Robbins were born six children, as follow: Alpha B., who married Caleb Wright, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county; Laura L., who married Walter B. Planke and lives in Washington township; Charles Clay, the immediate subject of this sketch; Greeley G., of Greensburg, a rural mail carrier; William W., who died on June 1, 1914, at the home of his brother, Charles C., at the age of forty-seven years, and Erie Etna, the wife of Bird Sefton, of Washington township, this county.

On February 28, 1888, Charles Clay Robbins was united in marriage to Effie M. Styers, who was born on the old Styers homestead, near Greensburg, this county, on April 6, 1868, the daughter of William G. and Dorinda F. (Wright) Styers, the former of whom is now deceased. Further details of the genealogy of this couple may be found in the biographical sketch of William G. Styers, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Charles C. and Effie M. (Styers) Robbins have been born six children, namely: Harry H., born on November 29, 1889; Walter W., who lives on the John W. Ferris farm, in Marion township, this county, was born on July 6, 1891, married Grace Ferris and has three children, Gerald, Roy R. and Wilma; Marie, February 1, 1898, is in high school; Corinne C., December 25, 1900, also in school; Millard M., October 30, 1902, and Lowell, July 18, 1905, who died on March 4, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are members of the Liberty Baptist church, as are all the members of their family, and long have been prominent in the affairs of that church, as well as being included among the leaders in the various good works of the community in which they live. Mr. Robbins is a Republican and takes a warm interest in political affairs, though not an office seeker or a particularly active political worker, preferring to give the full measure of his time to his farm and to his home. Harry Robbins

is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is deeply interested in the affairs of that ancient fraternal order. No family in Decatur county is held in higher repute than the Robbinses and their home is one of the most popular places of social gatherings in the part of the county in which it is situated.

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### HAMLIN ANDERSON.

Situated on a hill, the handsome farm residence of Hamlin Anderson, in Clay township, this county, commands a fine view of the country thereabout. This residence, painted an attractive yellow, with its broad veranda lending a particularly home-like air to the place, is regarded as one of the pleasantest and most hospitable farm homes in the county, and is the center of much cordial hospitality, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson being fond of their friends and their friends likewise fond of them. Corresponding with the general well-kept appearance of the house, the big bank barn, painted in slate color, and the outlying farm buildings all are in excellent condition, speaking well for Mr. Anderson's orderliness and accurate attention to detail. Though somewhat past what generally is regarded as the meridian of life, Mr. Anderson retains a youthful appearance and manner that belie the date of his birth, and takes the liveliest interest in affairs. He is an excellent conversationalist and a good companion. A keen, intelligent, enterprising man, he has made a success of his affairs, and is rated among the wealthy men of Decatur county. He has traveled widely and is well informed. For three years he lived in Los Angeles, California, and for a time was engaged in the automobile business in Indianapolis, but now confines his attention wholly to his extensive farming interests, finding Decatur county the most desirable spot on earth, his pleasant home being to him all that he desires.

Hamlin Anderson was born on the farm on which he still lives August 29, 1853, son of William and Mary (Stanley) Anderson, the former of whom was born in 1811 and died in 1891; the latter born in 1832, died in 1908. William Anderson was born of poor parents in a log cabin in the pine woods of New Jersey, and in his youth was compelled to work hard. He was one of eleven children born to his parents, four boys and seven girls. By the utmost diligence and frugality, he had saved four hundred dollars by the time he had reached his majority, at which time he started for Indiana, arriving in Decatur county in 1831, having driven through in a



one-horse wagon, the long trip having been made alone. For several years after his arrival in this county, William Anderson worked for various farmers in the Milford section, receiving eight and one-third dollars the month. He then bought eighty acres of timber land south of Milford and chopped out a home in the wilderness, later selling this and buying another eighty-acre tract, a part of the present Anderson home acres. On the hill where stands the present handsome residence, William Anderson built a log cabin and entered seriously upon the life of a farmer. He prospered, as his industry and zeal entitled him to prosper, and presently became one of the large landowners in the county, his holdings comprising no less than eight hundred acres of fine land in the Milford neighborhood. Though he could not read or write, William Anderson was a clear thinker and had a good mind. He was an able manager and an excellent financier, proving himself to be one of the most important factors in the development of the vicinity in which he made his home. At the time of his death, besides his large land holdings, he possessed fifteen thousand dollars in cash, an excellent example of what energy and enterprise may accomplish in the face of obstacles that would seem well nigh insuperable to one of a less direct mind. William Anderson also possessed the entire confidence of the whole community and was held in the highest esteem throughout that part of the county, his death being much mourned thereabout. Mr. Anderson was an earnest member of the Methodist church and his children were reared in that faith. He was a Republican and his keen, discriminating mind gave to his political opinions much weight with the managers of the party in this county.

William Anderson was twice married. By his union with Jane Fowler three children were born: John H., deceased; Mrs. Mary Parker, widow of a former well-known Adams township farmer, and William, Jr., deceased, a former prominent farmer of this county. Upon the death of his first wife, William Anderson married, secondly, Mrs. Mary (Stanley) Whiseman, widow of Warren Whiseman, and to this union two children were born, Mrs. Etta Russell, of Greensburg, this county, and Hamlin, the immediate subject of this sketch. By her first marriage the second Mrs. Anderson was the mother of one child, a daughter, Mrs. Sarah Armstrong, who lives at Kewanna, Indiana.

Hamlin Anderson was reared on the paternal farm, receiving his education in the district schools of that neighborhood. Inheriting much of his father's directness of manner and energy of both mind and body, he has made proper use of his opportunities and is looked upon as one of the leading men in the part of the county in which he resides. His father willed him



one hundred and sixty acres of the home farm, to which he gradually added until he became the possessor of five hundred and thirty acres, which he later reduced to the present compact farm of four hundred and thirty acres, one of the best and most scientifically cultivated places in that part of the county. In 1894 Mr. Anderson erected his present fine farm house, one of the best in the county. This house is of thoroughly modern construction, equipped with a fine water system and is heated and lighted with natural gas, Mr. Anderson having an inexhaustible gas well on his place. The big bank barn, fifty by seventy feet, is equipped with all proper appliances for the most economic operation of a well-managed farm plant, and is supplemented by a massive silo. The farm is admirably fenced and otherwise kept up to the top notch of efficiency.

Hamlin Anderson has been twice married. In 1874 he was united in marriage to Myra Belle Trimble, daughter of John Trimble, to which union one child was born, a daughter, Maudie, who died at the age of seven years. In August, 1883, Mr. Anderson married, secondly, Ida M. Washburn, daughter of Dr. R. R. Washburn, of Waldron, Shelby county, this state, and to this union one child was born, a son, Raymond, who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Methodist church, and are earnest workers in the congregation of that church, as well as being devoted to the general good works of the community. They are highly esteemed among their large circle of friends and are potent factors in the social life of their vicinity. Mr. Anderson is a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons, and takes an active interest in the affairs of that lodge.

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### JACOB BLACK.

A distinguished veteran of the Civil War, a prominent stockman and farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, for over sixty years, Jacob Black is one of the best-known citizens of Decatur county. Of all his life work, perhaps his record as a loyal and valiant soldier in our country's greatest war will endure longest. He was an enlisted soldier in one of the first regiments organized in this state for the defense of the Union in the early months of 1861, and after serving his enlistment of thirty days, enlisted the second time in Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for one hundred days, being dis-

charged September 2, 1864. Subsequently, he enlisted for the third time, in Company H, Thirteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served one year, being discharged September 5, 1865, at Goldsboro, North Carolina. During his long service he was engaged in many severe skirmishes and battles. At the time of the breaking out of the Civil War and at the time of his first enlistment he was scarcely seventeen years old.

Jacob Black, farmer and stockman of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns a well-improved farm of one hundred acres, was born on April 17, 1844, in Franklin county, Indiana, the son of David and Susan (Heinlich) Black, the former of whom was born on December 3, 1809, in Virginia, and the latter born on July 13, 1816. They were married on December 29, 1834, in Franklin county, where David Black's parents had settled in 1820. Nineteen years after their marriage, David and Susan Black, in 1853, came to Sand Creek township, Decatur county. Of their seven children, five are deceased. The living children are Jacob, the subject of this sketch, and John C., of Letts. The deceased children are: Andrew, who was born on November 29, 1835; Mrs. Elizabeth Smith; Nancy Thompson; Margaret Helen Eubanks, and Catherine, died young.

During the declining years of David Black's life, his son, Jacob, cared for him, and at his death, which occurred in March, 1865, came into possession of the home place. He has lived nearly all of his life on the farm he now occupies, having moved to the house in which he lives in the spring of 1854, sixty-one years ago. Mr. Black has been a horse breeder for forty years, and formerly handled great numbers of French and German coach horses. He also bred trotting horses and owned at one time "Jay Bird" and "Wilkes," two well-known horses. At the present time, however, he is breeding draft horses, Belgian and Percherons, and at the present time has six head, including three pure-bred and registered stallions. For many years he was a well-known exhibitor at county and state fairs and won many prizes on his imported stallions and mares.

It is difficult to estimate what the pioneer breeders of the state have accomplished in the way of improving the breed of horses on the farm. Horses may not be so important to the success of the farmer as they formerly were, because of the advance of farm machinery, driven by power, yet the time is far remote when farmers will not be interested in good horses and when they will not be regarded as important assets on the farm. As a pioneer breeder in Decatur county, Jacob Black has performed an invaluable service, not only to the farmers in this county, but to the farmers of this state, since he personally, during his long and useful life, has furnished a

strong incentive to the men with whom he has come in contact to breed better horses.

On September 1, 1881, Jacob Black was married to Mary A. Parker, the daughter of John J. Parker. Mrs. Black was born on December 3, 1850. Jacob and Mary A. Black are the parents of two children: Harry Cecil, who was born on November 26, 1882, and who was married on August 31, 1904, to Vella May Simmons, of Sand Creek township, and has one child, Helen Louise; and Clarence Wayne, born on March 18, 1890, who is engaged in farming on their own farm with his brother. Both young men are successful farmers and have taken up the useful work so long carried on by their worthy and honorable father.

Jacob Black is a Republican, but he has never been a candidate for office and has never aspired to office. As a result of his long and arduous labors, he has won for himself a competence in life and is now situated so that he may enjoy his declining years in comfort and happiness. Mr. Black has many friends in this section of the state.

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### MYRON C. JENKINS.

The Jenkins family was founded in America by one of the sturdy Pilgrim fathers, who came over to the rock-bound New England shore in the "Mayflower." Myron C. Jenkins, a well-known lawyer of Greensburg, Indiana, a man who has filled one of the principal offices within the gift of the people of Decatur county with credit to himself and to the people of the county who elected him, is a representative of the second generation of the family in Decatur county. His father, who had been a printer and a lawyer, settled on a farm near New Point in the early sixties. As a profession the law is not new to this generation of the Jenkins family, his father having practiced for many years in the state of Ohio.

Myron C. Jenkins, who was born on February 10, 1859, in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the son of Alfred C. and Lydia A. (Rigsbe) Jenkins. The former was of New England descent, and the son of Alfred Jenkins, a native of Massachusetts, and an early settler in Ohio, and the latter was a native of Union county, Indiana, and the daughter of William Rigsbe, a native of Chatham county, North Carolina. William Rigsbe, who was an early settler in Indiana, drove through from North Carolina to Indiana with his wife, in a one-horse wagon. An ardent member of the Quaker church, he

left the southern home on account of slavery, after having been married to a Miss Clark. After farming for some years in Union county, he removed to Decatur county, where he purchased a large tract of land. Alfred Jenkins, Sr., of Massachusetts, was married early in life to a Miss Snow.

The Jenkins family had removed from Ohio to Mt. Carmel, Franklin county, Indiana, when the father of Myron C. Jenkins was a mere child. Here Alfred C. Jenkins was reared. He became a printer by trade, having learned the trade with the Clarksons, who were the proprietors of the Brookville American at the time. Subsequently, he moved to Cincinnati, where he became a typesetter on the old *Cincinnati Gazette*. Supporting his family by setting type, he was able to attend the Cincinnati Law College, and was graduated from that institution while he was setting type on the *Gazette* and delivering papers in the evening after working all day. Removing to Decatur county, Indiana, during the early sixties, he located near New Point on a farm owned by his father-in-law, William Rigsbe, and here he built a house and barn. After living upon the farmer for a number of years, he moved back to Ohio and practiced law in Hamilton county and at Harrison, where he died.

To Alfred C. and Lydia A. Jenkins were born four sons, Horace W., Myron C., and two who died in infancy.

Educated in the public schools of Ohio and Indiana, Myron C. Jenkins was graduated from the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, and from the Cincinnati Law School with the class of 1884. In this class was Judge O'Hara and many other distinguished men. Mr. Jenkins began the practice of law in Decatur county after spending one year on the farm, and then obtained desk room in the office of Doctor Jerman at New Point. He was accustomed to remain in Greensburg during the session of court, and subsequently was appointed deputy prosecuting attorney for Rush and Decatur counties, a position which he held for two years. After the expiration of his term of office he removed to Greensburg, and except for eight years, the period between 1904 and 1912, when he was clerk of the Decatur circuit court, he has ever since been engaged in the practice at Greensburg. He enjoys a large and lucrative practice in the circuit, district, state and federal courts, and owns a splendid law library, which is kept in his office in the old First National Bank building of Greensburg.

Myron C. Jenkins was married on September 6, 1898, to Nellie Adams, a native of Decatur county, and the daughter of Roll G. Adams, the son of an early Indiana settler and a pioneer in Franklin county. Roll G. Adams was born, in Fairfield, Franklin county, and was the son of Washburn

Adams. To Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins four children, Lydia Alice, Wendell Crocker, Dorothy and Miriam G. have been born. All are living at home.

Mr. Jenkins has always been identified with the Republican party. The Jenkins family are members of the Christian church of Greensburg, and Mr. Jenkins is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Aside from the cares of his professional practice, the chief interests of Myron C. Jenkins are his home and his family. His law practice has grown from year to year, and he is today numbered among the successful attorneys of Decatur county, an honor of no mean importance.

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### CHARLES P. MILLER.

Having spent all his life thus far on the farm on which he was born, in Adams township, this county, Charles P. Miller, one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Decatur county, is in a position to make fitting contrasts with conditions existing thereabout at the time of his earliest recollection and the conditions now prevailing in that favored section of the county. Mr. Miller has a beautiful home, a fine old brick mansion built by his father back in 1862, which has been modernized in numerous ways to bring it up to the latter-day standards until it now is one of the best farm houses in Decatur county. Fitting accompaniment to this is his big red bank barn, fifty by one hundred by thirty-two feet to the square, with other commodious farm buildings to match. Mr. Miller is an extensive landowner in the county. At one time he was the owner of eleven hundred and seventy-eight acres, four hundred and fifty acres of which comprised the home farm; three hundred and twenty acres in Washington and Adams townships; two hundred and forty-eight acres in Clinton township and one hundred and sixty acres in Clay township. Much of this land he since has disposed of to his sons, reducing his holdings to the home farm of four hundred and fifty acres and one hundred and sixty acres in Washington township. In addition to his large general farming operations, Mr. Miller formerly was engaged in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, but of late years has given little attention to that phase of farming, having on his farm now only about one hundred hogs, sixty head of cattle and sixteen or eighteen horses.

Charles P. Miller was born on the farm on which he still lives, in Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, October 6, 1853, the son of Charles and Louisa (Pleak) Miller, the former of whom was born on May 9, 1814, and

died on March 15, 1888, and the latter of whom was born on January 15, 1816, and died on June 8, 1907.

Charles Miller was born in western Virginia, the son of George Miller, who brought his family to Decatur county, Indiana, in 1827. George Miller made his home in what was then the forest wilderness of Adams township, where he lived until 1857, in which year he sold out and moved to Iowa, again becoming a pioneer, and in that state he died. His wife, who was a Miss Elizabeth Swope before her marriage, bore to him sixteen children, thirteen of whom lived to maturity and married, the numerous progeny of this union making now a large family. These thirteen children were as follow: Jacob, Michael, John, Mrs. Mary Riffe, Mrs. Catherine Johnson, Mrs. Nancy Williams, Mrs. Anna Jones, George W., Mrs. Elizabeth Spraker, Charles, Mrs. Martha Spraker, Mrs. Sarah Dunn and Joseph.

Charles Miller for a time lived on a part of the Nathan Hunter farm in Washington township, but when his father moved to Iowa he sold that tract and bought the tract where his son, Charles P., now lives, and there spent the rest of his life. Charles Miller became one of Decatur county's progressive farmers, owning about five hundred and twenty acres of land at the time of his death. He was an ardent Whig and took an active interest in the early political life of the county. Upon the formation of the Republican party he became affiliated with that party and ever thereafter espoused its principles. He was an earnest Methodist and his children were reared in that faith.

On June 2, 1835, Charles Miller was united in marriage to Louisa Pleak, daughter of Narcus Baron Steuben Isaac Henry Fielden Louis and Sabina (Virt) Pleak, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers of Decatur county, a family which has been largely represented in the affairs of this county since the year 1821. Further interesting details of the genealogy of the Pleak family may be found in the biographical sketch relating to Strauther Van Pleak, presented elsewhere in this volume. To this union were born ten children, all of whom are now deceased save Charles P. Miller, namely: Michael, Elizabeth, Sabina, America, George, Joseph, Ira, Narcus Baron Steuben Isaac Henry Fielden Louis, Charles P., and one who died in infancy.

Charles P. Miller, being the only survivor of his father's family, succeeded to the home acres and not only kept the same up in the most admirable manner, but largely increased the original acreage, becoming one of the large landowners in this part of the state, as set out in the introductory paragraph of this narrative. As he advanced in years and his children started out to do for themselves, he gradually reduced his land holdings by disposing of tracts



to his children, until now he retains but the four hundred and fifty acres surrounding the home place and one hundred and sixty acres in Washington township, all of which is in an excellent state of cultivation.

On October 31, 1878, Charles P. Miller was united in marriage to Margaret Eudora Graham, who was born in this county on November 27, 1856, and died on February 23, 1915, daughter of Joseph and Almira (Donnell) Graham, both of whom were natives of this county. Joseph Graham was the son of Joseph Graham, a native of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county in 1823, settling in Fugit township, where he was known as one of the most prominent pioneers of that section.

To Charles P. and Margaret Eudora (Graham) Miller were born five children: Louisa Katherine, born August 10, 1879, who, on December 1, 1904, married Elbert Earl Meek and lives in Fugit township; Joseph Graham, December 19, 1880, married Wilhelmina Jacob on November 15, 1905, at Watseka, Illinois, and lives in Washington township, this county; Leonidas Melville, April 11, 1883, married Elizabeth Link on November 21, 1907, and lives in Clinton township; Margaret Eudora, June 5, 1885, married James Barton McLaughlin on February 14, 1912, and lives in Washington township, and Charles Ira, February 14, 1888, who is managing the home farm for his father.

Mr. Miller is a member of the Methodist church and an active worker in the same, being earnest in good works; a man who is held in the very highest esteem throughout the neighborhood in which he is so well known. He is a Mason, but having spent his life five miles from the lodge and being a lover of home he has not been an active member though he admires very much the teachings of the order.

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#### WILBUR BOONE WRIGHT.

Wilbur Boone Wright, a successful and well-known gas well contractor of Adams, Decatur county, Indiana, is the scion of one of the oldest families of this section. During practically all of his life he has been identified with the business life, not only of this county and state but of many other states and is quite as well known in the gas fields of Texas and Illinois as he is here in Indiana. His residence in Decatur county, however, has served to increase the admiration of his fellowmen since he has led an honorable life in every particular. It is no idle statement to say that he is indeed worthy of the confidence and respect of his fellows.



Wilbur Boone Wright was born in 1871, the son of John and Luvenia (Stark) Wright, pioneers of Clay township, the former of whom was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, in 1827 and who died at his home in Decatur county in 1899. When about twenty-one years of age, John Wright came to Decatur county from Virginia and settled in Clay township near Liberty. The Wright family is of English origin. John Wright was the son of Charles Wright, who came to this county from Virginia some time after his son, John and located here. Luvenia Stark was the daughter of Caleb and Anne (Boone) Stark, who came to Decatur county from Kentucky in 1826 and settled in Clay township. Caleb Stark was the son of Joseph Stark, who was the son of John Stark, a native of New Hampshire, who moved from that state to Virginia and later to Kentucky, settling in Henry county. Joseph Stark was a well-known Indian fighter and a member of the famous colony headed by Daniel Boone. He came from Virginia to Kentucky in 1780. The Stark family dates from the days of the last James in Scotland, when John Muirhead, a German soldier, for an act of bravery in which he saved the life of the king, was created bishop of Glasgow and his name changed by royal decree to Stark, which is the German for "strength." John Stark, who was born in 1665, was the founder of the Stark family in America, he having come to this country in 1710. His eldest son, Archibald, was the father of General Stark of Revolutionary fame. The remainder of the Stark genealogy may be found in the sketch of Caleb Stark Wright, recorded elsewhere in this volume. He is a cousin of Wilbur Boone Wright, the subject of this sketch.

Born on his father's farm in Clay township, Wilbur Boone Wright was only a small child when the family moved from Clay township to Adams township. Here he grew to manhood and lived and worked on his father's farm. He began business for himself when seventeen years old drilling gas wells under contract. He has been eminently successful in this business and has drilled wells in most of the counties of central Indiana, also in Texas and Illinois. There is no man now living in the state of Indiana, who is more familiar with this business than the subject of this sketch.

Wilbur Boone Wright was first married to Pearl Coy, of Adams, but she died a little less than two years after their marriage. About two years after her death, Mr. Wright was married, secondly, to Ada Boling, of Franklin county, Indiana. She is the sister of Albert Boling, whose sketch is contained elsewhere in this volume and which contains the genealogy of the Boling family in Decatur county and in this country. To Mr. and Mrs. Wright has been born one child, Luvenia Alice, who was born on August 5, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright have a beautiful home in Adams, where he is known as one of the solid and substantial citizens of Decatur county. He is a staunch and true Democrat and a member of the Christian church of Adams. Mr. Wright is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the Encampment and the Rebekahs. He is also a member of Masonic Lodge, No. 94, of Milford. A top-notch citizen, a liberal and broad-minded man, he is one of whom this county has every reason to be very proud.

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### CHESTER HAMILTON.

With calm satisfaction Chester Hamilton, one of the oldest and best-known farmers of Decatur county, looks back over the days that have gone, contemplating with gratitude the wonders that have been accomplished in his day and generation. Born on the farm on which he still lives and where he confidently expects to pass the remainder of his days, Mr. Hamilton has witnessed the transformation of the forest wilderness into one of the most favored sections in the Central states. With genial satisfaction he reviews the labors that have accomplished this wonderful transformation and knows that all is well. At peace with the world, enjoying the trust and confidence of his neighbors and the devoted and affectionate attentions of his family and kinsfolk, he is passing the evening of his life amid comforts which in the days of his youth hardly could have been dreamed of in connection with life as it was then known in the deep woods of this county.

There are not many families in Decatur county that have so wide a connection as that of the Hamiltons or are better or more honorably known, and it is but fitting that there should be presented here something of the history of this pioneer family, a task to which the biographer applies himself with pleasure.

Chester Hamilton was born on the farm on which he still resides in Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, December 18, 1838, the son of Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in Nicholas county, Kentucky, July 14, 1800, and died at his home in this county on August 19, 1879, and the latter of whom was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, September 18, 1798, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Donnell, in this county, on September 8, 1881.

Cyrus Hamilton was the son of Robert and Mary (Eward) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania on June 17, 1768, and died

at his home in Kentucky on June 17, 1817, and the latter of whom was born in Virginia on May 20, 1774, and died at the home of her son, R. M. Hamilton, northeast of Greensburg, in this county, March 15, 1848. They were married on June 19, 1794 in Kentucky. Robert Hamilton emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky when the latter state was admitted to the Union and recruited a company and captained it during the War of 1812, serving against the Indians. He died in 1817 and his body was buried in the old Concord churchyard in Nicholas county, Kentucky. Afterwards his remains were brought by his descendants and placed beside those of his wife in the Kingston cemetery.

Robert Hamilton was the son of William Hamilton, a Scottish Presbyterian who emigrated from the north of Ireland about 1750 and located in Pennsylvania, whence he later emigrated to Kentucky, settling on McBrides creek, then in Bourbon county, now Nicholas county, being among the earliest settlers of that section. William Hamilton married Isabella Thompson, in Pennsylvania, to which union were born seven children, namely: William, who was killed while battling with the patriots for independence during the Revolutionary War; Alexander, who settled in Clark county, Indiana; Thomas, who married Charity Welch and died near Carlisle, Kentucky, in 1803; Samuel, who married Jeannie Sweeney; Robert, who married Mary Eward, the grandparents of the immediate subject of this sketch; Eleanor, affectionately known as "Nellie," born on May 12, 1758, married John Blair and died on December 25, 1827; and Isabella, who, about 1808, married Samuel Hindman, the Hindman family later moving to Newmarket township, Highland county, Ohio, whence they moved into Illinois.

To Robert and Mary (Eward) Hamilton were born eleven children, as follow: James Eward, born on March 31, 1795, died on January 13, 1881, married Jane McCoy, born on November 18, 1796, died on February 8, 1851, upon whose death he married, secondly, Rosannah McCoy, born on November 15, 1808, died on July 20, 1891; Fidelia, September 18, 1796, died on July 16, 1860, married Elijah Mitchell; Thomas, August 25, 1798; died on June 16, 1880, married Julia Ann Donnell; Cyrus, who married Mary McCoy, parents of the subject of this sketch; Spicey Glover, October 12, 1802, died on December 22, 1838, married John Thomson; Eliza, November 11, 1804, died on December 26, 1880; Ellen E., September 12, 1806, died on September 26, 1832, married Barton W. S. McCoy; Sarah, April 14, 1809, died on January 11, 1892, married Thomas Donnell; Robert Marshall, November 17, 1811, died on August 6, 1901, married Mary Morgan; Mary Jane, November 15, 1814, died on December 23, 1891, married Jackson Lowe; Minerva, Janu-

ary 2, 1817, died on November 25, 1903, was twice married, her first husband having been Peter Bartholomew and her second husband John C. Donnell.

Upon his marriage to Mary McCoy in the year 1822, Cyrus Hamilton came at once to Decatur county, the newly-wedded couple regarding the trip thither as their wedding tour. Cyrus's brother, James E., with his family, accompanied them. Cyrus with another brother, Thomas, had jointly filed entries for a half section of land in Fugit township in 1821. The homestead claims were filed in the land office at Brookville and the warrants bear the signature of James Monroe, then President of the United States. Cyrus Hamilton and his wife quickly were recognized as among the leaders in the pioneer settlement. They were great temperance advocates and anti-slavery protagonists and were influential and useful members of that earnest band which so successfully operated the famous "underground railway" here-about during the troublesome days preceding the outbreak of the Civil War. They were members of the Sand Creek, or Kingston Presbyterian church, with which they became affiliated on September 4, 1824, and Mr. Hamilton and his brother, James E., made the shingles which were used to cover the house of the first minister of that congregation. Mrs. Hamilton, lovingly known throughout that part of the county as "Aunt Polly," was a daughter of Alexander McCoy and was a very bright woman. She and her husband were witty, hospitable and entertaining and were great favorites throughout that whole section. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1872 and the occasion was made one of general merrymaking among their hosts of friends who gathered from far and near to celebrate with them the happy day.

To Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton were born six children, namely: William McCoy, born on November 26, 1822, died on February 25, 1905, married Euphemia Donnell; Melissa, February 26, 1825, died on June 17, 1880, married the Rev. B. M. Nyce, a onetime well-known pastor of the Presbyterian church at Kingston, this county, also an educator of ability; Orlando, January 1, 1827, died on May 5, 1914, on his farm two miles north of Kingston; Cordelia, August 13, 1832, widow of Lowrey Donnell, resides with her son, Cyrus Donnell, on a farm one and one-half miles south of Clarksburg, this county; Chester, the subject of this sketch; and Everett, October 16, 1841, who resides in Greensburg. William, above named, was the first manufacturer of drain tile in Decatur county.

Chester Hamilton acquired a good common-school education in his native township, later attending Hartsville College, and became a very successful farmer. He began farming on a tract of eighty acres which was

given him by his father, to which he has added, with the assistance of his wife, until he now owns a farm of four hundred acres of as good land as there is in Decatur county. Though general farming is his chief pursuit he is quite a stock raiser and annually ships from one hundred and fifty to two hundred hogs and as much as three carloads of cattle. He sells no corn off his place, finding it much more profitable to feed the same. He always has continued to live on the home place and the fine old home which he built in 1879 has been remodeled into one of the most comfortable and modern farm homes in the county and is the center of hospitality for that whole region.

On May 22, 1866, Chester Hamilton was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Mitchell, who was born on June 26, 1842, southeast of the town of Rushville, in Rush county, this state, the daughter of Thomas V. and Amanda (Gregg) Mitchell, natives of Kentucky, who emigrated to Rush county in 1821. Amanda Gregg was the daughter of Judge John Gregg, a onetime well-known associate judge in Rush county. To this union were born four children, Thomas M., George Cyrus, Edith and Amanda. Thomas M. Hamilton, who was born on November 2, 1867, attended school at Oberlin College, now resides one-half mile east of Kingston, in this county. He married Catherine Lowe, to which union were born three children, Earl, born on January 29, 1890; Elizabeth, May 12, 1893; and Isabel, September 12, 1895. Earl married Fannie Gregg on November 4, 1914, and is farming in Fugit township. Elizabeth married Inscoe R. Bailey on May 29, 1914. Isabel is a successful teacher in the public schools of Kingston. George Cyrus Hamilton, who was born on August 4, 1869, lives on the adjoining farm, near his father's place. He married Edith Aldrich and has one child, a daughter, Lillian, born on May 28, 1899. Edith Hamilton was educated at Oxford College for Women, Oxford, Ohio; has given much study to the subject of genealogy and is working on a very extensive and quite valuable history of the Hamilton family. She lives at home with her parents, as does her sister, Amanda Hamilton. Both are interested in club work and everything that makes for the upbuilding of their community.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are members of the Presbyterian church at Kingston, their children also being members of the same congregation. Mr. Hamilton is a Republican. His first vote for President was cast for Abraham Lincoln and he ever since has stood steadfast to the principles of the party. He and his wife are earnest, kindly people who for years have been interested in all the good works of the community in which they live and are held in the highest regard by all. Progressive in thought and cultured in manner, they have exerted a fine influence in that part of the county and enjoy the esteem of all who know them.

## CLARENCE C. DEUPREE.

In the considerable Decatur county colony at Indianapolis, the state's capital city, no one is more popular than Clarence C. Deupree, the young cashier of the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis. Elsewhere in this volume there are presented biographical sketches of Mr. Deupree's father and of his elder brother, Everett L. Deupree, both now living at Indianapolis, to which the reader is respectfully referred for details regarding the genealogy of this interesting family and the history of the beginnings of the family in this section of Indiana. Suffice it to say, in this connection, that the Deupree family is of stanch Huguenot descent, the first member of the family to come to America having been Grancie Joseph Deupree, who came to this country to escape religious persecution in France, in which country his fine estates had been confiscated and he compelled to flee for his life. The first of the Deuprees to come to Indiana was Thomas Deupree, who came from Kentucky in 1821 and entered a Government tract in Johnson county, this state, near the town of Edinburg, and who lost his life by drowning while crossing the Muscatatuck river while returning from Kentucky, whither he had gone to settle up his affairs after locating his family on the homestead in this state. Abraham, his son, succeeded him and the latter's son, William N., still is living in Johnson county at the age of eighty-two years. William N. Deupree married Martha A. Matthis, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy (Hibbs) Matthis, Kentuckians and early settlers in Johnson county. Their son, Thomas M., married Laura B. Prichard, daughter of John M. and Louisa (Robinson) Prichard, both natives of Johnson county and prominent among the early residents in that section, the former of whom is still living at the age of eighty-one years. His wife, who was born on February 1, 1832, died in 1914.

To Thomas M. and Laura B. (Prichard) Deupree were born seven children, six of whom are living, of whom Clarence C. is the second son and fourth child. Everett L., a well-known lawyer and financier of Indianapolis, being the eldest. In the biographical sketch relating to Thomas M. Deupree, presented elsewhere in this volume, separate mention is made of each of these children. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Deupree left their home in Westport, this county, some years ago, removing to Indianapolis, where they since have made their home, living in pleasant retirement in the capital city.

Clarence C. Deupree was born at Westport, this county, on January 8, 1888, and there he received his elementary education. At the age of sixteen



he went to Edinburg, this state, to secure the advantage of the schools at that place and was graduated from the Edinburg high school with the class of 1906. He then went to Indianapolis and there he followed various pursuits until the year 1912, in which year the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis was organized. Since May 1 of that year Mr. Deupree has been connected with that sound financial institution. He began as assistant cashier and in May, 1914, was elected cashier, which position he now occupies.

On October 20, 1910, Clarence C. Deupree was united in marriage to Stella Edith Gaston, of Decatur county, Indiana, daughter of J. Minor and Lottie (Beesley) Gaston, former prominent residents of this county, further information regarding which family the reader may obtain by referring to the biographical sketch relating to J. Minor Gaston, the well-known banker of Indianapolis, on another page of this volume. To the union of Clarence C. and Stella Edith (Gaston) Deupree one child has been born, a son, Robert Gaston, born on January 12, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Deupree are earnest Christian workers, the former being a member of the Christian church of Westport, this county, and the latter a member of the First Presbyterian church at Indianapolis. Both are very popular in a large circle of acquaintances and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends. Mr. Deupree's ability in financial matters is well recognized by bankers in Indianapolis and he is regarded as among the rising young financiers of the capital city, where he enjoys in a high degree the confidence of all men of affairs with whom his important duties bring him in contact.

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#### THOMAS M. DEUPREE.

Scattered far and wide over this fair country are loyal sons and daughters of Decatur county who, for one reason or another, have been lured away from this favored section of the state and are making their homes elsewhere. The exigencies of business life or the call of the professions have induced some of these absent ones to leave this county, seeking fairer fortunes in other places; the desire for a closer family unity has been the impelling motive in other cases. Whatever the cause of such departure, however, there is full assurance that all former Decatur county people are loyal and true to their former place of residence and that their hearts are here, even though other scenes and other places claim their personal activities. Among the numerous families that once had a seat in this county none is better remembered



or is held in higher esteem hereabout than the Deupree family, the head of which, a few years ago moved to Indianapolis, retiring after a life of useful activity in this county, to the state capital, where his sons have taken prominent places in the financial and professional life of that city. The design of a work of this character being to hold in remembrance for future generations something of the lives and the labors of those men and women who wrought well in Decatur county, contributing of their best to the upbuilding of this thriving commonwealth, it is fitting that those who, though now living elsewhere, have done their parts toward making this county a better place in which to live should have a place in these memoirs. The biographer therefore with pleasure calls the attention of the reader, at this point, to a brief and modest review of the life of Thomas M. Deupree, a former well-known and prominent citizen of the town of Westport, this county.

Thomas M. Deupree was born near the town of Edinburg, Johnson county, Indiana, on August 12, 1857, son of William N. and Martha A. (Matthis) Deupree, the former of whom was born in Shelby county, Indiana, on June 28, 1833, and is now living on a farm near Edinburg, Johnson county, at the age of eighty-two years, and the latter of whom was born in Johnson county, same state, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy (Hibbs) Matthis, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in central Indiana.

William N. Deupree is a son of Abraham C. and Hannah B. (Carter) Deupree, the former of whom was born in Kentucky in the year 1811, the son of Thomas and Martha (Hatchett) Deupree, and who moved to Shelby county, Indiana, with his parents in childhood and became one of the most prominent and influential pioneer residents of that county, his fine personal influence undoubtedly having been a strong factor in the development of proper social and civic conditions thereabout. After locating his family in Shelby county, the elder Thomas Deupree went back to Kentucky to settle his affairs there and on returning to Indiana on horseback was drowned in the Muscatatuck river. About seven generations back the first of the Deuprees to come to America was Grancie Joseph Deupree, a Huguenot, who was driven out of France by religious persecution and his fine estates in that country confiscated. He founded in this country a family which now is widely scattered, its various representatives in whatever communities they are found performing well and honorably those things which their hands find to do. The Hatchett family also is of French origin, while the Carters are of English origin, the first of the family in this country having been a Quaker who came to America with the party that accompanied William Penn to this side. On the land entered by his grandfather, near Edinburg, this state.

William N. Deupree grew to manhood, married and reared his family there and has been a life-long farmer, still making his home on the old homestead, at an advanced age of eighty-two, one of the most honored and respected residents of that part of the state; a man who possesses a marvelous fund of reminiscence regarding early conditions in south central Indiana. In all his relations in life William N. Deupree has been true to his fellowmen and no one thereabout is held in higher esteem than he.

Thomas M. Deupree was reared on the paternal farm near Edinburg, in Johnson county, attending the local schools and growing up to a full acquaintance with the life of the farm. He was united in marriage to Laura B. Prichard, who was born in the same neighborhood, daughter of John M. and Louisa (Robinson) Prichard, both natives of Johnson county and prominent pioneers of that section. John M. Prichard was born on March 1, 1834, and is still living. His wife, who was born on February 1, 1832, died in 1914.

In January, 1885, Thomas M. Deupree left his home in Johnson county and came to Decatur county, locating at Westport, where he built the first livery stable ever operated in that village. He continued the livery business for two years, at the end of which time he engaged in farming. He was not long thus engaged, however, for he presently resumed business in Westport, opening a harness store, in which business he was engaged quite successfully for a period of fourteen years, coming to be one of the most substantial and influential citizens of that part of the county. He and Mrs. Deupree took an active part in the religious and social life of the town and were held in the very highest regard there. Mr. Deupree was chairman of the building committee that built the Christian church at Westport, Indiana. When, in the middle of June, 1913, they moved to Indianapolis, where four of their children are making their homes, there was much regret expressed throughout the entire neighborhood, for they had been good neighbors and good friends of all.

To Thomas M. and Laura B. (Prichard) Deupree seven children have been born, namely: Everett L., a well-known Indianapolis lawyer, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, married Edith A. Wheeler, daughter of Hillis A. and Elizabeth (Linton) Wheeler; Maude married George Burk, of Westport, this county, and has one child, a daughter, Lillian; Jessie married Clarence Baker, a telegraph operator at North Vernon, Indiana, and has two children, both sons, Gwynn and Max; Clarence C., cashier of the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, married

Stella Edith Gaston, daughter of J. Minor and Lottie (Beesley) Gaston, of this county, and has one child, a son, Robert Gaston; William J., of Indianapolis, manager of the Seminole hotel, married Leona Pleak, of this county, and has one child, a son, Jack; Bessie married Chester L. Robinson, also lives at Indianapolis; and Jamie, who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Deupree are members of the North Park Christian church at Indianapolis and are active in the good works of that congregation. Though having retired from the scenes which once they knew so well in this county, they have not forgotten their old friends and the latch string of their pleasant home at 3543 Graceland avenue, Indianapolis, ever hangs out for their former neighbors in the Westport vicinity. Mr. Deupree is a member of the Knights of Pythias, retaining his membership in Westport Lodge No. 317, of which he is one of the charter members, the lodge having been constituted in 1891. Though practically retired from business cares, Mr. Deupree retains an active interest in general affairs and is ever an earnest exponent of the principles of good government.

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#### RICHARD A. WILLIAMS.

In a work of the character contemplated in the publication of this history of Decatur county it would be highly improper to omit fitting reference to the numerous band of faithful sons and daughters of Decatur county who have gone out into other fields of activity seeking their fortunes away from the scenes of their youth. Naturally enough a large number of these errant children of old Decatur have gravitated to the state capital, carrying with them the sterling principles of manhood and womanhood inculcated in their early schooling, and have entered into the larger life of the city in such a way as to reflect great credit upon their youthful admonitions. Among this considerable number of former residents of Decatur county now living at Indianapolis few are better known in the latter city or are more kindly remembered in this county than is the gentleman whose name the reader notes above.

Richard A. Williams, an honored product of the Greensburg schools, who is now a prominent figure in the musical and cultured life of the state capital, was born at Richmond, Indiana, on February 24, 1870, the son of Edgar S. and Druet (Worthing) Williams, the former of whom also was born in Richmond.

Edgar S. Williams received his education in Richmond, the city of his birth, and upon reaching manhood's estate entered into the general merchandise business; later he moved to this county, locating at Greensburg, where he engaged in the same form of business. He married Druet Worthin, who was born in Greensburg. Druet Worthin received her elementary education in the Greensburg schools, supplementing the same by a course in the Western Female Seminary at Oxford, Ohio, from which admirable old institution she was graduated.

Richard A. Williams was educated in the schools of Greensburg and was graduated from the high school in that city. He then entered upon a three-years' course at Purdue University, and in 1893 entered into partnership with James DeArmond in the piano business in Greensburg, a business connection which continued with much success for a period of ten years. This long connection with the piano business gave him an acquaintance with the same which caused his services to be sought elsewhere and in 1903 he went to Indianapolis, where he ever since has been connected with the sales force of the Starr Piano Company, at present occupying the important position of city sales manager for that company.

Mr. Williams, though living at Indianapolis, is still devoted to the interests of his old home in this county. He retains his membership in the Presbyterian church at Greensburg and in the Odd Fellows lodge in the same city, being much interested in the affairs of both. Mr. Williams not only is a skilled pianist, but is well known in Indianapolis as one of the most earnest promoters of the musical interest of the city, and there are few large musical functions there that are not in some way helpfully influenced by his intelligent and skillful direction.

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#### STRAUTHER VAN PLEAK.

The debt which the present generation owes to those hardy pioneers who opened up this favored section and made it a fit habitation and place of abode, of course, never can be paid. Indeed, it is difficult even to estimate the value of the extraordinary service which those early settlers rendered; an ungrudging, unselfish and faithful service rendered in the sweat of their faces—often, indeed, in their very life's blood. Though impossible ever to reward that service, the present generation at least may offer some slight requital, some fitting tribute, by preserving the utmost devotion to the mem-

ories of those who "blazed the ways." "Rely upon it," said William E. Gladstone, "that the man who does not worthily estimate his own dead forefathers will himself do very little to add credit to or do honor to his country." Among the pioneer families of Decatur county there is one which dates back to the very beginning of a social order hereabout, a family to which unstinted credit is due and to which the biographer takes pleasure in here calling to the attention of the reader.

The Pleak family in Decatur county had its origin in this country through Johann Pleak, a Hollander who emigrated to America in the middle of the eighteenth century and settled in Kentucky in the neighborhood of Castletons Fort, now Mt. Sterling, where he married a Miss Wade, a sister of General Wade, of Revolutionary fame, to which union was born Fielden Blickenstorfer. In 1818 Fielden married Sabina Virt, who was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent, who was six months old when her parents emigrated to Bryants Station, in Kentucky, and was a member of that station at the time of her marriage. Following this marriage Fielden Pleak and his bride moved across the Ohio river and settled at Crossplains, in Jefferson county, this state. They remained there, however, but a short time, on March 11, 1822, coming to this county, where they entered a farm in Washington township, which farm still is in the possession of the Pleak family.

Johann Pleak, whose mother was a Blickenstorfer, was born in Holland on April 15, 1726. In the year 1750 Johann, with two brothers and a sister, emigrated to America, landing at Jamestown. Joseph, one of the brothers, went to North Carolina and never was heard of again. The sister married a Pennsylvanian of the name of Throgmorton and reared a considerable family. Johann presently pushed along into the wilds of the West and settled in Kentucky, where he bought a piece of land. His abilities as a scout frequently brought him into scouting service and he became one of the best-known of the pioneers of the region about Castletons Fort. One day while scouting for a party of salt makers, he followed an Indian trail to a salt "lick," discovering encamped about the "lick" a band of Indians. These aboriginals maintained a loose guard and were lolling about the camp in lazy comfort. Johann was alone, and of course hardly could expect to be a match for the entire camp, but he then and there demonstrated the white man's superiority over the red man. Pulling off his high-top Dutch hat, he yelled in his native tongue: "What ye doin' here, ye lazy rascals!" which so affrighted the Indians that they broke camp instanter and ran pellmell, disappearing in the depths of the forest fastness, leaving their war accoutre-

ments behind. These Johann very carefully gathered up, and taking them back to the fort sold them, the money realized from the sale of this booty being applied to the purchase of the bit of land above referred to. It was shortly after this incident that his marriage to Miss Wade, a sister of General Wade, took place. To this union there were born three sons and three daughters. One of these sons was slain by the Indians. The other two were Dawson and Fielden.

Fielden Pleak married Sabina Virt and in 1822 came to this county, as set out above, locating on a tract of eighty acres in what is now Washington township, which original tract still is in the possession of the Pleak family. The first shelter which he set up in this forest wilderness for his wife and babies was a brush lean-to, covered with branches of trees and blankets, which served as a home until a log cabin presently was erected. Not long after making good his location here, Fielden returned to Kentucky for the purpose of bringing his furniture to the new home. The trip was long and arduous. When he finally rejoined his family he found that during his absence his wife had sawed the logs and had erected the first four courses of a log cabin. This structure speedily was completed and in this log cabin a large family was reared. Fielden Blickenstorfer Pleak was born on December 24, 1792, and died on December 29, 1835, his widow surviving until December 24, 1875. They were married on June 9, 1814, and to this union there were born thirteen children, namely: Louisa, who married Charles Miller; Llewellyn, Joseph Dawson, John Isaac, George G. W. B., Catherine, Joseph D., Eletvan, America, Susannah, Norcus Baron Steuben, Isaac Henry Fielden and Louis, the latter of whom was the father of the immediate subject of this sketch.

Louis Pleak was born on June 27, 1832, and spent his entire life on the old homestead, to which he added adjoining tracts until he had a farm of four hundred acres. He married Elizabeth Woolverton, who was born on February 17, 1853, and erected a large brick house across the road from the old parental home, in which both he and his wife spent the remainder of their days, his death occurring on December 24, 1875, her death occurring on July 4, 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Pleak were members of the Christian church and were persons of large influence in their community, being among the leaders in that part of the county. Mr. Pleak was a Republican and ever took a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, his excellent judgment often proving of value in the deliberations of the party managers. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and took a deep interest in the affairs of that historic order.



To Louis and Elizabeth (Woolverton) Pleak were born seven children, as follow: Walter B., born on March 23, 1854, is now residing on a part of the old homestead farm; Strauther Van, the immediate subject of this sketch; Dawson Steuben, October 14, 1857, now lives in Oakland, Iowa; John Charles, September 8, 1859, now living at Red Oak, Iowa; George W., September 14, 1861, died on November 29, 1862; Louisa, November 23, 1863, married Elmer Upjohn, and lives at Lebanon, Indiana; and Misseline, April 15, 1867, who lives at Greeley, Colorado.

Strauther Van Pleak was born on the old Pleak homestead in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, September 7, 1856, and lived there until the year 1892, in which year he retired from the farm and moved into the city of Greensburg, where he has a very pleasant and comfortable home at 525 Broadway. He received his youthful education in "Beech-foot Hall" school, which then stood on a corner of the Pleak farm, and early in life entered upon the responsible duties of a farmer's life. He succeeded his father on the home place, where he remained until his retirement from the farm, as noted above. He has been quite successful in his farming operations and owns, in addition to his farm of two hundred and seventeen acres in Washington township, in this county, a farm of two hundred and twenty acres in Jasper county, Indiana, giving close personal direction to the management of these farms from his home in Greensburg.

On October 19, 1880, Strauther Van Pleak was united in marriage to Anna M. Meek, daughter of John and Sarah Jane (Montgomery) Meek, of a prominent family of this county. For genealogies of the Meek and the Montgomery families the reader is referred to sketches relating to those two well-known families presented elsewhere in this volume. To the union of Strauther Van Pleak and Anna M. Meek one child was born, a daughter, Floy, who married Harry Butterson, of Tucson, Arizona, to which union there has been born one son, Van Pleak, now about three years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Pleak are members of the Presbyterian church of Greensburg, in the various good works of which they are actively interested. Mr. Pleak is a Republican and though taking a proper interest in political affairs, never has been included in the office-seeking class, preferring to devote his time and attention to his extensive personal affairs rather than to the public service. He is an active and public-spirited citizen, however, and does his part in promoting all movements having as their object the advancement of the common weal. He is a member of the Elks lodge at Greensburg and takes his part in the general affairs of that order. He and Mrs. Pleak are held in the highest regard in their large circle of acquaintances and are popular with all.



## LUTHER D. HAMILTON.

In the biography relating to the venerable Chester Hamilton, of Fugit township, this county, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is a comprehensive presentation of the genealogy of the well-known Hamilton family of this county. It, therefore, will be unnecessary, in presenting the biography of the gentleman whose name is noted above, to enter largely into the history of that interesting family before its active entrance into affairs of this county. The reader is respectfully referred to the genealogy above mentioned for details regarding the lineage of the subject of this sketch, one of the best-known and most prosperous farmers of Decatur county, who is living in the fine home which his father built in 1865 and where he has made his home for the past fifty years, on the south edge of the town of Clarksburg. The large brick residence which is the seat of the home farm sets well back in a fine grove and is one of the most comfortable and attractive homes in the county, the center of much genial hospitality.

Luther D. Hamilton was born on the old home farm, where he still lives, on March 9, 1860, the son of William M. and Euphemia (Donnell) Hamilton, both members of old and prominent families in this county, the former of whom was born on November 26, 1822, and died on February 25, 1905, and the latter of whom died on December 6, 1896.

William M. Hamilton was the son of Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was the son of Robert, who was the son of Col. William Hamilton, who served in the War of 1812. William M. Hamilton was reared on the paternal farm in the Kings-ton neighborhood, in this county, and on January 27, 1854, married Euphemia Donnell, moving immediately thereafter onto the farm on which his son, Luther D., now lives. At that time there was an old pioneer dwelling house on this farm, which a few years later was supplanted by the fine large brick residence which Mr. Hamilton erected and which, with remodeling to suit modern conditions, still does fine service as a place of abode. Mrs. Hamilton inherited about six hundred acres of land from her father and gradually this was increased by Mr. Hamilton until he became possessed of about three thousand acres. One of Mr. Hamilton's specialties was the buying of timber tracts, clearing the same for the valuable timber thereon. He also was an extensive breeder of mules, large numbers of which he raised for the market and also dealt extensively in cattle and hogs. In creating a market for his mules he made several trips to Iowa, before the days of the railway, and on one occasion swam the Wabash river, a large

herd of mules swimming along behind him, following an old gray lead mare. William M. Hamilton was one of the most substantial citizens in Decatur county. He was an earnest Republican and took an active part in the political affairs of the county. He was a fiery Abolitionist and was prominently connected with the affairs of the "underground railroad," by which agency many slaves found their way to freedom in ante-bellum days. His home was on the line of this historic "railroad" and many runaway slaves found welcome shelter there on their way to Canada. On one occasion an irate slave-owner obtained a judgment for three thousand dollars against Mr. Hamilton for the latter's participation in the escape of a slave and Mr. Hamilton's father-in-law and willing friends gladly paid the judgment. Mrs. Hamilton was as ardent a friend of the fugitive slaves as was her husband, and many a harried black man and woman had cause for gratitude by reason of her sympathetic interest in their efforts to secure freedom. Mrs. Euphemia Hamilton was the daughter of Luther A. Donnell, one of the wealthiest landowners of his day in this county. He was the son of Thomas Donnell, the son of Samuel Donnell, the founder of the family in Decatur county. The reader is referred to a biographical sketch of the Donnells, presented elsewhere in this volume, for further information relating to this interesting family and the important part it played in the early history of Decatur county.

To William M. and Euphemia (Donnell) Hamilton were born five children, namely: Enrie Jane, born on November 8, 1854, who, on September 11, 1883, married Edwin S. Fee, and resides in the town of Clarksburg, in this county; Grace Greenwood, November 20, 1859, died on January 16, 1898; Luther D., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Myrta Gay, February 18, 1865, married John M. Berry on December 26, 1893, and died in Chicago on March 19, 1897; and Mary Blanch, March 9, 1863, who, in 1900, married George Lyons and lives at Greensburg.

Luther D. Hamilton received his elementary education in the schools at Clarksburg, supplementing the same with a course at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1884. Following his graduation Mr. Hamilton entered upon the serious business of farming, taking up his location on the old home farm, where he ever since has resided and where he has prospered largely. Mr. Hamilton's farm of twelve hundred acres is the largest estate in Decatur county under one management. He operates the great farm as a whole and all grain that is raised is fed on the farm, Mr. Hamilton finding it much more profitable to put his grain into cattle and hogs than to sell it. He feeds and

sells more than one hundred head of cattle and two carloads of mules annually, besides large numbers of hogs. Included in this fine estate is the land which was pre-empted by William Fugit, after whom the township received its name.

On February 22, 1899, Luther D. Hamilton was united in marriage to Carrie Emmert, who was born at Greensburg, this county, on October 18, 1862, the daughter of Jacob Emmert, a well-known retired miller and farmer, who moved from Greensburg to Clarksburg, this county, in October, 1868.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are active working members of the Presbyterian church at Clarksburg and for many years have been persons of large influence in that part of the county, ever displaying their interest in all movements looking to the advancement of better conditions thereabout. Mr. Hamilton is a Republican and has taken a prominent part in local political affairs, his sound judgment and wide experience giving to his counsels much weight. He has served on the township advisory board and in every relation of life has proved his worth as a good citizen, he and his wife being held in the highest esteem throughout the whole countryside.

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### JOHN T. MEEK.

The Meek family was established in Decatur county, Indiana, by Josiah Meek, who came with his family from Kentucky to this state about 1827 and who shortly after coming to Decatur county purchased land in Fugit township, and became one of the enterprising and successful citizens of the county. He and his wife, Jenima Meek, had the misfortune shortly after coming to Decatur county to lose four members of the family from fever, due, perhaps, to the unhealthful condition brought about by the vast swamps common in this county during the first half of the last century. For nearly a hundred years the Meek family have been prominent in Decatur county, not only as large landowners and enterprising farmers, but as highly honored and respected citizens of this great county, each successive generation having contributed its full share to the material growth and civic development of the community. Few families have had a larger part in the agricultural development of Decatur county than the Meek family, and few families have furnished better citizens to this political subdivision of the great Hoosier state.

John T. Meek, a well-known capitalist of Greensburg, Indiana, was

born February 13, 1848, in Clinton township, on a farm, and who is the son of John and Sarah Jane (Montgomery) Meek, is a representative of the third generation in Decatur county, Indiana. John Meek, a native of Kentucky, who was born in 1826, and who passed away in 1909, at the age of eighty-two years, came to Decatur county, Indiana, with his father, Josiah Meek, about 1827. After having been educated in the rural schools of Decatur county, where he had no better advantages than the average youth of his day and generation, and after growing to maturity on his father's farm, he was married to Sarah Jane Montgomery, a native of Decatur county, who was born in 1827, and who passed away in 1892. To them were born ten children, one of whom, the youngest, Lola Frances, is now deceased. The children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Robert S., who lives in Greensburg; Margaret, who married J. B. Robison, lives in Greensburg; John T. is the subject of this review; Martha Louise married Capt. John A. Meek, of Kansas; Adam is living retired in Greensburg; Jethro C. also lives in Greensburg; Mary is the wife of J. C. Brown, of Rushville; Theresa Lavinia is the widow of Robert Innis, deceased; Mrs. Anna Pleak lives in Greensburg.

John T. Meek has been one of the most successful farmers in the history of Decatur county. Educated in the district schools of the county, he began farming for himself at the age of twenty-three years. Two years later, at the age of twenty-five, and after his marriage, he moved to a farm of eighty acres located in Clinton township, and five years later, in 1878, removed to Rush county, Indiana, where he purchased a farm of three hundred and twenty acres. The Rush county farm, however, was not purchased until after the disposal of the farm in Decatur county. Later, during his thirty years' residence in Rush county, he purchased altogether twelve hundred acres of land in Anderson township, acquiring a considerable portion of the land during the agricultural, commercial and industrial panic of the second Cleveland administration, when it was possible to buy land at thirty-five dollars an acre which now sells for four and five times that amount. In 1908, Mr. Meek, after having resided in Rush county, Indiana, for thirty years, moved back to a farm in Fugit township, Decatur county, and in 1910 he moved to Greensburg. Altogether he owned some two thousand acres of land in Indiana, a plantation in Louisiana in partnership with John E. Osborn, consisting of five thousand acres, and located across the river from Natchez, Mississippi, and four hundred and eighty acres individually near Tallulah, Louisiana. Messrs. Meek and Osborn took charge of the Louisiana plantation, which is located in Concordia Parish, in 1911. They own a large saw-mill and are well equipped for lumbering. Also they

have extensive holdings in live stock, and one of their principal revenues from this plantation is the sale of stock raised on the farm. Moreover, Mr. Meek is a part owner in a cooperage company at Helena, Arkansas, and another cooperage company at McGehee, Arkansas. Both of these concerns are in a most prosperous condition, due to the natural advantages for acquiring timber and to the able and skillful management of the owners and proprietors. In addition to his many other interests, Mr. Meek also owns a fine residence property in Indianapolis. This property is a part of the present Horton addition to the city of Indianapolis.

In 1873, when John T. Meek was twenty-five years old, he was married to Florence E. Bonner, of Fugit township, the daughter of James Bonner, a representative of one of the oldest families in this section of Indiana. Mrs. Meek, who was born in 1854, has been the mother of four children, Mrs. Lura Helen McCoy, of Washington township; Mrs. Mildred Davis, of Rush county; Elbert E., a well-known farmer of Fugit township, and Flora E., who lives at home.

John T. Meek is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Meek and the family are leading members of the Presbyterian church of Greensburg, and are among the largest contributors to the support of this church.

Although it may be said quite truthfully that John T. Meek has enjoyed exceptional advantages and was given a good start in life, nevertheless he has done what a comparatively large percentage of the sons of the "second generation" failed to do. He has used the opportunities which fell in his way, and has greatly increased the property which came to him by gift or inheritance. Moreover, he has lived the life of a good citizen of this state. He is charitable to a fault, generous with the poor, broad-minded and liberal in all his views—a man eminently worthy to bear the name of the distinguished family to which he belongs.

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#### CHARLES MCHARGH NESBITT.

Native sons of Decatur county are found in responsible positions of trust and authority in many of the chief cities of the country. One almost is inclined to express the belief that there is something in the atmosphere hereabout that has a tendency to make men and women of fine caliber, dependable in all the relations of life; firm characters, self-reliant and enterprising. The attention of the reader is here called to a brief biography of one of these Decatur county men whose special talents were so well used

that he was called upon to go higher. Beginning his telephone service in the town of Greensburg in 1898, Charles M. Nesbitt has mastered the details of telephone management so thoroughly that now he occupies one of the most responsible positions in the gift of the telephone service in the middle states, being general superintendent of the department of commercial telephones of the Central Union Telephone Company for the state of Indiana.

Charles McHargh Nesbitt was born in the city of Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, on April 20, 1877, the son of John James and Mary (McHargh) Nesbitt, the former of whom was the son of John and Martha Nesbitt, early settlers of this county, who came here during the early youth of John James Nesbitt, locating on a farm near Spring Hill. On this farm, John James Nesbitt grew to manhood, acquiring a wide acquaintance throughout the county. He entered the horse business in Greensburg, becoming a large buyer and shipper of horses, continuing in this business all the rest of his life, his death occurring in December, 1911.

John James Nesbitt's name is inscribed on the great monument erected to the memory of Wilder's Brigade at Chattanooga, Tennessee, in the following highly laudatory terms: "John J. Nesbitt, one of the bravest men in Wilder's Brigade." And the honor of being thus held up to the admiration of the ages is well deserved. John J. Nesbitt served through the Civil War as a member of Wilder's famous brigade, being attached to General Wilder's staff. At one time, by an act of special bravery, he saved the brigade from probably annihilation by riding through the line of the opposing army to carry essential dispatches to his general, and to perpetuate the memory of this heroic deed his name was given a special place on the imposing battle monument.

John J. Nesbitt was united in marriage to Mary McHargh, who was born in Decatur county, the daughter of Peter McHargh. Peter McHargh was a native of Scotland, who emigrated to America in his youth and after prospecting a bit over the country located in this county, where he became a man of large influence. He was a prosperous farmer and was one of the first county officers in the county, performing excellent service therein. He was an ardent Republican and took a leading part in the political affairs of the county, his name being deeply impressed upon the political history of this section.

Mr. and Mrs. Nesbitt were members of the Presbyterian church and for many years were active in all good works in and about Greensburg, where they were held in the highest regard by all. Mr. Nesbitt was for years one of the leaders in the Republican party in this county, his counsels



receiving the utmost consideration from the party managers. He was not of the office-seeking class, however, preferring to devote his chief attention to his business affairs. He was one of the most prominent members of the Greensburg post of the Grand Army of the Republic and ever displayed the deepest interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and had attained to the chapter degree in that order. His death, in 1911, was sincerely mourned, for he was a good man and his influence ever had been directed in behalf of the best interests of the community in which nearly the whole of his long life had been spent.

Charles M. Nesbitt received his elementary education in the schools of Greensburg and was graduated from the high school there. He supplemented this course of instruction by a course in the Alexander Hamilton Institute and in the International Correspondence School, later serving as deputy postmaster in the postoffice at Greensburg until 1898, in which year he was made manager of the plant of the Central Union Telephone Company at Greensburg, later being transferred to the general offices of the company at Indianapolis, in which he served in several capacities until his promotion to the important position of superintendent of the commercial telephone service for the entire state of Indiana, a position which he still occupies.

On October 20, 1911, Charles M. Nesbitt was united in marriage to Beulah Merriken, who was born in Alexandria, Indiana, daughter of William S. and Mary Merriken, the former of whom is a well-known real-estate dealer at Alexandria. To this union one child has been born, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, who was born on February 5, 1915.

Mr. Nesbitt is a Republican and during his residence in Greensburg was an active worker in the ranks of that party, retaining his interest in political affairs after moving to Indianapolis to the extent of his ability and the limited time he has for the exercise of such activities. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the Elks and the Knights of Pythias, his membership in these fraternities at Greensburg having been retained; and is a member of the Columbia Club at Indianapolis, the leading Republican club of the state of Indiana. Mr. Nesbitt retains the heartiest interest in Decatur county affairs and is ever sure of a hearty welcome upon his return to this county. He still retains a one-third interest in the extensive mule-sale stable at Greensburg which was founded and so successfully conducted by his father, beside owning other property in that city and property at Indianapolis. His activity and energy have made him a leader in the field



of endeavor in which his later years has been occupied and he has the entire confidence and respect of the heads of the company with which he so long has been connected.

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### GEORGE A. WEADON.

In a biographical sketch relating to his honored father, the late Frank M. Weadon, presented elsewhere in this volume, the genealogy of the gentleman whose name the reader notes as the caption of this sketch is set out at some length; revealing there that he is a scion of the union of two of the most prominent families in the history of Decatur county, the Weadons and the Jamisons, his father having been a former county auditor of Decatur county and for years deputy postmaster at Greensburg; later revenue collector for this district, under appointment by Abraham Lincoln, and later and for many years prominently connected with the offices of the Big Four Railroad Company, in the division headquarters of that company at Indianapolis, in which city his death occurred on December 21, 1914. His widow, who is the daughter of Francis Jamison, for many years a prominent merchant of Greensburg, this county, whose father, Martin Jamison, a native of Scotland, was the leading merchant of Greensburg in the pioneer days of that city, still is living in Indianapolis, the object of the most affectionate regard of many devoted friends, who take pleasure in honoring her beautiful old age.

George A. Weadon was born in Greensburg, Indiana, on December 25, 1863, the son of Frank M. and Mary Jane (Jamison) Weadon, of pleasant memory in this county, and received his education in the Greensburg schools, being a graduate of the high school in that city. He enjoyed an excellent preliminary training in the dry-goods line in his grandfather's old-established store at Greensburg, devoting his attention particularly to the millinery department of the same, and in 1885, went to Indianapolis, forming a business connection with the old firm of Griffiths Brothers, wholesale millinery, in that city. This connection continued until 1891, in which year he transferred his services to the firm of Fahnley & McCrea, well-known in the millinery trade throughout the middle states as wholesale milliners and dealers in millinery supplies. Beginning practically at the bottom of this line of business, Mr. Weadon, by close application and the proper exercise of a native talent for that business, has risen to the top and is now and for some years past has been a member of this well-established old firm, occupy-

ing a most substantial position in the commercial life of the state's capital city.

George A. Weadon was united in marriage to Jennie A. Nicholson, of Indianapolis, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, who is now a student at Fairmount Seminary, at Washington, D. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Weadon are members of the Methodist church and are active in good works in the capital city. Mr. Weadon is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being connected with Oriental lodge at Indianapolis, and is warmly interested in the affairs of that order. For years he has been one of the most active workers in the state organization of traveling salesmen and is now the vice-president of that popular association. He is a Republican and takes a good citizen's part in the political life of the city and state, his sound judgment and close acquaintance with business conditions giving much weight to his political opinions. He is one of the really successful of the younger business men of Indianapolis and enjoys the firm confidence and respect of business circles in that city. He has a very extensive acquaintance in the millinery trade throughout this section of states and no one in that line is more popular than he.

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#### FRANCIS GATES KETCHUM.

Among the prominent younger attorneys of Greensburg, Indiana, is Francis Gates Ketchum, who was born on January 30, 1888, on a farm four miles south of Greensburg, Decatur county, the son of the Rev. William E. and Sarah (Meredith) Ketchum.

The Rev. William E. Ketchum, the son of William Stanley Ketchum, a veteran of the Civil War, who migrated to Decatur county at the close of this war, is the president of the Holiness Christian denomination, and is a traveling evangelist, although he owns a farm of ninety-eight acres in Decatur county. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Sarah Meredith, is a native of Decatur county, Indiana, and has been the mother of five children. Francis Gates is the eldest. The others are Laura Rebecca, Ina May, Isom Stanley and Carrie Anderson.

Reared on the old William Anderson Robbins farm, in Decatur county, Indiana, and educated in the public schools of Decatur county, and in the Greensburg high school, Francis Gates Ketchum read law during odd times and in law offices in Greensburg, and was admitted to the practice in

March, 1909. Although he is still a comparatively young man and has been engaged in the practice of his profession but a few years, he has won many friends in Greensburg, and promises in time to become one of the leading attorneys of Decatur county. He is a young man of engaging personality, though modest and unassuming in his manners, and one who for his years is well versed in the profession in which he is engaged. With his capacity for profound and thorough studentship, and for making and maintaining cordial relations with the people with whom he comes in contact, it would appear that Francis Gates Ketchum has a bright future.

Mr. Ketchum is a member of the Democratic party and in time is expected to take his place among the leaders of the party in this county. Mr. Ketchum is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is identified with the Loyal Order of Moose.

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#### OLIVER F. WELCH, M. D.

A prominent Hoosier writer and historian has said: "There is but one end in life that is worth while, and that is to conquer adversity, pain, envy, regrets, and the varied obstacles that are put in our path and to develop our fortitude, our courage, and our brains." This seems especially true in the life of the physician, particularly when he has become distinguished in his profession through his own efforts. The sons of farmers in the early days of Indiana had not the educational facilities that they enjoy in this generation, and this, apart from any financial considerations, for there seemed to be a very widespread sentiment then to the effect that the sons of farmers should work on the farm as soon as they had finished the meager course offered in the country schools. This sentiment became one of the obstacles which every ambitious youth had to meet and, therefore, should all credit and praise be given to the man who, through his own unaided exertions, came to be one of the ablest and most popular men of his profession in the vicinity in which he lives. This may be said truly of Dr. Oliver F. Welch, a well-known physician of Westport.

Oliver F. Welch was born on September 25, 1871, in Jay, Switzerland county, Indiana. He is the son of Thomas S. and Lucinda (Jackson) Welch, both natives of this county. The former, born in 1853, was the son of Benjamin Welch, a native of Virginia, who came with his father, Metellus, at an early date from Virginia to the Hoosier state. Lucinda Jackson

was the daughter of John A. and Elizabeth Jackson, of Cross Plains, Indiana, who formerly lived in Kentucky. Going back another generation, we find that John A. Jackson was the son of Will Jackson, also of Cross Plains, and a native of Kentucky. The latter died in 1877, at the age of seventy-six. With others, he had migrated with his family from his native Southern state in the days when there were no railroads, and when every foot of land had to be cleared before it could be plowed and cultivated. Perhaps it was from this sturdy pioneer character that the subject of the present sketch inherited the qualities which have enabled him to conquer obstacles and rise to the head of his profession.

The father of Oliver F. Welch moved to Ripley county, Indiana, in 1881, and from the first became a well-liked and successful farmer. There were born to Thomas Welch and his wife four sons, two of whom are members of the medical profession: Dr. Oliver F. is the oldest son; Dr. J. A. Welch, of Letts, who was born in 1874; William Benjamin, 1878, and residing near Versailles; and Albert W., 1881, who is a farmer and engaged in the poultry business.

While the education of Oliver F. Welch began in the country schools, it was not completed until he had studied in other states than the one in which his home was located, and so great was his ambition to excel in the medical world that he pursued his studies even after his marriage. His first schooling was at New Marion, and the Normal, after the courses offered in these schools were finished, he taught during four terms of the Ripley county schools. Determining upon the career of a physician, he began the study of medicine in 1895 in the Illinois Medical College at Chicago, graduating in 1897. He then entered the Hospital College of Medicine at Louisville, and after his marriage, located in Westport. In 1899 and 1904 he took post-graduate courses in the Chicago Polyclinic, and four years later went to New York, where he became a post-graduate student. Doctor Welch is remembered as an earnest, conscientious student, thorough and painstaking in his work, and scientific in his mental processes.

Oliver F. Welch was married to Mary E. Robertson on July 4, 1897. His bride was the daughter of John A. and Margaret (Merrell) Robertson, of Ripley county, but formerly of Jefferson and Jennings counties, respectively. John Robertson died in 1906, having attained the age of eighty-one years.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Welch three children: Gladys M., born in May, 1899, now in her second year of high school; Bertie, September 20, 1903, and Scoville Frank, June 29, 1907.

The place occupied by Doctor Welch among the members of his chosen profession may be evidenced by the fact that he is a prominent member of the American Medical Association and takes an active part in their deliberations.

Doctor Welch's tastes and interests are varied, and while he has concentrated his time and thought and strength upon the exacting demands of his profession, he has found time to ally himself with the organizations which broaden the mental horizon as well as the moral nature, and which contribute something to the sum total of human betterment. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and an elder in the Christian church of Westport.

As a young man Doctor Welch was imbued with the qualities that made it impossible for him to be satisfied with anything but success of a high order, no matter in what field of human activity his choice or fate might lead him. So great are the demands upon the physician of modern time that success for him means strength of character, resoluteness of purpose, mental acumen, and, withal, a sympathy that is human, and, therefore, genuine. Doctor Welch has been fortunate in the possession of all of these essentials, and he is now a representative man in the medical profession of this state.

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### JOHN HENRY DENISTON.

John Henry Deniston, a leading farmer and stockman of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, on his paternal side, is descended from sturdy Scottish ancestry and in his long career as a resident of this township has exhibited many of the worthy traits which characterize the Scotch people. His large capacity for business he, no doubt, has inherited from men who were famous centuries ago for their warlike dispositions, but who in recent years both in this country and abroad, have become great masters of industrial enterprise. His father, a prominent citizen of this country at the time of his death, was a successful farmer after coming to this county from Butler county, Ohio.

John Henry Deniston was born on May 3, 1862, in Butler county, Ohio, near Scipio, the son of John Franklin and Mary Ellen (DeArmond) Deniston, the former of whom was born on September 4, 1833, and died on January 22, 1889, and the latter of whom was born on January 26, 1842, and died on February 11, 1867. John F. Deniston was the son of John Deniston, a native of Scotland, who came to America with his parents

and settled first in Franklin county, Indiana, where he was a tanner and shoemaker. After he moved to Butler county, Ohio, he operated a tannery and made shoes and boots at that place. In 1866 John Franklin Deniston came to Decatur county and located at Sardinia, followed closely by his brother, William H. They farmed in partnership and operated two hundred acres of land until 1879, when John Henry Deniston purchased the land. Mary Ellen (DeArmond) Deniston was a native of Butler county, Ohio, and the daughter of James DeArmond, who, after living in Decatur county for a few years, returned to Butler county, where he died.

John Franklin and Mary Ellen Deniston had two children, John Henry, the subject of this sketch, and James William, who resides with his brother. John F. Deniston was an ardent and loyal Democrat, a member of the Universalist church and the Knights of Pythias.

John Henry Deniston has lived on the farm of two hundred acres which he now occupies since in 1867. Altogether he owns three hundred seven and one-half acres of land, two hundred acres of which comprises the home farm. He has a good home and the farm is well-equipped with out-buildings for extensive farming and stock-raising. For more than thirty years, Mr. Deniston has been handling live stock and, for the past twenty-seven years, has been a large shipper. He ships from fifty to seventy-five carloads of stock annually and, aside from this business, is an extensive breeder of Hereford cattle, having begun raising this breed in 1905. He keeps only purebred and registered stock and breeds solely for commercial purposes.

On August 19, 1883, John Henry Deniston was married to Eliza Eden Seal, who was born on May 28, 1865, in Decatur county, near the Liberty church, the daughter of John B. and Emily Seal. Mrs. Deniston passed away on August 20, 1907, leaving two children, J. Ray and Audrey Dawn. The former was born on December 20, 1884, at Sardinia. He married Bertha Smith, of Greensburg, and is now engaged in managing the farm owned by his father. Audrey Dawn, who was born on January 29, 1893, is her father's housekeeper. Two other children born to Mr. and Mrs. Deniston are deceased: Blanche, who was born on August 7, 1886, died on October 4, 1886; and Joy Maude, January 31, 1888, died on November 4, 1888.

For nearly half a century John Henry Deniston has been an active Democrat and is considered one of the "wheel horses" of the Democracy in Decatur county. For many years he was a Democratic central committeeman and influential in the county councils of his party. His son, J. Ray,



is now a committeeman for the Democratic party. The father has served as delegate to congressional, judicial and state conventions of his party and attended the national conventions of the party at Denver and Baltimore. He is always looked upon as a man of dependable counsel in the organization of his party and the management of its campaigns. He has never aspired to office but he is a man who is equipped to fill almost any office within the gift of his party. He is a member of the Universalist church at Mt. Carmel, Franklin county, and prominent in fraternal circles in this county, being a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Alert, the Knights of Pythias at Westport, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Greensburg, and the Modern Woodmen of America at Sardinia.

John Henry Deniston has fully measured up to the responsibilities of citizenship in this great country. He has borne his share of the responsibility for every movement which has reflected the advancement of his home neighborhood, his township and his county. His great-grandfather came to America seeking greater political liberty and a larger measure of personal opportunities. The third generation of the family in America, thoroughly imbued with our notions of government and citizenship, has measured up nobly to the standard of his day and generation.

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#### HENRY BLANKMAN.

Among the several farmers of Decatur county who are descended from native-born German parents is Henry Blankman, of Marion township, one of the foremost citizens of this township, who owns a splendid farm of two hundred acres, which he has, by careful cultivation and painstaking attention to the details of agricultural, developed to a very high state of productivity. Although he now owns two hundred acres of land, he began about thirty-six years ago by purchasing forty acres of uncleared land, and after cutting away a place to build his home, improved the land from year to year, eventually erecting fine buildings, including a comfortable house, barn and outbuildings. His claim to honorable distinction among the farmers of Decatur county is not confined wholly to his success in agriculture, but in this period he has reared to honorable and useful lives a family of nine children, and herein has performed a service to his county and to his state which is of far reaching influence.

Henry Blankman was born on December 6, 1849, in Cincinnati, Ohio,



the son of Bernard Henry and Mary Angela (Lucken) Blankman, both natives of Germany, the former of whom was born in 1818, and died in 1896. After coming to America in 1839, Bernard Blankman worked on a flatboat on the Ohio river for two years and as a farm hand in Kentucky. Later he drove a team in Cincinnati, and after his marriage, about January, 1856, removed to Marion township, Decatur county, where he bought timber land with only a few acres cleared. From time to time he added to his original tract of fifty acres another fifty and still another fifty-two acres and one-half, all of which he cleared and improved. Bernard Henry and Mary Angela Blankman were the parents of five children who grew to maturity, namely: Mrs. Mary Hardebeck, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Herman H., of Marion township; George, a well-known farmer; and Mrs. Caroline Klosterkamper, of Ripley county. There were several children who died in infancy. In the early days when they were getting a start in the world they lived in a log cabin and could look through the cracks in the roof, and in the winter time it was not unusual for the family to find their beds covered with snow. Subsequently, a large brick house was built on the farm, and it is in this house that Herman H., a son, now lives. Bernard Henry Blankman passed away in 1896, and ten years later, in 1906, his beloved wife, who had been associated with him during all his trials and struggles, also passed away.

Henry Blankman lived at home with his parents until his marriage, and for three years afterwards lived on the farm owned by his father-in-law, Bernard Goldschmidt, and at the end of that period he purchased forty acres of land for four hundred and fifty dollars, and since 1879, when this land came into his possession, he has prospered year by year, until he is now recognized as one of the substantial farmers of Marion township.

On April 15, 1875, Henry Blankman was married to Mary Goldschmidt, the daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth Goldschmidt, who was born in 1857 in Cincinnati, and who came with her parents subsequently to a farm near Millhousen in Decatur county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blankman have been born nine children, as follow: Bernard, Edward, Frank, August, William, John, Theodore, Josephine and Clara. Of these children, Bernard, who was educated in the public schools of Decatur county, taught school for twelve years, and in the fall of 1914 was elected surveyor of Decatur county. He married Mary Hardebeck, and they have four children, Cyril, Paul, Alvin and Lama. Edward lives in the state of Minnesota. Frank, also a farmer in the state of Minnesota, married Carrie Knight, of Cincinnati, and they have six children,

Frank, Edward, Jacob, Henry, Marie and Robert. August and William also are farmers in Minnesota. John and Theodore live at home. Mrs. Josephine Ruhl lives in Marion township, and Mrs. Clara Vaske lives in Minnesota, and has one child, Angela, named for her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Angela (Lucken) Blankman.

Although Henry Blankman has always been an enthusiastic and ardent Democrat, he has never been an office seeker. The only position of official trust he has ever held, being a local office. He served for four years as a member of the township advisory board. The Blankman family are all members of St. Mary's Catholic church. Mr. Blankman is one of the substantial contributors to the support of this church.

Henry Blankman, who has lived in this part of Decatur county for a period of thirty-six years, is well known to the people. He is regarded as one of the best citizens and one of its most skillful farmers, and one of its most genial and companionable men, a man of sturdy and fixed determination, who is self-made in every particular. Here in Marion township the Blankman family enjoy the confidence and esteem of all who know them.

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#### SIMEON H. KENNEDY.

It is not a matter of accident that Decatur county has a body of farmers equal in enterprise, unexcelled in methods, and surpassing in production farmers of most any other county in the state of Indiana. In the first place this county was settled by men of strong determination and remarkable ability, men who even in the pioneer times surpassed most other pioneer communities in methods and results. Moreover the land is naturally fertile, which is itself a strong inducement to intensive cultivation of the soil, and development to the highest point of every agricultural possibility. Therefore, Decatur county has always excelled as an agricultural section. Of the many splendid farmers of the present generation in Decatur county, who belong to pioneer stock of this region and who have made a worthy success of their vocation, may be mentioned Simeon H. Kennedy, who owns two hundred and twenty acres of land in Marion township.

Simeon H. Kennedy was born on August 3, 1867, in Greensburg, the son of James and Charlotte (Jones) Kennedy, the former of whom was born on October 12, 1837, and died on March 25, 1910, and the latter of whom was born on October 29, 1844, and is still living in Johnson City with

her son, Dr. Wilbur T. She is a daughter of Simpson and Jane (Remy) Jones, the Remys and Joneses having been early settlers of Bartholomew county.

The grandfather of Simeon H. Kennedy was Samuel Kennedy, who emigrated to Franklin county, Indiana, about 1835, and to Decatur county, Indiana, about 1847, settling ten miles west of Greensburg in Clay township. Born in August, 1809, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he died on March 13, 1890. His first wife, Margaret, who was born in 1808, and died May 28, 1852, was the mother of the following children: John, born on January 15, 1833, died October 3, 1855; William, January 19, 1834, died July 24, 1913; George, April 3, 1836, in Indiana, died April 28, 1865; James, the father of Simeon H., October 12, 1837, died, March 25, 1910; Samuel, June 15, 1840, died, October 30, 1855; Mrs. Nancy Braden, 1842; Sarah, June, 1844, died, September 18, 1849. Samuel Kennedy's second wife was Sarah A. Kennedy, who bore him four children, namely: C. B., who was born on May 2, 1854, and died, November 22, 1898; an infant son, on December 20, 1855, and died January 11, 1856; Mrs. Mary Eward and Anna, who was born in 1862.

James Kennedy, who had lived at home with his father until the breaking out of the Civil War, enlisted as a Union soldier in Company H, Fiftieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Cavalry, in 1862, and was commissioned a second lieutenant. After his return home he was married, January 21, 1864, to Charlotte Jones, who bore him five children. Of these children, Carrie E. married Charles Evans, and they reside in Greensburg. Mr. Evans was one of the first rural mail carriers in Decatur county, and was born in October, 1864. Simeon H. is the subject of this sketch; Lewis W., who was born in 1870, died in 1890; Samuel E. died in infancy; Dr. Wilbur T., who was born in 1877, is a practicing physician at Johnson City, Tennessee.

Some fourteen years before his death the late James Kennedy removed to Lafayette, Indiana, where he died. At the time of his death he had been a member of the Masonic lodge a little more than fifty years. He joined the Improved Order of Red Men during the early seventies, and about that time became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the time of his death he was a member of Milford Lodge No. 94, Free and Accepted Masons. In the winter of 1850 he joined the Methodist Episcopal church at Center Grove, and after removing to Lafayette affiliated with the Trinity church of that city.

Simeon H. Kennedy who started to school in Decatur county, Indiana, was brought by his parents to Marion township, in 1872, and here educated.

In 1885 at the age of eighteen he rented his father's farm and now owns the farm. He has added to this original tract from time to time until he now owns two hundred and twenty acres of very fine farming land, raising on an average fifty acres of corn, and twenty acres of wheat. He also has seven acres of alfalfa, and raises a large number of hogs and cattle every year.

On July 2, 1890, Simeon H. Kennedy was married to Clara Talbot, who was born in Greensburg, March 28, 1865, and who was the daughter of Henry Howard and Anna (Leffler) Talbot.

Mrs. Kennedy died on January 5, 1909, after having reared two daughters: Mabel, who was born on April 19, 1891, married Harry Bainbridge, and they reside one mile west of Greensburg, and have one child, Robert Kennedy, born on March 26, 1915; and Helen, who lives at home with her father, was born on December 31, 1893.

A Republican in politics, the only office Mr. Kennedy has ever held was that of one of the members of the township advisory board of Marion township. Nevertheless, he is a man whose counsel is sought in political matters, and who is influential in his neighborhood. Having joined the Methodist Episcopal church when he was a young man, he has been a loyal and devout member of this church all his life. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Greensburg.

During his long and useful life Simeon H. Kennedy has been a worthy citizen of this county, and has enjoyed an honorable career as a farmer and citizen, respected by the people of Marion township, where he is widely known. With earnest and sincere purpose he sought always to live worthily, and do his duty each day as it seemed to him it ought to be done.

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#### EDWARD KESSING.

The man who creates or amasses wealth may be considered an asset to a community, but he who finds pleasure in identifying himself with the affairs of men and movements which make for human betterment leaves an impress that becomes an inspiration to those who follow, and his business successes come to be looked upon as a secondary matter. The educated gentleman is a power in any community, for he is actuated by high ideals. Although somewhat handicapped by ill health, the life of the subject of the present article has been eminently successful, for his activities have not been limited to his personal affairs, and he has always stood for the things that are right and just and wholesome.

Edward Kessing is statistician for the Bureau of Commerce in Greensburg, Indiana, and Democratic county chairman. He was born on March 13, 1854, in Franklin county, Indiana, being the son of Herman H. and Elizabeth (Schroeder) Kessing. The father of Mr. Kessing was a native of Germany, being born there in 1823. He came to America in 1839, and became one of the first hatters in Cincinnati, where he learned the business. Previous to his marriage he had worked on the construction of the Ohio & Erie canal. It is interesting to know in this connection that it was while working on the canal that he learned to speak the English language. In 1851 he bought a farm in Franklin county, and operated it for several years, then removed to Decatur county, and purchased another farm at St. Maurice. This was in 1858. Besides superintending farm work, he had charge of a store from this date until the time of his death, in 1878. He was a member of the Ohio National Guards at Cincinnati at the time of the Mexican War. The mother of Mr. Kessing was a sister of J. H. Schroeder, the oldest resident of this county, and who is now living at Enochsburg. Mrs. Kessing was born in Germany in 1824. She is now a resident of Greensburg, but her former home was in Cincinnati, the city to which she came with her parents when she was twelve years of age.

There were seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Kessing, the eldest being Henry, who died in Greensburg in 1882. He was ordained a priest in 1868, afterwards preaching in Bloomington, Bedford and Gosport, and ten years after his ordination he went to Greensburg, where he was in charge of a parish at the time of his death. The other children were: Charles B., a dry goods merchant in Cincinnati; Agnes, wife of Joseph H. Maroney, of Pueblo, Colorado; Edward, the subject of this sketch; Mollie, who lives in Greensburg with her mother; Clem, a lithographer, of Cincinnati; and Frank, who is associated with the Citizens Artificial Gas Company.

Edward Kessing was fortunate in that he received a more thorough education many of the boys living in the same community, for he took the classical course at St. Xaviers College at Cincinnati, after attending the common schools at St. Maurice.

Mr. Kessing's first business experience came as a storekeeper, for in the town in which he then lived he had charge of a store until his twenty-first year. In the fall of 1875 he took up the duties of the county recorder's office, having been elected to that position, serving for a term of four years. Then he engaged in the dry goods business, continuing until his health failed, at the end of twelve years. Again he entered upon public office, when, in 1892, he became deputy county auditor, a position he held for four years.

In 1896 he engaged in the life insurance business, continuing until his federal appointment as statistician for the Bureau of Commerce of the sixth district, which includes five counties. This appointment came on March 1, 1915.

Mrs. Kessing was formerly Rose Moffett of Edinburg, and her marriage to Mr. Kessing took place on June 1, 1886. She is the daughter of Michael and Rose Moffett. Mr. and Mrs. Kessing are the parents of five children, namely: Charles Edward, the eldest, who died at the age of twenty-four in 1911, was an expect inspector of veneers, and was employed by Thompson & Moffett Company of Cincinnati; Oliver Owen, after graduating from the high school of Greensburg was appointed to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, from which institution he was graduated in June, 1914, and is now an ensign officer on the cruiser "Maryland," although only twenty-four years old, he has traveled all over the world; Robert Leo, a graduate of the Greensburg high school, has been traveling for the Central Union Telephone Company, which has its headquarters at Indianapolis, he has been employed by them for five years, and is now twenty-one years of age; Moffett, aged nineteen, and Margaret, aged seventeen years, both are living at home, having completed the course of study prescribed for graduation from the high school of Greensburg.

Mr. Kessing has been since young manhood a prominent figure at the state and national conventions of the Democratic party, for he is known in the politics of the state of Indiana. The Democratic county ticket was elected while he was county chairman, an office which he held for two years. He has been a devout Catholic all of his life, and besides being a member of the organization of Knights of Columbus, he has belonged to the commandery of the Knights of St. John. In this organization he served as commander until he was elected colonel of the regiment. In 1890, he was honored by being elected supreme commander of the United States and Canada, at the meeting in Pittsburgh. After serving with credit to himself and the organization for a term, he was placed on the retired list with a "badge of honor" for excellent service.

If it is true that the greatness of a community or state depends not so much upon the nature of its government nor its institutions, as upon the character of its citizenship, then the man whose career we have outlined briefly has honored the city and state in which he lives by a life of personal integrity, as well as by public service in which the general good has always been the predominating and actuating motive. His has been a high order of citizenship.



## AARON LOGAN.

The name of Aaron Logan stands out conspicuously among the residents of Decatur county as that of a successful farmer and a valuable citizen. All of his undertakings have been actuated by noble motives and high resolves and characterized by breadth of wisdom and strong individuality. His success represents only the result of utilizing his native talents. At the present time he owns a productive farm of two hundred and fourteen acres, three-quarters of a mile west of Greensburg.

Aaron Logan was born in 1841 on the old Logan homestead about one mile from Greensburg, and is the son of Samuel and Susannah (Howard) Logan, the former of whom was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1795, and came to Decatur county with Colonel Ireland and Colonel Henderson and entered land one mile from Greensburg, now known as the Logan farm. Susannah (Howard) was born on Paddy's run, in Ohio, in 1805. Samuel Logan first came to Decatur county and entered land and then returned to Pennsylvania. On his way back to Indiana from Pennsylvania, he stopped in Ohio and was married, and then came on to Indiana with his young bride. Here they lived the remainder of their lives, he dying in 1879. They were members of the Presbyterian church and he was a life-long Democrat, a man of strong character and high-minded conviction. Accustomed to hunt bears in the region around Greensburg, Samuel Logan and Colonel Henderson killed a bear on the spot where the Greensburg waterworks are now situated. He and his wife started in life very poor, but Samuel Logan was a money maker. He accumulated a considerable fortune. On his way across the Alleghany mountains from Pennsylvania, having started with a wagon and one horse, he traded with various people along the way until upon his arrival he owned four horses.

Samuel and Susannah (Howard) Logan had nine children, of whom James, John, Mrs. Martha Anne Hitt, Mrs. Jane Deen and Mrs. Rachel Hobbs are deceased; the latter was the wife of Alvin I. Hobbs, of Dennis, Iowa. Mrs. Mary Hamilton, the wife of Morgan Hamilton, is also deceased. Those living are Samuel Logan, Jr., who lives at Letts, in Clay township; Aaron, the subject of this sketch; and Frank, of Topeka, Kansas.

Aaron Logan began life for himself after having reached his majority, and for about three years was engaged in cultivating the old home place. After this he purchased ninety-two acres of land out of what was known as the old Hillis farm, which is now owned by William Hatche. Later, however, Mr. Logan sold that farm and purchased the land where he now lives.



He has always made a good living for himself and family and has always enjoyed the best things of life. In fact, there are few people living in Washington township who enjoy life more than Aaron Logan. He says that he gets more enjoyment out of what he can buy with a dollar than in keeping the dollar itself and for its own sake.

Aaron Logan was married to Susannah Simmons, who lived near Greensburg, the daughter of Edward and Polly (Howard) Simmons, both natives of Ohio, and of Scotch-Irish descent. Mr. and Mrs. Logan have had two children: Walter Scott Logan, deceased; Sherman, whose wife is deceased, and who by her had one child, Clyde L., born in 1901, lives with his father.

The Logan family have been Democrats for the most part for several generations, and Aaron Logan is no exception to the rule. He is in fact a loyal and faithful Democrat, interested in the welfare of his party. Mr. Logan is well known in Washington township, and has always enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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#### SCOTT F. CRIST.

There is nothing which stimulates a man to a worthy life more than the recollection of the strength of character, industry and wisdom of his forbears. In this respect Scott F. Crist, a prosperous farmer living on eighty acres, three and one-half miles northwest of Burney and two and one-half miles southwest of Milford, is favored far beyond the average since he is descended from men who have been leaders in Decatur county and who have performed well all of the duties of life, public and private. A heritage of such memory as it pertains to the lives of one's ancestors is of more value than a heritage of material wealth.

Scott F. Crist was the son of Abram and Catherine (Templeton) Crist. His father, born near Brookville, in Franklin county, in 1832, was the son of John and Polly (Deboise) Crist, the former of whom was a native of Ireland and who came to America when he was seventeen years old, with his parents, settling first on the east fork of White river in Franklin county, some time between 1820 and 1825. Eventually, John Crist entered land in Franklin county. The trip from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was made in a flatboat. John Crist became a successful farmer and made a large amount of money. He was a man of stern disposition and of firm convictions, who,

nevertheless, was well and favorably known as a substantial citizen. He died about 1850 after rearing a family of five children, of whom Abram Crist was the fourth. Abram Crist, who was born in 1832, grew to manhood on his father's farm in Franklin county and in 1854 was married to Catherine Templeton, who was the daughter of David and Jane (Barrickman) Templeton, the latter's parents being natives of Kentucky and the owners of a great deal of land where the city of Covington, Kentucky, now stands. David Templeton and Jane Barrickman were married in Kentucky and came to Franklin county, Indiana, in the winter, bringing with them all of their belongings on a sled. Entering land on Templeton creek, named for David Templeton, they lived there until the latter's death in 1863, and after his death his widow made her home with her children in Franklin and Decatur counties. She died in Adams in 1889. David Templeton was a successful business man and a fine Christian character.

After the marriage of Abram Crist and Catherine Templeton, they purchased a farm in Franklin county, which was sold in a short time and in 1860 they came to Decatur county, Indiana, and purchased two hundred and fifty-five acres of land in Adams township, where they lived the remainder of their lives. He was a very successful farmer and business man and well known in Decatur county. He was a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Personally, Abram Crist was a human dynamo, who seemed never to tire. He had a host of friends at the time of his death in 1873.

Scott F. Crist grew up on the farm in Decatur county and in 1885 was married to Martha Vanausdall, the daughter of Joseph and Annie (Ferguson) Vanausdall, the former of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio, and the latter of Franklin county, Ohio. They came to Decatur county about forty-one years ago and settled on the farm in Adams township, known as the Oliver Deem farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Crist have had one son, Raymond, who was born on October 8, 1886, and who was married to Dora Mercer, the daughter of Archibald and Mary Elizabeth Mercer. The Mercers are natives of Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. and Mrs. Crist, after their marriage, started in life with nothing and Mr. Crist rented land for several years. Finally, he was able to purchase and pay five hundred dollars cash on eighty acres of land, on which he and his wife now live. They have a beautiful home which cost approximately four thousand dollars and which has most of the modern conveniences.

A man of progressive ideas and deeply interested in his country's wel-

fare, Scott F. Crist is a Republican in politics. He is intensely patriotic and has a host of friends in this county. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Milford.

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### LOUIS O. TRAVIS.

A career marked by earnest and indefatigable application was that of the late Louis O. Travis, who during his life was a successful farmer in Decatur county. His life was an open book and at his death he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of hundreds of people living in this county who knew him for his worth as a man and a citizen.

Louis O. Travis was born in 1869 in Decatur county, Indiana, near Mechanicsburg, on his father's farm, the son of James and Elizabeth (Steward) Travis, the former of whom was born in Kentucky in 1831, and who came to Decatur county in pioneer days and settled on a farm near Oldenburg in Franklin county. He owned eighty acres of land which he sold later in life, buying a farm near New Point, which he still owns. James Travis is now retired and living with his daughter, Mrs. Curtis Wright, of Greensburg, Indiana. He has been a successful farmer and business man and is well known and respected. A life-long Democrat, he has taken a keen interest in the politics of this county, state and country. He is a member of the Baptist church. His wife, who before her marriage was Elizabeth Stewart, was born in Franklin county on January 4, 1829, near Brookville. She died on June 27, 1906, in Franklin county.

James and Elizabeth (Stewart) Travis were the parents of six children, as follow: Wilbur, of Rushville; John, of Greensburg; George, of Batesville; Henry T., a farmer of near Mechanicsburg; Louis, the subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Hettie Travis Wright, the wife of Curtis Wright, of Greensburg. There were also three children by a previous marriage, namely: William, of Decatur county; Mrs. "Sis" Travis Taylor, the wife of Richard Taylor, of Greensburg; and Mrs. Travis Hawkins, the wife of B. Hawkins, of Kansas.

Louis O. Travis, when he was three years old, was brought from Franklin to Decatur county, Indiana, and grew to manhood in this county. He was educated in the schools of Decatur county, and in 1897 was married to Annie Baker, the daughter of John and Annie Baker. The father of Mrs. Travis was a native of Germany who after his marriage came with his wife

and two small children to America. They arrived here about 1865 and after living for a short time in Cincinnati, where he was engaged in the mercantile business they came, in 1875, to Decatur county, Indiana, and settled on a farm near New Pennington. He was a successful business man and well respected citizen. A Republican in politics, he was prominent in the councils of his party. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, the church which stood on the corner of his farm. He died in 1892, and his wife in 1898.

After his marriage Louis O. Travis rented a farm in Adams township, where he and his wife lived for five years, when they purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land. There they lived about one year, and after selling the farm came to Washington township and purchased a small farm in the suburbs of Greensburg. It was a beautiful home, ideally located, and here Mrs. Travis and her only son, Virgil Louis Travis, born on May 6, 1903, live. Mrs. Travis is a woman of most pleasing disposition and respected by the people in the community where she lives.

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#### HARRY W. BALLARD.

It is well proved by the variety of human experiences that success is the immediate result of native ability, well-applied energy and perseverance. Idlers and dreamers have their place in the world and no large success comes unless it comes after one has dreamed dreams and seen visions. In the long run, however, only those men who diligently seek the favor of success are crowned with its blessings. The large success which Harry W. Ballard, a well-known artist of Decatur county has enjoyed has come to him partially no doubt as the result of his native ability, but largely because he set about early in life to work out his own destiny.

Born in St. Paul, Adams township, in 1869, Harry W. Ballard is the son of Dr. D. J. and Anna (French) Ballard, natives of Decatur county and prominent citizens here.

Educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county, Harry W. Ballard became a student in T. C. Steel's art school under the direction of Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Steel as instructors. After finishing the course he attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and later became an instructor in the John Herron Institute at Indianapolis in commercial art. He has been active in commercial art for more than twenty-five years, and

during most of the past twenty-five years has acted as superintendent of the art department of various engraving establishments. Mr. Ballard is now the superintendent of the Printing Arts Company, of Indianapolis, and is on the art staff of the *Woman's Magazine*, of Elgin, Illinois. His life has been a very busy one and he has devoted his time to his profession.

Mr. Ballard has exhibited his work at the John Herron Art Institute with Indiana artists and this in itself is sufficient proof of the merit of his work. He works in oil, pastel, water colors, pen and ink and burnt wood. His work is characterized especially with realism and is true to nature and life.

Among his other accomplishments Mr. Ballard is a musician of considerable ability. He plays the saxophone, plays the piano and sings. He is indeed a true artist in every fiber of his being.

In 1897, Mr. Harry W. Ballard was married to Frances Floyd, a daughter of E. L. and Anne (Paul) Floyd, natives of Decatur county. It was for the family of Mrs. E. L. Floyd that the town of St. Paul was named. E. L. Floyd, Mrs. Ballard's father, was a native of Kentucky, born in 1823. He left Kentucky with his parents and came to Shelby county, Indiana, where he was educated. Later he attended Indiana University for one year, and in 1855 was married to Anne Paul, a daughter of John P. Paul, a prominent citizen of Decatur county. After their marriage they began life for themselves in St. Paul in the home which Mrs. Ballard now owns. Mr. Floyd was a very successful man in all of his business undertakings and one of more than average ability. He was a man of high ideals whose outlook on life was the very brightest. In 1885 as a Republican he represented Decatur county in the Indiana General Assembly. He served valiantly as a soldier in the Mexican War. A public-spirited citizen and man, he had a fair knowledge of law. Though not professing to be a lawyer, he had no little law practice. E. L. Floyd was one of the biggest men mentally who has ever lived in this community.

Anne Gregg Paul, the wife of E. L. Floyd, and the mother of Mrs. Harry W. Ballard, was the eldest child born to her parents. She was born in St. Paul, in 1837, in the old brick residence which is today the oldest building in the town, and which was built by her father in 1823. John P. Paul was born in 1801 and was of Scottish and English origin. He was one of the solid and substantial citizens of Decatur county and had much to do with the development of this section. He died in 1867. During his early life he was a member of the Whig party. Upon the disintegration of that party and the formation of the Republican party he became a Republican.

E. L. and Anne Gregg (Paul) Floyd had six children, of whom Mrs. Harry W. Ballard was the youngest. The names of the children in the order of their birth are as follow: James E., who was born in 1855, was a graduate of Indiana University and died in 1893 at Decatur, Illinois; Walter F., 1857, and who was a graduate of Butler College, died in 1882; Oliver P., 1861, is living in Granite City, Illinois, and is connected with the engineering department of the American Steel Foundry Company; George G., 1865, was a student at Purdue University, lives at Riverside, Illinois, where he is chief engineer for the American Steel Foundry Company; Nellie F., 1867, married George L. Mueller, who is now deceased; Frances is the wife of Mr. Ballard.

Anne Gregg Paul was born in 1873 in St. Paul and grew to womanhood in this town. She was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county and was graduated from the St. Paul high school with the class of 1889. In 1890 she went to Purdue University, at Lafayette, where she studied for four years, finishing the scientific course in 1894. After finishing the course at Purdue she came home and here remained for three years, until her marriage in 1897 to Mr. Ballard.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballard have one son, Jack Floyd Ballard, who was born in 1905, in Southport, near Indianapolis. He is now a lad of ten years and is attending school at St. Paul.

Mrs. Ballard is intensely interested and actively engaged in flower growing. She is in partnership with her sister, Mrs. Nellie F. Mueller, the widow of George L. Mueller, of Lafayette, Indiana. Their flower garden has been appropriately named the "Dripping Springs Garden," so named from the dripping springs along Flat Rock river, well known to nature lovers of central Indiana. The garden, which is located on the Paul farm, originally owned and entered by William Paul in 1821, will eventually comprise the entire farm of a hundred and seventy acres. It lies north and east of St. Paul and extends up to the edge of town and is an ideal spot for the tourist and lover of nature. It is traversed by beautiful Flat Rock river. Mrs. Ballard and her sister, Mrs. Mueller, expect eventually to make a flower garden out of the entire farm and to irrigate it from the springs.

Mrs. Nellie Mueller, who is Mrs. Ballard's partner in the flower farm and garden, grew to womanhood and was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county. She later attended Purdue University, where she was a student in the scientific course. She was married in 1888 to George L. Mueller, whose parents were natives of Germany. Mr. Mueller died in 1909, leaving one child, Floyd Mueller, who was born in 1890, and who is an architect in Chicago. He is a graduate of Purdue University.



Mrs. Harry W. Ballard is a woman of more than ordinary ability, and of pleasing and attractive personality. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Paul and widely acquainted in this county. She is a member of the Irvington Coterie Club, of Indianapolis, and also the Department Club, of Greensburg. At their beautiful home in St. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Ballard entertain on a large scale and have a host of friends in Indiana and neighboring states. Mr. Ballard is a member of the Masonic fraternity and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is a Republican and a member of the Methodist church. He takes an active interest in public affairs and is keenly interested in public questions. Decatur county has every reason to be proud of the careers of Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Ballard.

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### GEORGE L. HESS.

George L. Hess, a well-known sportsman, business man and politician of St. Paul, Decatur county, Indiana, was born in 1867, in Jennings county, Indiana, the son of John V. and Elizabeth (Chillis) Hess, who undertook the voyage from Germany to America in a sailboat in 1852. The voyage took six months and on this voyage their first child was born. During the trip the mother of John V. Hess died and was buried at sea. On the arrival of the family in America after a few weeks sojourn in New York City they journeyed to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and thence by boat to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they settled and where the elder Mr. Hess took up his business of brick making. After remaining in Cincinnati for three or four years the family removed to Jennings county, Indiana, near St. Ann on Bear creek, where they lived on a farm for several years. Eventually, however, they sold out and removed to a farm in Bartholomew county, near Alert. This last farm was known as the old Thomas Johnson estate and here the family remained for four years and then removed to Decatur county, Indiana, settling near the town of Burney, where they lived for two years and then moved to a farm near St. Paul, one-half mile from St. Omer. Later they removed to Orange township, Rush county, to the Wilson farm, where they lived for sixteen years, when they sold out and removed to St. Paul, January 13, 1896. Here George L. Hess went into business. He had begun life for himself when about twelve or fourteen years old, launching out into the horse and dog business. He has been very successful in both lines of endeavor. Being a great lover of horses and dogs he has become an extensive breeder



of purebred fox hounds and bird dogs. Mr. Hess is a member of the National Fox Hunters Association of Kentucky and has participated in all of its meets. He has been especially successful as a breeder of dogs and likewise as a breeder of horses. He bred and trained "Maude H.," pacer, which attained a record of 2:16 $\frac{1}{4}$  in 1893. Mr. Hess's business as a horse and dog breeder far exceeds that of any other person in Decatur or Shelby counties, a notable fact when it is remembered that St. Paul is only about one-fifth as large as either Greensburg or Shelbyville. His personality has been one of the large factors in his success, and in such a business as this where so much depends upon the honor and integrity of the breeder and dealer he has been fortunate since he has the unqualified confidence of the people.

On December 2, 1885, George L. Hess was married to Nettie Frakes, daughter of David Frakes, whose wife was a Pierce, natives of Decatur county and successful farmers of this county. Likewise they were well-known and well-respected citizens. To Mr. and Mrs. Hess was born one daughter, Minnie E., who is the wife of Elmer Shortridge. Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge have one daughter, Percella.

In 1891 Mr. Hess was married, secondly, to Cora D. Higgs, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Burris) Higgs, natives of Decatur county, and well-known and respected citizens. To this union was born one daughter, Edna C. Hess, who married J. T. McCoy, the son of Curtis McCoy, of Decatur county. They have one son, George Trimble McCoy.

George L. Hess is one of the solid, substantial citizens of Decatur county, and one whose word is known to be as good as his bond.

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#### CLYDE C. MORRISON, M. D.

No one is quite able to measure the value of the work performed by the skillful and conscientious physician. His work is performed under circumstances, which call forth not only his best individual talents but likewise his most active and warmest sympathies. Unless the physician be equipped by temperament and personality with a breadth and depth of sympathy, his talents are likely to avail him very little. Not that a large measure of professional training is unimportant or unnecessary, but with this must go a measure of sincerity and a spirit of service which transcends all professional training. Dr. Clyde C. Morrison, one of the able and well-equipped physicians of

Greensburg, Indiana, has enjoyed a large measure of success in the practice of his profession because he possesses the natural instinct of service. Trained as a farmer, mechanic, teacher, drug clerk, physician, soldier, he has broadened these experiences by his travels into practically every state of the Union and Province of Canada, and into old Mexico.

Clyde C. Morrison has scarcely reached the prime of life, having been born on August 24, 1872, in Clifty township, Bartholomew county, Indiana. He is the son of Robert and Mary J. (McCullough) Morrison. On both his paternal and maternal sides, Doctor Morrison's ancestry is Scotch-Irish, his grandparents, James and Nancy Morrison, having come to this country from County Down, Ireland, and settled in Bartholomew county in pioneer times. His grandparents on his maternal side of the family, Henry and Elizabeth McCullough, came to this country from County Tyrone, Ireland. They settled first in Butler county, Ohio, but later moved to Bartholomew county, Indiana.

Although his father died in 1880, Doctor Morrison's mother is still living and resides at Hartsville. She was born on November 5, 1839. Notwithstanding the fact that she is now seventy-five years of age, she is still well preserved and in possession of all of her native faculties.

From the time he was eight until he was eighteen, he lived with his grandfather, Henry McCullough, a farmer of Columbus township, who resided one mile east of Columbus and attended the district schools and the Columbus high school. Afterwards he attended the Central Normal College of Danville and the Valparaiso University. Beginning his career in the school room at the age of twenty, he taught four years in the district schools of Bartholomew county, two years in the city schools of Columbus and three years as principal of the high school at Hartsville. Having begun the study of medicine, while clerking in a drug store he completed the course at Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville, Kentucky, and Grand Rapids Medical College. He has taken post-graduate work at Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio, and at Chicago, Illinois. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he enlisted in the hospital corps of the army and assisted Major Vaughn in establishing the Third Division hospital of the Seventh Army Corps at Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Florida, and was later transferred to Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and Fort Monroe, Virginia. Eventually, he was transferred to Washington City and discharged at that place after the war.

Doctor Morrison was engaged in the practice of his profession at Hartsville and Burney, and came to Greensburg March 1, 1911.

On November 16, 1898, Doctor Morrison was married to Hattie B. Rominger, of Hartsville, the daughter of Thomas W. and Sarah Rominger. Doctor and Mrs. Morrison have three children: Thomas R., who was born April 25, 1900; Sheldon, who was born March 17, 1906, and James T., who was born February 12, 1908.

Religiously, Doctor Morrison and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Free and Accepted Masons.

No better evidence of the confidence placed in Doctor Morrison by his fellow townsmen and by the citizens of Decatur county can be presented than by the fact that he is president of the board of directors of the new Young Men's Christian Association, an institution which is perhaps, as a public enterprise, dearer to the hearts of the people of this city than anything undertaken within recent years.

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### JUDGE DAVID ALBERT MYERS.

Indiana has long been distinguished for the high rank of her bench and bar. Perhaps none of the newer states can justly boast of abler jurists or attorneys. Many lawyers of this state have achieved national fame. While the growth and development of the state in the last half century has been marvelous, viewed from almost any standpoint, yet of no other class of her citizenship has this state greater reason for just pride than for the distinction and eminence gained by her judges and attorneys. Judge David Albert Myers, of Greensburg, Indiana, has long ranked as a profound lawyer and an able, eminent and impartial jurist. He served a little more than eight years as a judge of the appellate court of Indiana, and before that was for a short time judge of the eighth judicial district by appointment.

David Albert Myers was born on August 5, 1859, near Logansport, in Cass county, Indiana, and is the son of Henry C. and Maria (Bright) Myers, the former of whom was born in 1834, and who died, April 10, 1902, and the latter of whom was born in 1836. Henry C. Myers was a native of Ohio, born near Hamilton, in Butler county, the son of John Myers, a pioneer settler of Cass county, who came to Indiana in the early part of 1835, when Logansport was a mere hamlet. There he purchased a tract of land, and clearing it, became a prominent farmer and citizen and a leader in the life of the community. During the latter years of his life he ranked as the oldest settler. On this farm Henry C. Myers, the father of Judge David A., was

reared and married. He owned a farm within a mile of the pioneer homestead and became a prosperous citizen. In later years he owned four hundred and seventy acres of land. A Republican, he took great interest in political matters. Judge Myers' mother was a native of Virginia and the daughter of Anson Bright, an early settler of Cass county, who lived near the home of John Myers and who settled in Cass county in 1841. Judge Myers' mother lives on the old home place. There were four children in the Myers family. Of these children, Emma M. is at home; Charles W. owns a part of the home farm; Van is a farmer in Cass county; and David A. is the subject of this sketch.

After assisting his father on the farm until seventeen years old, Judge Myers entered Smithson College, where he remained for a year and one-half. Later he attended the Danville Normal School for a year and one-half, also Union University and the Albany Law School, from which he was graduated in 1881. The same year he began the practice of law in Greensburg, and today is regarded as the dean of the legal profession in this city. At the end of his first year he moved to his present office in the fall of 1882. He has one of the finest law libraries in the state of Indiana. His first political office was that of city attorney to which he was elected in 1886. He held this office until his election as prosecuting attorney in 1890 for the circuit comprising Rush and Decatur counties. This office he held two terms or four years. In 1899 Judge Myers was appointed by Governor Mount as judge of the eighth judicial district and served until the election following in 1900. At the judicial convention in 1900 Rush and Decatur counties each nominated a candidate for judge, and Judge Douglas Morris was elected. The legislature subsequently redistricted these counties, and Decatur county was joined with Bartholomew.

On October 18, 1904, Judge Myers was appointed a judge of the appellate court for the first Indiana district, and on the same day was selected as the nominee of the Republican party for appellate judge. He was elected and served four years, and in 1908 was renominated and reelected, serving until January 1, 1913. In the election of 1908 Judge Myers had the largest plurality of any candidate on the Republican ticket, a plurality of over sixteen thousand. That year several candidates on the Democratic ticket, including the Democratic candidate for governor, were elected. Judge Myers was renominated in 1912 without opposition, but the state went Democratic and he was defeated. No word of suspicion has ever been cast regarding the judicial record of Judge Myers. He has had an honorable and successful career on the bench and one of which he and the party which nominated him to this office may be proud.

One year before finishing his college course David Albert Myers was married to Laura Hart, who died in 1883. In September, 1907, he was married, secondly, to Margaret McNaught, the daughter of M. F. McNaught, proprietor of the Garland Milling Company, of Greensburg.

A stockholder in the Greensburg Electric Light Company, Judge Myers is also a director of the Greensburg National Bank and has been since its organization in 1900. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is a Scottish Rite Mason of the thirty-second degree. He is a member of the Knights Templar at Shelbyville and the Mystic Shrine at Indianapolis, and also a member of the Odd Fellows and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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### HON. FRANCIS I. GALBRAITH.

Every one who lives in a state and enjoys its protection, must contribute through his work, directly or indirectly, to further the object of the state as a community for the purpose of justice and civilization. Not until then is he a useful member of the state. There can be no doubt but that it is the duty of all men to contribute so far as they are able to the well-being of the community where they live, of the state in which they were born and the country which has nurtured them.

Francis I. Galbraith, farmer, manufacturer, banker, commission merchant and public-spirited man of affairs, is one of the leading citizens of Decatur county and a man who is well known in the capital of the state, where he has spent a considerable part of his time in recent years and where he has extensive interests in many kinds of property.

Born on October 29, 1860, near Rugby, Bartholomew county, Indiana, Francis I. Galbraith is a son of Enos S. and Catherine (Phumphry) Galbraith, the former of whom was the son of Enos Galbraith, Sr.

Francis I. Galbraith attended school in Bartholomew county, and later entered Hartsville College, where for some time he was a student. Until twenty years old, he lived in Bartholomew county, near Rugby. At the age of twenty, he went to Kansas and was there engaged in the cattle business for four years, or until 1884, when he returned to Bartholomew county and settled again near Rugby.

One year later, at the age of twenty-five, Mr. Galbraith was married, on September 1, to Mary Butler, who was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, in 1865, and who is the daughter of Frank and Susan (Woodard) Butler. Mrs. Galbraith's father was one of the largest stock and fancy

farmers in Decatur county, where both he and his wife spent practically all of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith have one son, Frank E. Galbraith, who was born on September 11, 1886, at Rugby, Indiana, and who attended the country schools of Bartholomew county. In 1900 he moved with his parents to Sunman, where he still lives. In 1914 he was married to Bessie Grosseclrouse.

After his marriage, Francis I. Galbraith removed to Rugby, where he engaged in the grain business for about one year, but he afterwards removed to Burney, Decatur county, where he and his father were engaged in the grain business and in stock shipping until 1900. At this time Mr. Galbraith removed to Sunman, Indiana, and there engaged in the hardwood lumber manufacturing business with William E. Talbert. Seven years later, Mr. Galbraith purchased Mr. Talbert's interest in this business and took into the business as a partner his son, Frank E., who was made manager and who still retains this position.

In the fall of 1912, Mr. Galbraith came to Indianapolis and assisted in the organization of the old Indiana State Bank, which has since been reorganized and renamed the Commercial National Bank. Mr. Galbraith was vice-president of the old bank and retained the same position in the new organization, the Commercial National. He owns one-half interest in the Ray & Galbraith Commission Company, located at the Indianapolis stockyards, and is also operating two large cotton plantations in the delta lands of lower Louisiana. Aside from these interests, he has large real-estate holdings in Indianapolis, especially flats and houses.

Mr. Galbraith is a staunch Democrat, and has always been faithful to his party. He has contributed liberally to the financial side of the party, and during the legislative sessions of 1909 and 1911 served as a member of the House of Representatives from Ripley county. He took a leading part in the sessions of the house and was considered one of its substantial members. In 1909 the Democratic party had come into power for the first time in many years and, although the opposite party maintained its control of the Senate, the Democratic party had a substantial majority in the lower house. Mr. Galbraith was a part of this majority and assisted in framing much of the important legislation which came from the General Assembly that year.

Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Galbraith is a Scottish Rite Mason, a Shriner and a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks at Greensburg. Although having wide interests scattered over a great deal of territory, Mr. Galbraith makes his home in Sunman, Indiana.





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