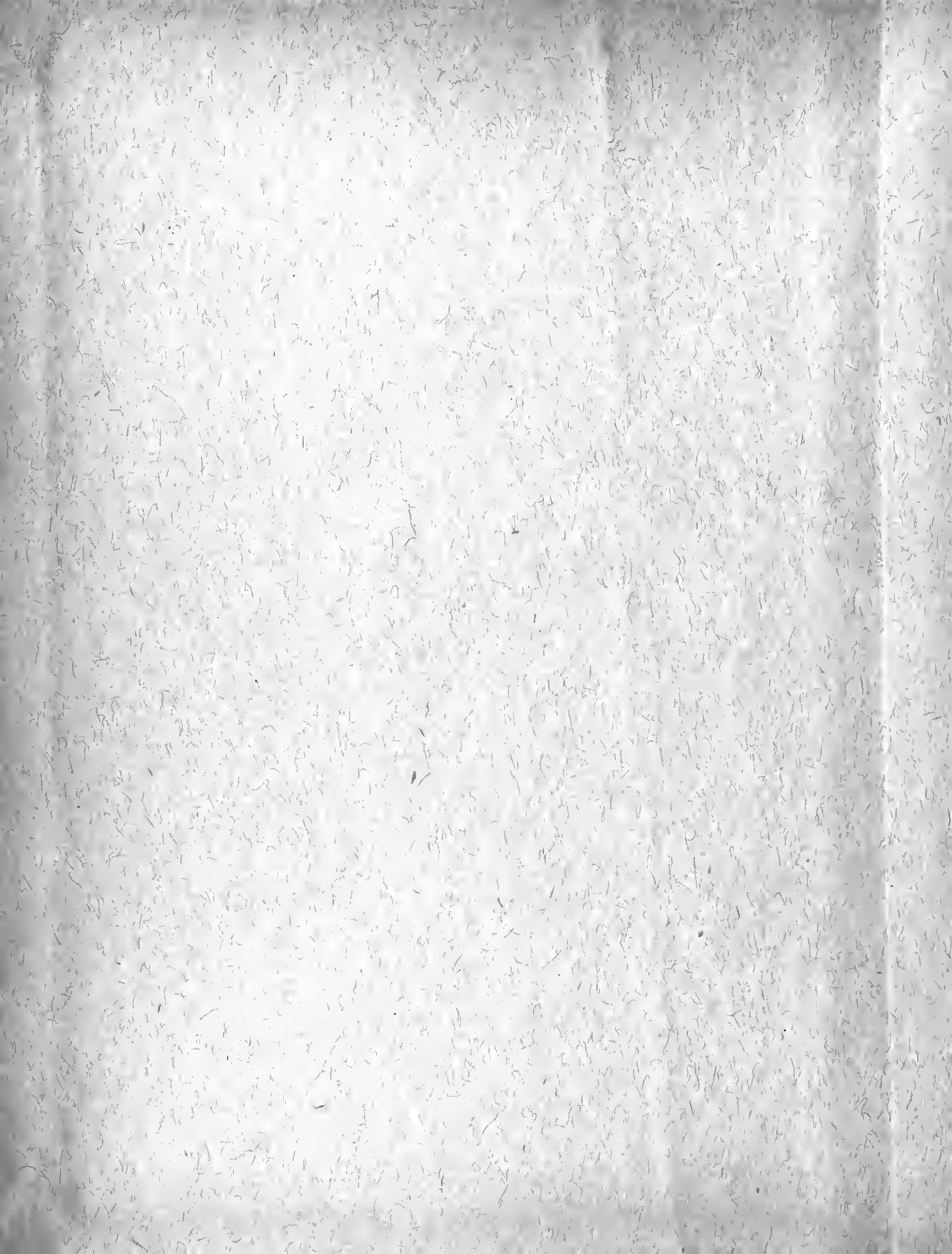


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Graham G.





PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL



GRATIOT COUNTY, MICH.

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County,

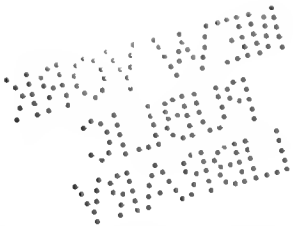
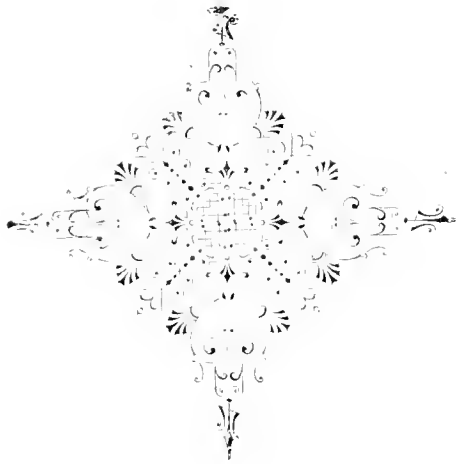
*TOGETHER WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE GOVERNORS OF MICHIGAN  
AND OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.*

ALSO CONTAINING A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY, FROM ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT  
TO THE PRESENT TIME.

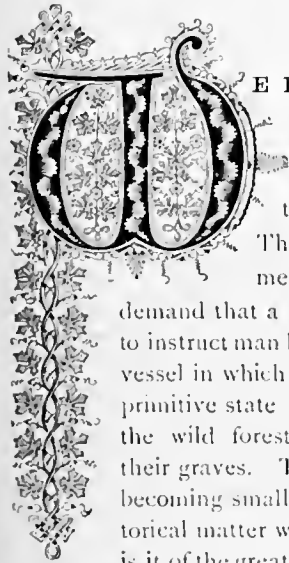
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# PREFACE



WE HAVE completed our labors in writing and compiling the PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM OF GRATIOT COUNTY, and wish, in presenting it to its patrons, to speak briefly of the importance of local works of this nature. It is certainly the duty of the present to commemorate the past, to perpetuate the names of the pioneers, to furnish a record of their early settlement, and to relate the story of their progress.

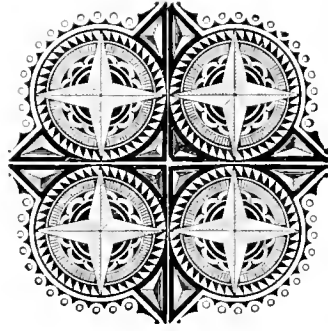
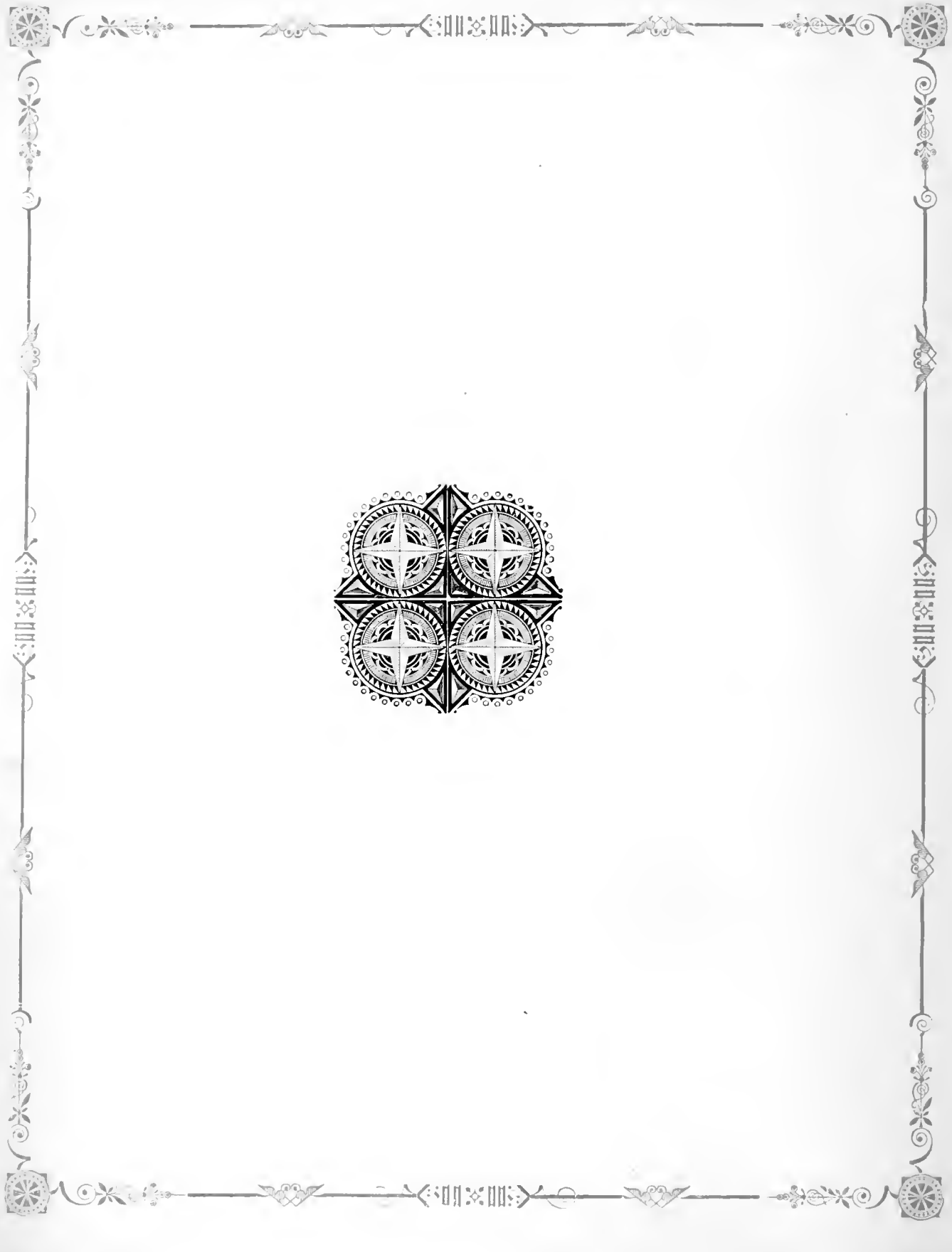
The civilization of our day, the enlightenment of the age, and this solemn duty which men of the present time owe to their ancestors, to themselves and to their posterity, demand that a record of their lives and deeds should be made. In local history is found a power to instruct man by precedent, to enliven the mental faculties, and to waft down the river of time a safe vessel in which the names and actions of the people who contributed to raise this region from its primitive state may be preserved. Surely and rapidly the noble men who in their prime entered the wild forests of Gratiot and claimed the virgin soil as their heritage, are passing to their graves. The number remaining who can relate the history of the first days of settlement is becoming small indeed, so that an actual necessity exists for the collection and preservation of historical matter without delay, before the settlers of the wilderness are cut down by time. Not only is it of the greatest importance to render history of pioneer times full and accurate, but it is also essential that the history of the county, from its settlement to the present day, should be treated through its various phases, so that a record, complete and impartial, may be handed down to the future. The present the age of progress, is reviewed, standing out in bold relief over the quiet, unostentatious olden times; it is a brilliant record, which is destined to live in the future; the good works of men, their magnificent enterprises, their lives, whether commercial or military, do not sink into oblivion, but, on the contrary, grow brighter with age, and contribute to build up a record which carries with it precedents and principles that will be advanced and observed when the acts of soulless men will be forgotten, and their very names hidden in obscurity.

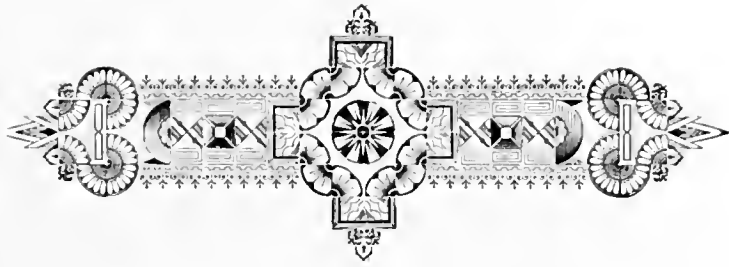
In the preparation of the personal sketches contained in this volume, unusual care and pains were taken to have them accurate, even in the smallest detail. Indeed, nothing was passed lightly over or treated indifferently, and we flatter ourselves that it is one of the most accurate works of its nature ever published.

As one of the most interesting features of this work, we present the portraits of numerous representative citizens. It has been our aim to have the prominent men of to-day, as well as the pioneers, represented in this department; and we congratulate ourselves on the uniformly high character of the gentlemen whose portraits we present. They are in the strictest sense representative men, and are selected from all the callings and professions worthy to be represented. There are others, it is true, who claim equal prominence with those presented, but of course it was impossible for us to give portraits of all the leading men and pioneers of the county. While we are under great obligation to many of the noble and generous people of Gratiot County for kindly and material assistance in the preparation of this Album, we feel under special obligation to the following persons, who, from the beginning till the close of our labors, manifested unusual interest in the enterprise and gave us every assistance possible: Gen. Nathan Church, Rob't Smith, Judge Wm. E. Winton, Judge Wm. Paddock, Hon. A. B. Darragh, Hon. Willbur Nelson, Rev. Francis Nelson, Parmer R. Phillips, John Swigart, S. S. Hastings, Dr. John R. Cheesman, James Gargett, Mrs. Elias Smith and W. W. Comstock.

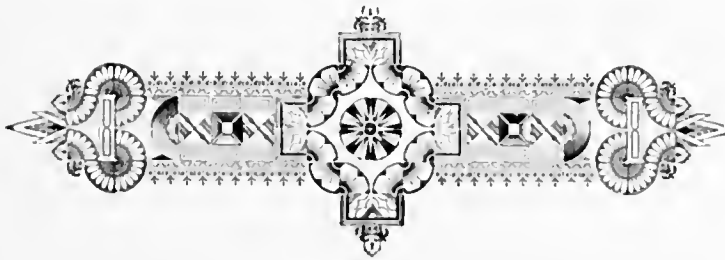
CHAPMAN BROTHERS.

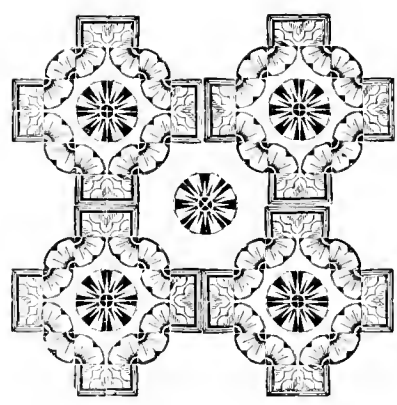
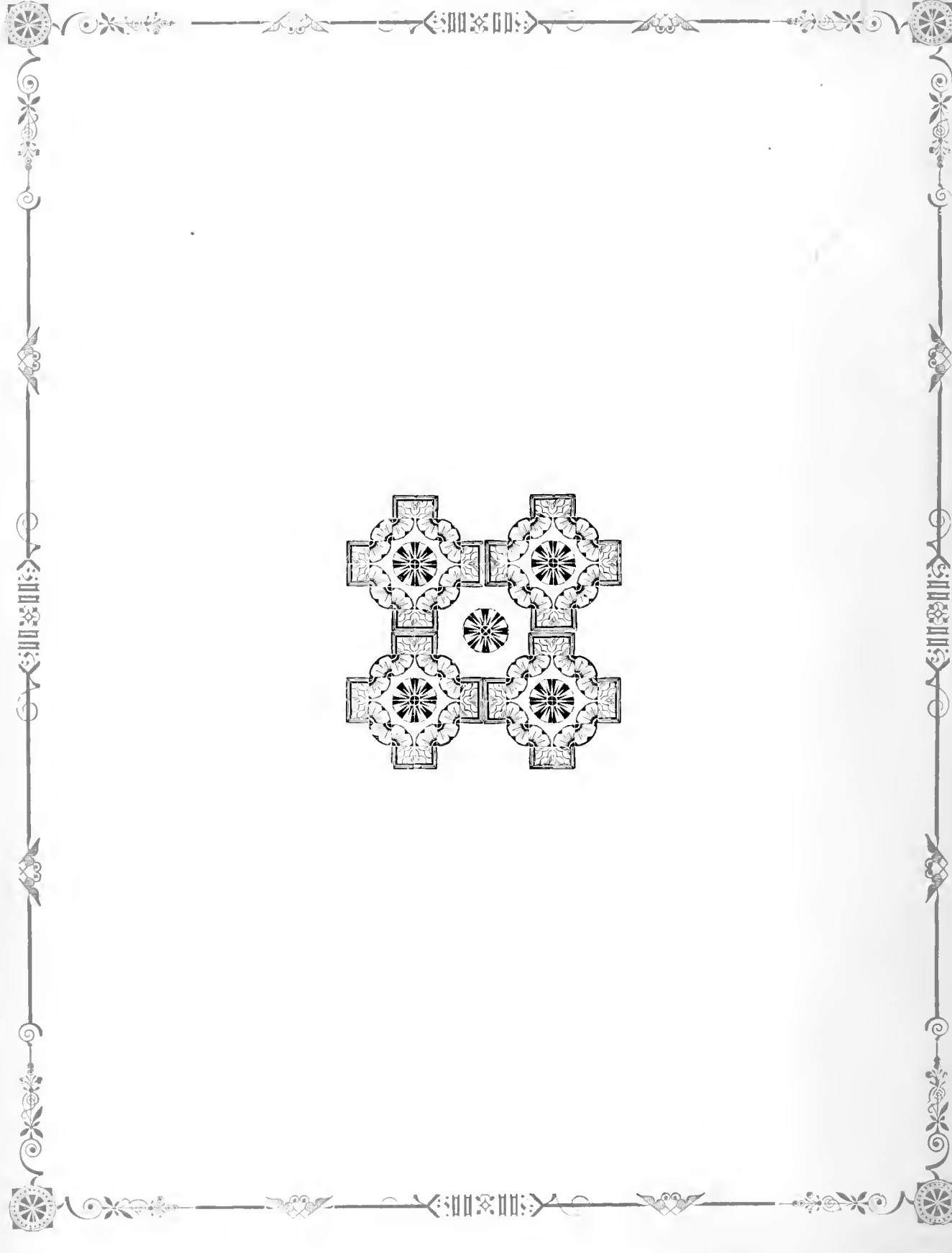
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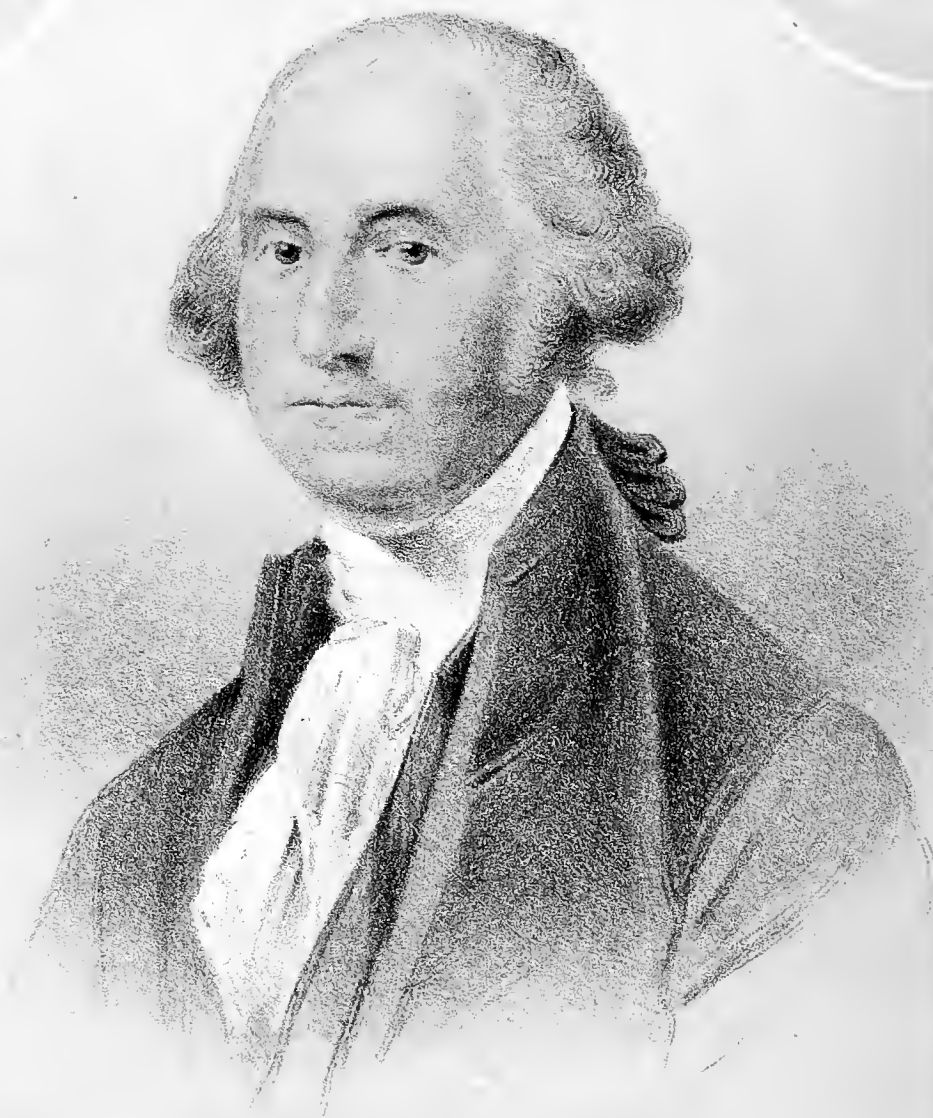


# PRESIDENTS.





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*George Washington.*





# GEORGE WASHINGTON,

**T**HE Father of our Country was born in Westmorland Co., Va., Feb. 22, 1732. His parents were Augustine and Mary (Ball) Washington. The family to which he belonged has not been satisfactorily traced in England. His great-grandfather, John Washington, emigrated to Virginia about 1657, and became a prosperous planter. He had two sons, Lawrence and John. The former married Mildred Warner and had three children, John, Augustine and Mildred. Augustine, the father of George, first married Jane Butler, who bore him four children, two of whom, Lawrence and Augustine, reached maturity. Of six children by his second marriage, George was the eldest, the others being Betty, Samuel, John Augustine, Charles and Mildred.

Augustine Washington, the father of George, died in 1743, leaving a large landed property. To his eldest son, Lawrence, he bequeathed an estate on the Patomac, afterwards known as Mount Vernon, and to George he left the parental residence. George received only such education as the neighborhood schools afforded, save for a short time after he left school, when he received private instruction in mathematics. His spelling was rather defective.

Remarkable stories are told of his great physical strength and development at an early age. He was an acknowledged leader among his companions, and was early noted for that nobleness of character, fairness and veracity which characterized his whole life.

When George was 14 years old he had a desire to go to sea, and a midshipman's warrant was secured for him, but through the opposition of his mother the idea was abandoned. Two years later he was appointed surveyor to the immense estate of Lord Fairfax. In this business he spent three years in a rough frontier life, gaining experience which afterwards proved very essential to him. In 1751, though only 19 years of age, he was appointed adjutant with the rank of major in the Virginia militia, then being trained for active service against the French and Indians. Soon after this he sailed to the West Indies with his brother Lawrence, who went there to restore his health. They soon returned, and in the summer of 1752 Lawrence died, leaving a large fortune to an infant daughter who did not long survive him. On her demise the estate of Mount Vernon was given to George.

Upon the arrival of Robert Dinwiddie, as Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, in 1752, the militia was reorganized, and the province divided into four military districts, of which the northern was assigned to Washington as adjutant general. Shortly after this a very perilous mission was assigned him and accepted, which others had refused. This was to proceed to the French post near Lake Erie in Northwestern Pennsylvania. The distance to be traversed was between 500 and 600 miles. Winter was at hand, and the journey was to be made without military escort, through a territory occupied by Indians. The

trip was a perilous one, and several times he came near losing his life, yet he returned in safety and furnished a full and useful report of his expedition. A regiment of 300 men was raised in Virginia and put in command of Col. Joshua Fry, and Major Washington was commissioned lieutenant-colonel. Active war was then begun against the French and Indians, in which Washington took a most important part. In the memorable event of July 9, 1755, known as Braddock's defeat, Washington was almost the only officer of distinction who escaped from the calamities of the day with life and honor. The other aids of Braddock were disabled early in the action, and Washington alone was left in that capacity on the field. In a letter to his brother he says: "I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet I escaped unhurt, though death was leveling my companions on every side." An Indian sharpshooter said he was not born to be killed by a bullet, for he had taken direct aim at him seventeen times, and failed to hit him.

After having been five years in the military service, and vainly sought promotion in the royal army, he took advantage of the fall of Fort Duquesne and the expulsion of the French from the valley of the Ohio, to resign his commission. Soon after he entered the Legislature, where, although not a leader, he took an active and important part. January 17, 1759, he married Mrs. Martha (Dandridge) Custis, the wealthy widow of John Parke Custis.

When the British Parliament had closed the port of Boston, the cry went up throughout the provinces that "The cause of Boston is the cause of us all." It was then, at the suggestion of Virginia, that a Congress of all the colonies was called to meet at Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1774, to secure their common liberties, peaceably if possible. To this Congress Col. Washington was sent as a delegate. On May 10, 1775, the Congress re-assembled, when the hostile intentions of England were plainly apparent. The battles of Concord and Lexington had been fought. Among the first acts of this Congress was the election of a commander-in-chief of the colonial forces. This high and responsible office was conferred upon Washington, who was still a member of the Congress. He accepted it on June 19, but upon the express condition that he receive no salary. He would keep an exact account of expenses and expect Congress to pay them and nothing more. It is not the object of this sketch to trace the military acts of Washington, to whom the fortunes and liberties of the people of this country were so long confided. The war was conducted by him under every possible disadvantage, and while his forces often met with reverses, yet he overcame every obstacle, and after seven years of heroic devotion and matchless skill he gained liberty for the greatest nation of earth. On Dec. 23, 1783, Washington, in a parting address of surpassing beauty, resigned his

commission as commander-in-chief of the army to the Continental Congress sitting at Annapolis. He retired immediately to Mount Vernon and resumed his occupation as a farmer and planter, shunning all connection with public life.

In February, 1789, Washington was unanimously elected President. In his presidential career he was subject to the peculiar trials incidental to a new government; trials from lack of confidence on the part of other governments; trials from want of harmony between the different sections of our own country; trials from the impoverished condition of the country, owing to the war and want of credit; trials from the beginnings of party strife. He was no partisan. His clear judgment could discern the golden mean; and while perhaps this alone kept our government from sinking at the very outset, it left him exposed to attacks from both sides, which were often bitter and very annoying.

At the expiration of his first term he was unanimously re-elected. At the end of this term many were anxious that he be re-elected, but he absolutely refused a third nomination. On the fourth of March, 1797, at the expiration of his second term as President, he returned to his home, hoping to pass there his few remaining years free from the annoyances of public life. Later in the year, however, his repose seemed likely to be interrupted by war with France. At the prospect of such a war he was again urged to take command of the armies. He chose his subordinate officers and left to them the charge of matters in the field, which he superintended from his home. In accepting the command he made the reservation that he was not to be in the field until it was necessary. In the midst of these preparations his life was suddenly cut off. December 12, he took a severe cold from a ride in the rain, which, settling in his throat, produced inflammation, and terminated fatally on the night of the fourteenth. On the eighteenth his body was borne with military honors to its final resting place, and interred in the family vault at Mount Vernon.

Of the character of Washington it is impossible to speak but in terms of the highest respect and admiration. The more we see of the operations of our government, and the more deeply we feel the difficulty of uniting all opinions in a common interest, the more highly we must estimate the force of his talent and character, which have been able to challenge the reverence of all parties, and principles, and nations, and to win a fame as extended as the limits of the globe, and which we cannot but believe will be as lasting as the existence of man.

The person of Washington was unusually tall, erect and well proportioned. His muscular strength was great. His features were of a beautiful symmetry. He commanded respect without any appearance of haughtiness, and ever serious without being dull.

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*John Adams*

## JOHN ADAMS.



JOHN ADAMS, the second President and the first Vice-President of the United States, was born in Braintree (now Quincy), Mass., and about ten miles from Boston, Oct. 19, 1735. His great-grandfather, Henry Adams, emigrated from England about 1640, with a family of eight sons, and settled at Braintree. The parents of John were John and Susannah (Boylston) Adams. His father was a farmer of limited means, to which he added the business of shoemaking. He gave his eldest son, John, a classical education at Harvard College. John

graduated in 1755, and at once took charge of the school in Worcester, Mass. This he found but a "school of affliction," from which he endeavored to gain relief by devoting himself, in addition, to the study of law. For this purpose he placed himself under the tuition of the only lawyer in the town. He had thought seriously of the clerical profession but seems to have been turned from this by what he termed "the frightful engines of ecclesiastical councils, of diabolical malice, and Calvinistic good nature," of the operations of which he had been a witness in his native town. He was well fitted for the legal profession, possessing a clear, sonorous voice, being ready and fluent of speech, and having quick perceptive powers. He gradually gained practice, and in 1764 married Abigail Smith, a daughter of a minister, and a lady of superior intelligence. Shortly after his marriage, (1765), the attempt of Parliamentary taxation turned him from law to politics. He took initial steps toward holding a town meeting, and the resolu-

tions he offered on the subject became very popular throughout the Province, and were adopted word for word by over forty different towns. He moved to Boston in 1768, and became one of the most courageous and prominent advocates of the popular cause, and was chosen a member of the General Court (the Legislature) in 1770.

Mr. Adams was chosen one of the first delegates from Massachusetts to the first Continental Congress, which met in 1774. Here he distinguished himself by his capacity for business and for debate, and advocated the movement for independence against the majority of the members. In May, 1776, he moved and carried a resolution in Congress that the Colonies should assume the duties of self-government. He was a prominent member of the committee of five appointed June 11, to prepare a declaration of independence. This article was drawn by Jefferson, but on Adams devolved the task of battling it through Congress in a three days debate.

On the day after the Declaration of Independence was passed, while his soul was yet warm with the glow of excited feeling, he wrote a letter to his wife, which, as we read it now, seems to have been dictated by the spirit of prophecy. "Yesterday," he says, "the greatest question was decided that ever was debated in America; and greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, 'that these United States are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.' The day is passed. The fourth of July, 1776, will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows,

games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward for ever. You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil, and blood and treasure, that it will cost to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these States; yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means; and that posterity will triumph, although you and I may rue, which I hope we shall not."

In November, 1777, Mr. Adams was appointed a delegate to France, and to co-operate with Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, who were then in Paris, in the endeavor to obtain assistance in arms and money from the French Government. This was a severe trial to his patriotism, as it separated him from his home, compelled him to cross the ocean in winter, and exposed him to great peril of capture by the British cruisers, who were seeking him. He left France June 17, 1779. In September of the same year he was again chosen to go to Paris, and there hold himself in readiness to negotiate a treaty of peace and of commerce with Great Britain, as soon as the British Cabinet might be found willing to listen to such proposals. He sailed for France in November, from there he went to Holland, where he negotiated important loans and formed important commercial treaties.

Finally a treaty of peace with England was signed Jan. 21, 1783. The re-action from the excitement, toil and anxiety through which Mr. Adams had passed threw him into a fever. After suffering from a continued fever and becoming feeble and emaciated he was advised to go to England to drink the waters of Bath. While in England, still drooping and desponding, he received dispatches from his own government urging the necessity of his going to Amsterdam to negotiate another loan. It was winter, his health was delicate, yet he immediately set out, and through storm, on sea, on horseback and foot, he made the trip.

February 24, 1785, Congress appointed Mr. Adams envoy to the Court of St. James. Here he met face to face the King of England, who had so long regarded him as a traitor. As England did not condescend to appoint a minister to the United States, and as Mr. Adams felt that he was accomplishing but little, he sought permission to return to his own country, where he arrived in June, 1788.

When Washington was first chosen President, John Adams, rendered illustrious by his signal services at home and abroad, was chosen Vice President. Again at the second election of Washington as President, Adams was chosen Vice President. In 1796, Washington retired from public life, and Mr. Adams was elected President, though not without much opposition. Serving in this office four years, he was succeeded by Mr. Jefferson, his opponent in politics.

While Mr. Adams was Vice President the great

French Revolution shook the continent of Europe, and it was upon this point which he was at issue with the majority of his countrymen led by Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Adams felt no sympathy with the French people in their struggle, for he had no confidence in their power of self-government, and he utterly abhorred the class of atheist philosophers who he claimed caused it. On the other hand Jefferson's sympathies were strongly enlisted in behalf of the French people. Hence originated the alienation between these distinguished men, and two powerful parties were thus soon organized, Adams at the head of the one whose sympathies were with England and Jefferson led the other in sympathy with France.

The world has seldom seen a spectacle of more moral beauty and grandeur, than was presented by the old age of Mr. Adams. The violence of party feeling had died away, and he had begun to receive that just appreciation which, to most men, is not accorded till after death. No one could look upon his venerable form, and think of what he had done and suffered, and how he had given up all the prime and strength of his life to the public good, without the deepest emotion of gratitude and respect. It was his peculiar good fortune to witness the complete success of the institution which he had been so active in creating and supporting. In 1824, his cup of happiness was filled to the brim, by seeing his son elevated to the highest station in the gift of the people.

The fourth of July, 1826, which completed the half century since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, arrived, and there were but three of the signers of that immortal instrument left upon the earth to hail its morning light. And, as it is well known, on that day two of these finished their earthly pilgrimage, a coincidence so remarkable as to seem miraculous. For a few days before Mr. Adams had been rapidly failing, and on the morning of the fourth he found himself too weak to rise from his bed. On being requested to name a toast for the customary celebration of the day, he exclaimed "INDEPENDENCE FOREVER." When the day was ushered in, by the ringing of bells and the firing of cannons, he was asked by one of his attendants if he knew what day it was? He replied, "O yes; it is the glorious fourth of July—God bless it—God bless you all." In the course of the day he said, "It is a great and glorious day." The last words he uttered were, "Jefferson survives." But he had, at one o'clock, resigned his spirit into the hands of his God.

The personal appearance and manners of Mr. Adams were not particularly prepossessing. His face, as his portrait manifests, was intellectual and expressive, but his figure was low and ungraceful, and his manners were frequently abrupt and uncourteous. He had neither the lofty dignity of Washington, nor the engaging elegance and gracefulness which marked the manners and address of Jefferson.

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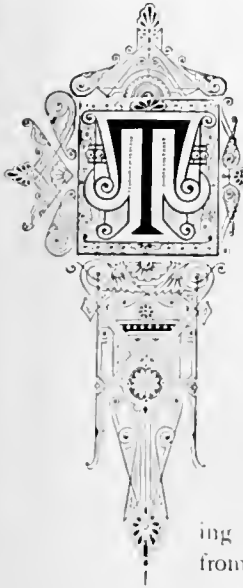


*Th. Jefferson*





# THOMAS JEFFERSON.



THOMAS JEFFERSON was born April 2, 1743, at Shadwell, Albermarle county, Va. His parents were Peter and Jane ( Randolph ) Jefferson, the former a native of Wales, and the latter born in London. To them were born six daughters and two sons, of whom Thomas was the elder. When 14 years of age his father died. He received a most liberal education, having been kept diligently at school from the time he was five years of age. In 1760 he entered William and Mary College. Williamsburg was then the seat of the Colonial Court, and it was the obode of fashion and splendor. Young Jefferson, who was then 17 years old, lived somewhat expensively, keeping fine horses, and much caressed by gay society, yet he was earnestly devoted to his studies, and irreproachable in his morals. It is strange, however, under such influences, that he was not ruined. In the second year of his college course, moved by some unexplained inward impulse, he discarded his horses, society, and even his favorite violin, to which he had previously given much time. He often devoted fifteen hours a day to hard study, allowing himself for exercise only a run in the evening twilight of a mile out of the city and back again. He thus attained very high intellectual culture, alike excellence in philosophy and the languages. The most ditheult Latin and Greek authors he read with facility. A more finished scholar has seldom gone forth from college halls; and

there was not to be found, perhaps, in all Virginia, a more pureminded, upright, gentlemanly young man.

Immediately upon leaving college he began the study of law. For the short time he continued in the practice of his profession he rose rapidly and distinguished himself by his energy and acuteness as a lawyer. But the times called for greater action. The policy of England had awakened the spirit of resistance of the American Colonies, and the enlarged views which Jefferson had ever entertained, soon led him into active political life. In 1769 he was chosen a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. In 1772 he married Mrs. Martha Skelton, a very beautiful, wealthy and highly accomplished young widow.

Upon Mr. Jefferson's large estate at Shadwell, there was a majestic swell of land, called Monticello, which commanded a prospect of wonderful extent and beauty. This spot Mr. Jefferson selected for his new home; and here he reared a mansion of modest yet elegant architecture, which, next to Mount Vernon, became the most distinguished resort in our land.

In 1775 he was sent to the Colonial Congress, where, though a silent member, his abilities as a writer and a reasoner soon become known, and he was placed upon a number of important committees, and was chairman of the one appointed for the drawing up of a declaration of independence. This committee consisted of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. Jefferson, as chairman, was appointed to draw up the paper. Franklin and Adams suggested a few verbal changes before it was submitted to Congress. On June 28, a few slight changes were made in it by Congress, and it was passed and signed July 4, 1776. What must have been the feelings of that

man—what the emotions that swelled his breast—who was charged with the preparation of that Declaration, which, while it made known the wrongs of America, was also to publish her to the world, free, sovereign and independent. It is one of the most remarkable papers ever written; and did no other effort of the mind of its author exist, that alone would be sufficient to stamp his name with immortality.

In 1779 Mr. Jefferson was elected successor to Patrick Henry, as Governor of Virginia. At one time the British officer, Tarleton, sent a secret expedition to Monticello, to capture the Governor. Scarcely five minutes elapsed after the hurried escape of Mr. Jefferson and his family, ere his mansion was in possession of the British troops. His wife's health, never very good, was much injured by this excitement, and in the summer of 1782 she died.

Mr. Jefferson was elected to Congress in 1783. Two years later he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to France. Returning to the United States in September, 1789, he became Secretary of State in Washington's cabinet. This position he resigned Jan. 1, 1794. In 1797, he was chosen Vice President, and four years later was elected President over Mr. Adams, with Aaron Burr as Vice President. In 1804 he was re-elected with wonderful unanimity, and George Clinton, Vice President.

The early part of Mr. Jefferson's second administration was disturbed by an event which threatened the tranquility and peace of the Union; this was the conspiracy of Aaron Burr. Defeated in the late election to the Vice Presidency, and led on by an unprincipled ambition, this extraordinary man formed the plan of a military expedition into the Spanish territories on our southwestern frontier, for the purpose of forming there a new republic. This has been generally supposed was a mere pretext; and although it has not been generally known what his real plans were, there is no doubt that they were of a far more dangerous character.

In 1809, at the expiration of the second term for which Mr. Jefferson had been elected, he determined to retire from political life. For a period of nearly forty years, he had been continually before the public, and all that time had been employed in offices of the greatest trust and responsibility. Having thus devoted the best part of his life to the service of his country, he now felt desirous of that rest which his declining years required, and upon the organization of the new administration, in March, 1809, he bid farewell forever to public life, and retired to Monticello.

Mr. Jefferson was profuse in his hospitality. Whole families came in their coaches with their horses,—fathers and mothers, boys and girls, babies and nurses,—and remained three and even six months. Life at Monticello, for years, resembled that at a fashionable watering-place.

The fourth of July, 1826, being the fiftieth anniversary

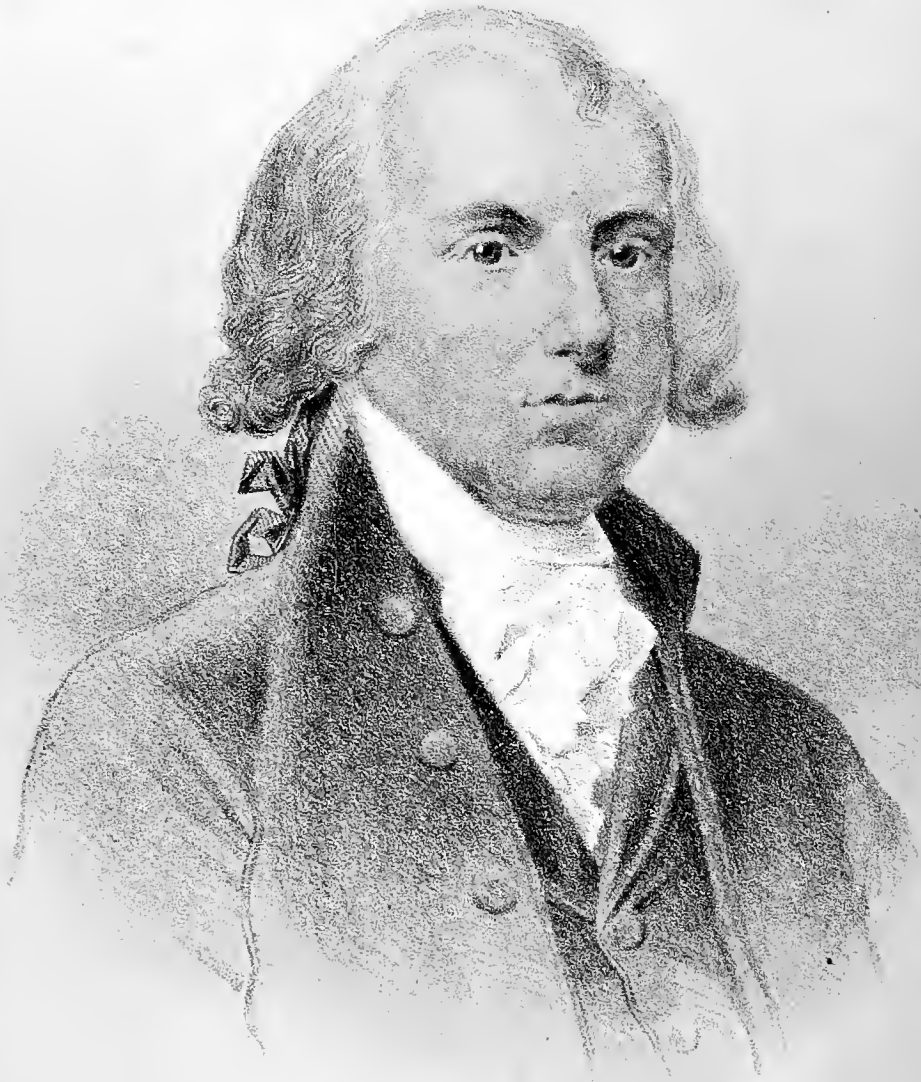
of the Declaration of American Independence, great preparations were made in every part of the Union for its celebration, as the nation's jubilee, and the citizens of Washington, to add to the solemnity of the occasion, invited Mr. Jefferson, as the framer, and one of the few surviving signers of the Declaration, to participate in their festivities. But an illness, which had been of several weeks duration, and had been continually increasing, compelled him to decline the invitation.

On the second of July, the disease under which he was laboring left him, but in such a reduced state that his medical attendants, entertained no hope of his recovery. From this time he was perfectly sensible that his last hour was at hand. On the next day, which was Monday, he asked of those around him, the day of the month, and on being told it was the third of July, he expressed the earnest wish that he might be permitted to breathe the air of the fiftieth anniversary. His prayer was heard—that day, whose dawn was hailed with such rapture through our land, burst upon his eyes, and then they were closed forever. And what a noble consummation of a noble life! To die on that day,—the birthday of a nation,—the day which his own name and his own act had rendered glorious; to die amidst the rejoicings and festivities of a whole nation, who looked up to him, as the author, under God, of their greatest blessings, was all that was wanting to fill up the record his life.

Almost at the same hour of his death, the kindred spirit of the venerable Adams, as if to bear him company, left the scene of his earthly honors. Hand in hand they had stood forth, the champions of freedom; hand in hand, during the dark and desperate struggle of the Revolution, they had cheered and animated their desponding countrymen; for half a century they had labored together for the good of the country; and now hand in hand they depart. In their lives they had been united in the same great cause of liberty, and in their deaths they were not divided.

In person Mr. Jefferson was tall and thin, rather above six feet in height, but well formed; his eyes were light, his hair originally red, in after life became white and silvery; his complexion was fair, his forehead broad, and his whole countenance intelligent and thoughtful. He possessed great fortitude of mind as well as personal courage; and his command of temper was such that his oldest and most intimate friends never recollected to have seen him in a passion. His manners, though dignified, were simple and unaffected, and his hospitality was so unbounded that all found at his house a ready welcome. In conversation he was fluent, eloquent and enthusiastic; and his language was remarkably pure and correct. He was a finished classical scholar, and in his writings is discernable the care with which he formed his style upon the best models of antiquity.

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*James Madison*



## JAMES MADISON.

**J**AMES MADISON, "Father of the Constitution," and fourth President of the United States, was born March 16, 1757, and died at his home in Virginia, June 28, 1836. The name of James Madison is inseparably connected with most of the important events in that heroic period of our country during which the foundations of this great republic were laid. He was the last of the founders of the Constitution of the United States to be called to his eternal reward.

The Madison family were among the early emigrants to the New World, landing upon the shores of the Chesapeake but 15 years after the settlement of Jamestown. The father of James Madison was an opulent planter, residing upon a very fine estate called "Montpelier," Orange Co., Va. The mansion was situated in the midst of scenery highly picturesque and romantic, on the west side of South-west Mountain, at the foot of Blue Ridge. It was but 25 miles from the home of Jefferson at Monticello. The closest personal and political attachment existed between these illustrious men, from their early youth until death.

The early education of Mr. Madison was conducted mostly at home under a private tutor. At the age of 18 he was sent to Princeton College, in New Jersey. Here he applied himself to study with the most un-

prudent zeal; allowing himself, for months, but three hours' sleep out of the 24. His health thus became so seriously impaired that he never recovered any vigor of constitution. He graduated in 1774, with a feeble body, with a character of utmost purity, and with a mind highly disciplined and richly stored with learning which embellished and gave proficiency to his subsequent career.

Returning to Virginia, he commenced the study of law and a course of extensive and systematic reading. This educational course, the spirit of the times in which he lived, and the society with which he associated, all combined to inspire him with a strong love of liberty, and to train him for his life-work of a statesman. Being naturally of a religious turn of mind, and his frail health leading him to think that his life was not to be long, he directed especial attention to theological studies. Endowed with a mind singularly free from passion and prejudice, and with almost unequalled powers of reasoning, he weighed all the arguments for and against revealed religion, until his faith became so established as never to be shaken.

In the spring of 1776, when 26 years of age, he was elected a member of the Virginia Convention, to frame the constitution of the State. The next year (1777), he was a candidate for the General Assembly. He refused to treat the whisky-loving voters, and consequently lost his election; but those who had witnessed the talent, energy and public spirit of the modest young man, enlisted themselves in his behalf, and he was appointed to the Executive Council.

Both Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson were Governors of Virginia while Mr. Madison remained member of the Council; and their appreciation of his

intellectual, social and moral worth, contributed not a little to his subsequent eminence. In the year 1780, he was elected a member of the Continental Congress. Here he met the most illustrious men in our land, and he was immediately assigned to one of the most conspicuous positions among them.

For three years Mr. Madison continued in Congress, one of its most active and influential members. In the year 1784, his term having expired, he was elected a member of the Virginia Legislature.

No man felt more deeply than Mr. Madison the utter inefficiency of the old confederacy, with no national government, with no power to form treaties which would be binding, or to enforce law. There was not any State more prominent than Virginia in the declaration, that an efficient national government must be formed. In January, 1786, Mr. Madison carried a resolution through the General Assembly of Virginia, inviting the other States to appoint commissioners to meet in convention at Annapolis to discuss this subject. Five States only were represented. The convention, however, issued another call, drawn up by Mr. Madison, urging all the States to send their delegates to Philadelphia, in May, 1787, to draft a Constitution for the United States, to take the place of that Confederate League. The delegates met at the time appointed. Every State but Rhode Island was represented. George Washington was chosen president of the convention; and the present Constitution of the United States was then and there formed. There was, perhaps, no mind and no pen more active in framing this immortal document than the mind and the pen of James Madison.

The Constitution, adopted by a vote 81 to 79, was to be presented to the several States for acceptance. But grave solicitude was felt. Should it be rejected we should be left but a conglomeration of independent States, with but little power at home and little respect abroad. Mr. Madison was selected by the convention to draw up an address to the people of the United States, expounding the principles of the Constitution, and urging its adoption. There was great opposition to it at first, but it at length triumphed over all, and went into effect in 1789.

Mr. Madison was elected to the House of Representatives in the first Congress, and soon became the avowed leader of the Republican party. While in New York attending Congress, he met Mrs. Todd, a young widow of remarkable power of fascination, whom he married. She was in person and character queenly, and probably no lady has thus far occupied so prominent a position in the very peculiar society which has constituted our republican court as Mrs. Madison.

Mr. Madison served as Secretary of State under Jefferson, and at the close of his administration was chosen President. At this time the encroachments of England had brought us to the verge of war.

British orders in council destroyed our commerce, and our flag was exposed to constant insult. Mr. Madison was a man of peace. Scholarly in his taste, retiring in his disposition, war had no charms for him. But the meekest spirit can be roused. It makes one's blood boil, even now, to think of an American ship brought to, upon the ocean, by the guns of an English cruiser. A young lieutenant steps on board and orders the crew to be paraded before him. With great nonchalance he selects any number whom he may please to designate as British subjects; orders them down the ship's side into his boat; and places them on the gun-deck of his man-of-war, to fight, by compulsion, the battles of England. This right of search and impressment, no efforts of our Government could induce the British cabinet to relinquish.

On the 18th of June, 1812, President Madison gave his approval to an act of Congress declaring war against Great Britain. Notwithstanding the bitter hostility of the Federal party to the war, the country in general approved; and Mr. Madison, on the 4th of March, 1813, was re-elected by a large majority, and entered upon his second term of office. This is not the place to describe the various adventures of this war on the land and on the water. Our infant navy then laid the foundations of its renown in grappling with the most formidable power which ever swept the seas. The contest commenced in earnest by the appearance of a British fleet, early in February, 1813, in Chesapeake Bay, declaring nearly the whole coast of the United States under blockade.

The Emperor of Russia offered his services as mediator. America accepted; England refused. A British force of five thousand men landed on the banks of the Patuxet River, near its entrance into Chesapeake Bay, and marched rapidly, by way of Bladensburg, upon Washington.

The straggling little city of Washington was thrown into consternation. The cannon of the brief conflict at Bladensburg echoed through the streets of the metropolis. The whole population fled from the city. The President, leaving Mrs. Madison in the White House, with her carriage drawn up at the door to await his speedy return, hurried to meet the officers in a council of war. He met our troops utterly routed, and he could not go back without danger of being captured. But few hours elapsed ere the Presidential Mansion, the Capitol, and all the public buildings in Washington were in flames.

The war closed after two years of fighting, and on Feb. 13, 1815, the treaty of peace was signed at Ghent.

On the 4th of March, 1817, his second term of office expired, and he resigned the Presidential chair to his friend, James Monroe. He retired to his beautiful home at Montpelier, and there passed the remainder of his days. On June 28, 1836, then at the age of 85 years, he fell asleep in death. Mrs. Madison died July 12, 1849.

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*James Monroe*





## JAMES MONROE.

**J**AMES MONROE, the fifth President of The United States, was born in Westmoreland Co., Va., April 28, 1758. His early life was passed at the place of nativity. His ancestors had for many years resided in the province in which he was born. When, at 17 years of age, in the process of completing his education at William and Mary College, the Colonial Congress assembled at Philadelphia to deliberate upon the unjust and manifold oppressions of Great Britain, declared the separation of the Colonies, and promulgated the Declaration of Independence. Had he been born ten years before it is highly probable that he would have been one of the signers of that celebrated instrument. At this time he left school and enlisted among the patriots.

He joined the army when everything looked hopeless and gloomy. The number of deserters increased from day to day. The invading armies came pouring in; and the tories not only favored the cause of the mother country, but disheartened the new recruits, who were sufficiently terrified at the prospect of contending with an enemy whom they had been taught to deem invincible. To such brave spirits as James Monroe, who went right onward, undismayed through difficulty and danger, the United States owe their political emancipation. The young cadet joined the ranks, and espoused the cause of his injured country, with a firm determination to live or die with her strife

for liberty. Firmly yet sadly he shared in the melancholy retreat from Harleam Heights and White Plains, and accompanied the dispirited army as it fled before its foes through New Jersey. In four months after the Declaration of Independence, the patriots had been beaten in seven battles. At the battle of Trenton he led the vanguard, and, in the act of charging upon the enemy he received a wound in the left shoulder.

As a reward for his bravery, Mr. Monroe was promoted a captain of infantry; and, having recovered from his wound, he rejoined the army. He, however, receded from the line of promotion, by becoming an officer in the staff of Lord Sterling. During the campaigns of 1777 and 1778, in the actions of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth, he continued aid-de-camp; but becoming desirous to regain his position in the army, he exerted himself to collect a regiment for the Virginia line. This scheme failed owing to the exhausted condition of the State. Upon this failure he entered the office of Mr. Jefferson, at that period Governor, and pursued, with considerable ardor, the study of common law. He did not, however, entirely lay aside the knapsack for the green bag; but on the invasions of the enemy, served as a volunteer, during the two years of his legal pursuits.

In 1782, he was elected from King George county, a member of the Legislature of Virginia, and by that body he was elevated to a seat in the Executive Council. He was thus honored with the confidence of his fellow citizens at 23 years of age; and having at this early period displayed some of that ability and aptitude for legislation, which were afterwards employed with unremitting energy for the public good,

he was in the succeeding year chosen a member of the Congress of the United States.

Deeply as Mr. Monroe felt the imperfections of the old Confederacy, he was opposed to the new Constitution, thinking, with many others of the Republican party, that it gave too much power to the Central Government, and not enough to the individual States. Still he retained the esteem of his friends who were its warm supporters, and who, notwithstanding his opposition secured its adoption. In 1789, he became a member of the United States Senate; which office he held for four years. Every month the line of distinction between the two great parties which divided the nation, the Federal and the Republican, was growing more distinct. The two prominent ideas which now separated them were, that the Republican party was in sympathy with France, and also in favor of such a strict construction of the Constitution as to give the Central Government as little power, and the State Governments as much power, as the Constitution would warrant. The Federalists sympathized with England, and were in favor of a liberal construction of the Constitution, which would give as much power to the Central Government as that document could possibly authorize.

The leading Federalists and Republicans were alike noble men, consecrating all their energies to the good of the nation. Two more honest men or more pure patriots than John Adams the Federalist, and James Monroe the Republican, never breathed. In building up this majestic nation, which is destined to eclipse all Grecian and Assyrian greatness, the combination of their antagonism was needed to create the right equilibrium. And yet each in his day was denounced as almost a demon.

Washington was then President. England had espoused the cause of the Bourbons against the principles of the French Revolution. All Europe was drawn into the conflict. We were feeble and far away. Washington issued a proclamation of neutrality between these contending powers. France had helped us in the struggle for our liberties. All the despotisms of Europe were now combined to prevent the French from escaping from a tyranny a thousand-fold worse than that which we had endured. Col. Monroe, more magnanimous than prudent, was anxious that, at whatever hazard, we should help our old allies in their extremity. It was the impulse of a generous and noble nature. He violently opposed the President's proclamation as ungrateful and wanting in magnanimity.

Washington, who could appreciate such a character, developed his calm, serene, almost divine greatness, by appointing that very James Monroe, who was denouncing the policy of the Government, as the minister of that Government to the Republic of France. Mr. Monroe was welcomed by the National Convention in France with the most enthusiastic demonstrations.

Shortly after his return to this country, Mr. Monroe was elected Governor of Virginia, and held the office for three years. He was again sent to France to co-operate with Chancellor Livingston in obtaining the vast territory then known as the Province of Louisiana, which France had but shortly before obtained from Spain. Their united efforts were successful. For the comparatively small sum of fifteen millions of dollars, the entire territory of Orleans and District of Louisiana were added to the United States. This was probably the largest transfer of real estate which was ever made in all the history of the world.

From France Mr. Monroe went to England to obtain from that country some recognition of our rights as neutrals, and to remonstrate against those odious impressments of our seamen. But England was unrelenting. He again returned to England on the same mission, but could receive no redress. He returned to his home and was again chosen Governor of Virginia. This he soon resigned to accept the position of Secretary of State under Madison. While in this office war with England was declared, the Secretary of War resigned, and during these trying times, the duties of the War Department were also put upon him. He was truly the armor-bearer of President Madison, and the most efficient business man in his cabinet. Upon the return of peace he resigned the Department of War, but continued in the office of Secretary of State until the expiration of Mr. Madison's administration. At the election held the previous autumn Mr. Monroe himself had been chosen President with but little opposition, and upon March 4, 1817, was inaugurated. Four years later he was elected for a second term.

Among the important measures of his Presidency were the cession of Florida to the United States; the Missouri Compromise, and the "Monroe doctrine."

This famous doctrine, since known as the "Monroe doctrine," was enunciated by him in 1823. At that time the United States had recognized the independence of the South American states, and did not wish to have European powers longer attempting to subdue portions of the American Continent. The doctrine is as follows: "That we should consider any attempt on the part of European powers to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety," and "that we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing or controlling American governments or provinces in any other light than as a manifestation by European powers of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." This doctrine immediately affected the course of foreign governments, and has become the approved sentiment of the United States.

At the end of his second term Mr. Monroe retired to his home in Virginia, where he lived until 1830, when he went to New York to live with his son-in-law. In that city he died, on the 4th of July, 1831.

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*J. D. Adams*

## JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

**J**OHN QUINCY ADAMS, the sixth President of the United States, was born in the rural home of his honored father, John Adams, in Quincy, Mass., on the 11th of July, 1767. His mother, a woman of exalted worth, watched over his childhood during the almost constant absence of his father. When but eight years of age, he stood with his mother on an eminence, listening to the booming of the great battle on Bunker's Hill, and gazing on upon the smoke and flames billowing up from the conflagration of Charlestown.

When but eleven years old he took a tearful adieu of his mother, to sail with his father for Europe, through a fleet of hostile British cruisers. The bright, animated boy spent a year and a half in Paris, where his father was associated with Franklin and Lee as minister plenipotentiary. His intelligence attracted the notice of these distinguished men, and he received from them flattering marks of attention.

Mr. John Adams had scarcely returned to this country, in 1779, ere he was again sent abroad. Again John Quincy accompanied his father. At Paris he applied himself with great diligence, for six months, to study; then accompanied his father to Holland, where he entered, first a school in Amsterdam, then the University at Leyden. About a year from this time, in 1781, when the manly boy was but fourteen years of age, he was selected by Mr. Dana, our minister to the Russian court, as his private secretary.

In this school of incessant labor and of ennobling culture he spent fourteen months, and then returned to Holland through Sweden, Denmark, Hamburg and Bremen. This long journey he took alone, in the winter, when in his sixteenth year. Again he resumed his studies, under a private tutor, at Hague. Thence,

in the spring of 1782, he accompanied his father to Paris, traveling leisurely, and forming acquaintance with the most distinguished men on the Continent; examining architectural remains, galleries of paintings, and all renowned works of art. At Paris he again became associated with the most illustrious men of all lands in the contemplations of the loftiest temporal themes which can engross the human mind. After a short visit to England he returned to Paris, and consecrated all his energies to study until May, 1785, when he returned to America. To a brilliant young man of eighteen, who had seen much of the world, and who was familiar with the etiquette of courts, a residence with his father in London, under such circumstances, must have been extremely attractive; but with judgment very rare in one of his age, he preferred to return to America to complete his education in an American college. He wished then to study law, that with an honorable profession, he might be able to obtain an independent support.

Upon leaving Harvard College, at the age of twenty, he studied law for three years. In June, 1794, being then but twenty-seven years of age, he was appointed by Washington, resident minister at the Netherlands. Sailing from Boston in July, he reached London in October, where he was immediately admitted to the deliberations of Messrs. Jay and Pinckney, assisting them in negotiating a commercial treaty with Great Britain. After thus spending a fortnight in London, he proceeded to the Hague.

In July, 1797, he left the Hague to go to Portugal as minister plenipotentiary. On his way to Portugal, upon arriving in London, he met with despatches directing him to the court of Berlin, but requesting him to remain in London until he should receive his instructions. While waiting he was married to an American lady to whom he had been previously engaged, Miss Louisa Catherine Johnson, daughter of Mr. Joshua Johnson, American consul in London, a lady endowed with that beauty and those accomplishments which eminently fitted her to move in the elevated sphere for which she was destined.

He reached Berlin with his wife in November, 1797; where he remained until July, 1799, when, having fulfilled all the purposes of his mission, he solicited his recall.

Soon after his return, in 1802, he was chosen to the Senate of Massachusetts, from Boston, and then was elected Senator of the United States for six years, from the 4th of March, 1804. His reputation, his ability and his experience, placed him immediately among the most prominent and influential members of that body. Especially did he sustain the Government in its measures of resistance to the encroachments of England, destroying our commerce and insulting our flag. There was no man in America more familiar with the arrogance of the British court upon these points, and no one more resolved to present a firm resistance.

In 1809, Madison succeeded Jefferson in the Presidential chair, and he immediately nominated John Quincy Adams minister to St. Petersburg. Resigning his professorship in Harvard College, he embarked at Boston, in August, 1809.

While in Russia, Mr. Adams was an intense student. He devoted his attention to the language and history of Russia; to the Chinese trade; to the European system of weights, measures, and coins; to the climate and astronomical observations; while he kept up a familiar acquaintance with the Greek and Latin classics. In all the universities of Europe, a more accomplished scholar could scarcely be found. All through life the Bible constituted an important part of his studies. It was his rule to read five chapters every day.

On the 4th of March, 1817, Mr. Monroe took the Presidential chair, and immediately appointed Mr. Adams Secretary of State. Taking leave of his numerous friends in public and private life in Europe, he sailed in June, 1819, for the United States. On the 18th of August, he again crossed the threshold of his home in Quincy. During the eight years of Mr. Monroe's administration, Mr. Adams continued Secretary of State.

Some time before the close of Mr. Monroe's second term of office, new candidates began to be presented for the Presidency. The friends of Mr. Adams brought forward his name. It was an exciting campaign. Party spirit was never more bitter. Two hundred and sixty electoral votes were cast. Andrew Jackson received ninety-nine; John Quincy Adams, eighty-four; William H. Crawford, forty-one; Henry Clay, thirty-seven. As there was no choice by the people, the question went to the House of Representatives. Mr. Clay gave the vote of Kentucky to Mr. Adams, and he was elected.

The friends of all the disappointed candidates now combined in a venomous and persistent assault upon Mr. Adams. There is nothing more disgraceful in the past history of our country than the abuse which

was poured in one uninterrupted stream, upon this high-minded, upright, patriotic man. There never was an administration more pure in principles, more conscientiously devoted to the best interests of the country, than that of John Quincy Adams; and never, perhaps, was there an administration more unscrupulously and outrageously assailed.

Mr. Adams was, to a very remarkable degree, abstemious and temperate in his habits; always rising early, and taking much exercise. When at his home in Quincy, he has been known to walk, before breakfast, seven miles to Boston. In Washington, it was said that he was the first man up in the city, lighting his own fire and applying himself to work in his library often long before dawn.

On the 4th of March, 1829, Mr. Adams retired from the Presidency, and was succeeded by Andrew Jackson. John C. Calhoun was elected Vice President. The slavery question now began to assume portentous magnitude. Mr. Adams returned to Quincy and to his studies, which he pursued with unabated zeal. But he was not long permitted to remain in retirement. In November, 1830, he was elected representative to Congress. For seventeen years, until his death, he occupied the post as representative, towering above all his peers, ever ready to do brave battle for freedom, and winning the title of "the old man eloquent." Upon taking his seat in the House, he announced that he should hold himself bound to no party. Probably there never was a member more devoted to his duties. He was usually the first in his place in the morning, and the last to leave his seat in the evening. Not a measure could be brought forward and escape his scrutiny. The battle which Mr. Adams fought, almost singly, against the proslavery party in the Government, was sublime in its moral daunt and heroism. For persisting in presenting petitions for the abolition of slavery, he was threatened with indictment by the grand jury, with expulsion from the House, with assassination; but no threats could intimidate him, and his final triumph was complete.

It has been said of President Adams, that when his body was bent and his hair silvered by the lapse of fourscore years, yielding to the simple faith of a little child, he was accustomed to repeat every night, before he slept, the prayer which his mother taught him in his infant years.

On the 21st of February, 1848, he rose on the floor of Congress, with a paper in his hand, to address the speaker. Suddenly he fell, again stricken by paralysis, and was caught in the arms of those around him. For a time he was senseless, as he was conveyed to the sofa in the rotunda. With reviving consciousness, he opened his eyes, looked calmly around and said "*This is the end of earth*;" then after a moment's pause he added, "*I am content*." These were the last words of the grand "Old Man Eloquent."

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*Andrew Jackson.*



## ANDREW JACKSON.



ANDREW JACKSON, the seventh President of the United States, was born in Waxhaw settlement, N. C., March 15, 1767, a few days after his father's death. His parents were poor emigrants from Ireland, and took up their abode in Waxhaw settlement, where they lived in deepest poverty.

Andrew, or Andy, as he was universally called, grew up a very rough, rude, turbulent boy. His features were coarse, his form ungainly; and there was but very

little in his character, made visible, which was attractive.

When only thirteen years old he joined the volunteers of Carolina against the British invasion. In 1781, he and his brother Robert were captured and imprisoned for a time at Camden. A British officer ordered him to brush his mud-spattered boots. "I am a prisoner of war, not your servant," was the reply of the dauntless boy.

The brute drew his sword, and aimed a desperate blow at the head of the helpless young prisoner. Andrew raised his hand, and thus received two fearful gashes, — one on the hand and the other upon the head. The officer then turned to his brother Robert with the same demand. He also refused, and received a blow from the keen-edged sabre, which quite disabled him, and which probably soon after caused his death. They suffered in addition other ill-treatment, and were finally stricken with the small-pox. Their mother was successful in obtaining their exchange,

and took her sick boys home. After a long illness Andrew recovered, and the death of his mother soon left him entirely friendless.

Andrew supported himself in various ways, such as working at the saddler's trade, teaching school and clerking in a general store, until 1784, when he entered a law office at Salisbury, N. C. He, however, gave more attention to the wild amusements of the times than to his studies. In 1788, he was appointed solicitor for the western district of North Carolina, of which Tennessee was then a part. This involved many long and tedious journeys amid dangers of every kind, but Andrew Jackson never knew fear, and the Indians had no desire to repeat a skirmish with the Sharp Knife.

In 1791, Mr. Jackson was married to a woman who supposed herself divorced from her former husband. Great was the surprise of both parties, two years later, to find that the conditions of the divorce had just been definitely settled by the first husband. The marriage ceremony was performed a second time, but the occurrence was often used by his enemies to bring Mr. Jackson into disfavor.

During these years he worked hard at his profession, and frequently had one or more duels on hand, one of which, when he killed Pickens, was especially disgraceful.

In January, 1796, the Territory of Tennessee then containing nearly eighty thousand inhabitants, the people met in convention at Knoxville to frame a constitution. Five were sent from each of the eleven counties. Andrew Jackson was one of the delegates. The new State was entitled to but one member in the National House of Representatives. Andrew Jackson was chosen that member. Meeting his constituents at Philadelphia, where Congress then held its

sessions,—a distance of about eight hundred miles.

Jackson was an earnest advocate of the Democratic party. Jefferson was his idol. He admired Bonaparte, loved France and hated England. As Mr. Jackson took his seat, Gen. Washington, whose second term of office was then expiring, delivered his last speech to Congress. A committee drew up a complimentary address in reply. Andrew Jackson did not approve of the address, and was one of the twelve who voted against it. He was not willing to say that Gen. Washington's administration had been "wise, firm and patriotic."

Mr. Jackson was elected to the United States Senate in 1797, but soon resigned and returned home. Soon after he was chosen Judge of the Supreme Court of his State, which position he held for six years.

When the war of 1812 with Great Britain commenced, Madison occupied the Presidential chair. Aaron Burr sent word to the President that there was an unknown man in the West, Andrew Jackson, who would do credit to a commission if one were conferred upon him. Just at that time Gen. Jackson offered his services and those of twenty-five hundred volunteers. His offer was accepted, and the troops were assembled at Nashville.

As the British were hourly expected to make an attack upon New Orleans, where Gen. Wilkinson was in command, he was ordered to descend the river with fifteen hundred troops to aid Wilkinson. The expedition reached Natchez; and after a delay of several weeks there, without accomplishing anything, the men were ordered back to their homes. But the energy Gen. Jackson had displayed, and his entire devotion to the comfort of his soldiers, won him golden opinions; and he became the most popular man in the State. It was in this expedition that his toughness gave him the nickname of "Old Hickory."

Soon after this, while attempting to horsewhip Col. Thomas H. Benton, for a remark that gentleman made about his taking a part as second in a duel, in which a younger brother of Benton's was engaged, he received two severe pistol wounds. While he was lingering upon a bed of suffering news came that the Indians, who had combined under Tecumseh from Florida to the Lakes, to exterminate the white settlers, were committing the most awful ravages. Decisive action became necessary. Gen. Jackson, with his fractured bone just beginning to heal, his arm in a sling, and unable to mount his horse without assistance, gave his amazing energies to the raising of an army to rendezvous at Favettesville, Alabama.

The Creek Indians had established a strong fort on one of the bends of the Tallapoosa River, near the center of Alabama, about fifty miles below Fort Strother. With an army of two thousand men, Gen. Jackson traversed the pathless wilderness in a march of eleven days. He reached their fort, called Tohopeka or Horse-shoe, on the 27th of March, 1814. The bend

of the river enclosed nearly one hundred acres of tangled forest and wild ravine. Across the narrow neck the Indians had constructed a formidable breast-work of logs and brush. Here nine hundred warriors, with an ample supply of arms were assembled.

The fort was stormed. The fight was utterly desperate. Not an Indian would accept of quarter. When bleeding and dying, they would fight those who endeavored to spare their lives. From ten in the morning until dark, the battle raged. The carnage was awful and revolting. Some threw themselves into the river; but the merrig bullet struck their heads as they swam. Nearly everyone of the nine hundred warriors were killed. A few probably, in the night, swam the river and escaped. This ended the war. The power of the Creeks was broken forever. This bold plunge into the wilderness, with its terrific slaughter, so appalled the savages, that the haggard remnants of the bands came to the camp, begging for peace.

This closing of the Creek war enabled us to concentrate all our militia upon the British, who were the allies of the Indians. No man of less resolute will than Gen. Jackson could have conducted this Indian campaign to so successful an issue. Immediately he was appointed major-general.

Late in August, with an army of two thousand men, on a rushing march, Gen. Jackson came to Mobile. A British fleet came from Pensacola, landed a force upon the beach, anchored near the little fort, and from both ship and shore commenced a furious assault. The battle was long and doubtful. At length one of the ships was blown up and the rest retired.

Garrisoning Mobile, where he had taken his little army, he moved his troops to New Orleans. And the battle of New Orleans which soon ensued, was in reality a very arduous campaign. This won for Gen. Jackson an imperishable name. Here his troops, which numbered about four thousand men, won a signal victory over the British army of about nine thousand. His loss was but thirteen, while the loss of the British was two thousand six hundred.

The name of Gen. Jackson soon began to be mentioned in connection with the Presidency, but, in 1824, he was defeated by Mr. Adams. He was, however, successful in the election of 1828, and was re-elected for a second term in 1832. In 1829, just before he assumed the reins of the government, he met with the most terrible affliction of his life in the death of his wife, whom he had loved with a devotion which has perhaps never been surpassed. From the shock of her death he never recovered.

His administration was one of the most memorable in the annals of our country; applauded by one party, condemned by the other. No man had more bitter enemies or warmer friends. At the expiration of his two terms of office he retired to the Hermitage, where he died June 8, 1845. The last years of Mr. Jackson's life were that of a devoted Christian man.

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*Arwan Brien*



## MARTIN VAN BUREN.



MARTIN VAN BUREN, the eighth President of the United States, was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., Dec. 5, 1782. He died at the same place, July 24, 1862. His body rests in the cemetery at Kinderhook. Above it is

a plain granite shaft fifteen feet high, bearing a simple inscription about half way up on one face. The lot is unfenced, unbordered

or unbounded by shrub or flower.

There is but little in the life of Martin Van Buren of romantic interest. He fought no battles, engaged in no wild adventures. Though his life was stormy in political and intellectual conflicts, and he gained many signal victories, his days passed uneventful in those incidents which give zest to biography. His ancestors, as his name indicates, were of Dutch origin, and were among the earliest emigrants from Holland to the banks of the Hudson. His father was a farmer, residing in the old town of Kinderhook. His mother, also of Dutch lineage, was a woman of superior intelligence and exemplary piety.

He was decidedly a precocious boy, developing unusual activity, vigor and strength of mind. At the age of fourteen, he had finished his academic studies in his native village, and commenced the study of law. As he had not a collegiate education, seven years of study in a law-office were required of him before he could be admitted to the bar. Inspired with a lofty ambition, and conscious of his powers, he pursued his studies with indelible industry. After spending six years in an office in his native village,

he went to the city of New York, and prosecuted his studies for the seventh year.

In 1803, Mr. Van Buren, then twenty-one years of age, commenced the practice of law in his native village. The great conflict between the Federal and Republican party was then at its height. Mr. Van Buren was from the beginning a politician. He had, perhaps, imbibed that spirit while listening to the many discussions which had been carried on in his father's hotel. He was in cordial sympathy with Jefferson, and earnestly and eloquently espoused the cause of State Rights; though at that time the Federal party held the supremacy both in his town and State.

His success and increasing reputation led him, after six years of practice, to remove to Hudson, the county seat of his county. Here he spent seven years, constantly gaining strength by contending in the courts with some of the ablest men who have adorned the bar of his State.

Just before leaving Kinderhook for Hudson, Mr. Van Buren married a lady alike distinguished for beauty and accomplishments. After twelve short years she sank into the grave, the victim of consumption, leaving her husband and four sons to weep over her loss. For twenty-five years, Mr. Van Buren was an earnest, successful, assiduous lawyer. The record of those years is barren in items of public interest. In 1812, when thirty years of age, he was chosen to the State Senate, and gave his strenuous support to Mr. Madison's administration. In 1815, he was appointed Attorney-General, and the next year moved to Albany, the capital of the State.

While he was acknowledged as one of the most prominent leaders of the Democratic party, he had

the moral courage to avow that true democracy did not require that "universal suffrage" which admits the vile, the degraded, the ignorant, to the right of governing the State. In true consistency with his democratic principles, he contended that, while the path leading to the privilege of voting should be open to every man without distinction, no one should be invested with that sacred prerogative, unless he were in some degree qualified for it by intelligence, virtue and some property interests in the welfare of the State.

In 1821 he was elected a member of the United States Senate; and in the same year, he took a seat in the convention to revise the constitution of his native State. His course in this convention secured the approval of men of all parties. No one could doubt the singleness of his endeavors to promote the interests of all classes in the community. In the Senate of the United States, he rose at once to a conspicuous position as an active and useful legislator.

In 1827, John Quincy Adams being then in the Presidential chair, Mr. Van Buren was re-elected to the Senate. He had been from the beginning a determined opposer of the Administration, adopting the "State Rights" view in opposition to what was deemed the Federal proclivities of Mr. Adams.

Soon after this, in 1828, he was chosen Governor of the State of New York, and accordingly resigned his seat in the Senate. Probably no one in the United States contributed so much towards ejecting John Q. Adams from the Presidential chair, and placing in it Andrew Jackson, as did Martin Van Buren. Whether entitled to the reputation or not, he certainly was regarded throughout the United States as one of the most skillful, sagacious and cunning of politicians. It was supposed that no one knew so well as he how to touch the secret springs of action; how to pull all the wires to put his machinery in motion; and how to organize a political army which would, secretly and stealthily accomplish the most gigantic results. By these powers it is said that he outwitted Mr. Adams, Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster, and secured results which few thought then could be accomplished.

When Andrew Jackson was elected President he appointed Mr. Van Buren Secretary of State. This position he resigned in 1831, and was immediately appointed Minister to England, where he went the same autumn. The Senate, however, when it met, refused to ratify the nomination, and he returned

home, apparently untroubled; was nominated Vice President in the place of Calhoun, at the re-election of President Jackson; and with smiles for all and frowns for none, he took his place at the head of that Senate which had refused to confirm his nomination as ambassador.

His rejection by the Senate roused all the zeal of President Jackson in behalf of his repudiated favorite; and this, probably more than any other cause, secured his elevation to the chair of the Chief Executive. On the 20th of May, 1836, Mr. Van Buren received the Democratic nomination to succeed Gen. Jackson as President of the United States. He was elected by a handsome majority, to the delight of the retiring President. "Leaving New York out of the canvass," says Mr. Parton, "the election of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidency was as much the act of Gen. Jackson as though the Constitution had conferred upon him the power to appoint a successor."

His administration was filled with exciting events. The insurrection in Canada, which threatened to involve this country in war with England, the agitation of the slavery question, and finally the great commercial panic which spread over the country, all were trials to his wisdom. The financial distress was attributed to the management of the Democratic party, and brought the President into such disfavor that he failed of re-election.

With the exception of being nominated for the Presidency by the "Free Soil" Democrats, in 1848, Mr. Van Buren lived quietly upon his estate until his death.

He had ever been a prudent man, of frugal habits, and living within his income, had now fortunately a competence for his declining years. His unblemished character, his commanding abilities, his unquestioned patriotism, and the distinguished positions which he had occupied in the government of our country, secured to him not only the homage of his party, but the respect of the whole community. It was on the 4th of March, 1841, that Mr. Van Buren retired from the presidency. From his fine estate at Lindenwald, he still exerted a powerful influence upon the politics of the country. From this time until his death, on the 24th of July, 1862, at the age of eighty years, he resided at Lindenwald, a gentleman of leisure, of culture and of wealth; enjoying in a healthy old age, probably far more happiness than he had before experienced amid the stormy scenes of his active life.

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*W. H. Harrison*



## WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

**W**ILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the ninth President of the United States, was born at Berkeley, Va., Feb. 9, 1773. His father, Benjamin Harrison, was in comparatively opulent circumstances, and was one of the most distinguished men of his day. He was an intimate friend of George Washington, was early elected a member of the Continental Congress, and was conspicuous among the patriots of Virginia in resisting the encroachments of the British crown. In the celebrated Congress of 1775, Benjamin Harrison and John Hancock were both candidates for the office of speaker.

Mr Harrison was subsequently chosen Governor of Virginia, and was twice re-elected. His son, William Henry, of course enjoyed in childhood all the advantages which wealth and intellectual and cultivated society could give. Having received a thorough common-school education, he entered Hampden Sidney College, where he graduated with honor soon after the death of his father. He then repaired to Philadelphia to study medicine under the instructions of Dr. Rush and the guardianship of Robert Morris, both of whom were, with his father, signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Upon the outbreak of the Indian troubles, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of his friends, he abandoned his medical studies and entered the army, having obtained a commission of Ensign from Presi-

dent Washington. He was then but 19 years old. From that time he passed gradually upward in rank until he became aid to General Wayne, after whose death he resigned his commission. He was then appointed Secretary of the North-western Territory. This Territory was then entitled to but one member in Congress and Capt. Harrison was chosen to fill that position.

In the spring of 1800 the North-western Territory was divided by Congress into two portions. The eastern portion, comprising the region now embraced in the State of Ohio, was called "The Territory north-west of the Ohio." The western portion, which included what is now called Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, was called the "Indiana Territory." William Henry Harrison, then 27 years of age, was appointed by John Adams, Governor of the Indiana Territory, and immediately after, also Governor of Upper Louisiana. He was thus ruler over almost as extensive a realm as any sovereign upon the globe. He was Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and was invested with powers nearly dictatorial over the now rapidly increasing white population. The ability and fidelity with which he discharged these responsible duties may be inferred from the fact that he was four times appointed to this office—first by John Adams, twice by Thomas Jefferson and afterwards by President Madison.

When he began his administration there were but three white settlements in that almost boundless region, now crowded with cities and resounding with all the tumult of wealth and traffic. One of these settlements was on the Ohio, nearly opposite Louisville; one at Vincennes, on the Wabash, and the third a French settlement.

The vast wilderness over which Gov. Harrison reigned was filled with many tribes of Indians. About

the year 1806, two extraordinary men, twin brothers, of the Shawnese tribe, rose among them. One of these was called Tecumseh, or "The Crouching Panther;" the other, Olliwacheca, or "The Prophet." Tecumseh was not only an Indian warrior, but a man of great sagacity, far-reaching foresight and indomitable perseverance in any enterprise in which he might engage. He was inspired with the highest enthusiasm, and had long regarded with dread and with hatred the encroachment of the whites upon the hunting-grounds of his fathers. His brother, the Prophet, was an orator, who could sway the feelings of the untutored Indian as the gale tossed the tree-tops beneath which they dwelt.

But the Prophet was not merely an orator: he was, in the superstitious minds of the Indians, invested with the superhuman dignity of a medicine-man or a magician. With an enthusiasm unsurpassed by Peter the Hermit rousing Europe to the crusades, he went from tribe to tribe, assuming that he was specially sent by the Great Spirit.

Gov. Harrison made many attempts to conciliate the Indians, but at last the war came, and at Tippecanoe the Indians were routed with great slaughter. October 28, 1812, his army began its march. When near the Prophet's town three Indians of rank made their appearance and inquired why Gov. Harrison was approaching them in so hostile an attitude. After a short conference, arrangements were made for a meeting the next day, to agree upon terms of peace.

But Gov. Harrison was too well acquainted with the Indian character to be deceived by such protestations. Selecting a favorable spot for his night's encampment, he took every precaution against surprise. His troops were posted in a hollow square, and slept upon their arms.

The troops threw themselves upon the ground for rest; but every man had his accoutrements on, his loaded musket by his side, and his bayonet fixed. The wakeful Governor, between three and four o'clock in the morning, had risen, and was sitting in conversation with his aids by the embers of a waning fire. It was a chill, cloudy morning with a drizzling rain. In the darkness, the Indians had crept as near as possible, and just then, with a savage yell, rushed, with all the desperation which superstition and passion most highly inflamed could give, upon the left flank of the little army. The savages had been amply provided with guns and ammunition by the English. Their war-whoop was accompanied by a shower of bullets.

The camp-fires were instantly extinguished, as the light aided the Indians in their aim. With hideous yells, the Indian bands rushed on, not doubting a speedy and an entire victory. But Gen. Harrison's troops stood as immovable as the rocks around them until day dawned: they then made a simultaneous charge with the bayonet, and swept every thing before them, and completely routing the foe.

Gov. Harrison now had all his energies tasked to the utmost. The British descending from the Canadas, were of themselves a very formidable force; but with their savage allies, rushing like wolves from the forest, searching out every remote farm-house, burning, plundering, scalping, torturing, the wide frontier was plunged into a state of consternation which even the most vivid imagination can but faintly conceive. The war-whoop was resounding everywhere in the forest. The horizon was illuminated with the conflagration of the cabins of the settlers. Gen. Hull had made the ignominious surrender of his forces at Detroit. Under these despairing circumstances, Gov. Harrison was appointed by President Madison commander-in-chief of the North-western army, with orders to retake Detroit, and to protect the frontiers.

It would be difficult to place a man in a situation demanding more energy, sagacity and courage; but General Harrison was found equal to the position, and nobly and triumphantly did he meet all the responsibilities.

He won the love of his soldiers by always sharing with them their fatigue. His whole baggage, while pursuing the foe up the Thames, was carried in a valise; and his bedding consisted of a single blanket lashed over his saddle. Thirty-five British officers, his prisoners of war, supped with him after the battle. The only fare he could give them was beef roasted before the fire, without bread or salt.

In 1816, Gen. Harrison was chosen a member of the National House of Representatives, to represent the District of Ohio. In Congress he proved an active member; and whenever he spoke, it was with force of reason and power of eloquence, which arrested the attention of all the members.

In 1819, Harrison was elected to the Senate of Ohio; and in 1824, as one of the presidential electors of that State, he gave his vote for Henry Clay. The same year he was chosen to the United States Senate.

In 1836, the friends of Gen. Harrison brought him forward as a candidate for the Presidency against Van Buren, but he was defeated. At the close of Mr. Van Buren's term, he was re-nominated by his party, and Mr. Harrison was unanimously nominated by the Whigs, with John Tyler for the Vice Presidency. The contest was very animated. Gen. Jackson gave all his influence to prevent Harrison's election; but his triumph was signal.

The cabinet which he formed, with Daniel Webster at its head as Secretary of State, was one of the most brilliant with which any President had ever been surrounded. Never were the prospects of an administration more flattering, or the hopes of the country more sanguine. In the midst of these bright and joyous prospects, Gen. Harrison was seized by a pleurisy-fever and after a few days of violent sickness, died on the 4th of April; just one month after his inauguration as President of the United States.

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John Tyler.

## JOHN TYLER.

**J**OHN TYLER, the tenth President of the United States. He was born in Charles-city Co., Va., March 29, 1790. He was the favored child of affluence and high social position. At the early age of twelve, John entered William and Mary College and graduated with much honor when but seventeen years old. After graduating, he devoted himself with great assiduity to the study of law, partly with his father and partly with Edmund Randolph, one of the most distinguished lawyers of Virginia.

At nineteen years of age, he commenced the practice of law. His success was rapid and astonishing. It is said that three months had not elapsed ere there was scarcely a case on the docket of the court in which he was not retained. When but twenty-one years of age, he was almost unanimously elected to a seat in the State Legislature. He connected himself with the Democratic party, and warmly advocated the measures of Jefferson and Madison. For five successive years he was elected to the Legislature, receiving nearly the unanimous vote of his county.

When but twenty-six years of age, he was elected a member of Congress. Here he acted earnestly and ably with the Democratic party, opposing a national bank, internal improvements by the General Govern-

ment, a protective tariff, and advocating a strict construction of the Constitution, and the most careful vigilance over State rights. His labors in Congress were so arduous that before the close of his second term he found it necessary to resign and retire to his estate in Charles-city Co., to recruit his health. He, however, soon after consented to take his seat in the State Legislature, where his influence was powerful in promoting public works of great utility. With a reputation thus constantly increasing, he was chosen by a very large majority of votes, Governor of his native State. His administration was signally a successful one. His popularity secured his re-election.

John Randolph, a brilliant, erratic, half-crazed man, then represented Virginia in the Senate of the United States. A portion of the Democratic party was displeased with Mr. Randolph's wayward course, and brought forward John Tyler as his opponent, considering him the only man in Virginia of sufficient popularity to succeed against the renowned orator of Roanoke. Mr. Tyler was the victor.

In accordance with his professions, upon taking his seat in the Senate, he joined the ranks of the opposition. He opposed the tariff; he spoke against and voted against the bank as unconstitutional; he strenuously opposed all restrictions upon slavery, resisting all projects of internal improvements by the General Government, and avowed his sympathy with Mr. Calhoun's view of nullification; he declared that Gen. Jackson, by his opposition to the nullifiers, had abandoned the principles of the Democratic party. Such was Mr. Tyler's record in Congress, a record in perfect accordance with the principles which he had always avowed.

Returning to Virginia, he resumed the practice of his profession. There was a candidate for the Democratic

party. His friends still regarded him as a true Jeffersonian, gave him a dinner, and showered compliments upon him. He had now attained the age of forty-six. His career had been very brilliant. In consequence of his devotion to public business, his private affairs had fallen into some disorder; and it was not without satisfaction that he resumed the practice of law, and devoted himself to the culture of his plantation. Soon after this he removed to Williamsburg, for the better education of his children; and he again took his seat in the Legislature of Virginia.

By the Southern Whigs, he was sent to the national convention at Harrisburg to nominate a President in 1839. The majority of votes were given to Gen. Harrison, a genuine Whig, much to the disappointment of the South, who wished for Henry Clay. To conciliate the Southern Whigs and to secure their vote, the convention then nominated John Tyler for Vice President. It was well known that he was not in sympathy with the Whig party in the North; but the Vice President has but very little power in the Government, his main and almost only duty being to preside over the meetings of the Senate. Thus it happened that a Whig President, and, in reality, a Democratic Vice President were chosen.

In 1841, Mr. Tyler was inaugurated Vice President of the United States. In one short month from that time, President Harrison died, and Mr. Tyler thus found himself, to his own surprise and that of the whole Nation, an occupant of the Presidential chair. This was a new test of the stability of our institutions, as it was the first time in the history of our country that such an event had occurred. Mr. Tyler was at home in Williamsburg when he received the unexpected tidings of the death of President Harrison. He hastened to Washington, and on the 6th of April was inaugurated to the high and responsible office. He was placed in a position of exceeding delicacy and difficulty. All his long life he had been opposed to the main principles of the party which had brought him into power. He had ever been a consistent, honest man, with an unblemished record. Gen. Harrison had selected a Whig cabinet. Should he retain them, and thus surround himself with counsellors whose views were antagonistic to his own? or, on the other hand, should he turn against the party which had elected him and select a cabinet in harmony with himself, and which would oppose all those views which the Whigs deemed essential to the public welfare? This was his fearful dilemma. He invited the cabinet which President Harrison had selected to retain their seats. He recommended a day of fasting and prayer, that God would guide and bless us.

The Whigs carried through Congress a bill for the incorporation of a fiscal bank of the United States. The President, after ten days' delay, returned it with his veto. He suggested, however, that he would

approve of a bill drawn up upon such a plan as he proposed. Such a bill was accordingly prepared, and privately submitted to him. He gave it his approval. It was passed without alteration, and he sent it back with his veto. Here commenced the open rupture. It is said that Mr. Tyler was provoked to this measure by a published letter from the Hon. John M. Bots, a distinguished Virginia Whig, who severely touched the pride of the President.

The opposition now exultingly received the President into their arms. The party which elected him denounced him bitterly. All the members of his cabinet, excepting Mr. Webster, resigned. The Whigs of Congress, both the Senate and the House, held a meeting and issued an address to the people of the United States, proclaiming that all political alliance between the Whigs and President Tyler were at an end.

Still the President attempted to conciliate. He appointed a new cabinet of distinguished Whigs and Conservatives, carefully leaving out all strong party men. Mr. Webster soon found it necessary to resign, forced out by the pressure of his Whig friends. Thus the four years of Mr. Tyler's unfortunate administration passed sadly away. No one was satisfied. The land was filled with murmurs and vituperation. Whigs and Democrats alike assailed him. More and more, however, he brought himself into sympathy with his old friends, the Democrats, until at the close of his term, he gave his whole influence to the support of Mr. Polk, the Democratic candidate for his successor.

On the 4th of March, 1845, he retired from the harassments of office, to the regret of neither party, and probably to his own unspeakable relief. His first wife, Miss Letitia Christian, died in Washington, in 1842; and in June, 1844, President Tyler was again married, at New York, to Miss Julia Gardiner, a young lady of many personal and intellectual accomplishments.

The remainder of his days Mr. Tyler passed mainly in retirement at his beautiful home, — Sherwood Forest, Charles-city Co., Va. A polished gentleman in his manners, richly furnished with information from books and experience in the world, and possessing brilliant powers of conversation, his family circle was the scene of unusual attractions. With sufficient means for the exercise of a generous hospitality, he might have enjoyed a serene old age with the few friends who gathered around him, were it not for the storms of civil war which his own principles and policy had helped to introduce.

When the great Rebellion rose, which the State-rights and nullifying doctrines of Mr. John C. Calhoun had inaugurated, President Tyler renounced his allegiance to the United States, and joined the Confederates. He was chosen a member of their Congress; and while engaged in active measures to destroy, by force of arms, the Government over which he had once presided, he was taken sick and soon died.

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James A. Fiske





## JAMES K. POLK,

**J**AMES K. POLK, the eleventh President of the United States, was born in Mecklenburg Co., N. C., Nov. 2, 1795. His parents were Samuel and Jane (Knox) Polk, the former a son of Col. Thomas Polk, who located at the above place, as one of the first pioneers, in 1735.

In the year 1806, with his wife and children, and soon after followed by most of the members of the Polk family, Samuel Polk emigrated some two or three hundred miles farther west, to the rich valley of the Duck River. Here in the midst of the wilderness, in a region which was subsequently called Maury Co., they reared their log huts, and established their homes. In the hard toil of a new farm in the wilderness, James K. Polk spent the early years of his childhood and youth. His father, adding the pursuit of a surveyor to that of a farmer, gradually increased in wealth until

he became one of the leading men of the region. His mother was a superior woman, of strong common sense and earnest piety.

Very early in life, James developed a taste for reading and expressed the strongest desire to obtain a liberal education. His mother's training had made him methodical in his habits, had taught him punctuality and industry, and had inspired him with lofty principles of morality. His health was frail; and his father, fearing that he might not be able to endure a

sedentary life, got a situation for him behind the counter, hoping to fit him for commercial pursuits.

This was to James a bitter disappointment. He had no taste for these duties, and his daily tasks were irksome in the extreme. He remained in this uncongenial occupation but a few weeks, when at his earnest solicitation his father removed him, and made arrangements for him to prosecute his studies. Soon after he sent him to Murfreesboro Academy. With ardor which could scarcely be surpassed, he pressed forward in his studies, and in less than two and a half years, in the autumn of 1815, entered the sophomore class in the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. Here he was one of the most exemplary of scholars, punctual in every exercise, never allowing himself to be absent from a recitation or a religious service.

He graduated in 1818, with the highest honors, being deemed the best scholar of his class, both in mathematics and the classics. He was then twenty-three years of age. Mr. Polk's health was at this time much impaired by the assiduity with which he had prosecuted his studies. After a short season of relaxation he went to Nashville, and entered the office of Felix Grundy, to study law. Here Mr. Polk renewed his acquaintance with Andrew Jackson, who resided on his plantation, the Hermitage, but a few miles from Nashville. They had probably been slightly acquainted before.

Mr. Polk's father was a Jeffersonian Republican, and James K. Polk ever adhered to the same political faith. He was a popular public speaker, and was constantly called upon to address the meetings of his party friends. His skill as a speaker was such that he was popularly called the Napoleon of the stump. He was a man of unblemished moral, gentle and

courteous in his bearing, and with that sympathetic nature in the joys and griefs of others which ever gave him troops of friends. In 1823, Mr. Polk was elected to the Legislature of Tennessee. Here he gave his strong influence towards the election of his friend, Mr. Jackson, to the Presidency of the United States.

In January, 1824, Mr. Polk married Miss Sarah Childress, of Rutherford Co., Tenn. His bride was altogether worthy of him,—a lady of beauty and culture. In the fall of 1825, Mr. Polk was chosen a member of Congress. The satisfaction which he gave to his constituents may be inferred from the fact, that for fourteen successive years, until 1839, he was continued in that office. He then voluntarily withdrew, only that he might accept the Gubernatorial chair of Tennessee. In Congress he was a laborious member, a frequent and a popular speaker. He was always in his seat, always courteous; and whenever he spoke it was always to the point, and without any ambitious rhetorical display.

During five sessions of Congress, Mr. Polk was Speaker of the House. Strong passions were roused, and stormy scenes were witnessed; but Mr. Polk performed his arduous duties to a very general satisfaction, and a unanimous vote of thanks to him was passed by the House as he withdrew on the 4th of March, 1839.

In accordance with Southern usage, Mr. Polk, as a candidate for Governor, canvassed the State. He was elected by a large majority, and on the 14th of October, 1839, took the oath of office at Nashville. In 1841, his term of office expired, and he was again the candidate of the Democratic party, but was defeated.

On the 4th of March, 1845, Mr. Polk was inaugurated President of the United States. The verdict of the country in favor of the annexation of Texas, exerted its influence upon Congress; and the last act of the administration of President Tyler was to affix his signature to a joint resolution of Congress, passed on the 3d of March, approving of the annexation of Texas to the American Union. As Mexico still claimed Texas as one of her provinces, the Mexican minister, Almonte, immediately demanded his passports and left the country, declaring the act of the annexation to be an act hostile to Mexico.

In his first message, President Polk urged that Texas should immediately, by act of Congress, be received into the Union on the same footing with the other States. In the meantime, Gen. Taylor was sent

with an army into Texas to hold the country. He was sent first to Nueces, which the Mexicans said was the western boundary of Texas. Then he was sent nearly two hundred miles further west, to the Rio Grande, where he erected batteries which commanded the Mexican city of Matamoros, which was situated on the western banks.

The anticipated collision soon took place, and war was declared against Mexico by President Polk. The war was pushed forward by Mr. Polk's administration with great vigor. Gen. Taylor, whose army was first called one of "observation," then of "occupation," then of "invasion," was sent forward to Monterey. The feeble Mexicans, in every encounter, were hopelessly and awfully slaughtered. The day of judgement alone can reveal the misery which this war caused. It was by the ingenuity of Mr. Polk's administration that the war was brought on.

"To the victors belong the spoils." Mexico was prostrate before us. Her capital was in our hands. We now consented to peace upon the condition that Mexico should surrender to us, in addition to Texas, all of New Mexico, and all of Upper and Lower California. This new demand embraced, exclusive of Texas, eight hundred thousand square miles. This was an extent of territory equal to nine States of the size of New York. Thus slavery was securing eighteen majestic States to be added to the Union. There were some Americans who thought it all right: there were others who thought it all wrong. In the prosecution of this war, we expended twenty thousand lives and more than a hundred million of dollars. Of this money fifteen millions were paid to Mexico.

On the 3d of March, 1849, Mr. Polk retired from office, having served one term. The next day was Sunday. On the 5th, Gen. Taylor was inaugurated as his successor. Mr. Polk rode to the Capitol in the same carriage with Gen. Taylor; and the same evening, with Mrs. Polk, he commenced his return to Tennessee. He was then but fifty-four years of age. He had ever been strictly temperate in all his habits, and his health was good. With an ample fortune, a choice library, a cultivated mind, and domestic ties of the dearest nature, it seemed as though long years of tranquility and happiness were before him. But the cholera—that fearful scourge—was then sweeping up the Valley of the Mississippi. This he contracted, and died on the 15th of June, 1849, in the fifty-fourth year of his age, greatly mourned by his countrymen.

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Zachary Taylor



## ZACHARY TAYLOR.



ZACHARY TAYLOR, twelfth President of the United States, was born on the 24th of Nov., 1784, in Orange Co., Va. His father, Colonel Taylor, was a Virginian of note, and a distinguished patriot and soldier of the Revolution. When Zachary was an infant, his father with his wife and two children, emigrated to Kentucky, where he settled in the pathless wilderness, a few miles from Louisville. In this frontier home, away from civilization and all its refinements, young Zachary could enjoy but few social and educational advantages. When six years of age he attended a common school, and was then regarded as a bright, active boy, rather remarkable for bluntness and decision of character. He was strong, fearless and self-reliant, and manifested a strong desire to enter the army to fight the Indians who were ravaging the frontiers. There is little to be recorded of the uneventful years of his childhood on his father's large but lonely plantation.

In 1808, his father succeeded in obtaining for him the commission of lieutenant in the United States army; and he joined the troops which were stationed at New Orleans under Gen. Wilkinson. Soon after this he married Miss Margaret Smith, a young lady from one of the first families of Maryland.

Immediately after the declaration of war with England, in 1812, Capt. Taylor (for he had then been promoted to that rank) was put in command of Fort Harrison, on the Wabash, about fifty miles above Vincennes. This fort had been built in the wilderness by Gen. Harrison, on his march to Tippecanoe. It was one of the first points of attack by the Indians, led by Tecumseh. Its garrison consisted of a broken

company of infantry numbering fifty men, many of whom were sick.

Early in the autumn of 1812, the Indians, stealthily, and in large numbers, moved upon the fort. Their approach was first indicated by the murder of two soldiers just outside of the stockade. Capt. Taylor made every possible preparation to meet the anticipated assault. On the 4th of September, a band of forty painted and plumed savages came to the fort, waving a white flag, and informed Capt. Taylor that in the morning their chief would come to have a talk with him. It was evident that their object was merely to ascertain the state of things at the fort, and Capt. Taylor, well versed in the wiles of the savages, kept them at a distance.

The sun went down; the savages disappeared, the garrison slept upon their arms. One hour before midnight the war whoop burst from a thousand lips in the forest around, followed by the discharge of musketry, and the rush of the foe. Every man, sick and well, sprang to his post. Every man knew that defeat was not merely death, but in the case of capture, death by the most agonizing and prolonged torture. No pen can describe, no imagination can conceive the scenes which ensued. The savages succeeded in setting fire to one of the block-houses. Until six o'clock in the morning, this awful conflict continued. The savages then, baffled at every point, and gnashing their teeth with rage, retired. Capt. Taylor, for this gallant defence, was promoted to the rank of major by brevet.

Until the close of the war, Major Taylor was placed in such situations that he saw but little more of active service. He was sent far away into the depths of the wilderness, to Fort Crawford, on Fox River, which empties into Green Bay. Here there was but little to be done but to wear away the tedious hours, as one best could. There were no books, no society, no in-

tellectual stimulus. Thus with him the uneventful years rolled on. Gradually he rose to the rank of colonel. In the Black-Hawk war, which resulted in the capture of that renowned chieftain, Col. Taylor took a subordinate but a brave and efficient part.

For twenty-four years Col. Taylor was engaged in the defence of the frontiers, in scenes so remote, and in employments so obscure, that his name was unknown beyond the limits of his own immediate acquaintance. In the year 1836, he was sent to Florida to compel the Seminole Indians to vacate that region and retire beyond the Mississippi, as their chiefs by treaty, had promised they should do. The services rendered here secured for Col. Taylor the high appreciation of the Government; and as a reward, he was elevated to the rank of brigadier-general by brevet; and soon after, in May, 1838, was appointed to the chief command of the United States troops in Florida.

After two years of such wearisome employment amidst the everglades of the peninsula, Gen. Taylor obtained, at his own request, a change of command, and was stationed over the Department of the Southwest. This field embraced Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. Establishing his headquarters at Fort Jessup, in Louisiana, he removed his family to a plantation which he purchased, near Baton Rouge. Here he remained for five years, buried, as it were, from the world, but faithfully discharging every duty imposed upon him.

In 1846, Gen. Taylor was sent to guard the land between the Nueces and Rio Grande, the latter river being the boundary of Texas, which was then claimed by the United States. Soon the war with Mexico was brought on, and at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Gen. Taylor won brilliant victories over the Mexicans. The rank of major-general by brevet was then conferred upon Gen. Taylor, and his name was received with enthusiasm almost everywhere in the Nation. Then came the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista in which he won signal victories over forces much larger than he commanded.

His careless habits of dress and his unaffected simplicity, secured for Gen. Taylor among his troops, the *sobriquet* of "Old Rough and Ready."

The tidings of the brilliant victory of Buena Vista spread the wildest enthusiasm over the country. The name of Gen. Taylor was on every one's lips. The Whig party decided to take advantage of this wonderful popularity in bringing forward the unpolished, unlettered, honest soldier as their candidate for the Presidency. Gen. Taylor was astonished at the announcement, and for a time would not listen to it; declaring that he was not at all qualified for such an office. So little interest had he taken in politics that, for forty years, he had not cast a vote. It was not without chagrin that several distinguished statesmen who had been long years in the public service found their claims set aside in behalf of one whose name

had never been heard of, save in connection with Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey and Buena Vista. It is said that Daniel Webster, in his haste remarked, "It is a nomination not fit to be made."

Gen. Taylor was not an eloquent speaker nor a fine writer. His friends took possession of him, and prepared such few communications as it was needful should be presented to the public. The popularity of the successful warrior swept the land. He was triumphantly elected over two opposing candidates,—Gen. Cass and Ex-President Martin Van Buren. Though he selected an excellent cabinet, the good old man found himself in a very uncongential position, and was, at times, sorely perplexed and harassed. His mental sufferings were very severe, and probably tended to hasten his death. The pro-slavery party was pushing its claims with tireless energy, expeditions were fitting out to capture Cuba; California was pleading for admission to the Union, while slavery stood at the door to bar her out. Gen. Taylor found the political conflicts in Washington to be far more trying to the nerves than battles with Mexicans or Indians.

In the midst of all these troubles, Gen. Taylor, after he had occupied the Presidential chair but little over a year, took cold, and after a brief sickness of but little over five days, died on the 9th of July, 1850. His last words were, "I am not afraid to die. I am ready. I have endeavored to do my duty." He died universally respected and beloved. An honest, unpretending man, he had been steadily growing in the affections of the people; and the Nation bitterly lamented his death.

Gen. Scott, who was thoroughly acquainted with Gen. Taylor, gave the following graphic and truthful description of his character:—"With a good store of common sense, Gen. Taylor's mind had not been enlarged and refreshed by reading, or much converse with the world. Rigidity of ideas was the consequence. The frontiers and small military posts had been his home. Hence he was quite ignorant for his rank, and quite bigoted in his ignorance. His simplicity was child-like, and with innumerable prejudices, amusing and incorrigible, well suited to the tender age. Thus, if a man, however respectable, chanced to wear a coat of an unusual color, or his hat a little on one side of his head; or an officer to leave a corner of his handkerchief dangling from an outside pocket,—in any such case, this critic held the offender to be a coxcomb (perhaps something worse), whom he would not, to use his oft repeated phrase, 'touch with a pair of tongs.'

"Any allusion to literature beyond good old Dilworth's spelling-book, on the part of one wearing a sword, was evidence, with the same judge, of utter unfitness for heavy marchings and combats. In short, few men have ever had a more comfortable, labor-saving contempt for learning of every kind."

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*Millard Fillmore*





## MILLARD FILLMORE.

**M**ILLARD FILLMORE, thirteenth President of the United States, was born at Summer Hill, Cayuga Co., N. Y., on the 7th of January, 1800. His father was a farmer, and owing to misfortune, in humble circumstances. Of his mother, the daughter of Dr. Abiathar Millard, of Pittsfield, Mass., it has been said that she possessed an intellect of very high order, united with much personal loveliness, sweetness of disposition, graceful manners and exquisite sensibilities. She died in 1831; having lived to see her son a young man of distinguished promise, though she was not permitted to witness the high dignity which he finally attained.

In consequence of the secluded home and limited means of his father, Millard enjoyed but slender advantages for education in his early years. The common schools, which he occasionally attended, were very imperfect institutions; and books were scarce and expensive. There was nothing then in his character to indicate the brilliant career upon which he was about to enter. He was a plain farmer's boy; intelligent, good-looking, kind-hearted. The sacred influences of home had taught him to revere the Bible, and had laid the foundations of an upright character. When fourteen years of age, his father sent him some hundred miles from home, to the then wilds of Livingston County, to learn the trade of a clothier. Near the mill there was a small village, where some

enterprising man had commenced the collection of a village library. This proved an inestimable blessing to young Fillmore. His evenings were spent in reading. Soon every leisure moment was occupied with books. His thirst for knowledge became insatiate; and the selections which he made were continually more elevating and instructive. He read history, biography, oratory, and thus gradually there was kindled in his heart a desire to be something more than a mere worker with his hands; and he was becoming, almost unknown to himself, a well-informed, educated man.

The young clothier had now attained the age of nineteen years, and was of fine personal appearance and of gentlemanly demeanor. It so happened that there was a gentleman in the neighborhood of ample pecuniary means and of benevolence.—Judge Walter Wood,—who was struck with the prepossessing appearance of young Fillmore. He made his acquaintance, and was so much impressed with his ability and attainments that he advised him to abandon his trade and devote himself to the study of the law. The young man replied, that he had no means of his own, no friends to help him and that his previous education had been very imperfect. But Judge Wood had so much confidence in him that he kindly offered to take him into his own office, and to loan him such money as he needed. Most gratefully the generous offer was accepted.

There is in many minds a strange delusion about a collegiate education. A young man is supposed to be liberally educated if he has graduated at some college. But many a boy loiters through universities hall and then enters a law office, who is by no means as

well prepared to prosecute his legal studies as was Millard Fillmore when he graduated at the clothing-mill at the end of four years of manual labor, during which every leisure moment had been devoted to intense mental culture.

In 1823, when twenty-three years of age, he was admitted to the Court of Common Pleas. He then went to the village of Aurora, and commenced the practice of law. In this secluded, peaceful region, his practice of course was limited, and there was no opportunity for a sudden rise in fortune or in fame. Here, in the year 1826, he married a lady of great moral worth, and one capable of adorning any station she might be called to fill,—Miss Abigail Powers.

His elevation of character, his untiring industry, his legal acquirements, and his skill as an advocate, gradually attracted attention; and he was invited to enter into partnership under highly advantageous circumstances, with an elder member of the bar in Buffalo. Just before removing to Buffalo, in 1829, he took his seat in the House of Assembly, of the State of New York, as a representative from Erie County. Though he had never taken a very active part in politics, his vote and his sympathies were with the Whig party. The State was then Democratic, and he found himself in a helpless minority in the Legislature, still the testimony comes from all parties, that his courtesy, ability and integrity, won, to a very unusual degree the respect of his associates.

In the autumn of 1832, he was elected to a seat in the United States Congress. He entered that troubled arena in some of the most tumultuous hours of our national history. The great conflict respecting the national bank and the removal of the deposits, was then raging.

His term of two years closed; and he returned to his profession, which he pursued with increasing reputation and success. After a lapse of two years he again became a candidate for Congress; was re-elected, and took his seat in 1837. His past experience as a representative gave him strength and confidence. The first term of service in Congress to any man can be but little more than an introduction. He was now prepared for active duty. All his energies were brought to bear upon the public good. Every measure received his impress.

Mr. Fillmore was now a man of wide repute, and his popularity filled the State, and in the year 1847, he was elected Comptroller of the State.

Mr. Fillmore had attained the age of forty-seven years. His labors at the bar, in the Legislature, in Congress and as Comptroller, had given him very considerable fame. The Whigs were casting about to find suitable candidates for President and Vice-President at the approaching election. Far away, on the waters of the Rio Grande, there was a rough old soldier, who had fought one or two successful battles with the Mexicans, which had caused his name to be proclaimed in trumpet-tones all over the land. But it was necessary to associate with him on the same ticket some man of reputation as a statesman.

Under the influence of these considerations, the names of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore became the rallying-cry of the Whigs, as their candidates for President and Vice-President. The Whig ticket was signally triumphant. On the 4th of March, 1849, Gen. Taylor was inaugurated President, and Millard Fillmore Vice-President, of the United States.

On the 9th of July, 1850, President Taylor, but about one year and four months after his inauguration, was suddenly taken sick and died. By the Constitution, Vice-President Fillmore thus became President. He appointed a very able cabinet, of which the illustrious Daniel Webster was Secretary of State.

Mr. Fillmore had very serious difficulties to contend with, since the opposition had a majority in both Houses. He did everything in his power to conciliate the South; but the pro-slavery party in the South felt the inadequacy of all measures of transient conciliation. The population of the free States was so rapidly increasing over that of the slave States that it was inevitable that the power of the Government should soon pass into the hands of the free States. The famous compromise measures were adopted under Mr. Fillmore's administration, and the Japan Expedition was sent out. On the 4th of March, 1853, Mr. Fillmore, having served one term, retired.

In 1856, Mr. Fillmore was nominated for the Presidency by the "Know Nothing" party, but was beaten by Mr. Buchanan. After that Mr. Fillmore lived in retirement. During the terrible conflict of civil war, he was mostly silent. It was generally supposed that his sympathies were rather with those who were endeavoring to overthrow our institutions. President Fillmore kept aloof from the conflict, without any cordial words of cheer to the one party or the other. He was thus forgotten by both. He lived to a ripe old age, and died in Buffalo, N. Y., March 8, 1874.

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*Franklin Pierce*

## FRANKLIN PIERCE.



an. Franklin was the sixth of eight children.

Franklin was a very bright and handsome boy, generous, warm-hearted and brave. He won alike the love of old and young. The boys on the play ground loved him. His teachers loved him. The neighbors looked upon him with pride and affection. He was by instinct a gentleman; always speaking kind words, doing kind deeds, with a peculiar unstudied tact which taught him what was agreeable. Without developing any precocity of genius, or any unnatural devotion to books, he was a good scholar; in body, in mind, in affections, a finely-developed boy.

When sixteen years of age, in the year 1820, he entered Bowdoin College, at Brunswick, Me. He was one of the most popular young men in the college. The purity of his moral character, the unvarying courtesy of his demeanor, his rank as a scholar, and

genial nature, rendered him a universal favorite. There was something very peculiarly winning in his address, and it was evidently not in the slightest degree studied: it was the simple outgushing of his own magnanimous and loving nature.

Upon graduating, in the year 1824, Franklin Pierce commenced the study of law in the office of Judge Woodbury, one of the most distinguished lawyers of the State, and a man of great private worth. The eminent social qualities of the young lawyer, his father's prominence as a public man, and the brilliant political career into which Judge Woodbury was entering, all tended to entice Mr. Pierce into the fascinating yet perilous path of political life. With all the ardor of his nature he espoused the cause of Gen. Jackson for the Presidency. He commenced the practice of law in Hillsborough, and was soon elected to represent the town in the State Legislature. Here he served for four years. The last two years he was chosen speaker of the house by a very large vote.

In 1833, at the age of twenty-nine, he was elected a member of Congress. Without taking an active part in debates, he was faithful and laborious in duty, and ever rising in the estimation of those with whom he was associated.

In 1837, being then but thirty-three years of age, he was elected to the Senate of the United States; taking his seat just as Mr. Van Buren commenced his administration. He was the youngest member in the Senate. In the year 1834, he married Mrs. Jane Mills Appleton, a lady of rare beauty and accomplishments, and one admirably fitted to adorn every station with which her husband was honored. Of the

three sons who were born to them, all now sleep with their parents in the grave.

In the year 1838, Mr. Pierce, with growing fame and increasing business as a lawyer, took up his residence in Concord, the capital of New Hampshire. President Polk, upon his accession to office, appointed Mr. Pierce attorney-general of the United States; but the offer was declined, in consequence of numerous professional engagements at home, and the precarious state of Mrs. Pierce's health. He also, about the same time declined the nomination for governor by the Democratic party. The war with Mexico called Mr. Pierce in the army. Receiving the appointment of brigadier-general, he embarked, with a portion of his troops, at Newport, R. I., on the 27th of May, 1847. He took an important part in this war, proving himself a brave and true soldier.

When Gen. Pierce reached his home in his native State, he was received enthusiastically by the advocates of the Mexican war, and coldly by his opponents. He resumed the practice of his profession, very frequently taking an active part in political questions, giving his cordial support to the pro-slavery wing of the Democratic party. The compromise measures met cordially with his approval; and he strenuously advocated the enforcement of the infamous fugitive-slave law, which so shocked the religious sensibilities of the North. He thus became distinguished as a "Northern man with Southern principles." The strong partisans of slavery in the South consequently regarded him as a man whom they could safely trust in office to carry out their plans.

On the 12th of June, 1852, the Democratic convention met in Baltimore to nominate a candidate for the Presidency. For four days they continued in session, and in thirty-five ballotings no one had obtained a two-thirds vote. Not a vote thus far had been thrown for Gen. Pierce. Then the Virginia delegation brought forward his name. There were fourteen more ballotings, during which Gen. Pierce constantly gained strength, until, at the forty-ninth ballot, he received two hundred and eighty-two votes, and all other candidates eleven. Gen. Winfield Scott was the Whig candidate. Gen. Pierce was chosen with great unanimity. Only four States—Vermont, Massachusetts, Kentucky and Tennessee—cast their electoral votes against him. Gen. Franklin Pierce was therefore inaugurated President of the United States on the 4th of March, 1853.

His administration proved one of the most stormy our country had ever experienced. The controversy between slavery and freedom was then approaching its culminating point. It became evident that there was an "irrepressible conflict" between them, and that this Nation could not long exist "half slave and half free." President Pierce, during the whole of his administration, did every thing he could to conciliate the South; but it was all in vain. The conflict every year grew more violent, and threats of the dissolution of the Union were borne to the North on every Southern breeze.

Such was the condition of affairs when President Pierce approached the close of his four-years' term of office. The North had become thoroughly alienated from him. The anti-slavery sentiment, goaded by great outrages, had been rapidly increasing; all the intellectual ability and social worth of President Pierce were forgotten in deep reprehension of his administrative acts. The slaveholders of the South, also, unmindful of the fidelity with which he had advocated those measures of Government which they approved, and perhaps, also, feeling that he had rendered himself so unpopular as no longer to be able acceptably to serve them, ungratefully dropped him, and nominated James Buchanan to succeed him.

On the 4th of March, 1857, President Pierce retired to his home in Concord. Of three children, two had died, and his only surviving child had been killed before his eyes by a railroad accident; and his wife, one of the most estimable and accomplished of ladies, was rapidly sinking in consumption. The hour of dreadful gloom soon came, and he was left alone in the world, without wife or child.

When the terrible Rebellion burst forth, which divided our country into two parties, and two only, Mr. Pierce remained steadfast in the principles which he had always cherished, and gave his sympathies to that pro-slavery party with which he had ever been allied. He declined to do anything, either by voice or pen, to strengthen the hand of the National Government. He continued to reside in Concord until the time of his death, which occurred in October, 1869. He was one of the most genial and social of men, an honored communicant of the Episcopal Church, and one of the kindest of neighbors. Generous to a fault, he contributed liberally for the alleviation of suffering and want, and many of his town-people were often gladdened by his material bounty.

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*James Buchanan*





# JAMES BUCHANAN,

**J**AMES BUCHANAN, the fifteenth President of the United States, was born in a small frontier town, at the foot of the eastern ridge of the Alleghanies, in Franklin Co., Penn., on the 23d of April, 1791. The place where the humble cabin of his father stood was called Stony Batter. It was a wild and romantic spot in a gorge of the mountains, with towering summits rising grandly all around. His father was a native of the north of Ireland; a poor man, who had emigrated in 1783, with little property save his own strong arms. Five years afterwards he married Elizabeth Spear, the daughter of a respectable farmer, and, with his young bride, plunged into the wilderness, staked his claim, reared his log-hut, opened a clearing with his axe, and settled down there to perform his obscure part in the drama of life. In this secluded home, where James was born, he remained for eight years, enjoying but few social or intellectual advantages. When James was eight years of age, his father removed to the village of Mercersburg, where his son was placed at school, and commenced a course of study in English, Latin and Greek. His progress was rapid, and at the age of fourteen, he entered Dickinson College, at Carlisle. Here he developed remarkable talent, and took his stand among the first scholars in the institution. His application to study was intense, and yet his native powers en-

abled him to master the most abstruse subjects with facility.

In the year 1809, he graduated with the highest honors of his class. He was then eighteen years of age; tall and graceful, vigorous in health, fond of athletic sport, an unerring shot, and enlivened with an exuberant flow of animal spirits. He immediately commenced the study of law in the city of Lancaster, and was admitted to the bar in 1812, when he was but twenty-one years of age. Very rapidly he rose in his profession, and at once took undisputed stand with the ablest lawyers of the State. When but twenty-six years of age, unaided by counsel, he successfully defended before the State Senate one of the judges of the State, who was tried upon articles of impeachment. At the age of thirty it was generally admitted that he stood at the head of the bar; and there was no lawyer in the State who had more lucrative practice.

In 1820, he reluctantly consented to run as a candidate for Congress. He was elected, and for ten years he remained a member of the Lower House. During the vacations of Congress, he occasionally tried some important case. In 1831, he retired altogether from the toils of his profession, having acquired an ample fortune.

Gen. Jackson, upon his elevation to the Presidency, appointed Mr. Buchanan minister to Russia. The duties of his mission he performed with ability which gave satisfaction to all parties. Upon his return, in 1835, he was elected to a seat in the United States Senate. He there met, in 1845, Cass, Webster, Clay, Wright and Calhoun. He advised the measures proposed by President Jackson of 1845, and

sals against France, to enforce the payment of our claims against that country; and defended the course of the President in his unprecedented and wholesale removal from office of those who were not the supporters of his administration. Upon this question he was brought into direct collision with Henry Clay. He also, with voice and vote, advocated expunging from the journal of the Senate the vote of censure against Gen. Jackson for removing the deposits. Earnestly he opposed the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and urged the prohibition of the circulation of anti-slavery documents by the United States mails.

As to petitions on the subject of slavery, he advocated that they should be respectfully received; and that the reply should be returned, that Congress had no power to legislate upon the subject. "Congress," said he, "might as well undertake to interfere with slavery under a foreign government as in any of the States where it now exists."

Upon Mr. Polk's accession to the Presidency, Mr. Buchanan became Secretary of State, and as such, took his share of the responsibility in the conduct of the Mexican War. Mr. Polk assumed that crossing the Nueces by the American troops into the disputed territory was not wrong, but for the Mexicans to cross the Rio Grande into that territory was a declaration of war. No candid man can read with pleasure the account of the course our Government pursued in that movement.

Mr. Buchanan identified himself thoroughly with the party devoted to the perpetuation and extension of slavery, and brought all the energies of his mind to bear against the Wilmot Proviso. He gave his cordial approval to the compromise measures of 1850, which included the fugitive-slave law. Mr. Pierce, upon his election to the Presidency, honored Mr. Buchanan with the mission to England.

In the year 1856, a national Democratic convention nominated Mr. Buchanan for the Presidency. The political conflict was one of the most severe in which our country has ever engaged. All the friends of slavery were on one side; all the advocates of its restriction and final abolition, on the other. Mr. Fremont, the candidate of the enemies of slavery, received 114 electoral votes. Mr. Buchanan received 174, and was elected. The popular vote stood 1,340,618, for Fremont, 1,224,750 for Buchanan. On March 4th, 1857, Mr. Buchanan was inaugurated.

Mr. Buchanan was far advanced in life. Only four years were wanting to fill up his threescore years and ten. His own friends, those with whom he had been allied in political principles and action for years, were seeking the destruction of the Government, that they might rear upon the ruins of our free institutions a nation whose corner-stone should be human slavery. In this emergency, Mr. Buchanan was hopelessly bewildered. He could not, with his long-avowed prin-

ciples, consistently oppose the State-rights party in their assumptions. As President of the United States, bound by his oath faithfully to administer the laws, he could not, without perjury of the grossest kind, unite with those endeavoring to overthrow the republic. He therefore did nothing.

The opponents of Mr. Buchanan's administration nominated Abraham Lincoln as their standard bearer in the next Presidential canvass. The pro-slavery party declared, that if he were elected, and the control of the Government were thus taken from their hands, they would secede from the Union, taking with them, as they retired, the National Capitol at Washington, and the lion's share of the territory of the United States.

Mr. Buchanan's sympathy with the pro-slavery party was such, that he had been willing to offer them far more than they had ventured to claim. All the South had professed to ask of the North was non-intervention upon the subject of slavery. Mr. Buchanan had been ready to offer them the active cooperation of the Government to defend and extend the institution.

As the storm increased in violence, the slaveholders claiming the right to secede, and Mr. Buchanan avowing that Congress had no power to prevent it, one of the most pitiable exhibitions of governmental imbecility was exhibited the world has ever seen. He declared that Congress had no power to enforce its laws in any State which had withdrawn, or which was attempting to withdraw from the Union. This was not the doctrine of Andrew Jackson, when, with his hand upon his sword-hilt, he exclaimed, "The Union must and shall be preserved!"

South Carolina seceded in December, 1860; nearly three months before the inauguration of President Lincoln. Mr. Buchanan looked on in listless despair. The rebel flag was raised in Charleston; Fort Sumpter was besieged; our forts, navy-yards and arsenals were seized; our depots of military stores were plundered; and our custom-houses and post-offices were appropriated by the rebels.

The energy of the rebels, and the imbecility of our Executive, were alike marvelous. The Nation looked on in agony, waiting for the slow weeks to glide away, and close the administration, so terrible in its weakness. At length the long-looked-for hour of deliverance came, when Abraham Lincoln was to receive the scepter.

The administration of President Buchanan was certainly the most calamitous our country has experienced. His best friends cannot recall it with pleasure. And still more deplorable it is for his fame, that in that dreadful conflict which rolled its billows of flame and blood over our whole land, no word came from his lips to indicate his wish that our country's banner should triumph over the flag of the rebellion. He died at his Wheatland retreat, June 1, 1868.

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*A. Lincoln.*

ABRAHAM

LINCOLN.

**A**BRAMHAM LINCOLN, the sixteenth President of the United States, was born in Hardin Co., Ky., Feb. 12, 1809. About the year 1780, a man by the name of Abraham Lincoln left Virginia with his family and moved into the then wilds of Kentucky. Only two years after this emigration, still a young man, while working one day in a field, was stealthily approached by an Indian and shot dead. His widow was left in extreme poverty with five little children, three boys and two girls. Thomas, the youngest of the boys, was four years of age at his father's death. This Thomas was the father of Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States

whose name must henceforth forever be enrolled with the most prominent in the annals of our world.

Of course no record has been kept of the life of one so lowly as Thomas Lincoln. He was among the poorest of the poor. His home was a wretched log-cabin; his food the coarsest and the meanest. Education he had none; he could never either read or write. As soon as he was able to do anything for himself, he was compelled to leave the cabin of his starving mother, and push out into the world, a friendless, wandering boy, seeking work. He hired himself out, and thus spent the whole of his youth as a laborer in the fields of others.

When twenty-eight years of age he built a log-cabin of his own, and married Nancy Hanks, the daughter of another family of poor Kentucky emigrants, who had also come from Virginia. Their second child was Abraham Lincoln, the subject of this sketch. The mother of Abraham was a noble woman, gentle, loving, pensive, created to adorn a palace, doomed to toil and pine, and die in a hovel. "All that I am, or hope to be," exclaims the grateful son "I owe to my an-el-mother."

When he was eight years of age, his father sold his

cabin and small farm, and moved to Indiana. Where two years later his mother died.

Abraham soon became the scribe of the lined and tilled community around him. He could not have had a better school than this to teach him to put thoughts into words. He also became an eager reader. The books he could obtain were few; but these he read and re-read until they were almost committed to memory.

As the years rolled on, the lot of this lowly family was the usual lot of humanity. There were joys and griefs, weddings and funerals. Abraham's sister Sarah, to whom he was tenderly attached, was married when a child of but fourteen years of age, and soon died. The family was gradually scattered. Mr. Thomas Lincoln sold out his squatter's claim in 1830, and emigrated to Macon Co., Ill.

Abraham Lincoln was then twenty-one years of age. With vigorous hands he aided his father in rearing another log-cabin. Abraham worked diligently at this until he saw the family comfortably settled, and their small lot of enclosed prairie planted with corn, when he announced to his father his intention to leave home, and to go out into the world and seek his fortune. Little did he or his friends imagine how brilliant that fortune was to be. He saw the value of education and was intensely earnest to improve his mind to the utmost of his power. He saw the man which ardent spirits were causing, and became strictly temperate; refusing to allow a drop of intoxicating liquor to pass his lips. And he had read in God's word, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;" and a profane expression he was never heard to utter. Religion he revered. His morals were pure, and he was uncontaminated by a single vice.

Young Abraham worked for a time as a hired laborer among the farmers. Then he went to Southfield, where he was employed in building a large barn. In this he took a herd of swine, drove them down the Sangamon to the Illinois, and thence by the Mississippi to New Orleans. Whatever Abraham Lincoln undertook, he performed so faithfully as to give great satisfaction to his employers. In this adver-

ture his employers were so well pleased, that upon his return they placed a store and mill under his care.

In 1832, at the outbreak of the Black Hawk war, he enlisted and was chosen captain of a company. He returned to Sangamon County, and although only 23 years of age, was a candidate for the Legislature, but was defeated. He soon after received from Andrew Jackson the appointment of Postmaster of New Salem, His only post-office was his hat. All the letters he received he carried there ready to deliver to those he chanced to meet. He studied surveying, and soon made this his business. In 1834 he again became a candidate for the Legislature, and was elected. Mr. Stuart, of Springfield, advised him to study law. He walked from New Salem to Springfield, borrowed of Mr. Stuart a load of books, carried them back and began his legal studies. When the Legislature assembled he trudged on foot with his pack on his back one hundred miles to Vandalia, then the capital. In 1836 he was re-elected to the Legislature. Here it was he first met Stephen A. Douglas. In 1839 he removed to Springfield and began the practice of law. His success with the jury was so great that he was soon engaged in almost every noted case in the circuit.

In 1854 the great discussion began between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas, on the slavery question. In the organization of the Republican party in Illinois, in 1856, he took an active part, and at once became one of the leaders in that party. Mr. Lincoln's speeches in opposition to Senator Douglas in the contest in 1858 for a seat in the Senate, form a most notable part of his history. The issue was on the slavery question, and he took the broad ground of the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal. Mr. Lincoln was defeated in this contest, but won a far higher prize.

The great Republican Convention met at Chicago on the 16th of June, 1860. The delegates and strangers who crowded the city amounted to twenty-five thousand. An immense building called "The Wigwam," was reared to accommodate the Convention. There were eleven candidates for whom votes were thrown. William H. Seward, a man whose fame as a statesman had long filled the land, was the most prominent. It was generally supposed he would be the nominee. Abraham Lincoln, however, received the nomination on the third ballot. Little did he then dream of the weary years of toil and care, and the bloody death, to which that nomination doomed him; and as little did he dream that he was to render services to his country, which would fix upon him the eyes of the whole civilized world, and which would give him a place in the affections of his countrymen, second only, if second, to that of Washington.

Election day came and Mr. Lincoln received 180 electoral votes out of 203 cast, and was, therefore, constitutionally elected President of the United States. The tirade of abuse that was poured upon this good

and merciful man, especially by the slaveholders, was greater than upon any other man ever elected to this high position. In February, 1861, Mr. Lincoln started for Washington, stopping in all the large cities on his way making speeches. The whole journey was fraught with much danger. Many of the Southern States had already seceded, and several attempts at assassination were afterwards brought to light. A gang in Baltimore had arranged, upon his arrival to "get up a row," and in the confusion to make sure of his death with revolvers and hand-grenades. A detective unravelled the plot. A secret and special train was provided to take him from Harrisburg, through Baltimore, at an unexpected hour of the night. The train started at half-past ten; and to prevent any possible communication on the part of the Secessionists with their Confederate gang in Baltimore, as soon as the train had started the telegraph-wires were cut. Mr. Lincoln reached Washington in safety and was inaugurated, although great anxiety was felt by all loyal people.

In the selection of his cabinet Mr. Lincoln gave to Mr. Seward the Department of State, and to other prominent opponents before the convention he gave important positions.

During no other administration have the duties devolving upon the President been so manifold, and the responsibilities so great, as those which fell to the lot of President Lincoln. Knowing this, and feeling his own weakness and inability to meet, and in his own strength to cope with, the difficulties, he learned early to seek Divine wisdom and guidance in determining his plans, and Divine comfort in all his trials, both personal and national. Contrary to his own estimate of himself, Mr. Lincoln was one of the most courageous of men. He went directly into the rebel capital just as the retreating foe was leaving, with no guard but a few sailors. From the time he had left Springfield, in 1861, however, plans had been made for his assassination, and he at last fell a victim to one of them. April 14, 1865, he, with Gen. Grant, was urgently invited to attend Ford's Theater. It was announced that they would be present. Gen. Grant, however, left the city. President Lincoln, feeling, with his characteristic kindness of heart, that it would be a disappointment if he should fail them, very reluctantly consented to go. While listening to the play an actor by the name of John Wilkes Booth entered the box where the President and family were seated, and fired a bullet into his brains. He died the next morning at seven o'clock.

Never before, in the history of the world was a nation plunged into such deep grief by the death of its ruler. Strong men met in the streets and wept in speechless anguish. It is not too much to say that a nation was in tears. His was a life which will fitly become a model. His name as the savior of his country will live with that of Washington's, its father; his countrymen being unable to decide which is the greater,

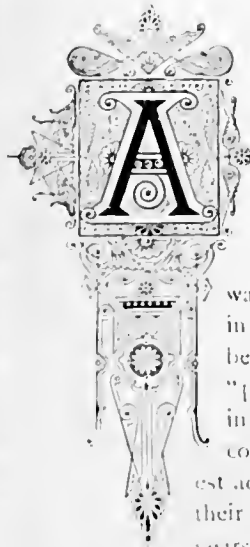
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*Andrew Johnson*



## ANDREW JOHNSON,



ANDREW JOHNSON, seventeenth President of the United States. The early life of Andrew Johnson contains but the record of poverty, destitution and friendlessness. He was born December 29, 1808, in Raleigh, N. C. His parents, belonging to the class of the "poor whites" of the South, were in such circumstances, that they could not confer even the slightest advantages of education upon their child. When Andrew was five years of age, his father accidentally

lost his life while heroically endeavoring to save a friend from drowning. Until ten years of age, Andrew was a ragged boy about the streets, supported by the labor of his mother, who obtained her living with her own hands.

He then, having never attended a school one day, and being unable either to read or write, was apprenticed to a tailor in his native town. A gentleman was in the habit of going to the tailor's shop occasionally, and reading to the boys at work there. He often read from the speeches of distinguished British statesmen. Andrew, who was endowed with a mind of more than ordinary native ability, became much interested in these speeches; his ambition was roused, and he was inspired with a strong desire to learn to read.

He accordingly applied himself to the alphabet, and with the assistance of some of his fellow-workmen, learned his letters. He then called upon the gentleman to borrow the book of speeches. The owner,

pleased with his zeal, not only gave him the book, but assisted him in learning to combine the letters into words. Under such difficulties he pressed onward laboriously, spending usually ten or twelve hours at work in the shop, and then robbing himself of rest and recreation to devote such time as he could to reading.

He went to Tennessee in 1826, and located at Greenville, where he married a young lady who possessed some education. Under her instructions he learned to write and cipher. He became prominent in the village debating society, and a favorite with the students of Greenville College. In 1828, he organized a working man's party, which elected him alderman, and in 1830 elected him mayor, which position he held three years.

He now began to take a lively interest in political affairs; identifying himself with the working classes, to which he belonged. In 1835, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of Tennessee. He was then just twenty-seven years of age. He became a very active member of the legislature, gave his adhesion to the Democratic party, and in 1840 "stumped the State," advocating Martin Van Buren's claims to the Presidency, in opposition to those of Gen. Harrison. In this campaign he acquired much readiness as a speaker, and extended and increased his reputation.

In 1841, he was elected State Senator; in 1843, he was elected a member of Congress, and by successive elections, held that important post for ten years. In 1853, he was elected Governor of Tennessee, and was re-elected in 1855. In all these responsible positions, he discharged his duties with distinguished ability.

ity, and proved himself the warm friend of the working classes. In 1857, Mr. Johnson was elected United States Senator.

Years before, in 1845, he had warmly advocated the annexation of Texas, stating however, as his reason, that he thought this annexation would probably prove "to be the gateway out of which the sable sons of Africa are to pass from bondage to freedom, and become merged in a population congenial to themselves." In 1850, he also supported the compromise measures, the two essential features of which were, that the white people of the Territories should be permitted to decide for themselves whether they would enslave the colored people or not, and that the free States of the North should return to the South persons who attempted to escape from slavery.

Mr. Johnson was never ashamed of his lowly origin: on the contrary, he often took pride in avowing that he owed his distinction to his own exertions. "Sir," said he on the floor of the Senate, "I do not forget that I am a mechanic; neither do I forget that Adam was a tailor and sewed fig-leaves, and that our Savior was the son of a carpenter."

In the Charleston-Baltimore convention of 1860, he was the choice of the Tennessee Democrats for the Presidency. In 1861, when the purpose of the Southern Democracy became apparent, he took a decided stand in favor of the Union, and held that "slavery must be held subordinate to the Union at whatever cost." He returned to Tennessee, and repeatedly imperiled his own life to protect the Unionists of Tennessee. Tennessee having seceded from the Union, President Lincoln, on March 4th, 1862, appointed him Military Governor of the State, and he established the most stringent military rule. His numerous proclamations attracted wide attention. In 1864, he was elected Vice-President of the United States, and upon the death of Mr. Lincoln, April 15, 1865, became President. In a speech two days later he said, "The American people must be taught, if they do not already feel, that treason is a crime and must be punished; that the Government will not always bear with its enemies; that it is strong not only to protect, but to punish. \* \* The people must understand that it (treason) is the blackest of crimes, and will surely be punished." Yet his whole administration, the history of which is so well known, was in utter inconsistency with, and the most violent

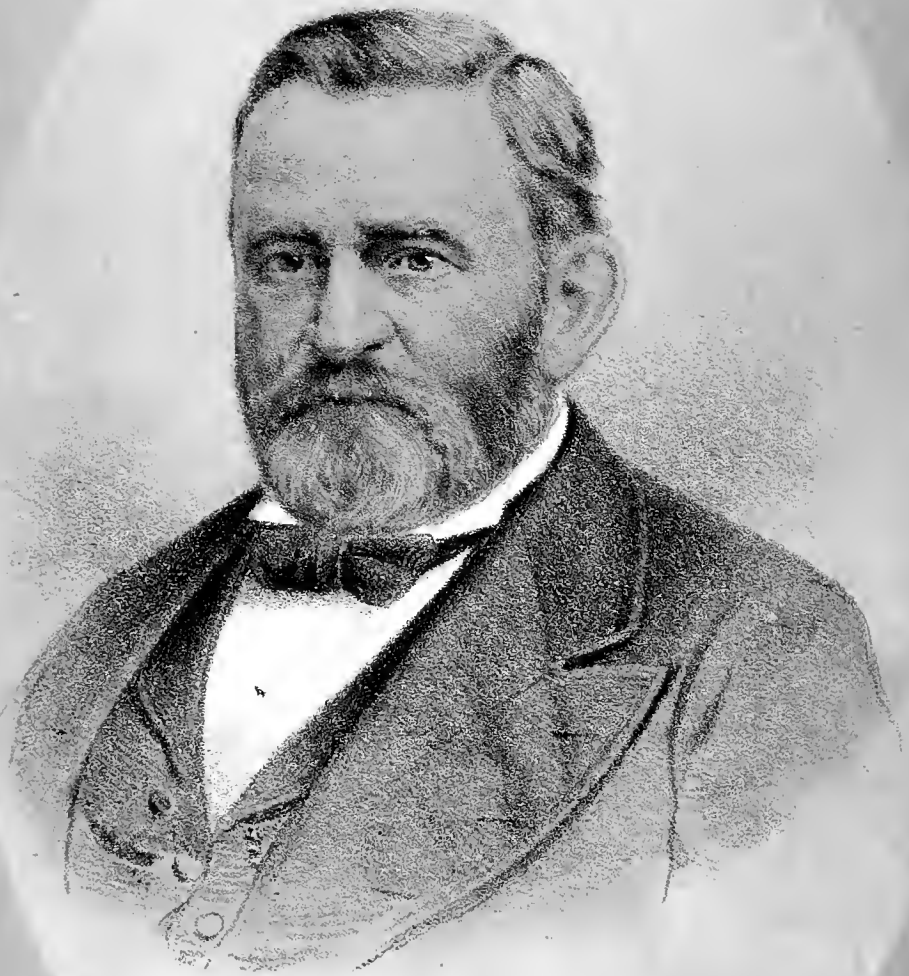
opposition to, the principles laid down in that speech.

In his loose policy of reconstruction and general amnesty, he was opposed by Congress; and he characterized Congress as a new rebellion, and lawlessly defied it, in everything possible, to the utmost. In the beginning of 1868, on account of "high crimes and misdemeanors," the principal of which was the removal of Secretary Stanton, in violation of the Tenure of Office Act, articles of impeachment were preferred against him, and the trial began March 23.

It was very tedious, continuing for nearly three months. A test article of the impeachment was at length submitted to the court for its action. It was certain that as the court voted upon that article so would it vote upon all. Thirty-four voices pronounced the President guilty. As a two-thirds vote was necessary to his condemnation, he was pronounced acquitted, notwithstanding the great majority against him. The change of one vote from the *not guilty* side would have sustained the impeachment.

The President, for the remainder of his term, was but little regarded. He continued, though impotently, his conflict with Congress. His own party did not think it expedient to renominate him for the Presidency. The Nation rallied, with enthusiasm unparalleled since the days of Washington, around the name of Gen. Grant. Andrew Johnson was forgotten. The bullet of the assassin introduced him to the President's chair. Notwithstanding this, never was there presented to a man a better opportunity to immortalize his name, and to win the gratitude of a nation. He failed utterly. He retired to his home in Greenville, Tenn., taking no very active part in politics until 1875. On Jan. 26, after an exciting struggle, he was chosen by the Legislature of Tennessee, United States Senator in the forty-fourth Congress, and took his seat in that body, at the special session convened by President Grant, on the 5th of March. On the 27th of July, 1875, the ex-President made a visit to his daughter's home, near Carter Station, Tenn. When he started on his journey, he was apparently in his usual vigorous health, but on reaching the residence of his child the following day, was stricken with paralysis, rendering him unconscious. He rallied occasionally, but finally passed away at 2 A. M., July 31, aged sixty-seven years. His funeral was attended at Greenville, on the 3d of August, with every demonstration of respect.

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*G. A. Grant*

## ULYSSES S. GRANT.

**U**LYSSES S. GRANT, the eighteenth President of the United States, was born on the 29th of April, 1822, of Christian parents, in a humble home, at Point Pleasant, on the banks of the Ohio. Shortly after his father moved to Georgetown, Brown Co., O. In this remote frontier hamlet, Ulysses received a common-school education. At the age of seventeen, in the year 1839, he entered the Military Academy at West Point. Here he was regarded as a solid, sensible young man of fair abilities, and of study, honest character. He took respectable rank as a scholar. In June, 1843, he graduated, about the middle in his class, and was sent as lieutenant of infantry to one of the distant military posts in the Missouri Territory. Two years he past in these dreary solitudes, watching the vagabond and exasperating Indians.

The war with Mexico came. Lieut. Grant was sent with his regiment to Corpus Christi. His first battle was at Palo Alto. There was no chance here for the exhibition of either skill or heroism, nor at Resaca de la Palma, his second battle. At the battle of Monterey, his third engagement, it is said that he performed a signal service of daring and skillful horsemanship. His brigade had exhausted its ammunition. A messenger must be sent for more, along a route exposed to the bullets of the foe. Lieut. Grant, adopting an expedient learned of the Indians, grasped the mane of his horse, and hanging upon one side of the animal, ran the gauntlet in entire safety.

From Monterey he was sent, with the fourth infantry, to aid Gen. Scott, at the siege of Vera Cruz. In preparation for the march to the city of Mexico, he was appointed quartermaster of his regiment. At the battle of Molino del Rey, he was promoted to a first lieutenancy, and was brevetted captain at Chapultepec.

At the close of the Mexican War, Capt. Grant returned with his regiment to New York, and was again sent to one of the military posts on the frontier. The discovery of gold in California causing an immense tide of emigration to flow to the Pacific shores, Capt. Grant was sent with a battalion to Fort Dallas, in Oregon, for the protection of the interests of the immigrants. Life was wearisome in these wilds. Capt. Grant resigned his commission and returned to the States; and having married, entered upon the cultivation of a small farm near St. Louis, Mo. He had but little skill as a farmer. Finding his toil not remunerative, he turned to mercantile life, entering into the leather business, with a younger brother, at Galena, Ill. This was in the year 1860. As the tidings of the rebels firing on Fort Sumpter reached the ears of Capt. Grant in his counting-room, he said,—“Uncle Sam has educated me for the army; though I have served him through one war, I do not feel that I have yet repaid the debt. I am still ready to discharge my obligations. I shall therefore buckle on my sword and see Uncle Sam through this war too.”

He went into the streets, raised a company of volunteers, and led them as their captain to Springfield, the capital of the State, where their services were offered to Gov. Yates. The Governor, impressed by the zeal and straightforward executive ability of Capt. Grant gave him a desk in his office, to assist in the volunteer organization that was being formed in the State in behalf of the Government. On the 15th of

June, 1861, Capt. Grant received a commission as Colonel of the Twenty-first Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. His merits as a West Point graduate, who had served for 15 years in the regular army, were such that he was soon promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General and was placed in command at Cairo. The rebels raised their banner at Paducah, near the mouth of the Tennessee River. Scarcely had its folds appeared in the breeze ere Gen. Grant was there. The rebels fled. Their banner fell, and the star and stripes were unfurled in its stead.

He entered the service with great determination and immediately began active duty. This was the beginning, and until the surrender of Lee at Richmond he was ever pushing the enemy with great vigor and effectiveness. At Belmont, a few days later, he surprised and routed the rebels, then at Fort Henry won another victory. Then came the brilliant fight at Fort Donelson. The nation was electrified by the victory, and the brave leader of the boys in blue was immediately made a Major-General, and the military district of Tennessee was assigned to him.

Like all great captains, Gen. Grant knew well how to secure the results of victory. He immediately pushed on to the enemies' lines. Then came the terrible battles of Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, and the siege of Vicksburg, where Gen. Pemberton made an unconditional surrender of the city with over thirty thousand men and one-hundred and seventy-two cannon. The fall of Vicksburg was by far the most severe blow which the rebels had thus far encountered, and opened up the Mississippi from Cairo to the Gulf.

Gen. Grant was next ordered to co-operate with Gen. Banks in a movement upon Texas, and proceeded to New Orleans, where he was thrown from his horse, and received severe injuries, from which he was laid up for months. He then rushed to the aid of Gens. Rosecrans and Thomas at Chattanooga, and by a wonderful series of strategic and tactical measures put the Union army in fighting condition. Then followed the bloody battles at Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, in which the rebels were routed with great loss. This won for him unbounded praise in the North. On the 4th of February, 1864, Congress revived the grade of lieutenant-general, and the rank was conferred on Gen. Grant. He repaired to Washington to receive his credentials and enter upon the duties of his new office.

Gen. Grant decided as soon as he took charge of the army to concentrate the widely-dispersed National troops for an attack upon Richmond, the nominal capital of the Rebellion, and endeavor there to destroy the rebel armies which would be promptly assembled from all quarters for its defence. The whole continent seemed to tremble under the tramp of these majestic armies, rushing to the decisive battle field. Steamers were crowded with troops. Railway trains were burdened with closely packed thousands. His plans were comprehensive and involved a series of campaigns, which were executed with remarkable energy and ability, and were consummated at the surrender of Lee, April 9, 1865.

The war was ended. The Union was saved. The almost unanimous voice of the Nation declared Gen. Grant to be the most prominent instrument in its salvation. The eminent services he had thus rendered the country brought him conspicuously forward as the Republican candidate for the Presidential chair.

At the Republican Convention held at Chicago, May 21, 1868, he was unanimously nominated for the Presidency, and at the autumn election received a majority of the popular vote, and 214 out of 294 electoral votes.

The National Convention of the Republican party which met at Philadelphia on the 5th of June, 1872, placed Gen. Grant in nomination for a second term by a unanimous vote. The selection was emphatically indorsed by the people five months later, 292 electoral votes being cast for him.

Soon after the close of his second term, Gen. Grant started upon his famous trip around the world. He visited almost every country of the civilized world, and was everywhere received with such ovations and demonstrations of respect and honor, private as well as public and official, as were never before bestowed upon any citizen of the United States. It is not too much to say that his modest, courteous, and dignified demeanor in the presence of the most distinguished men in the different nations in the world, reflected honor upon the Republic which he so long and so faithfully served. The country felt a great pride in his reception. Upon his arrival in San Francisco, Sept. 20, 1879, the city authorities gave him a fine reception. After lingering in the Golden State for a while, he began his tour through the States, which extended North and South, everywhere marked by great acclamation and splendid ovations.

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R. B. Hayes







## RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.




RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, the nineteenth President of the United States, was born in Delaware, O., Oct. 4, 1822, almost three months after the death of his father, Rutherford Hayes. His ancestry on both the paternal and maternal sides, was of the most honorable character. It can be traced, it is said, as far back as 1280, when Hayes and Rutherford were two Scottish chieftains, fighting side by side with Baliol, William Wallace and Robert Bruce. Both families belonged to the nobility, owned extensive estates, and had a large following. Misfortune overtaking the family, George Hayes left Scotland in 1680, and settled in Windsor, Conn. His son George was born in Windsor, and remained there during his life. Daniel Hayes, son of the latter, married Sarah Lee, and lived from the time of his marriage until his death in Simsbury, Conn. Ezekiel, son of Daniel, was born in 1724, and was a manufacturer of scythes at Bradford, Conn. Rutherford Hayes, son of Ezekiel and grandfather of President Hayes, was born in New Haven, in August, 1756. He was a tanner, blacksmith and tavern-keeper. He emigrated to Vermont at an unknown date, settling in Brattleboro, where he established a hotel. Here his son Rutherford Hayes, the fifth of President Hayes, was

born. He was married, in September, 1813, to Sophia Birchard, of Wilmington, Vt., whose ancestors emigrated thither from Connecticut, they having been among the wealthiest and best families of Norwich. Her ancestry on the male side are traced back to 1635, to John Birchard, one of the principal founders of Norwich. Both of her grandfathers were soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

The father of President Hayes was an industrious, frugal and open-hearted man. He was of a mechanical turn, and could mend a plow, knit a stocking, or do almost anything else that he choose to undertake. He was a member of the Church, active in all the benevolent enterprises of the town, and conducted his business on Christian principles. After the close of the war of 1812, for reasons inexplicable to his neighbors, he resolved to emigrate to Ohio.

The journey from Vermont to Ohio in that day, when there were no canals, steamers, nor railways, was a very serious affair. A tour of inspection was first made, occupying four months. Mr. Hayes determined to move to Delaware, where the family moved in 1817. He died July 22, 1822, a victim of malarial fever, less than three months before the birth of the son, of whom we now write. Mrs. Hayes, in her bereavement, to find the support she sought, turned to her brother Sardis, who had been a member of the household from the day of its departure from Vermont, and in an orphan girl whom she had adopted some time before as an act of charity.

Mrs. Hayes at this period was very weak, and the

subject of this sketch was so feeble at birth that he was not expected to live beyond a month or two at most. As the months went by he grew weaker and weaker, so that the neighbors were in the habit of inquiring from time to time "if Mrs. Hayes' baby died last night." On one occasion a neighbor, who was on familiar terms with the family, after alluding to the boy's big head, and the mother's assiduous care of him, said in a bantering way, "That's right! Stick to him. You have got him along so far, and I shouldn't wonder if he would really come to something yet."

"You need not laugh," said Mrs. Hayes. "You wait and see. You can't tell but I shall make him President of the United States yet." The boy lived, in spite of the universal predictions of his speedy death; and when, in 1825, his older brother was drowned, he became, if possible, still dearer to his mother.

The boy was seven years old before he went to school. His education, however, was not neglected. He probably learned as much from his mother and sister as he would have done at school. His sports were almost wholly within doors, his playmates being his sister and her associates. These circumstances tended, no doubt, to foster that gentleness of disposition, and that delicate consideration for the feelings of others, which are marked traits of his character.

His uncle Sardis Birchard took the deepest interest in his education; and as the boy's health had improved, and he was making good progress in his studies, he proposed to send him to college. His preparation commenced with a tutor at home; but he was afterwards sent for one year to a professor in the Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Conn. He entered Kenyon College in 1838, at the age of sixteen, and was graduated at the head of his class in 1842.

Immediately after his graduation he began the study of law in the office of Thomas Sparrow, Esq., in Columbus. Finding his opportunities for study in Columbus somewhat limited, he determined to enter the Law School at Cambridge, Mass., where he remained two years.

In 1845, after graduating at the Law School, he was admitted to the bar at Marietta, Ohio, and shortly afterward went into practice as an attorney-at-law with Ralph P. Buckland, of Fremont. Here he remained three years, acquiring but a limited practice, and apparently unambitious of distinction in his profession.

In 1840 he moved to Cincinnati, where his ambition found a new stimulus. For several years, however, his progress was slow. Two events, occurring at this period, had a powerful influence upon his subsequent life. One of these was his marriage with Miss Lucy Ware Webb, daughter of Dr. James Webb, of Chillicothe; the other was his introduction to the Cincinnati Literary Club, a body embracing among its members such men as Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase,

Gen. John Pope, Gov. Edward F. Noyes, and many others hardly less distinguished in after life. The marriage was a fortunate one in every respect, as everybody knows. Not one of all the wives of our Presidents was more universally admired, revered and beloved than was Mrs. Hayes, and no one did more than she to reflect honor upon American womanhood. The Literary Club brought Mr. Hayes into constant association with young men of high character and noble aims, and lured him to display the qualities so long hidden by his bashfulness and modesty.

In 1856 he was nominated to the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; but he declined to accept the nomination. Two years later, the office of city solicitor becoming vacant, the City Council elected him for the unexpired term.

In 1861, when the Rebellion broke out, he was at the zenith of his professional life. His rank at the bar was among the first. But the news of the attack on Fort Sumpter found him eager to take up arms for the defense of his country.

His military record was bright and illustrious. In October, 1861, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel, and in August, 1862, promoted Colonel of the 79th Ohio regiment, but he refused to leave his old comrades and go among strangers. Subsequently, however, he was made Colonel of his old regiment. At the battle of South Mountain he received a wound, and while faint and bleeding displayed courage and fortitude that won admiration from all.

Col. Hayes was detached from his regiment, after his recovery, to act as Brigadier-General, and placed in command of the celebrated Kanawha division, and for gallant and meritorious services in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, he was promoted Brigadier-General. He was also brevetted Major-General, "for gallant and distinguished services during the campaigns of 1864, in West Virginia." In the course of his arduous services, four horses were shot from under him, and he was wounded four times.

In 1864, Gen. Hayes was elected to Congress, from the Second Ohio District, which had long been Democratic. He was not present during the campaign, and after his election was importuned to resign his commission in the army; but he finally declared, "I shall never come to Washington until I can come by the way of Richmond." He was re-elected in 1866.

In 1867, Gen. Hayes was elected Governor of Ohio, over Hon. Allen G. Thurman, a popular Democrat. In 1869 was re-elected over George H. Pendleton. He was elected Governor for the third term in 1875.

In 1876 he was the standard bearer of the Republican Party in the Presidential contest, and after a hard long contest was chosen President, and was inaugurated Monday, March 5, 1875. He served his full term, not, however, with satisfaction to his party, but his administration was an average one

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*J. A. Garfield*

# JAMES A. GARFIELD.

**J**AMES A. GARFIELD, twentieth President of the United States, was born Nov. 19, 1831, in the woods of Orange, Cuyahoga Co., O. His parents were Abram and Eliza (Ballou) Garfield, both of New England ancestry and from families well known in the early history of that section of our country, but had moved to the Western Reserve, in Ohio, early in its settlement.

The house in which James A. was born was not unlike the houses of poor Ohio farmers of that day. It was about 20 x 30 feet, built of logs, with the spaces between the logs filled with clay. His father was a hard working farmer, and he soon had his fields cleared, an orchard planted, and a log barn built. The household comprised the father and mother and their four children—Mehetabel, Thomas, Mary and James. In May, 1823, the father, from a cold contracted in helping to put out a forest fire, died. At this time James was about eighteen months old, and Thomas about ten years old. No one, perhaps, can tell how much James was indebted to his brother's toil and self-sacrifice during the twenty years succeeding his father's death, but undoubtedly very much. He now lives in Michigan, and the two sisters live in Solon, O., near their birthplace.

The early educational advantages young Garfield enjoyed were very limited, yet he made the most of them. He labored at farm work for others, did carpenter work, chopped wood, or did anything that would bring in a few dollars to aid his widowed mother in her struggles to keep the little family to-

gether. Nor was Gen. Garfield ever ashamed of his origin, and he never forgot the friends of his struggling childhood, youth and manhood, neither did they ever forget him. When in the highest seats of honor, the humblest friend of his boyhood was as kindly greeted as ever. The poorest laborer was sure of the sympathy of one who had known all the bitterness of want and the sweetness of bread earned by the sweat of the brow. He was ever the simple, plain, modest gentleman.

The highest ambition of young Garfield until he was about sixteen years old was to be a captain of a vessel on Lake Erie. He was anxious to go aboard a vessel, which his mother strongly opposed. She finally consented to his going to Cleveland, with the understanding, however, that he should try to obtain some other kind of employment. He walked all the way to Cleveland. This was his first visit to the city. After making many applications for work, and trying to get aboard a lake vessel, and not meeting with success, he engaged as a driver for his cousin, Amos Letcher, on the Ohio & Pennsylvania Canal. He remained at this work but a short time when he went home, and attended the seminary at Chester for about three years, when he entered Hiram and the Eclectic Institute, teaching a few terms of school in the meantime, and doing other work. This school was started by the Disciples of Christ in 1850, of which church he was then a member. He became janitor and bell-ringer in order to help pay his way. He then became both teacher and pupil. He soon "exhausted Hiram" and needed more; hence, in the fall of 1854, he entered Williams College, from which he graduated in 1856, taking one of the highest honors of his class. He afterwards returned to Hiram College as its President. As above stated, he early united with the Christian or Disciples Church at Hiram, and was ever after a devoted, zealous member, often preaching in its pulpit and places where he happened to be. Dr. Noah Porter, President of Yale College, says of him in reference to his religion:

"President Garfield was more than a man of strong moral and religious convictions. His whole history, from boyhood to the last, shows that duty to man and to God, and devotion to Christ and life and faith and spiritual commission were controlling springs of his being, and to a more than usual degree. In my judgment there is no more interesting feature of his character than his loyal allegiance to the body of Christians in which he was trained, and the fervent sympathy which he ever showed in their Christian communion. Not many of the few 'wise and mighty and noble who are called' show a similar loyalty to the less stately and cultured Christian communions in which they have been reared. Too often it is true that as they step upward in social and political significance they step upward from one degree to another in some of the many types of fashionable Christianity. President Garfield adhered to the church of his mother, the church in which he was trained, and in which he served as a pillar and an evangelist, and yet with the largest and most unsectarian charity for all 'who love our Lord in sincerity.'"

Mr. Garfield was united in marriage with Miss Lucretia Rudolph, Nov. 11, 1858, who proved herself worthy as the wife of one whom all the world loved and mourned. To them were born seven children, five of whom are still living, four boys and one girl.

Mr. Garfield made his first political speeches in 1856, in Hiram and the neighboring villages, and three years later he began to speak at county mass-meetings, and became the favorite speaker wherever he was. During this year he was elected to the Ohio Senate. He also began to study law at Cleveland, and in 1861 was admitted to the bar. The great Rebellion broke out in the early part of this year, and Mr. Garfield at once resolved to fight as he had talked, and enlisted to defend the old flag. He received his commission as Lieut.-Colonel of the Forty-second Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Aug. 14, 1861. He was immediately put into active service, and before he had ever seen a gun fired in action, was placed in command of four regiments of infantry and eight companies of cavalry, charged with the work of driving out of his native State the officer (Humphrey Marshall) reputed to be the ablest of those, not educated to war whom Kentucky had given to the Rebellion. This work was bravely and speedily accomplished, although against great odds. President Lincoln, on his success commissioned him Brigadier-General, Jan. 10, 1862; and as "he had been the youngest man in the Ohio Senate two years before, so now he was the youngest General in the army." He was with Gen. Buell's army at Shiloh, in its operations around Corinth and its march through Alabama. He was then detailed as a member of the General Court-Martial for the trial of Gen. Fitz-John Porter. He was then ordered to report to Gen. Rosecrans, and was assigned to the "Chief of Staff."

The military history of Gen. Garfield closed with

his brilliant services at Chickamauga, where he won the stars of the Major-General.

Without an effort on his part Gen. Garfield was elected to Congress in the fall of 1862 from the Nineteenth District of Ohio. This section of Ohio had been represented in Congress for sixty years mainly by two men—Elisha Whittlesey and Joshua R. Giddings. It was not without a struggle that he resigned his place in the army. At the time he entered Congress he was the youngest member in that body. There he remained by successive re-elections until he was elected President in 1880. Of his labors in Congress Senator Hoar says: "Since the year 1864 you cannot think of a question which has been debated in Congress, or discussed before a tribunal of the American people, in regard to which you will not find, if you wish instruction, the argument on one side stated, in almost every instance better than by anybody else, in some speech made in the House of Representatives or on the hustings by Mr. Garfield."

Upon Jan. 14, 1880, Gen. Garfield was elected to the U. S. Senate, and on the eighth of June, of the same year, was nominated as the candidate of his party for President at the great Chicago Convention. He was elected in the following November, and on March 4, 1881, was inaugurated. Probably no administration ever opened its existence under brighter auspices than that of President Garfield, and every day it grew in favor with the people, and by the first of July he had completed all the initiatory and preliminary work of his administration and was preparing to leave the city to meet his friends at Williams College. While on his way and at the depot, in company with Secretary Blaine, a man stepped behind him, drew a revolver, and fired directly at his back. The President tottered and fell, and as he did so the assassin fired a second shot, the bullet cutting the left coat sleeve of his victim, but inflicting no farther injury. It has been very truthfully said that this was "the shot that was heard round the world." Never before in the history of the Nation had anything occurred which so nearly froze the blood of the people for the moment, as this awful deed. He was smitten on the brightest, gladdest day of all his life, and was at the summit of his power and hope. For eighty days, all during the hot months of July and August, he lingered and suffered. He, however, remained master of himself till the last, and by his magnificent bearing was teaching the country and the world the noblest of human lessons—how to live grandly in the very clutch of death. Great in life, he was surpassingly great in death. He passed serenely away Sept. 19, 1883, at Elleron, N. J., on the very bank of the ocean, where he had been taken shortly previous. The world wept at his death, as it never had done on the death of any other man who had ever lived upon it. The murderer was duly tried, found guilty and executed, in one year after he committed the foul deed.

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*C. A. Arthur*





CHESTER A. ARTHUR.



HESTER A. ARTHUR, twenty-first President of the United States, was born in Franklin County, Vermont, on the fifth of October, 1830, and is the oldest of a family of two sons and five daughters. His father was the Rev. Dr. William Arthur, a Baptist clergyman, who emigrated to this country from the county Antrim, Ireland, in his 18th year, and died in 1875, in Newtonville, near Albany, after a long and successful ministry.

Young Arthur was educated at Union College, Schenectady, where he excelled in all his studies. After his graduation he taught school in Vermont for two years, and at the expiration of that time came to New York, with \$500 in his pocket, and entered the office of ex-Judge E. D. Culver as student. After being admitted to the bar he formed

a partnership with his intimate friend and room-mate, Henry D. Gardiner, with the intention of practicing in the West, and for three months they roamed about in the Western States in search of an eligible site, but in the end returned to New York, where they hung out their shingle, and entered upon a successful career almost from the start. General Arthur soon afterward married the daughter of Lieutenant

Herndon, of the United States Navy, who was lost at sea. Congress voted a gold medal to his widow in recognition of the bravery he displayed on that occasion. Mrs. Arthur died shortly before Mr. Arthur's nomination to the Vice Presidency, leaving two children.

Gen. Arthur obtained considerable legal celebrity in his first great case, the famous Lemmon suit, brought to recover possession of eight slaves who had been declared free by Judge Paine, of the Superior Court of New York City. It was in 1852 that Jonathan Lemmon, of Virginia, went to New York with his slaves, intending to ship them to Texas, when they were discovered and freed. The Judge decided that they could not be held by the owner under the Fugitive Slave Law. A howl of rage went up from the South, and the Virginia Legislature authorized the Attorney General of that State to assist in an appeal. Wm. M. Evarts and Chester A. Arthur were employed to represent the People, and they won their case, which then went to the Supreme Court of the United States. Charles O'Connor here espoused the cause of the slave-holders, but he too was beaten by Messrs. Evarts and Arthur, and a long step was taken toward the emancipation of the black race.

Another great service was rendered by General Arthur in the same cause in 1856. Lizzie Jennings, a respectable colored woman, was put off a Fourth Avenue car with violence after she had paid her fare. General Arthur sued on her behalf, and secured a verdict of \$500 damages. The next day the company issued an order to admit colored persons to ride on their cars, and the other car companies quickly

followed their example. Before that the Sixth Avenue Company ran a few special cars for colored persons and the other lines refused to let them ride at all.

General Arthur was a delegate to the Convention at Saratoga that founded the Republican party. Previous to the war he was Judge-Advocate of the Second Brigade of the State of New York, and Governor Morgan, of that State, appointed him Engineer-in-Chief of his staff. In 1861, he was made Inspector General, and soon afterward became Quartermaster-General. In each of these offices he rendered great service to the Government during the war. At the end of Governor Morgan's term he resumed the practice of the law, forming a partnership with Mr. Ransom, and then Mr. Phelps, the District Attorney of New York, was added to the firm. The legal practice of this well-known firm was very large and lucrative, each of the gentlemen composing it were able lawyers, and possessed a splendid local reputation, if not indeed one of national extent.

He always took a leading part in State and city politics. He was appointed Collector of the Port of New York by President Grant, Nov. 21 1872, to succeed Thomas Murphy, and held the office until July, 20, 1878, when he was succeeded by Collector Merritt.

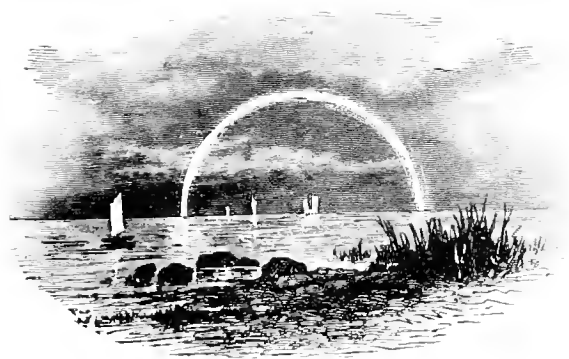
Mr. Arthur was nominated on the Presidential ticket, with Gen. James A. Garfield, at the famous National Republican Convention held at Chicago in June, 1880. This was perhaps the greatest political convention that ever assembled on the continent. It was composed of the leading politicians of the Republican party, all able men, and each stood firm and fought vigorously and with signal tenacity for their respective candidates that were before the convention for the nomination. Finally Gen. Garfield received the nomination for President and Gen. Arthur for Vice-President. The campaign which followed was one of the most animated known in the history of our country. Gen. Hancock, the standard-bearer of the Democratic party, was a popular man, and his party made a valiant fight for his election.

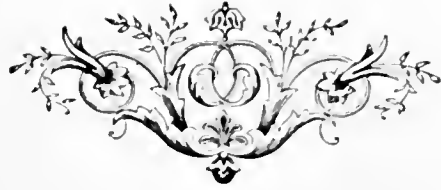
Finally the election came and the country's choice was Garfield and Arthur. They were inaugurated March 4, 1881, as President and Vice-President. A few months only had passed ere the newly chosen President was the victim of the assassin's bullet. Then came terrible weeks of suffering,—those moments of anxious suspense, when the hearts of all civilized na-

tions were throbbing in unison, longing for the recovery of the noble, the good President. The remarkable patience that he manifested during those hours and weeks, and even months, of the most terrible suffering man has often been called upon to endure, was seemingly more than human. It was certainly God-like. During all this period of deepest anxiety Mr. Arthur's every move was watched, and be it said to his credit that his every action displayed only an earnest desire that the suffering Garfield might recover, to serve the remainder of the term he had so auspiciously begun. Not a selfish feeling was manifested in deed or look of this man, even though the most honored position in the world was at any moment likely to fall to him.

At last God in his mercy relieved President Garfield from further suffering, and the world, as never before in its history over the death of any other man, wept at his bier. Then it became the duty of the Vice President to assume the responsibilities of the high office, and he took the oath in New York, Sept. 20, 1881. The position was an embarrassing one to him, made doubly so from the facts that all eyes were on him, anxious to know what he would do, what policy he would pursue, and who he would select as advisers. The duties of the office had been greatly neglected during the President's long illness, and many important measures were to be immediately decided by him; and still farther to embarrass him he did not fail to realize under what circumstances he became President, and knew the feelings of many on this point. Under these trying circumstances President Arthur took the reins of the Government in his own hands; and, as embarrassing as were the condition of affairs, he has happily surprised the Nation, acting so justly, so wisely, so well, that but few have criticised his administration. Should he continue during the remainder of his term to pursue the wise policy he has followed thus far, we believe President Arthur's administration will go down in history as one of the wisest and most satisfactory our country has ever enjoyed. His highest ambition seems to be to do his duty to the whole Nation, even to the sacrifice of his warmest personal friends. With the good of the people at heart, and guided by the wisdom already displayed, he will surprise his opponents, gratify his friends, and bless the American Republic, during the years he occupies the Presidential chair.

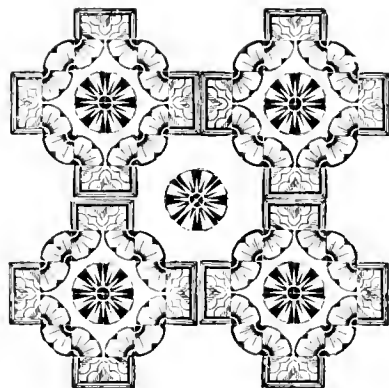
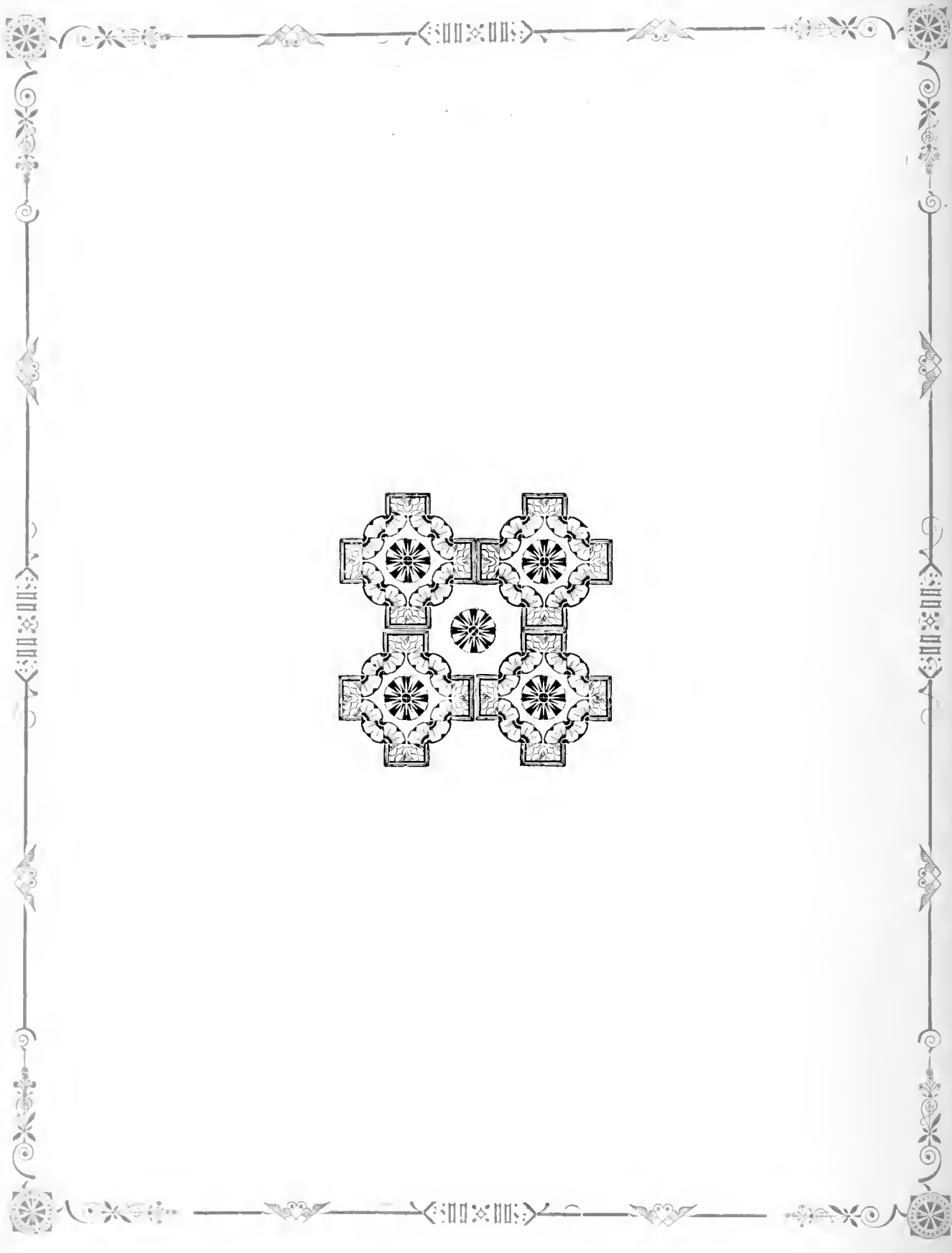






# GOVERNORS.





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*Stevens T. Mason.*



## STEPHEN T. MASON.



STEPHEN T. MASON, the first Governor of Michigan, was a son of Gen. John T. Mason, of Kentucky, but was born in Virginia, in 1812. At the age of 19 he was appointed Secretary of Michigan Territory, and served in that capacity during the administration of Gov. George B. Porter. Upon the death of Gov. Porter, which occurred on the 6th of July, 1834, Mr. Mason became Acting Governor. In October, 1835, he was elected Governor under the State organization, and immediately entered upon the performance of the duties of the office, although the State was not yet admitted into the Union. After the State was admitted into the Union, Governor Mason was re-elected to the position, and served with credit to himself and to the advantage of the State. He died Jan. 4, 1843. The principal event during Governor Mason's official career, was that arising from the disputed southern boundary of the State.

Michigan claimed for her southern boundary a line running east across the peninsula from the extreme southern point of Lake Michigan, extending through Lake Erie, to the Pennsylvania line. This she claimed as a vested right—a right accruing to her by compact. This compact was the ordinance of 1787, the parties to which were the original 13 States, and the territory northwest of the Ohio; and, by the succession of parties under statutory amendments to the ordinance and laws of Congress—the United States on the one part, and each Territory northwest of the Ohio, as far as affected by their provisions, on the

other. Michigan, therefore, claimed it under the prior grant, or assignment of boundary.

Ohio, on the other hand, claimed that the ordinance had been superseded by the Constitution of the United States, and that Congress had a right to regulate the boundary. It was also claimed that the Constitution of the State of Ohio having described a different line, and Congress having admitted the State under that Constitution, without mentioning the subject of the line in dispute, Congress had thereby given its consent to the line as laid down by the Constitution of Ohio. This claim was urged by Ohio at some periods of the controversy, but at others she appeared to regard the question unsettled, by the fact that she insisted upon Congress taking action in regard to the boundary. Accordingly, we find that, in 1812, Congress authorized the Surveyor-General to survey a line, agreeably to the act, to enable the people of Ohio to form a Constitution and State government. Owing to Indian hostilities, however, the line was not run till 1818. In 1820, the question in dispute underwent a rigid examination by the Committee on Public Lands. The claim of Ohio was strenuously urged by her delegation, and as ably opposed by Mr. Woodbridge, the then delegate from Michigan. The result was that the committee decided unanimously in favor of Michigan; but, in the hurry of business, no action was taken by Congress, and the question remained open till Michigan organized her State government.

The Territory in dispute is about five miles in width at the west end, and about eight miles in width at the east end, and extends along the whole southern line of Ohio, west of Lake Erie. The line claimed by Michigan was known as the "Eden line," and that claimed by Ohio was known as the "Harris line."

from the names of the surveyors. The territory was valuable for its rich agricultural lands; but the chief value consisted in the fact that the harbor on the Maumee River, where now stands the flourishing city of Toledo, was included within its limits. The town originally bore the name of Swan Creek, afterwards Port Lawrence, then Vestula, and then Toledo.

In February, 1835, the Legislature of Ohio passed an act extending the jurisdiction of the State over the territory in question; erected townships and directed them to hold elections in April following. It also directed Governor Lucas to appoint three commissioners to survey and re-mark the Harris line; and named the first of April as the day to commence the survey. Acting Governor Mason, however, anticipated this action on the part of the Ohio Legislature, sent a special message to the Legislative Council, apprising it of Governor Lucas' message, and advised immediate action by that body to anticipate and counteract the proceedings of Ohio. Accordingly, on the 12th of February, the council passed an act making it a criminal offence, punishable by a heavy fine, or imprisonment, for any one to attempt to exercise any official functions, or accept any office within the jurisdiction of Michigan, under or by virtue of any authority not derived from the Territory, or the United States. On the 9th of March, Governor Mason wrote General Brown, then in command of the Michigan militia, directing him to hold himself in readiness to meet the enemy in the field in case any attempt was made on the part of Ohio to carry out the provisions of that act of the Legislature. On the 31st of March, Governor Lucas, with his commissioners, arrived at Perrysburgh, on their way to commence re-surveying the Harris line. He was accompanied by General Bell and staff, of the Ohio Militia, who proceeded to muster a volunteer force of about 600 men. This was soon accomplished, and the force fully armed and equipped. The force then went into camp at Fort Miami, to await the Governor's orders.

In the meantime, Governor Mason, with General Brown and staff, had raised a force 800 to 1200 strong, and were in possession of Toledo. General Brown's Staff consisted of Captain Henry Smith, of Monroe, Inspector; Major J. J. Ullman, of Constantine, Quartermaster; William E. Broadman, of Detroit, and Alpheus Felch, of Monroe, Aids-de-camp. When Governor Lucas observed the determined bearing of the Michigan braves, and took note

of their number, he found it convenient to content himself for a time with "watching over the border." Several days were passed in this exhilarating employment, and just as Governor Lucas had made up his mind to do something rash, two commissioners arrived from Washington on a mission of peace. They remonstrated with Gov. Lucas, and reminded him of the consequences to himself and his State if he persisted in his attempt to gain possession of the disputed territory by force. After several conferences with both governors, the commissioners submitted propositions for their consideration.

Governor Lucas at once accepted the propositions, and disbanded his forces. Governor Mason, on the other hand, refused to accede to the arrangement, and declined to compromise the rights of his people by a surrender of possession and jurisdiction. When Governor Lucas disbanded his forces, however, Governor Mason partially followed suit, but still held himself in readiness to meet any emergency that might arise.

Governor Lucas now supposed that his way was clear, and that he could re-mark the Harris line without being molested, and ordered the commissioners to proceed with their work.

In the meantime, Governor Mason kept a watchful eye upon the proceedings. General Brown sent scouts through the woods to watch their movements, and report when operations were commenced. When the surveying party got within the county of Lenawee, the under-sheriff of that county, armed with a warrant, and accompanied by a posse, suddenly made his appearance, and succeeded in arresting a portion of the party. The rest, including the commissioners, took to their heels, and were soon beyond the disputed territory. They reached Perrysburgh the following day in a highly demoralized condition, and reported they had been attacked by an overwhelming force of Michigan militia, under command of General Brown.

This summary breaking up of the surveying party produced the most tremendous excitement throughout Ohio. Governor Lucas called an extra session of the Legislature. But little remains to be said in reference to the "war." The question continued for some time to agitate the minds of the opposing parties; and the action of Congress was impatiently awaited. Michigan was admitted into the Union on the condition that she give to Ohio the disputed territory, and accept in return the Northern Peninsula, which she did.

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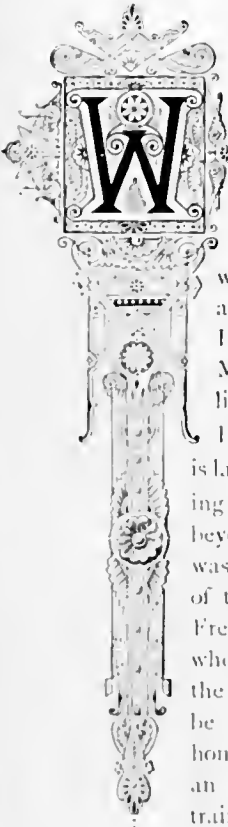
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*Wm Woodbridge.*


 WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE.



WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE, second Governor of Michigan, was born at Norwich, Conn., Aug. 20, 1780, and died at Detroit Oct. 20, 1861. He was of a family of three brothers and two sisters. His father, Dudley Woodbridge, removed to Marietta, Ohio, about 1790. The life of Wm. Woodbridge, by Chas. Lanman, from which this sketch is largely compiled, mentions nothing concerning his early education beyond the fact that it was such as was afforded by the average school of the time, except a year with the French colonists at Gallipolis, where he acquired a knowledge of the French language. It should be borne in mind, however, that home education at that time was an indispensable feature in the training of the young. To this and to a few studies well mastered,

is due that strong mental discipline which has served as a basis for many of the grand intellects that have adorned and helped to make our National history.

Mr. Woodbridge studied law at Marietta, having as a fellow student an intimate personal friend, a young man subsequently distinguished, but known at that time simply as Lewis Cass. He graduated at the law school in Connecticut, after a course there of nearly three years, and began to practice at Marietta in 1806. In June, 1806, he married, at Hartford, Connecticut, Juliana, daughter of John Frembell, a distinguished author and judge; and author of the

poem *McFingal*, which, during a dark period of the Revolution, wrought such a magic change upon the spirits of the colonists. He was happy in his domestic relations until the death of Mrs. W., Feb. 2, 1806.

Our written biographies necessarily speak more fully of men, because of their active participation in public affairs, but human actions are stamped upon the page of time and when the scroll shall be unrolled the influence of good women upon the history of the world will be read side by side with the deeds of men. How much success and renown in life many men owe to their wives is probably little known. Mrs. W. enjoyed the best means of early education that the country afforded, and her intellectual genius enabled her to improve her advantages. During her life, side by side with the highest type of domestic and social graces, she manifested a keen intellectuality that formed the crown of a faultless character. She was a natural poet, and wrote quite a large number of fine verses, some of which are preserved in a printed memorial essay written upon the occasion of her death. In this essay, it is said of her "to contribute even in matters of minor importance, to elevate the reputation and add to the well being of her husband in the various stations he was called upon to fill, gave her the highest satisfaction." She was an invalid during the latter portion of her life, but was patient and cheerful to the end.

In 1807, Mr. W. was chosen a representative to the General Assembly of Ohio, and in 1809 was elected to the Senate, continuing a member by re-election until his removal from the State. He also held, by appointment, during the time the office of Prosecuting Attorney for his county. He took a leading part in the Legislature, and in 1812 drew up the resolutions, which passed the two houses, in 1812,

and attracted great attention, endorsing, in strongest and most emphatic terms, the war measures of President Madison. During the period from 1804 to 1814 the two law students, Woodbridge and Cass, had become widely separated. The latter was Governor of the Territory of Michigan under the historic "Governor and Judges" plan, with the indispensable requisite of a Secretary of the Territory. This latter position was, in 1814, without solicitation on his part, tendered to Mr. W. He accepted the position with some hesitation, and entered upon its duties as soon as he could make the necessary arrangements for leaving Ohio. The office of Secretary involved also the duties of collector of customs at the port of Detroit, and during the frequent absences of the Governor, the discharge of his duties, also including those of Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Mr. W. officiated as Governor for about two years out of the eight years that he held the office of Secretary. Under the administration of "Governor and Judges," which the people of the Territory preferred for economical reasons, to continue some time after their numbers entitled them to a more popular representative system, they were allowed no delegate in Congress. Mr. W., as a sort of informal agent of the people, by correspondence and also by a visit to the National capital, so clearly set forth the demand for representation by a delegate, that an act was passed in Congress in 1819 authorizing one to be chosen. Under this act Mr. W. was elected by the concurrence of all parties. His first action in Congress was to secure the passage of a bill recognizing and confirming the old French land titles in the Territory according to the terms of the treaty of peace with Great Britain at the close of the Revolution; and another for the construction of a Government road through the "black swamps" from the Miami River to Detroit, thus opening a means of land transit between Ohio and Michigan. He was influential in securing the passage of bills for the construction of Government roads from Detroit to Chicago, and Detroit to Fort Gratiot, and for the improvement of La Plaisance Bay. The expedition for the exploration of the country around Lake Superior and in the valley of the Upper Mississippi, projected by Governor Cass, was set on foot by means of representations made to the head of the department by Mr. W. While in Congress he strenuously maintained the right of Michigan to the strip of territory now forming the northern boundary of Ohio, which formed the subject of such grave dispute between Ohio and Michigan at the time of the admission of the latter into the Union. He served but one term as delegate to Congress, declining further service on account of personal and family considerations. Mr. W. continued to discharge the duties of Secretary of the Territory up to the time its Government passed into the "second grade."

In 1824, he was appointed one of a board of commissioners for adjusting private land claims in

the Territory, and was engaged also in the practice of his profession, having the best law library in the Territory. In 1828, upon the recommendation of the Governor, Judges and others, he was appointed by the President, J. Q. Adams, to succeed Hon. James Withereil, who had resigned as a Judge of what is conventionally called the "Supreme Court" of the Territory. This court was apparently a continuation of the Territorial Court, under the "first grade" or "Governor and Judges" system. Although it was supreme in its judicial functions within the Territory, its powers and duties were of a very general character.

In 1832, the term of his appointment as Judge expiring, President Jackson appointed a successor, it is supposed on political grounds, much to the disappointment of the public and the bar of the Territory. The partisan feeling of the time extended into the Territory, and its people began to think of assuming the dignity of a State government. Party lines becoming very sharply drawn, he identified himself with the Whigs and was elected a member of the Convention of 1835, which formed the first State Constitution. In 1837 he was elected a member of the State Senate.

This sketch has purposely dealt somewhat in detail with what may be called Judge W's. earlier career, because it is closely identified with the early history of the State, and the development of its political system. Since the organization of the State Government the history of Michigan is more familiar, and hence no review of Judge W's. career as Governor and Senator will be attempted. He was elected Governor in 1839, under a popular impression that the affairs of the State had not been prudently administered by the Democrats. He served as Governor but little more than a year, when he was elected to the Senate of the United States.

His term in the Senate practically closed his political life, although he was strongly urged by many prominent men for the Whig nomination for Vice President in 1848.

Soon after his appointment as Judge in 1828, Governor W. took up his residence on a tract of land which he owned in the township of Spring Wells, a short distance below what was then the corporate limits of Detroit, where he resided during the remainder of his life. Both in his public papers and private communications, Governor W. shows himself a master of language; he is fruitful in simile and illustration, logical in arrangement, happy in the choice and treatment of topics, and terse and vigorous in expression. Judge W. was a Congregationalist. His opinions on all subjects were decided; he was earnest and energetic, courteous and dignified, and at times exhibited a vein of fine humor that was the more attractive because not too often allowed to come to the surface. His letters and addresses show a deep and earnest affection not only for his ancestral home, but the home of his adoption and for friends and family.

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*Prof. Barry*





JOHN S. BARRY

**J**OHNS STEWARD BARRY, Governor of Michigan from Jan. 3, 1842, to Jan. 5, 1846, and from Jan. 7, 1850, to Jan. 1, 1852, was born at Amherst, N. H., Jan. 29, 1802. His parents, John and Ellen (Steward) Barry, early removed to Rockingham, Vt., where he remained until he became of age, working on his father's farm, and pursuing his studies at the same time. He married Mary Kidder, of Grafton, Vt., and in 1824 went to Georgia, Vt., where he had charge of an academy for two years, meanwhile studying law. He afterward practiced law in

that State. While he was in Georgia he was for some time a member of the Governor's staff, with the title of Governor's Aid, and at a somewhat earlier period was Captain of a company of State militia. In 1831 he removed to Michigan, and settled at White Pigeon, where he engaged in mercantile business with I. W. Willard.

Four years after, 1834, Mr. Barry removed to Con-

stantine and continued his mercantile pursuits. He became Justice of the Peace at White Pigeon, Mich., in 1831, and held the office until the year 1835. Mr. Barry's first public office was that of a member of the first constitutional convention, which assembled and framed the constitution upon which Michigan was admitted into the Union. He took an important and prominent part in the proceedings of that body, and showed himself to be a man of far more than ordinary ability.

Upon Michigan being admitted into the Union, Mr. Barry was chosen State Senator, and so favorably were his associates impressed with his abilities at the first session of the Legislature that they looked to him as a party leader, and that he should head the State ticket at the following election. Accordingly he received the nomination for Governor at the hands of his party assembled in convention. He was elected, and so popular was his administration that, in 1842, he was again elected. During these years Michigan was embarrassed by great financial difficulties, and it was through his wisdom and sound judgment that the State was finally placed upon a solid financial basis.

During the first year of Gov. Barry's first term, the University at Ann Arbor was opened for the reception

of students. The Michigan Central and Michigan Southern railroads were being rapidly constructed, and general progress was everywhere noticeable. In 1842, the number of pupils reported as attending the public schools was nearly fifty-eight thousand. In 1843, a State land office was established at Marshall, which was invested with the charge and disposition of all the lands belonging to the State. In 1844, the taxable property of the State was found to be over twenty-eight millions of dollars, the tax being at the rate of two mills on the dollar. The expenses of the State were only seventy thousand dollars, while the income from the railroads was nearly three hundred thousand dollars. At this time the University of Michigan had become so prosperous that its income was ample to pay the interest on the University debt; and the amount of money which the State was able to loan the several progressing railroads was one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. Efforts were made to increase the efficiency of the common schools with good results. In 1845, when Gov. Barry's second term expired, the population of the State was more than three hundred thousand.

The constitution of the State forbade more than two consecutive terms, but he was called upon to fill the position again in 1850—the only instance of the kind in the history of the State. He was a member of the Territorial Legislature, of the Constitutional Convention, and afterward of the State House of Representatives.

During Mr. Barry's third term as Governor the Normal School was established at Ypsilanti, which was endowed with lands and placed in charge of a board of education consisting of six persons. A new constitution for the government of the State was also adopted and the "Great Railway Conspiracy Case" was tried. This grew out of a series of lawless acts which had been committed upon the property of the Michigan Central Railroad Company, along the line of their road, and finally the burning of the depot at Detroit, in 1850.

At a setting of the grand jury of Wayne County, April 24, 1851, 37 men of the 50 under arrest for this crime were indicted. May 20, following, the accused parties appeared at the Circuit Court of Wayne, of which Warner Wing was resident judge. The Railroad Company employed ten eminent lawyers, including David Stuart, John Van Arman, James A. Van Dyke, Jacob M. Howard, Alex. D. Fraser, Daniel Goodwin and William Gray. The defendants were represented by six members of the State bar, led by William H. Seward, of New York. The trial occupied four months, during which time the plaintiffs examined 246 witnesses in 27 days, and the defendants 249 in 40 days. Mr. Van Dyke addressed the jury for the prosecution; William H. Seward for the defense.

The great lawyer was convinced of the innocence

of his clients, nor did the verdict of that jury and the sentence of that judge remove his firm belief that his clients were the victims of purchased treachery, rather than so many sacrifices to justice.

The verdict of "guilty" was rendered at 9 o'clock P. M., Sept. 25, 1851. On the 26th the prisoners were put forward to receive sentence, when many of them protested their entire innocence, after which the presiding judge condemned 12 of the number to the following terms of imprisonment, with hard labor, within the State's prison, situate in their county: Ammi Filley, ten years; Orlando L. Williams, ten years; Aaron Mount, eight years; Andrew J. Freeland, eight years; Eben Farnham, eight years; William Corvin, eight years; Richard Price, eight years; Evan Price, eight years; Lyman Champlin, five years; Willard W. Champlin, five years; Erastus Champlin, five years; Erastus Smith, five years.

In 1840, Gov. Barry became deeply interested in the cultivation of the sugar beet, and visited Europe to obtain information in reference to its culture.

He was twice Presidential Elector, and his last public service was that of a delegate to the National Democratic Convention held in Chicago in 1864.

He was a man who, throughout life, maintained a high character for integrity and fidelity to the trusts bestowed upon him, whether of a public or a private nature, and he is acknowledged by all to have been one of the most efficient and popular Governors the State has ever had.

Gov. Barry was a man of incorruptible integrity. His opinions, which he reached by the most thorough investigation, he held tenaciously. His strong convictions and outspoken honesty made it impossible for him to take an undefined position when a principle was involved. His attachments and prejudices were strong, yet he was never accused of favoritism in his administration of public affairs. As a speaker he was not remarkable. Solidity, rather than brilliancy, characterized his oratory, which is described as argumentative and instructive, but cold, hard, and entirely wanting in rhetorical ornament. He was never eloquent, seldom humorous or sarcastic, and in manner rather awkward.

Although Mr. Barry's educational advantages were so limited, he was a life-long student. He mastered both ancient and modern languages, and acquired a thorough knowledge of history. No man owed less to political intrigue as a means of gaining position. He was a true statesman, and gained public esteem by his solid worth. His political connections were always with the Democratic party, and his opinions were usually extreme.

Mr. Barry retired to private life after the beginning of the ascendancy of the Republican party, and carried on his mercantile business at Constantine. He died Jan. 14, 1870, his wife's death having occurred a year previous, March 30, 1869. They left no children.

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Stephen Pelch.

## ALPHEUS FELCH.

**A**LPHIUS FELCH, the third Governor of Michigan, was born in Limerick, Maine, September 28, 1806. His grandfather, Abijah Felch, was a soldier in the Revolution; and when a young man, having with others obtained a grant of land between the Great and Little Ossipee Rivers, in Maine, moved to that region when it was yet a wilderness. The father of Mr. Felch embarked in mercantile life at Limerick. He was the first to engage in that business in that section, and continued it until his death. The death of the father, followed within a year by the death of

the mother, left the subject of this sketch, then three years old, to the care of relatives, and he found a home with his paternal grandfather, where he remained until his death. Mr. Felch received his early education in the district school and a neighboring academy. In 1821 he became a student at Phillips Exeter Academy, and, subsequently, entered Bowdoin College, graduated with the class of 1827. He at once began the study of law and was admitted to practice at Bangor, Me., in 1830.

He began the practice of his profession at Houlton, Me., where he remained until 1833. The severity of the climate impaired his health, never very good, and he found it necessary to seek a change of climate. He disposed of his library and started to seek a new home. His intention was to join his friend,

Sargent S. Prentiss, at Vicksburg, Miss., but on his arrival at Cincinnati, Mr. Felch was attacked by cholera, and when he had recovered sufficiently to permit of his traveling, found that the danger of the disease was too great to permit a journey down the river. He therefore determined to come to Michigan. He first began to practice in this State at Monroe, where he continued until 1843, when he removed to Ann Arbor. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1835, and continued a member of that body during the years 1836 and 1837. While he held this office, the general banking law of the State was enacted, and went into operation. After mature deliberation, he became convinced that the proposed system of banking could not prove beneficial to the public interests; and that, instead of relieving the people from the pecuniary difficulties under which they were laboring, it would result in still further embarrassment. He, therefore, opposed the bill, and pointed out to the House the disasters which, in his opinion, were sure to follow its passage. The public mind, however, was so favorably impressed by the measure that no other member, in either branch of the Legislature, raised a dissenting voice, and but two voted with him in opposition to the bill. Early in 1838, he was appointed one of the Bank Commissioners of the State, and held that office for more than a year. During this time, the new banking law had given birth to that numerous progeny known as "wild cat" banks. Almost every village had its bank. The country was flooded with depressed "wild cat" money. The examinations of the Bank Commissioners brought to light trails of very poor, which were truthfully re-

ported to the Legislature, and were followed by criminal prosecutions of the guilty parties, and the closing of many of their institutions. The duties of the office were most laborious, and in 1839 Mr. Felch resigned. The chartered right of almost every bank had, in the meantime, been declared forfeited and the law repealed. It was subsequently decided to be constitutional by the Supreme Court of the State. In the year 1842 Governor Felch was appointed to the office of Auditor General of the State; but after holding the office only a few weeks, was commissioned by the Governor as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Fletcher. In January, 1843, he was elected to the United States Senate for an unexpired term. In 1845 he was elected Governor of Michigan, and entered upon his duties at the commencement of the next year. In 1847 he was elected a Senator in Congress for six years; and at once retired from the office of Governor, by resignation, which took effect March 4, 1847, when his Senatorial term commenced. While a member of the Senate he acted on the Committee on Public Lands, and for four years was its Chairman. He filled the honorable position of Senator with becoming dignity, and with great credit to the State of Michigan.

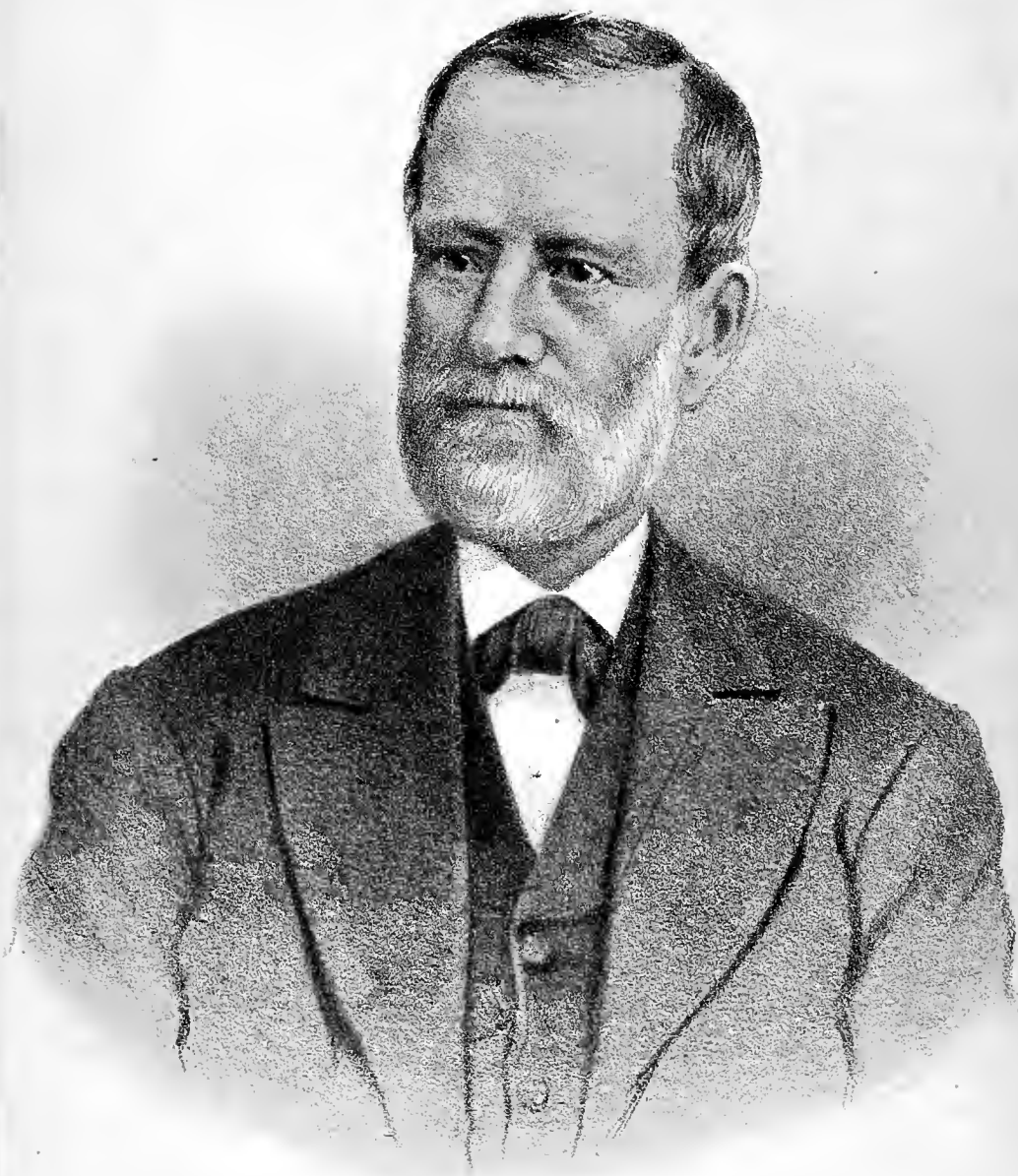
During Governor Felch's administration the two railroads belonging to the State were sold to private corporations,—the Central for \$2,000,000, and the Southern for \$500,000. The exports of the State amounted in 1846 to \$4,647,608. The total capacity of vessels enrolled in the collection district at Detroit was 26,928 tons, the steam vessels having 8,400 and the sailing vessels 18,528 tons, the whole giving employment to 18,000 seamen. In 1847, there were 39 counties in the State, containing 435 townships; and 275 of these townships were supplied with good libraries, containing an aggregate of 37,000 volumes.

At the close of his Senatorial term, in March, 1853, Mr. Felch was appointed, by President Pierce, one of the Commissioners to adjust and settle the Spanish

and Mexican land claims in California, under the treaty of Gaudalupe Hidalgo, and an act of Congress passed for that purpose. He went to California in May, 1853, and was made President of the Commission. The duties of this office were of the most important and delicate character. The interest of the new State, and the fortunes of many of its citizens, both the native Mexican population and the recent American immigration; the right of the Pueblos to their common lands, and of the Catholic Church to the lands of the Missions,—the most valuable of the State,—were involved in the adjudications of this Commission. In March, 1856, their labors were brought to a close by the final disposition of all the claims which were presented. The record of their proceedings,—the testimony which was given in each case, and the decision of the Commissioners thereon,—consisting of some forty large volumes, was deposited in the Department of the Interior at Washington.

In June of that year, Governor Felch returned to Ann Arbor, where he has since been engaged principally in legal business. Since his return he has been nominated for Governor and also for U. S. Senator, and twice for Judge of the Supreme Court. But the Democratic party, to which he has always been attached, being in the minority, he failed of an election. In 1873 he withdrew from the active practice of law, and, with the exception of a tour in Europe, in 1875 has since led a life of retirement at his home in Ann Arbor. In 1877 the University of Michigan conferred upon him the degree of LL. D. For many years he was one of the Regents of Michigan University, and in the spring of 1879 was appointed Tappan Professor of Law in the same. Mr. Felch is the oldest surviving member of the Legislature from Monroe Co., the oldest and only surviving Bank Commissioner of the State, the oldest surviving Auditor General of the State, the oldest surviving Governor of the State, the oldest surviving Judge of the Supreme Court of Michigan, and the oldest surviving United States Senator from the State of Michigan.

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*Wm S Greenly.*





## WILLIAM L. GREENLY.

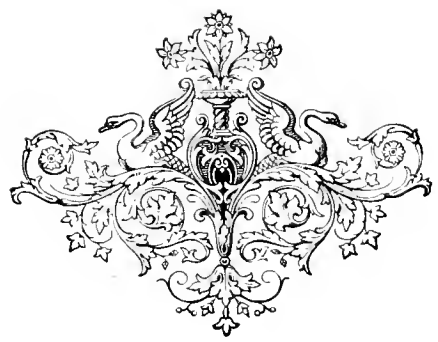
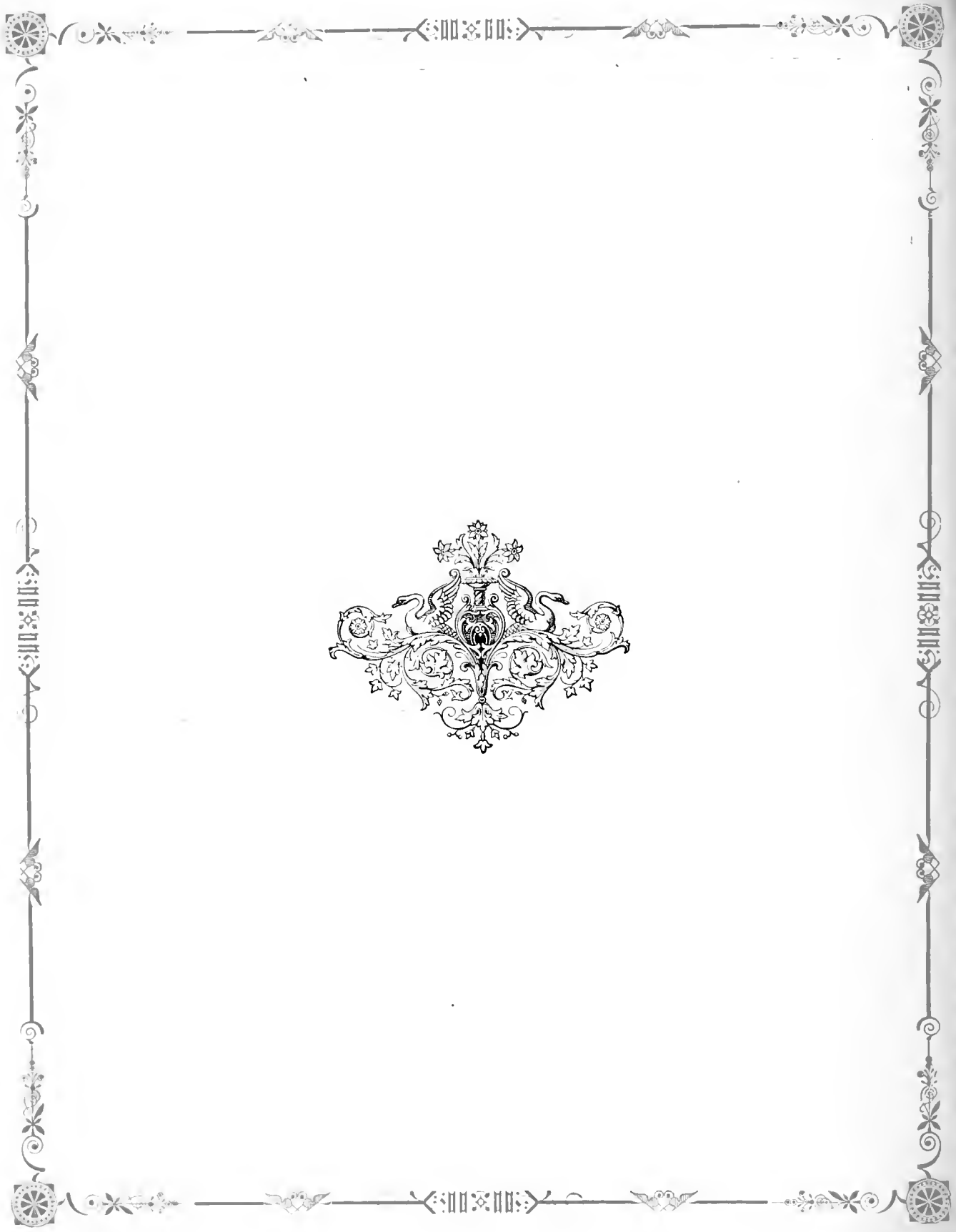
**W**ILLIAM L. GREENLY, Governor of Michigan for the year 1847, was born at Hamilton, Madison Co., N. Y., Sept. 18, 1813. He graduated at Union College, Schenectady, in 1831, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1834. In 1836, having removed to Michigan, he settled in Adrian, where he has since resided. The year following his arrival in Michigan he was elected State Senator and served in that capacity until 1839. In 1845 he was elected Lieut. Governor and became acting Governor by the resignation of Gov. Felch, who was elected to the United States Senate.

The war with Mexico was brought to a successful termination during Gov. Greenly's administration. We regret to say that there are only few records extant of the action of Michigan troops in the Mexican war. That many went there and fought well are points conceded; but their names and nativity are hidden away in United States archives

and where it is almost impossible to find them.

The soldiers of this State deserve much of the credit of the memorable achievements of Co. K, 3d Dragoons, and Cos. A, E, and G of the U. S. Inf. The two former of these companies, recruited in this State, were reduced to one-third their original number.

In May, 1846, the Governor of Michigan was notified by the War Department of the United States to enroll a regiment of volunteers, to be held in readiness for service whenever demanded. At his summons 13 independent volunteer companies, 11 of infantry and two of cavalry, at once fell into line. Of the infantry four companies were from Detroit, bearing the honored names of Montgomery, Lafayette, Scott and Brady upon their banners. Of the remainder Monroe tendered two, Lenawee County three, St. Clair, Berrien and Hillsdale each one, and Wayne County an additional company. Of these alone the veteran Bradys were accepted and ordered into service. In addition to them ten companies, making the First Regiment of Michigan Volunteers, springing from various parts of the State, but embodying to a great degree the material of which the first volunteers was formed, were not called for until October following. This regiment was soon in readiness and proceeded by orders from Government to the seat of war.




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*Epaphroditus Ransom.*



## EPAPHRODITUS RANSOM.



HE HON. EPAPHRODITUS RANSOM, the Seventh Governor of Michigan, was a native of Massachusetts. In that State he received a collegiate education, studied law, and was admitted to the bar. Removing to Michigan about the time of its admission to the Union, he took up his residence at Kalamazoo.

Mr. Ransom served with marked ability for a number of years in the State Legislature, and in 1837 he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1843 he was promoted to Chief Justice, which office he retained until 1845, when he resigned.

Shortly afterwards he became deeply interested in the building of plank roads in the western portion of the State, and in this business lost the greater portion of the property which he had accumulated by years of toil and industry.

Mr. Ransom became Governor of the State of Michigan in the fall of 1847, and served during one term, performing the duties of the office in a truly statesmanlike manner. He subsequently became President of the Michigan Agricultural Society, in which position he displayed the same ability that

shone forth so prominently in his acts as Governor. He held the office of Regent of the Michigan University several times, and ever advocated a liberal policy in its management.

Subsequently he was appointed receiver of the land office in one of the districts in Kansas, by President Buchanan, to which State he had removed, and where he died before the expiration of his term of office.

We sum up the events and affairs of the State under Gov. Ransom's administration as follows: The Asylum for the Insane was established, as also the Asylum for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind. Both of these institutes were liberally endowed with lands, and each of them placed in charge of a board of five trustees. The appropriation in 1849 for the deaf and dumb and blind amounted to \$81,500. On the first of March, 1848, the first telegraph line was completed from New York to Detroit, and the first dispatch transmitted on that day. The following figures show the progress in agriculture: The land reported as under cultivation in 1848 was 1,437,490 acres; of wheat there were produced 4,740,300 bushels; other grains, 8,197,767 bushels; wool, 1,045,756 pounds; maple sugar, 1,774,360 pounds; horses, 52,305; cattle, 210,268; swine, 152,541; sheep, 610,534; while the flour mills numbered 228, and the lumber mills amounted to 730. In 1847, an act was passed removing the Legislature from Detroit to Lansing, and temporary buildings for the use of the Legislature were immediately erected, at a cost of \$12,45



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*Wm. H. Bellows*





## ROBERT McCLELLAND.

**R**OBERT McCLELLAND, Governor of Michigan from Jan. 1, 1852, to March 8, 1853, was born at Greencastle, Franklin Co., Penn., Aug. 1, 1807.

Among his ancestors were several officers of rank in the Revolutionary war, and some of his family connections were distinguished in the war of 1812, and that with Mexico. His father was an eminent physician and surgeon who studied under Dr. Benj. Rush, of Philadelphia, and practiced his profession successfully until six months before his death, at the age of 84 years. Although Mr.

McClelland's family had been in good circumstances, when he was 17 years old he was thrown upon his own resources. After taking the usual preliminary studies, and teaching school to obtain the means, he entered Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Penn., from which he graduated among the first in his class, in 1829. He then resumed teaching, and having completed the course of study for the legal profession, was admitted to the bar at Chambersburg, Penn., in 1831. Soon afterward he removed to the city of Pittsburgh, where he practiced for almost a year.

In 1833, Mr. McClelland removed to Mount

the Territory of Michigan, where, after a severe examination, he became a member of the bar of Michigan, and engaged in practice with bright prospect of success. In 1835, a convention was called to frame a constitution for the proposed State of Michigan, of which Mr. McClelland was elected a member. He took a prominent part in its deliberations and ranked among its ablest debaters. He was appointed the first Bank Commissioner of the State, by Gov. Mason, and received an offer of the Attorney Generalship, but declined both of these offices in order to attend to his professional duties.

In 1838, Mr. McClelland was elected to the State Legislature, in which he soon became distinguished as the head of several important committees, Speaker *pro tempore*, and as an active, zealous and efficient member. In 1840, Gen. Harrison, as a candidate for the Presidency, swept the country with an overwhelming majority, and at the same time the State of Michigan was carried by the Whigs under the popular cry of "Woodbridge and reform" against the Democratic party. At this time Mr. McClelland stood among the acknowledged leaders of the latter organization; was elected a member of the State House of Representatives, and with others adopted a plan to organize for authority and prestige.

This party soon came again into power in the State, and having been returned to the State Legislature Mr. McClelland's leadership was acknowledged by his election to Speaker of the House of Representatives.

in 1843. Down to this time Michigan had constituted one congressional district. The late Hon. Jacob M. Howard had been elected against Hon. Alpheus Felch by a strong majority, but, in 1843, so thoroughly had the Democratic party recovered from its defeat of 1840 that Mr. McClelland, as a candidate for Congress, carried Detroit district by a majority of about 2,500. Mr. McClelland soon took a prominent position in Congress among the veterans of that body. During his first term he was placed on Committee on Commerce, and organized and carried through what were known as the "Harbor bills." The continued confidence of his constituency was manifested in his election to the 29th Congress. At the opening of this session he had acquired a National reputation, and so favorably was he known as a parliamentarian that his name was mentioned for Speaker of the House of Representatives. He declined the offer in favor of J. W. Davis, of Indiana, who was elected. During this term he became Chairman of Committee on Commerce, in which position his reports and advocacy of important measures at once attracted public attention. The members of this committee, as an evidence of the esteem in which they held his services and of their personal regard for him, presented him with a cane which he retains as a souvenir of the donors, and of his labors in Congress.

In 1847, Mr. McClelland was re-elected to Congress, and at the opening of the 30th Congress became a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations. While acting in this capacity, what was known as the "French Spoliation Bill" came under his special charge, and his management of the same was such as to command universal approbation. While in Congress, Mr. McClelland was an advocate of the right of petition as maintained by John Q. Adams, when the petition, was clothed in decorous language and presented in the proper manner. This he regarded as the citizens' constitutional right which should not be impaired by any doctrines of temporary expediency. He also voted for the adoption of Mr. Giddings's bill for the abolishing of slavery in the District of Columbia. Mr. McClelland was one of the few Democrats associated with David Wilmot, of Pennsylvania, in bringing forward the celebrated "Wilmot Proviso," with a view to prevent further extension of slavery in new territory which might be acquired by the United States. He and Mr. Wilmot were together at the time in Washington, and on intimate and confidential terms. Mr. McClelland was in several National conventions and in the Baltimore convention, which nominated Gen. Cass for President, in 1848, doing valiant service that year for the election of that distinguished statesman. On leaving Congress, in 1848, Mr. McClelland returned to the practice of his profession at Monroe. In 1850 a convention of the State of Michigan was called to revise the State constitution. He was elected a

member and was regarded therein as among the ablest and most experienced leaders. His clear judgment and wise moderation were conspicuous, both in the committee room and on the floor, in debate. In 1850, he was President of the Democratic State convention which adopted resolutions in support of Henry Clay's famous compromise measures, of which Mr. McClelland was a strong advocate. He was a member of the Democratic National convention in 1852, and in that year, in company with Gen. Cass and Governor Felch, he made a thorough canvass of the State. He continued earnestly to advocate the Clay compromise measures, and took an active part in the canvass which resulted in the election of Gen. Pierce to the Presidency.

In 1851, the new State constitution took effect and it was necessary that a Governor should be elected for one year in order to prevent an interregnum, and to bring the State Government into operation under the new constitution. Mr. McClelland was elected Governor, and in the fall of 1852 was re-elected for a term of two years, from Jan. 1, 1853. His administration was regarded as wise, prudent and conciliatory, and was as popular as could be expected at a time when party spirit ran high. There was really no opposition, and when he resigned, in March, 1853, the State Treasury was well filled, and the State otherwise prosperous. So widely and favorably had Mr. McClelland become known as a statesman that on the organization of the cabinet by President Pierce, in March, 1853, he was made Secretary of the Interior, in which capacity he served most creditably during four years of the Pierce administration. He thoroughly re-organized his department and reduced the expenditures. He adopted a course with the Indians which relieved them from the impositions and annoyances of the traders, and produced harmony and civilization among them. During his administration there was neither complaint from the tribes nor corruption among agents, and he left the department in perfect order and system. In 1867, Michigan again called a convention to revise the State constitution. Mr. McClelland was a member and here again his long experience made him conspicuous as a prudent adviser, a sagacious parliamentary leader. As a lawyer he was terse and pointed in argument, clear, candid and impressive in his addresses to the jury. His sincerity and earnestness, with which was occasionally mingled a pleasant humor, made him an able and effective advocate. In speaking before the people on political subjects he was especially forcible and happy. In 1870 he made the tour of Europe, which, through his extensive personal acquaintance with European diplomats, he was enabled to enjoy much more than most travelers.

Mr. McClelland married, in 1837, Miss Sarah E. Sabin, of Williamstown, Mass. They have had six children two of whom now survive.

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*A. Parsons.*



## ANDREW PARSONS.

**A**NDREW PARSONS, Governor of Michigan from March 8, 1853 to Jan. 3, 1855, was born in the town of Hoosick, County of Rensselaer, and State of New York, on the 22d day of July, 1817, and died June 6, 1855, at the early age of 38 years. He was the son of John Parsons, born at Newburyport, Mass., Oct. 2, 1782, and who was the son of Andrew Parsons, a Revolutionary soldier, who was the son of Phineas Parsons, the son of Samuel Parsons, a descendant of Walter Parsons, born in Ireland in 1290.

Of this name and family, some one hundred and thirty years ago, Bishop Gilson remarked in his edition of Camden's Britannia: "The honorable family of Parsons have been advanced to the dignity of Viscounts and more lately Earls of Ross."

The following are descendants of these families: Sir John Parsons, born 1481, was Mayor of Hereford; Robert Parsons, born in 1546, lived near Bridgewater, England. He was educated at Balliol College, Oxford, and was a noted writer and defender of the Romish faith. He established an English College at Rome and another at Valladolid. Francis Parsons, born in 1556, was Vicar of Rothwell, in Nottingham; Bartholomew Parsons, born in 1618, was another noted member of the family. In 1634, Thomas Parsons was knighted by Charles 1. Joseph and Benjamin, brothers, were born in Great Torrington, England,

and accompanied their father and others to New England about 1630. Samuel Parsons, born at Salisbury, Mass., in 1707, graduated at Harvard College in 1730, ordained at Rye, N. H., Nov. 3, 1736, married Mary Jones, daughter of Samuel Jones, of Boston, Oct. 9, 1739, died Jan. 4, 1789, at the age of 82, in the 53rd year of his ministry. The grandfather of Mary Jones was Capt. John Adams, of Boston, grandson of Henry, of Braintree, who was among the first settlers of Massachusetts, and from whom a numerous race of the name are descended, including two Presidents of the United States. The Parsons have become very numerous and are found throughout New England, and many of the descendants are scattered in all parts of the United States, and especially in the Middle and Western States. Governor Andrew Parsons came to Michigan in 1835, at the age of 17 years, and spent the first summer at Lower Arbor Arbor, where for a few months he taught school which he was compelled to abandon from ill health.

He was one of the large number of men of sterling worth, who came from the East to Michigan when it was an infant State, or, even prior to its assuming the dignity of a State, and who, by their wisdom, enterprise and energy, have developed its wonderful natural resources, until to-day it ranks with the proudest States of the Union. These brave men came to Michigan with nothing to aid them in the conquest of the wilderness save courage, strength and a steady and willing hand. They gloriously conquered, however, and to them is due all honor for the labor so nobly performed, for the old and new Michigan which they laid out a great century would

In the fall of 1835, he explored the Grand River Valley in a frail canoe, the whole length of the river, from Jackson to Lake Michigan, and spent the following winter as clerk in a store at Prairie Creek, in Ionia County, and in the spring went to Marshall, where he resided with his brother, the Hon. Luke H. Parsons, also now deceased, until fall, when he went to Shiawassee County, then with Clinton County, and an almost unbroken wilderness and constituting one organized township. In 1837 this territory was organized into a county and, at the age of only 19 years, he (Andrew) was elected County Clerk. In 1840, he was elected Register of Deeds, re-elected in 1842, and also in 1844. In 1846, he was elected to the State Senate, was appointed Prosecuting Attorney in 1848, and elected Regent of the University in 1851, and Lieutenant Governor, and became acting Governor, in 1853, elected again to the Legislature in 1854, and, overcome by debilitated health, hard labor and the responsibilities of his office and cares of his business, retired to his farm, where he died soon after.

He was a fluent and persuasive speaker and well calculated to make friends of his acquaintances. He was always true to his trust, and the whole world could not persuade nor drive him to do what he conceived to be wrong. When Governor, a most powerful railroad influence was brought to bear upon him, to induce him to call an extra session of the Legislature. Meetings were held in all parts of the State for that purpose. In some sections the resolutions were of a laudatory nature, intending to make him do their bidding by resort to friendly and flattering words. In other places the resolutions were of a demanding nature, while in others they were threatening beyond measure. Fearing that all these influences might fail to induce him to call the extra session, a large sum of money was sent him, and liberal offers tendered him if he would gratify the railroad interest of the State and call the extra session, but, immovable, he returned the money and refused to receive any favors, whether from any party who would attempt to corrupt him by laudations, liberal offers, or

by threats, and in a short letter to the people, after giving overwhelming reasons that no sensible man could dispute, showing the circumstances were not "extraordinary," he refused to call the extra session. This brought down the wrath of various parties upon his head, but they were soon forced to acknowledge the wisdom and the justice of his course. One of his greatest enemies said, after a long acquaintance: "though not always coinciding with his views I never doubted his honesty of purpose. He at all times sought to perform his duties in strict accordance, with the dictates of his conscience, and the behests of his oath." The following eulogium from a political opponent is just in its conception and creditable to its author: "Gov. Parsons was a politician of the Democratic school, a man of pure moral character, fixed and exemplary habits, and entirely blameless in every public and private relation of life. As a politician he was candid, frank and free from bitterness, as an executive officer firm, constant and reliable." The highest commendations we can pay the deceased is to give his just record,—that of being an honest man.

In the spring of 1854, during the administration of Governor Parsons, the Republican party, at least as a State organization, was first formed in the United States "under the oaks" at Jackson, by anti-slavery men of both the old parties. Great excitement prevailed at this time, occasioned by the settling of Kansas, and the issue thereby brought up, whether slavery should exist there. For the purpose of permitting slavery there, the "Missouri compromise" (which limited slavery to the south of 36° 30') was repealed, under the leadership of Stephen A. Douglas. This was repealed by a bill admitting Kansas and Nebraska into the Union, as Territories, and those who were opposed to this repeal measure were in short called "anti-Nebraska" men. The epithets, "Nebraska" and "anti-Nebraska," were temporarily employed to designate the slavery and anti-slavery parties, pending the desolution of the old Democratic and Whig parties and the organization of the new Democratic and Republican parties of the present.

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*R. P. Bingham.*





## KINSLEY S. BINGHAM.

**K**INSLEY S. BINGHAM, Governor of Michigan from 1855 to 1859, and United States Senator, was born in Camillus, Onondaga County, N. Y., Dec. 16, 1808. His father was a farmer, and his own early life was consequently devoted to agricultural pursuits, but notwithstanding the disadvantages related to the acquisition of knowledge in the life of a farmer he managed to secure a good academic education in his native State and studied law in the office of Gen. James R. Lawrence, now of Syracuse, N. Y. In the spring of 1833, he married an estimable lady who had recently arrived from Scotland, and obeying the impulse of a naturally enterprising disposition, he emigrated to Michigan and purchased a new farm in company with his brother-in-law, Mr. Robert

Worden, in Green Oak, Livingston County. Here, on the border of civilization, buried in the primeval forest, our late student commenced the arduous task of preparing a future home, clearing and fencing, putting up buildings, etc., at such a rate that the land

chosen was soon reduced to a high state of cultivation.

Becoming deservedly prominent, Mr. Bingham was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace and Postmaster under the Territorial government, and was the first Probate Judge in the county. In the year 1836, when Michigan became a State, he was elected to the first Legislature. He was four times re-elected, and Speaker of the House of Representatives three years. In 1846 he was elected on the Democratic ticket, Representative to Congress, and was the only practical farmer in that body. He was never forgetful of the interest of agriculture, and was in particular opposed to the introduction of "Wood's Patent Cast Iron Plow" which he completely prevented. He was re-elected to Congress in 1848, during which time he strongly opposed the extension of slavery in the territory of the United States and was committed to and voted for the Wilmot Proviso.

In 1854, at the first organization of the Republican party, in consequence of his record in Congress as a Free Soil Democrat, Mr. Bingham was nominated and elected Governor of the State, and re-elected in 1856. Still faithful to the memory of his own former occupation, he did not forget the farmers during his administration, and among other profits of his zeal in their behalf, he became mainly instrumental in the establishment of the Agricultural College at Lansing.

In 1859, Governor Bingham was elected Senator in Congress and took an active part in the stormy campaign in the election of Abraham Lincoln. He wit-

nessed the commencement of the civil war while a member of the United States Senate. After a comparatively short life of remarkable promise and public activity he was attacked with apoplexy and died suddenly at his residence, in Green Oak, Oct. 5, 1861.

The most noticeable event in Governor Bingham's first term was the completion of the ship canal, at the Falls of St. Mary. In 1852, August 26, an act of Congress was approved, granting to the State of Michigan seven hundred and fifty thousand acres of land for the purpose of constructing a ship canal between Lakes Huron and Superior. In 1853, the Legislature accepted the grant, and provided for the appointment of commissioners to select the donated lands, and to arrange for building the canal. A company of enterprising men was formed, and a contract was entered into by which it was arranged that the canal should be finished in two years, and the work was pushed rapidly forward. Every article of consumption, machinery, working implements and materials, timber for the gates, stones for the locks, as well as men and supplies, had to be transported to the site of the canal from Detroit, Cleveland, and other lake ports. The rapids which had to be surmounted have a fall of seventeen feet and are about one mile long. The length of the canal is less than one mile, its width one hundred feet, depth twelve feet and it has two locks of solid masonry. In May, 1855, the work was completed, accepted by the commissioners, and formally delivered to the State authorities.

The disbursements on account of the construction of the canal and selecting the lands amounted to one million of dollars; while the lands which were assigned to the company, and selected through the agency at the Sault, as well as certain lands in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas, filled to an acre the Government grant. The opening of the canal was an important event in the history of the improvement of the State. It was a valuable link in the chain of lake commerce, and particularly important to the interests of the Upper Peninsula.

There were several educational, charitable and reformatory institutions inaugurated and opened during Gov. Bingham's administrations. The Michigan Agricultural College owes its establishment to a provision of the State Constitution of 1850. Article 13 says, "The Legislature shall, as soon as practicable, provide for the establishment of an agricultural school." For the purpose of carrying into practice this provision, legislation was commenced in 1855, and the act required that the school should be within ten miles of Lansing, and that not more than \$15 an acre should be paid for the farm and college grounds. The college was opened to students in May, 1857, the first of existing agricultural colleges in the United States. Until the spring of 1861, it was under the control of the State Board of Education; since that time it has been under the management of the State Board

of Agriculture, which was created for that purpose.

In its essential features, of combining study and labor, and of uniting general and professional studies in its course, the college has remained virtually unchanged from the first. It has a steady growth in number of students, in means of illustration and efficiency of instruction.

The Agricultural College is three miles east of Lansing, comprising several fine buildings; and there are also very beautiful, substantial residences for the professors. There are also an extensive, well-filled green-house, a very large and well-equipped chemical laboratory, one of the most scientific apiaries in the United States, a general museum, a museum of mechanical inventions, another of vegetable products, extensive barns, piggeries, etc., etc., in fine trim for the purposes designed. The farm consists of 676 acres, of which about 300 are under cultivation in a systematic rotation of crops.

Adrian College was established by the Wesleyan Methodists in 1859, now under the control of the Methodist Church. The grounds contain about 20 acres. There are four buildings, capable of accommodating about 225 students. Attendance in 1875 was 179; total number of graduates for previous year, 121; ten professors and teachers are employed. Exclusive of the endowment fund (\$80,000), the assets of the institution, including grounds, buildings, furniture, apparatus, musical instruments, outlying lands, etc., amount to more than \$1,37,000.

Hillsdale College was established in 1855 by the Free Baptists. The Michigan Central College, at Spring Arbor, was incorporated in 1845. It was kept in operation until it was merged into the present Hillsdale College. The site comprises 25 acres, beautifully situated on an eminence in the western part of the city of Hillsdale. The large and imposing building first erected was nearly destroyed by fire in 1874, and in its place five buildings of a more modern style have been erected. They are of brick, three stories with basement, arranged on three sides of a quadrangle. The size is, respectively, 80 by 80, 48 by 72, 48 by 72, 80 by 60, 52 by 72, and they contain one-half more room than the original building.

The State Reform School. This was established at Lansing in 1855, in the northeastern portion of the city, as the House of Correction for Juvenile Offenders, having about it many of the features of a prison. In 1859 the name was changed to the State Reform School. The government and discipline, have undergone many and radical changes, until all the prison features have been removed except those that remain in the walls of the original structure, and which remain only as monuments of instructive history. No bolts, bars or guards are employed. The inmates are necessarily kept under the surveillance of officers, but the attempts at escape are much fewer than under the more rigid *regime* of former days.

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Moses Wisner



## MOSES WISNER.

**M** OSES WISNER, Governor of Michigan from 1859 to 1861, was born in Springport, Cayuga Co., N. Y., June 3, 1815. His early education was only what could be obtained at a common school. Agricultural labor and frugality of his parents gave him a physical constitution of unusual strength and endurance, which was ever preserved by temperate habits. In 1837 he emigrated to Michigan and purchased a farm in Lapeer County. It was new land and he at once set to work to clear it and plant crops. He labored diligently at his task for two years, when he gave up

the idea of being a farmer, and removed to Pontiac, Oakland Co. Here he commenced the study of law in the office of his brother, George W. Wisner, and Rufus Hosmer. In 1841 he was admitted to the bar and established himself in his new vocation at the village of Lapeer. While there he was appointed by Gov. Woodbridge Prosecuting Attorney for that county, in which capacity he acquitted himself well and gave promise of that eminence he afterward attained in the profession. He remained at Lapeer but a short time, removing to Pontiac, where he became a member of a firm and entered fully upon the practice.

In politics he was like his talented brother, a Whig of the Henry Clay stamp, but with a decided anti-slavery bias. His practice becoming extensive, he

took little part in politics until after the election of Mr. Pierce to the Presidency in 1852, when he took an active part against slavery. As a lawyer he was a man of great ability, but relied less upon mere book learning than upon his native good sense. Liberal and courteous, was he yet devoted to the interest of his client, and no facts escaped his attention or his memory which bore upon the case. He was no friend of trickery or artifice in conducting a case. As an advocate he had few equals. When fully aroused by the merits of his subject his eloquence was at once graceful and powerful. His fancies supplied the most original, the most pointed illustrations, and his logic became a battling giant under whose heavy blows the adversary shrank and withered. Nature had bestowed upon him rare qualities, and his powers as a popular orator were of a high order.

On the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, repealing the Missouri compromise and opening the Territories to slavery, he was among the foremost in Michigan to denounce the shameful scheme. He actively participated in organizing and consolidating the elements opposed to it in that State, and was a member of the popular gathering at Jackson, 17 July, 1854, which was the first formal Republican Convention held in the United States. At this meeting the name "Republican" was adopted as a designation of the new party consisting of Anti-slavery, Whigs, Liberty men, Free Soil Democrats and all others opposed to the extension of slavery and favorable to its expulsion from the Territories and the District of Columbia. At this convention Mr. W. was urged to accept the nomination for Attorney General of the

State, but declined. An entire State ticket was nominated and at the annual election in November was elected by an average majority of nearly 10,000. Mr. W. was enthusiastic in the cause and brought to its support all his personal influence and talents. In his views he was bold and radical. He believed from the beginning that the political power of the slaveholders would have to be overthrown before quiet could be secured to the country. In the Presidential canvass of 1856 he supported the Fremont, or Republican, ticket. At the session of the Legislature of 1857 he was a candidate for United States Senator, and as such received a very handsome support.

In 1858, he was nominated for Governor of the State by the Republican convention that met at Detroit, and at the subsequent November election was chosen by a very large majority. Before the day of the election he had addressed the people of almost every county and his majority was greater even than that of his popular predecessor, Hon. K. S. Bingham. He served as Governor two years, from Jan. 1, 1859, to Jan. 1, 1861. His first message to the Legislature was an able and statesman-like production, and was read with usual favor. It showed that he was awake to all the interests of the State and set forth an enlightened State policy, that had its view of the rapid settlement of our uncultivated lands and the development of our immense agricultural and mineral resources. It was a document that reflected the highest credit upon the author.

His term having expired Jan. 1, 1861, he returned to his home in Pontiac, and to the practice of his profession. There were those in the State who counselled the sending of delegates to the peace conference at Washington, but Mr. W. was opposed to all such temporizing expedients. His counsel was to send no delegate, but to prepare to fight.

After Congress had met and passed the necessary legislation he resolved to take part in the war. In the spring and summer of 1862 he set to work to raise a regiment of infantry, chiefly in Oakland County, where he resided. His regiment, the 22d Michigan, was armed and equipped and ready to march in September, a regiment whose solid qualities were afterwards proven on many a bloody field. Col. W's. commission bore the date of Sept. 8, 1862. Before parting with his family he made his will. His regiment was sent to Kentucky and quartered at

Camp Wallace. He had at the breaking out of the war turned his attention to military studies and became proficient in the ordinary rules and discipline. His entire attention was now devoted to his duties. His treatment of his men was kind, though his discipline was rigid. He possessed in an eminent degree the spirit of command, and had he lived he would no doubt have distinguished himself as a good officer. He was impatient of delay and chafed at being kept in Kentucky where there was so little prospect of getting at the enemy. But life in camp, so different from the one he had been leading, and his incessant labors, coupled with that impatience which was so natural and so general among the volunteers in the early part of the war, soon made their influence felt upon his health. He was seized with typhoid fever and removed to a private house near Lexington. Every care which medical skill or the hand of friendship could bestow was rendered him. In the delirious wanderings of his mind he was disciplining his men and urging them to be prepared for an encounter with the enemy, enlarging upon the justice of their cause and the necessity of their crushing the Rebellion. But the source of his most poignant grief was the prospect of not being able to come to a hand-to-hand encounter with the "chivalry." He was proud of his regiment, and felt that if it could find the enemy it would cover itself with glory,—a distinction it afterward obtained, but not until Col. W. was no more. The malady baffled all medical treatment, and on the 5th day of Jan., 1863, he breathed his last. His remains were removed to Michigan and interred in the cemetery at Pontiac, where they rest by the side of the brave Gen. Richardson, who received his mortal wound at the battle of Antietam. Col. W. was no adventurer, although he was doubtless ambitious of military renown and would have striven for it with characteristic energy. He went to the war to defend and uphold the principles he had so much at heart. Few men were more familiar than he with the causes and the underlying principles that led to the contest. He left a wife, who was a daughter of Gen. C. C. Hascall, of Flint, and four children to mourn his loss. Toward them he ever showed the tenderest regard. Next to his duty their love and welfare engrossed his thoughts. He was kind, generous and brave, and like thousands of others he sleeps the sleep of the martyr for his country.

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## AUSTIN BLAIR.

**A**USTIN BLAIR, Governor of Michigan from Jan. 2, 1861, to Jan. 4, 1865, and known as the War Governor, is and illustration of the beneficent influence of republican institutions, having inherited neither fortune nor fame. He was born in a log cabin at Caroline, Tompkins Co., N. Y., Feb. 8, 1818. His ancestors came from Scotland in the time of George I, and for many generations followed the pursuit of agriculture. His father, George Blair, settled in Tompkins County in 1809, and felled the trees and erected the first cabin in the county. The last 60 of the four-score years of his life were spent on that spot. He married Rhoda Beackman, who now sleeps with him in the soil of the old homestead. The first 17 years of Mr. Blair's life were spent there, rendering his father what aid he could upon the farm. He then spent a year and a half in Cazenovia Seminary preparing for college; entered Hamilton College, in Clinton, prosecuted his studies until the middle of the junior year, when, attracted by the fame of Dr. Nott, he changed to Union College, from which he graduated in the class of 1839. Upon leaving college Mr. Blair read law two years in the office of Sweet & Davis, Oswego, N. Y., and was admitted to practice in 1841, and the same year moved to Michigan, locat-

ing in Jackson. During a temporary residence in Eaton Rapids, in 1842, he was elected Clerk of Eaton County. At the close of the official term he returned to Jackson, and as a Whig, zealously espoused the cause of Henry Clay in the campaign of 1844. He was chosen Representative to the Legislature in 1845, at which session, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, he rendered valuable service in the revision of the general statutes; also made an able support in favor of abolishing the color distinction in relation to the elective franchise, and at the same session was active in securing the abolition of capital punishment. In 1848 Mr. Blair refused longer to affiliate with the Whig party, because of its refusal to endorse in convention any anti-slavery sentiment. He joined the Free-soil movement, and was a delegate to their convention which nominated Van Buren for President that year. Upon the birth of the Republican party at Jackson, in 1854, by the coalition of the Whig and Free-soil elements, Mr. Blair was in full sympathy with the movement, and acted as a member of the Committee on Platform. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Jackson County in 1852; was chosen State Senator two years later, taking his seat with the incoming Republican administration of 1855, and holding the position of parliamentary leader in the Senate. He was a delegate to the National Convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Mr. Blair was elected Governor of Michigan in 1860, and re-elected in 1862, faithfully and honorably discharging the arduous duties of the office during that most mo-

mentous and stormy period of the Nation's life. Gov. Blair possessed a clear comprehension of the perilous situation from the inception of the Rebellion, and his inaugural address foreshadowed the prompt executive policy and the administrative ability which characterized his gubernatorial career.

Never perhaps in the history of a nation has a brighter example been laid down, or a greater sacrifice been made, than that which distinguished Michigan during the civil war. All, from the "War Governor" down to the poorest citizen of the State, were animated with a patriotic ardor at once magnificently sublime and wisely directed.

Very early in 1861 the coming struggle cast its shadow over the Nation. Governor Blair, in his message to the Legislature in January of that year, dwelt very forcibly upon the sad prospects of civil war; and as forcibly pledged the State to support the principles of the Republic. After a review of the conditions of the State, he passed on to a consideration of the relations between the free and slave States of the Republic, saying: "While we are citizens of the State of Michigan, and as such deeply devoted to her interests and honor, we have a still prouder title. We are also citizens of the United States of America. By this title we are known among the nations of the earth. In remote quarters of the globe, where the names of the States are unknown, the flag of the great Republic, the banner of the stars and stripes, honor and protect her citizens. In whatever concerns the honor, the prosperity and the perpetuity of this great Government, we are deeply interested. The people of Michigan are loyal to that Government—faithful to its constitution and its laws. Under it they have had peace and prosperity; and under it they mean to abide to the end. Feeling a just pride in the glorious history of the past, they will not renounce the equally glorious hopes of the future. But they will rally around the standards of the Nation and defend its integrity and its constitution, with fidelity." The final paragraph being:

"I recommend you at an early day to make mani-

fest to the gentlemen who represent this State in the two Houses of Congress, and to the country, that Michigan is loyal to the Union, the Constitution, and the laws and will defend them to the uttermost; and to proffer to the President of the United States, the whole military power of the State for that purpose. Oh, for the firm, steady hand of a Washington, or a Jackson, to guide the ship of State in this perilous storm! Let us hope that we will find him on the 4th of March. Meantime, let us abide in the faith of our fathers—'Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever.'"

How this stirring appeal was responded to by the people of Michigan will be seen by the statement that the State furnished 88,111 men during the war. Money, men, clothing and food were freely and abundantly supplied by this State during all these years of darkness and blood shed. No State won a brighter record for her devotion to our country than the Peninsula State, and to Gov. Blair, more than to any other individual is due the credit for its untiring zeal and labors in the Nation's behalf, and for the heroism manifested in its defense.

Gov. Blair was elected Representative to the Fortieth Congress, and twice re-elected, to the Forty-first and Forty-second Congress, from the Third District of Michigan. While a member of that body he was a strong supporter of reconstruction measures, and sternly opposed every form of repudiation. His speech upon the national finances, delivered on the floor of the House March 21, 1868, was a clear and convincing argument. Since his retirement from Congress, Mr. Blair has been busily occupied with his extensive law practice. Mr. Blair married Sarah L. Ford, of Seneca County N. Y., in February, 1849. Their family consists of 4 sons—George H., a law partner of A. J. Gould; Charles A., a law partner with his father, and Fred. J. and Austin T. Blair, at home. Governor Blair's religion is of the broad type, and centers in the "Golden Rule." In 1883, Gov. Blair was nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court of the State by the Republican party, but was defeated.

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Henry H. Crafo.

## HENRY H. CRAPO.

**H**ENRY HOWLAND CRAPO, Governor of Michigan from 1865 to 1869, was born May 24, 1804, at Dartmouth, Bristol Co., Mass., and died at Flint, Mich., July 22, 1869.

He was the eldest son of Jesse and Phebe (Howland) Crapo.

His father was of French descent and was very poor, sustaining his family by the cultivation of a farm in Dartmouth township, which yielded nothing beyond a mere livelihood.

His early life was consequently one of toil and devoid of advantages for intellectual culture, but his desire for an education seemed to know no bounds. The incessant toil for a mere subsistence upon a comparatively sterile farm, had no charm for him; and, longing for greater usefulness and better things, he looked for them in an education. His struggles to secure this end necessitated sacrifices and hardships that would have discouraged any but the most courageous and persevering. He became an ardent student and worker from his boyhood, though the means of carrying on his studies were exceedingly limited. He sorely felt the need of a dictionary; and, neither having money wherewith to purchase it, nor being able to procure one in his neighborhood, he set out to compile one for himself. In order to acquire a knowledge of the English language, he copied into a book every word whose meaning he did not comprehend, and upon meeting the same word again in the newspapers and books, which came into his hands, from the

context, would then record the definition. Whenever unable otherwise to obtain the signification of a word in which he had become interested he would walk from Dartmouth to New Bedford for that purpose alone, and after referring to the books at the library and satisfying himself thoroughly as to its denotation, would walk back, a distance of about seven miles, the same night. This was no unusual circumstance. Under such difficulties and in this manner he compiled quite an extensive dictionary in manuscript which is believed to be still in existence.

Ever in pursuit of knowledge, he obtained possession of a book upon surveying, and applying himself diligently to its study became familiar with this art, which he soon had an opportunity to practice. The services of a land surveyor were wanted, and he was called upon, but had no compass and no money with which to purchase one. A compass, however, he must and would have, and going to a blacksmith shop near at hand, upon the forge, with such tools as he could find in the shop, while the smith was at dinner, he constructed the compass and commenced life as a surveyor. Still continuing his studies, he fitted himself for teaching, and took charge of the village school at Dartmouth. When, in the course of time and under the pressure of law, a high school was to be opened, he passed a successful examination for its principalship and received the appointment. To do this was no small task. The law required a final examination in various subjects, which necessitated days and nights of study. One evening, after concluding his day's labor of teaching, he traveled over to New Bedford, some seven or eight miles, called upon the preceptor of Freed's Academy and passed

a severe examination. Receiving a certificate that he was qualified, he walked back to his home the same night, highly elated in being possessed of the acquirements and requirements of a master of the high school.

In 1832, at the age of 28 years, he left his native town and went to reside at New Bedford, where he followed the occupation of land surveyor, and occasionally acted as an auctioneer. Soon after becoming a citizen of this place, he was elected Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Collector of taxes, which office he held until the municipal government was changed,—about fifteen years,—when, upon the inauguration of the city government, he was elected Treasurer and Collector of taxes, a position which he held two or three years. He was also Justice of the Peace for many years. He was elected Alderman of New Bedford; was Chairman of Council Committee on Education, and as such prepared a report upon which was based the order for the establishment of the free Public Library of New Bedford. On its organization, Mr. Crapo was chosen a member of the Board of Trustees. This was the first free public library in Massachusetts, if not in the world. The Boston Free Library was established, however, soon afterwards. While a resident in New Bedford, he was much interested in horticulture, and to obtain the land necessary for carrying out his ideas he drained and reclaimed several acres of rocky and swampy land adjoining his garden. Here he started a nursery, which he filled with almost every description of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, etc. In this he was very successful and took great pride. He was a regular contributor to the *New England Horticultural Journal*, a position he filled as long as he lived in Massachusetts. As an indication of the wide reputation he acquired in that field of labor, it may be mentioned that after his death an affecting eulogy to his memory was pronounced by the President of the National Horticultural Society at his meeting in Philadelphia, in 1869. During his residence in New Bedford, Mr. Crapo was also engaged in the whaling business. A fine barque built at Dartmouth, of which he was part owner, was named the "H. H. Crapo" in compliment to him.

Mr. C. also took part in the State Militia, and for several years held a commission as Colonel of one of the regiments. He was President of the Bristol County Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and Secretary of the Bedford Commercial Insurance Company in New Bedford; and while an officer of the municipal government he compiled and published, between the years 1836 and 1845, five numbers of the *New Bedford Directory*, the first work of the kind ever published there.

Mr. C. removed to Michigan in 1856, having been induced to do so by investments made principally in pine lands, first in 1837 and subsequently in 1856. He took up his residence in the city of Flint, and en-

gaged largely in the manufacture and sale of lumber at Flint, Fentonville, Holly and Detroit, becoming one of the largest and most successful business men of the State. He was mainly instrumental in the construction of the Flint & Holly R. R., and was President of that corporation until its consolidation with the Flint & Pere Marquette R. R. Company. He was elected Mayor of that city after he had been a resident of the place only five or six years. In 1862 he was elected State Senator. In the fall of 1864 he received the nomination on the Republican ticket for Governor of the State, and was elected by a large majority. He was re-elected in 1866, holding the office two terms, and retiring in January, 1869, having given the greatest satisfaction to all parties.

While serving his last term he was attacked with a disease which terminated his life within one year afterwards. During much of this time he was an intense sufferer, yet often while in great pain gave his attention to public matters. A few weeks previous to his death a successful surgical operation was performed which seemed rapidly to restore him, but he overestimated his strength, and by too much exertion in business matters and State affairs suffered a relapse from which there was no rebound, and he died July 33, 1869.

In the early part of his life, Gov. Crapo affiliated with the Whig party in politics, but became an active member of the Republican party after its organization. He was a member of the Christian (sometimes called the Disciples') Church, and took great interest in its welfare and prosperity.

Mr. C. married, June 9, 1825, Mary A. Slocum, of Dartmouth. His marriage took place soon after he had attained his majority, and before his struggles with fortune had been rewarded with any great measure of success. But his wife was a woman of great strength of character and possessed of courage, hopefulness and devotion, qualities which sustained and encouraged her husband in the various pursuits of his early years. For several years after his marriage he was engaged in teaching school, his wife living with her parents at the time, at whose home his two older children were born. While thus situated he was accustomed to walk home on Saturday to see his family, returning on Sunday in order to be ready for school Monday morning. As the walk for a good part of the time was 20 miles each way, it is evident that at that period of his life no common obstacles deterred him from performing what he regarded as a duty. His wife was none the less conscientious in her sphere, and with added responsibilities and increasing requirements she labored faithfully in the performance of all her duties. They had ten children, one son and nine daughters. His son, Hon. Wm. W. Crapo, of New Bedford, is now an honored Representative to Congress from the First Congressional District of Massachusetts.

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*Henry P. Baldwin.*



## HENRY P. BALDWIN,

**H**ENRY P. BALDWIN, Governor of Michigan from Jan. 4, 1869, to Jan. 1, 1873, is a lineal descendant of Nathaniel Baldwin, a Puritan, of Buckinghamshire, England, who settled at Milford, Conn., in 1630. His father was John Baldwin, a graduate of Dartmouth College. He died at North Providence, R. I., in 1826. His paternal grandfather was Rev. Moses Baldwin, a graduate of Princeton College, in 1757, and the first who received collegiate honors at that ancient and honored institution. He died at Panna, Mass., in 1813, where for more than 50 years he had been pastor of the Presbyterian Church. On his mother's side Governor B. is descended from Robert Williams, also a Puritan, who settled in Roxbury, Mass., about 1638. His mother was a daughter of Rev. Nehemiah Williams, a graduate of Harvard College, who died at Brimfield, Mass., in 1706, where for 21 years he was pastor of the Congregationalist Church. The subject of this sketch was born at Coventry, R. I., Feb. 22, 1814. He received a New England common-school education until the age of 12 years, when, both his parents having died, he became a clerk in a mercantile establishment. He remained there, employing his leisure hours in study, until 20 years of age.

At this early period Mr. B. engaged in business on his own account. He made a visit to the West, in 1837, which resulted in his removal to Detroit in the spring of 1838. Here he established a mercantile house which has been successfully conducted until the present time. Although he successfully conducted

a large business, he has ever taken a deep interest in all things affecting the prosperity of the city and State of his adoption. He was for several years a Director and President of the Detroit Young Men's Society, an institution with a large library designed for the benefit of young men and citizens generally. An Episcopalian in religious belief, he has been prominent in home matters connected with that denomination. The large and flourishing parish of St. John, Detroit, originated with Governor Baldwin, who gave the lot on which the parish edifice stands, and also contributed the larger share of the cost of their erection. Governor B. was one of the foremost in the establishment of St. Luke's Hospital, and has always been a liberal contributor to moral and religious enterprises whether connected with his own Church or not. There have been, in fact, but few public and social improvements of Detroit during the past 45 years with which Governor B.'s name is not in some way connected. He was a director in the Michigan State Bank until the expiration of its charter, and has been President of the Second National Bank since its organization.

In 1863, Mr. Baldwin was elected to the State Senate, of Michigan; during the years of 1861-'2 he was made Chairman of the Finance Committee, a member of Committee on Banks and Incorporations, Chairman of the Select Joint Committee of the two Houses for the investigation of the Treasury Department and the official acts of the Treasurer, and of the letting of the contract for the improvement of the St. Clair Ship Canal. He was first elected Governor in 1868 and was re-elected in 1871, serving from 1869 to 1872, inclusive. It is no undesigned eulogy to say that Governor B.'s happy facility of estimating the necessary means to an end—the knowing of how much effort or attention to bestow upon the thing in hand, has been the secret of the uniform

success that has attended his efforts in all relations of life. The same industry and accuracy that distinguished him prior to this term as Governor was manifest in his career as the chief magistrate of the State, and while his influence appears in all things with which he has had to do, it is more noticeable in the most prominent position to which he was called. With rare exceptions the important commendations of Governor B. received the sanction of the Legislature. During his administration marked improvements were made in the charitable, penal and reformatory institutions of the State. The State Public School for dependent children was founded and a permanent commission for the supervision of the several State institutions. The initiatory steps toward building the Eastern Asylum for the Insane, the State House of Correction, and the establishment of the State Board of Health were recommended by Governor B. in his message of 1873. The new State Capitol also owes its origin to him. The appropriation for its erection was made upon his recommendation, and the contract for the entire work let under this administration. Governor B. also appointed the commissioners under whose faithful supervision the building was erected in a manner most satisfactory to the people of the State.

He advised and earnestly urged at different times such amendments of the constitution as would permit a more equitable compensation to State officers and judges. The law of 1869, and prior also, permitting municipalities to vote aid toward the construction of railroads was, in 1870, declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Many of the municipalities having in the meantime issued and sold their bonds in good faith, Governor B. felt that the honor and credit of the State were in jeopardy. His sense of justice impelled him to call an extra session of the Legislature to propose the submission to the people a constitutional amendment, authorizing the payment of such bonds as were already in the hands of *bona-fide* holders. In his special message he says: "The credit of no State stands higher than that of Michigan, and the people can not afford, and I trust will not consent, to have her good name tarnished by the repudiation of either legal or moral obligations." A special session was called in March, 1872, principally for the division of the State into congressional districts. A number of other important suggestions were made, however, and as an evidence of the Governor's laborious and thoughtful care for the financial condition

of the State, a series of tables was prepared and submitted by him showing, in detail, estimates of receipts, expenditures and appropriations for the years 1872 to 1878, inclusive. Memorable of Governor B.'s administration were the devastating fires which swept over many portions of the Northwest in the fall of 1871. A large part of the city of Chicago having been reduced to ashes, Governor B. promptly issued a proclamation calling upon the people of Michigan for liberal aid in behalf of the afflicted city. Scarcely had this been issued when several counties in his State were laid waste by the same destroying element. A second call was made asking assistance for the suffering people of Michigan. The contributions for these objects were prompt and most liberal, more than \$700,000 having been received in money and supplies for the relief of Michigan alone. So ample were these contributions during the short period of about 3 months, that the Governor issued a proclamation expressing in behalf of the people of the State grateful acknowledgment, and announcing that further aid was unnecessary.

Governor B. has traveled extensively in his own country and has also made several visits to Europe and other portions of the Old World. He was a passenger on the Steamer Arill, which was captured and bonded in the Carribean Sea, in December, 1862, by Capt. Semmes, and wrote a full and interesting account of the transaction. The following estimate of Governor B. on his retirement from office, by a leading newspaper, is not overdrawn: "The retiring message of Governor B., will be read with interest. It is a characteristic document and possesses the lucid statement, strong, and clear practical sense, which have been marked features of all preceding documents from the same source. Governor B. retired to private life after four years of unusually successful administration amid plaudits that are universal throughout the State. For many years eminent and capable men have filled the executive chair of this State, but in painstaking vigilance, in stern good sense, in genuine public spirit, in thorough integrity and in practical capacity, Henry P. Baldwin has shown himself to be the peer of any or all of them. The State has been unusually prosperous during his two terms, and the State administration has fully kept pace with the needs of the times. The retiring Governor has fully earned the public gratitude and confidence which he to-day possesses to such remarkable degree."

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*Mr. J. Bagley.*

## JOHN J. BAGLEY.

**J**OHN JUDSON BAGLEY, Governor of Michigan from 1873 to 1877, was born in Medina, Orleans Co., N. Y., July 24, 1832. His father, John Bagley, was a native of New Hampshire, his mother, Mary M. Bagley, of Connecticut. He attended the district school of Lockport, N. Y., until he was eight years old, at which time his father moved to Constantine, Mich., and he attended the common schools of that village. His early experience was like that of many country boys whose parents removed from Eastern States to the newer portion of the West. His father being in very poor circumstances, Mr. B. was obliged to work as soon as he was able to do so. Leaving school when 13 years of age he entered a country store in Constantine as clerk. His father then removed to Owosso, Mich., and he again engaged as clerk in a store. From

early youth Mr. B. was extravagantly fond of reading and devoted every leisure moment to the perusal of such books, papers and periodicals as came within his reach. In 1847, he removed to Detroit, where he secured employment in a tobacco manufactory and remained in this position for about five years.

In 1853, he began business for himself in the manufacturing of tobacco. His establishment has become

one of the largest of the kind in the West. Mr. B. has also been greatly interested in other manufacturing enterprises, as well as in mining, banking and insurance corporations. He was President of the Detroit Safe Company for several years. He was one of the organizers of the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company of Detroit, and was its President from 1867 to 1872. He was a director of the American National Bank for many years, and a stockholder and director in various other corporations. Mr. B. was a member of the Board of Education two years, and of the Detroit Common Council the same length of time. In 1865 he was appointed by Governor Crapo one of the first commissioners of the Metropolitan police force of the city of Detroit, serving six years. In November, 1872, he was elected Governor of Michigan, and two years later was re-elected to the same office, retiring in January, 1877. He was an active worker in the Republican party, and for many years was Chairman of the Republican State Central committee.

Governor Bagley was quite liberal in his religious views and was an attendant of the Unitarian Church. He aimed to be able to hear and consider any new thought, from whatever source it may come, but was not bound by any religious creed or formula. He held in respect all religious opinions, believing that no one can be injured by a firm adherence to a faith or denomination. He was married at Dubuque, Iowa, Jan. 19, 1855, to Frances E. Newberry, daughter of Rev. Samuel Newberry, a pioneer missionary of Michigan, who took an active part in the early educational matters of the State and in the establishment of an excellent system of education. It was principally

through his exertions that the State University was founded. Mr. B.'s family consists of seven children.

As Governor his administration was characterized by several important features, chief among which were his efforts to improve and make popular the educational agencies of the State by increasing the faculty of the University for more thorough instruction in technical studies, by strengthening the hold of the Agricultural College upon the public good will and making the general change which has manifested itself in many scattered primary districts. Among others were an almost complete revolution in the management of the penal and charitable institutions of the State; the passage of the liquor-tax law, taking the place of the dead letter of prohibition; the establishing of the system of dealing with juvenile offenders through county agents, which has proved of great good in turning the young back from crime and placing the State in the attitude of a moral agent; in securing for the militia the first time in the history of Michigan a systematized organization upon a serviceable footing. It was upon the suggestion of Gov. B. in the earlier part of his administration that the law creating the State Board of Health, and also the law creating a fish commission in the inland waters of the State, were passed, both of which have proved of great benefit to the State. The successful representation of Michigan at the Centennial Exhibition is also an honorable part of the record of Gov. B.'s administration.

As Governor, he felt that he represented the State—not in a narrow, egotistical way, but in the same sense that a faithful, trusted, confidential agent represents his employer, and as the Executive of the State he was her "attorney in fact." And his intelligent, thoughtful care will long continue the pride of the people he so much loved. He was ambitious—ambitious for place and power, as every noble mind is ambitious, because these give opportunity. However strong the mind and powerful the will, if there be no ambition, life is a failure. He was not blind to the fact that the more we have the more is required of us. He accepted it in its fullest meaning. He had great hopes for his State and his country. He had his ideas of what they should be. With a heart as broad as humanity itself; with an intelligent, able and cultured brain, the will and the power to do, he asked his fellow citizen to give him the opportunity to labor for them. Self entered not into the calculation.

His whole life was a battle for others; and he entered the conflict eagerly and hopefully.

His State papers were models of compact, business-like statements, bold, original, and brimful of practical suggestions, and his administrations will long be considered as among the ablest in this or any other State.

His noble, generous nature made his innumerable benefactions a source of continuous pleasure. Literally, to him it was "more blessed to give than to receive."

His greatest enjoyment was in witnessing the comfort and happiness of others. Not a tithe of his charities were known to his most intimate friends, or even to his family. Many a needy one has been the recipient of aid at an opportune moment, who never knew the hand that gave.

At one time a friend had witnessed his ready response to some charitable request, and said to him: "Governor, you give away a large sum of money; about how much does your charities amount to in a year?" He turned at once and said: "I do not know, sir; I do not allow myself to know. I hope I gave more this year than I did last, and hope I shall give more next year than I have this." This expressed his idea of charity, that the giving should at all times be free and spontaneous.

During his leisure hours from early life, and especially during the last few years, he devoted much time to becoming acquainted with the best authors. Biography was his delight; the last he read was the "Life and Work of John Adams," in ten volumes.

In all questions of business or public affairs he seemed to have the power of getting at the kernel of the nut in the least possible time. In reading he would spend scarcely more time with a volume than most persons would devote to a chapter. After what seemed a cursory glance, he would have all of value the book contained. Rarely do we see a business man so familiar with the best English authors. He was a generous and intelligent patron of the arts, and his elegant home was a study and a pleasure to his many friends, who always found there a hearty welcome. At Christmas time he would spend days doing the work of Santa Claus. Every Christmas eve he gathered his children about him and, taking the youngest on his lap, told some Christmas story, closing the entertainment with "The Night Before Christmas," or Dickens's "Christmas Carol."

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Yours Very Truly  
Charles W. Croswell



## CHARLES M. CROSWELL.

**C**HARLES M. CROSWELL, Governor of Michigan from Jan. 3, 1877 to Jan. 1, 1881, was born at Newburg, Orange County, N. Y., Oct. 31, 1825.

He is the only son of John and Sallie (Hicks) Crosswell. His father, who was of Scotch-Irish extraction, was a paper-maker, and carried on business in New York City. His ancestors on his mother's side were of Knickerbocker descent. The Crosswell family may be found connected with prominent events, in New York and Connecticut, in the early existence of the Republic. Harry Crosswell, during the administration of President Jefferson, published a paper called the *Balance*, and was prosecuted for libeling the President under the obnoxious Sedition Law. He was defended by the celebrated Alexander Hamilton, and the decision of the case established the important ruling that the truth might be shown in cases of libel. Another member of the family was Edwin Crosswell, the famous editor of the *Albany Argus*; also, Rev. William Crosswell, noted as a divine and poet.

When Charles M. Crosswell was seven years of age, his father was accidentally drowned in the Hudson River, at Newburg; and, within three months preceding that event, his mother and only sister had died, thus leaving him the sole surviving member of the family, without fortune or means. Upon the death

of his father he went to live with an uncle, who, in 1837, emigrated with him to Adrian, Michigan. At sixteen years of age, he commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, and worked at it very diligently for four years, maintaining himself, and devoting his spare time to reading and the acquirement of knowledge. In 1846, he began the study of law, and was appointed Deputy Clerk of Lenawee County. The duties of this office he performed four years, when he was elected Register of Deeds, and was re-elected in 1852. In 1854, he took part in the first movements for the formation of the Republican party, and was a member and Secretary of the convention held at Jackson in that year, which put in the field the first Republican State ticket in Michigan. In 1855, he formed a law partnership with the present Chief-Justice Cooley, which continued until the removal of Judge Cooley to Ann Arbor.

In 1862, Mr. Crosswell was appointed City Attorney of Adrian. He was also elected Mayor of the city in the spring of the same year; and in the fall was chosen to represent Lenawee County in the State Senate. He was re-elected to the Senate in 1864, and again in 1866, during each term filling the positions above mentioned. Among various reports made by him, one adverse to the re-establishment of the death penalty, and another against a proposition to pay the salaries of State officers and judges in coin, which then commanded a very large premium, may be mentioned. He also drafted the act ratifying the Thirteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, for the abolishment of slavery, it being the first amendment to the instrument ratified by Michigan. In 1863, from his seat in the State Senate, he delivered an elaborate speech in favor of the Proclama-

tion of Emancipation issued by President Lincoln, and of his general policy in the prosecution of the war. This, at the request of his Republican associates, was afterwards published. In 1867, he was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention, and chosen its presiding officer. This convention was composed of an able body of men; and though, in the general distrust of constitutional changes which for some years had been taking possession of the people, their labors were not accepted by the popular vote, it was always conceded that the constitution they proposed had been prepared with great care and skill.

In 1868, Mr. Croswell was chosen an Elector on the Republican Presidential ticket; in 1872, was elected a Representative to the State Legislature from Lenawee County, and was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. At the close of the session of that body his abilities as a parliamentarian, and the fairness of his rulings were freely and formally acknowledged by his associates; and he was presented with a superb collection of their portraits handsomely framed. He was, also, for several years, Secretary of the State Board for the general supervision of the charitable and penal institutions of Michigan; in which position, his propositions for the amelioration of the condition of the unfortunate, and the reformation of the criminal classes, signalize the benevolence of his nature, and the practical character of his mind.

In 1876, the general voice of the Republicans of the State indicted Mr. Croswell as their choice for Governor; and, at the State Convention of the party in August of the same year, he was put in nomination by acclamation, without the formality of a ballot. At the election in November following, he was chosen to the high position for which he had been nominated, by a very large majority over all opposing candidates. His inaugural message was received with general favor; and his career as Governor was marked with the same qualities of head and heart that have ever distinguished him, both as a citizen and statesman.

Governor Groswell has always prepared his addresses with care; and, as his diction is terse, clear, and strong, without excess of ornament, and his delivery impressive, he is a popular speaker; and many of his speeches have attracted favorable comment in the public prints, and have a permanent value. He has always manifested a deep interest in educational matters, and was for years a member and Secretary of the Board of Education of Adrain. At the formal opening of the Central School building in that city, on the 24th day of April, 1869, he gave, in a public address, an "Historical Sketch of the Adrian Public Schools."

In his private life, Governor Croswell has been as exemplary as in his public career he has been successful and useful. In February, 1852, he was married to a daughter of Morton Eddy, Lucy M. Eddy, a lady of many amiable and sunny qualities. She suddenly died, March 19, 1868, leaving two daughters and a son. Governor Croswell is not a member of any religious body, but generally attends the Presbyterian Church. He pursues the profession of law, but of late has been occupied mainly in the care of his own interests, and the quiet duties of advice in business difficulties, for which his unflinching prudence and sound judgment eminently fit him. Governor Croswell is truly popular, not only with those of like political faith with himself, but with those who differ from him in this regard.

During Gov. Croswell's administration the public debt was greatly reduced; a policy adopted requiring the State institutions to keep within the limit of appropriations; laws enacted to provide more effectually for the punishment of corruption and bribery in elections; the State House of Correction at Ionia and the Eastern Asylum for the Insane at Pontiac were opened, and the new capital at Lansing was completed and occupied. The first act of his second term was to preside at the dedication of this building. The great riot at Jackson occurred during his administration, and it was only by his promptness that great destruction of both life and property was prevented at that time.

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David H. Jones



## DAVID H. JEROME.

**D**AVID H. JEROME, Governor of from Jan. 1, 1881, to Jan. 1, 1883, was born at Detroit, Mich., Nov. 17, 1829.

His parents emigrated to Michigan from Trumansburg, Tompkins Co., N. Y., in 1828, locating at Detroit. His father died March 30, 1831, leaving nine children. He had been twice married, and four of the children living at the time of his death were grown up sons, the offspring of his first union. Of the

five children by his second marriage, David H. was the youngest. Shortly after Mr. Jerome's death, his widow moved back to New York and settled in Onondaga County near Syracuse, where they remained until the fall of 1834, the four sons by the first wife continuing their residence in Michigan. In the fall of 1834, Mrs. Jerome came once more to Michigan, locating on a farm in St. Clair County. Here the Governor formed those habits of industry and sterling integrity that have been so characteristic of the man in the active duties of life. He was sent to the district school, and in the acquisition of the fundamental branches of learning he displayed a precocity and an application which won for him the admiration of his teachers, and always placed him at the head of his classes. In the meantime he did chores on the farm, and was always ready with a cheerful heart and willing hand to assist his widowed mother. The heavy labor of the farm was carried on by his two

older brothers, Timothy and George, and when 13 years of age David received his mother's permission to attend school at the St. Clair Academy. While attending there he lived with Marous H. Miles, now deceased, doing chores for his board, and the following winter performed the same service for James Ogden, also deceased. The next summer Mrs. Jerome moved into the village of St. Clair, for the purpose of continuing her son in school. While attending said academy one of his associate students was Senator Thomas W. Palmer, of Detroit, a rival candidate before the gubernatorial convention in 1885. He completed his education in the fall of his 16th year, and the following winter assisted his brother Timothy in hauling logs in the pine woods. The next summer he rafted logs down the St. Clair River to Algonac.

In 1847, M. H. Miles being Clerk in St. Clair County, and Volney A. Ripley Register of Deeds, David H. Jerome was appointed Deputy to each, remaining as such during 1848-'49, and receiving much praise from his employers and the people in general for the ability displayed in the discharge of his duties. He spent his summer vacation at clerical work on board the lake vessels.

In 1849-'50, he abandoned office work, and for the proper development of his physical system spent several months hauling logs. In the spring of 1850, his brother "Piff" and himself chartered the steamer "Chautauqua," and "Young Dave" became her master. A portion of the season the boat was engaged in the passenger and freight traffic between Fort Huron and Detroit, but during the latter part was used as a tow boat. At that time there was a serious obstruction to navigation, known as the "St. Clair Flats," between Lakes Huron and Erie, over which

vessels could carry only about 10,000 bushels of grain. Mr. Jerome conceived the idea of towing vessels from one lake to the other, and put his plan into operation. Through the influence of practical men,—among them the subject of this sketch,—Congress removed the obstruction above referred to, and now vessels can pass them laden with 60,000 or 80,000 bushels of grain.

During the season, the two brothers succeeded in making a neat little sum of money by the summer's work, but subsequently lost it all on a contract to raise the "Gen. Scott," a vessel that had sunk in Lake St. Clair. David H. came out free from debt, but possessed of hardly a dollar of capital. In the spring of 1851, he was clerk and acting master of the steamers "Franklin Moore" and "Ruby," plying between Detroit and Port Huron and Goderich. The following year he was clerk of the propeller "Princeton," running between Detroit and Buffalo.

In January, 1853, Mr. Jerome went to California, by way of the Isthmus, and enjoyed extraordinary success in selling goods in a new place of his selection, among the mountains near Marysville. He remained there during the summer, and located the Live Yankee Tunnel Mine, which has since yielded millions to its owners, and is still a paying investment. He planned and put a tunnel 600 feet into the mine, but when the water supply began to fail with the dry season, sold out his interest. He left in the fall of 1853, and in December sailed from San Francisco for New York, arriving at his home in St. Clair County, about a year after his departure. During his absence his brother "Tiff" had located at Saginaw, and in 1854 Mr. Jerome joined him in his lumber operations in the valley. In 1855 the brothers bought Blackmer & Eaton's hardware and general supply stores, at Saginaw, and David H. assumed the management of the business. From 1855 to 1873 he was also extensively engaged in lumbering operations.

Soon after locating at Saginaw he was nominated for Alderman against Stewart B. Williams, a rising young man, of strong Democratic principles. The ward was largely Democratic, but Mr. Jerome was elected by a handsome majority. When the Republican party was born at Jackson, Mich., David H. Jerome was, though not a delegate to the convention, one of its "charter members." In 1862, he was commissioned by Gov. Austin Blair to raise one of the

six regiments apportioned to the State of Michigan. Mr. Jerome immediately went to work and held meetings at various points. The zeal and enthusiasm displayed by this advocate of the Union awakened a feeling of patriotic interest in the breasts of many brave men, and in a short space of time the 23d Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry was placed in the field, and subsequently gained for itself a brilliant record.

In the fall of 1862, Mr. Jerome was nominated by the Republican party for State Senator from the 26th district, Appleton Stevens, of Bay City, being his opponent. The contest was very exciting, and resulted in the triumphant election of Mr. Jerome. He was twice renominated and elected both times by increased majorities, defeating George Lord, of Bay City, and Dr. Cheseman, of Gratiot County. On taking his seat in the Senate, he was appointed Chairman of the Committee on State Affairs, and was active in raising means and troops to carry on the war. He held the same position during his three terms of service, and introduced the bill creating the Soldiers' Home at Harper Hospital, Detroit.

He was selected by Gov. Crapo as a military aid, and in 1865 was appointed a member of the State Military Board, and served as its President for eight consecutive years. In 1873, he was appointed by Gov. Bagley a member of the convention to prepare a new State Constitution, and was Chairman of the Committee on Finance.

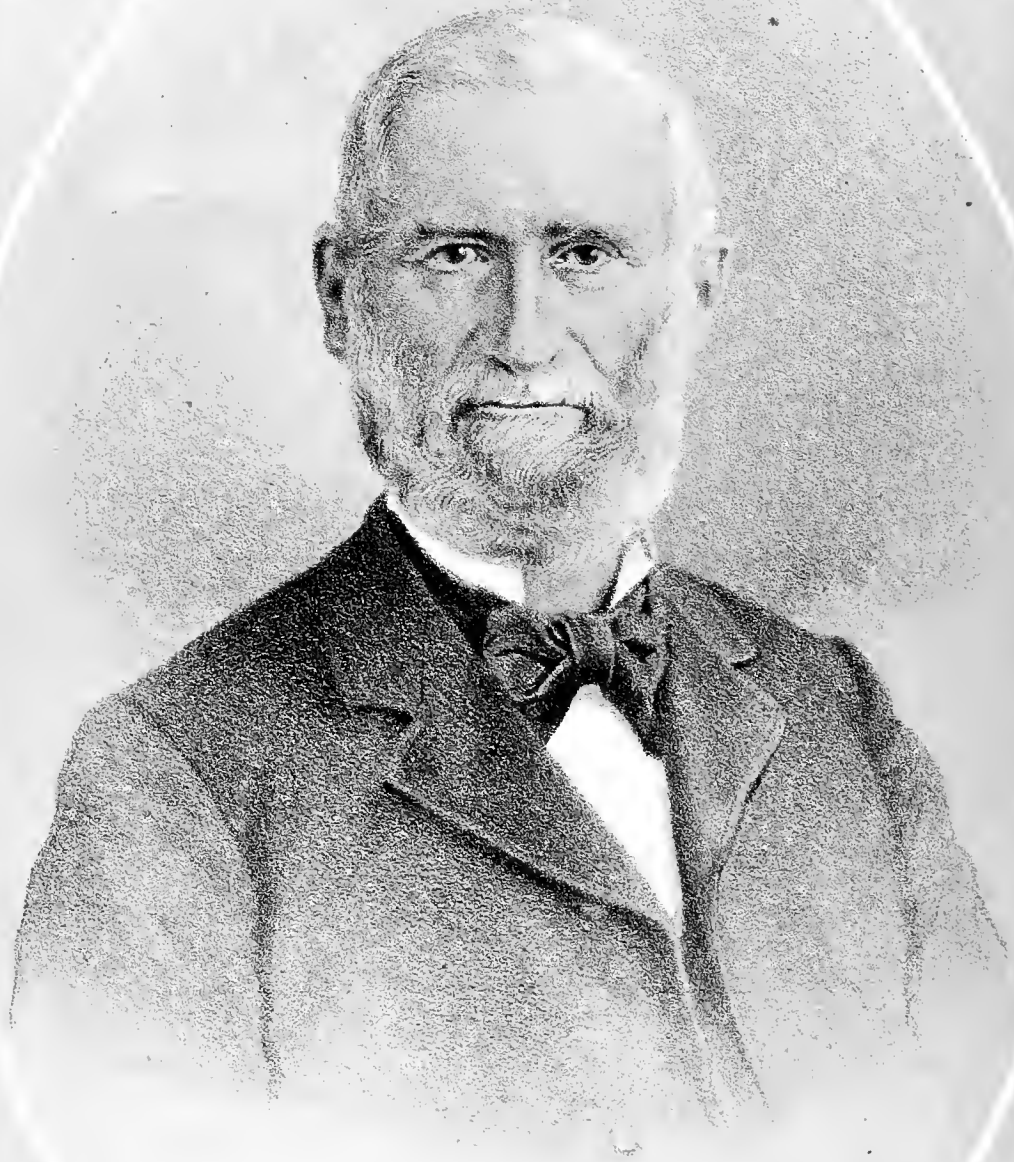
In 1875, Mr. Jerome was appointed a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners. In 1876 he was Chairman of a commission to visit Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce Indian, to arrange an amicable settlement of all existing difficulties. The commission went to Portland, Oregon, thence to the Blue Hills, in Idaho, a distance of 600 miles up the Columbia River.

At the Republican State Convention, convened at Jackson in August, 1880, Mr. Jerome was placed in the field for nomination, and on the 5th day of the month received the highest honor the convention could confer on any one. His opponent was Frederick M. Holloway, of Hillsdale County, who was supported by the Democratic and Greenback parties. The State was thoroughly canvassed by both parties, and when the polls were closed on the evening of election day, it was found that David H. Jerome had been selected by the voters of the Wolverine State to occupy the highest position within their gift.

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*Josiah W Begole*





## JOSIAH W. BEGOLE,

**J**OSIAH W. BEGOLE, the present (1883) Governor of Michigan was born in Livingston County, N. Y., Jan. 20, 1815. His ancestors were of French descent, and settled at an early period in the State of Maryland. His grandfather, Capt. Bolles, of that State, was an officer in the American army during the war of the Revolution. About the beginning of the present century both his grandparents, having become dissatisfied with the institution of slavery, although slaveholders themselves, emigrated to Livingston County, N. Y., then a new country, taking with them a number of their former slaves, who volunteered to accompany them. His father was an officer in the American army, and served during the war of 1812.

Mr. B. received his early education in a log school-house, and subsequently attended the Temple Hill Academy, at Geneseo, N. Y. Being the eldest of a family of ten children, whose parents were in moderate though comfortable circumstances, he was early taught habits of industry, and when 21 years of age, being ambitious to better his condition in life, he resolved to seek his fortune in the Far West, as it was

then called. In August, 1836, he left the parental roof to seek a home in the Territory of Michigan, then an almost unbroken wilderness. He settled in Genesee County, and aided with his own hands in building some of the early residences in what is now known as the city of Flint. There were but four or five houses where this flourishing city now stands when he selected it as his home.

In the spring of 1839 he married Miss Harriet A. Miles. The marriage proved a most fortunate one, and to the faithful wife of his youth, who lives to enjoy with him the comforts of an honestly earned competence, Mr. Begole ascribes largely his success in life. Immediately after his marriage he commenced work on an unimproved farm, where, by his perseverance and energy, he soon established a good home, and at the end of eighteen years was the owner of a well improved farm of five hundred acres.

Mr. Begole being an anti-slavery man, became a member of the Republican party at its organization. He served his townsmen in various offices, and was, in 1856, elected County Treasurer, which office he held for eight years.

At the breaking out of the Rebellion he did not carry a musket to the front, but his many friends will bear witness that he took an active part in recruiting and furnishing supplies for the army, and in looking after the interests of soldiers' families at home. The death of his eldest son near Atlanta, Ga., by a Confederate bullet, in 1864, was the greatest sorrow of his life. When a few years later he was a member of Congress

Gov. Begole voted and worked for the soldiers' bounty equalization bill, an act doing justice to the soldier who bore the burden and heat of the day, and who should fare equally with him who came in at the eleventh hour. That bill was defeated in the House on account of the large appropriation that would be required to pay the same.

In 1870, Gov. Begole was nominated by acclamation for the office of State Senator, and elected by a large majority. In that body he served on the Committees of Finance and Railroads, and was Chairman of the Committee on the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind. He took a liberal and public-spirited view of the importance of a new capitol building worthy of the State, and was an active member of the Committee that drafted the bill for the same. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention held at Philadelphia in 1872, and was the chosen member of that delegation to go to Washington and inform Gen. Grant and Senator Wilson of their nominations. It was while at that convention that, by the express wish of his many friends, he was induced to offer himself a candidate for the nomination of member to the 43d Congress, in which he was successful, after competing for the nomination with several of the most worthy, able and experienced men in the Sixth Congressional District, and was elected by a very large majority. In Congress, he was a member of the Committee on Agricultural and Public Expenditures. Being one of the 17 farmers in that Congress, he took an active part in the Committee of Agriculture, and was appointed by that committee to draft the most important report made by that committee, and upon the only subject recommended by the President in his message, which he did and the report was printed in records of Congress; he took an efficient though an unobtrusive part in all its proceedings.

He voted for the currency bill, remonetization of silver, and other financial measures, many of which, though defeated then, have since become the settled policy of the country. Owing to the position which Mr. Begole occupied on these questions, he became a "Greenbacker."

In the Gubernatorial election of 1882, Mr. Begole was the candidate of both the Greenback and Democratic parties, and was elected by a vote of 154,269, the Republican candidate, Hon. David H. Jerome,

receiving 149,697 votes. Mr. Begole, in entering upon his duties as Governor, has manifested a spirit that has already won him many friends, and bids fair to make his administration both successful and popular.

The very best indications of what a man is, is what his own townsmen think of him. We give the following extract from the *Flint Globe*, the leading Republican paper in Gov. Begole's own county, and it, too, written during the heat of a political campaign, which certainly is a flattering testimonial of his sterling worth:

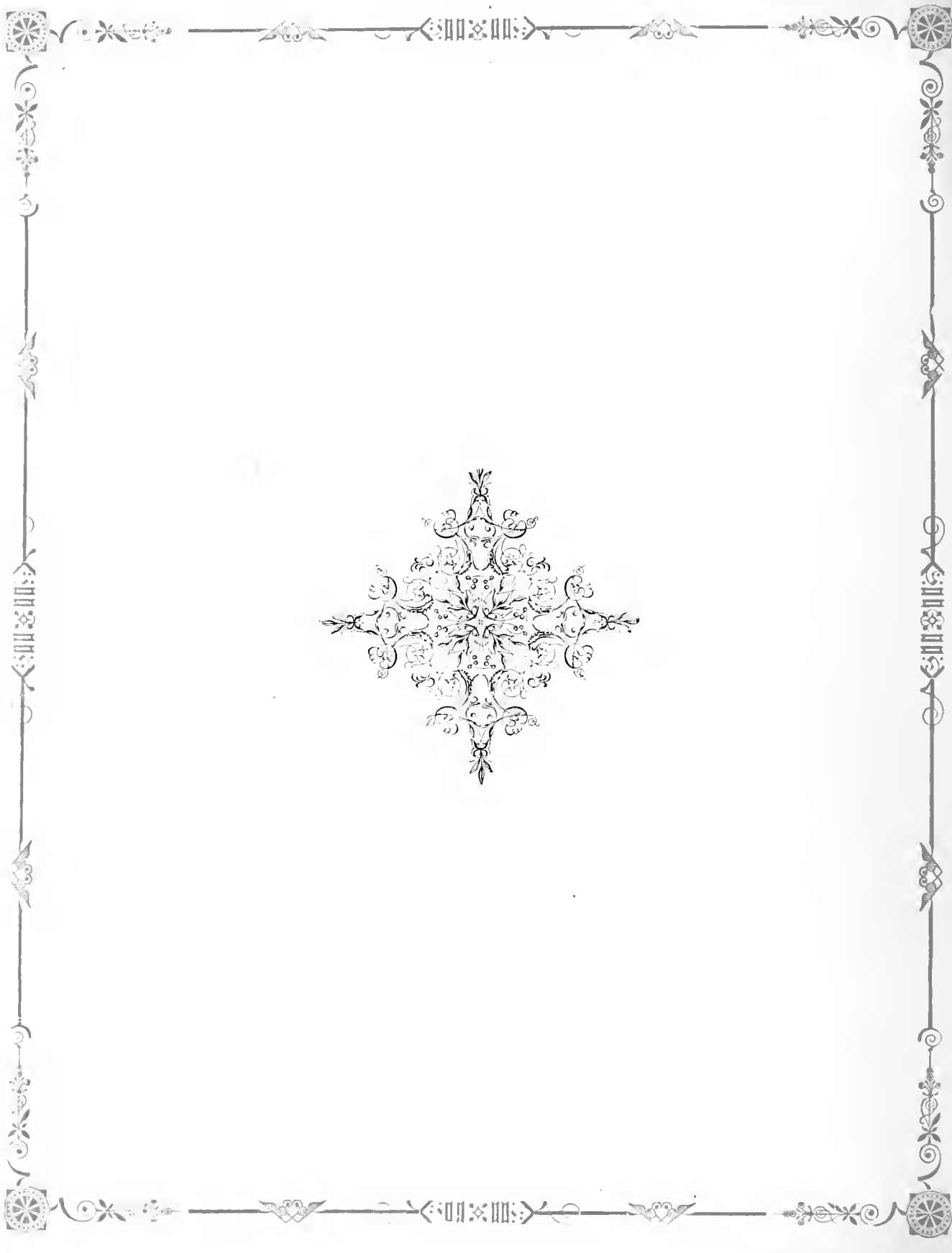
"So far, however, as Mr. Begole, the head of the ticket, is concerned, there is nothing detrimental to his character that can be alleged against him. He has sometimes changed his mind in politics, but for sincerity of his beliefs and the earnestness of his purpose nobody who knows him entertains a doubt. He is incapable of bearing malice, even against his bitterest political enemies. He has a warm, generous nature, and a larger, kinder heart does not beat in the bosom of any man in Michigan. He is not much given to making speeches, but deeds are more significant of a man's character than words. There are many scores of men in all parts of the State where Mr. Begole is acquainted, who have had practical demonstrations of these facts, and who are liable to step outside of party lines to show that they do not forget his kindness, and who, no doubt, wish that he was a leader in what would not necessarily prove a forlorn hope. But the Republican party in Michigan is too strong to be beaten by a combination of Democrats and Greenbackers, even if it is marshaled by so good a man as Mr. Begole."

This sketch would be imperfect without referring to the action of Mr. B. at the time of the great calamity that in 1881 overtook the people of Northeastern Michigan, in a few hours desolating whole counties by fire and destroying the results and accumulations of such hard work as only falls to the lot of pioneers. While the Port Huron and Detroit committees were quarreling over the distribution of funds, Mr. Begole wrote to an agent in the "burnt district" a letter, from which we make an extract of but a single sentence: "Until the differences between the two committees are adjusted and you receive your regular supplies from them, draw on me. Let no man suffer while I have money." This displays his true character.



GRATIOT COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN.







BIOGRAPHICAL.











# INTRODUCTORY.

**I**N THE strength of the history of a section of country lies the biographical record of its settlers and later residents. The annals of the one class delineate its pioneer period; those of the other represent its progress and the status of the generation whose experiences constitute the period closed by the era of its collated records. Gratiot County is fortunate in its day. Its wonderful pioneer era laps on its present period and the registration is complete. Many of those whose efforts gave the county its earliest impetus may still be seen in its thoroughfares. Many of the characters in the day of its first things are still on the stage and watch with keen-eyed alertness the manipulating of the present, still jealous for the repute of Gratiot, and eagerly solicitous for her substantial and permanent progress.

The projectors of these records strive to establish but one claim for its biographical integrity. It is prepared from the stand-point of no man's prejudice or biased opinion. To demonstrate the exact relation of every individual represented to the genera-

tions of the past and present is its full scope in personal record.

Succeeding ages sweep away the *debris* of human errors and perpetuate the real greatness of a community. Character stands out statuesque and events cluster about individuals forming the grandest and truest historical structure of which any age is capable. Only biography can fitly represent the foundation, progress and *ultimatum* of local history and portray with perfect justice the precise attitude and relation of men to events and to circumstances.

Gratiot County is justly proud of her pioneer record, and, so far as possible, the compilers of the biographical sketches have striven to honor the representatives of that period as well as those of to-day. Labor and struggle, performed in the light of hope and the earnestness of honest endeavor, established the county on a permanent basis, and is rounding up a period of glorious completeness. Her villages are creditable and her agricultural community is composed of the best grades of humanity.

In the following sketches but one purpose has been kept in view—to collect floating threads of personal record, through which the enterprise of decades to follow may complete a perfect and continuous historical line from the earliest settlement of the county.





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## BIOGRAPHICAL.

**EN. NATHAN CHURCH,** senior member of the banking house of Church, Bills & Co., Ithaca, was born in Ionia Co., Mich., Nov. 22, 1840. He is of English ancestry, and is the son of

Lafayette and Sophronia (Benjamin) Church. His father was born July 5, 1816, in Niagara Co., N. Y., near the shore of Lake Ontario, and was the youngest of nine children—seven sons and two daughters. Four of the sons and one daughter are yet living, their ages ranging from 84 to 68, and the

average age being 74.

The name of Church is quite a prominent one. Some of the family have rendered service to the Government, to literature, theology or science, in almost every decade of the history of this country. The father of Lafayette, Willard Church, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, serving gallantly under "Mad Anthony" Wayne, and was one of the few survivors of the hardships endured by the prisoners of war on the prison ship Jersey. He was a near relative of Col Benjamin Church, famous in the King Philip war. Four of the seven sons above referred to became ministers in the Baptist Church, and Parcellus Church, D. D., now living at Tarrytown, N. Y., is

well-known in theological circles as the author of a number of able and useful religious works. He was for a number of years editor of the New York *Chronicle*, which was afterwards merged with the *Examiner*, and became *The Examiner and Chronicle*. Two of his sons founded the *Galaxy* (since bought out by the *Century*), and now publish the *Army and Navy Journal*. Leroy Church, another of the seven brothers, was for some years editor and publisher of the Chicago *Standard*, a Baptist newspaper well-known throughout the West.

Lafayette Church (who has a more detailed sketch elsewhere in this work) came to Michigan in 1836, and was one of the pioneers of Ionia County. In 1847, he removed to Wheatland Township, Hillsdale County, and in 1854 he made his final location in Arcada Township, this county, upon land purchased of the Government, where he resides, being one of the earliest pioneers of the county. Well-engaged in agriculture, he was also a worker for Christianity, having been ordained a minister to the Baptist Church. He was thus doubly occupied until the fall of 1862, when his patriotic impulses led him to offer his services to the Government, receiving authority from the Governor of the State. He, with his son Nathan and Mr. Truck, of Alma, raised a company of volunteers from among the best people in the county, and this was made Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., of which he was commissioned Captain

The regiment rendezvoused at Jackson, Mich., where it was the recipient of much attention from the patriotic citizens and press. (Before leaving for the front, it was presented by the ladies of Jackson with a beautiful blue silk banner, which was carried into many a hard-fought engagement during the war. The blood-stained remnant is now preserved among the battle-flags in the State Military Museum at Lansing.) On reaching Washington, the regiment was assigned to provost duty at Alexandria, and it was thus engaged until the following spring, when it was ordered to Suffolk to aid in resisting the advance of Gen. Longstreet. Its signally gallant services in the field from that time until the close of the war—notably from the Wilderness to Appomattox—made it one of the best-known organizations in the service, being particularly famous as “skirmishers.” Capt. Church served with his company until April 2, 1864, when he was appointed Chaplain of the regiment, and held that position until the close of the war. Since his muster-out, he has led a quiet life at his home in Arcada Township.

The subject of this biography, Nathan Church, attended the common schools of Hillsdale and Gratiot Counties until he was 16 years old, when he entered Kalamazoo College. After a partial course of study in that institution, he became assistant in the office of his father (who had been elected County Treasurer), and for some time had entire charge of the business of that office. After three years with his father, he taught school for a time at Ithaca and St. Louis, one term in each village. He was also for a short time clerk in the store of John Jeffrey, one of the earliest in the county, in which was also located the village postoffice.

It was, however, in the late civil war that he found the opportunities for which he was most naturally fitted. An eager, ambitious youth, the series of events before the firing on Sumter had deeply interested his ardent mind, and three months before he was of age he was enrolled in the volunteer army. Aug. 12, 1861, he enlisted in Co. C, 8th Mich. Vol. Inf., and when the organization of the company was perfected he was made Sergeant. He served in that company until Jan. 17, 1862, when, suffering terribly from rheumatism, he was discharged for disability at Beaufort, S. C., coming home upon crutches. The next summer, having partially recovered his health, he,

his father and William S. Turck raised a company by their joint efforts, which was mustered in as Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., and of this company Lafayette Church was, as above mentioned, commissioned Captain, Nathan Church First Lieutenant, and Wm. S. Turck Second Lieutenant. Lieut. Church's commission was dated Sept. 1, 1862. On the arrival of the regiment at the seat of war, it was assigned to provost duty at Alexandria, Va., and soon after Lieut. Church was detailed as Aid-de-camp upon the staff of Gen. Slough, Military Governor of Alexandria, which position he held until his regiment was ordered to Suffolk. April 15, 1863, he was promoted Adjutant of his regiment, and one year from that date was commissioned Captain. He served with his regiment at the siege of Suffolk, Va., in the Blackwater expeditions, the second campaign on the Peninsula in 1863, and in the Second Army Corps (Hancock's) through the memorable campaigns of 1864 and 1865.

In the great battle of Spotsylvania Court-House, Va., May 12, 1864, in which 4,500 prisoners, 25 flags and 22 pieces of artillery were captured, his regiment was in the front line in the assault, and was the first to reach the enemy's works—at the deadly “angle”—which were carried after a desperate hand-to-hand fight. Adjutant Church (not having yet been mustered in as Captain) was with two or three non-commissioned officers, the first to scale the works. His regiment lost about one-third of its men in this battle, seven of the nine color-guards being killed or wounded. His conduct on this occasion attracted the attention of Gen. N. A. Miles, then commanding the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 2d Corps, who detailed him at once upon his staff. He served upon this gallant General's staff until the close of the war, except some portions of the time when in command of his regiment, holding successively the positions of Aid-de-camp, Brigade Inspector, Division Inspector, Engineer Officer 1st Division, and Adjutant General of the Military District of Fortress Monroe.

He was appointed to the rank of Major Sept. 12, 1864, having previously been brevetted as Major of United States Volunteers “for gallant services before Petersburg, Va.,” and Lieutenant-Colonel, March 7, 1865, for “conspicuous gallantry and meritorious services” in the campaign terminating in Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The 26th, under his command, occupied intrenchments before Petersburg, and,

during the closing months of 1864 and the early part of 1865, was engaged in almost daily fighting, except while in winter quarters. It was in the skirmish line on the 9th of April, when Lee surrendered, and through its lines, Gen. Grant, with a flag of truce, carried out part of the important ceremony. His regiment was mustered out June 4, 1865, but he was retained in the service of the United States by special order of the War Department, and assigned to duty as Assistant Adjutant General of the Military District of Fortress Monroe. This position he held until Nov. 7, 1865, when he was relieved, at his own request. While here, his duties brought him frequently in contact with Jefferson Davis, at that time a prisoner in that fortress.

Gen. Church was not only a brilliant officer of unusually quick perceptions and commanding presence, but was distinguished for being reckless of his personal safety.

A newspaper account by an eye witness states that at Sailor's Creek, Col. Church, mounted upon a white horse, led two regiments, his own and the 140th Pa. Vol., in an assault upon entrenchments occupied by a superior force of the enemy, and that, being the only mounted officer, he reached the works several yards in advance of his men. The prisoners captured in the works outnumbered the attacking party. His gallant conduct in this affair elicited much comment.

On the suggestion of Gen. Miles, he was appointed a Captain in the regular army at the close of the war, but this commission he declined.

Returning to the employments of peace, Gen. Church formed a partnership with Wilbur Nelson, and the two opened a general merchandise store at Ithaca. This connection was prosperous and lasted until 1872, when, having become interested in lumbering and real-estate speculations, he sold his interest in the store to Gilbert C. Smith. In 1866, soon after entering mercantile life, he founded the *Gratiot Journal*, of which for one year he was editor, and joint proprietor with Daniel Taylor. In December of 1872, he purchased a saw-mill in Arcada Township, four miles north of Ithaca. This is still owned by him, together with 1,200 acres of timbered land in that vicinity and a large amount of other land throughout the county. He employs at present 30 men, in sawing, planing and manufacturing lumber, shingles, hoops and staves. The banking house of Church,

Bills & Co. was organized in 1877, the first of the two firms doing a banking business at Ithaca. Gen. Church still deals largely in real estate, and this, with his other interests, make him one of the busiest men in the community.

He has been an earnest supporter of the various railroads projected for Gratiot County. He has devoted both time and money to bring Ithaca into rail communication with the outer world, and his friends truly say that without his efforts Gratiot's county-seat would to-day be without a railroad. He held the position of Postmaster at Ithaca for seven years, and County Clerk two terms, or four years. He was largely instrumental in organizing the Gratiot County Agricultural Society, and was its first President.

Dec. 25, 1866, at Tecumseh, Lenawee County, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary H., daughter of Hon. Perley and Caroline (Brown) Bills. She was born May 17, 1848, in that village, and graduated at the State Normal School, at Ypsilanti, in the class of 1866. To this marriage five children have been born: Carrie Helen, Jan. 5, 1868; Leroy B., July 20, 1869; Clarence N. and Gaylord P. (twins), Aug. 12, 1871; and Edgar N., Aug. 1, 1874. Gaylord P. died when about a year old.

Gen. Church is politically a Republican, but while he is influential in his party, he is in no sense a wire-puller or office-seeker. His title as General is given him by reason of his being appointed Quartermaster General on the staff of Governor Jerome, in 1881, which rank he held for two years. He is a remarkably active, clear-headed and successful business man, a public-spirited citizen, and has worked effectively for the welfare of Ithaca and Gratiot County. His many good qualities are so universally esteemed that all will be pleased to see his portrait, given opposite the beginning of this sketch.

**J**ohn L. Richard, farmer, section 33, Newark Township, was born July 7, 1844, in Pennsylvania. He is a son of John and Rachel (Fry) Richard, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State, were there married and resided 14 years. In 1846 they removed to Ohio, and there belonged to the tanning

class. In the spring of 1871 they came to Gratiot County and settled in the township of Newark, where they still reside.

Mr. Richard was a child of two years when his parents located in the Buckeye State, where he grew to the age of 18 years, engaged in assisting on the farm, and acquiring a fair education in the common schools. Roused to a sense of the necessity pressing upon the authorities of the United States Government under the stringencies of civil war, he yielded to his convictions of duty and enlisted Aug. 6, 1862, in the 111th Reg. Ohio Vol. Inf., and served his country under that enrollment three years. He was in the battle of Hough's Ferry, Tenn., and, while on picket guard at Lenoir Station, he, with 51 of his comrades, was captured by the rebels, and conducted to Atlanta, Ga., where they were held two weeks, and then removed to Pemberton Castle, Richmond, and a month later were incarcerated at Belle Isle. They became inmates of the latter place on the first day of January, 1864, and there remained until March 12, when they were transferred to the stockade prison at Andersonville, where their sufferings were in no sense or degree less than those of the myriads who succumbed to the horrors of the place, or of those whose endurance proved equal to such frightful experiences as cannot be equaled on the recorded pages of human suffering. The very name of Andersonville must cause a shudder while time endures! After seven months of horror they were sent to Savannah, and later to Milan, whence, after a month, they were ordered to be transferred to Blackshear, Ga. While on their way thither the train was intercepted, and 250 starved, ragged, forlorn human creatures, of whom Mr. Richard was one, were paroled and sent to the camp at Annapolis. Two weeks later they were furloughed, and Mr. Richard returned to his home in Ohio. In six weeks he was exchanged and rejoined his regiment. His health was too much impaired for active service, and he was on detached duty until the close of the war. On the expiration of his term of enrollment he was discharged, at Cleveland, Ohio, whence he returned home.

Mr. Richard was married Dec. 28, 1865, to Sarah D., youngest daughter of Asa and Jane (Staples) Richardson. The father was a native of Vermont, the mother of Maine. Of this marriage, four children have been born: Earl C., Alice I., Tacie A., and Laura M.

After his becoming a family man, Mr. Richard continued to reside in Ohio until 1870. In that year, he removed his family and interests to Gratiot Co., Mich., and bought 40 acres of land in Newark Township. On this he has already cleared and placed 35 acres under creditable cultivation. He is a Republican of unmistakable type, and has served his township in several official positions to which he has been elected. He received an appointment in 1880 to fill a vacancy as Township Clerk, and has been since twice elected to the same incumbency, which he now holds. A branch of the body known as the Union Prisoners of War Association, designated the Camp of Gratiot County, has been established therein, of which Mr. Richard is President. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church.



**A**lmon Townsend, farmer, section 31, North Shade Township, is a son of Josiah and Dolly (Parker) Townsend, natives of Massachusetts and Connecticut respectively. They both died in the State of New York, the father in Wayne and the mother in Jefferson County.

Almon was born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., Jan. 7, 1804, and remained under the parental care until he was 21 years of age, when he bought 200 acres of land in his native county. He improved 160 acres of this land, and there made his home for a period of 28 years, when he sold it and moved to Wayne County, same State. There he remained, farming and stock-raising, for five years, until 1865, when he again sold out and came to Hubbardston, Ionia County, this State, and lived for about one year. From this point he moved to Clinton County, this State, and entered upon the arduous task of clearing and improving a new farm, which he successfully accomplished, and erected a house and barn thereon, at a cost of some \$2,000.

Mr. Townsend was united in marriage to Miss Chloe, daughter of Gad and Sally Chapin, residents of Jefferson Co., N. Y., Sept. 28, 1828. The father and mother died in their native county at an early day, and the wife passed away from earth in August, 1880.

In 1881, Mr. Townsend removed from Clinton to this county and settled on 80 acres of Government land on section 31, on which he is now residing.

Mr. Townsend was again married, his second wife being Mrs. Emma S. Myers, daughter of John and Lorinda (Wales) Robbins, natives of Massachusetts and New York respectively.

The father has constantly followed the occupation of farming, and is at present living in Clinton County, this State. The mother died in Jefferson Co., N. Y., in 1845. Mrs. Emma Townsend, the wife of our subject, was born in Lewis Co., N. Y., April 17, 1834, and is the mother of four children, namely, Ardella L., Dempster E., Jerome W. and Orrin A. The husband and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal and Christian Churches, respectively.

Mr. Townsend is a man of iron constitution, hale, hearty and enjoying life at 80 years of age. In political opinion and belief he is a staunch Republican.



**J**ohn Lewis, farmer and stock-raiser, section 9, Sumner Township, was born in Salem Township, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Feb. 21, 1833, and is probably one of the oldest natives of Michigan now living in Gratiot County. His parents, John and Jane (Lewis) Lewis, were natives of Steuben Co., N. Y., and of Dutch ancestry. They followed farming, and coming to Michigan in 1828, were among the first settlers in Washtenaw County. Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti were then small villages. The first newspaper, the *Emigrant*, was started a year after their arrival. Indians were numerous. John was a strong young fellow, and as he grew up he helped fell the timber and clear their farm of 160 acres. It is likely that these pioneer experiences have had their effect on his later life, in making him better able to face the cold world.

Losing his father when he was 16 years old, he was obliged to look out for himself; and he worked out by the month in the woods and among the neighboring farmers. Jan. 1, 1855, in his native county, he married Miss Theda M. Noble, born in Wayne Co., Mich., Sept. 25, 1837. She was reared and educated in Washtenaw County.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis then settled on the farm which he had purchased when 22 years old. He afterward purchased a larger farm, which he had to give up in the hard times that existed about the opening year of the war. In 1863, he moved to Livingston County, where he rented a farm for three years; and in February, 1866, he settled on 65 acres on section 9, Sumner Township, which he had purchased the previous fall. To this farm he has added 65 acres, and more than half of his farm is well improved and cultivated. He has also a suitable residence and barns.

Mr. Lewis has been in every sense an active man. For 14 seasons he ran a threshing-machine; and he purchased the first machine ever brought into his native township. He has also lumbered extensively, putting in 1,000,000 feet one winter. He has held various offices in his school district, and politically is a Republican. His wife has for 25 years been an active member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. and Mrs. L. are the parents of two children: Herbert H., born Feb. 21, 1860; Cora M., born March 2, 1867.



**J**ames T. Hall, resident at St. Louis, was a son of Abraham and Hannah (Jones) Hall. The parents were both of pure English extraction, and emigrated to the New World about 1832 or '33. They first located in Herkimer Co., N. Y., and from there moved to Oneida County, same State, where the father followed the occupation of a farmer until his death in 1856. The mother died in the same county in 1841.

James T. Hall, the subject of our biographical notice, was born in Herkimer Co., N. Y., Feb. 8, 1836. When one year of age he was taken by his parents to Oneida County, same State. He resided in that county, working on his father's farm and attending the common school, until 1868, when his parents had both deceased, and he came to this county and located at Alma. On his arrival at Alma he associated himself with a Messrs. Pierce and Ward, under the firm name of Pierce, Hall & Ward, in the lumber business. The firm owned a saw-mill and an Alported also a mill, and shipped to the

latter to Saginaw. They were also engaged in the purchase of tracts of timber land on Pine River. The partnership lasted until 1875, when it was mutually dissolved.

Politically, Mr. Hall is a Democrat. In the fall of 1874 he was elected County Register of Deeds, running against Joseph H. Seaver, of Ithaca, and, although the county was conceded to be 800 Republican, Mr. Hall was elected by a majority of 104 votes. In 1876 he again ran for the same position, but was defeated.

After his retirement from office, Mr. Hall engaged with the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada Railroad as conductor, and followed that occupation until 1880, when he became Superintendent of the road. He served in that capacity from June, 1880, to June, 1883, when the road was sold to the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad. After quitting the above business he commenced the manufacture of patent hoops, at Alma. His machine was one of three in the United States, and cut the hoops from the solid log, at the rate of 100 per minute. They ship to Chicago, New York city, St. Louis (Mo.), and Saginaw City, and are meeting with signal success in the business.

Mr. Hall was united in marriage, June 6, 1867, at Holland Patent, Oneida Co., N. Y., to Miss Catherine L. Hamlin (daughter of Joseph and Delia Hamlin), born in Holland Patent, April 1, 1841. Their union has been blessed with two children: Jessie W., born at Alma, March 10, 1870; and Nina A., born at Alma, in October, 1871.

Mr. Hall held the position of Supervisor of Arcada Township four terms—1871-72-74-77. Socially he is a member of the Order of Masonry, Knights Templar, A. O. U. W., and K. of H., and has been Trustee of the village of St. Louis one term—1871-2.

**W**illiam J. Marshall, farmer, section 33, North Star Township, was born in the county of Livingston, State of New York, March 30, 1833. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Chase) Marshall, natives of the Empire State. They moved to Allegany Co., same State, in 1841, and after remaining there two years, in 1843, and when our subject was but ten years old,

came to this State and settled in Ingham County. Here William remained attending the common schools, assisting his father in the support of the family and developing into manhood. In 1856, when 23 years of age, Mr. Marshall left the parental home in Ingham County and came to this county. He first settled on section 9, North Star Township, and now owns 100 acres of good agricultural land on section 33. Nov. 26, of this year, he was united in marriage to Sarah, daughter of Abijah L. and Phebe (Driggs) Clark. The father is deceased, and the mother is still living in Bunker Hill, Ingham County, this State. Mrs. M. was born in Batavia, Genesee Co., N. Y. She received a good education in the common schools of her native county and attending Michigan Central College, then located at Spring Arbor and now being at Hillsdale, Mich. Her desire and aim was to become proficient as a teacher, and so studiously did she apply herself to the accomplishment of that end that, while but 14 years of age, her knowledge was considered sufficient to enable her to enter upon her labors of imparting knowledge to the young, which occupation she has successfully followed for a number of years, receiving numerous encomiums upon her competency, proficiency and the success of her work. She has taught in Genesee Co., N. Y.; Jackson, Ingham and Gratiot Counties, this State. She taught eight terms in District No. 5, North Star Township, this county, the last term being in the winter of 1881-2.

When the cloud of rebellion arose and threatened the Nation with dissolution, and when every loyal heart beat with a throb of sorrow at the injustice of their brothers in dishonoring the "Flag of our Fathers" by their attack on Sumter, our subject joined the ranks of the defenders of the Nation's honor and enlisted in Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., Aug. 9, 1862. He was on detail service most all the time during his term of enlistment and was discharged June 5, 1865, after serving almost three years.

Mr. Marshall has cleared for himself and others over 150 acres of land. When he began in this county he had no team and he had to work two days for the use of an ox team one day. He finally got possession of a yoke of calves and soon had a team of his own. He went to Maple Rapids to purchase flour, a distance of 20 miles, and his conveyance was a two-wheeled cart with a wood-rack on it; he



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walked all the way, and two-thirds of the way he was compelled to go on logs to keep out of the water; and the money he paid for the flour he earned by chopping a road four rods wide and clearing two and a half rods wide, at six cents a rod, through a heavy timber. In fact, Mr. M. experienced all the trials so well known to the old pioneers of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. M. have one child living and one dead. Phelbe E. (Mrs. George Belding, of North Star Township) is the living child, and William L. died at five years of age. They also have an adopted son, Benjamin J. Mr. M. is a member of the Masonic Order.

**T**homas R. Payne, farmer, section 28, Fulton Township, is a son of Arnold and Loana (Parker) Payne, natives of Rhode Island and New York State. They first settled after marriage in New York, and afterwards came to Michigan, locating at Green Oak, Livingston County. They afterwards removed to Ingham County, and several years later, in 1846, they came to Fulton Township, this county. She died in 1850, and he followed Nov. 23, 1879.

Their family was composed of eight sons and five daughters. Thomas R., the youngest, was born in Ingham Co., Mich., Jan. 14, 1845, and was one year old when his parents removed to Gratiot County. He remained at home attending the common schools and working on the parental farm until 21 years old, except a year and a half spent in the service of his country. He enlisted, in December, 1863, in the 4th Mich. Vol. Cav., and served till July, 1865. May 18, 1864, in a fight at Kingston, Ga., he was wounded in the abdomen. In consequence of this he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, where he served until his discharge.

Returning from the army he worked his father's farm on shares until the latter's death. He has owned at different times various tracts of land and in 1879 he bought 80 acres on section 28, Fulton, where he now resides. He now owns 90 acres of land, 70 of which are nicely cultivated. He has built a modern residence and barn, which will compare favorably with any in Fulton Township.

He was first married in Fulton Township, Oct. 23

1865, to Maggie, daughter of John and Sarah (Covert) Potes, natives of Pennsylvania and New York State. Mrs. Payne was born in Seneca Co., N. Y., Feb. 5, 1844, and died Aug. 22, 1874, leaving three children: Newton B., Frank J. and Maggie M. Mr. P. was again married, in Lenawee Co., Mich., Dec. 31, 1874, to Sarah J. Potes, youngest sister of his first wife. She was born in Lyons, Fulton Co., Ohio, Dec. 10, 1856, and is now the mother of one daughter, Myrtie A. Mr. and Mrs. P. are members of the Christian Church. Politically, he is a Republican.

**R**obert Smith, editor and proprietor of the *Gratiot Journal*, published at Ithaca, was born April 13, 1841. At the age of 14 years he entered a printing office, with a purpose to master a knowledge of the "art preservative of all arts." He has worked in every sphere known to that business, and is thoroughly versed in all its various details. In 1860 he removed from his home in Syracuse, N. Y., to New York City, where he passed six months as a journeyman printer. He then returned to Syracuse and after a brief stay there proceeded to Rochester, in the same State, where he remained till the winter of 1863. He then came to Lansing, Mich., and obtained employment in the State printing office. In the summer of 1864 he and H. S. Hilton went to St. John's and purchased the *Clinton Republican*. They continued the publication of that journal till 1869. During this period Messrs. Hilton & Smith, in company with C. F. Smith, established the *Flint Globe*, the latter and Mr. Hilton managing the *Globe*, while Robert Smith remained at St. John's and controlled the destiny of the *Republican*, making it one of the handsomest and best weeklies in Michigan.

In 1869, as above stated, these gentlemen disposed of both journals, H. S. Hilton and Robert Smith subsequently going to Jackson, Mich., where they purchased a two-thirds interest in the *Daily Citizen*. They remained there some eight months, when they severed their connection with that journal. Mr. Smith then returned to St. John's again, where he temporarily established his home. The following winter he was induced to take the management of the job department of the *Lansing State Republican*.

office. He continued in this capacity till the next spring, when his health failed in consequence of a too close application to his duties. He then determined to remove to Minnesota and engage in other business.

He therefore located at Taylor's Falls, in that State, where he purchased a hardware store, and continued its operation for some 15 months, with satisfactory results.

In the fall of 1872, in compliance with the solicitations of friends, he visited Ithaca and purchased the *Gratiot Journal*, since which he has controlled its columns.

In September, 1879, while absent at Detroit, the building in which his business was established was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$5,000, with an insurance of \$3,200. Looking over the situation calmly, he determined to proceed with his business, and before he left Detroit he purchased a new office equipment, and so expedited his movements that he issued his paper without the loss to his patrons of a single copy. He bought the ground property where he is now located, on which a building was in process of erection, the lower story being well nigh completed, and re-established himself in his business, which he has continued to conduct, with success. He manages a heavy job-printing business. The list of subscribers to his paper numbers upwards of 1,700.

Mr. Smith was married Oct. 5, 1869, at St. John's, Mich., to Miss H. Carrie Scattergood. She is a native of Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., where she was born Feb. 8, 1846, and is the daughter of Joshua and Caroline (Baner) Scattergood. To Mr. and Mr. Smith three children have been born: Robert, Jr., at St. John's, Oct. 18, 1870; Maud, at Mankato, Minn., Aug. 15, 1872, and Harry M., at Ithaca, Oct. 17, 1876.

**W**illiam H Sibley, farmer, section 18, Seville Township, was born June 9, 1833, in Columbia Co., N. Y. His parents, William and Ruth (Vincent) Sibley, were natives of the same county where their son was born. The father engaged in farming in his native State for a number of years, and in 1839 he removed his family to Jackson Co., Mich. They went later to Calhoun County, where, in 1864, the

father died, and the demise of the mother occurred in 1872.

Mr. Sibley was 11 years old when he came to Michigan. He commenced to work by the month as a farm laborer at 14 years old, at \$5 per month, and worked for various parties from that time on. He was employed for \$20 a month for about two years in Branch County. He then went to Calhoun County, where he remained the same length of time, returning thence to Branch County. He went again, four years later, to Calhoun County, where he remained four years, and then in Branch County again until 1876, when he came to Gratiot County and located again as stated, and has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Sibley was married, in 1856, to Laura M., daughter of Solomon and Lydia (Warner) White. She was born June 4, 1838, in Branch Co., Mich., and is the second of a family of two daughters and one son. Her parents were farmers, and her father died in 1849 in Branch County. Her mother lives in the city of Coldwater. Mr. and Mrs. Sibley are the parents of three children: Eva M., George J. and Clara L. Mrs. Sibley is a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Sibley is a Republican in political connection, and has held the school offices of the district where he resides.

**T**homas T. Newton, farmer on section 31, Fulton Township, is a son of Harris and Eliza A. (Perrin) Newton, natives of Vermont and New York. Eliza A. Perrin first married George Chipman. After her second marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Newton settled in Oakland Co., Mich., where they lived until Mr. N.'s death, Sept. 18, 1863. Mrs. N. then removed to Lebanon, Clinton County, where she now lives. Their family numbered nine—five sons and four daughters.

The second son was Thomas T., born in Oakland County, Jan. 1, 1842. Educated in the common schools, he remained at home until 21 years old, and then went to Whitewater, Wis., and lived six months. He then removed to Michigan. March 20, 1865, he enlisted in the 22d Mich. Vol. Inf., being afterwards transferred to the 29th. He was honorably discharged Aug. 20, 1865. In December of the same

year, he came to Clinton County and lived until 1868, when he again went to Wisconsin, and also to Iowa. After an absence of eight months, he bought 120 acres of wild land in Clinton County, and built a log house. Two years later he sold, and for three years he managed his mother's farm. In September, 1874, he purchased 200 acres, partly improved, on section 34, North Shade, which he worked for five years. Selling this place, he then bought 160 acres in Fulton Township, on section 31. He also owns 80 acres on section 36, North Shade, and has altogether 180 acres improved.

March 17, 1870, in Lebanon, Clinton Co., Mich., he married Miss Martha, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Postle) Graham. She was born in Oakland County Dec. 26, 1842. This marriage has been blessed with two children: Maidie, born March 15, 1871, and Georgiana, June 29, 1873.

Mr. Newton has been Justice of the Peace for three years. He was elected Supervisor of North Shade in the spring of 1879, and resigned after serving three months. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., and is politically a Republican. He and wife are members of the Christian Church, and of Essex Grange, P. of H.



**E**bridge G. Traver, of the firm of E. W. Traver & Co., manufacturers of, and dealers in, coopers' supplies at St. Louis, was born in Columbia Co., N. Y., Nov. 16, 1833. His parents, John J. and Catherine (Coons) Traver, removed to Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1837,

where his father bought two farms—one of 56 acres, situated partly within the village corporation; the other, located near by, consisted of 80 acres. His father's occupation was that of a remover of buildings, in which business the son was for several years engaged.

Mr. Traver went to Tyrone, Livingston Co., Mich., in 1867, and passed the succeeding four years in farming. He removed to Fenton, Genesee County, from there, and engaged in the manufacture of round hoops. He was thus employed till November, 1882, when, in company with his son, E. W. Traver, he removed to St. Louis. Continuing in the round-hoop trade till the following spring, he and his son, as the

firm of E. W. Traver & Co., purchased of Wm. Rose the Shook mill, known as the "St. Louis Cooperage." They completely refitted and equipped the buildings with new machinery, and in the winter of 1883-4 further increased their facilities for manufacturing by setting up a saw mill of large capacity. They manufacture each year millions of patent coiled hoops; each month they turn out hundreds of thousands of round hoops; and another important branch of their business is the manufacture of soft and hard wood staves. They handle yearly hundreds of thousands of tacked hoops; keep constantly on hand barrels and kegs of all sizes and descriptions, and solicit correspondence for all kinds of slack and tight cooperage. They employ upwards of a hundred men the year round. The capacity of their mill and auxiliary shops is about 20,000 patent coiled hoops, 10,000 round hoops and 5,000 sawed staves each day. They have recently improved, as well as increased the capacity of, their mill by putting in round-hoop machinery. They are steadily increasing their trade, taking advantage of the aid of each new invention in the way of labor-saving machinery, and may reasonably expect, at no distant day, to be one of the leading firms of Gratiot County.

E. G. Traver, the subject of this sketch, was married at Ann Arbor Jan. 3, 1856, to Minerva, daughter of Jacob and Nancy Snapp. She was born June 8, 1832, in the State of New York. Of their union, two sons were born: Edgar W., Nov. 24, 1856, and William H., June 19, 1863.



**E**dward Lake, farmer, Bethany Township, occupies the south-east quarter of the south-west quarter of section 20, and owns also the 3 acres adjoining on the east. Mr. Lake was born in Charlotte, Chittenden Co., Vt., Sept. 24, 1823, and grew up as a farmer's son. When six years of age his parents, Heman and Betsey (Morgan) Lake, moved to Hamburg Township, Livingston Co., Mich., locating in 1826. Their pursuits, upon a farm of 160 acres. When 22 years of age he went to Iowa, with no capital, and followed teaming, etc., there about two years, next, he followed lumbering a year at the mouth of the Mississippi River, in this State, next, in 1847, the family

moved to Bengal Township, Clinton Co., Mich., bought a farm and for about two years engaged in the manufacture of brooms.

At the last mentioned place, Dec. 7, 1851, Mr. Lake married Miss Harriet, a daughter of Ebenezer and Mary A. (Sanford) Bliss, who was born in Broome Co., N. Y., Aug. 28, 1830. They have one daughter, Ellen, who was born in Arcada Township, this county, March 5, 1859, and is now the wife of Allen H. Reed, a farmer in Bethany Township, and they also have one daughter, Gertie, who was born in that township, March 29, 1882.

Mr. Lake remained in Clinton County about two years after his marriage, then moved into Arcada Township and pre-empted a quarter of section 25, but soon sold it and bought 80 acres of timber land adjoining, one mile north of Ithaca. Of this he cleared about 30 acres and made other improvements. Aug. 28, 1866, he moved to his present farm, where he purchased 120 acres, mostly timber. Of this he has cleared 70 acres and sold 40. His son-in-law has 40 acres adjoining on the north.

Mr. L. has built a nice residence here, besides barns, etc., and has a good orchard. He is a progressive and prosperous agriculturist. When he first settled in Arcada his nearest neighbor was a Mr. Climer, eight miles distant, near St. Louis. He erected a log house, and himself and family endured the privations and trials incident to pioneer life.

In this family is an adopted son, Willie H., born Dec. 14, 1856, in Indiana, who was taken into this family when 14 months of age.

**W**illiam Creaser, farmer on section 17, Fulton Township, is a son of William and Emily (Leerett) Creaser, natives respectively of England and Canada. They settled in the latter country after marriage, and in the spring of 1868 came to Michigan. A year later they came to Fulton Township, this county, where the father died, Sept. 17, 1873, and the mother March 11, 1881. Their family comprised 13 children.

The second son, William, was born in Canada East, Aug. 24, 1827. In his early life he attended the common schools, and worked for his father. On

gaining his legal freedom, at the age of 21, he worked out by the month for one year, and then went to Vermont for a year. Returning to the Dominion, he bought a farm of about 50 acres, which he worked a year and a half, and then sold. A year later he removed to Canada West, where he purchased a farm and lived for 16 years. In October, 1871, he sold out, and, coming to Gratiot County, bought half a section. Having since disposed of a portion of his land, he now has 150 acres, of which 110 are well improved. In 1880, he built his fine residence.

Jan. 22, 1850, in Canada East, he married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Brooks) McCombs, natives of Ireland. They emigrated to Canada, where the father died, March 12, 1863, and the mother, in June, 1868. Their daughter Elizabeth was born in Canada East, Aug. 12, 1828. Mr. and Mrs. Creaser have had 10 children, eight of whom survive; Thomas W. B., Emily E., Susan S., Philip W., George A., Lucy A. J., Wilhelmina E. and Violet A. Sophia and John R. are deceased.

Mr. C. has held the offices of School Treasurer and Inspector, and is politically a Democrat. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**B**evin Church, farmer, section 23, Arcada Township, was born in Wheatland Township, Hillsdale Co., Mich., Dec. 22, 1853, and is a son of Lafayette and Sophronia (Benjamin) Church (see sketch). When one year old he was brought by his parents to Gratiot County. They settled on section 11, Arcada Township, and here the subject of this biographical notice was reared and educated, working on his father's farm until 17 years old. He then devoted one year to the acquisition of some of the more advanced branches of learning, attending the college at Fentonville, Genesee County. When 19 years of age he left home, and for two years traveled through the South and West. Returning home, he remained with his father until 24 years old.

Dec. 9, 1877, he was married to Miss Carrie, daughter of Francis and Hattie (Hurd) Nelson, natives of Michigan. Carrie was born in Lenawee Co., Mich., and died in Arcada Township, this

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county, Aug. 2, 1879, leaving a wide circle of friends to sympathize with her husband. Nov. 22, 1880, he was again married, at St. Louis, to Miss Julia, daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Rhyne) Fitzgerald, natives of the Emerald Isle. They follow farming, and now reside in Arcada Township, aged respectively 76 and 54. Their daughter Julia was born in Rochester, N. Y., July 5, 1859, and was there reared and educated.

Shortly after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Church settled on 80 acres of wild land on section 23, Arcada, which he had purchased the previous year. He has since added 60 acres to his farm, making 140, of which 80 acres are under cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. C. have one son, Maxwell, born Oct. 5, 1881. Mr. C. is an enterprising and genial young man, and commands the respect of all who know him. In politics he is a Republican.

**On Archibald Bard Darragh.** Representative from Gratiot County, resident at St. Louis, was born Dec. 23, 1830, in La Salle Township, Monroe Co., Mich. He is a son of Benjamin F. and Catherine B. Darragh. The family legends preserve the patronymic through its descent and trace it unmistakably to its fountain head, which was that of one of the Scottish clans. It is immortalized by the pen of Sir Walter Scott in one of his historical romances.

The progenitors of the Darragh families of this connection and generation, founded by inter-marriage a line of Scotch-Irish descendants,—a race signally distinguished for meritorious traits, inherently honest, intelligent and possessing the most valuable characteristics incident to humanity. The line of Mr. Darragh's descent on the paternal side is obscure, from the fact patent in the nature of the race origin. It is well known that a peculiar feature of one class of Scotch is its utter contempt for, and abnegation of, precedents and types. A man is what he makes himself, is the canon of its existence; and traditional observances and recollections are only "and wives' fables." The present generation is traceable only to its immediate ancestors, who inhabited the eastern and southeastern portions of Pennsylvania,

with whose interest and affairs they were prominently identified. Henry and Ann (Janison) Darragh, great-grandparents, were natives of the North of Ireland, and emigrated to America prior to the Revolutionary war, settling in that part of Pennsylvania now known as Bucks County. Henry Darragh became a Captain in the Continental Army, and died in Bucks County in 1782, at the age of 45 years. His wife died in Bedford Co., Penn., aged 73 years. Their family comprised seven children. George W. Darragh, their youngest son (grandfather of Mr. Darragh), was born July 12, 1778, in Bucks Co., Penn. He married Rebekah More Jan. 7, 1803, and removed with his family from Fulton Co., Penn., to Michigan, in 1834. The children were, Lewis, Benj. F., Mary A., Geo. W., James, John and Martha. The paternal grand-parents of the subject of this sketch were residents of Fulton County in the Keystone State, and came to Michigan in 1834, where they passed the remainder of their lives.

The name of George W. Darragh (who found it expedient to drop the letter that forms the distinguishing link in the name), is indissolubly connected with the history of the Peninsula State, from the fact that he was an officer in the 2d Regiment Infantry, organized and called out by Gov. Mason, to resist the attempted jurisdiction of Ohio over Michigan territory. He died in Monroe Co., Mich., in 1839, aged 61 years.

Benjamin F. Darragh was born in Fulton Co., Pa., in 1808, and was married to Catherine Bard, Dec. 4, 1834. She was born Nov. 12, 1804, near Mercersburg, Pa., and died in April, 1863. In the maternal line the descent of Mr. Darragh of this sketch is traceable for several generations, as his mother came of a race just as signally distinguished for firm, sturdy traits of character as that of her husband, though of a type widely at variance. On the 29th of October, 1830, Archibald Bard, her father, recorded his genealogy in this wise: "Archibald Bard, who is the son of Richard Bard, who was the son of Archibald Bard, the son of William Bard, the son of John Bard. Richard Bard married Catherine Poe, Dec. 22, 1756. Archibald Bard, the younger, married Elizabeth Beatty, who had children: Richard, Maria, William Beatty, Catherine, Margaret, Elizabeth, Archibald, Eliza Jane and Martha Olivia." The record is made in the first volume of "Henry's Exposition," now in Mr. Darragh's possession, and

containing explicit and full records of the births, deaths and marriages of the generation to which his grandfather belonged. John Bard came from Ireland in the early part of the 17th century and settled in Maryland, whence his descendants dispersed. Richard Bard, great-grandfather of Mr. Darragh and third in descent from John Bard, was born near Philadelphia, Dec. 26, 1726, and settled in that part of York County which was afterwards set off and named Adams County, in the State of Pennsylvania. In 1744, the war between England and France terminated the historic peace established by the Quakers between the colonists and Indians, and Braddock's campaign, with its disastrous results, seemed to let loose upon the borders many of the possibilities of savage warfare. Assaults on the frontier settlements were frequent and resulted in murder of the whites, or what was in most instances worse,—capture. These hostilities grew less frequent as time progressed, but did not wholly cease until 1759.

In 1758, the Indians sent their marauding parties into York County, and killed and abducted the frontiersmen and their families. On the 13th of April, in that year, 19 "Delawares" invested the home of Richard Bard. The inmates were Mr. Bard, his wife, Lieut. Potter (brother of Gen. Potter), a babe of six months, and a bound boy. The Indians made an entry into the house and were repulsed. But they were too numerous to be successfully resisted, and capitulation was determined on by the whites. They surrendered on promise of their lives being spared; the house was rifled of all valuables and the other buildings fired. Lieut. Potter was murdered soon after they had taken up their line of march, and not long after the infant child shared the same fate. On the fifth day Mr. Bard resolved to escape, as the brutality of his captors and the hardships he encountered were fast disabling him and incapacitating him from travel. He was sent to a spring for water, but a short time after his resolution was formed and communicated to his wife; he took advantage of the opportunity his errand afforded, to make his escape. The character of the wife may be inferred from the fact that she not only approved of his determination, but diverted the attention of the Indians until her fleeing husband was beyond the reach of their vengeance. Can the women of this period adequately picture to their understandings the qualities of a

woman who could deliberately choose to be left to such chances as lay before Mrs. Bard, isolated and alone in the power of the most implacable of savages,—the Delawares. This volume is honored in recording her name and perpetuating the fame of her act of self-sacrificing, womanly devotion. It is probable that her native strength of character and superiority inspired her savage captors with respect, for her life was spared and she was subjected to no indignities beyond the hardships of the march and its incidental privations. She was formally adopted by the tribe but refused to learn or use their language, as she would have been obliged, in that event, by their customs, to choose or accept a husband. She was in captivity two years and five months, and was ransomed by the payment of \$200 by her husband, who never ceased his efforts to find her after he attained his own freedom. The story of his escape would grace the pages of romance. His sufferings rivaled those of the Unionists who came "out of the jaws of death" in making their escape from the stockade prison at Andersonville. He subsisted on buds and raw rattlesnakes, and finally reached Fort Pitt (Pittsburg) where he began his search and negotiations for his wife. After their re-union, they settled in Franklin Co., Pa., where they reared their family. The foregoing account is abstracted from the detailed record written by Archibald, the second son, and compiled in a volume now in the possession of Mr. Darragh, entitled "Mirror of Olden-Time Border Life." Richard Bard died Feb. 22, 1799. The demise of his wife occurred Aug. 30, 1811.

Archibald Bard (2d) was born June 27, 1765, near Green Castle, Pa. He engaged extensively in agriculture and officiated for a number of years as Judge of the County Court of Franklin Co., Pa. He was prominent in public life and gained some notoriety in literary circles through his biographical writings and essays on religious topics. He was married to Elizabeth Beatty, July 2, 1799, and died Oct. 18, 1832. His wife was born Jan. 17, 1774, and died in January, 1852.

Mr. Darragh is the second child and elder son of his parents, to whom were born five children, three of whom survive: Maria E. is the wife of William S. McDowell, a farmer of Du Page Co., Ill.; James C. is Secretary and Treasurer of the Stockwell & Darragh Furniture Company of Grand Rapids. Until

he was 12 years old Mr. Darragh was a pupil in the common schools of his native county. In 1852, his parents removed to the city of Monroe, where he had the advantage of the academy there located, and he prepared for a collegiate course under the instruction of Hon. Edwin Willits, then at the head of a select school at Monroe. In the fall of 1857, Mr. Darragh entered the Classical Department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he remained two years. Through the medium of a friend, William E. Crum, he obtained a position as private tutor in Claiborne Co., Miss. He was in one of the most disloyal sections of the seditious South when the key note of the Rebellion transfixed the civilized world. The loyal blood in his veins, and the sturdy patriotism he inherited from the races to which he belongs, asserted themselves too strongly for him to remain quiescent, even if he had not been already marked as a Yankee school-master; but when he took the initiatory toward a speedy retreat to the North, his departure was made possible only through the intervention of the friend through whose instrumentality he went South. The latter, though true to his heart's instincts, was prominent in his own disloyalty to his country's flag; but, with cocked revolver, he protected his friend until the train, which he boarded with difficulty, bore him away toward safety. The route was made under harassing perplexities, and only by strategy and justifiable misleading did Mr. Darragh elude the rebel officials and escape detention, and more probably death. He reached home and again entered the University of Michigan, where he remained a year, and was graduated in the Classical Department, receiving the degree of A. B. in 1868, after the close of the war.

The influences that were abroad permeated every element and involved every class in Michigan. The inmates of her educational institutions, pupils and professors, one by one, laid aside their books and their duties and enrolled in the defense of the Union flag. Students, approaching the *finale* of their educational career, grew impatient over the slow march of the succeeding days and received the credentials of their scholarship without a vestige of the pride and gratification which had seemed the only thing worth living for when they began their curriculum of study. But one thought ruled the hour,—men were needed at the front. Their years of effort were vain

and their futures of promise only pulseless, tideless seas of baffled hopes, ambitions and energies, if the nation died in the throes of mortal agony that were nearing its vitals. The tide of Northern student life that surged toward the vortex of battle through the succeeding years of the war, was one of the sublimest spectacles the world ever saw, and bore a weight of significance worthy the consideration of kings and prime ministers.

A double incentive actuated Mr. Darragh in his views of the situation and his relation to the duties of his manhood. The same impulses that swayed others held mastery over him and the memory of the indignities to which he had been subjected, from the simple fact that accident, so to speak, gave him being under a Northern sky, brought home to him with a sharp significance the realities of the case. On the 14th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Co. H, 18th Mich. Vol. Inf. The regiment joined the United States forces opposing the command of Kirby Smith on the fifth of April. On the 25th of the same month, private Darragh, with 62 others belonging to his regiment and to the "Tenth Kentucky" and "Fourth Indiana Cavalry," were captured while on picket duty near Walton, Boone Co., Ky., in a sudden charge of rebel cavalry, under John Morgan. The prisoners were marched on the double quick to Falmouth, Ky., and on the day following their arrival they were paroled by Major Dick Morgan, a nephew of the celebrated guerrilla chief. The notice of exchange of paroled prisoners was issued early in January, 1863, and private Darragh immediately joined Co. D, Ninth Mich. Cav., having received a commission as Second Lieutenant. His regiment achieved its first triumph in the spring of 1863, in the rout and capture of Everett's guerrillas, a portion of Buckner's command at Triplett's Bridge, Ky. It took a prominent part in the pursuit and capture of Morgan, the celebrated "raider," making first acquaintance with the devastating rebel hordes under his command, on the fifth of July, when a detachment from its organization cut off and captured Col. Robert Alston, Morgan's Chief of Staff, with 51 prisoners. The regiment was in the advance when Morgan was brought to bay on the banks of the Ohio, at Buntington's Island, and made the attack with a vigor that secured the capture of Col. Basil Duke and most of his immediate command. While Duke struggled to

hold the field, Morgan fled north with his main body of troops.

A detachment from the regiment participated in the engagement of July 20th, which resulted in the capture of the command of Morgan with the exception of the rebel chief and about 500 men, who were taken prisoners with Morgan himself six days later by Cos. D, I, C, H and E, of the "Ninth," under command of Major W. B. Way, who reported officially to Gen. Burnside, from Salineville, Ohio, under date of July 26, 1863: "After a forced march yesterday and last night, with almost continued skirmishing, we succeeded this morning, at eight o'clock, in pressing Morgan to an engagement about half a mile from this town. After more than an hour of severe fighting, we scattered his forces in all directions. The following is the result of our engagement: from 20 to 30 killed; about 50 wounded; 255 prisoners. Our loss slight. My command is 250 strong." Within a month, Lieut. Darragh marched with his regiment, under Burnside, over the mountains into East Tennessee. The "Ninth" did good service at London Bridge, Knoxville, Cumberland Gap, and aided in driving the enemy through Strawberry Plains, Morristown, Russellville, Blue Springs, Greenville, Jonesborough and Wautaga, to the very gates of the Old Dominion. It had watered its horses in every stream from the Cumberland range to the Blue Ridge. The campaign of the winter of '63-4, in the mountains of East Tennessee, is without precedent in the annals of the war. The cold was extreme, and supplies, which at first were insufficient, were at last wholly cut off. The soldiers were in rags; East Tennessee, so often traversed by both armies, was destitute of provisions and forage, and the effort to keep the cavalry forces mounted was a failure. The line of daily march was marked by dead horses and abandoned equipments, and the situation well nigh rivaled the bitter recitals of Valley Forge. The men's feet were, many of them, destitute of covering, save the swathings of pieces of blankets and cloth, in which they were enveloped. By the middle of February, there were but 50 serviceable horses in the entire command, and on the 25th of that month, Lieut. Darragh, in charge of 50 picked men, was ordered to report direct to Gen. Garrard, Brigade Commander, and until March 25th was engaged in scouting and reconnoitering expeditions;

and the command was frequently involved in skirmishes with detachments of Confederate cavalry. In April the regiment was ordered to Kentucky to remount, and in June was a prominent factor in routing Morgan at Cynthiana and driving him from the State. It was in the advance and was deployed on the right of the Union line opposed to Morgan's left. The day was won by a brilliant sabre charge, which made a complete rout. The official report of the commanding General Burbridge claimed 1,100 rebels killed, wounded and captured. During the month of July, the regiment marched through Kentucky and Tennessee, into Georgia, joining Sherman's conquering legions at Marietta in their advance on Atlanta. The cavalry was engaged in protecting the flanks, keeping open communications, in scouting, reconnoitering and raiding, till after the fall of Atlanta.

It participated in the successful raid around Atlanta, under Kilpatrick. On the 14th day of November, 1864, the "General" was sounded, the regiment marched out of its camp near Atlanta and took its position in Sherman's grand army in the first day's "March to the Sea." The progress through Georgia was one continuous skirmish with the rebel cavalry, under Gen. Wheeler. The regiment distinguished itself at Lovejoy's Station, at Macon, at Waynesboro, and at Cypress Swamp, and won the following special mention from Gen. Kilpatrick, in his official report to Gen. Sherman: "It has at all times behaved most handsomely and attracted my special attention." It was the escort of Gen. Sherman in the investment of Savannah, and made a gallant charge at Aiken, S. C., and was in hot action at Averysboro and at Bentonville.

The Ninth was the only Michigan cavalry regiment that marched with Sherman to the ocean, and it fired the last volley at the rebels, in behalf of the National standard, prior to the surrender of Gen. Johnston's army. The commission of Mr. Darragh as First Lieutenant was dated Feb. 12, 1864; that of Captain was conferred June 9, 1865. He was mustered out of service July 21, 1865, and was honorably discharged at Jackson.

After leaving the military service, Mr. Darragh resolved to fit himself for the legal profession, and, with that intent, went to Jackson to engage in the proper course of study under the direction of Gov. Blair. But the experiences of the years which had

intervened since his student days, had made havoc with his mental habits, and he found it difficult to concentrate his attention sufficiently to render his readings profitable. He obtained a position in the West-Side union school at Jackson, and had charge of the Grammar Department two years. In 1867 he was elected the first Superintendent of Jackson County, and discharged the duties of the office two years.

Mr. Darragh came to Gratiot County in 1870, and soon after established his banking business at St. Louis, where he has since prosecuted the matters common to such institutions. He has been intimately connected with the prominent interests of the village since he became a resident, and has officiated continuously as a member of the Village Board of Education. The perfect organization of the union school is largely due to his efforts and views, made practical by his own experience as an educator. He is a Republican to the core, and has been active in local politics. In 1872, he was elected County Treasurer, and in 1882 was nominated and elected Representative of Gratiot County, receiving 62 majority on the popular vote over the Fusion candidate. The canvass was spirited and the entire Fusion ticket was elected with the exception of Representative and Circuit Court Commissioner. Both candidates are residents at St. Louis, and Mr. Darragh's majority in his home township (Pine River) was 36.

Mr. Darragh was active in his capacity of Assemblyman. He served as Chairman of Committee on Private Corporations, a position for which he was peculiarly fitted, and he also acted on Committees on State Affairs and on State University.

The character of Mr. Darragh needs no elaboration at the hands of the biographer. From the simple recital of the successive events of his career the future generations who may be interested in tracing his influence and position in Gratiot County, will be at no loss to form a just estimate of his deserts.

His portrait appears on page 190, and will prove a satisfaction to his friends, as it is one of the most valuable of the large collection in this volume.

He was married June 8, 1875, to Annie P. Culbertson, of Monongahela City, Pa. She was born May 14, 1848, at Allegheny City, Pa., and is a daughter of Albert and Emily (Brown) Culbertson. Mary, only child, was born Sept. 15, 1879, at St. Louis.

**Patrick Brewer**, farmer on section 15, Emerson Township, was born in Wicklow Co., Ireland, Jan. 1, 1825, and is the son of Richard and Ann (Kenney) Brewer, natives of the Emerald Isle, where they were small farmers. In 1850 they emigrated to Canada, settling near Kingston, Ont., and farmed there. Patrick, at the age of 27, left his parents and worked in Sandusky Co., Ohio, until the summer of 1856. He then came to this State and county, and settled on his present farm in Emerson Township.

In this county, March 31, 1867, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Ruth Decker (*nee* Convis), daughter of John D. and Submitte (Graves) Convis, natives of Rhode Island and Vermont, respectively. They were married in the State of New York, and after a number of years removed to Emerson Township, this county, where they died, the father in 1867, and the mother in 1864. Ruth was born in Ontario, Wayne Co., N. Y., March 22, 1835; came at the age of nine to Shiawassee Co., Mich., and later to Gratiot County, where she was married.

Mr. and Mrs. Brewer have had four children, two of whom are living: Richard S., born Nov. 21, 1870; Emma L., born Dec. 17, 1874; Mittie A., born Sept. 3, 1868, and died Oct. 3, 1868; Joseph A., born Sept. 16, 1869, and died Sept. 30, 1869. Mr. Brewer is politically a faithful Republican. He has held the offices of Overseer of Highways and School Director.

**John S. Parker**, farmer, section 8, Newark Township, was born March 25, 1841, in Wayne Co., Mich. His father, John Parker, was a native of Vermont, and married Mary Berry, who was born in the State of New York, where they settled for a time. They afterwards removed to Ohio, and later to Michigan, which was then in its pioneer period, locating in Wayne County. In 1854 they settled in Newark, Gratiot County. Their family consisted of eight sons and three daughters.

Mr. Parker is the fourth son, and acquired his education in the common schools. At 16 he became

master of his own fortunes, and has spent all his life thus far in the Peninsula State, with the exception of two months, which were mostly passed in Missouri. In March, 1873, he bought 120 acres of land, under partial improvements, and erected thereon suitable and convenient farm buildings. He now owns 160 acres in Newark Township, of which 120 acres are under good cultivation, and 90 acres in Fulton Township, 55 of which are improved.

Mr. Parker was married Dec. 24, 1873, to Mary, third daughter of John and Nancy (Dravenstot) Greer, natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Parker was born in Clinton County, Sept. 19, 1854. Her parents were natives of Ohio. Two children are now included in the household: Jane A., born April 23, 1876, and Roscoe B., born July 14, 1879.

In political matters Mr. Parker votes independently. He is a member of the Order of Masonry.

**J**oseph A. Guthrie, physician and farmer, on section 15, Emerson Township, was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., Dec. 12, 1815, and is the son of Nathan and Abbie (Richardson) Guthrie, natives of New England, and of Scotch and English extraction. The Guthries for several generations back have been physicians and surgeons. Nathan Guthrie practiced in Genesee Co., N. Y., when that county was very new, and he had to contend with most of the hardships of pioneer life. He deserves the credit of being one of the foremost in developing that now rich country, and his children were the first white children born there.

The subject of this sketch was scarcely one year old when he lost his mother, and he was taken care of by his aunt and uncle. He lost his father by death four years later, and was then left entirely to his relatives. They treated him kindly, and enabled him to obtain a practical education in the common schools. At the age of 19 he began teaching in the common schools, and by spending his earnings in better informing himself, he progressed rapidly. He studied in select schools, and then gave himself to the art of medicine, under Dr. L. Tucker, of Earlville, Madison Co., N. Y. He remained with that gentleman four years, and attended a course of lec-

tures at Geneva, N. Y. In the spring of 1842, he secured his diploma, and he has since acquired, by a long and successful practice, the reputation of a very skillful physician.

July 16, 1844, at Sandy Hill, Washington Co., N. Y., he was married to Eunice Town, a native of Washington Co., N. Y. She died in Shiawassee Co., Mich., in September, 1846, and March 16, 1847, in Shiawassee County, he was again married, to Emma M. Convis, daughter of John D. and Submitte (Graves) Convis, natives of Vermont. She was born in Ellisburg, Jefferson Co., N. Y., April 29, 1829, and when a year and a half old went with her parents to Wayne County, that State, where she received a common-school education. At the age of 16 she came to Shiawassee County, this State, and taught for a short time previous to her marriage. In 1857, Dr. and Mrs. Guthrie came to this county and settled on 120 acres, 80 on section 15 and 40 on section 14, to which he has since added 80 acres, and he now follows farming in connection with the practice of his profession. Their first experiences here were such as most pioneer families undergo, though perhaps they were even more severe. The Doctor was the first regular medical graduate to practice in Gratiot County.

The Dr. and Mrs. Guthrie have a family of three: Justus N., born May 21, 1848; Jesse L., born Sept. 9, 1850; and Ella C., born March 26, 1860. They are members of the Baptist Church. He was one of the first four Justices of the Peace chosen in Emerson Township, and he has held that office 12 years. He was also for some time Assistant Revenue Assessor. Politically he is an active Republican.

**C**harles S. Harmon, general farmer, section 28, New Haven Township, is a son of Walter Harmon, a native of Connecticut and a farmer by occupation, who came to this State in 1844, and located in Ionia County, as one of the first settlers in Sebewa Township. He subsequently moved into Clinton County, and died November, 1861, aged about 63. His wife, Mary, *nee* Dicks, was also a native of Connecticut, and died in this county Dec. 22, 1858, aged 59. Charles S., the subject of this sketch, worked with

his father on the farm in Ionia County until 19 years of age, when he returned to his native State, New York, where he was born, Sept. 16, 1831, in Chautauqua County. Residing in Genesee County, that State, for three years, he returned to Clinton County, where he remained with his parents until his marriage, Oct. 15, 1854, to Miss Frances Z. White, daughter of Moses H. and Miranda (Wheelock) White. (See sketch.) She was born in Jackson Co., Mich., March 13, 1839, moving afterward to Ingham County, and next to Clinton County, where she lived till her marriage. She is the mother of five children, three of whom are dead, namely: Phebe R. and Florence M., living; and Worth H., Mary M. and Effie J., deceased.

A year after marriage, Mr. H. bought 40 acres of land in Watertown Township, Clinton County, which he afterward sold and bought another "40" in the same township, where he followed agriculture for eight years. Both these places he found in a state of wild nature. On leaving the latter place he went to Lansing, Mich., and followed teaming nearly a year. In 1864 he came to this county and lived the first year with his father-in-law; he then purchased a 40-acre piece of land, where he now dwells, moving upon it three years after the purchase. To this tract he has added 40 acres more, and of the total 80 acres he has 75 acres in fine cultivation.

Mr. Harmon has held the school offices of his district, and in political affairs he is a Republican.

**J**ohn M. Everden, farmer and teacher, section 30, Emerson Township, was born in Ingham Co., Mich., Oct. 5, 1852, and is a son of O. A. and Harriet Jane (Phelps) Everden, natives of Pennsylvania and New York, respectively. They were married in the latter State, and two years after came to Michigan. They located on a farm in Ingham County, where their son John was born. He came with his parents to this county in the spring of 1854, and has since lived in Emerson Township, section 30. Being the eldest of three children, it early came to his lot to be a sort of foreman around the farm; but, in spite of hard work and limited advantages, he found time to obtain a fair education in the common schools of his time, so that by perseverance he qualified himself for teaching.

At the age of 20, he began teaching, and has since taught in the winters, and farms in the summers. Of the 80 acres, 50 are well cultivated. He is considered a skillful farmer and a competent teacher.

He still resides on the old homestead, with his mother, a woman of sterling worth.

April 19, 1883, in Saginaw City, he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Jennie, daughter of Ira and D. A. (Westcott) Van Buskirk, natives of New York. She was born in Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 20, 1862, and came to this county in her childhood. He is connected with the Baptist Church, of Ithaca, and she, with the M. E. Church, at the same place.

Mr. Everden is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 123, F. & A. M., and now holds the office of J. W., in that lodge. He has held the township offices of Superintendent of Schools, Supervisor and School Inspector. Politically, he is a strong supporter of Republican principles.

**W**illiam N. Rogers, farmer on section 33, Pine River Township, is a son of William T. and Lydia M. (Beckwith) Rogers, natives of New York State. They married and settled in that State, afterwards removing to Medina Co., Ohio, where they resided until their death. William N., the subject of this biographical narrative, was born in New York State, Sept. 16, 1820. He was two years old when his parents removed to Ohio, and in that State he was educated and grew to manhood. At the age of 18, he was apprenticed to the blacksmith's trade for three years at Ashland, Ohio. This business he followed most of the time until 1877.

He came to this county in October, 1854, and settled on the farm which he had entered the June previous, on section 33, Pine River Township. He built the first blacksmith shop in Gratiot County, on his farm. He and four others, among them Col. Ely, Mr. Porter and J. H. Clark, cut through the woods what was known as the "middle trail." He built a log house 28 x 16, and afterwards sold his whole farm, trading 40 acres for the place on which he now resides, one yoke of steers, one cow and one barrel of pork. His present farm is all nicely under culti-

vation. He has at different times owned various farms in Arcada and Pine River Townships.

April 18, 1843, in Homer Township, Medina Co., Ohio, he was married to Lydia, daughter of Peter and Hannah (Taylor) Clark. They first settled in New Jersey, and afterwards removed to New York State. Thence they went to Ohio, and lived there 14 years; and in 1854 they came to Ionia Co., Mich., where they died. Their daughter Lydia was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., Aug. 2, 1822.

Mr. Rogers enlisted in the 8th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served in the Union army 16 months. He was honorably discharged May 24, 1865, at Detroit. During the first part of his service, he was employed as blacksmith; and when Ralph Ely was promoted Colonel, he was detailed as cook for that popular leader.

Mr. and Mrs. R. have had five children: Hannah S., Roxana E., Mary C., Phebe U. R. and William H. Hannah S. was married to Henry Adams, and died April 28, 1876. Roxana E. was married to George M. Simonson, of Saginaw, and died Feb. 20, 1867. Mr. Rogers has held the various school offices, and has been a Trustee of Alma village for six years. In political sentiment, he is a Democrat.

**M**adison G. Fraker, farmer, section 8, Washington Township, is a son of Napoleon B. and Rebecca (Merrills) Fraker, natives of New York State. They followed farming, and in 1861 came to Gratiot County, locating on 160 acres on section 8, Washington Township. Mr. Fraker afterwards added 20 acres, and brought 125 acres to a good state of improvement. He lived on this farm until 1879, when he removed to his present home in Ithaca.

The subject of this sketch was born July 18, 1847, in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and at the age of 23 he was married to Amelia Campbell, the daughter of Cornelius and Pamela (Amadon) Campbell, who live on a farm in Washington Township. She was born Oct. 9, 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Fraker lived first one year on section 7, Washington Township, then on their present place four years, then on another farm on the same section for four years, then settling permanently on their present farm. Mr. Fraker

has 260 acres of land, and is extensively engaged in stock-raising, as well as farming. They have five children, named: Jennie R., Howard C., Ernest R. (died June 20, 1879), N. B. and Kittie (twins).

Mr. Fraker was chosen Township Treasurer in 1881, and again in 1882. He has been School Director, and is at present Assessor of fractional school district No. 3, Washington and Fulton Townships.

**P**hilip P. Allen, farmer, section 29, Emerson Township, was born in Delaware Co., N. Y., April 21, 1829, and is the son of Isaiah and Elsie (Peck) Allen, natives of New York, and descendants of the Puritan fathers. They followed farming, and died in this State, some years ago.

Philip, when quite young, moved with his father to Seneca County and afterwards to Steuben County. In these two counties he received a pretty fair education, and at the age of 19 he engaged in teaching in the district schools of Steuben County. This he followed until his marriage in that county, July 22, 1859, to Mary A., daughter of Richard Sawtell, a native of New England. Mary A. was born in New York, July 2, 1830.

Five years after their marriage they came to this county and settled on section 29, Emerson Township. Here his wife died, Jan. 8, 1855, leaving two children to comfort her husband: Ozema F., born Nov. 14, 1852, and George H., born Feb. 4, 1855. He was again married, April 17, 1865, to Emma G., daughter of Ralph and Jane (Terry) Bellows, natives of New York and Michigan, respectively, and of English and Scotch extraction. They resided most of their lives in this State, and died here, the father Feb. 11, 1863, and the mother March 2, 1869. Emma G. Bellows was born in Marshall, Mich., Jan. 25, 1846, and remained with her parents till her marriage, coming with them to Gratiot County, in 1861.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen have a family of four children, as follows: Leland W., born Feb. 5, 1866, Cecil W., Oct. 1, 1870, Tessie M., June 2, 1877, and Rexford E., Oct. 6, 1882. They are members of the Baptist Advent Church.

Mr. Allen is a man who is respected by all who



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know him. He has held the office of Township Treasurer for a number of years, and has also been Township Clerk. He is now Moderator of his school district. Politically he is a Democrat.



**On. Charles H. Morse**, farmer, stock-raiser and real-estate dealer, residing on section 29, New Haven Township, and one of the representative and energetic business men of the county, is a native of Orangeville, Wyoming Co., N. Y., where he was born Jan. 27, 1838.

The parents of Mr. Morse were Harvey and Lydia (Watkins) Morse, and natives of Green and Madison Counties, N. Y.

From a "History of the Morse family," owned by the Buffalo Historical Society, we learn that the family history is of very ancient origin. It is quite clearly traced to a little town in Norway, south of Christiana. This town was named Moss, because it was a mossy country. The family took the name of Moss, and in course of succeeding generations and centuries, as in almost all names which come down to us through centuries, it has changed in form and orthography, appearing as Moss, Morss and Morse, and some lesser variations.

It is quite clear that the family accompanied William the Conqueror when he subdued England, or came soon after, as the name appears in England, and is more easily traced from about that date. The first official account is in the time of Edward III, A. D. 1327, when the records show an official appointment dated 1358. This probably accounts for the fact that they had a crest or semblance of a coat-of-arms. This consisted of an open shield, surmounted by two battle axes, crossed, and one ax and three pellets in the body of the shield. The motto in Latin, *In Deo, non armis, fido*,—"In God I trust, not in arms."

The Morse family in America descended from seven families, who came from England about 1635, the heads of these families named Samuel, Joseph, Anthony and William Morse, all settling in Massachusetts. Later, Robert Morse landed in New Jersey, Joshua, "somewhere in New England," and "John Moss," in New Haven, Conn. It seems to be a his-

torical fact that these are the seven families whence the Morses in early days sprung. Samuel Morse, the progenitor of the branch of the family to which Charles H. Morse belongs, was born in 1585, in England, probably at Ipswich, came to Massachusetts with his wife Elizabeth and son John, in the ship "Increase," in the year 1635, and settled "south of Charles River," near Boston, and named the place Dedham. He, with twelve others, owned a large tract of land, built the first "meeting-house" and school-house. The "compact" drawn up by himself and his 12 associates, under which they were to live, is marked by all that severe piety and intolerance that characterized the "Blue Laws" of Connecticut.

The whole history of the family indicates that they have generally been men of sterling integrity and noted for puritanism. Some have been ministers in the Episcopal Church, but generally they have been Presbyterians. They fought in the Revolution and in every war since to the Rebellion. Some were eccentric. John Morse, born in 1712, built his chimney in the hall of his house. He shut himself in his room and resolved to fast 40 days, but after trying it three or four days came out, saying the Lord had excused him from the other days! He also chiseled his own tombstone, and asked to be buried with his head to the north.

The genealogy of the family, from Samuel Morse to the subject of the sketch, Charles H. Morse, is as follows: Samuel Morse, born 1585, came to America 1635, died 1654; son John, born 1611, came to America with his father 1635, died 1657; John's son Ezra, born 1643, died 1697; Ezra's son Seth, born 1686, died 1783; he settled in Connecticut; Seth's son John, born in 1712, date of death unknown; John's son David, born about 1755, died about 1830; David's son Simeon, born Oct. 4, 1781, died August, 1867; Simeon's son Harvey, born June 22, 1802, died May 1, 1878; and Harvey's son Charles H., born Jan. 27, 1838.

Mr. Morse had three brothers and three sisters, viz: Evaline, born Dec. 24, 1826, and married to H. H. Beers; Electa, born Sept. 28, 1828, and married to Lafayette Winchester; Catharine, born July 4, 1831, and married to Horace Briggs; Lucius, born Oct. 13, 1833, married Rose Cutter and died May 15, 1875; John, born April 26, 1835, married Sarah Holly, murdered Aug. 1, 1867; Myron, born Feb. 20, 1840, married to Elizabeth Chittle.

The parents of the subject of this biography were hard-working, industrious and energetic people, and Charles H. was educated in the school of labor, on the farm, necessity preventing his development into manhood in idleness or wealth. He labored on the farms in the neighborhood, contributing his earnings to the support of the family, and attending the common schools as opportunity would permit until he attained the age of 17 years. Possessing a determination to succeed in the battles of the world, he devoted his idle moments to his books; and at the age of 16 he was thoroughly capable of entering on the profession of a teacher, which he did with credit.

In 1855, Mr. Morse accompanied his parents to this State, where they located in Orleans Township, Ionia County. He then engaged in teaching during the winter months, and assisted the father on the farm during the summer. Here his father and mother died, the former May 1, 1878, at the advanced age of 76 years; and his mother Dec. 3, 1881, at the home of our subject, aged 73 years. They were identified with this State since 1855.

When the nation was aroused from her peaceful slumber of years by the flashing of the terrible news along the wires from State to State that Sumter had fallen, and our martyr President had called for strong arms and brave hearts to battle for the perpetuity of our flag and Government, our subject halted not to consider, but was among the first to offer his services.

He enlisted Sept. 14, 1861, as a private in Co. D, 3d Mich. Vol. Cav., and on the organization of the company was appointed Sergeant. He served with the company as Sergeant until Dec. 15, 1862, when he was promoted to Commissary Sergeant of the regiment, and he always had personal charge of the subsistence of the regiment during the time he held the office.

During his service with the regiment, he was present at the siege and capture of New Madrid and Island No. 10. At New Madrid, under Gen. Pope, he first "smelled powder burned in anger."

Soon after the battle of Pittsburg Landing, his regiment was ordered to Tennessee, and participated in the siege of Corinth, Miss., and after the evacuation did hard service all through the summer of 1862, in Northern Mississippi and Alabama, and West Tennessee, participating in the battles of Iuka, Sept. 19, 1862, and Corinth, Oct. 3 and 4, 1862,—two as

severely contested and decisive engagements, considering number engaged, as were fought during the war.

In November, 1862, he accompanied his regiment in advance of Gen. Grant's army, which moved nearly down to Grenada, Miss., engaged daily with the enemy in severe skirmishing, particularly at Coffeeville, where the cavalry advance were confronted by the entire rebel army of Northern Mississippi.

This campaign of Gen. Grant's was apparently broken up by Van Dorn's raid on his communications and the destruction of his supplies. Van Dorn struck Gen. Grant's communication at Holly Springs, Miss., Dec. 20, 1862, destroyed a large amount of army supplies of all kinds and raided north into Tennessee, destroying the railroad as he moved.

Mr. Morse was taken prisoner at Holly Springs, by Van Dorn's forces, while absent from his regiment after supplies. He was paroled the same day and as a result was sent North until exchanged, which took place in April, 1863. During the remainder of his service with the regiment he participated with it in all its arduous service, scouting in West Tennessee and Northern Mississippi. Their battles, though termed skirmishes, were numbered by scores. Few cavalry regiments saw harder service than his and few indeed were the marches it made when Mr. Morse was not with it.

After re-enlistment, Mr. M. was ordered to report to Gen. W. A. Pile, at Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., who was charged with the organization of regiments of colored troops at that place. He remained on duty with Gen. Pile until August, 1864, when he was commissioned Captain in the 117th U. S. Colored Infantry, and ordered to report at Covington, Ky., where his regiment was then organizing. He was the senior Captain in the regiment, taking rank from Aug. 16, 1864. During August and September he assisted in recruiting and organizing his regiment to its maximum number, and in October it was ordered to Virginia, and assigned to the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 25th Army Corps, Gen. Godfrey Weitzel commanding. The 24th and 25th Army Corps constituted the Army of the James.

When Richmond was evacuated, Mr. Morse's company led the advance of the 25th Corps, and his regiment was probably the first infantry that entered the capital of the Southern Confederacy.

Remaining at Richmond and Petersburg until June 2, 1865, he was, with the 25th Corps, ordered to the Mexican border, to aid in enforcing the famous "Monroe Doctrine." Louis Napoleon saw the "hand-writing on the wall," and called the French troops home from Mexico, leaving Maximilian to his sad fate.

In the fall of 1865, the mustering-out of troops began. The 117th Regiment, to which Mr. M. still belonged, was occupied in garrison duty on the border, and in October of the same year Mr. M., then Captain, assumed command of the regiment, which he retained most of the time until the end of its service.

Jan. 12, 1866, Mr. M. was promoted from Captain to Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment. Subsequently, owing to the muster-out of other regiments, the 117th was the only infantry on the border, and was scattered from Galveston to Fort McIntosh, 500 miles up the Rio Grande. Mr. Morse commanded the posts of Brazos de Santiago, Fort Brown and Ringgold Barracks. While at the latter post his jurisdiction extended over 300 miles of the border. Here he had a chance to observe much of Mexican life, and pronounces them (save a small educated class), the most degraded human beings in the world making a claim to civilization.

In June, 1867, Mr. Morse was brevetted Colonel of U. S. Volunteers, to date from March 13, 1865, "for faithful and meritorious conduct during the war;" his commission being signed by President Andrew Johnson and Secretary Edwin M. Stanton.

The 117th was the last volunteer regiment in the service, and their "three years, or during the war," was nearly completed July 1, 1867. They were ordered to assemble in New Orleans for muster-out, and on the 23d day of August Mr. Morse was mustered out of the military service of the United States, after a continuous service of 5 years, 11 months and 9 days.

Soon after Mr. M. received his discharge, he came to this county and purchased 320 acres of heavily timbered land, located on sections 20 and 29, New Haven Township. There was at the time 40 acres under improvement. The farm was originally owned by Richard Crispel. After making this purchase, Mr. M. at once entered on the task of improving his land, at times engaged in lumbering and in real

estate, and now owns 400 acres, 270 acres of which are well improved, supplied with good stock and adorned with handsome and complete farm buildings, and is considered the most valuable farm in the township.

Mr. Morse was united in marriage, Feb. 14, 1864, to Miss Julia, daughter of Nathaniel and Chloe (Thompson) Sessions, late of Ionia County. The father was born Aug. 20, 1790, and died March 15, 1880, age nearly 90. The mother was born in 1798, and died in 1879, aged 81. They were natives of Connecticut and New York, respectively; and came to this State in 1837, since which time they have been identified with the prosperity of Ionia County from its earliest settlement, always living in the vicinity of Matherton. It was there Julia was born, Dec. 13, 1838. She was reared and educated under the watchful care of fond and loving parents. Possessing a mind capable of rapid cultivation and a large amount of energy and determination, she soon attained a point in her studies which thoroughly qualified her to enter upon the duties of a teacher, which she performed with great credit. After a few years of successful teaching she gave up the school room for the home and entered on the duty of wife and mother. She has had five children, four of whom are living, namely: John C., born March 8, 1870; Mark C., born Oct. 27, 1872; Noel M., born Jan. 10, 1874, and Katie M., born July 18, 1878. One child died in infancy.

Mrs. Morse is a dutiful and loving wife, a kind mother and a generous and esteemed neighbor, always working for the social and intellectual improvement of the community in which she may be found.

She was a twin daughter in a family of 15 children, 10 of whom are living. Her membership and identity with the M. E. Church extends over a long period of time, and her religious zeal ranks her among the Christian workers of the county.

The official record of Mr. Morse in the County and Congressional District in which he lives has been an honorable and creditable one. He has held the office of Supervisor eight terms, since 1870, and also other township and school offices in the gift of the people of the township.

He was elected Representative on the Republican ticket in 1872, and the interest he manifested in the welfare of his constituency procured him a speedy return in 1874. These two terms spent in the Leg-

islature extended his reputation as a man of ability and integrity, and at the close of his last term he was put forth as the nominee of the Republican party for Senator from the 28th District.

His record had been marked with such manly action, ability and integrity that the people rallied around him even as he had rallied around the old flag in its time of peril, and elected him by a handsome majority.

Mr. Morse has been closely allied with the interests of the Republican party in this State, and as a representative of the party stands forth unaccused, without a blemish.

Mr. Morse is an Officer of the Day in the Post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Carson City. As a representative man of the State and county, and one in every way worthy the confidence and esteem of the people, we take great pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Morse, together with that of his most estimable lady, in this work.

**J**oseph B. Davidson, farmer, section 48, Elba Township, is a son of John and Mary R. (Marriott) Davidson, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Mr. Davidson, Sr., was a farmer, and his home was in Ohio until his death, in the autumn of 1872. Joseph was born May, 2, 1841, in Licking Co., Ohio. At the age of 28 he married Lilly Kneeland, who was born in Howell, Livingston County, May 28, 1852, the daughter of John B. and Lucena S. (Sickles) Kneeland. Mr. Kneeland was a native of Tompkins Co., N. Y., and followed farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidson settled at their present residence on 65 acres of section 28.

They are the parents of two children: John W. and Frank E.

Mr. Davidson enlisted in the service of his country at Cleveland, Ohio, in Co. D, 41st Ohio Vol. Inf. He was in the battle of Stone River; was wounded at Chickamauga, and at Missionary Ridge: was wounded both in the hips and in the wrist. On account of these honorable wounds he was discharged from the army.

He was Highway Commissioner of his township for one term, and School Superintendent two terms.

He has also held the office of Moderator of his school district for a number of years. He is a thorough Republican in his political views. He is a member of Elsie Lodge, No. 238, F. & A. M., and also of the G. A. R.

**A**lfred Finch, farmer, section 24, Arcada Township, was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., Sept. 26, 1852, and is the son of Linas Finch, a native of New York, and of English descent. The father was by occupation a machinist; and, enlisting in the service of his country, fell a victim to some rebel bullet. Alfred's mother died in Orleans Co., N. Y., in March, 1861, and at the age of nine Alfred found himself under the care of a Mr. Hall, of Orleans County. Two years later they all came to Eaton Co., Mich., where Alfred lived, working summers and attending school in the winters, until 16 years old. He then went to live with Levi Bartlow, in Clinton County, remaining with him till 21 years old. For the next five years he was variously engaged.

Aug. 6, 1878, at St. Johns, he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Nancy, daughter of Erastus and Jimima (Packard) Farrington, natives of New England and of English descent. Mr. Farrington's occupation has been a shoemaker, and he is now a farmer. Nancy was born June 11, 1857, in Emerson Township; was there educated, and there lived until her marriage. One year after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Finch settled on 40 acres in Arcada Township. He now has 15 acres under cultivation. They have a family of three children, as follows: Alice, born March 5, 1879; Bertha, June 27, 1880; and Charles, Oct. 20, 1883. In politics, Mr. Finch is a Republican.

**J**ohn T. Botsford, farmer, section 15, New Haven Township, is a son of Reuben and Martha (Lambson) Botsford (see sketch), and was born in Whitby Township, Ontario, Feb. 27, 1849. On leaving his native home, when seven years of age, he came with his parents to Michigan, settling in the village of Reuby, Clyde Township, St. Clair County, for four years;



was then four years with his father on a farm near that village, attending school during the winter seasons. In the fall of 1865 they moved to this county, where John T. remained, working in agricultural pursuits and attending school until his marriage. His wife, Sarah, is a daughter of George and Alice (Fisher) Cross, natives of England, who came to America early in life, ultimately settling in Newark Township, this county. Mrs. B. was born July 7, 1857, one of the first white children born in that township. Here she was reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. B. have one child, Ettie E., who was born Dec. 1, 1884. They are members of the Baptist Church, and in politics he is a Republican.

**William J. Courter**, farmer, section 7, Arcada Township, was born in Orleans Township, Ionia County, Sept. 25, 1851. His parents are natives of New York State, moved to this county in 1854, and are now living on a farm in Arcada Township. Coming with his parents to an unsettled country, William had no school advantages during his early youth, but he was endowed with a desire to learn, and as he became older he developed quite a taste for books. When 16 years old, he commenced earning his own livelihood, going for a time to the lumber woods of Mecosta County. Returning home, he passed 13 years in working at farming in the summers and in the woods winters. The last four years of that period he was in the employ of Bradley Hayes, of Ionia County, an extensive farmer and lumberman. During these four years he lost but 13 days' time, and so highly were his services appreciated that he was paid for that lost time.

On leaving Mr. Hayes' employ he was married to Jeannette, daughter of Ira and Ann (McIntosh) Barlow, natives of New York State and of English and Scotch ancestry. They followed farming, and removed from New York State to the vicinity of Detroit, Mich., and thence to Sydney Township, Montcalm County, where they now reside. Jeannette was born in that county, Nov. 11, 1857, where she was educated in the district schools, and lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Courter came to this county and located on 80 acres of his father's homestead.

He has now 60 acres nicely improved, and good farm buildings. They have two children: Ira Albert, born Aug. 22, 1878, and Fred S., born Nov. 15, 1882. Politically, he is a Democrat. He has been Overseer of Roads for some time.

**Charles W. Bayley**, farmer, section 25, Elba Township, is a son of W. H. and Jane (Wilson) Bayley, natives of England, and residents of Canada. He was born near Toronto, Canada, July 7, 1849. On setting out to make his own way in the world, he went to Lorain Co., Ohio, where he was engaged in farming until 1879. Sept. 23, 1879, he was united in marriage to Catharine Eschtruth, the eldest daughter of John and Sophia (Keich) Eschtruth. They were natives of Germany, and emigrated to the Great Republic in 1847, settling in Lorain Co., Ohio. Mr. Eschtruth is there engaged in farming and operating a stone quarry. Mrs. Bayley was born in Lorain County, Dec. 28, 1852. Politically, he votes with the Republican party. In Elyria, Ohio, he was an active worker in the temperance union, and he is still interested in that cause.

**Lewis B. Wolford**, farmer, section 29, New Haven Township, is a son of David and Laverna (Conger) Wolford, natives of New York. He was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Nov. 11, 1837; when six years old he was taken to Huntington Co., Ind., and two years later to his native county; in 1858 he came and settled on section 21, New Haven Township, this county; in 1867 he moved into Sumner Township, where he lived for six years, during which time he followed lumbering in Montcalm County. In the spring of 1876 he moved into New Haven Township.

Jan. 14, 1881, Mr. Wolford married Mrs. Ellen M. Wiles, daughter of Peter D. and Mary (Babcock) Pendell. Mr. P. was a native of Saratoga, N. Y., of German-English descent, came to Michigan in 1847, and to this county in 1858; he was a farmer. He and his wife both died in New Haven Township. Mrs. W. was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., July 14,

1845. When two years old she came to this State, since which time she has been a resident of Ionia and Gratiot Counties. She was first married in 1862, to George Bennett, a native of Michigan, who died June 20, 1870. She afterward married David Wiles, who was born Jan. 22, 1832, in Ohio, and died April 20, 1877. By another wife he had been the father of seven children, and she, by her former marriage, had two children. By the present union there has been one child, Mary L., born Aug. 12, 1882. Mrs. W. has a farm of 80 acres, most of which is well improved. Mr. W., a Republican, has been honored with office in his school district.

**W**illiam C. Wooley, farmer, section 33, Elba Township, is a son of John K. and Fanny (Crose) Wooley, natives of New Jersey. Mrs. Wooley was the first white settler of Elba Township, locating on section 34 Jan. 4, 1855. In March of the same year, she removed across the line into Clinton County, where she still resides. William C. was born June 14, 1840, in Kalamazoo Co., Mich., and left home at the age of 14 to care for himself. He worked on a farm until 1867, when he married Martha Harrison, daughter of John S. and Louisa (Baker) Harrison, natives of Ohio, where they followed farming. Mr. and Mrs. Wooley have a family of three children: John H., Claude D. and Cora P.

Mr. Wooley first purchased 80 acres in Elba Township, but has added 160 acres to his nucleus. Of his whole farm, 180 acres are well improved. In 1873 he built his large barn. His was the first family to settle permanently in the township, and when he came he found a dense wilderness.

He enlisted in Co. H, 25th Mich. Inf., Aug. 27, 1862, and served his country faithfully during the remainder of the war. His company was engaged under Col Moore at Green River Bridge July 4, 1863, with the notorious John Morgan's command, and killed more men than there were in the company engaged. He was mustered out at Salisbury, N. C., and finally discharged at Jackson, Mich.

Mr. Wooley is a member of Elsie Lodge, No. 238, F. & A. M. He was Deputy Sheriff under George Patch. He is one of the representative citizens of Gratiot County.

**F**ranks Manecke, farmer, section 22, New Haven Township, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1830. His mother died when he was three years old, and then until he was eight he lived with his grandmother. His father having married again he returned to him, who was then superintendent of large land tenants in that country. He was carefully educated, and before he left his native land at the age of 15 he was well versed in French as well as in his native tongue. At the age mentioned he came to the United States with his father, settling in Wood Co., Ohio, near Fostoria. Here the father bought a farm and proceeded to teach his only two children, Frank and Frederick, in the art of agriculture.

On attaining legal age, Frank began as a common laborer for farmers in Seneca Co., Ohio, and two years later he came to Michigan, locating, in November, 1854, 120 acres of wild forest land, on sections 21 and 22, New Haven Township, under the Graduation Act. In the spring following he set about improving this place, spending the winters for several years in this work, while the summers he worked in East Plains, Ionia County. In 1860 he settled on this farm, where he has since made a comfortable home.

Under the last call for recruits in 1864, Mr. Manecke was drafted, and placed in Co. E, 15th Mich. Inf. His regiment was with Sherman in North Carolina, but before it was called into action the war closed, and Mr. M. returned home without participating in any engagement. Resuming work on his farm, he has prospered until he has reduced 100 acres under the plow and added by purchase 40 acres more. It is one of the most productive farms in the township. He has produced per acre as high as 38 bushels of wheat, 80 bushels of corn and 6 bushels of clover seed. His residence, recently built, is a beautiful and convenient structure, and his farm buildings are first-class. Mr. M. has held the school office of his township, and in political issues he is a Republican.

Mr. Manecke was first married April 27, 1860, to Miss Adaline Burt; she was born in New York, about 1831, and died at her home in New Haven Township, Oct. 28, 1863, leaving one child, Burt.

She was a member of the Regular Baptist Church. Mr. M. was again married Jan. 15, 1864, in Newark Township, this county, to Mrs. Susanna Ridenour, *nee* Munson, who was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Aug. 22, 1830, where she resided until her first marriage, in April, 1851. Since that time she has lived in this State, and, except three years, in Clinton County. The children of Mrs. M., by her former husband, were: Polly S. and Aminda J., both married, in this and Ionia Counties; and George, who died in infancy.

**H**enry K. Retan, senior proprietor of the Retan House, Ithaca, was born in Sussex Co., N. J., Aug. 27, 1817, and is a son of John and Margaret (Smith) Retan, natives of Nova Scotia and New Jersey, and of Dutch and New England descent. The father was a farmer, and died in Waterford, Oakland Co., Mich., in 1843. The mother died in Owosso, Mich., in 1867.

When the subject of this sketch was seven years old, his father removed to Oakland County, this State, and settled on a farm near Pontiac. Henry here worked on the farm, occasionally attending school, and developed into manhood. At the age of 26 he left home, and started a store at Commerce, Oakland County. He was in mercantile life about 15 years, and then went into the hotel business. He was first at Owosso one year, then at Ovid 12 years, and then lived at Ovid three years without other occupation than caring for his wife, who was then an invalid. In May, 1883, he came to Ithaca, and started the Retan House in company with his son-in-law, Dennis T. Covert. This hotel has a very large patronage, and has acquired an enviable reputation as a home-like, well managed house.

Nov. 17, 1842, at Pontiac, he formed a life partnership with Miss Catharine Voorheis, daughter of Jacob and Rachel (Powelson) Voorheis, natives of New Jersey, and of Dutch and English descent. She was born at Peapack, Somerset Co., N. J., Sept. 20, 1820, and came to Michigan with her parents when 13 years old, living in Oakland County until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Retan have had a family of eight, four surviving: Harrison L., Harriet E. (Mrs. D. T.

Covert), Jay V. and Addie. The two first are in Ithaca, the two last at Ovid. The deceased are George, Margaret, Frank and Lily. Mr. Retan is politically a Democrat.

**A**lexander T. Rice, farmer, section 32, Elba Township, is a son of Clark and Sarah A. (Coonley) Rice, natives of Massachusetts and New York respectively. They emigrated to Michigan in 1840, and settled on a farm. Alexander was born Dec. 10, 1834, in Jasper, Steuben Co., N. Y. At the age of 25, he was married to Clara J. Armstrong, daughter of Elias and Eunice (Hewitt) Armstrong, natives of Connecticut. She was born May 20, 1835, in Wheatland, Monroe Co., N. Y. Mr. Armstrong came to Livingston Co., Mich., and lived there until his death, Sept. 19, 1863. Mrs. Armstrong died Feb. 17, 1872, at Eaton Rapids, Mich.

In 1876, Mr. Rice located on 100 acres on sections 29 and 32, Elba Township, and he has creditably improved 60 acres of this farm, besides erecting a neat farm house, barn and granaries. In 1876, he was elected School Superintendent of his township, and the following year he was elected Supervisor. This latter office he filled continuously until the spring of 1883, except the year 1881. He is a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 105, F. & A. M. Politically, he has always been a Democrat. He is one of the truly representative men of the county, and stands highly with all parties.

**F**rancis J. Corey, farmer on section 2, Newark Township, was born in Nankin Township, Wayne Co., Mich., Dec. 18, 1836, and is the son of John D. and Roxie (Ferguson) Corey, natives of Rhode Island and Vermont. They have followed farming, and now reside on section 29, Arcada Township. Francis lived with his parents and worked on their farm until of age, moving with them when 18 years old to Ingham Co., Mich.

Jan. 1, 1858, at Lansing, he was married to Rachel, daughter of George and Eliza (Carter) Brown, natives of New York and of English and

German ancestry. The father died in Ingham County in 1864, aged 55. The mother still lives in this county. Rachel was born in Williams Co., Ohio, May 26, 1839, and came to Michigan when 17 years old. After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Corey lived in Ingham County until the winter of 1866, when they came to this county and purchased 80 acres on section 32, Arcada Township. While living on that place, they improved 44 acres. Selling out Dec. 7, 1883, they have just become well settled on their new home of 40 acres of well-improved land near Ithaca, formerly owned by William Hutchins.

Mr. and Mrs. Corey have a family of four, as follows: Lorada E., born Jan. 21, 1860; Ellsworth D., Aug. 14, 1861; Lorena F., Feb. 3, 1864; and Eliza J., Nov. 3, 1868.

Oct. 28, 1863, he enlisted in Co. H, 4th Mich. Vol. Cav., and served in the Army of the Cumberland under Gen. Minty. He fought at Kingston, Look-out Mountain, Stone Mountain and Cottonwood Creek, and in many skirmishes, such as cavalymen always meet with. He was in Kilpatrick's raid through Georgia in 1864, and in Wilson's raid from Eastport, Miss., to Macon, Ga., the same year. He was honorably discharged Aug. 15, 1865, after 23 months of active service. In civil life, Mr. Corey has been a worker in the ranks of the Democratic party. He has been Constable for two terms.

**I**srael W. Hause, farmer on section 15, Fulton Township, is the son of Simon and Sally (Coats) Hause, natives of the State of New York. They resided first in Chemung Co., N. Y., then in Steuben Co., Mich., and in 1853 they removed to Clinton Co., Mich. They came to Gratiot County in March, 1858, and returned to Clinton County in May, 1870. Here he died, June 11, 1877. She survives him, and resides in St. John's. Their family comprised two sons and five daughters.

The subject of this notice, the elder son, was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., Sept. 21, 1841, and was 12 years old when his parents removed to Michigan. He received a common-school education, and made his home with his parents until he attained his majority. He came to Gratiot County with his parents

and bought 40 acres of partly improved land on section 15, Fulton Township; and in January following he settled with his family there. He has built a comfortable residence and barns, and has 30 acres under cultivation.

Dec. 2, 1862, in Fulton Township, he married Miss Harriet A., daughter of William J. and Sarah A. (Sornberger) Carr, natives of New York. They came to Fulton Township, Gratiot County, in 1860. Mrs. Carr died here May 13, 1863. Mr. Carr survives. Their daughter Harriet was born in Madison Co., N. Y., March 31, 1843. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, Mr. Hause is a Republican.

**W**illiam Alpaugh, farmer on section 5, Fulton Township, is a son of Philip and Eva Alpaugh, natives of the State of New York. In 1846, they left that State and came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., where they died, he Oct. 10, 1874, and she Dec. 16, 1880. The subject of this sketch was born in Montgomery Co., N. Y., Jan. 1, 1830, and received a fair common-school education. At the age of 16 he came with his parents to Michigan.

At the age of 22, he started out to make his own way in life. He learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed much of the time until 1882. He came to this county in January, 1865, and bought 40 acres on section 2, North Shade Township. Here he lived about seven years, when he sold and bought 40 acres on section 5, Fulton Township, his present home. He has since added 40 acres, and has about one-half of his farm under cultivation.

Sept. 3, 1862, he married Mary E., daughter of Joseph H. and Margaret (Clement) Salisbury, natives of Montgomery Co., N. Y. Mrs. Alpaugh was born in Pittsford, Hillsdale Co., Mich., Sept. 22, 1841. This marriage has been blessed with two children: Evie A. and Edwin G. The latter died when two years old. Mr. A. is a member of the Masonic Order, and, with his wife, of the Christian Church. In politics he is a Republican. He is a strong temperance man, and takes a deep interest in all temperance movements.

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**W**illiam Sickels, one of the leading business men of Sickels, and representative men of the county, and whose portrait we are pleased to present in this work as a meritorious representation of one of Gratiot's self-made men, was born in Palmyra, Wayne Co., N. Y., May 30, 1824, and is a son of John F. Sickels, native of the same State, whose Holland ancestors settled on the Mohawk River over 200 years ago. Mr. Sickels attended the common schools of his native State until he attained the age of 12 years, when, in company with the family, he came to Wayne County, this State, where they arrived in 1836. Here William attended the Northville Academy, assisting on the farm at times until the father's death in 1839, when he assumed control of the farm and successfully cultivated it for one year. He then resumed his studies at Northville Academy and completed his education. After the completion of that arduous though pleasant task, he went back on the farm and remained until 1849, when he moved to Howell Township, Livingston County, this State, and occupied his time in farming until 1854, then went to what is now Wyandotte, Wayne County, built the first store and dwelling house in the village proper and established the first postoffice there. In 1856 he removed to what is now Elsie, Clinton County, and also established the first postoffice in that village, and was Deputy Postmaster. He remained at Elsie until 1861, when he removed to St. Johns, same county, and there held the position of Register of Deeds until 1863, and Deputy Register from 1863 to 1865; was also Judge of Probate from 1865 to 1869. From 1869 to 1881 he held a position in the Postoffice Department at Washington, D. C. In May, 1881, Mr. S. resigned his position at Washington and joined his family at Sickels, this county, whither he had removed them in September, 1873.

In 1883 Mr. Sickels built a large steam flouring mill at Sickels and thoroughly equipped it with the best and most modern improved machinery, with boilers 4½ x 12 feet and a 40-horse-power engine, which is recognized as one of the best flour-producing mills in the county. His residence is undoubtedly the finest in Hamilton Township; and, remarka-

ble as it may appear, it is nevertheless true, the structure is composed mostly of native wood which grew on his own farm. The building is supplied with hot and cold water throughout, and is elegantly furnished. The library, of which he is justly proud, required an outlay of over \$2,000 in its selection and purchase, and comfort, happiness and plenty surround the family hearthstone.

Mr. Sickels was married Nov. 8, 1846, to Isabel B., daughter of Dennis Kingsley (deceased), a native of Vermont, and one of the early pioneers of Wayne County. She was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., March 13, 1828. Four children have been born to their union, viz.: Dennis K., Annie I., Hettie E., and William C.

Dennis is living in Washington, D. C., and was married to Alice M. Hugely. Annie I. married John H. Winton, of Ithaca, this county. Hattie E. was married to Warren Abbott, who died in 1880, leaving two children to the care of the mother, who lives with them at home. William C. is unmarried and living with the family in their pleasant abode.

The credit of their prosperity, of their happy home and the fine appearance of their large farm of 640 acres, is not all claimed by the father; each one nobly did his part; and of the mother, for her untiring labors, all unite in highest praise. That "the school of adversity graduates the ablest pupils, and the hill of difficulty is one of the strongest 'constitutentials' for strengthening the financial backbone of a struggling family," was, undoubtedly, fully corroborated in her energetic labors. She superintended the clearing of the land (Mr. S. being in Washington a great portion of the time attending to his duties in the Postoffice Department), and the building of their fine residence and barn, with the assistance of her daughter Annie as architect, and also the clearing of another farm of 100 acres, which they own; and to her good judgment and fine management their prosperity in a great measure is indebted. Truly we may say, she is one of those women who are too often ignored and too little appreciated by biographical writers of the day.

Mr. S. owns the store building in Sickels, besides considerable other village property. He was a soldier in the late civil war, enlisting in Co. E, 23d Mich. Vol. Inf.; was appointed First Lieutenant and had command of the company most of the time for about six months, when, contracting typhoid pneumonia, he

was compelled to resign. The Captain of the company was O. L. Spaulding.

In addition to his other business, Mr. S. is at present devoting considerable time to the propagation of fine stock, and is handling, with good success, a species of the Shorthorn breed of cattle known as the "Rose of Sharon." He has one two-year old from the herd of H. M. Vale, of Independence, Mo., which is considered one of the finest and most celebrated herds in the United States.

Mr. Sickels and his entire family, with the exception of his youngest son, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the Masonic Order and the I. O. O. F.

**C**harles H. Webster, superintendent of Church's mill, and residing on section 7, Emerson Township, was born at Wellington, Lorain Co., Ohio, May 28, 1844, and is the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Magraugh) Webster, natives of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, respectively, and of Dutch and Irish extraction. The father was by trade a tailor, and died April 2, 1845, before Charles H. was a year old. The latter lived until 12 years of age with his mother and a step-father, whom she married in 1854.

While but a mere boy he responded to his country's call for volunteers, and enlisted Aug. 25, 1861, in Co. H, 2d Ohio Vol. Cav. He served first under Gen. Blunt, then under Gen. Burnside, and finally under Gen. G. A. Custer. He was engaged in all battles in which his company was involved, among them being the battles of the Wilderness, Petersburg and Richmond, at the close of the war. He was often detailed for special and important duties, and was made a Corporal towards the close of the war. Being wounded in the knee and thereby disabled, June 28, 1864, he was captured the following day at Reams' Station, near Petersburg. He was taken to Libby prison and confined for four weeks in that iniquitous pen. Being then paroled, he found his way to his company and remained with it until he was honorably discharged, Sept. 18, 1865. He served four years and 25 days, and his arduous and interesting experiences would fill a volume.

Mr Webster has a copy of the congratulatory order issued by Gen. Custer to his division, on Lee's surrender.

Returning home he shortly started for Michigan, arriving at Ithaca Oct. 22, 1865. He purchased of the State 200 acres of land in Emerson Township. For about three years longer he was a bachelor, improving his farm summers, and in the winters acting as clerk, at first in the dry-goods store of Nelson & Church, and later in Jeffery's store. Dec. 28, 1868, he was married to Marie E. Church, daughter of Lafayette and Sophronia (Benjamin) Church (see sketch), who was born in Hillsdale Co., Mich., Oct. 9, 1851. She came to this county when three years old, and was here educated, and here lived until her marriage. Some months after that event Mr. and Mrs. Webster moved from Ithaca to section 27, Emerson Township. They afterwards moved to section 28, and in 1874 they settled on section 7. Here he owns 80 acres, and has the management of Church's mill.

They have had five children, only two of whom, Addie E. and Albert H., survive. Arthur, Alta and a baby are dead. They are members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Webster has been Township Clerk two years; has been chosen Justice of the Peace twice, but did not qualify. Politically he is a staunch Republican.

**G**eorge J. Butcher, cabinet-maker, furniture dealer and undertaker, Elm Hall, was born near Norwich, Eng., June 8, 1833, and is of English descent. His father was a gardener, and came to the United States when George was four years old, locating first at Buffalo, N. Y. Eight years later they removed to Chippewa, Ont., where Mr. Butcher followed his trade as gardener. Afterwards, removing to Elgin Co., Ont., he secured a tract of 200 acres of wild land.

On this farm the subject of this narrative lived and worked under his father's guidance, until 18 years old. He was then apprenticed for three years to a Mr. Maxwell Hamilton, of Simcoe, Ont., to learn carpentry. After serving out his time, he worked for the same gentleman one year as a journeyman carpenter. He then planned an extended tour to California and

the West Indies; but, laying off for a period at Dubuque, Iowa, he became homesick, and returned to work once more for Mr. Hamilton.

Jan. 14, 1856, he was united in marriage to Miss Frances E. Webb, born in Canada, July 14, 1840. Working at his trade in that country for three years more, Mr. and Mrs. B. then came to this State and county, and located with her uncle, Nathaniel Strayer, of Seville Township. Mr. B. here built a house four miles away, making two trips daily. He worked 103 days at \$3 per day, and lost no time whatever. The following summer, with the money thus earned, he erected the first frame building in the township, which he ran as a hotel until 1869. He then resumed his trade, and, after following that for three years, he started his present cabinet shop. He now has a stock worth \$1,000, and his annual business is \$3,000.

July 17, 1871, in Canada, his second marriage occurred, he taking this time as the partner of his sorrows and joys Miss Alice Hayward, a native of Ontario, where she was born, July 2, 1850.

Mrs. B. is a member of good standing in the M. E. Church. Mr. Butcher has held the office of Constable for several years. He is a member of North Star Lodge No. 306, I. O. O. F., has passed all the chairs, and is now D. D. G. M. of the order. Politically, he is a Democrat.

**Theron Finney**, farmer, section 19, Emerson Township, was born in Essex Co., N. Y., March 24, 1807, and was the son of Scotch and Welsh parents. They were natives of Connecticut, and were farmers by occupation.

Most of their lives they resided in Essex County, where they died many years ago. Theron remained on his father's farm until 19 years of age, when he began to battle for himself. When 28 years old, he came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., and was there married to Harriet Butler, daughter of Zebina and Polly (Porter) Butler, and born July 20, 1817. Mr. and Mrs. Finney resided on a farm in Hillsdale County until 1859, when they came to Gratiot County and entered 320 acres of unimproved land on section 19, Emerson Township. Mr. Finney has improved

a considerable acreage, and sold all but 60 acres, upon which he now lives.

They have had a family of nine children: Melvina R., Mary L., Josephine D., Wilmer T., Dora A., Butler J., Frank L., Ramson P. and Arza A. The last four named are dead. Mr. Finney has held the offices of School Inspector and Township Treasurer for several years. In political faith, he is a Republican.



**George H. Oliver**, druggist and groceryman, Elm Hall, was born in DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich., Jan. 3, 1845. His parents were natives of New York, of English and Scotch descent, and his father was a carpenter. When he was four years old, his parents removed to where the village of Grand Ledge now stands, in Eaton County. It was then an unbroken forest, and his father built one of the first houses there. The first school-house was also raised by his father and a few neighbors. Here our subject lived, grew up and was educated.

In February, 1865, at the age of 20, he enlisted in Co. C, 12th Mich. Vol. Inf., and was assigned to the Army of the West. He was in no active engagements, and was honorably discharged in July, 1865. His health failed him; and on arriving home he was confined to his bed until September. He then went to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and took a course in Eastman's Business College, graduating in March, 1866. Returning to Grand Ledge, he was for a time engaged in book-keeping. For the ensuing four years he was learning the painter's trade. Then assuming control of a good business in that line, he associated with himself a Mr. Deering. This partnership lasted until the spring of 1871, when he left Grand Ledge and came to Gratiot County, to join his father in the grocery business. His health not being the best, he has not resumed his trade, but has continued in the drug and grocery business at Elm Hall. In October, 1881, he became sole proprietor of the business. He has a stock worth about \$1,000, and a growing trade now amounting to \$3,000 annually.

March 4, 1874, in Montcalm County, he was married to Miss Laura A. Van Leuvan, who was born in Sumner Township, July 30, 1856. She lived for

some time in Salem, Washtenaw County, and then came to Montcalm County, where she was married. She is the mother of two children: Inez E. and Floyd E. Mr. and Mrs. O. are members of the M. E. Church. He has held the office of Constable, and politically is a Republican.

**S**ilas Hill, farmer, section 3, Hamilton Township, is a son of Stephen Hill (deceased), a native of Vermont, and who emigrated from that State to Otsego Co., N. Y., where the subject of our sketch was born, July 6, 1830.

Three years after the birth of Silas, in 1833, the family removed to Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, where they lived for four years, until 1837, when they moved to Erie County, the same State. Here young Hill remained, attending the common schools of the county and developing into manhood. In 1856 he went to Bureau Co., Ill., and after remaining there some six months, during which time he was variously employed, he came to Eaton Co., Mich., where he arrived in the spring of 1857.

Mr. Hill purchased the farm on which he is now living in November, 1873, and located upon it in January following, and has constantly resided thereon. The farm consists of 80 acres, and is under a good state of cultivation. He was married March 18, 1857, to Lucy, daughter of Edward Bracy, of Eaton Co., Mich., and three children have been born to their union, two of whom, George F. and Edwin, are living, and one is deceased.

Mr. Hill has held the offices of Highway Commissioner and Supervisor and is at present Treasurer of Hamilton Township.

**E**dward Y. Kelley, merchant at Bridgeville, Washington Township, is a son of Joseph and Esther C. (Hockens) Kelley. The former was an employe of the Government, being engaged on Indian affairs and also followed farming. He died in the State of New York, in the spring of 1834. Mrs. Kelley died in the same State, in 1867. Edward was born Jan. 14, 1832, at Danville, Caledonia Co., Vt. On the death of his

father, he was taken by an old acquaintance of the family and kept for three years. He was then kept by another family until he was 13, since which time he has made his own way in life, working at the blacksmith's trade and at other employments. In the autumn of 1866 he purchased 30 acres on section 20, Washington Township, and engaged in farming. He is now in mercantile life at Bridgeville; has a full line of drugs, groceries and hardware, and a large trade. In 1860 he was married to Betsy C. Woodcock, daughter of Asa and Mary (Ryan) Woodcock, residents of New York State. She was born in 1828, and died in Gratiot County, in 1868, leaving five children,—Mary F., Edna J., Eddie J., Esther A. and Henry L. Mr. Kelley was subsequently married to Eliza Woodcock, a sister of his first wife. This marriage has been blessed with two children—Cora B. and Floyd. Mr. Kelley is a member of the Masonic Order and of the I. O. O. F. Politically he votes with the Republican party.

**C**harles C. Gilmore, editor and proprietor of the *Corner Local*, Elm Hall, was born in Old Town, Maine, April 15, 1850; and is the son of Solomon and Abigail E. (Stewart) Gilmore, natives of Maine and of Scotch descent. Solomon Gilmore was a lumberman in his native State until 32 years of age, when he went to Pennsylvania. Here he lived until death, about 1862, aged 52. His wife died in the same State a year previous, at the age of 51.

The subject of this biography left his native State when very young, and went with his parents to Pennsylvania, where they lived in the lumber regions of the mountains. Owing to their peculiar surroundings, his opportunities for education were very limited, and he had but one year schooling. His desire for learning was however such that he would, after working hard all day, spend hours by himself over his book. In this manner he mastered Davies' Algebra, and the rudiments of other branches taught in the high schools. At the age of 19, he set out to earn his own living. By accident he got to using the tools in the camp, and soon found that he was a natural blacksmith. He was therefore employed by the proprietor to do all such work as came along in that line. He

was thus employed until the spring of 1874, when he came to Saginaw, this State. Six months later, he came to Gratiot County, and located at Elm Hall. Soon he built a stumping machine, and pulled stumps in the summer, following his trade in the winter.

Since coming to the county, he has been a regular correspondent of the *Gratiot Journal*, and has thus secured a good idea of newspaper writing. From 1880 to the close of 1883, his occupation has, however, been well-driving, in prosecuting which he has used appliances of his own invention. Nov. 17, 1883, he purchased and assumed control of the *Corner Local*, and his first issue appeared Nov. 24. He has a growing circulation, already reaching 350, and his paper has constantly improved.

Dec. 3, 1878, at Elm Hall, he was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Fox, born at Leslie, Ingham Co., Mich., in 1855. She came to Gratiot in 1877. She is the mother of two children: Edna and Frederick. She is a member of the M. E. Church. Mr. G. is a member of Elm Hall Lodge No. 257, F. & A. M., Elm Hall, and has for some time held the office of Secretary of the lodge. He has held the office of Justice of the Peace for three years, and in politics is a Republican.

**Edwin Meacham**, farmer, section 35, Elba Tp., is a son of Almon and Polly (Kelly) Meacham, natives of Massachusetts and New York, respectively. They emigrated to Ohio in an early day, and resided in Cuyahoga County until their death, in 1852. Edwin was born Nov. 30, 1845, in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, and at the tender age of seven was left an orphan by the death of both his parents. He was cared for by his uncle and aunt, with whom he lived until he was 21. With some money which they gave to him, he came to Gratiot Co., Mich., and purchased 80 acres of land on section 35, in the township of Elba. He has now improved 50 acres of his farm.

March 21, 1870, he was married to Alice A. Crego, the only daughter of Lorin M. and Eliza O. (Stone) Crego, natives of New York. This marriage has been blessed with two children,— Jessie A. and Jennie A.

Mr. Meacham is one of the most respected citizens

of his township, and has held various local offices. In 1871 he was elected Township Clerk, and to that office he was re-elected in 1872 and 1873. He was elected Supervisor in 1881 and 1883, and now represents Elba Township in the Board of Supervisors. He has also been School Director for the past 12 years. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and of the I. O. O. F. Politically he is a strong Republican.

**David Muffly**, farmer, section 3, Hamilton Township, was born in Washington Township, Westmoreland Co., Pa., Dec. 20, 1830. The family removed to Stark Co., Ohio, while David was quite young, and there he resided on the parental farm, attending the common schools and developing into manhood.

In 1850, when 20 years of age, Mr. Muffly left the parental home to fight life's battles alone, and went to Seneca Co., Ohio. He remained in that county five years, until 1855, when, desiring a home for himself and family, having in the meantime married, he came to this State and settled in Hamilton Township, this county. His experiences were those of many others of Michigan's pioneer settlers. Hardship, deprivation and want were his to battle with, and successfully did he wage the war against and vanquish them. He built his log cabin in the woods, and in the erection of the same used only one single sawed board, and that for the door. Here he lived and amid the howling of wolves, the crying of panthers, and with "prowling Indians for neighbors" he entered on the task of clearing his land. Although he had many trials and difficulties to overcome, he experienced some of the joys and pleasures of those pioneer days. He was at the first township election, when almost every man in the township was elected to office.

Mr. Muffly, like many others when the flag of our country was dishonored by the rebel shot at Fort Sumter, went forth to meet the enemy and battle for its maintenance. He enlisted in Co. F, 29th Mich. Vol. Inf. He was in the battle of Decatur (Ala.) and Murfreesboro; and shortly after the last-named battle, while packing and preparing for a

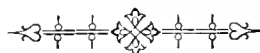
forced march, he was accidentally precipitated into a railroad ditch, and, striking his breast upon the iron which happened to be piled there, so lacerated it and crippled him he was transferred to the hospital. Here his wounds were unprofessionally treated, and he finally received his discharge on account of disability and returned to his family.

Mr. Muffly was married Jan. 11, 1854, to Miss Delilah Street. Seven children have been born to the union, namely: Rufus S., Martha J., James C., Vilda, Arminia, David S. and Francis M. The father and mother are both members of the Christian Church.

**J**ames Griffith, farmer, section 5, Emerson Township, was born in Chemung Co., N. Y., Dec. 3, 1837, and is the son of Lewis and Hannah (Boyer) Griffith, natives of New York State. The father is now a resident of Lenawee Co., Mich., and the mother died in New York State in 1839, when James was only two years old. Two years after that event he came with his father to Michigan and settled in Lenawee County. Being among the early settlers of that part of the State, they had to perform the toilsome work of clearing and improving a new farm, and James passed many more days at work than at school. At 19 years of age, obtaining his father's permission to look out for himself, he commenced as a common laborer. In 1860 he came to Gratiot County and located 120 acres of wild land on section 5, Emerson Township.

Aug. 17, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Co. G, 5th Mich. Vol. Cav., and went to the Army of the Potomac, where he served under Gen. Phil. Sheridan. He was an eye-witness of the famous ride to Winchester by that commander. He fought at Cold Harbor, Winchester, Cedar Creek, and numerous lesser engagements. He was honorably discharged in June, 1865, having served in the field nearly three years. Returning home to his farm he kept bachelor's hall for seven and a half years. March 6, 1873, he formed a life partnership with Emeline Decker, born in Ontario Co., N. Y., May 16, 1844. This union has been blessed with four children.—Sarah P., Lewis, Maud and James K. Mr. Griffith has im-

proved 70 acres of his farm, and has a fine dwelling and barn. He is considered a skillful farmer, and as a citizen is very popular. He has been Assessor for 12 years, and has also been Overseer of Highways. Politically he is a Republican.



**D**avid Reichard, farmer, section 6, Ithaca Township, was born in Ashland Co., Ohio, Nov. 28, 1847, and is a son of John A. Reichard, deceased, a native of Pennsylvania. There our subject lived, assisted his father on the farm, attended the common schools and developed into manhood.

In 1865 Mr. R. left the parental home, to battle against the trials of life single-handed and alone, and came to this county, where he arrived in the spring of that year, and where he has ever since resided. He first settled in Fulton Township, where he remained 11 years, and then went to Ithaca Township, where he is now living, the occupier and owner of 115 acres of fine land.

Mr. Reichard was married March 9, 1869, to Miss Mary, daughter of Edward Waggoner, of Ithaca, and two children have been born to their union, namely: John E. and Orill.

Mrs. Reichard was born in Springfield, Jefferson Co., Ohio.



**N**orman L. Higbie, M. D., physician and farmer, section 35, Elba Township, is a son of Oliver H. and Esther (Randall) Higbie, natives of New York. They lived in that State, on a farm, till the end of their lives, which came for Mr. Higbie in 1848, and his wife in 1858. Norman L. was born in Delaware Co., N. Y., Feb. 16, 1832. At the age of 18 he left home, and for the ensuing eight years he was engaged in teaching school, with the exception of two years, during which he attended at Rondout Seminary, Ulster Co., N. Y., and two years at New York Conference Seminary, at Charlotteville, Schoharie Co., N. Y. During this time, too, he was studying the profession of medicine. In May, 1854, he came to Ann Arbor,

Mich., and afterwards he went to Iowa; then returned to Ann Arbor. Thence he went to Plymouth, Wayne County, and practiced medicine for two years. In the practice of his profession, he also spent one year at Jackson and one year at Howell. He then spent two years in the South for his health. Returning to Michigan, he practiced medicine in Jackson County from 1861 to 1874. His health then failed him, and he was compelled to retire from active practice. Jan. 12, 1875, he arrived in Gratiot County, and located on the southeast quarter of section 35, Elba Township. He has since added 40 acres to his farm.

In 1856, he was united in marriage to Jane Horton, who was born in Rensselaer Co., N. Y., May 31, 1832. She was the daughter of Joseph and Elmira (Marks) Horton. Mr. Horton was born in New Lebanon, Columbia Co., N. Y., April 7, 1807; and Mrs. Horton was born July 13, 1808. Dr. and Mrs. Higbie are the parents of six children,—George L., Joseph E., Alice J., William H., Myra A. and Alfred.

They are active members of the M. E. Church. Dr. Higbie was chosen Superintendent of Schools in his township in 1875, and again in 1877, and he is now the health officer of his township. In politics he is a Republican.



**W**illiam Martin, farmer, section 13, Washington Township, is a son of Henry and Sarah (Bugg) Martin, who were of English descent, and who came to America in 1835.

They landed at New York July 3, and came direct to Washtenaw Co., Mich. They located on 80 acres in Dexter Township, where Mr. Martin died Nov. 26, 1844; and Mrs. Martin in December, 1859. At the age of 21, William Martin commenced to make his own way in life, and engaged in farming. The same year, he was married to Fanny, daughter of Michael and Fanny McCabe, natives of Ireland. They came to America at an early day, and are now both dead.

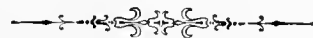
Mr. Martin came to Gratiot County in 1856, and settled on 32 acres on section 13, Washington Township. He married for his second wife Harriet Miles. By his first marriage he has four children, and by his second, 11. In his township Mr. Martin has been

Constable five terms, Justice of the Peace two terms, and School Assessor three terms. Politically, he has always been a supporter of the Democratic party.



**W**illiam D. Letts, farmer, section 35, Elba Township, is a son of Edward and Mary (Galligan) Letts, natives of New York and Michigan. They were married in Clinton County in 1851. In 1856 they located on 80 acres on section 35, Elba Township, then in its primitive wildness. They now have 70 acres well improved. During their first years here, almost their only companions were the wolf, the wild-cat, and other denizens of the forest. They often built fires to keep the bears away from their calves and pigs, and occasionally they would take the dinner horn and call the wolves to their door. Mrs. Letts was the first white person to go from her neighborhood to Chesaning, making the trip of 18 miles through the wilderness alone.

The subject of this sketch was married at the age of 24, to Vora Dunlap, the eldest daughter of Andrew and Mary (Coryell) Dunlap, and who was born April 4, 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Letts are the parents of two children,—Leroy D., born Nov. 16, 1880, and Floyd L., born Aug. 2, 1883. Mr. Letts is politically a Republican. He has held the office of School Inspector for a number of terms, and is one of the energetic young men of the county.



**J**ob C. Wolford, farmer on section 33, Sumner Township, is a son of David and Laverna (Conger) Wolford, natives of New York. The father was a mason and shoemaker while in New York State. After moving to Michigan in April, 1858, he engaged in farming, which he followed until his death in 1867. His wife is still living in this county.

Job C., the subject of this biography, was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Sept. 19, 1843. When he was 12 years old, the family moved to Indiana, and two years later returned to Cayuga County. After another year, they came to this county and settled in New Haven Township. Here Job worked for his

father until the spring of 1864. March 24 of that year, he enlisted in Co. K, 21st Mich. Vol. Inf. He served as a private in the Army of the Cumberland under Gen. Sherman, for 14 months, and fought at Chattanooga, Bentonville and Goldsborough. At the last named place, March 29, 1865, he was wounded, while on a charge, by a ball which penetrated his right thigh. By this he was not permanently injured. He was honorably discharged May 23, 1865.

Returning home, he purchased 80 acres on section 33, Sumner Township, heavily timbered, and set about making himself a home. March 25, 1866, in North Shade Township, he was married to Miss Emily A. Dean, daughter of Amos and Betsy (Grant) Dean. She was born Aug. 1, 1843, in Yates Co., N. Y. Her father was a farmer and died June 26, 1858. Her mother resides with her daughter, enjoying good health and being quite active, although 76 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Wolford have a family of three: Judson E., born Oct. 28, 1867; Jessie E., April 3, 1874; Cora V., Nov. 26, 1877.

Mr. W. has nicely improved 60 acres of his original 80, and has added 40 acres, also improved. He is a member of Elm Hall Lodge No. 257, F. & A. M. He has held the office of School Director, and in political sentiment is a Republican.

**B**erlin J Sprague, merchant at Martin's Corners, Washington Township, is a son of Beriah and Maria (Sweet) Sprague. Beriah Sprague was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., in 1815, and died in this county, Dec. 9, 1883. Maria (Sweet) Sprague was born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., in 1819, and is still living, in Gratiot County.

The subject of this sketch was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., July 12, 1841, and remained with his parents until 21 years old. He then taught, and worked on a farm for a time. He taught altogether 10 terms of school, six of which were in Gratiot County. Nov. 27, 1867, he was married to Emeline I. Noble, daughter of James and Isabella (Laidlow) Noble, of Scotch descent. They came to America and located in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., where they followed farming, and where their daughter Emeline was born Aug. 5, 1845. In 1869, Mr.

Sprague came to Gratiot County and purchased 40 acres on section 16, Washington Township. This farm he afterwards sold, and for one year he was out of employment. In 1881, he started the store he now has, at Martin's Corners. He has been School Superintendent for five years, and in 1882-3 was Supervisor of his township. Politically, he is a zealous Republican.

**F**rederick L. Coss, merchant at North Star, and resident on section 15, North Star Township, was born in Delaware Co., N. Y., Aug. 27, 1842. He is a son of Peter Coss, of North Star Township, who came here with his family in 1867.

Mr. Coss came to this county the same year as his father, but located at Pompei, where he was engaged in the mercantile business until 1869, when he moved to Ithaca, where he lived 11 years; thence to North Star, and established himself in the same business. He carries on a general mercantile business, has a stock sufficient to meet the requirements of the neighborhood and is having a good trade.

Mr. Coss enlisted in the late civil war, enrolling in Co. A, 56th Pa. Vol. Inf., and participated in the battles of second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg (both battles), Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and others.

Mr. Coss has been united in marriage twice. He was first married Feb. 14, 1867, to Mrs. Louisa Swift, of North Star Township, who had by her first husband two children, Emma J. and Adelaide (Savage), deceased. He was again married July 4, 1883, to Alice J. Craun, of North Star. Politically, Mr. Coss is a staunch Republican.

**D**aniel Gower, farmer, section 30, Elba Township, is a son of John and Polly (Bowker) Grower, natives of Pennsylvania and New York. They are residents of Tompkins Co., N. Y., where Mr. Gower is a farmer. Daniel was born Sept. 1, 1843, in Tompkins County. Leaving home in the second year of the war, he enlisted Sept. 1, 1862, in Co. K,



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Third New York Artillery, and was first sent to Newbern, N. C. He then served in South Carolina for three months, and then returned to Newbern. In March, 1864, he came home on a furlough, after which he reported again at Newbern. He was in the battle at Ross' Mill, N. C., Nov. 2, 1862; Kingston, Dec. 14, 1862; White Hall, Dec. 16, 1862. In the latter engagement he was wounded in the chest by a shell. He was mustered out at Richmond, June 1, 1865, and finally discharged at Syracuse, N. Y. After leaving the service he worked on a farm by the month, and also by the year.

In 1868, he was united in marriage to Mary A., daughter of John and Elizabeth (Chester) Allen, natives of Steuben County, and Cayuga Co., N. Y., respectively. Mr. Allen is a farmer and resides in Illinois. Mrs. Allen lives in New York State. Mr. and Mrs. Gower came to Ingham County, this State, immediately after marriage, and a year later they moved to this county, locating on section 30, Elba Township. After seven months they went into the pine woods of Hamilton, where they lived three years. They then lived four years in New York State and one year in Cook Co., Ill., when they returned to their farm in this county. They have a family of three children: Edward W., Henry A. and Bertha I. Mr. Gower has held the office of Drain Commissioner, Assessor and Director. Politically he is bound to no party, but votes for the best man.

**E**lisha C. Cook, farmer, section 31, North Star Township, was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., March 3, 1818. His parents were Nathan and Chloe (Cobb) Cook, natives also of that State. The latter dying in 1824, the bereft husband came to Michigan, settling in Livingston County, and afterward in Gratiot County, where he made his home with his son Elisha until his death, in the former county, while on a visit there, at the age of 88 years. While residing in this county he hewed the timber for the Presbyterian church which now stands on section 31.

In his early life Mr. Cook, the subject of this sketch, attended school, one year of the time the

Graton Academy, in Tompkins Co., N. Y. He acquired the trade of carpentry, mostly by working with his father, who was a millwright. Mr. C. followed his trade for 20 years. At the age of about 23 he left home and pursued his vocation a number of years in Clinton Co., Mich. In 1852 he went overland to California, where he remained three years, with great benefit to his health, though not meeting with the pecuniary success which he had expected. Returning to Clinton Co., Mich., he followed his occupation several years, teaching school during the winter seasons.

In the spring of 1858, he came with his family—which then comprised a wife and one child—to Gratiot County, and purchased 100 acres of wild land, on section 31, North Star Township, where he now resides. He has since added 80 acres to his estate, and now has 100 acres in a good state of cultivation. On his arrival here he built a rough board house, which the family occupied until January, 1871, when they moved into their present fine residence. Mr. C. has also a fine equipment of barns, etc., upon his farm, and his present circumstances give evidence of industry, economy and prosperity.

Mr. Cook was married July 19, 1855, in Clinton Co., Mich., to Miss Margaret, second daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Berdan) Lott, natives of New York State who settled in Wayne County, this State, in an early day, and three years afterward moved to Clinton County, where they resided the remainder of their life. Mr. and Mrs. Cook have had five children, three of whom survive, as follows: Fremont H., born April 19, 1856; Harriet L., Feb. 4, 1867; and Carrie V., July 22, 1870. Milan, born Aug. 4, 1862, died Feb. 24, 1863; and Ida E., born Jan. 8, 1860, died March 13, 1883.

Politically, Mr. C. is a Republican; and he has held the offices of Sheriff, 1868-72, Supervisor of North Star Township, one year, and Township Clerk, and takes considerable interest in school affairs. He is a member of the M. E. Church and of the Masonic Order.

We take pleasure in giving Mr. Cook's portrait on a preceding page, as he is not only a representative man and worthy citizen of the county of Gratiot, but also one who has proved faithful in all the public official relations in which his fellow citizens have seen fit to place him.

**S**ammel M. Scott, merchant, resident on section 22, North Star Township, was born in Essex Township, Clinton Co., Mich., Feb. 13, 1849; his father, named also Samuel M., was a native of the State of New York, and is now deceased. The subject of this sketch was brought up on a farm and educated at the common school and at Eastman's Commercial College at Poughkeepsie, New York. He afterward clerked for about 12 years in Nelson & Barber's store at Ithaca, and came to his present location in June, 1883, and established a store, where he keeps a full line of general merchandise, and has a successful trade. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and was for two terms Clerk of Newark Township.

Mr. Scott was married Nov. 10, 1878, to Miss Celia J., daughter of A. W. Belding, of this township. Their three children are, Lela A., Grace R. and Ola A.

**E**wel Smith, grocer, Wheeler village, Wheeler Township, was born May 1, 1852, and is the son of John H. and Jane (Castimore) Smith, natives of New Jersey. The father was by profession a millwright, and removed to Trumbull Co., Ohio, in 1845. He came to Gratiot County in February, 1863, and located on section 34, Wheeler Township. He entered 160 acres of land, of which he had improved 50 at the time of his death, March 6, 1872. Mrs. Smith died Feb. 14, 1882.

Newel was married at the age of 18 to Sarah, the daughter of Richard and Sarah A. Ellsworth, natives of New York. She died March 16, 1880, leaving two children,—Nina J. and Amy E. Oct. 12, 1881, he was again married, to Jane, the third daughter of Thomas and Ellen (Thurlow) Wordel, natives of England, but now resident of Canada. By this second marriage Mr. Smith has one child,—Nellie M.

Mr. Smith drove the first ox team to Saginaw from this part of the country. He has been very popular among his fellow citizens, has held several local offices, and has never been defeated for any office for

which he has been nominated. In the spring of 1875, he was elected Justice of the Peace, which office he held two terms. He was chosen Supervisor in 1876, to which office he was also re-elected several times, and he has been Supervisor altogether six years. In politics he is a Democrat. He is a member of St. Louis Lodge, No. 188, F. & A. M.

**J**ohn W. Smith, farmer, section 28, Elba Township, is the second son of Dewey and Phebe (Davis) Smith, natives of Vermont and Ohio, respectively. He was born March 5, 1846, in Wells Co., Ind., and at the age of 22 he left his father's farm to make his own way in life. For about 10 years he worked at lumbering. He was married in 1873 to Belle, daughter of John W. and Christina (Covert) Sutphin. She was born Dec. 27, 1856, in Livingston Co., Mich., and came to Elba Township in 1874. They are the parents of one son,—Dewey D. Smith, born Feb. 20, 1878.

Mr. Smith's father purchased 160 acres in Elba Township, in 1858, of which he, John W., now owns 80 acres. In 1879, he erected his large and well arranged barn. He is now actively engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was elected Township Clerk in 1877, and held that position for four years in succession. In 1880, he was chosen Township Treasurer, which office he filled two terms. He is a member of Maple River Lodge, No. 76, I. O. O. F. Politically, he votes the Republican ticket.

**E**uther J. Dean, farmer, section 15, North Star Township, is a native of the Empire State, where he was born Dec. 11, 1831. His father, Sether, was a native of Pennsylvania, and removed with his family from Alleghany Co., N. Y., to Hillsdale Co., Mich., in the fall of 1842.

Mr. Dean came to Gratiot County in 1855, entered 160 acres of land, and assisted his brothers to clear a piece of land and build a house for their father's family. He taught school the first winter, returned to Hillsdale County in the spring of 1856,

and May 13 following married Miss Lucy, daughter of John McBride, now deceased. He came with his bride into this wilderness and commenced housekeeping amid the privations and untoward obstacles of pioneer life. He finished his house and continued hard work until he made for himself and family a comfortable home. He owns at present 82 acres of good land, and is engaged in general farming. Within one year after he was married he lost his house and all the contents by fire. This was a severe blow, but he was not the man to give up the ship of life on that account.

By his first wife Mr. Dean had three children, namely: Herbert E., deceased; Effie M., now the wife of Frank P. Walker, of Ithaca; and Arthur J. For his present wife Mr. Dean married Mrs. Elizabeth Rowley, Oct. 16, 1882, who had had by her former husband two children, namely: Erastus A. and Ida M.

Mr. Dean, in religious views, is a Baptist; he has been School Inspector several years, and at present is Township Clerk.

They are the parents of one daughter, born Dec. 18, 1856.

Mr. Wooley has been Highway Commissioner in his township for three years. He is a member of Maple River Lodge No. 76, I. O. O. F.; and politically he votes with the Republican party. Mrs. Wooley is an active member of the Free-Will Baptist Church.

**S**eneca Sly, Postmaster, and member of the mercantile firm of Glass & Sly, Elm Hall, is a son of George J. and Samantha (Riggs) Sly, natives respectively of New York and Connecticut. George J. Sly came to Michigan in 1839, and died at Elm Hall, this county, at the advanced age of 72. Mrs. Sly is yet living, at Elm Hall.

The subject of this biography, Seneca, was born at White Oak, Ingham County, this State, Jan. 20, 1842. He worked on the farm, and received a good common-school education, under the care of his parents, until 20 years old. Oct. 18, 1862, he enlisted in Co. B, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., under the command of Col. Nathan Church, and was sent to the Army of the Potomac. His corps was occupied in the defense of Suffolk, Yorktown and Washington, at which latter place he was discharged for disability caused by disease of the lungs. He was confined to his bed a year. Hearing reports of the healthfulness of Gratiot County, he came here in the hope of improving his physical condition, and engaged as cook in the woods for Fowler & Cleverdon. He was to work "for his board, if he earned it, and more, if he earned it." This work proving beneficial to his health, he began as teamster for the same company. Returning home for a while, he came again to Sumner Township, this county, and carried on farming.

In 1877, he engaged as clerk in the store of Blair & Houck, of Elm Hall, which position he held four years. During this time he was elected Township Clerk, which office he filled with credit four years. For a year more he was in the store of Mr. Beeson. In 1882, he established a grocery of his own, being about the same time Justice of the Peace. He has recently taken a partner, and the firm is now Glass &

**I**saac Wooley, farmer, section 34, Elba Township, is a son of James and Margaret (Chandler) Wooley, natives of New Jersey. James Wooley was by occupation a shoemaker. He came to Gratiot County in 1855, and entered 320 acres of Government land on section 34, Elba Township. He subsequently gave each of his sons 80 acres, and he is yet alive, at the advanced age of 93. Isaac Wooley was born Feb. 17, 1829, in the State of New York. At the age of 20 he left home to work for himself, and, going to New York State, he was engaged in farming for six years.

Sept. 4, 1855, he was united in marriage to Martha Whitney, daughter of William E. and Mary (Scott) Whitney, natives of New York. Mr. Whitney was born in Ontario County, and was a minister of the gospel. Mrs. Whitney was born in Niagara County. Mr. and Mrs. Wooley remained in Ingham County, where they were married, until 1859, and then removed to Gratiot County. They settled first on 100 acres, but, afterwards selling 20 and buying 15, they now have 95 acres, of which 57 are well improved.

Sly. He was appointed Postmaster in July, 1882. He is also a Notary Public, having been appointed soon after he came to Elm Hall.

Feb. 22, 1866, at Elm Hall, he was married to Miss Mary I. Boyd, daughter of John and Elizabeth Boyd, natives of Pennsylvania, where also the daughter was born, in February, 1846. She afterwards came to Ohio, and then to this State, where she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Sly have a family of five: Ettie A., Hattie B., Libbie, Fred A. and an infant. Mr. S. has been an active Republican since the organization of the party. He is J. V. C. in the G. A. R. post at Elm Hall, and he and wife are attached to the faith of the United Brethren Church.

**J**ohn Mull, farmer on section 5, Emerson Township, was born in Yates Co., N. Y., May 26, 1810, and is a son of Christopher and Catharine (Bussard) Mull, of German descent and natives of Pennsylvania. They followed farming, and died in Livingston Co., N. Y., in 1864, the father aged 90, and the mother aged 88. John came, when very young, with his parents, to Canandaigua, Ontario Co., N. Y., and three years later they removed to Mt. Morris, Livingston Co., N. Y. In 1826 he went to Nunda, Allegany County, where, Sept. 18, 1832, he was married to Eliza, daughter of Joel and Patty (Tuttle) Knapp, natives of Connecticut, and of New England parentage. The former was a tailor by trade. They died in Livingston Co., N. Y., the one Aug. 12, 1855, aged 73, and the other April 11, 1864, aged 88. Eliza was born in Rockland Co., N. Y., on the banks of the Hudson, Jan. 29, 1807. When seven years old she went with her parents to Phelps, Ontario Co., N. Y., and later to Ossian, Livingston County, where she was educated and married.

Shortly after that event they went to Trumbull Co., Ohio, where he engaged in turning wood plates, at that time very fashionable in that country. Two years later, in the fall of 1833, he returned to New York and farmed for nine years. Going once more to Ohio, he resumed his former employment of making wooden dishes. In the fall of 1846 they came to Lenawee Co., Mich., and farmed for five years. Their next move was to Mason, Ingham County, and

in March, 1861, they came to Gratiot County and settled on 40 acres on section 5, Emerson Township. Mr. Mull has since added 40 acres, and has made excellent improvements.

March 25, 1864, he enlisted in Co. C, 2d Mich. Vol. Inf., and was sent to the Army of the Potomac. He participated in five active engagements, among them Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864. While supporting the battery he was compelled to sit within a few feet of the cannon's mouth, which caused the loss of hearing in the right ear, and seeing in the right eye. He was also in the battle of Yellowhouse Station, Aug. 19, 1864, and in the battles in front of Petersburg, where he was captured March 25, 1865, just one year from his enlistment. Five days later he was paroled, and he received an honorable discharge June 12, 1865. Returning home, he has since devoted his time to his farm and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Mull have had eight children, of whom five are living,—Ann A., born Aug. 11, 1837; Harriet N., Jan. 21, 1842; Mariah E., March 17, 1844; Jennie M., Jan. 3, 1847; John S., Oct. 13, 1849. The three not living are as follows: Joel F., born Nov. 25, 1833, and died July 10, 1858; William H., born April 23, 1840, and died in the service of the United States, at Farmington, Miss., Aug. 14, 1862; and Edwin E., born July 14, 1837, and died Aug. 8, 1883. Mr. Mull has held the office of Justice of the Peace for a number of years, and Highway Commissioner for six years. In politics he is an adherent of the Republican party.

**G**eorge Smith, manufacturer of brick and tile, section 22, North Star Township, was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., Feb. 22, 1837; his father, James Smith, was a native of Cayuga Co., N. Y., and is now a resident of Kalkaska, Mich. He moved with his family to Hillsdale Co., Mich., when his son George was only six years of age, settling upon a farm, where the latter was reared and educated.

The subject of this sketch came to Gratiot County in September, 1869, and, until about five years ago, followed farming. He is now driving a prosperous business in the manufacture of brick and tile, in connection with farming. His land property comprises 116 acres.

Mr. Smith was married Aug. 18, 1860, to Miss Atlanta L., daughter of Erastus Shaw (deceased), who was a native of Rutland Co., Vt. She was born in Tompkins Co, N. Y., in 1840, and came to Michigan, with her husband, in April, 1861. Their children are: Rosa B., deceased, Emma A., Eugene J., Flora V., Addie L., Frank J. and Grant O. Emma A. is the wife of Foshen Hoffman.

Mr. Smith has been Township Clerk, Justice of the Peace a few years, is a member of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, and, with his wife, is in religious belief a sympathizer with the Baptist Church.

**C**harles R. Slaughter, manufacturer and repairer of wagons, Breckenridge village, Wheeler Township, was born in the State of New York, April 13, 1829, and is the son of James and Mary (Voak) Slaughter, natives of New York. The father was a farmer, and also practiced medicine. He moved to Seneca Co., Ohio, in 1841, and died there in 1844. Mrs. Slaughter died in 1871.

The son was 15 years old when he left home as an apprentice to the carpenter's trade, which he has always followed for a livelihood. At the age of 22, he was united in marriage to Ebaline, third daughter of Michael and Hepsoby (Famulinger) Long, natives of Ohio, in which State they followed farming until their death. Mrs. Slaughter died Dec. 27, 1856. He afterwards married Maria A., daughter of Silas T. and Harriet H. Jewell, natives of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Both are now deceased, Mrs. Jewell dying March 14, 1852, and Mr. Jewell April 6, 1869, in Ohio.

Mr. Slaughter came to Gratiot County with his wife in 1861, and settled on section 22, Wheeler Township. He first entered 320 acres, but has now 160 acres. He was the eighth white man in Wheeler Township. His first home was a 10 x 10 shanty, when wild animals were abundant. He often went to Saginaw and fetched on his back provisions for his family. They were obliged to go four miles to church. In spite of such trials they enjoyed to a high degree the peculiar pleasures of pioneer life.

Mr. Slaughter has one child by his first marriage, and four by his second: Del L., Ida H., Sarah L.,

Charlie B. and Nellie M. He is a member of Northern Light Lodge, No. 40, F. & A. M., at South Toledo, Ohio. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party. Mrs. Slaughter is an active member of the M. E. Church.

**E**roydon Cronkhite, retired farmer, section 12, Emerson Township, was born in Hoosac, N. Y., Oct. 17, 1803, and with his parents went to Otsego County two years later. When about 14 years old, the family moved to the "Holland purchase" in Western New York, and he lived there until 1856, when he came to Ionia, Mich. From 1868 till 1881 he lived in Saranac; and then he came to this county to live with his nephew, Albro Curtiss.

March 12, 1825, at Middlebury, N. Y., he was married to Melinda Fisk. She was a native of Warsaw, N. Y., in which State she was educated. Mr. Cronkhite was the oldest of 12 children, and had himself four children, two of whom are living: Jerome, married and living in Illinois; George, a resident of Pullman, Ill., and an overseer in the car-shops of that place.

He is a member of the Baptist Church at Saranac, Ionia County. Politically, he was always a Whig, during the life-time of the Whig party; and now he is a firm Republican.

**W**illiam H. Morrison, farmer, section 31, Elba Township, is a son of William F. and Rebecca (Smith) Morrison, natives of Cayuga Co., N. Y. Mr. Morrison was by occupation a cabinet-maker, and resided in the State of New York until his death, in 1840. Mrs. Morrison removed to Michigan, and died in Eaton County in 1876. The son, William H., was born Jan. 14, 1831, in Orleans Co., N. Y. His father dying when he was nine years of age, he went to live with his uncle, remaining five years. For the next few years he attended school and worked for his board in the winters and labored on the Erie Canal in the summers. He then went to Tompkins Co., N. Y., and learned the blacksmith trade. In 1869,

he came to Gratiot County, and located on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 31, Elba Township. This was at that time all wild land, but he has now 65 acres well improved.

At the age of 23 he married Mary E. Luttenton, daughter of Almon and Livonia (Blanchard) Luttenton, natives of Orleans Co., N. Y. They came to Wayne Co., Mich., in 1839, and located on a farm, where Mr. Luttenton died April 10, 1844. Mrs. Luttenton died in the State of New York, Sept. 12, 1869. Mary E. was their third daughter, and was born March 9, 1834. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison have had nine children, as follows: William J., Dwight S., Der J., Rebecca M., Almon L. (drowned in a barrel July 6, 1869), John W., Alma L., David F. and Mary E.

Aug. 19, 1861. Mr. Morrison enlisted in Co. F, Third New York Cavalry. With his regiment he participated in the engagements of Ball's Bluff and Edwards' Ferry, and was with Banks' expedition into the Shenandoah Valley. At Elizabeth City, N. C., he was wounded by a musket ball, which he still carries in his body. He also fought at Roanoke Island, and other places, and was finally discharged Aug. 28, 1865.

In 1869, he was elected Supervisor of Elba Township; and he has been School Director for a number of terms. He is a member of Genesee Lodge, No. 24, I. O. O. F., and affiliates with the Republican party.

**S**heldon Wight, of the firm of S. & M. Wight, of Sickels, and whose biography we are pleased to give as a representative man of Hamilton Township, was born in Lorain Co., Ohio, April 22, 1847, and is a son of Leonard Wight, of Van Buren Co., Mich., a native of Rochester, New York.

Mr. Wight's education was acquired in the common schools of his native county, which he attended, and lived at home, developing into manhood. At the age of 20 years, in the fall of 1867, he left the parental hearthstone and went forth to battle against the trials and troubles of life alone, or rather in company with the life companion he had chosen a year previous, and came to this county. He settled on the west half of the southwest quarter of section

4, Hamilton Township, where he has resided 16 years, and is at present living.

Mr. W. established his present business in the fall of 1881, and in 1883 admitted his brother as a full partner. The business, a planing mill and repair shop, is a prosperous one; it is run by steam power; they have a large single surfacer and matcher, and a small surfacer for moulding and siding; and they principally manufacture sleighs, and do a general repair business.

Mr. Wight was united in marriage to Miss Mary, daughter of Abraham Weaver, deceased. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. W., namely: Charley, Alma, Florence, Freddie and Bertie.

In addition to his business, Mr. W. devotes considerable of his time to the cultivation of his farm, consisting of 80 acres, less six acres incorporated in the village of Sickels, and also to an apiary, and prides himself on his success in the last named business.

Mr. Wight was a soldier in the late civil war, enlisting in Co. F, 6th Mich. Cav., was in Kilpatrick's raid toward Richmond, battles of the Wilderness, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill, Five Forks, and others, and likewise in all the charges immediately preceding Lee's surrender. After the grand review at Washington, D. C., his regiment was ordered to Powder River, Montana, and built Fort Reno.

While at Fort Reno, he was sent as a herder up a ravine about a mile from the fort, mounted on a mule. Seeing a wolf prowling around the herd, he tried his revolver on the animal, but only succeeded in breaking a hind leg. Following the wolf, he emptied his revolver in the chase, and was led about a half a mile over a hill into another ravine. His attention was then suddenly drawn to three mounted redskins, who were undoubtedly hostile in their intentions. Being unarmed, and perceiving that the ravine he was in led to the fort, he took the shortest cut home. He asserts that if he had not had a good mule on that occasion, he would not now be conducting a wagon shop at Sickels.

Later in the fall the regiment was ordered to Salt Lake, Utah, but Mr. W. and a few others were sent to Fort Bridger, where he wintered. He was one of the 53 who marched back "as a command" and were discharged at Detroit, Mich., July 5, 1866. Mr. W. recollects many reminiscences of the "soldier"



life;" and records "that while on Tongue River, in Montana, they were 'corralled' by the Indians. Henry Evans, one of their number, volunteered to attempt the hazardous undertaking of stealing his way through the line of the enemy to the command, for the purpose of procuring aid. He and Sergeant Hall stole forth in the night time, successfully eluded the watchfulness of the redskins, and by traveling in the night, and concealing themselves in the day-time, they reached the command on the third day. Reinforcement soon reached them, and after being corralled for 12 days, they were rescued from their perilous condition."

He also relates that while at Detroit, waiting for his discharge, and stopping at the Wesson Hotel, at about two o'clock in the morning of the 4th of July, 1866, he found himself on the floor of his room, shouting "fire!" He and Henry Evans attempted to escape down the stairs; but these were on fire, and they were forced to jump from the first-story window. This was a narrow escape, and a poor way to celebrate the national holiday.

Mr. Wight is a member of the I. O. O. F., and also of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mason Wight, brother and business partner of our subject, was born in Lorain Co., Ohio, March 2, 1850. He followed the occupation of a farmer until 1883, when he came to this county and engaged with his brother in the business they are now jointly conducting.

He was married, Dec. 16, 1874, to Miss Edith Wright, and five children have been born to the union, four of whom are now living, namely: Lydia A., Laura L., Irvin and Nettie.

He also is a member of the I. O. O. F.

**H**enry W. Myers, farmer, section 19, Washington Township, is a son of Jacob and Magdalena (Walburn) Myers, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Mr. Myers yet lives, in De Kalb Co., Ind. Mrs. Myers died in Seneca Co., Ohio, in 1850. Henry was born Oct. 3, 1844, in Seneca Co., Ohio, and left home at the age of 18. He was variously employed until Nov. 5, 1865, when he married Mrs. Lovina E. McEntaffer, the widow of Timothy McEntaffer, and the

daughter of Jacob and Catharine (Kountz) Echelbarger, natives of Pennsylvania, where they followed farming. They afterwards removed to Ohio, locating in Columbiana County. Their next move was to De Kalb Co., Ind., where they died, both in April, 1878.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers came to this State and county, and located on 51 acres on section 19, Washington Township. He has a fine residence, and a substantial barn. Politically, he has always supported the Democratic party. Mrs. Myers has by her first marriage five children,—Isabel, Lorinda, Byron B., Oliver and Olive (twins).

**A**ndrew J. Hatfield, farmer, section 15, Emerson Township, was born in Medina Co., Ohio, July 11, 1839, and was the son of Jacob and Roxie (Houghton) Hatfield, natives of Pennsylvania and Cortland Co., N. Y. The former went to Ohio when seven years old, and lived on a farm in Medina County until 1862, when he moved to Michigan, and came to Gratiot County. He settled first in Newark Township, and then in Bethany Township, where he died Sept. 28, 1870. Mrs. Hatfield was of Puritan ancestry, and when quite young was taken to Medina Co., Ohio, where she was married at the age of 16. She died March 22, 1841, at the age of 20 years, 10 months and 29 days, leaving two children,—Andrew J. (our subject), and L. Catharine (Shelly), who died in Charlotte, this State, in November, 1881.

Andrew worked on his father's farm and obtained an academic education at Seville, Ohio. When 22 years old, he engaged for a short time in teaching. Nov. 25, 1860, in his native county, he was married to Julia, daughter of John and Barbara (Geisinger) Wydeman, natives of Northumberland Co., Pa., and of German descent. They emigrated to Canada, where they were married, and 15 years later they removed to Medina Co., Ohio, where Julia was born, March 28, 1836. She was educated in that county, and lived at home (her father dying April 26, 1850) until her marriage. Two years after that event Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield came to this State and county and located in Newark Township. He purchased 40 acres in that township. May 25, 1864, he engaged with J. M. Kidd, of Ionia, as agent and collector for their

fanning-mill establishment. This business he followed for 12 years. In April, 1877, he moved to Emerson Township and located on a farm of 80 acres, partly improved. He has it now nearly all in good cultivation, and has a very fine residence, which cost \$3,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield have a family of three.—Emma E., born May 25, 1861 (married and residing in Grand Rapids); William Forest, born Aug. 24, 1862, and Arthur H., born July 21, 1864. They are members of the M. E. Church. He is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 123, F. & A. M. Politically he is a staunch Republican. He has held the office of Deputy Sheriff.

**H**enry Grover, an enterprising farmer, resident on section 2, Arcada Township, was born in Hull, Yorkshire, Eng., Dec. 10, 1844; and is the son of Thomas and Maria (Sherwood) Grover, natives of Yorkshire, Eng. Thomas Grover was by occupation a carriage smith, and came to this country in 1850, locating in New York State. Two years later, he came to Lenawee County, this State, and after a few years there he came to Gratiot County, where he died, at his home on section 2, Arcada Township, Aug. 27, 1877, at the age of 65. His wife now resides at St. Louis, in this county, at the age of 68.

The subject of this sketch came with his parents to New York State, and thence to Lenawee Co., Mich., where he was married, Nov. 28, 1867, to Amelia, daughter of Joseph and Eliza (Clark) Barber, natives of New York. They followed farming, and came to this county, where Mr. Barber now lives, on section 2, Arcada Township. Mrs. Barber is deceased. Amelia was born in Hancock Co., Ohio, and came when five years old with her parents to Lenawee Co., Mich.

Two years after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Grover went to Manistee County, where they farmed for seven years. They returned to Adrian, and three years later came to Gratiot County, settling down on 90 acres of his father's homestead. He is a progressive farmer, and has about half his farm nicely improved. They have five children, as follows: Char-

lie O., born Aug. 25, 1871; Eliza M., Sept. 24, 1873; Clara E., Dec. 31, 1875; Rose A., March 11, 1878; Maria B., Oct. 6, 1883. Politically, Mr. Grover is a staunch Republican.

**D**avid D. Stoddard, farmer, section 10, Washington Township, is a son of Orson and Bathia (Hulbert) Stoddard, natives of Connecticut and New York. Mr. Stoddard, Sr., was born Jan. 1, 1804, while Mrs. Stoddard was born in July, 1810. In 1854, they came to Michigan and located in Wayne County. Soon after, they removed to Gratiot and located on section 11, Washington Township, where Mr. Stoddard died, June 15, 1870, and Mrs. Stoddard, April 21, 1870.

The subject of this sketch was born in Allegany Co., N. Y., April 24, 1830. At the age of 20, he engaged as a farm hand, and worked as such for five years. Nov. 9, 1854, he married Mary Ryan, daughter of Adam and Betsy (McNett) Ryan. In 1856, Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard came to Gratiot, and located on section 11, Washington Township. They afterwards removed to section 10, on a farm of 20 acres. They were among the first settlers of the township, and found no improvements when, amid the snows of winter, they first arrived among the forests of this part of Michigan. They have two children, named Alice F. and Freeman O. In politics, Mr. Stoddard is a Republican. He and wife are members of the U. B. Church.

**J**ames Remaley, farmer, section 2, Hamilton Township, is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Nonnemaker) Remaley, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German and Welsh extraction, both of whom are deceased.

James was born in Northampton Co., Pa., May 19, 1826, and in 1834 accompanied his parents to Trumbull Co., Ohio, where they located. Here he attended the common schools of the county, acquired an education and developed into manhood. In the year 1846, he determined to battle against the trials and struggles of life alone, and came to Eaton

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County, this State, and entered 80 acres of Government land, for which he paid \$100. This land lies two miles north of Charlotte, Eaton County this State, and is now valued at \$100 per acre.

Mr. Remaley remained in Eaton County until the year 1854, when he removed to Hillsdale County, and there lived for 23 years, until 1877, when he came to this county, since which time he has constantly resided here. He owns 250 acres of land, and besides attending to his farming devotes a portion of his winters to lumbering.

Mr. Remaley was married, Feb. 13, 1853, to Susanna, daughter of Eli Føglesang, of Hamilton Township, of German descent, and one of the old settlers of Southern Michigan. Of this marriage seven children were born, six of whom are living, viz.: Elizabeth (Watkins), Mary (Wilber), Geo. A., Alice R., Clara L. and Clarence A. One son, Eli, died in December, 1877, in his sixteenth year.

**W**illiam E. Winton, attorney, Ithaca, is a son of William Winton, who was the son of James and Ann Winton, and was born June 10, 1779, in the parish of Dunning, Perthshire, Scotland. After the death of both his parents, which occurred about the year 1800, having a desire to visit the New World, he took passage at Greenock, May 12, 1802, on board the ship "Draper," of New York, for America; arrived at New York July 4, 1802. He came West into Madison Co., N. Y.; became acquainted with and married Desdemona Leach, of Chittenango, in 1817. He then purchased and settled on a farm at Bridgeport, in the town of Sullivan, Madison Co., N. Y., and about 12 miles northeast from Syracuse, at which place his wife died, April, 1823. To them were born three sons,—James Winton, born Jan. —, 1819, now living at Manchester, Washtenaw Co., Mich.; William E. Winton, the subject of this sketch, born Dec. 17, 1820; and David L. Winton, born Jan. 21, 1823, now deceased, having died at Cohoctah, Livingston Co., Mich., Dec. 17, 1853. He afterwards married a lady by the name of Lana Houser, by whom he had one son and four daughters, all of whom are now dead except Mary, who was born Oct.

31, 1830, and now living between Chelsea and Manchester, Washtenaw Co., Mich.; and Ann, born March 15, 1833, and now of Fairmont, Ill. He came to Michigan in December, 1845, and died at Manchester, Mich., Jan. 21, 1858.

His second son, William E. Winton, enjoyed the advantages of the village school at Bridgeport, during his childhood, his father keeping him during the school vacations at the Chittenango Sulphur Springs for his health. At the age of 13 he went to Albany on a tour of sight-seeing, visiting the museum, theater and places of amusement, and where for the first time he saw a steamboat, as she passed up the Hudson, bound for Troy.

In the winter of 1837, being then 16 years of age, he obtained the consent of his parents, and came to Michigan with the family of Daniel Boutell, and after a journey of 21 days reached their destination, on section 30, in town 4 north, of range 5 east, afterwards organized as the township of Deerfield, Livingston County.

Mr. Winton remained in the family of, and worked for, Mr. Boutell until the age of 21. In the fall of 1839 he returned to the State of New York to transact some business for Mr. Boutell, giving him an opportunity of visiting his father's family, but so changed in personal appearance as not to be recognized by any one of them.

On his return to Michigan, after a month's absence, he induced his younger brother, David L. Winton, to come West with him.

He became acquainted with Sarah Ramsdell in 1840, to whom he was married Nov. 27, 1842. She was the daughter of Noah and Polly (Mary) Ramsdell, then of the township of Tuscola, afterwards changed to Cohoctah, Livingston County. She was born Oct. 2, 1821, at Fairport, some 10 miles east of Rochester, N. Y., from which place her father, in 1828, moved to Waterford, Plymouth Township, Wayne Co., Mich., and built the first flouring mill there.

In 1839 her father exchanged his mill property for a farm of 640 acres in said township of Tuscola (now Cohoctah), where Mr. Winton became acquainted with the family.

At the time of his marriage, his father-in-law, being considerably involved in debt, induced Mr. Winton to take charge of the farm, pay off the debts and save the property, which he accomplished in the

course of ten years of hard labor and strict economy, receiving for such services about 200 acres of the farm; during which time he held various township offices.

On the 22d of June, 1852, he was left a widower by the death of his wife, by whom he had three children: Sarah J. born Dec. 9, 1843; Mary D., born Oct. 10, 1845, and John H., born May 31, 1852. After the death of his wife, he leased his farm and made provisions for the care of his two children then living,—Sarah J. having died of croup Sept. 23, 1844,—and, having had only the advantages of a common-school education, he spent six years teaching, attending school and reading law. August, 1858, he graduated at the State and National Law School at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Armed with his diploma, he went to New York, purchased a law library, and returned to Michigan, and was, Sept. 10, 1858, at Howell, Mich., admitted to practice in the courts of law and equity in this State.

He visited the World's Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in New York, 1853. He visited the United States Military Academy at West Point, July, 1858, where he was introduced to Gen. Winfield Scott, at his headquarters. He attended the celebration of the laying of the first Atlantic cable at New York City in August, 1858.

He received, October, 1858, the nomination for Prosecuting Attorney, on the Republican ticket, in Livingston County, and was, with the rest of the ticket, defeated, the Democrats, who were in the ascendancy, carrying the county.

March 3, 1859, he sold his farm.

April 4, 1859, he was married to Mariette Thompson, daughter of Joseph R. and Mary J. Thompson, of Corunna, Mich. She was born March 15, 1831, in the town of Columbia, Herkimer Co., N. Y. Her father came to Michigan in 1834, and settled on a farm at South Lyon, Oakland County.

Mr. Winton started June 11, 1859, on a prospecting tour, visiting St. Johns, Maple Rapids, Ithaca, St. Louis, Midland City and St. Charles, and returned home. He moved into Gratiot County, and arrived at Ithaca, March 28, 1860, then the county seat, boasting of 15 families all told, and having a weekly mail; a dense forest covered the greater part of the present village, not a road opening to it from any direction.

He was elected Circuit Court Commissioner November, 1860, and was appointed Deputy County Clerk in January, 1861. Having received his commission therefor, he enrolled all persons liable to military duty in the south half of Gratiot County in 1863, and continued in the conscripting business to the close of the war; and was, during the same period, Superintendent of the County Poor, and, as such, had to make provisions for the support of quite a large number of families of the patriotic citizens who had gone to the front to defend the liberties of the country. Such families were provided for at their homes. Mr. Winton made arrangements with John Hicks, of St. Johns, who filled his orders for supplies.

He was elected to the offices of Circuit Court Commissioner and Prosecuting Attorney in November, 1864. He was re-elected Prosecuting Attorney in November, 1866, and was a delegate to the Congressional Convention held at Flint the same year, at which Hon. Randolph Strickland received the nomination. Mr. Winton was also a delegate to the Congressional Convention at Flint in 1868, at which Hon. John F. Driggs received the nomination, and, as was believed by many of the delegates, unfairly; and for that and other reasons, whether founded or unfounded, Judge Isaac Marston, then of Bay City, and William E. Winton, of Ithaca, took the field against Mr. Driggs, defeated him, and Hon. Jabez G. Sutherland was elected to Congress over Mr. Driggs.

Oct. 19, 1868, Mr. Winton, wife and his wife's sister, Mrs. Gilbert, visited the prairies of Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa, and enjoyed the hospitalities of Milwaukee, Chicago, Davenport, Muscatine, Sigourney, Oskaloosa, Des Moines, and returned *via* Iowa City.

He was elected Judge of the Probate Court November, 1872, for the term of four years.

On the 28th day of June, 1876, Mr. Winton and wife, in company with Hon. Wilbur Nelson and wife, left Ithaca for Philadelphia, *via* Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburg, Harrisburg, Washington, D. C., and Baltimore; and on the 4th of July witnessed the nation's grand display. After spending 12 days visiting the Centennial Exhibition, the thermometer varying from 95° to 100°, they returned *via* New York Central & Canada Southern, visiting all places of interest, and reached home in August.



Mr. Winton has been successfully connected with many of the most important suits in the county, both of law and equity. He has an interest in the new bank building known as the "Jeffery, Winton Bank Block," in which he has as good, if not the best law office and library in the county. He was a proprietor of Turck, Winton & Co's. Bank, at Alma, and is now a stockholder in Steel, Turck & Co's. Bank at Ithaca.

He was elected the first President of the village of Ithaca, in November, 1869, and has been a member of the Common Council most of the time since the village was incorporated.

He is strictly temperate, and is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He was brought up a Democrat, but identified himself with the Whigs soon after arriving at the age of 21; became a Free-Soiler, and represented that party in convention at Pontiac, September, 1848, and was chosen Secretary of the Convention. He became a Republican on the organization of that party in 1856, and as such attended the mass convention at Kalamazoo that same year, at which many of the Northern States were represented, and where for the first time he had the pleasure of meeting Abraham Lincoln, our late President.

Mr. Winton relates two incidents occurring on his way to Michigan in 1837. They came overland, *via* Syracuse, Rochester, the Ridge road to Youngstown, crossed into Canada and took the Mountain road. A sudden change to extreme cold, after a rainy thaw, left the road a bed of ice; the vehicle, a covered emigrant wagon; Mr. and Mrs. Boutell and three children seated back, and their oldest son, John, seated in front with Mr. Winton, the driver. Advancing in this condition, six emigrant teams and two loads of Indians following close in the rear, approached the foot of Battle Hill. The road up this was cut into the side of the mountain on the left, a precipice 200 feet deep on the right, with logs laid along the edge, a trifle higher than the dirt line; the snow and ice, then as smooth as a skating rink, had raised the road bed above these logs. The emigrant teams and Indians remained at the foot of the hill, to witness the attempted ascent, which proved nearly successful; but, on reaching the summit, both horses slipped down, the wagon ran back, dragging the horses after it; and as the off hind wheel passed over the edge of the precipice, with immediate destruction

apparent, young Winton made a desperate leap forward, to avoid entanglement with the horses, down this awful gulf, rushing through the shrubs, plunging down the steep declivity with such momentum that his downward course was continued for a hundred feet or more before he had the power to effect a halt. He was greatly surprised, on looking up, to see the wagon above him hanging on the edge of that dreadful pit, in the exact position as when he made that "leap for life."

Hurriedly clambering up the steep, on reaching the road, he was further surprised to find the wagon oscillating on two wheels only; the off front wheel, having dropped slightly in between the log at the edge and the ice, became bound sufficient to hold all fast; the off hind wheel hung over, while the near fore wheel was raised up clear from the road, waiting to go over on the least stir of a horse or person inside. The horses lay as if dead, the family remaining in the same position. Not an emigrant or Indian had stirred. All sat spell-bound, as silent as the chamber of death, until Mr. Winton beckoned (not daring to speak for fear a horse would stir) for help from the foot of the hill. At this, some 20 white men and Indians came rushing frantically to the spot, surrounded the wagon and held it fast, while Mr. Winton assisted the family therefrom; and taking the horses by the bits, they sprang to their feet, and, with the help of men and Indians, took it to the top of the hill in safety!

On arriving at Windsor, opposite Detroit, just as the ferry had made its last trip, a delay was caused of about three days, for the river to freeze over, it being then jammed full of broken ice from shore to shore, slowly moving down the stream from the upper lakes, during which time over 200 families arrived on their way to Michigan. The ice a little below Windsor parted, all above remaining stationary, while that below moved on down to Sandwich before coming to rest, leaving the river open between. The crossing was effected near Sandwich on the new ice formed in this open space, on the afternoon of the third day, the forenoon having been occupied in getting the women and children over from Windsor to Detroit, on foot, the broken ice from the lakes having been thrown into so many strange, fantastic heaps and windrows, reaching up the river for miles, as to render crossing there with teams impossible, and very

difficult to be effected on foot. The ice at and below Sandwich was thrown into heaps similar to that at and above Windsor. The new-formed ice extended from Sandwich up the river about three-quarters of a mile, where the channel was still open. The new ice over the channel was thin and slippery. Great precaution was used by the ferrymen who had charge of the crossing. The ice near the shore being of sufficient strength, the teams were distributed thereon from Sandwich up to within 30 rods of the open channel to avoid two crossing in the same place. The teams were unhitched and the horses led over singly. The loads were got over by hitching a single horse, with about 200 feet of rope, to the end of a tongue. The rider, with hatchet in hand, to cut the rope in case a load broke through, put spur to his horse and crossed at full speed.

Mr. Boutell's wagon being uppermost, brought his crossing nearest the open channel, increasing the peril. He led one horse and Mr. Winton followed with the other some 20 rods behind. On reaching a point opposite this open channel, the wagon went spinning past, when two wheels broke through the new ice; dropping on a large cake of lake ice that had floated under, they bounded to the surface again and passed on; at the same time a violent gust of wind came sweeping up the river, sending young Winton sliding over the smooth ice, at the halter's end, the horse following for some considerable distance towards this open sea, with no power to stop, except by ordering the horse to stand, which the dumb brute obeyed, and by means of the halter got himself back to the obedient animal; and by keeping the horse between himself and the open river, passed beyond danger.

They stayed over night at the "New York and Ohio House," situated on the southwest corner, where Woodward Avenue crosses Jefferson Avenue, which, with the "National Hotel," the "Eagle Tavern," and "Detroit Cottage" (all wood buildings), were the leading inns of that city.

Detroit, then the capital of the State, and one of the oldest cities of the Union, was but the embryo city of to-day. It contained more log buildings than brick; the streets were entirely destitute of pavements, and nearly so of sidewalks, and the place had no railroad communication whatever.

William E. Winton's great-great-grandfather was

the Earl of Winton, whose estate and strong castle was west of Edinburgh. The Earl of Winton, in 1715, then of the age of 25 years, very reluctantly espoused the cause of the son of James II, known as the "Chevalier de St. George," the pretended heir to the English throne. Earl Winton commanded the cavalry and had great influence with the Highlander Infantry. He was, with many other Scottish noblemen, taken prisoner at London, February, 1716; and while many of those Scotch noblemen pleaded guilty to the charge of high treason, Lord Winton pleaded not guilty. He received sentence of death after trial, but made his escape from the Tower. He is frequently referred to in the "Tales of a Grandfather," by Sir Walter Scott, Vol. III, Chapters VIII and IX.

The Wintons are supposed to be of English origin, as their history in Scotland is of modern date, and as the "Statute of Winton" is repeatedly referred to by Mr. Chitty in his Notes to Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England; also by Mr. Greenleaf in his "Law of Evidence," Vol. I, § 349, and by other text writers on the English law. But whatever history may furnish relating to Mr. Winton's ancestry, nothing gives him more pleasure than to know that he is a citizen of the United States of America. He is now making arrangements to visit Europe soon, and especially Scotland, the land of his fathers.

John H. Winton, the only son of William E. Winton, was born May 31, 1852, at Cohoctah, Livingston Co., Mich. He came to Ithaca, Mich., March, 1860, with his father's family. He was kept at school until the age of 18, after which he taught several terms, and attended the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, Mich. He visited the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in the fall of 1876. He read law in his father's office, and was admitted at Ithaca, Mich., April 8, 1881, to practice as an attorney-at-law and solicitor in chancery. He was appointed Village Attorney in March, 1882. He has successfully prosecuted and defended several important suits in law and in equity, and has his office with his father, in the Jeffery, Winton Bank Block, south of the bank, on first floor, Ithaca, Mich.

He became acquainted with Annie Sickels, daughter of William and Isabel B. Sickels, to whom he was married, at the residence of her parents in the village of Sickels, Gratiot Co., Mich., on the 31st

day of May, 1881. She was born at Northville, Wayne Co., Mich., Aug. 10, 1854. By this marriage he has one son, William Winton, born July 21, 1882.

On a previous page appears a portrait of Judge Winton.

**R**dolphus Willert, farmer, section 31, Newark Township, was born Aug. 29, 1844, in Germany. His parents came to the United States when he was 15 years old and settled in Clinton Co., Mich. When he reached his majority, in 1865, he came to Gratiot County and bought 40 acres of unimproved land in Fulton Township. On this he labored three years and exchanged with his brother for another farm in the same township, which he afterward sold and bought 53 acres in Newark Township where he now lives. About 35 acres are under good improvements. Mr. Willert is a Democrat in political principle.

He was married Dec. 3, 1865, in Newark Township, to Louisa, daughter of Lawrence and Mary W. Smith. She was born Sept. 2, 1848, in Livingston Co., Mich. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Willert are Mary W., Frederick A., Alfred T., Lawrence G. and Ira E.

**A**ndrew Call, farmer, section 28, Elba Township, is a son of Sherman and Susan (Randall) Call, natives of New York. Sherman Call was a farmer, and came from New York to Michigan in 1854. Twenty years later he was again induced to travel westward, and accordingly went to Iowa, and thence to Minnesota, where he died, in 1876. His wife died in Wayne Co., Mich., in 1863.

The subject of this sketch was born Dec. 5, 1825, in Onondaga Co., N. Y. At the tender age of nine he commenced to work for himself, and earned the first pair of boots he ever owned. Sept. 15, 1850, in Clinton Co., N. Y., he was married to Mary J. Bradford, the daughter of William and Dorothy (Call) Bradford, natives of Vermont and New York, respectively. This marriage resulted in six children: Mary J., Charlotte M., John H., Elba, Susan M. (died

Aug. 29, 1853), and Sherman (died March 17, 1857). Mrs. Call died Sept. 4, 1877, in Elba Township, this county. Mr. Call located on 80 acres on section 28, Elba Township, in 1855. He has cultivated 75 acres of this. His substantial dwelling-house was erected in 1865.

In 1863, he felt himself *Called* into the service of his country, and he accordingly enlisted in Co. F, 2d Mich. Vol. Cav. He participated in all the engagements of that regiment, and was mustered out at Macon, Ga., though his final discharge was received at Jackson, Mich. Since the war he has been continuously engaged in farming. In January, 1884, he sold his farm, and he has since removed to Elsie, Clinton County.

March 20, 1878, he married Mrs. Fannie A. Eddy, a daughter of Silas Reynolds, a farmer and wagon-maker in the State of New York, where she was born Feb. 26, 1831. She was a widow, and the mother of two children,—Alice Eddy, born April 18, 1857, and Ira A. Eddy, born Jan. 24, 1861. Mr. Call is a member of Maple River Lodge, No. 76, I. O. O. F., and is a straight Republican.

**B**esalom L. Ward, of Ithaca, formerly of North Star Township, was born in Gallia Co., Ohio, March 24, 1832, and was the son of Allen and Sarah (White) Ward, natives of Virginia and North Carolina. He was brought up on a farm and educated at the common school. When a young man he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed until 1854, when he came to this county and settled on his present farm, the northwest quarter of section 11. He also owned and improved the north half of the north half of section 10. Subsequently he erected his residence on the northeast quarter of section 10. He has thus, with true pioneer hardihood and industry, made for himself a comfortable home and accumulated a handsome amount of property, although commencing in the wild woods of frontier life.

Mr. Ward was a soldier in the late war, enlisting in Co. E, 2d Mich. Cav., and serving two years. He participated in the battles of Franklin, Nashville, Lost Mountain, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Mossy Creek, etc.

Feb. 9, 1854, the year of his settlement in this county, Mr. Ward married Miss Clara Criner, a daughter of George Criner and a native also of Gallia Co., Ohio. Of their 11 children seven are living, viz: George A., Lina J., John W., Clara D., Sarah A., Ada A. and Maud A. One daughter, Orpha E., died April 4, 1871, at the age of 16 years. The other deceased were, Dennis L. and a pair of twins,—Elda and Etta.

In regard to religion, Mr. Ward is a member of the Free Methodist Church.

**W**illiam Oliver Watson, farmer on section 7, Arcada Township, was born in Livingston Co., Mich., Dec. 15, 1848; and is the son of John T. and Harriet (Wilcox) Watson, natives of Genesee Co., N. Y., and Batavia, N. Y., respectively. The father was in mercantile life in New York, and came to Michigan in 1834, while it was yet a Territory. He located at Howell, Livingston County, which was then but a "shanty town," and had but a few inhabitants. He first taught school, then filled several county offices in succession, and later became a farmer. He finally removed to Oakland County, where he died, July 15, 1864, at the age of 55, leaving a large family, of which our subject was the seventh. Harriet (Wilcox) Watson came to this State in 1834, after her marriage, and still lives, at Breckenridge, Wheeler Township, this county.

William O. left home at the early age of nine, and went on a farm in Milford Township, Oakland County and afterwards on a farm in Highland Township, same county. He was there educated in the district schools. After nine years, he came to Ithaca. Here he clerked in different stores. Dec. 31, 1874, at Ithaca, he was united in marriage to Ella F., daughter of Dewitt C. and Edna F. (Utley) Chapin, natives of New York State. Dewitt C. Chapin was a prominent citizen of Allegan, Mich., and while there held the office of Probate Judge. He came to this county and lived at Ithaca, where he was Register of Deeds at the time of his death, June 29, 1873. After that sad event, the whole duties of the office devolved upon Ella F., who performed them for two years, until the expiration of the term for

which her father had been elected. She had previously been her father's clerk for two years. Her mother still resides in Pine River Township, at the age of 56 years. Ella F. was born in Allegan, Mich., April 10, 1851; moved to Dewitt, Clinton County, three years later; and at the age of 13 came with her parents to Alma, this county. Here she attended the common schools, and she afterwards pursued a course of study at the State Normal School at Ypsilanti. She commenced teaching at the age of 15, and taught for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Watson located on a farm in Pine River Township; and four years later removed to Arcada Township. They purchased 80 acres on sections 7 and 8, and now have 70 acres well improved. They have recently built a neat barn, at a cost of \$500. They have had four children, one now not living: John C., born Jan. 28, 1878; Charles E., born March 17, 1881; Byron, born Nov. 10, 1882; Fred. C., born Jan. 3, 1876, and died March 25, 1876. Mrs. Watson is a member of the Baptist Church at Ithaca. Mr. Watson is a Royal Arch Mason, belonging to Ithaca Chapter, No. 70, and has held several offices in the order. He has been School Director for four years, and is now serving his second term as Township Treasurer. In politics he is an uncompromising Republican. He and wife are people of refinement and education, and stand very high in their community.

**J**onathan Gidley, farmer, section 21, Emerson Township, was born in Morrow Co., Ohio, Jan. 31, 1842; and is a son of Moses and Ruth (Wood) Gidley, natives of New York. They emigrated to Ohio, where they were married and followed farming in Morrow County. When Jonathan was born the country was very new, and as he was the oldest of the family, it was his lot to bear the brunt of the farm work. He was, however, able to attend school to some extent, and hard work, aided by a natural bent, gave him a good grounding, especially in mathematics.

Aug. 30, 1861, he enlisted in Co. C, 15th Ohio Infantry, and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, under Gen. Thomas. He participated in the battles of Pittsburg Landing, Stone River, Chick-

amauga and Chattanooga, and other engagements. He was unhurt during his service, but his clothing was several times penetrated by rebel bullets. He was discharged at San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 25, 1865, and returned to Lansing, whither his parents had removed. He settled near that city, and farmed for a number of years. While there, his father died, Dec. 10, 1866, at the age of 51. His mother still resides near Grand Ledge.

Nov. 15, 1868, in Morrow Co., Ohio, he was married to Sarah A., daughter of George and Nancy (Odell) Green, natives of Virginia. They were of German descent, and followed farming. The daughter was born in Marion Co., Ohio, Aug. 4, 1840, and at the age of 15 went to Morrow County to reside with a married sister. Mr. and Mrs. Gidley came to Lansing, and in the spring of 1880 to Gratiot County, settling on 80 acres of timbered land on section 21, Emerson Township. He has now 20 acres cleared, and has built a comfortable house, at a cost of \$800. They have a family of three children: George O., born Sept. 18, 1869; Cora E., Oct. 28, 1870; and Nellie M., Aug. 22, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Gidley are members of the M. E. Church. He is a member of Emerson Lodge No. 375, I. O. O. F., and is now Secretary of that body; and he is also a member of Moses Wisner Post No. 101, G. A. R., at Ithaca. He holds the office of Drain Commissioner in his township, being elected in 1881. In politics he is an earnest Republican.

**B**enjamin F. Benson, farmer, section 19, Lafayette Township, is a son of Benjamin H. and Rachel (Brown) Benson, natives of New York and New Jersey, respectively. He died in February, 1869, and she April 6, 1880, in New York State. The subject of this sketch was born in Niagara Co., N. Y., May 15, 1830. He remained on his father's farm until he was 23, when he went to Ohio and engaged in lumbering for about six months. Returning for a short time to his home, he then came to Michigan and worked for a time at various things. The winter of 1855-6 was passed at home in New York. Thence he returned to Michigan. The year 1856 found him in the State of Iowa, where he lived eight years.

In 1864, he was united in matrimony to Malisa C. Holstead, who died the following year. Two years later he came again to Michigan and located in Clinton County, on 120 acres of wild land, of which he improved 80 acres. In 1877 he came to Gratiot County and purchased 149 acres on section 19, Lafayette Township. He has now 80 acres well improved, and the timber chopped from 20 acres more.

He married his present wife April 29, 1866. Her maiden name was Rose Wilhelm, and she was the daughter of Ernest and Fredrica (Curts) Wilhelm, natives of Germany, who emigrated to the New World at an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Benson are the parents of three children,—William P., Ernest E. and Rosa.

Mr. Benson stands very high in his community. He has been Moderator of his school district several terms. As to politics he votes for the best men, regardless of ticket.

**B**ert Woodward, farmer section 30, Arcada Township, is a son of John and Priscilla (Goodspeed) Woodward, natives of New York and of English descent. They carried on farming in the Empire State until 1840, and then emigrated to this State, being among the very first settlers of Allegan County.

The subject of this sketch was born in Leighton Township, Allegan County, June 12, 1848, and remained under the parental roof until 22 years of age. He was educated in the common school, and in his leisure time was employed on his father's farm. Sept. 7, 1869, in Plainwell, Allegan County, he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Helen V. Hays, daughter of Alexander and Harriet (Watson) Hays, natives of New England and of English and Irish descent. Mr. Hays' occupation was that of a blacksmith, and he died in April, 1869. The daughter Helen was born in Waymouth Township, Medina Co., Ohio, and was there reared and educated, living with her parents until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodward followed farming in Allegan County for six years. They then came to Gratiot. After buying and selling several times, he purchased in July, 1882, his present farm of 40 acres, then all timber. He has now under cultivation nine

acres and has erected a comfortable dwelling and stables.

Mr. and Mrs. W. are the parents of eight children, four of whom survive,—Floyd, Gracie B., Hattie E. and Blanche. The deceased are Minnie, Glennie and two babies which died in infancy. The following epitaph was composed by an uncle, for Glennie's grave:

“Over the river so still and cold,  
Glennie, our angel has gone to the fold;  
Sweet little sleeper, your walking will be  
By the river of life and the beautiful tree.”

Mr. Woodward is a member of Alma Lodge, No. 244, F. & A. M. He has held the offices of Overseer and School Director, and is now Justice of the Peace in Arcada Township. Politically he is a Republican.

**D**avid C. Rounds, farmer, section 2, Lafayette Township, is a son of Joseph and Mary (Remington) Rounds, natives of Rhode Island. The father was a sailor and passed 30 years of his life on the sea. He afterwards went to Massachusetts, where he died Aug. 6, 1862. His wife died Sept. 23, 1866. David C. was born Sept. 19, 1836, in Dartmouth, Mass., and was 18 years old when he began to care for himself. For seven years he was employed in getting out live-oak timber in the Southern States. In 1861 he came to Gratiot County and located on section 36, in what is now Wheeler Township, but was at that time unorganized. He lived there eight years, and then came to Lafayette Township and entered 160 acres on section 2. He has now 40 acres of well improved land. He built a neat dwelling house in 1871, and his substantial barn in 1877.

He was married Aug. 22, 1870, to Matilda McKenna, who unfortunately died the following October. He subsequently, June 4, 1871, married Sarah V. Cornell, the widow of Daniel P. Cornell. She was born Aug. 9, 1841, in Steuben Co., N. Y., and was the daughter of Bernard and Dorinda (Kennedy) Fox, natives of New York. She bore to Mr. Cornell three children,—Bertha A., Ray and Daniel O. She has lived in Gratiot County since 1857, and

is one of the pioneer school-teachers of the county. Mr. Rounds is one of the most respected citizens of the township in which he lives. Politically he is a Democrat.

**J**ohn W. Smith, farmer, section 28, Wheeler Township, was born Jan. 25, 1846, in Trumbull Co., Ohio, and was the son of Noah and Lucinda (Hudson) Smith, natives of New Jersey and Trumbull Co., Ohio. Mr. Smith was by occupation a carpenter and joiner, and lived in Ohio until March, 1883. He then came to Gratiot County, and now makes his home with his son. Mrs. Smith died May 1, 1875, in Trumbull Co., Ohio.

At the age of 14, John left home and commenced working on a farm. This he followed three years, and then enlisted in the Trumbull Guards, an independent company. They were on duty in the Eastern army, were engaged three times, and after a service of three years and three months, were discharged at Gallipolis, Ohio. Mr. Smith came first to Ionia Co., Mich., and then to Gratiot County, settling on 40 acres, section 28, Wheeler Township.

In 1864, he was married to Charlotte A. Pickett, who was born Feb. 23, 1845, in Trumbull Co., Ohio. Her parents came to Gratiot in 1865, locating on section 2, Lafayette Township. Mr. Pickett was accidentally killed in 1867, while breaking roll-ways on Bad River. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two adopted children: Jennie E. and Wesley O. Mr. Smith is a highly respectable citizen. He has held the office of Highway Commissioner and School Inspector of Wheeler Township. Politically, he is an adherent to the National party.

**E**dmond A. Goodhall, farmer, section 10, North Star Township, son of Edmund Goodhall of Hamilton Township, a native of England, was born in the native land of his father, March 10, 1852. His father, with his family, emigrated to the United States in 1854 and settled in New York. Here Mr. Goodhall remained, assisting in the care of the family, until the

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*Samuel Wheelock*



year 1865, when he accompanied them to this county. He follows the vocation of farmer, combined with that of working in a saw-mill.

Mr. Goodhall was united in marriage, Dec. 22, 1878, to Emma, daughter of Frederick Homister, and to their union have been born one child, Nellie V.

Mr. G. is yet a young man, and being possessed of that element so necessary to success and the accomplishment of aim, has a future not darkened with despair but brightened by pleasant contemplations.

**S**amuel Wheeler, farmer, section 18, Lafayette Township, is a son of Amos and Harriet (Hubbell) Wheeler. They were natives of Connecticut, and followed farming in that State until 1855, when they came to Ingham Co., Mich. They resided in that county 24 years, when Mr. Wheeler died. Mrs. Wheeler died Feb. 15, 1874, in Illinois, at the age of 70 years, 9 months and 15 days.

The subject of this sketch was born Jan. 31, 1826. At the age of 21 he left home, and worked in a cheese factory and on a farm until 1851, when he married Nancy Barger. She was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Feb. 3, 1832, and was the second daughter of Samuel and Barbara E. (Holler) Barger, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler came to Ingham County, this State, in the autumn of 1851, and he was there engaged in farming until May 12, 1857. On that date he came to Gratiot County and settled on 143 acres of wild land. Of this he has cleared 100 acres. In 1867 he erected a large barn,—the third in the township. He also has a fine, large dwelling-house on his place. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler are the parents of six children,—Benjamin F., Clarence L., Dora J., Harriet J., Lucy E. and Amos S.

Politically, Mr. Wheeler has always been a staunch Republican. He was elected Township Treasurer in 1859, and served four years. In 1864 he was chosen Supervisor, and in that office he was retained for six successive years. He is a member of the Masonic Order, belonging both to the blue lodge and to the chapter.

As a representative man of the county, and one deserving the respect, esteem and commemoration of its citizens, we give place to Mr. Wheeler's portrait in this work.

**A**llen Curtis, farmer, section 4, Hamilton Township, was born in the County of Cayuga, State of New York, Nov. 4, 1804. His father, Ashbel Curtis, died while Allen was quite young and he was thrown upon the mercy of others. He lived with his half-brother, Israel Curtis, for a short time and then made his home with his sister, working out for or five dollars a month, for two or three years. In 1825 he went in company with his brother Daniel to Livingston County, his native State, and there entered upon the occupation of a farmer. Here he remained, pursuing his vocation, until 1854, when he came to this State and settled in Oakland County.

In the fall of 1856, Mr. Curtis came to this County and entered 320 acres of land in La Fayette Township. He remained on the land long enough to construct the usual "log cabin" of the pioneer; and in the fall of the same year, when listening to the importunities of his son-in-law he returned to Oakland County and remained until the following spring, 1857, when, accompanied by his family, he returned to Lafayette Township. His experience in establishing a home, clearing and improving the land was similar to those of many others of Gratiot's pioneer settlers. His house was erected in the woods; wild animals and prowling Indians were his visitors. On one occasion, while *en route* to a "raising," Mr. C. killed two bears, and all the men in the neighborhood, after assisting to dress them, were allotted their portion. At another time he was compelled to mortgage his farm to procure a barrel of flour. In fact, trials encompassed him on every hand, yet nobly did he meet and conquer them. He was compelled to cut a road, through the woods, to the location he had selected for his house, and his was the first team that came up the river on the south side from St. Charles, and his settlement was the first made in the neighborhood.

Mr. Curtis was united in marriage Feb. 21, 1833, to Sophia, daughter of Daniel Hamilton. To this union one child, Abigail, was born. Mrs. C., after sharing his trials in the establishment and improvement of their home, died April 4, 1867, mourned as a loving mother, a devoted wife and kind friend.

Mr. C. is a man possessed of a constitution which in earlier days enabled him to encounter an almost

unlimited amount of physical labor. His endurance was exceedingly remarkable, and even now, with 79 winters and summers of wear upon his system, he is not void of activity. In October, 1866, he fell from a house and broke one wrist, and in 1871 he crippled his other hand while fighting fire, which has caused him considerable annoyance in pursuing his vocation.

Mr. Curtis was again married, April 4, 1868, this time to Miss Helen Clunas, daughter of Thomas Clunas, deceased, a native of Scotland. She was born in Upper Canada, Jan. 5, 1833. He settled on his present farm in Hamilton Township, in November, 1868. The township (Hamilton) in which his farm was located was named in honor of Franklin Hamilton, a nephew of our subject and who was "brought up" from the age of seven years by Mr. Curtis.

Mr. Curtis owns 40 acres of land where his home is located, and for over 40 years has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**A**lston H. Maurer, farmer, section 16, Newark Township, was born March 14, 1850, in Hancock Co., Ohio. His father, John Maurer, was a native of Germany; his mother, Louisa (Sage) Maurer, was born in the State of New York. The father died in Hancock Co., Ohio, where he settled after his marriage. The mother resides in Wood Co., Ohio.

At the age of 14, Mr. Maurer began life on his own account, as a farm laborer, and spent six years as an assistant at several points. He then took a farm to work on shares for one year, when he decided to expend his efforts wholly in his own behalf, and in 1872 bought 40 acres of land in Williams Co., Ohio. He retained its possession four years, sold out and in the fall of 1876 came to Gratiot County and bought 40 acres of partly improved land in Newark Township. On this property he has since resided and has nearly all his acreage under cultivation. Mr. Maurer is in sympathy with the Republican party and supports its issues.

He was married Jan. 26, 1871, in Seneca Co., Ohio, to Susan, youngest daughter of Wesley and Sarah (Ebersole) Bradford. Her father was born in Penn-

sylvania, became a soldier in the Union army and yielded up his life on the battle field. The mother was born in Ohio and now resides in Kansas. Mrs. Maurer was born Sept. 25, 1854, in Hancock Co., Ohio. Of her marriage one child was born Dec. 9, 1872—Charles O. Maurer.

**C**harles M. Chaffin, teacher and farmer, resident on section 30, North Star Township, was born in Hancock Co., Ohio, Aug. 29, 1849, and his parents removed with him to Gratiot County in 1854, settling in North Star Township, where he now lives, on part of the homestead; was educated in the common schools and at the State Agricultural College at Lansing; he also attended school at Ithaca several seasons. He has since become a prominent teacher in this county, having now taught school during the winter for the last 12 years, by the most improved normal methods. He also attends normal institutes, and is a member of the Gratiot County Teachers' Association. During the summer he follows agricultural pursuits.

June 25, 1876, Mr. Chaffin was married to Sarah Barnes, daughter of John Barnes. By this marriage one child has been born, Bessie A. Mrs. C. was born in England, and was brought to America by her parents when young, who settled first in Jackson Co., Mich., and came to Gratiot County in August, 1854, settling in North Star Township. Mrs. Chaffin is also a teacher of many years' experience. She attended the Ypsilanti Normal School, and has taught 22 terms in this county.

Mr. Chaffin's father, John W. Chaffin, now deceased, was a native of Virginia, and was born in 1822; was brought by his parents to Wayne Co., Ohio, when six months old, and in 1854, after a residence in different counties, he settled in North Star Township, and therefore was a pioneer here. He was well known as a dealer in live stock and in furs. He married Clara A. Evitts, daughter of Bela Evitts, and had eight children, six of whom are living: Charles M., Homer W., Theodore A., Clara L., Perry F. and Edith L.

Mr. C. died Nov. 10, 1873, a highly respected

member of the United Brethren Church, a generous and charitable citizen, judiciously distributing of his means for the support of benevolent institutions.

**I**saac D. Crippin, farmer, section 23, Elba Township, is a son of Stephen and Lucy (Burns) Crippin, natives of New York. Mr. Crippin's business was lumbering. He died in Illinois, and his wife in Michigan. The subject of this sketch was born in Warren Co., Pa., Sept. 28, 1822, and has followed the noble occupation of farming all his life. In 1838, he came to Branch County, this State, where he lived 18 years. In that county he was married to Martha Havens, the daughter of Thomas and Polly Havens. She died about 1855, leaving one child: Mary J.

He enlisted in Co. D, First Mich. Light Art., Aug. 10, 1864, and was most of the time of his service stationed at Murfreesboro, Tenn., on fortress duty. He was discharged at Jackson, Aug. 3, 1865. After one year passed in the southern part of Michigan, he came to Gratiot County. In 1867, he was married to Miranda, the fourth daughter of Thos. and Rachel A. Davidson. She was born Feb. 22, 1837. Her parents were born in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and were engaged in farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Crippin have two children: Freddie E. and Eva P.

Mr. Crippin is Assessor of his school district, and in politics is a National. He is a member of Elsie Lodge No. 238, F. & A. M., Maple River Lodge No. 76, I. O. O. F., and Major Lusk Post No. 167, G. A. R.

**A**lvin P. Barnaby, deceased, late resident of North Star Township, was born near Sandusky, Erie Co., Ohio Oct. 17, 1821. He was a son of Alvin P. Barnaby, deceased, who moved his family from Ohio to this State and settled in Cass County in 1825. Here our subject lived and developed into manhood, receiving the advantage afforded by the common schools of the county. His inclination being of a mechanical turn, he early applied himself to learning the carpen-

ter's trade, which he soon accomplished, and followed for the greater portion of his life.

Mr. Barnaby was married Oct. 3, 1853, to Miss Esther, daughter of Daniel Bleacher (deceased), and to their union there were born ten children, nine of whom are living: Mary A., Francis E., Flora A., Ezra A., Ulysses S., Perry L., James H., Bertha M. and Daniel V.

Mr. B. enlisted in the late civil war in Co. M, 1st Mich. Cav., and was stricken with disease a few days previous to the battle of the Wilderness and did not convalesce until after the war. Mr. B. and his family came to this county in 1869, and on March 13, 1881, the father died, leaving the mother and her nine children and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his loss.

**G**eorge W. Zimmerman, farmer and stock-raiser, section 25, Arcada Township, was in Lower France, Dec. 16, 1831, and is the son of Michael and Catharine Zimmerman, natives of France and of German ancestry. Michael followed farming, and died in France, at an unknown date. His wife came to the Great Republic in 1847, and is still living, well and strong, at the age of 77, in Jackson County, this State.

When 14 years old, the subject of this sketch set out to learn the harness-maker's trade, being apprenticed near home. After working at this 18 weeks, he came with his mother and relatives to this country, landing at New York. He then went to Philadelphia, and afterwards to Syracuse, N. Y., where he remained two years. He was apprenticed here to a blacksmith, and worked with him until the latter failed. Going to his mother in Buffalo, he lived there with her until she was married, when they all went to live on a farm in the vicinity of Buffalo. Three years later he came to Jackson Co., Mich. Returning to New York after one year, he was united in marriage, in Erie County, Nov. 15, 1853, to Elizabeth, daughter of Martin and Magdalena Marcolf, natives of France and of German descent. The former followed farming, and died in Erie County, Oct. 15, 1882, aged 76. The latter is still living in the same county, at the age of 70. Elizabeth was born Jan. 27, 1836, at Weisenburg, in that part of France now possessed by

Prussia, and when a year and a half old was brought by her parents to America. They settled in Erie Co., N. Y., where she lived until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman came to this State and located near Brooklyn, Jackson County. July 31, 1862, he enlisted in Co. F, 20th Mich. Vol. Inf., under Capt. Warner, and served in the Army of the Potomac. He fought in 16 engagements. He was made a Corporal in 1863, and a Sergeant in 1864, which latter rank he held till the close of the war. He was wounded at Cold Harbor, Va., by a gunshot in the right limb near the ankle. Otherwise he escaped unhurt. He was often honored with special duty, and was honorably discharged in June, 1865. Returning to his home in Jackson County, he shortly after removed to this county, locating on a farm of 160 acres, heavily timbered, in Hamilton Township. After improving 35 acres, he sold, and in August, 1879, he settled on 160 acres of improved land, a mile and a half from Ithaca, in Arcada Township. He has since sold 80 acres to his eldest son, William H., who is married and lives on that tract. He has a fine orchard of 12 acres, mostly in apples.

Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman are the parents of seven children, one dead: William H., born March 15, 1855, Barbara M., Oct. 16, 1856, Lena M., July 22, 1858, David W., May 10, 1866, Emma E., Aug. 27, 1868, James Walter, April 21, 1873, George B., born Aug. 13, 1861, and died May 21, 1880.

Mr. Zimmerman is in politics a Republican. He has held the offices of Township Treasurer, and Overseer of Highways. He is a Protestant, and his wife a Mennonite.

**G**rich Wermuth, farmer and stock-raiser, section 24, New Haven Township, was born in district of Berne, Switzerland, Aug. 10, 1815, and was reared on a small farm and educated in the public school among the mountain fastnesses of his native country. When 15 years old his father died; and as he was the eldest of the orphaned children, much care devolved upon his immature years. By economy and perseverance they accumulated sufficient means to bring them over to the "land of opportunity," in the spring of 1851, when they located in Fulton Co.,

Ohio. Three years later Mr. W. came and "located" 40 acres of land on the section where he now resides. Subsequently he purchased 80 acres more, and of the total 120 acres he has improved 90, reducing it to a good state of cultivation and placing thereon good farm buildings, etc. He is an enterprising and prosperous farmer. In politics he is a member of the Democratic party, and he has held the school offices of his district for 12 years.

In June, 1862, Mr. W. married, in Newark Township, this county, Miss Mary Willet, a German lady who was born in Tellen, Germany, Jan. 22, 1843, and came to this country in 1869, settling with her parents in St. John's, Clinton Co., Mich.; two years later she came to Newark Township, this county.

The four children in this family are: Adolphus, born May 21, 1865; Ellen, May 11, 1868; Frank, April 25, 1872; and Charles, May 15, 1876.

**I**saac N. Coleman, farmer, sec. 30, Emerson Township, was born in Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 2, 1832; and is the son of Isaac and Emma (Piper) Coleman, natives of Germany and New England, respectively. The father was by trade a mechanic, and used tools nearly all his life. Isaac, junior, spent his boyhood days, until he was 12 years of age, in Dayton, when his parents removed to Seneca County and located on a farm in the vicinity of Tiffin. Here he learned the art of arts, farming, and he has followed that continuously until the present time. January, 1853, he removed to Michigan and located in Lenawee County.

Sept. 8, 1853, he was united in marriage, in Litchfield, Hillsdale County, to Louisa J., daughter of David and Louisa (Ketch) Moon, natives of New England. She was born in Niagara Co., N. Y., Nov. 8, 1836; and, her mother dying shortly afterwards, she was adopted by George Perry. She lived with him (he died in 1846) and his wife until her marriage. She had lost all track of her father, and she was 25 years old when, by an accident, she first learned something of her relatives, and found that she was one of a large family of children.

In the spring of 1855 Mr. and Mrs. Coleman came to Gratiot County and settled in Emerson Township. He was one of the organizers of the township. At

that time there were but few families to assist in substituting civilization for the unbroken forest which surrounded them for miles in every direction. Mr. Coleman assisted once in a very romantic and exciting bear hunt, and the party succeeded in despatching a bear that weighed nearly 500 pounds.

July 31, 1862, he enlisted in Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., commanded by Lafayette Church, of this county, and joined the Army of the Potomac. Owing to physical disability brought on by sunstroke and rheumatism, he became permanently crippled, and was honorably discharged March 25, 1865. He had been promoted as Corporal, and had the credit of capturing a fierce rebel by his own efforts.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman have had seven children, six of whom are living: George J., born Sept. 22, 1854; Charlie W., Dec. 9, 1858; Ozro E., Oct. 5, 1861; Sadie E., Dec. 27, 1866; Frank A., July 25, 1869; Ray N., Jan. 31, 1877; Earl, born Sept. 22, 1879, and died July 1, 1883. They are members of the Seventh-Day Adventist society. Mr. Coleman is an energetic and popular man, and has held various local offices. He was the first Justice of the Peace of the township, was Supervisor five years and Treasurer ten years. He has also been Township Clerk, and is now School District Assessor. Politically he has always been identified with the Republican party.

**J**ohn Brauher, general farmer, section 24, New Haven Township, was born in Berne, Switzerland, Nov. 9, 1846, of Swiss and German descent. When two years of age his father died and he went to live with his grandmother, and when eight years of age they emigrated to America and went to reside with his mother in Fulton Co., Ohio, who had previously remarried and settled there.

Mr. Brauher received a good common-school education, and at the age of 14 he accompanied his mother and step-father to this county, locating in Newark Township. They subsequently removed to New Haven Township, where the subject of this sketch lived until his marriage, in Montcalm County, to Miss Maggie, daughter of William A. and Nancy (Stuller) Miller, natives respectively of Maryland and Ohio and of English, Irish and German descent.

Mrs. B. was born in Hancock Co., Ohio, Dec. 17, 1856; when nine years old she came with her parents to Montcalm County, Mich., where she lived until her marriage, soon after which she settled with her husband on 80 acres where they now reside. Mr. B. purchased this tract in 1867, when it was nearly all covered with heavy timber; but he has since cleared and improved 50 acres of it, subduing it to the plow in a fine tillable condition. His prosperity as a farmer is manifest. In regard to national issues Mr. B. is a Democrat.

The living children in this family are Francis, Rosetta, William and Byron A. The deceased is Calvin.

**H**enry A. Shaw, farmer section 11, Washington Township, is a son of Alvin and Jane (Fuller) Shaw, natives of Connecticut and New York. Alvin Shaw has followed farming all his life, and he and his wife still reside in Wales, Erie Co., N. Y. Their son, Henry, was born July 1, 1836, in Java, Wyoming Co., N. Y. He lived with his parents, working and attending district school, until 20 years old, when he commenced working by the month, also attending school a portion of the time. He then bought a farm and commenced farming on his own account.

June 27, 1858, in Wyoming Co., N. Y., he was united in marriage to Louisa, youngest daughter of Spencer and Mary (Trickey) Bryant, natives of Vermont and Canada. They moved to New York, in which State they died, Mrs. Bryant, Oct. 16, 1875, and Mr. Bryant, April 27, 1877. In 1861, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw came to Clinton County, this State, and lived 20 months in Greenbush Township. Returning to New York State, they lived there for nearly three years. Coming to Gratiot County they purchased 80 acres of wild land on section 11, Washington Township. Mr. Shaw has now 65 acres improved. Ever since coming to the county he has been, to some extent, interested in bee culture, and since 1880 he has built up a wide reputation in that business. He has a fine apiary of his own, and, being looked upon as an expert, he is called upon by people from eight to ten miles away to attend to their apiaries. During 18 years he has taken 196 swarms out of the woods.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have had six children, one of whom is dead, and two are married. These latter are: Mrs. Winfield Strouse and Mrs. Hennen Hoffer. The three residing at home are: Grant, Archie and Bertie. Esther died Sept. 7, 1876. Mr. Shaw is politically a zealous Republican. He has been Justice of the Peace for eight years, and has also been School Inspector of his township. He and wife are members of the U. B. Church.



**M**rs. **Laverna R. (Conger) Wolford**, residing on the southwest quarter of section 22, New Haven Township, is the wife of David Wolford, deceased, who was born in Schoharie Co., N. Y., Jan. 5, 1812.

Mr. Wolford was brought up under the care of fond and loving parents, and remained under the parental roof-tree until he attained the age of 23 years. He then set forth upon "the ship of trouble" to fight the battles of adversity which so often are encountered by the ambitious and energetic young men in their journey to prosperity. He left his native county and went to Cayuga County, same State, and was there united in marriage to the subject of our sketch, Dec. 7, 1835.

Mr. and Mrs. W. remained in that county for 15 years, when they moved to Huntington Co., Ind. They remained in the latter county some two years and then returned to New York. Two years afterward they came to this State and located on 160 acres of land on section 22, New Haven Township, arriving here and settling on the land in 1859. At that time the land was in a wild state of nature, and Mr. W. experienced the trials and overcame the obstacles so abundantly met with in the lives of the early pioneers. He was a mason by occupation, and always followed that vocation until he came to this State, when he entered on the arduous though pleasant task of clearing his land and preparing a home for his family, and prior to his death had cleared and improved 40 acres. He died Nov. 10, 1866, leaving a wife and five children, besides many warm-hearted and affectionate friends to mourn his loss. He went out to work one Saturday morning, and did not return. He was found Sunday noon, and the physi-

cians pronounced his death to be caused by heart disease.

Mr. W. was warmly esteemed as a father, friend and neighbor. He was honored with positions of trust, and at the date of his death held the office of Justice of the Peace. Mr. W. was a member of the M. E. Church, also of the I. O. O. F., and in political belief and opinion was a staunch and active Republican.

Laverna R. was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., May 12, 1816, and was reared and educated under the care of her parents, with whom she remained until she was married. Her parents were of German extraction, and lived and died in the State of New York.

Mrs. Wolford retains the original 120-acre homestead in her own name, and is still residing on the same.

The five children born to Mr. and Mrs. W. are as follows: Margaret and Job C., both married; Lucretia, Lewis B. and John W. Lucretia and John W. are living with their mother on the farm which the latter cultivates.

Mrs. W. is a member of the M. E. Church. She is in her 66th year, and enjoying fair health.



**B**orton **Smith**, farmer, section 20, Washington Township, is a son of Parmer and Betsy (Pullman) Smith, natives of the State of New York. Mr. Smith was by trade a cooper. He came to Michigan, but remained only a short time, and then returned to New York State. He died Dec. 3, 1843. Betsy (Pullman) Smith is now a resident of St. Louis, Mich.

The subject of this sketch was born Oct. 18, 1826, in the State of New York. Losing his father when 14 years old he was the main support of the family, including four girls, until he was 30 years old. March 4, 1856, he married Adeline, daughter of Erastus and Julia A. (Coon) Berry, natives of New York. They came to Branch Co., Mich., but after one year returned to New York State, where Mrs. Berry died in 1851, and Mr. Berry in 1859. Dec. 31, 1857, Mr. and Mrs. Smith came to Gratiot County and located on 79½ acres on section 20, Washington Township. This was then wild land, and they were among the

first settlers of the township. Most of their early neighbors are long since dead. At first they located a half mile from any house, but new dwellings have sprung up within a stone's throw of the house. He had to cut a road to his place, and for many years deer could be seen running with his cattle, when he went to bring them home.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have six children: Fred E. and Fanny E. (twins), born in 1857; Frank, born in 1862; Emma, born in 1860; William H., born in 1866; and Clara A., born in 1875. Mrs. Smith is a member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Smith has been Justice of the Peace, Treasurer and Clerk of his township, one term each, and has held school offices a number of times. Politically he is a Republican.

**J**ohn Sweet, farmer, section 29, Emerson Township, was born in Sparta, N. Y., Feb. 26, 1825, and is the son of Amos and Polly (Blighton) Sweet, natives of New England. John was early left an orphan, his father dying when he was very young, and his mother following her husband when the lad was but 12 years old. At this tender age he was left alone to battle with the world, and he went to work for an old friend of his father, in Medina Co., Ohio, where his mother had moved with some friends previous to her death.

In 1845, he was married, in Medina County, to Narina N. White, born in the State of Vermont, July 2, 1827. She died in Spencer, Medina County, in March, 1864, leaving four children,—Lucius B., Lucia A., Isaac and Sophronia E. He was again married in July, 1864, to Mrs. Sophronia Snyder (*nee* White), daughter of William and Polly (Curtis) White, natives of New Hampshire, and descended from New England stock. She was born in Chittenden Co., Vt., Nov. 7, 1826, and at the age of 19 came to Medina Co., Ohio, where she was married the second time. She had four children by her first marriage, two living: Emma E., born Oct. 19, 1843; George N., born July 8, 1845. Hester A. was born Sept. 8, 1841, and died March 15, 1863; Florence I. died Feb. 15, 1858.

Mr. Sweet is a minister in the Baptist Church, beginning early in life, and has always been an earnest worker for that denomination. His wife is also a

member of the Church. He has held the office of Overseer, and is a supporter of the Republican party. He has been a resident of this county for 13 years, and has 60 acres of improved land.

**W**illiam J. Fitzgerald, farmer, section 26, Elba Township, is a son of John and Mary (Berry) Fitzgerald, natives of Ireland, who emigrated to New York in an early day, and engaged in farming. Their son, William J., came to Michigan in 1871. For six years he was engaged with a Mr. Hays, of Ionia County, in the summer as overseer of a large farm, and in the winter as foreman of a crew of hands in the pine woods. In 1881 he came to Elba Township and located on 80 acres on section 26, of which 40 acres are nicely improved.

In 1870 he was united in marriage to Emily, fourth daughter of Oliver and Julia (Miller) Richards, natives of New York. She was born Feb. 4, 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald are the parents of three children: Anna M., Emma B. (deceased), and William F. Mr. Fitzgerald enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens, and was chosen Highway Commissioner for Elba Township in 1883. Politically he is a Republican.

**J**ohn A. Pasinger, farmer, section 24, New Haven Township, was born in Lawrence Co., N. Y., April 1, 1825. His parents were of Dutch descent and lived and died in the State of their son's nativity. The occupation of the father was that of a mechanic, which vocation the son followed in after years.

Our subject remained under the parental roof-tree assisting his father until he attained the age of 13, when he began to learn the trade of a carpenter and joiner, under the instruction of his father, and worked with him at the trade until 18 years of age. He then set out to battle with the trials of life alone, and followed his trade, which he had completed, engaging a portion of his time in a saw-mill and lumber interests in Ontario, in the vicinity of the Ottawa River.

Returning to his native county, he engaged in vari

ous occupations for a period of four years, when he was married in that county, June 17, 1849, to Miss Lucy A. North, a native of the same county as Mr. Pasinger, where she was born June 16, 1829, and where she lived with her grandparents until her marriage.

Six children have been born to their marriage, four of whom, Henry W., Eugene C., Hannah M. and Anna L., are living, and two, Franklin and Orson, are deceased.

After their marriage in New York, Mr. P. followed his trade for some 18 years, also being engaged in the lumber business. In 1865 he came to this State and purchased 80 acres of wild land in Clinton County. He made some improvement on this land and returned to New York. In 1873 he returned to his land in Clinton County, and made a permanent settlement. He added 80 acres to his original purchase and then sold 40 acres, leaving him 120 acres. Of this, he improved 70 acres, erected a house and in 1881 sold the entire tract preparatory to going West to start a new home. Before moving his family, he changed his mind, and came to this county and purchased 140 acres of land on section 24, formerly owned by a Mr. Shepherd. His farm has a large orchard, which is in fine bearing condition.

Mr. Pasinger has held the office of Highway Commissioner and is identified with the best interests of the township. Politically, he is a staunch Democrat.

**D**aniel F. Muscott, retired farmer, on section 12, Emerson Township, was born in Western, Oneida Co., N. Y., March 19, 1811. In this town Gen. Halleck was born, and Gen. Floyd, of the Revolution, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, is buried in the same township. Daniel's father, Nehemiah Muscott, was a native of New Jersey, of Hollander parentage, and was by trade a tanner. A portion of his life, however, was spent on the seas. The mother of Daniel, Hannah (Felton) Muscott, was a native of New York, and of Puritan stock. Both died in Washtenaw Co., Mich., at the age of 67.

The subject of this sketch attended district school and worked for his father until he was 21, when he

began to clear a farm for himself in his native county. He was thus engaged for five years, but during this time, in Rome, N. Y., Sept. 19, 1832, he formed a life partnership with Sobrina Walsworth. She was born in Rome, June 28, 1811, and was the daughter of Asa and Hannah (Dickerson) Walsworth, natives of Rome. A few years after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Muscott went to Sherman Township, Huron Co., Ohio, where they lived until 1854. Then they came to Michigan and lived ten years in Ingham County. In February, 1864, they came to Gratiot County and purchased 160 acres in Emerson Township, shortly after buying 80 acres more. He now has one of the finest farms in the county, 240 acres in extent, 130 of which are excellently improved. He has also a commodious dwelling and other farm buildings. And now, as his active and eventful life is drawing to a close, he and his wife, both 73 years old, pass the time in quiet enjoyment of the fruits of their labor, and in reading.

They have had a family of six, all of whom are alive, married, and have families: Sobrina, born Dec. 22, 1833, Ralph, April 28, 1839, Theodore W., July 25, 1843, Hannah, July 22, 1846, Ellen A., April 7, 1849, and Merritt, Dec. 8, 1854.

Mr. and Mrs. Muscott are active members of the Presbyterian Church. He has held the office of Supervisor for two terms, and Township Treasurer for two terms.

Politically, he has been a stalwart Republican since the organization of the party.

**S**tewart Edgar, farmer, on section 2, Emerson Township, was born in Dumfrieshire, Keir Parish, Scotland, May 8, 1819; and is the son of John and Jane (Nicholson) Edgar, natives of Scotland. John Edgar was of Scotch ancestry for at least five centuries back.

He was a farmer at first, but spent the latter part of his life weighing metal at the iron mines of England, where he moved about 1853. He died in Cletnir Moor, Eng., in March, 1855. Jane Nicholson lived with her parents in her native county, and was there reared, educated, married and died.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the parish schools of his native county, and at the age of 19 began to work as a common laborer in the mines



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James Henry



*Mrs. James Henry*

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS  
R L

of his native county and Galway County. In the latter, Oct. 18, 1844, he was united in marriage to Margaret, daughter of Anthony and Mary (McQueen) Dunn, natives of Galway, Scotland. He was a sawyer by trade, and he and wife died about 1863. Margaret was born in Galway County, near Canmore Castle, May 1, 1830, and was bred and educated there. Nine years after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar removed to Cumberland Co., Eng., where he worked in the mines. In the summer of 1855, they came to London, Ontario, Can., where he was employed as a railroad section foreman. Later he was stationed in the same capacity at St. Thomas, and remained there seven years. In December, 1862, he came to Michigan with his family, and settled on 122 acres in Emerson Township, purchased two years previously. He has 70 acres well improved, and good farm buildings. He has also purchased 120 acres additional, which is worked by his two oldest sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar have a family of seven: Ellen, Jane, Stewart, James, William George Thomas, Mary and John. Politically, Mr. Edgar is a staunch Republican. He and wife are life-long members of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. They are among the most respected citizens of the township.



**J**ames Henry, proprietor of the St. Louis Flouring Mills, manufacturer and dealer in lumber, shingles, flour, feed, etc., was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, Feb. 24, 1825. He is a son of William and Sarah A. (Gilmore) Henry, and both parents were natives of the Emerald Isle. His father died there, at the age of 84 years, in the same house in which he was born. His mother died previously, when she was about 42 years old.

Mr. Henry was brought up on a farm and obtained a fair education. At 18 he learned the business of a wagon-maker, and in 1849 left his native country for the United States. He spent two summers on a farm in Yates Co., N. Y., and in 1851 proceeded to Allegany Co., N. Y., where he learned engineering, which he followed three years and then came to Bay City, Mich., and operated in the same capacity one

summer, after which he proceeded to St. Charles, Saginaw County, where he was similarly employed six years. In 1861 he went to Grant Co., Wis., and became proprietor of 160 acres of land by purchase. Three years after he returned to Michigan and followed his trade of engineer in Saginaw County three years. He went to Hemlock City and bought a saw and shingle mill, which he operated 10 years with satisfactory success, and in 1879 went to Cedar Lake, Montcalm County, where he built a saw and shingle mill and engaged vigorously in the prosecution of lumbering interests. Two years later, the steam boiler exploded, destroying the mill and killing two men. At the moment of the explosion, Mr. Henry was in the mill, standing near the stove, which was about 20 feet from the boiler. The roof fell upon him, but the stove kept it from crushing him to death. He hastened the re-building of the mill and in 60 days it was again running.

In the fall of 1882, Mr. Henry moved to St. Louis, where he had purchased one and a half acres of land, and built a residence. In September of the same year he bought his mill site, which includes about 15 acres, and is largely engaged in the manufacture of mill products. He also owns 400 acres of land in Richland Township, Saginaw County. His flouring mills are 30 x 80 feet, with three stories and basement. The wing is 22 x 40 feet in size and two stories high. The mills are fitted with the most modern style of machinery for the production of first-class work, and the power is supplied by six Leffwell turbine water wheels. The fixtures include six run of stones, and the capacity of the works is 125 barrels per day. The flouring and saw mills were owned 24 years by H. L. Holcomb, of whom Mr. Henry purchased them in September, 1882. In December following, the saw-mill burned, entailing a loss of \$3,000, without insurance.

Mr. Henry was married in St. Charles, Saginaw County, Feb. 24, 1859, to Jane, daughter of William and Mary Boyst, a native of New York. Four children have been born of their marriage, two of whom are living,—Fred Cook and Myra J. The deceased were William B. and Nellie M. Mr. Henry is a Republican in political sentiment, and, while residing in Saginaw County, held the positions of Township Clerk and Treasurer.

Physically, Mr. Henry is a fine sample of manly

vigor and energetic effort. He has the hardihood of a man who has passed his years of prime and yet retains his powers of strength and endurance to a degree that proves the correctness of his habits and course of life. Both he and his wife have reached a period of existence altogether satisfying from their part of well-directed effort and their future, which holds higher and better promise than that of youth's fresh flush of hope and ambition. They can rest on the fruition of the years that are gone, which assure the type of those to come. The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Henry are to be found on pages 250 and 251.

**G**eorge Little, blacksmith, at Sickels, was born in the county of Franklin, and State of Vermont, Jan. 5, 1850, and is a son of Peter Little, of Sweetsburg, Canada, and a native of that county. Mr. Little received the advantages afforded by the common schools of his native country. He learned his trade in Vermont while quite a young man and has successfully pursued it until the present time with the exception of about two years.

He came to St. Louis, Mich., in 1880, and after remaining there eight months, went to Ithaca, where he lived for six months. He then came to Sickels, this county, at which place he now carries on his trade.

He was married June 14, 1874, to Miss Katie Golden, and four children have been born to their union, namely: Annie, Ettie, George Thomas and William Henry.

**W**illiam W. Palmer, farmer, section 28, North Star Township, is a native of the Empire State, and was born in Onondaga County, May 27, 1823. His parents, Gilbert and Ann (Pitts) Palmer, were natives respectively of Green and Columbia Cos., N. Y., who emigrated to Lenawee Co., Mich., in 1837, settling in the wild woods, amongst savage animals and Indians. Mr. Palmer settled where he now lives in this county

in 1854, and where he at present owns 80 acres of good land. He has given his children 160 acres. He was a blacksmith by trade when a young man, but for many years he has been a prosperous farmer.

July 2, 1845, Mr. Palmer married Miss Lydia M., daughter of Chester and Aurelia (Guthrie) Savage, and of their nine children five only are now living, viz.: Ida L., Rufus M., Frank G., Roscoe C. and Vere D. Ida L. married Edwin E. Palmer, and lives in Mecosta Co., Mich., in Fork Township; Rufus M. married Charlotte Henry, and lives on part of the homestead; Frank G. married Llewella Husen, and is a prominent teacher; Roscoe C. lives in Chicago; and Vere D. is at home, attending school winters and working on the farm during the rest of the year.

Mr. Palmer, the subject of this biographical notice, was the first Treasurer of North Star Township, holding the office five years; has also been Township Clerk one year, School Inspector one year, and is Justice of the Peace. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

**J**ohn H. Bangs, farmer, section 11, Arcada Township, was born in De Kalb Co., Ind., May 11, 1847; and is the son of Heman and Almira (Chaffee) Bangs, natives of Vermont and New York. Heman Bangs removed from Vermont to New York; thence to Michigan; and lastly to De Kalb Co., Ind., where he was one of the first settlers.

The subject of this biographical notice remained at home, working on the farm and attending the common school, until he attained his majority. He then came to Gratiot, and kept "bachelor's hall" on 80 acres his father had purchased a few years before. Some months later, he returned to his native county, where, Jan. 21, 1869, he was married to Miss Emma De Long, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Fair) De Long, natives of Maryland and Virginia. Emma was born in Allen Co., Ind., Oct. 6, 1851, went when 10 years old to De Kalb Co., Ind., and there was reared and educated.

Immediately after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Bangs came to Gratiot and settled down on his then unim-

proved farm. He has now under cultivation 40 acres, and has erected one of the best barns in the township.

Mr. and Mrs. B. have a family of four, as follows: Cora, born Jan. 16, 1870; Stella, Sept. 1, 1872; Leota, Oct. 5, 1873; Raymond, Aug. 5, 1877. Politically, Mr. Bangs is a Republican. He and wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

**J**acob Schaub, farmer, section 28, Lafayette Township, is a son of George and Sophia (Brandan) Schaub, natives of Germany. They followed farming in the old country until 1852, when they emigrated to America. They farmed in Lorain and Sandusky Counties, Ohio, until their death in the latter county in 1869. Jacob left home at the age of 28, and worked on a farm until he was married, July 10, 1858, to Mary Rice.

In 1876 he removed with his family to Gratiot County, and located on 80 acres of land on section 28, Lafayette Township. He has improved 60 acres. In 1878 he built his barn, and in 1883 he erected a large and well-arranged dwelling-house.

Mrs. Schaub was born Oct. 13, 1840, in Sandusky Co., Ohio. She has brought to her husband 14 children: Barney, Anthon G., Christian W., Sophia E., Jacob, Jane, Emma, Willie and Wilson (twins), George, Frank, Albert, Bertie and Alice.

Mr. Schaub has been Moderator of his school district for three years. Politically he is a Democrat.

**A**braham L. Wight, whose Christian name was given him in honor of the martyred Lincoln, who took the oath of office and entered on the duties of Chief Magistrate of the Nation eight days after the birth of our subject, is a son of Leonard Wight, who came to Eaton County, this State, in 1858, and settled in the township of Benton, where Abraham was born, Feb. 24, 1861. He lived with his parents in Benton Township, Eaton County, until 1869, when he accompanied them to Chester Township, same county, and where the mother died in 1874.

He received the advantages afforded by the common schools of his county and followed his inclination to learn the wagon and carpenter business by working for his brother, Sheldon Wight. He is now engaged with his brothers S. and M. Wight, in their planing-mill; is present Clerk of Hamilton Township, and a member of the I. O. O. F.

Mr. Wight owns 40 acres of land on section 5, and devotes as much of his time to its improvement as is compatible with the faithful performance of his other duties. He has four brothers,—Francis, Sheldon, Reuben and Mason, living. His only sister and the eldest child of the family, died when she was 12 years of age.

Mr. W. is yet a young man, and, possessing his portion of that indomitable energy characteristic of the young men of the county, supported by a large amount of ambition, is certain to succeed.

**A**mbrose B. Angell, farmer, on section 28, Arcada Township, is a son of William and Rhoda (Bonnell) Angell, natives of New York and Connecticut, respectively. They followed farming, and died in Stockbridge, Ingham Co., Mich., the father Jan. 28, 1864, aged 69, and the mother June 6, 1865, aged 64. They were pioneers of Ingham County.

Ambrose B. was born in Orange Co., N. Y., April 15, 1834, and at the age of eight came with his parents to Wayne County, this State. Here he lived six years, working on the farm and attending school. When 14 years old, he moved with his parents to Bunkerhill Township, Ingham County, and settled on a farm. Two years later, he went to Jackson, and for two years he attended the High School in that city. He then attended 18 months at Albion College. Returning to Ingham County, he was for the ensuing four years engaged in teaching, in the common schools. Going back to his father's farm, he worked it, in partnership with his brother Malcolm, until the latter's death, in 1866. For the next seven years, he carried on the farm by himself. Going then to Rives, Jackson County, he purchased 80 acres of improved land, and commenced farming there.

April 9, 1877, he received a great financial setback in the form of a fire, that speedily reduced to

ashes his residence, household goods, barns, live stock, grain and farm implements. His total loss was not less than \$4,400. Shortly after this, he sold his farm, came to Gratiot County and purchased 160 acres of partly improved land on section 28, Arcada Township, where he has since resided. He has cleared 60 acres, and now, of his 160 acres, 110 are under the plow. He has commodious farm buildings.

Nov. 24, 1864, at Waterloo, Jackson County, he was married to Elvira J., a daughter of Hiram and Martha (McNeal) Drew, natives of New England, and of Irish descent. She was born at Grass Lake, Jackson County, Dec. 22, 1840, and lived with her parents in that county until her marriage. She attended school at Grass Lake and Leoni, and commenced teaching school at the age of 16. This she followed till she was 22, and at 23 she was married.

Mr. and Mrs. Angell have a family of six, as follows: Mattie R., born Dec. 30, 1865, Edith E., Dec. 8, 1866, Cora A., Dec. 3, 1867, Florence E., Feb. 2, 1869, Edwin F., March 5, 1871, Willie C., Oct. 19, 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. Angell are active members of the Patrons of Husbandry. He has held the office of Drain Commissioner and Highway Commissioner. Politically, he votes with the Republican party.

**R**ollin W. Maxam, merchant, section 29, Lafayette Township, is a son of Isaac B. and Clarissa (Kellogg) Maxam, natives of New York. Mr. Maxam, Sr., followed farming in New York State until 1849, when he removed to Ohio, and engaged there in farming and stock-raising. Rollin W. was born Feb. 19, 1851. He remained with his father until 21. He then worked one season manufacturing cheese. Coming to Michigan in the fall of 1872, he was for the ensuing three years manager of a cheese factory. He then embarked in farming. In 1878, he came to this county and located on section 29, Lafayette Township, spending the next three years clearing his farm.

Nov. 7, 1881, he was appointed Postmaster of Lafayette post-office. Jan. 1, 1882, he engaged in mercantile business, which he has followed since.

He has a general stock of dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, and miscellaneous goods. He also has an extensive apiary, and deals in bees and honey.

He was married in 1870, to Ida E. Bissell, daughter of Warren and Charlotte (Bailey) Bissell. They were natives of Ohio, and died the mother in Ohio, in 1854, and the father in Kansas, in 1879.

Mr. and Mrs. Maxam are the parents of three children: Arthur J., Mabel and Arno. Politically, Mr. Maxam is a Republican.

**F**rancis M. Utter, farmer, section 33, Arcada Township, was born in Chatham, Medina Co., Ohio, March 10, 1833; and is the son of Amos and Margery (Hamilton) Utter, natives of New York State. Amos Utter was a mechanic and farmer, of English and German descent, and died in Manistee Co., Mich., in October, 1876.

When Francis was six years old, his father removed to Shelby Co., Ill., and two years later, in June, 1841, he came to Michigan, locating in Portland, Ionia County. Here he worked on his father's farm and attended the common school, until he attained his majority. For the ensuing three years he worked at farming on shares in the summer time, and at lumbering in the winters.

Jan. 1, 1857, in Pine River Township, this county, he was united in marriage to Miss Sophia C. Roberts, daughter of Stephen and Rachel (Stuck) Roberts, natives of New York. They afterwards removed to this State, where Sophia was born, in Pittsfield, Washtenaw Co., Mich., April 8, 1840. She was reared and educated in that county, and there lived and cared for her father's household until 17 years old, when she was married.

Shortly after that event, Mr. and Mrs. Utter removed to Portland, Ionia County, where they carried on farming for 10 years; thence to Dallas Township, Clinton County, where they were similarly engaged for 12 years. Mr. Utter was also extensively engaged in buying and selling real estate. In March, 1876, they came to this county, where he purchased 80 acres in Lafayette Township. Shortly after, he sold, and bought 40 acres in New Haven. Here he



erected a house, and farmed for about three years. He then purchased 160 acres of timbered land on section 33, Arcada Township, his present home, and commenced to improve the same. He has 25 acres carefully improved, and is possessed of sufficient ability and experience to make in time one of the most successful farmers in the township.

Mr. and Mrs. Utter have had born to them four children, of whom three are living: Amos D., born Oct. 14, 1860; Francis M., Sept. 24, 1863; Ceylon A., April 28, 1875. Clara A. was born Oct. 6, 1857, and was fatally scalded by falling into a tub of hot water, March 17, 1861. Mr. Utter has held the offices of Director, Assessor, Inspector and Moderator in his school district. He is at present Moderator. Politically he is a Democrat.

**A**llen Oberlin, farmer, section 23, Elba Township, is a son of George and Esther (Bowman) Oberlin, natives of Pennsylvania. They died in 1868 and 1863, respectively. Allen was born Nov. 15, 1814, in Lancaster Co., Pa. Leaving his father's farm at the age of 21, he worked by the month until he was 26, when he married Mary, daughter of John and Christina (Baisler) Wulmoyer. They were natives of Germany, and emigrated to America at an early day. Mary Wulmoyer was born April 21, 1821.

Mr. and Mrs. Oberlin moved to Stark Co., Ohio, and remained there a period of ten years. He then went to Medina County, in the same State, living there eight years. His next move was to Indiana, but three months more found him in Lansing, Mich., where his home was for the next eight years. He then located on section 23, Elba Township. At that time they were surrounded by a perfect wilderness, and the howl of the wolf and the scream of the wild-cat became familiar sounds to their ears. Their nearest neighbor in one direction was three miles away, in the other eight. They first entered a large tract of land, but, old age coming on, they have sold most of their land, and now live on a 20-acre place. They are the parents of nine children: Eliza, Rachel, Mary A., Esther (died Dec. 12, 1883), John, George, Christina, Malcolm and Rebecca.

Mr. Oberlin is one of the most prominent citizens

of Elba Township, and is looked up to by his neighbors. He has held the office of Highway Commissioner. He is an active member of the Free Methodist Church, and has always been a supporter of the Republican party.

**J**asper C. Sickels, Postmaster and merchant at Sickels, was born at Howell, Livingston Co., Mich., March 27, 1849, and is a son of Aaron Sickels, an early settler of Wayne Co., Mich., but now of Walton, Grand Traverse County, this State. When he was seven years old the family moved to Wyandotte, Mich., and two years afterward they came to Duplain, Clinton Co., Mich., where his father was in turn a merchant, miller and farmer.

Mr. S., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the common schools, and in 1871 engaged in mercantile business at Elsie, Mich., until in 1873, when his health failed and he resorted to agricultural employment until 1880. In November of this year he purchased his present store at Sickels, where he keeps a full line of goods in general merchandise, and is doing a prosperous trade. He also owns a steam saw-mill in the pineries of this and Saginaw counties.

May 5, 1870, Mr. Sickels was married to Miss Mary P., daughter of Elisha Fuller (deceased), and the three children now comprised in their family are, Hattie, Claud and Frankie.

Mr. S. is a member of the Orders of Masonry and Odd Fellowship.

**H**omer Galehouse, farmer, section 25, Elba Township, is a son of John W. and Julia (Wilson) Galehouse, natives of Ohio and Massachusetts. The father was murdered, at Doylestown, Ohio, in 1841; and the mother died in 1843. Homer was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, March 24, 1838. Being left an orphan when only five years of age, he went to live with his grandparents. At the age of 13, he was apprenticed to the saddle and harness trade, but after two and a half years ill health compelled him to abandon that

occupation. For the next few years he worked at a number of things, until he finally settled down as a farmer.

In 1875, in the State of Indiana, he joined his fortunes with Mary Pettyjohn, born April 7, 1843, in Stark Co., Ohio. The same year he removed to Elba Township, this county, finally locating on 80 acres of wild land on section 25. He has now comfortable buildings, and 60 acres of well improved land. Mr. and Mrs. Galehouse have a family of seven children, — John D., Charles E., George H., Lucette E., Frank Z., Sarah L. and Mary J. Mr. Galehouse is a member of the U. B. Church, and votes with the Republican party.

**G**eorge W. Marshall, farmer, section 17, Lafayette Township, is a son of Nathan D. and Hannah E. (Turner) Marshall, natives of Ohio. They were engaged in farming in that State until 1865, when they came to Michigan. They followed farming in Clinton County until 1878, when they came to Lafayette Township, Gratiot County, and located on section 18, on their present place of 60 acres.

The subject of this sketch was born in Geauga Co., Ohio, Aug. 11, 1855. He lived with his parents, attending the common schools a portion of the time, until he was 18 years old. He then left home to work on his own account. He was employed on a farm the first year at \$18 per month, and the second at \$20, and also attended school occasionally until Jan. 12, 1882, when he was married to Ella Phelps, born in Livingston County, Aug. 6, 1865. She is the eldest daughter of James and Elizabeth (Hodges) Phelps, natives of New York and Canada, respectively. They came in 1881 to this county, where Mr. Phelps follows his trade of blacksmith.

Feb. 19, 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall located on a tract of 80 acres on section 17, Lafayette Township, where they now reside. Mr. Marshall has improved 40 acres of his farm and erected a neat and commodious dwelling-house.

In the winter of 1883-4, he taught the school in district No. 3. They are the happy parents of one child, Allen B., born Dec. 1, 1883. In 1882, Mr. Marshall was chosen School Inspector of his Town-

ship for two years. He is also Pathmaster in his district. Politically he stands on the platform of "Anti-Monopoly."

**B**ruce Hunter, farmer, section 35, Elba Township, is a son of John and Charlotte (Kenna) Hunter, natives of New York, where the former died. Bruce left home at the early age of 13, and went to work driving team on the New York water-works. Coming to Detroit in 1842, he worked a year as blacksmith. The next four years were spent in Canada. Then he spent a short time in Buffalo, N. Y., 18 months at Cayuga Creek, Niagara County, and two years in Erie Co., N. Y. Coming to Michigan in 1856, he spent 18 months in Jackson County, and then located in Elba Township, this county. He worked two years in Elsie, then returned and sold his Elba farm, then went to Elsie once more. He finally purchased 40 acres on section 35, Elba Township, where he now resides.

In 1853 he was married to Miranda, daughter of Ralph and Margaret Sutphin. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have a family of six children: William H., Frank, Fred, George, Eva and Florence. In politics Mr. Hunter is a Republican. He has been Justice of the Peace, and has been a school officer for eight years.

**H**orace Spear, farmer, section 35, Lafayette Township, is a son of Calvin and Charlotte (Stone) Spear, natives of Vermont and Canada, respectively, and was born Feb. 23, 1832. At the age of 17, he left home, and began to care for himself. In 1849, he came to Sanilac Co., Mich., where he remained a short time. He then went to St. Clair Co., Mich., after a year returning to Sanilac County. Thence he removed to Ionia County, in 1863. His next move after a number of years, was to Lawrence Co., Tenn., where he remained one year and then, returning to Michigan, settled in Gratiot County, in the year 1878. He first located on section 28, Emerson Township, and then, after three years, removed to his present residence, on section 35, Lafayette Township.

In his 22d year, he was married to Mary A, Westervelt, who was born in Canada, Jan. 15, 1838. She was the daughter of Garrett and Lucinda (Pollard) Westervelt, natives of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Spear are the parents of six children: Delila J., Minerva, William A., Ida L., John A. and Alfred H.

Mr. Spear held the office of Highway Commissioner, in St. Clair County, one year, and he has also held various school offices. He and Mrs. Spear belong to the Free Methodist Church, in which they are active workers. Mr. Spear has a license as a local preacher of the gospel, and occasionally leads services for his denomination.

**J**acob J. Muffly, farmer, section 9, Hamilton Township, was born in Stark Co., Ohio, Nov. 6, 1837. He is a son of John Muffly, of this Township, who brought his family to this County in 1855 and settled on the above named section and where he and our subject now live. They settled in the woods and were subjected to all the trials encountered by the early pioneer settlers of the county. Wild animals predominated in abundance and, "although they were considered a necessity to supply the craving appetites of hungry, ambitious and energetic individuals," the howling of the wolves, the crying of the panther and wild-cat were no pleasant sounds to listen to, and grated harshly on the ear, at least of the feminine portion of the household.

When the shot which started a nation from its peaceful sleep of years, was thundered from rebel guns upon Fort Sumter, and our martyred President called for loyal hearts to battle for the perpetuity of the "Flag of our Fathers" and the preservation of our nation's honor, the heart of our subject beat in unison with the cause and he enlisted in Co. F, 29th Mich. Vol. Inf. He was in the battles of Decatur, Murfreesboro and others, and was honorably discharged Sept. 6, 1865.

Mr. Muffly was married Aug. 2, 1866, to Miss Mary, daughter of Zoroaster Moss, deceased, and five children have been born to their union, four of whom, John L., Birdsey A., Charles H. and Annie are living. Mrs. M. was born in Waterloo, Jackson Co.,

Mich., in 1847, and is a cousin to ex. Gov. Blair, of this State. Mr. and Mrs. M. are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They have a fine farm of 80 acres, on which they are at present living and pleasure and happiness surround the family hearthstone.

**H**orace S. Taylor, farmer, section 20, Arcada Township, was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., Feb. 7, 1818; and is the son of James and Tabitha (Borland) Taylor. James Taylor was born in Orange Co., N. Y., of Irish and English descent, and was by occupation a farmer. He died in Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of 87. His wife died in Litchfield, Medina Co., Ohio, also at an advanced age.

The subject of this sketch remained with his father on the farm and attended school, first the common schools, and then the Gouverneur Academy of St. Lawrence County, and taught until 23 years old. He commenced teaching at the age of 21, and followed that for three years. He then removed to Medina Co., Ohio, where he farmed and taught select school until 1854. He then became a railroad contractor, and after a time became connected with a saw-mill. In the spring of 1867 he came to this State and county, and purchased 120 acres of partly improved land on section 20, Arcada Township, and devoted himself to farming. He has made rapid improvements, has erected new barns, and now has about one-half his farm in a state of high cultivation. Though becoming advanced in years, he is a progressive farmer, and actively devoted to building up his township. He takes an especial interest in all things pertaining to schools and in all benevolent and economic projects.

Oct. 5, 1852, at Penfield, Lorain Co., Ohio, he was united in marriage to Maria, daughter of Orrin and Abigail (Hickok) Starr, natives of New York, and of English descent. The Starrs have an interesting and valuable genealogical record, which traces the family back to Dr. Comfort Starr, of Kent, England, 1635. The book is a quarto, and contains 579 pages. Maria Starr was born in Harpersfield, Delaware Co., N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have had a family of three,

two of whom survive, as follows: James L., born Jan. 19, 1856; Abbie E., born July 29, 1867; Emma S., born Sept. 8, 1857, and died May 18, 1870. Mr. Taylor is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Medina, Ohio. He is highly esteemed by all his numerous friends, and has been often asked to hold office. He has been for some time Superintendent of Schools. In political sentiment, he is an ardent and influential Greenbacker, and uncompromisingly opposed to any and all monopolies. In 1880, he was unanimously nominated for Representative, by his party,—a high compliment to Mr. Taylor's ability and popularity.

**R**obert Gladson, farmer and stock-raiser, section 17, North Star Township, was born in Oakland Co., Mich., June 5, 1844, and is a son of John Gladson, deceased, a native of England, who moved with his family to Clinton Co., this State, in 1854, and a few years afterward to this county. Mr. Robert Gladson was a soldier in the late war for 18 months, being a member of Co. I, 27th Mich. Vol. Inf., and taking part in the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania. In the latter engagement he was wounded in the right shoulder. He was married June 26, 1870, to Miss Amanda J., daughter of John Garver (dec.), and they have five children, as follows: William N., Ralph E., Ellen M., Altha E. and Edith S.

Mr. G. is a Republican, and has been Constable two years, and held other offices. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

**T**homas Derry, farmer, section 3, Hamilton Township, is a son of Thomas and Mary A. (Johnson) Derry, natives of England, where Thomas, Jr., was born, in Cambridgeshire, Jan. 26, 1832.

Mr. Derry received the advantages of a select-school education in his native country, and emigrated to the United States, with his parents, in 1854, settling in Wayne Co., N. Y.

In 1866, Mr. Derry left the parental home, and, following the inclination of his ambitious disposition

to better his financial condition in life, came to this State, arriving in this county in January of that year, and has resided here ever since. He settled in the woods, and had but two acres of land cleared on which to raise a sufficiency to sustain himself and family; yet, being endowed with that spirit of push, pluck and energy so necessary to success, he met and successfully conquered all difficulties.

Mr. Derry was united in marriage to Miss Mary A., daughter of John Swails, deceased. Mrs. D. was born and brought up on the banks of Lake Ontario, on the identical farm on which the British troops landed during the war of 1812.

Mr. and Mrs. D. are the parents of nine children, namely: Albert, Herbert A., Frank, Emma, Agnes M., Willis, Lewis, Annie and Frederick. Albert married Miss Mary Williams, and one son, Earl, has been born to them. Emma married a brother of Miss Williams, and to them has been born a son, named George William.

Mr. Derry owns 44½ acres of land, which is under the best of cultivation, with a large barn and commodious residence. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, of which denomination Mrs. D. has been a member since she was 16 years of age.

Herbert A. Derry, son of our subject, is one of the enterprising business men of the township, and is engaged in lumbering.

Mr. and Mrs. D. made a visit to the old homestead in Wayne Co., N. Y., in 1883, and spent a pleasant vacation among their relatives and friends.

**G**eorge B. Andrus, hotel-keeper, Breckenridge village, Wheeler Township, was born in Batavia, N. Y., March 28, 1827; and was the son of James and Hannah (Dodge) Andrus, natives of New York. Mr. Andrus, Sr., was engaged in farming and running a saw-mill in New York until 1856, when he came to Michigan. Mrs. Andrus died in 1857, and Mr. Andrus in 1860, both in Kalamazoo County.

The subject of this sketch remained at home until he was 21, when he commenced to care for himself. He worked on a farm and in saw-mills until he was 26 years old, and then married Elizabeth, daughter

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Elias Sower

of William and Mary A. (Vandorn) Young. She died in April, 1862, leaving two sons,—Auburt and Lewis. Mr. Andrus was again married, to Mary P. Doty, the widow of Benjamin Doty. She was born Dec. 25, 1841, the daughter of William M. and Annis Russell, natives of New York and Pennsylvania. They came to Pompei, this county, in April, 1876, where he kept a hotel one year. He pursued the same calling one year at Ithaca, and then removed to Breckenridge, where he is still in the hotel business. Mr. Andrus has four children by his second marriage: Jewett E., Minnie, James A. and Kittie A. In politics he is a Republican.



**L**ias Sower, physician, clergyman and farmer, section 1, North Star Township, is a native of York Co., Pa., where he was born April 5, 1810. He is a son of Henry Sower, deceased, a native of Frederick Co., Md.; the latter was a son of John Sower, who came from Germany many years ago and settled in Maryland. The father of our subject was a soldier in the war of 1812, and moved his family from Maryland to Centre Co., Pa., in 1815. Here the son attended the common schools, assisted on the farm and grew to manhood. In 1835 Mr. Sower moved to Holmes Co., Ohio, where he remained for one year and then went to Seneca County, same State. He remained here for four years, until 1840, when he went to Richland County, and after remaining there ten years engaged in various occupations, he returned to Seneca County. He remained there until 1854, when he came to this county and entered 320 acres of Government land on which he is now residing. His trials were similar to those of Michigan's pioneer settlers, and he energetically met them, with all the determination of an individual whose great ambition was to succeed in life, and conquered them.

He arrived in this county, after having entered his land at the Land Office on Oct. 6, 1854, in the afternoon of the 9th of December, the same year. Eight inches of snow was on the ground and he and

his family slept in their wagon for an entire week before the customary "log cabin" was erected. At last the round log shanty was completed, 14 x 20, and he and his family moved into their "palace." He began to chop, roll and burn the logs and cleared a small patch on which to raise a crop, and successfully continued his labor until want was driven from the door, and plenty entered, and, taking her seat by the side of comfort and happiness looked back upon the past with satisfaction and content.

The Doctor read medicine for a number of years before coming to this State, not with the intention of practicing but more for his own edification, yet his knowledge of medicine soon became known to his neighbors and the indisposed would not accept No for an answer in response to their earnest request to call and administer to their ailments. He therefore entered on the practice through no desire on his part, and yet, after following the same for a few years, he became so infatuated with the profession he has continued it ever since. He had nothing to feed his horses when he first came here and was compelled to sell them, and for four years followed the profession by walking to his patients. He was what might be called "the father of the neighborhood." He administered to their wants, cured their diseases, made their coffins, preached their funerals and placed the dirt upon their graves.

Mr. Sower was married May 1, 1832, to Margaret Bitner, who died Aug. 1, 1851. They had ten children, eight of whom are living, namely: Susan, Lydia, John H., Catherine, Daniel, Lovina, William and Samuel. One daughter, Mary J., after reaching womanhood and marrying, died from the effects of a sun-stroke, leaving the children to the care of the husband. Mr. S. was again married, June 8, 1854, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of John Klingomon, and four children have been born to their union, two of whom, Sarah E. and Almira, are living; one son, David E., twin brother to Sarah, died in his 20th year, and another in infancy.

Dr. Sower was licensed as an exhorter in 1840, and July 27, 1843, was licensed to preach the gospel from a Methodist standpoint. Aug. 28, 1853, he was ordained Deacon by Bishop T. A. Morris, of Mt. Vernon, and received the Elder's ordination at the hands of Bishop Scott at Grand Rapids, Oct. 5, 1862. He and his wife are both members of the

Church and the Doctor has been an active member for 54 years.

Dr. Sower's life-long friends will prize this work more highly for the portrait of the pioneer, which is given on a preceding page.

**B**arley S. Evitts, farmer, section 32, North Star Township, is a native of Trumbull Co., Ohio, where he was born Jan. 10, 1834, and is a son of Bela Evitts (deceased), a native of Connecticut. He was brought up on a farm, receiving his education in the common school. When only four years old his parents emigrated, with the family, to this county, settling, in June, 1854, in North Star Township, where he has since made it his home. He was a pioneer, witnessing all the features of a frontier life and having his share of their experiences. Deer, wolves and bears were plentiful when he settled here. He now owns 80 acres of fine farming land, where he humbly wins from the soil his livelihood.

Mr. Evitts was married Feb. 28, 1861, to Miss Margaret Bartrim, a native of Ireland who was brought to this country when six years of age. Her father was Thomas Bartrim, now deceased, who settled first in Pennsylvania, then, in 1849, in Ohio, and finally, in 1854, in this county. Mr. and Mrs. E. have five children, viz.: John L., Alva H., Clara M., George B. and Mary E.,—all at home.

**J**esse Pepple, farmer, section 17, Emerson Township, was born in Hancock Co., Ohio, Dec. 15, 1842; and was the son of Jesse and Mary (Tipple) Pepple, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and of Pennsylvania German descent. The former died in Michigan in 1869, and the latter in Ohio in 1857. Jesse, junior, passed his youth in working on his father's farm summers and attending school winters. At the age of 20 he apprenticed himself to a pump-maker at Findlay, Ohio. Serving out his term, he formed a partnership with his employer, and remained in that business until September, 1867. He then came to Michigan, and purchased 40 acres of unbroken for-

est land, erecting the log house so familiar to pioneers. He has since added 40 acres to his farm by purchase, and has improved 43 acres of the whole. He has a good residence and farm buildings. For five years, he also followed pump-making, in connection with farming.

He was married, Aug. 11, 1864, at Findlay, Ohio, to Susan Beard, daughter of Adam and Delight (Smith) Beard, natives of New England. They are farmers, and live in Hancock Co., Ohio, where their daughter was born, Oct. 12, 1842. Mr. and Mrs. Pepple have had two children, but both died in infancy.

Mr. Pepple is a member of Emerson Center Lodge, No. 375, I. O. O. F. He is an enterprising farmer, and popular in his township. He held the office of Highway Commissioner for a period of 10 years, and that of School Director for nine years. In 1880, he was chosen Supervisor of Emerson Township. He held that office two years, and in 1883 was again elected. Politically, he is a staunch Republican.

**P**arks Allen, farmer, section 29, Emerson Township, was born in Delaware Co., N. Y., July 13, 1836; and is the son of Isaiah and Elsie (Peck) Allen, natives of New York, and of Yankee and German descent. His father came to Michigan when about 50 years old, and located in Emerson Township, where he died, at the age of 64, and his wife, at the age of 58. Parks Allen left his native county when quite young, and went with his parents to Seneca Co., N. Y., then seven years later to Steuben Co., N. Y. He worked on his father's farm, and attended the district schools as much as he could, until the fall of 1854, when he emigrated to Michigan with his parents, and helped to make a home on 160 acres of heavy timber land in Emerson Township. They were the third family to settle in Emerson, and the first to sow wheat. They sowed five acres, and from that stumpy field gathered 40 bushels per acre.

Oct. 22, 1861, the subject of this sketch was married, in Emerson Township, to Minerva, daughter of Ralph and Jane (Terry) Bellows, natives of New York and Michigan, respectively. She was born in



Genesee Co., Mich., Oct. 22, 1843. She afterwards lived in Calhoun and Eaton Counties, and at the age of 18 had made such progress in her education that she was qualified to teach in the common schools. She engaged in teaching in this county, and continued at it until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen settled on 80 acres of the old homestead on section 19, Emerson Township, and resided there until the spring of 1882, when they moved into their magnificent residence on section 29. This dwelling was planned and built by the owner, and does credit to his taste. They have been the parents of seven children, of whom five are living: Ella J., born April 8, 1863; Ernest R., April 10, 1867; Percy C., Jan. 21, 1877; J. Alton, Feb. 17, 1879; Blanche G., Jan. 21, 1883. Ray P. was born Feb. 1, 1873, and died May 5, 1874; Pearl was born June 7, 1876, and died July 13, the same year.

Mr. Allen now has 240 acres in his farm, with 170 acres under high cultivation. His place is one of the model farms in the county. He is personally popular, and has held the office of Assessor for six years. In politics he is a liberal Republican.

**J**oseph Scudder, farmer, section 18, Lafayette Township, is a son of Embree and Rebecca (Every) Scudder, natives of New York. They were engaged in farming in that State until the year 1835, when they came to Lenawee County, this State, and located on 80 acres. They afterwards removed to Ingham County, where Mr. Scudder died June 11, 1861, and where Mrs. Scudder still resides. Joseph was born April 13, 1831, in the State of New York. At the age of 21 he began farming on his own account, and married Mahala Every, who was born in New York, the daughter of Abram and Charlotte Every, also natives of New York. In 1853 he removed to Ingham County, this State. Mrs. Scudder died in 1861, and in 1863 he married Elizabeth Every. In 1879 he came to Gratiot County, and purchased 100 acres of land. He has improved 54 acres of this.

While in Ingham County Mr. Scudder held all the township offices at different times, except that of Clerk. He was Supervisor for six years. In Lafayette Township he enjoys the respect and confidence of all who know him. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and affiliates with the National party.

**F**rederick Homister, farmer, section 10, North Star Township, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, Oct. 15, 1834. He is a son of Christian Homister, native of the same country in which the son was born, and who, with his wife and two children, emigrated to America and located ten miles west of London, Canada, in 1855.

In 1857 the family moved on a farm, in the neighborhood of their first location, and here Frederick assisted his father and attended the common schools until 1866, when he came to Wyandotte, this State, and remained 18 months, occupied in hauling the rock to pave Michigan avenue, and then returned to Canada. In 1876 he returned to this State and located in this County, and has constantly resided here ever since. On his return, he brought a steam saw-mill with him, erected it on his farm and operated it continually until the present time. It has a 35-horse-power engine, with boiler 12 x 4 feet and containing 10 six-inch flues, and does excellent work.

Mr. Homister was married Dec. 24, 1856, to Miss Mary L., daughter of James Turner, deceased, and 12 children have been born to their union, namely: Emma (Goodhall) Charles, John W., Rosa (White), Sarah A. M., Minnie E. C., Frederick L., Frank W., Mary E. L., James H., Nelly A. and Hattie V.

The father of Mrs. H. died in the fall of 1862; her mother is still living, with the son, at an advanced age.

**J**oshua M. Davidson, farmer, section 25, Elba Township, is a son of John L. and Mary R. (Merritt) Davidson, natives of Ohio. Mr. Davidson, Sr., was a farmer by occupation, and died in Ohio, March 12, 1873. Mrs. Davidson came to Gratiot County the same year. The son was born April 23, 1837. At the age of 20 he began to work at the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for 15 years. At the age of 25 he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Bell, daughter of John and Marilda (Mead) Bell. Mr. Bell was engaged a portion of his life as a minister

of the gospel, and a portion in the tannery business. He died in 1878. Mrs. Bell died in 1867. They were both natives of Ohio, born in Richland and Huron Counties, respectively. Mr. Davidson came to Gratiot County in 1880, and located on a tract of 40 acres, 18 of which are now well improved. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are the parents of four children, —Rosa B., Mary V., Allena L. and Minta M.

Mr. Davidson enlisted in Co. C, 65th Ohio Vol. Inf., Oct. 12, 1861. After his muster in, he went with his command to Louisville, Ky., arriving in December, and was assigned to Gen. Wood's command. Losing his health and becoming unfit for duty, he was discharged, Aug. 6, 1862. He was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, and thence went to his home in Huron County. He is a member of the G. A. R., and of the I. O. O. F. Politically he is a Republican. Mrs. Davidson is an active member of the M. E. Church.

**H**bro Curtiss, farmer on section 12, Emerson Township, was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Oct. 17, 1839; and is a son of Waterman F. and Sylvia (Cronkhite) Curtiss. The former was a native of Massachusetts and of English descent. He followed farming in the State of New York until 1859, and then came to Ionia Co., Mich., where he died, six miles from the city of Ionia, Aug. 2, 1861, at the age of 55. Mrs. Curtiss, the daughter of Jacob and Basheba (Surdan) Cronkhite, was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., Nov. 18, 1806. When 10 years old she came with her parents to the "Holland purchase," and lived and was educated in what is now Wyoming Co., N. Y., where she was also married. At the age of 77, and in comparatively good health, she now lives in Emerson Township with her children.

The subject of this sketch passed his youth in attending school and working on his father's farm. In February, 1862, he came with his mother to this county, and entered 80 acres of land in Emerson Township. He has since added 120 acres; and of his whole farm, 140 are well improved. In place of the dense forest, he has now a fine farm, and very large and convenient farm buildings, his dwelling alone costing \$2,000. Before making these improvements, however, he spent nearly two years in the ser-

vice of his country. He enlisted in Co. A, 8th Mich. Vet. Vol. Inf., Dec. 29, 1863, and served under Col. Ely, in the Army of the Potomac. He participated in all the battles of that army during the campaign of 1864-5. At the battle of the Wilderness, June 6, he was wounded in the right arm by a ball; and at Petersburg he was struck by two spent balls, one entering the foot, and the other between the shoulders. He was discharged at Detroit, Aug. 14, 1865, after an honorable service.

He was united in marriage, June 29, 1876, at St. Louis, to Lucy L. Woodward, daughter of Allen and Almira (Lewis) Woodward, natives of New York. Mr. Woodward enlisted in a New York regiment in 1862, and served till the close of the war. Lucy was born in Erie Co., N. Y., Sept. 20, 1857, and came with her parents when three years old to Washtenaw Co., Mich. One year later her mother died, and her father returned to Erie County. After four years they came to Ionia County, and then, in the spring of 1873, he came to Gratiot County and located on a farm of 40 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss have two children: Blanche A., born April 11, 1877; and Roy W., born March 5, 1882. They are members of the Baptist Church. He has held several school offices in his district, and votes with the Republican party.

**L**eonard H. Randall, farmer, section 8, Lafayette Township, is the son of Isaac R. and Mary (Webster) Randall. They were natives of Vermont, where they followed farming until 1839. Mr. Randall died in Vermont and Mrs. Randall died in Washtenaw County, this State, in 1849. Leonard H. was born March 4, 1834. He left home when 15, and worked by the month until June 9, 1857, when he married Emily J. Burgin. She was born June 9, 1841, and was the second daughter of Ebenezer H. and Sophronia C. (Keneson) Burgin, natives of Vermont.

When Mr. Randall first located here, he entered 80 acres, but he has since added 80 acres to that. Of his 160 acres, 60 are now well improved. In 1875, he built his neat dwelling-house and his large barn.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall are the parents of seven

children: George W., Eugene A., Fred A., Hattie A., Mary S. (died March 7, 1869), Eddie C. and Minnie S. Mr. Randall has been Highway Commissioner in his township, and has been Pathmaster for a number of years. He is a National, in politics. He and wife are consistent members of the Baptist Church.

**W**illiam Kipp, druggist, Breckenridge village, Wheeler Township, is a son of John and Elizabeth A. (Leamon) Kipp, natives of Dutchess Co., N. Y., and Frederick Co., Md. Mr. Kipp, Sr., was by occupation a farmer, and came to Michigan in 1861. He first located in Genesee County, afterwards coming to Gratiot County, locating in Pine River Township. William Kipp was born March 4, 1846, in Frederick Co., Md., and came with his parents to Michigan. At the age of 16, he commenced teaching school, having received his own education at home. In 1877, he engaged in mercantile life, in Breckenridge, now keeping a full line of drugs and groceries.

Feb. 13, 1870, he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Sarah M. Swawze. They have now a family of four children: Edith A., George, Charlie J. and Albert S. Mr. Kipp is an enterprising man, and well liked by all who know him. He was elected School Inspector in 1883, for a term of two years. Politically he is a Republican.

**T**heron L. Knapp, farmer on section 14, Arcada Township, was born in Geneva, Ash-tabula Co., Ohio, Aug. 25, 1853, and is a son of Lucius C. and Mary (Searles) Knapp. Lucius Knapp is now a resident of Live Oak, Fla., and his occupation in life has been carpentry. His wife died in Arcada Township, this county, Sept. 17, 1858.

When the subject of this narrative was nine months old his father took him to the State of Pennsylvania, afterwards moving to this State and county, where he settled on section 25, Arcada Township, in 1854. They were one of the very first families to locate in Arcada. After the death of his mother, Theron was taken by his father to New York State, where he

lived with an uncle until 10 years old. He then returned to his father in Michigan. Two years later the latter moved to St. Louis, where Theron lived with his father until 21 years of age, and where he was educated, in the graded schools.

At the age of 22 he engaged for two years with J. R. Livingston in the capacity of salesman for his pumps. He then began to cultivate the farm of 92 acres on section 14, Arcada Township, which had been willed to him by his mother in October, 1857. When he began, the land was all wild and covered with timber. He now has 45 acres in good condition for tilling, and good farm buildings. He has considerable stock on his place and on the uncleared portion of his farm is some valuable timber.

Oct. 23, 1880, he was married, at St. Louis, to Miss Elizabeth Fry, of German descent. She was born in Green Co., Penn., Aug. 11, 1855, and came to Michigan, 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Knapp have one son, Albert, born June 15, 1882. Mr. K. is in politics a supporter of the National party. He has been Overseer of Highways, and is now School Director. Mrs. K. is a member of the Christian Church.

**J**ohn H. Durkee, farmer, section 11, Arcada Township, was born in Rutland Co., Vt., Feb. 21, 1820, and is the son of Elias S. and Betsy (Sweet) Durkee, natives of New York, and of English and German extraction. They followed farming, and lived most of their lives in New York.

John's father dying in 1827, he was early left to himself in learning the ways of the cold world, being the oldest of the children. He lived for four years with a gentleman in the neighborhood, and then returned home, working at various things for a time. He then once more worked for a neighbor of his mother's, and his time was thus spent, on a farm in summer and in the mills in winter, until his marriage.

Feb. 20, 1840, in Orleans Co., N. Y., he formed a life partnership with Jeannette, daughter of Peter and Sarah Helms, natives of Germany. She was born in New York State, Dec. 17, 1819, and died April 25, 1853, having been married 13 years, and leaving to Mr. Durkee four children, none of whom are now living. He was again married in Lenawee Co.,

Mich., July 26, 1857, to Mrs. Philena (Nevins) Montgomery, daughter of Nathan and Martha (Smith) Nevins, natives of New York State. She was born in the vicinity of Buffalo, in that State, March 17, 1832. She lived with her parents until her first marriage, and by this she has one daughter: Lillie, born Sept. 21, 1855.

Mr. and Mrs. Durkee lived in Lenawee County until the spring of 1883, when they came to Gratiot, and purchased 80 acres. They have during their brief residence here won hosts of friends, and are esteemed as worthy citizens and kind neighbors. They have had four children, two of whom are living: Anna, born Dec. 24, 1867, Fred, born Nov. 21, 1871, Clara A., born March 15, 1859, and died Sept. 20, 1882, Ida M., born Oct. 11, 1863, and died April 22, 1865.

They are members of the M. E. Church. Politically, Mr. Durkee is a Republican.

**J**eremiah Dancer, farmer, section 21, Wheeler Township, was born in Jackson, Mich., July 16, 1849, and is a son of John and Jane (Powell) Dancer, natives of Steuben Co., N. Y. They were farmers, and came to Livingston Co., Mich., in 1843. They afterwards removed to Jackson County, where Mr. Dancer died, in 1867. Mrs. Dancer is still living, in Washtenaw County, having married Nor. H. Newton, in 1875. Jeremiah left his home in 1873, and engaged in farming, which he has followed ever since. In the spring of 1877, he came to Gratiot County, locating on 80 acres, on section 10, Wheeler Township. Here he lived three years. Returning to Jackson County, he farmed there for one year, then sold his farm, and came once more to this county, settling on 40 acres on section 34.

He was married, Nov. 6, 1877, to Harriet, daughter of Wm. R. and Cornelia (Vedder) Bradford, natives of Jackson Co., Mich., and of New York, respectively. Mr. Bradford is a farmer by occupation, and came to Gratiot County in 1870. He settled on 160 acres on section 17, but has sold all but 40 acres. Mr. and

Mrs. Dancer are the parents of two children: Freddie and Florence.

In politics, Mr. Dancer is a Republican.

**J**ames Turner, farmer, section 10, North Star Township, and one of the early settlers of the township, and whose success is attributable to his own indomitable energy, was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, June 4, 1849. He is a son of Joseph Turner, deceased, who emigrated to America with his family in 1859, locating in Canada, where they remained until 1860, when they moved to this State, and settled in Lyons, Ionia County. In 1864 they moved to this county, and a year afterward, in 1865, the father died.

Mr. Turner can look back with pride at his victory over difficulty and adversity. He encountered innumerable trials in the establishing of his home in the woods, a half mile from any road, and in clearing his land and during the time procuring the necessities of life, yet triumphed over all. He now owns a farm of 120 acres all under fence, and 75 acres cleared and under cultivation. His residence is a two-story brick, with main building 18 x 26 and wing 17 x 24 feet, and, when compared with the "log cabin" in which he formerly lived, is certainly an emblem of perseverance and energy. His barn, 40 x 62 feet, with 20-foot posts, stands as a monument of the work of his own hands, and is another link in the chain of prosperity indicative of his past labors.

Mr. Turner was married Oct. 26, 1876, to Nancy E., daughter of Frederick Huntley, and three children have been born to this union, two of whom are living, namely: Nellie May and Myrtie Belle. Mrs. Turner came from Canada to this county, in 1874, and followed the vocation of teacher and taught eight terms, and was recognized and acknowledged as a very proficient and successful teacher. Mrs. Turner has a sister, Marie E., who came to this county a year later than herself. She also taught school, but, as she was beginning her third term, her health failed her. She has now been an invalid four years, during which time the farthest she has been from home is two and a half miles. Mrs. Turner

has five other sisters living, and one deceased, and also two brothers.

The mother of our subject is still living, with her children, and has attained the advanced age of 86 years. She is the mother of 12 children, of whom James is the youngest. Though she has lived to such an advanced age, she is active as a young lady of 18; and even now she practices her idiosyncrasies by going into the field and doing the work of a man, and in the fall of 1882 shucked 500 bushels of corn, unaided by any one. She is aware it is unnecessary for her to do manual labor, yet she possesses the spirit of energy inculcated in the minds of her children, and cannot remain idle, and prefers out door labor to indolence in the house or even household labor.

Mrs. Turner's father died Jan. 7, 1882, in the township in which they reside. He was well read in the affairs of the day, informed in ancient and modern history, and respected by all who knew him. His widow, Mrs. Turner's mother, still resides in the township to which they came eight years ago.

**George B. Burgess**, farmer, section 24, Arcada Township, is a son of William and Ruth (Hathaway) Burgess, natives of Ohio (see sketch), and was born Sept. 8, 1856, in the house he now lives in, being probably the first white person born in Arcada Township. He was the sixth of his father's family, and was born about a year after the family came to this county, in the third log house in the township. For several years after his birth, his parents were obliged to follow a trail to get to the nearest town, which was at that time Maple Rapids. It required years of close economy and hard work before they could, through the produce of their farm, obtain many of the comforts of life.

Until 23 years old, George worked for his father, and attended the common schools as he best could.

March 4, 1879, he was united in marriage to Martha M., daughter of Daniel and Lorana (Silverthorn) Tyrrell, natives of Ontario, Canada. They followed farming, and came in 1867 to Arcada Township, where Mr. Tyrrell died, March 2, 1872, and Mrs. Tyrrell, July 16, 1878.

Martha M. was born in Ontario, Canada, Jan. 29,

1858, and when eight years old came to this county with her parents, and lived on section 26, Arcada Township, until their death. She then lived in the family of William Burgess, until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Burgess settled down on the old homestead, and now live in the log house built by his father. He now owns 40 acres on section 24. They have two little ones: Elnora, born Jan. 5, 1881, and Ruth L., born June 5, 1882.

In politics, he is a Republican.

**George W. Skinner**, farmer on section 8, Emerson Township, was born in Morrow Co., Ohio, Feb. 14, 1832; and is a son of David and Abigail (Bewley) Skinner, natives of Ohio, and of English and German extraction. They followed farming, and died, the father in Van Wert Co., Ohio, in 1879, aged 81; and the mother in Morrow Co., Ohio, in August, 1852, aged 51.

The subject of this sketch passed his youth in attending the common schools, and in working on his father's farm. When of age, he came to this State, and for three years was engaged in fishing in Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay. He then went to Livingston County, and thence to Denver, Col. For the next 15 months he worked in the gold mines in California Joe Gulch, Buckskin Joe Gulch, and at the head waters of the Arkansas. Sept. 8, 1861, he enlisted in Co. C, 1st Col. Cav. He served in the western army, and was engaged generally in skirmishing with the enemy, in Texas and all through the Southwest, in guarding the Unionists, and in keeping the Indians quiet. He escaped unhurt, and was honorably discharged Dec. 3, 1864. Returning to this State, he went first to Livingston County, and then to Saginaw, and in the spring of 1865 he came to Gratiot County, and located on 80 acres in Bethany Township, which he had entered in 1856.

In that township, May 1, 1866, he was united in marriage to Harriet A., daughter of John and Eliza (Knapp) Mull, natives of New York, and of New England parentage. She was born in Ossian, Livingston Co., N. Y., Jan. 21, 1842, and when only two years old she went with her parents to Trumbull Co., Ohio. Two years later they came to Lenawee Co.,

Mich., where she commenced attending the public schools, and when she was 10 years old they moved again, to Ingham County, where she completed her education. The family came to this county in 1861. Six years after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Skinner moved to Emerson Township, where he purchased 80 acres. He has since sold 10 acres, and bought 40 more on section 5. Most of his land is now nicely improved. He has just completed a large barn.

They have two children: Frank, born April 1, 1867; and Jennie L., born Aug. 5, 1870. Mr. Skinner is a member of Emerson Lodge, No 377, I. O. O. F., and of Moses Wisner Post, No. 101, G. A. R. In politics he is an earnest and influential Republican.

**W**illiam W. Wooley, farmer, section 34, Elba Township, is a son of James and Margaret (Chandler) Wooley, natives of New Jersey. Mr. Wooley, Sr., was a shoemaker by trade, and removed to Gratiot County in 1855. The subject of this sketch was born Sept. 27, 1830. At the age of 14 he left home, and worked at farming and other things, until 1862. August 16th of that year, in Clinton County, he was married to Mary M. Dodge. His father, when he came to Gratiot, located 320 acres of Government land on section 34, Elba Township, and he subsequently gave 80 acres to each of his children. Mr. Wooley has brought 65 acres of his farm to a state of good cultivation. In 1877 he erected a substantial barn on his place. He has also a very neat dwelling-house.

Mrs. Wooley was the eldest daughter of her father's family, and was born April 6, 1841, in the State of Vermont. She was the first school-teacher in Elba Township, and taught in District No. 1. She afterwards taught several terms of school. Mr. and Mrs. Wooley are the parents of two children: Maud E. and Maggie D. Another child, Minnie B., died Aug. 28, 1870, aged two years, three months and one day.

Mr. Wooley enlisted in the service of the country during the rebellion, but was discharged for disability before entering the field. In civil life he has held a number of positions of honor and trust. Soon after his township was organized, he was appointed

Treasurer, and he was afterwards elected several times to the same office. He has held the office of Highway Commissioner, and in 1870 he was appointed Supervisor of Elba Township to fill a vacancy. He has also held the office of Assessor in School District No. 1. Politically he is a staunch Republican.

**J**erry Shaver, farmer, on section 17, Emerson Township, was born in Delaware Co., N. Y., Nov. 19, 1822, and was a son of Jacob I. and Sally (Kinch) Shaver. The former was a native of Delaware Co., N. Y., and of Dutch descent. He came to this county in 1856, locating a land warrant of 80 acres on section 2, Emerson Township, and remained here till his death, July 21, 1873, at the age of 77 years and three months. Mrs. Sally Shaver was a native of Connecticut, and of New England parentage. She was married to Mr. Shaver in Delaware Co., N. Y., and died in Emerson Township, at the age of 77 years and two and a half months.

At the age of two, Jerry went with his parents to Seneca County, where he lived until 16, attending school and working on his father's farm. Thence he went to Steuben Co., where, May 30, 1846, he was married to Ursula, daughter of Richard and Cordelia (Reid) Sawtell, natives of New England, and of English descent. Richard Sawtell was a physician, and died in the State of New York, in 1842; Mrs. Sawtell died in Gratiot County, in 1865. Ursula was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., Sept. 27, 1826. Receiving her education in her native county, she went to Steuben County in 1842. Six years after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Shaver came to this State, and settled first in Ingham County, where they lived until the fall of 1856. They then came to Gratiot County, and located on section 17, Emerson Township, securing 80 acres by the Graduation Act. He has since purchased 40 acres additional, and has 70 acres well improved. They came into a dense wilderness, and suffered severely during the "starving time" of 1857.

They are the parents of four children, two of whom are living: Herman D., born March 2, 1848, J. Frank, born June 2, 1864, William, born Jan. 10, 1847, and died Feb. 7, 1847, Mary A., born July 21, 1850, and died Jan. 10, 1870.

In politics Mr. Shaver is a liberal Democrat.

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*Daniel Griffiths*



**D**aniel Griffeth, farmer on section 8, Emerson Township, was born in Montgomery, N. Y., Jan. 9, 1820, and is a son of Daniel and Lois (McNeal) Griffeth, natives of Wales and Scotland, respectively. They were married in Canada, and he became a hatter by trade. In 1814 they removed to the State of New York, where the mother died, in 1835. The father afterwards came to this State, and he died in Manchester, Washtenaw County, in 1847, 63 years old.

The subject of this sketch attended school and worked on a farm until 20 years old, when he set out alone for Michigan, and located in Marshall. He afterwards returned to New York for one year. In May, 1846, on the breaking out of the Mexican war, he enlisted as a private in Co. F, 8th New York Inf., under Gen. Worth. He participated in three actions: Cherubusco, Aug. 19, 1847; Molino del Rey, Sept. 8, 1847, and the storming and capture of Mexico, Sept. 12, 13 and 14, 1847. He escaped unhurt in all these engagements, and was honorably discharged with the rank of Orderly Sergeant, in August, 1848, at Jefferson Barracks. Returning to Michigan he engaged in farming in Oakland County.

Dec. 19, 1849, he was united in marriage, in Independence, that county, to Nancy M., daughter of Hiram and Betsy (Placeway) Burgess, natives of New York and Vermont. They came to Oakland Co., Mich., in 1837, and later to this county, where the father died, April 9, 1879, at the age of 77, near St. Louis. Mrs. Burgess still lives, enjoying a ripe old age of 77, and is active and intelligent. Nancy M. was born in Allegany Co., N. Y., Nov. 4, 1830, and came with her parents to this State seven years later. She was educated in Oakland and Livingston Counties.

Two years after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Griffeth removed to Wayne County, and Dec. 18, 1856, they came to this county and entered 80 acres in Pine River Township. Five years later, most of which time they lived in the town of St. Louis, they removed to Emerson Township and settled on 120 acres of heavily timbered land. Surrounded by miles of unbroken forest, they encountered many hardships before they finally succeeded in making for themselves a comfortable home. He has added

40 acres to his farm, and of his 160, 100 acres are now admirably improved and cultivated. Mr. Griffeth is an intelligent farmer, and with his kind-hearted wife deserves this happy home. They have had a large family, and of their 12 children nine are living. Their names and the dates of their birth are as follows: Mary J., Oct. 8, 1852; James A., Jan. 3, 1854; Emery L., Dec. 28, 1855; Ann Maria, May 26, 1858; Isadore L., Jan. 22, 1861; Hattie A., March 24, 1863; Hiram A., Sept. 26, 1865; Nancy M., Oct. 9, 1867; Florence A., June 2, 1870. These three are sleeping their last sleep: Hiram Andrew, born Dec. 2, 1850, and died March 4, 1852; Daniel A., born June 25, 1873, and died July 3, 1879; and a baby, which died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Griffeth are active members of the Baptist Church, she being the first person baptized in Pine River. He is one of the old pioneers who have helped to make Gratiot what it is, and deserves to be remembered by posterity. He built the first frame house north of Pine River, and drove the first team from St. Louis to Midland. In politics he is one of the most active supporters of the National Greenback party.

Mr. Griffeth's portrait is given on the opposite page.

**G**ordis Smith, farmer on section 27, Pine River Township, is a son of Ira and Zada (Hitchcock) Smith, natives of Connecticut. They removed to New York State, and in 1855 came to this State and county, locating in Pine River Township. The mother is still living in that township. The father died there Feb. 22, 1878, at the age of 85. They had a family of seven.

The subject of this biography, Gordis, was the third son of the family, and was born Sept. 7, 1832. Starting out at the age of 20 to make his own way in life, he came West and spent three years in different States, and then returned to New York. In the fall of 1857, he came to Gratiot County; and for nearly six years following, he was employed in the woods and otherwise. By several different payments, he bought 160 acres of land in Pine River Township, where he now resides. He has now nearly 100 acres well improved.

April 19, 1864, in Pine River Township, he was married to Mrs. Jane M. (Badger) Rice, widow of Elijah B. Rice, who died Nov. 19, 1861. She was born in Washington Co., N. Y., April 13, 1828, and is the daughter of Samuel and Matilda (Freeman) Badger. They were natives of New York State, and died in Washington County, that State, March 15, 1870, and Dec. 2, 1836, respectively. The daughter married Mr. Rice in New York State, and came with him to Pine River Township, this county, in October, 1854. Their first meal of victuals here was eaten in the woods, and they had to cut their own road from Gen. Ely's, two miles away. Mrs. Smith had by this first marriage one child, George T., born Sept. 4, 1858.

Mr. Smith stands high in his neighborhood, as a farmer and a citizen. He is politically a Republican.

**E**dward Graham, farmer, section 30, North Shade Township, is the son of John and Rachel (Dean) Graham, natives of Vermont, from whence they moved to York State and located on a farm in Yates County, where the mother died about 1845, and the father in 1871.

The subject of our sketch was born in Yates Co., N. Y., Aug. 20, 1828, and remained at home on the farm until he was 16 years of age, and then lived with his brother until he attained his majority. When 26 years of age he came to this State and located in Coldwater, Branch County, where he remained one year; then went to Calhoun County and remained there about a year, when he removed to Hillsdale County and engaged himself for a period of two years.

Mr. Graham, at this period in his life, concluded to visit the famous Pike's Peak, but after making preparations for the journey, and having started on the same and reached Illinois, he abandoned the idea and returned to this State, locating on 40 acres of land on section 30, North Shade Township, this county, to which he has since added 20 acres.

Mr. Graham was united in marriage to Miss Rhoda, daughter of Hiram and Hannah (Cornish) Chappel, July 4, 1853. She was born May 20, 1835, in Yates Co., N. Y. Mrs. Graham has not known the where-

abouts of her brother for a number of years. Her mother died in Chenango Co., N. Y., in 1870.

Mr. and Mrs. G. have had two children, William H., born Oct. 17, 1866, and John E., born Aug. 21, 1872.

Politically Mr. G. is a Republican.

**L**uther M. Stites, farmer, section 24, North Shade Township, is a son of Benjamin and Phebe (Nickson) Stites, natives of New Jersey and farmers by occupation, who settled in Fulton Co., Ohio, and afterward moved to Lenawee Co., Mich., where they yet reside.

The subject of this sketch was born Feb. 5, 1858, in Fulton Co., Ohio, and was therefore but four years old when the family moved to Michigan. He married, Sept. 12, 1880, Miss Effie J., daughter of Luther J. and Amanda L. (Townsend) Brink, and born April 25, 1862, in Gratiot Co., Mich., being one of the first born in the township of North Shade. In political matters Mr. Stites is a Democrat.

Mr. Brink was a soldier in the last war, being a member of the 10th Mich. Cav. He died at Camp Nelson, Ky. His widow is yet living, and resides in Nashville, Jackson Co., Iowa. She again married, her present husband being Samuel Evans, of Hubbardston, Ionia Co., Mich.

**A**aron Sloan, farmer, section 22, Pine River Township, is a son of Thomas and Basheba (Pitcher) Sloan, natives of Massachusetts. They first settled in New York State, where the father died. The mother afterwards came to Eaton Co., Mich., where she died. Aaron was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., Aug. 10, 1815. Receiving his education in the common schools, he helped his father on the farm until 20 years old, when he started out for himself. To aid him in the battle of life, he had nothing but willing hands and a loving wife. At the age of 21, Dec. 24, 1836, in Waterloo, Seneca Co., N. Y., he had formed a life partnership with Caroline C., daughter of William and Sally (Hall) Taylor, natives respectively of New York State and Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor set-

tled in New York, and afterwards came to Michigan; and in 1879, came to Gratiot County, where he died, in the fall of 1880. She still survives, at the age of 85.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Sloan removed to Ohio, and in 1846 they came to Eaton Co., Mich. Five years later, they removed to Montcalm County, and in February, 1854, he came with his family to Gratiot County. He bought 160 acres of land in Pine River Township, where he now resides. He has sold part of his farm, and divided part among his children, and now retains 60 acres, all of which is nicely improved.

In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served eight months, on detached service. He was discharged at Detroit, on account of sickness.

Mr. and Mrs. Sloan have had five children, three surviving: William H., Hiram L. (deceased), Almira (deceased), Aaron F. and Rachel E. Hiram L. enlisted in the same regiment with his father, afterwards re-enlisting in the 8th Mich. Vol. Inf., and died at Fairfax Seminary, Va. Mr. Sloan has held the office of Highway Commissioner four years. In politics, he is a supporter of the National party.

**W**illiam Towner, farmer, section 24, North Shade Township, is a son of Daniel and Polly (Budlong) Towner, natives of New York State, the latter of New Lebanon. The family were engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The subject of this sketch was born May 19, 1805, in Steuben Co., N. Y.; he lived with his parents until his mother's death, which occurred in 1855, in Livingston Co., Mich. His father died in 1864. William came to this county in 1853, locating on section 24, on a tract of 80 acres of wild land, where he now has 60 acres well improved, and furnished with a good residence, a large barn, etc. His house he erected in the summer of 1880, at a cost of nearly \$1,000.

Mr. T. married Miss Diana, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Kinney) Brink, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Connecticut. He died Sept. 25, 1879, and she, Jan. 5, 1857, both in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. T.'s two children have been, Herbert M., born in 1847, and Elveites, in 1849, and died in April, 1863. Mrs. T. is a member of the Second-Advent Church, and Mr. T., in politics, is a Republican. Herbert has charge of the farm. He married Miss Mary B., daughter of George and Barbara Franks. Their two children are, Verna F., born in September, 1877, and Erna V., Feb. 19, 1881.

**A**lfred J. Brooke, farmer and mechanic, section 30, Emerson Township, was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Jan. 23, 1833; and was the son of John and Sarah L. (Brenholtz) Brooke, natives of Lycoming Co., Pa., of English and German descent. The father was a carpenter and joiner, but afterwards engaged in farming in Ohio, in which State he died, at the age of 57, and his wife at the age of 67. Alfred J. lived the first part of his life in Wayne and Wood Counties, in Ohio. At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to the blacksmith's trade, under his brother. After serving his time he went into partnership with his brother; and three years later he bought him out and conducted a large shop on his own account, until 1864. In the spring of 1865, he came to this State and county, and purchased 40 acres of wild land on section 30, Emerson Township. Here he erected a small house and shop in which to carry on his trade; but one year later he was prevailed upon to move to the village of Ithaca. He worked at his trade there some time, and then, in the spring of 1878, returned to his farm. He has since devoted himself to the improvement of his farm, and now has 80 acres, of which 60 are well improved.

March 8, 1856, he was united in marriage at Freeport, Ohio, to Louisa, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Tucker) Kelly, natives of Rhode Island, and of English and Irish extraction. They moved after marriage to Sandusky Co., Ohio, where Louisa was born, May 4, 1835. At the age of 16, she removed with her parents to Wood Co., Ohio, and there lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Brooke have had a large family,—12 children; but the death roll is longer than the list of the living, and only five now survive: Dora S., born Aug. 24, 1858; Louis Am-

broe, May 4, 1860; Alfred J., Jan. 30, 1867; Lillie M., Nov. 15, 1868, and Emma L., Sept. 8, 1873. Those who are now sleeping their last sleep are as follows: a baby which died in infancy; Etta B., born Nov. 28, 1863, died Feb. 18, 1865; Alta L., born May 13, 1862, died May 18, 1862; Joseph M., born March 17, 1870, died Aug. 1, 1870; Wilson, born Jan. 10, 1872, died April 24, 1872; Moody, born Aug. 27, 1875, died Sept. 10, 1875.

Mr. Brooke is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 1140, K. of H., and in politics is an ardent Republican. Mrs. Brooke is a conscientious member of the M. E. Church of Ithaca.

**E**dwin Hopkinson, farmer, section 20, North Star Township, is a native of Nottinghamshire, Eng., and was born April 16, 1835; his father was William Hopkinson, also a native of that country. Mr. H., the subject of this sketch, emigrated to this country in 1854, first locating in Lyons, N. Y., then, in 1865, in Hancock Co., Ohio, and finally, in 1870, in this county, where he has since lived, and where he owns 80 acres of good farming land, following agriculture and raising stock. He was married Jan. 5, 1865, to Miss Eleanor, daughter of James Turnbull (deceased), a native of Scotland. She is a native of Wayne Co., N. Y. Their three children are, Mary E., Elmer E., deceased, and William V.

Politically, Mr. Hopkinson is a Republican.

**T**homas Grover, a prominent farmer, residing on section 2, Arcada Township, was born in Southampton, Eng., June 17, 1839; and is the son of Thomas and Maria (Sherwood) Grover, natives of Yorkshire, Eng. Thomas Grover was by occupation a carriage smith, and came to this country in 1850, locating in New York State. Two years later he came to this State, where he died, at his home on section 2, Arcada Township, Aug. 27, 1877, at the age of 65. His wife now resides at St. Louis, in this county, at the age of 68.

The subject of this sketch was 11 years old when

his parents came to this country, and he came with them to Lenawee Co., Mich. At the age of 17, he left the parental roof and worked as a laborer on various farms until he brought up in Linn Co., Iowa, where, at Paris, Sept. 29, 1865, he was married to Margaret, daughter of Alexander and Phebe (Sutton) Burnham, natives of Ohio. They moved to Kansas, and Mr. Burnham enlisted in the Mexican war. He died in April, 1848. His wife now resides in Kansas, aged 58.

One year after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Grover came to Michigan, shortly after returning to Linn Co., Iowa, where he was for a time in the cattle business. He bought and sold two or three farms, and finally, in the winter of 1878, came to Gratiot County and settled on 90 acres of his father's place. He afterwards purchased 40 acres, and now has in the aggregate 130 acres of good farming land, partly improved. He has erected a neat residence, and a substantial barn.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover have had nine children, eight of whom survive: P. Maria, Howard A., Anna M., Mary A., Frank N., Thomas S., Perry M. and Henry H. (deceased). In political sentiment, Mr. Grover is not partisan, but at elections he exercises his best judgment.

**C**harles C. Proctor, farmer, section 31, North Shade Township, was the son of Jeremiah and Marindia (Carnahan) Proctor, natives of New York, where the mother died. The father died in Clinton County, this State, in 1855, at the advanced age of 76 years.

The subject of our sketch was born Dec. 9, 1815, in Brookfield Co., N. Y., and remained under the parental roof-tree until he was 29 years of age. He followed the trade of a cooper until he moved to Ionia County, this State. Here he remained for eight years, when he came to this county and located, in the year 1855, on 85 acres of land on section 31, North Shade Township, and now has 55 acres of the same under good improvement.

Mr. Proctor may be considered one of the pioneer settlers of the county, and as such he has certainly experienced numerous trials and difficulties in building a home in the then wilderness and battling and overcoming all obstacles.

He was married to Miss Charlotte E., daughter of John and Julia (McLeod) Nichols, April 18, 1844. Mr. Nichols was a native of Germany, who emigrated to America at an early day. He was captured by the British and taken to Canada, and escaped by swimming the Niagara River. He died in the State of New York. Mrs. Nichols was a native of New York, and died in the same State.

Mr. and Mrs. Proctor are the parents of two children: one son, George W., married Miss Lydia Kannonse, and one daughter, Julia M., now Mrs. William Burk.

Mr. Proctor has been Justice of the Peace five years, and also Supervisor. The wife and husband are members of the United Brethren organization, and are respected and esteemed citizens of the township. Mr. P. is a Republican in political opinion.

**W**illiam Stonebrook, farmer, section 24, North Shade Township, is a son of Frederick and Sarah (Cline) Stonebrook, natives of Union Co., Penn., who came to Ohio in the year 1822, settling first in Wayne County and afterward in Holmes County, where Mr. S. died. He was a carpenter by trade. Mrs. S. died in Indiana.

The subject of this sketch was born Aug. 18, 1822, in Union Co., Penn. When he became of age he engaged in chopping for about six months in Indiana; he then returned to Ohio and married; he moved from Wood Co., Ohio, to Gratiot Co., Mich., in 1865, locating on section 24, North Shade Township, on 160 acres of wild land; of this he has now 95 acres in good cultivation. In the summer of 1883 he erected a fine brick house, at a cost of nearly \$2,000.

Mr. Stonebrook married Miss Belinda, first daughter of Michael and Hannah (Shotwell) First; her mother was a native of New Jersey, and her father of Pennsylvania: the latter was a brewer by occupation, but also followed agriculture to some extent. After the above marriage, Mr. and Mrs. F. moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio, locating in Wayne County in 1819: they are both now deceased. Mrs. F. died in Wayne Co., Ohio, and Mr. F. in Gratiot Co., Mich.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Stonebrook are,

James H., Elizabeth, Michael, Sarah, Samuel J., Adolphus A. and Margaret J. The parents are members of the Baptist Church. Mr. S. has always been a Democrat in political views, and he has held the office of Assessor of his school district.

**M**rs. Catharine A. Walker, residing on section 25, Arcada Township, was born in Stark Co., Ohio, Jan. 8, 1828; and is the daughter of Abraham and Barbara (Myers) Van Nostrand, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Abraham Van Nostrand removed to Stark Co., Ohio, and afterwards to Tuscarawas County, where he died, in 1843. Mrs. Van Nostrand died in the same county in 1844. Catharine was thus left an orphan at 15, and she went to live with her uncle. Sept. 20, 1848, she was united in marriage to John, son of Silas and Margaret (Peoples) Walker, natives of New England, and of Irish and English descent. Silas Walker was a mechanic and farmer, and removed to Ohio, where he died a number of years ago, and his wife in 1879, at the advanced age of 81. John Walker was born Sept. 28, 1824, and passed his boyhood days on his father's farm in Tuscarawas Co., Ohio. Here he was married.

Fifteen years after marriage, and eight years after they came to Michigan, he enlisted, Oct. 4, 1864, in Co. C, 29th Mich. Vol. Inf. He died in the service, July 6, 1865, at Anderson, Tenn. He had made a settlement in 1856, on 80 acres on section 25, Arcada Township, and since his death, with the aid of her two sons, she has nicely improved 70 acres. Samuel L. Walker was born April 25, 1857; and Joshua C. was born Aug. 4, 1859. They are energetic and intelligent young men, and liked by all who know them. Mrs. Walker has three other children living: Celestia Pickard, born Sept. 27, 1849, and now residing at Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County; Henry L., born Sept. 11, 1852, residing at the same place; and J. Albert, born June 12, 1864, also residing at Mt. Pleasant, Mich. She has lost three children: Mary M., born March 31, 1850, and died Sept. 25, 1852; Margaret J., born Dec. 12, 1854, and died March 26,

1856; and Silas M., born June 11, 1861, and died Nov. 19, 1865. Mrs. Walker is a member of the Christian Church, to which also her husband belonged. He was politically a Republican.

**A**lfred A. Gross, farmer, section 2, Hamilton Township, is a son of Jonah Gross, deceased, a native of the State of Massachusetts and where, in the town of Enfield, Hampshire County, Alfred was born, April 14, 1831. The father removed his family to Oakland County, this State, in 1831, and here the son assisted on the farm, attended the common and subscription schools, receiving a fair education and developing into manhood.

Mr. Gross was married April 15, 1857, to Rhoda M., daughter of Anson Dayton, deceased, and in 1865 came with her husband to this county. They located in the woods and commenced the arduous task, so familiar to the old pioneers of the county, of improving their land for a future home for themselves and children. Their trials and troubles were similar to those of many others identified with the early settlement of the county; energetically did they, each one doing his or her part, battle against all difficulties, until at last victory was theirs, and they are now the possessors of 320 acres of land and have four children: Frank J., Warren E., Carrie W., and Lucy, to gladden their hearts in their declining years.

In addition to his landed estate Mr. Gross owns and runs a shingle mill on section 1, Hamilton Township. Politically, he is a zealous Democrat.

**W**illiam Burgess (deceased) was a farmer on section 24, Arcada Township; was born in New York State March 21, 1828, and died in Arcada Township, March 22, 1880, leaving a mourning wife and a family of four. His early boyhood was spent on the farm in his native State, and when a young man he went to Lawrence Co., Ohio. He afterward went to Wood County, in the same State, where he was married, May 20, 1842.

He came to Gratiot County in 1854, and was one

of the very first settlers in Arcada Township, building the third log house in that township. He was a progressive farmer, an upright citizen, and a pleasant neighbor. He was a member of the Christian Church and a supporter of the Republican party. He was often chosen to office by his fellow citizens, and always gave satisfaction.

His wife, Ruth, *nee* Hathaway, was the daughter of Daniel and Polly (Marick) Hathaway, natives of Massachusetts, and of English ancestry. Daniel Hathaway was by trade a ship carpenter, learning that work in Massachusetts. He moved to Painesville, Ohio, below Cleveland, and afterwards to Wood Co., Ohio, where he died about 1852, at the age of 60. Polly (Marick) Hathaway died in the same county, in 1867. Ruth was born in Geauga Co., Ohio, April 15, 1824, and when 13 years old her parents removed to Wood County, where she was married.

Mr. and Mrs. Burgess had a family of eight, four of whom survive: Mary A., born July 29, 1843; George B., Sept. 8, 1855; Willie B., May 4, 1864; and Lora, Sept. 18, 1867. The deceased are: John William, born May 21, 1842, and died June 11, 1842; Lora A., born April 21, 1846, and died Sept. 15, 1857; Rowena, born May 15, 1850, and died April 18, 1870; John A., born May 15, 1850, and died June 11, 1879. Mrs. Burgess still survives, and is a member of the Christian Church.

**M**artin Grill, farmer, section 30, North Shade Township, was born Sept. 15, 1830, in Pennsylvania. His parents, John and Sarah (Funck) Grill, were also natives of the Keystone State, and the former followed the occupation first of butcher and then of cooper and farmer. In 1839 they left Pennsylvania and came to Ohio and lived for one year in Stark County. In 1840 they moved to Summit County, where they lived until their death, Mr. Grill dying in 1867, and Mrs. Grill in 1876.

Martin Grill remained under the parental roof until he was about 21 years old, when he went to Illinois and for a time was engaged in farming. He spent one year in a saw-mill at Decatur, Ill., after which he went to Indiana and stopped with his

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*A. A. Gross.*





*Mrs. A. S. Gross.*

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brother for a short time, and after this he returned to his home in Ohio. He remained at home helping his father on the farm and in the mill until he was about 25 years of age. In the mill, our subject did some of the hardest work that ever falls to man to perform, as the mill was kept running day and night for a great part of the year. He was married to Rachel Ludwick, daughter of Samuel and Mary E. (Dick) Ludwick, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Ludwick followed farming in his native State, and later in life moved to Summit Co., Ohio, where they both passed the remainder of their days, the former dying in 1855, and the latter in 1856.

To Mr. and Mrs. Grill have been born ten children, as follows: Mary S., Hiram W., Amanda E., Eliza J., Henry D., Emma J., Martha, Martin, Charlie W. and Clara E.

Mr. Grill came to Gratiot County in 1868 and located upon section 30, North Shade Township, where he has a good farm. He is regarded as a man of good judgment by his neighbors, and as being a fair, upright and honorable citizen, as is evinced by the people of his district having chosen him as Assessor for 14 terms in succession.

Mr. G. has suffered twice from the enmity of the elements. July 3, 1859, the lightning struck and totally demolished his father's barn, the contents of which belonged to Martin. March 12, 1871, his house was burned, and almost all the household goods were also consumed.

**J**ohn L. Richards, farmer, section 33, Newark Township, was born July 7, 1844, in Pennsylvania. He is a son of John and Rachel (Fry) Richards, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State, were there married and resided 14 years. In 1846 they removed to Ohio, and there belonged to the farming class. In the spring of 1871 they came to Gratiot County and settled in the township of Newark, where they still reside.

Mr. Richards was a child of two years when his parents located in the Buckeye State, where he grew to the age of 18 years, engaged in assisting on the farm, and acquiring a fair education in the common schools. Loused to a sense of the necessity pressing

upon the authorities of the United States Government under the stringencies of civil war, he yielded to his convictions of duty and enlisted Aug. 6, 1862, in the 111th Reg. Ohio Vol. Inf., and served his country under that enrollment three years. He was in the battle of Hough's Ferry, Tenn., and, while on picket guard at Lenoir Station, he, with 51 of his comrades, was captured by the rebels, and conducted to Atlanta, Ga., where they were held two weeks, and then removed to Pemberton Castle, Richmond, and a month later were incarcerated at Belle Isle. They became inmates of the latter place on the first day of January, 1864, and there remained until March 12, when they were transferred to the stockade prison at Andersonville, where their sufferings were in no sense or degree less than those of the myriads who succumbed to the horrors of the place, or of those whose endurance proved equal to such frightful experiences as cannot be equaled on the recorded pages of human suffering. The very name of Andersonville must cause a shudder while time endures! After seven months of horror they were sent to Savannah, and later to Milan, whence, after a month, they were ordered to be transferred to Blockshire, Ga. While on their way thither the train was intercepted, and 250 starved, ragged, forlorn human creatures, of whom Mr. Richards was one, were paroled and sent to the camp at Annapolis. Two weeks later they were furloughed, and Mr. Richards returned to his home in Ohio. In six weeks he was exchanged and rejoined his regiment. His health was too much impaired for active service, and he was on detached duty until the close of the war. On the expiration of his term of enrollment, he was discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, whence he returned home.

Mr. Richards was married Dec. 28, 1865, to Sarah D., youngest daughter of Asa and Jane (Staples) Richardson. The father was a native of Vermont, the mother of Maine. Of this marriage, four children have been born: Earl C., Alice I., Tacie A., and Laura M.

After his becoming a family man, Mr. Richards continued to reside in Ohio until 1870. In that year, he removed his family and interests to Gratiot Co., Mich., and bought 40 acres of land in Newark Township. Of this he has already cleared and placed 35 acres under creditable cultivation. He is a Republican of unmistakable type, and has served

his township in several official positions to which he has been elected. He received an appointment in 1880 to fill a vacancy as Township Clerk, and has been since twice elected to the same incumbency, which he now holds. A branch of the body known as the Union Prisoners of War Association, designated the Camp of Gratiot County, has been established therein, of which Mr. Richards is President. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

**Henry Simmon**, farmer, section 16, Hamilton Township, is a son of John Simmon (deceased), who resided in Adams Co., Pa., and where the subject of our sketch was born, Aug. 26, 1826.

The father moved to Stark Co., Ohio, while Henry was yet a child, locating on a farm. Here the child remained, developing into manhood while assisting the father on the farm and attending the common schools, receiving his education in the unadorned, rudely constructed pioneer log school-house so well remembered by the early settlers of that State.

Mr. Simmon came to this County in 1855, and settled on section 9, Hamilton Township, since which time he has constantly resided in the township. He has experienced all the trials and struggles as well as some of the pleasures of the early settler. His home was located in the woods, distant from neighbors and friends; the nights were made hideous by the howling of wolves, the crying of the wild-cat and panther, and the more timid portion of the family were continually in awe of the visitation of prowling Indians; his cabin contained mother earth for a floor, dry leaves for a bed and the rudely constructed fire-place for cooking; wintered his cattle four years on browse which he procured by chopping down the trees; at one time carried 100 pounds of flour on his back 12 miles to satisfy the hunger of his family. Here he lived and worked and prospered.

Mr. Simmon enlisted in the late war, in Co. 1, 23d Mich. Inf., and was engaged in the battles of Johnsonville, Columbia and Nashville. He has been Township Treasurer for five years; is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the G. A. R.

Dec. 19, 1848, Mr. Simmon was married to Miss Julia A., daughter of John Muffly, of this county. They have had ten children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Margaret J., Susan, Sarah E., John J., Lucinda, William H. and Eva N.

**Mery V. Dean**, farmer, section 19, Newark Township, was born Dec. 11, 1851, in the State of New York. He is a son of Amos and Betsey (Ludlow) Dean, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of the State of New York, where they settled and resided until 1857, in which year they came to Michigan and located in Ionia County, where the father died in the following year.

Mr. Dean left home to try the world alone at the age of 16 years, and passed the ensuing ten years as a farm laborer. In 1862 he came to Gratiot County, and, in the summer of 1877, he purchased 80 acres of land in its original condition on section 19 of Newark Township, where he has since resided and operated as a farmer. He has placed 40 acres of his land under improvements and cultivation. He has made creditable progress in placing his farm in a state suitable for successful farming during the brief period it has been in his possession. In political belief and effort, Mr. Dean is a Republican.

He was married in Newark Township, April 9, 1882, to Mary M., youngest daughter of Chester and Sophronia (Wade) Howland. Her parents were natives respectively of the counties of Oneida and Orleans, N. Y. The father was a lineal descendant of John Howland, one of the Mayflower pilgrims, and Mrs. Dean is a member of the ninth generation in direct descent from her pilgrim ancestor. Mr. and Mrs. Howland came to Michigan in its early period, and first settled in Lenawee County, where they resided 20 years, removing thence to Hillsdale County, and in the summer of 1871 came to Gratiot County. They bought 40 acres of land in section 20, Newark Township. Mr. Howland had placed 25 acres under improvement, and erected good and suitable farm buildings on his farm, where he resided until his death, which occurred March 29, 1882. Mrs. Howland resides on the homestead. The Howlands are a remarkably long-lived race. Chester Howland was

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M. Bollasky



one of seven children, and there was no death in the the family until that of the mother, which occurred on the day the youngest of the family was 50 years old. Mrs. Dean is one of five children born to her parents, four of whom are living. George A. died when three years old. He was the fourth child. The others are: Achsah L., Martha L. and Sarah E. Mrs. Dean was born May 15, 1865, in Hillsdale Co., Mich.

**M**ichael Pollasky, commission merchant at Alma, was born Nov. 16, 1832, in Hungary, of which country his parents, Michael and Rebecca (Blitz) Pollasky, were natives. The son was a Lieutenant in the Hungarian army and engaged in the futile struggle of Hungary for independence. After the failure of the effort to assert the claims of that people to the right of self-government, Mr. Pollasky, with his wife and children—Rosa and Max—and accompanied with his father, mother and sister Hannah, emigrated to America. On reaching the New World they made a stay of eight months in Newark, N. J., and removed thence to Detroit, where the father is still a resident. The mother died there Dec. 25, 1879.

Mr. Pollasky was about 23 years of age when he arrived in the United States. He came to Wayne Co., Mich., where he rented a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits, doing a considerable business as a dairyman. This he followed two and a half years, and subsequently went to Detroit, where he engaged in the manufacture of shoes about a year and a half. This period was a time of trial, as circumstances were unfavorable, and the venture did not prove remunerative. His next business was as a merchant in the Lake Superior country, where he operated two years. In the fall of 1863 he came to Alma, and, associated with another man, again embarked on the sea of trade. His choice of a business partner was unfortunate, and their affairs became so involved that the stock of the concern was surrendered to satisfy creditors. Mr. Pollasky received a receipt in full for all his liabilities and again opened accounts with the world, with a determined resolution to continue to struggle manfully for success. His outfit comprised a disposition to make all

possible effort, and a faithful, helpful wife. He managed to establish himself again in mercantile pursuits, to which he added lumbering, and conducted his joint business interests with satisfactory results until 1873, when shrinkage of values and the crowding necessities of a large family made heavier demand upon his resources than his business warranted, and he began the manufacture of tubs and pails, which promised to be fairly remunerative. He suffered heavy losses from fire, his stock and establishment being seriously damaged three times in succession with no insurance; this, coupled with his inexperience, brought such disaster that he was compelled to sell his interests. His son bought his stock and fixtures and the business was transferred to St. Joseph, Mich., where Mr. Pollasky again made an effort to reinstate himself and win success. Disaster again overtook him, despite his efforts to avert it, and he made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. In 1877 he engaged in trade as a produce and commission merchant at Alma, and his final venture has met with the success which his indomitable courage and cheerful, hopeful contest with adverse fate deserves.

He is a member of the Order of Masonry, and also belongs to "The Sons of Covenants." He is a decided Republican in political tendency. Was Village President three terms, and has held other local offices.

Mr. Pollasky was married in his native country March 15, 1852, to Celia, daughter of Emanuel and Sarah Wix, all of whom were born in Hungary. Mrs. Pollasky was born April 12, 1831. Of her marriage, six children have been born,—Moses, Rosa, Max, Frank, Marcus and Anna. The first-named died in infancy. Rosa died when 13 years of age. The parents are members of the Mosaic Church.

The portrait of Mr. Pollasky is presented on another page.

**S**amuel Bigelow, druggist, general merchant and dealer in agricultural implements at Estella, was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., March 7, 1827. His father, Samuel L. Bigelow, was a native of New York, and directly descended from the Puritan fathers. His mother, Catharine (Van Gordon) Bigelow, was also a

native of New York, and was descended from the first Dutch settlers of Manhattan Island. She is closely connected with the family of Anneke Jans, a German lady who willed or leased to Trinity Church, of New York City, a great part of the land on which the city is situated, including the Astor and Stewart property. The case of the Anneke Jans heirs has become famous in the last few years, and may be unsettled for a generation to come. Several of the ancestral connections of Samuel Bigelow were in the Revolution, and he has a cane cut by an uncle from a hickory tree that grew up within the fortifications of Ticonderoga. It was cut just after Col. Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured that important post from the British. He has also an oil portrait nearly 100 years old, of his paternal grandfather, who was a prominent minister in the Baptist Church.

The subject of this narrative remained in Steuben County until nearly nine years old, when his father removed to Yates County and settled on Crooked Lake, one of the pleasant bodies of water so numerous in that section. Here he grew into manhood, working in his father's mills and stores until 21 years of age, and receiving his education in the Yates County Academy. Leaving home, he was for two years employed as buying and selling agent by the Yates County Linseed Oil Company. Thence he came to Grand Rapids, this State, and for five years he was employed as clerk in a store and as teacher in the common schools of Kent County. Next he went to Ottawa County, and farmed until 1861. Moving to Ravenna, Muskegon County, he was in mercantile life for three years. He then sold out, and, with his wife, spent one year in making a tour of Canada and the New England States. In December, 1866, he found himself in Gratiot County, and for a time he taught school. For several years subsequent he was in the employ of Mr. Tucker, a merchant of Estella, and he then started a store of his own. He carries a moderate stock of goods, and does an annual business of about \$1,500.

Oct. 12, 1853, in Kent County, this State, he was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Walcott. She was a native of Canada, was born May 14, 1835, and died at her home in Estella, in February, 1869. He was again married, at Estella, Jan. 21, 1871, to Miss Dora Bell, daughter of George S. Bell. She was a native of Ohio, and died Nov. 12, 1873, leaving two children, Alberta and George S.

Mr. B. is a member of Elm Hall Lodge, No. 257, F. & A. M., and of Ithaca Chapter, No. 70, R. A. M. He has for some time been Secretary of the lodge. He has held the offices of Justice of the Peace and Township Clerk for several years each, and is now Notary Public. Politically, Mr. B. is very liberal in his views, but leans toward the Democratic party.

**D**aniel W. Altenburg, farmer and County Surveyor, was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., May 5, 1834; and is a son of Daniel and Sarah (Latson) Altenburg. His father was a native of New York, of Holland descent, and has followed farming all his life. In the fall of 1839, he moved to Union Township, De Kalb Co., Ind.; and he was one of the pioneers of that county. His family was the fifth in the township. He afterwards removed to the county seat, Auburn, where, in comfortable circumstances, he now lives a retired life. He is 74 years old, and the second oldest pioneer in De Kalb County. He is an active member of the M. E. Church, and has been Class-leader for many years. Sarah Latson was a native of Genesee County, and of New England ancestry. She moved to De Kalb Co., Ind., in 1834, and died in Union Township May 22, 1863. She had always been a faithful Christian, and her death was an example to all unbelievers. She passed away rejoicing, and admonishing her children to serve the Lord and keep his commandments. She left nine children, all of whom are yet living, in good circumstances, and occupying positions of trust and honor. One is a prominent attorney at Little Rock, Ark., and has represented his county in the Arkansas Legislature. Four served their country during the Rebellion, and were honorably discharged.

The subject of this sketch, when six months old, was taken by his parents to Sandusky Co., O., and four years later to De Kalb Co., Ind., where they settled in Union Township. They found themselves in a dense wilderness, and Daniel being the oldest son, as he grew up much of the labor of clearing and improving a farm in a new country devolved upon him. His educational advantages were therefore limited; but, being of a persevering disposition, he attended school during his less busy winters, and thus, with



the help of miscellaneous reading, he acquired a fair education. During the last two years that he lived at home, he was an engineer on the Elk River Valley railroad, which runs through De Kalb County.

Feb. 18, 1855, he was married to Sophia, daughter of Lanslot and Maria (Truman) Ingman, natives respectively of Fairfield Co., Ohio, and London, England; and of English and German descent. Mr. Ingman followed farming most of his life, but was also for some time a cabinet-maker. He removed to De Kalb Co., Ind., in 1836, very early in its history, he and his brothers being the first two settlers near Auburn; and in connection with his brother-in-law, Wesley Parks, located and platted the present city of Auburn. He was for many years a prominent man, and for some time Justice of the Peace. In that place Mr. Ingman died, Dec. 2, 1874; Mrs. Ingman May 26, 1883; and their only daughter besides Sophia, but a little later. Sophia (Ingman) Altenburg was born Feb. 1, 1838, in Auburn, Ind., and was the third white child born in that place. She lived in Auburn with her parents until eight years of age, when her father traded his cabinet shop and village property for a farm near by, to which they all removed. There she was reared and educated and married.

Mr. and Mrs. Altenburg moved to the county seat: he having been chosen County Surveyor, resided there for ten years. For five years of this time he was County Surveyor, and he surveyed nearly the whole county. He finally resigned, not wishing to serve under a Democratic administration. Oct. 18, 1864, he enlisted in Co. M, 1st Ind. Vol. Heavy Art., under Capt. Samuel E. Armstrong and Col. Canby. He was at New Orleans and at the taking of Mobile, and was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Oct. 24, 1865. Selling his property in Auburn, he came to this State and county, and located on 80 acres on section 17, Newark Township. Here he resided 17 years, brought 64 acres to a high state of cultivation and drainage, and built a very fine brick residence. His farm was known as one of the model farms of Gratiot County. He made maple sugar very extensively, producing annually from 3,500 to 4,500 pounds. Aug. 4, 1883, he sold his farm in Newark Township; and Aug. 10, he purchased 80 acres on section 25, Arcada Township, where he now resides. He has a good location,

and is fast making a fine farm, 46 acres being already improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Altenburg have a family of seven, as follows: Frank F., born April 10, 1856; Araminta, April 18, 1858; Henry I., Oct. 4, 1862; Maria E., Jan. 19, 1867; William L., July 3, 1871; Orville L., Dec. 21, 1876; and Daniel T., Dec. 10, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. A. are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and active workers for Christianity. All their family have been brought up under careful religious influences.

Mr. Altenburg is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 216, I. O. O. F. Politically he is a staunch Republican. He has always commanded the respect of his fellow citizens, and although he is not an office-seeker he has occupied many positions of honor. In 1867, he was appointed Deputy County Surveyor, and the following year he was elected County Surveyor. Excepting one term, he has held one of these two offices continuously to the present time. He has been School Director two years, and Notary Public for the same length of time. In January, 1871, the Board of Supervisors appointed him Drain Commissioner, which office he retained for ten years. He then positively declined to serve longer.

**J**ames Riddle, farmer, section 10, Emerson Township, was born in Ontario, Canada, Oct. 14, 1826, and is the son of Archibald and Bethia (Marr) Riddle, natives of Scotland. They followed farming all their lives, first in the old country, and then in Ontario, Canada, where they died, the father in 1873, the mother in May, 1880. James was brought up near London, Ontario, and remained as a laborer on his father's farm until 30 years of age. He received a fair education in the common schools of Middlesex County. In 1856 he came to this State and county, and located 240 acres of land in Emerson Township. He spent two summers here and then returned to Canada, remaining six years.

During this period, March 29, 1866, at London, Canada, he was married to Isabel, daughter of William and Margaret (Beattie) Scott, natives of Scotland. She was born in Westminster, Middlesex Co., Ont., April 28, 1834, and, receiving her education in

the district schools of that county, remained at home until her marriage. One year after that event, Mr. and Mrs. Riddle came to this county and settled on the farm he had purchased in 1856. He now owns 120 acres, nearly all in an excellent state of cultivation, and has good buildings for residence, shelter of stock, etc. Politically he is an earnest and influential Republican, and he has held the office of Overseer of Highways for some years. Mr. and Mrs. Riddle are members of the Presbyterian Church, are conscientious readers of the Bible, and actively devoted to the interests of Christianity.

**W**illiam Marion Curtiss, farmer, section 11, Emerson Township, was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Jan. 8, 1852, and is the son of Waterman F. and Sylvia (Cronkhite) Curtiss, natives of New York and of English descent.

He resided in his native county until six years old, when he came with his parents to this State, and located on a farm in Ionia County. Here he received two years' schooling, and in February, 1861, he came with his mother (his father having died in Ionia County in 1860) to this county and settled in Emerson Township. From that on he gave his time to attending school and to farming.

March 15, 1878, in Lafayette Township, he was married to Catharine McIntosh, daughter of Funley and Ellen (Chisholm) McIntosh, natives of Scotland, where they still live, on a farm. Catharine was born in Rothshire, March 29, 1859, and when 12 years old came with her brother to this country and lived with an uncle in Lafayette Township, Gratiot County, until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss settled on 80 acres on section 11, Emerson Township, in 1878. It was then heavily timbered, but of the 40 acres which they now own, 28 acres are now under the plow, and they have built a cozy little dwelling-house. They are the parents of two children: Nora E., born July 14, 1879; Arthur W., born Oct. 4, 1881. They are members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Curtiss is a young man of enterprise and judgment and stands deservedly high in his community. In politics he votes with the Republican party.

**J**ustin Shoup, farmer, section 8, North Shade Township, is a son of Henry and Polly (Hiland) Shoup. The former was born in Pennsylvania, in 1795, and died in Sandusky Co., O., Jan. 14, 1875; Mrs. S. was born in 1804, and died Jan. 10, 1879, in Sandusky Co., Ohio.

The subject of this sketch was born March 2, 1834, in Sandusky Co., Ohio, remaining with his parents until he was 28 years of age, when he enlisted in Co. D, 128th Ohio Vol. Inf., and served two years in the Eastern army. He was on detached duty at Johnson's Island, guarding prisoners of war. He was discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio, June 20, 1865. He then lived two years longer with his parents; next, two years in Kent Co., Mich., then 19 months in Kansas, then one year again in Kent County, and finally, in 1871, he came to Gratiot County, locating on 80 acres of land, on section 8, North Shade Township, where he has 60 acres in good tillable condition.

Politically, Mr. S. is a Democrat, and he has been a school officer of his township a number of terms. He was married Jan. 5, 1868, to Miss Eunice, daughter of Edmund and Clarissa (Hoyt) Ring, who was born April 19, 1850, in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. Her parents were natives of the State of New York, whence they moved to Ohio, then to Ionia, Mich., and finally to Kent Co., Mich., where they yet reside. Mr. and Mrs. Shoup's children are: Flora B., Edmund H. and Clara L.

**S**aac B. Ward, farmer and lumberman, resident on section 20, Sumner Township, is a son of Lewis and Isabel (McLeod) Ward, natives of New England and of English and Scotch descent. Lewis Ward was by occupation a miller, and both he and wife are deceased.

The subject of this memoir was born in Galway Township, Saratoga Co., N. Y., Feb. 21, 1829. Four years later his father moved to Lorain Co., Ohio, where he lived 12 years. Thence he came to Eaton

Co., Mich., where he died. After coming to this State, Isaac B. worked out for himself among the neighbors for about six years, and then went to Ionia County.

In North Plains Township, that county, Oct. 14, 1851, he was united in marriage to Miss Lovena, daughter of Harvey and Eliza A. (Freeman) Lewis, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. She was born Oct. 8, 1834, and came with her parents to Livingston Co., Mich., and then to Montcalm County. Thence she went to Ionia County and worked as a domestic until her marriage.

After living in North Plains Township five years, Mr. and Mrs. Ward came to Gratiot County and located on 80 acres on section 20, Sumner Township, afterwards purchasing 40 acres on section 29. He has seen many of the peculiar experiences common to pioneers. When he came the country was entirely new, and the only means of getting from place to place was by the Indian trails. He had to go 20 miles to purchase supplies. He now has a fine farm with 80 acres well improved.

Mr. and Mrs. W. have been the parents of four children, three now surviving: Ackley L., born May 18, 1854; William W., April 18, 1856; Lemuel Jay, May 16, 1861. A baby was born July 3, 1852, and died in infancy. Mr. Ward is a member of Elm Hall Lodge, No. 257, F. & A. M. He has held the offices of Supervisor one year, Township Treasurer three years, Highway Commissioner eight years, and other minor offices. In politics he is an ardent Republican.

**R**ichard Foster, farmer, section 8, Washington Township, is a son of Richard and Fanny (Hines) Foster, natives of Staffordshire, England. Richard Foster was a lock and gun smith, and died in London in 1852. Richard, junior, was born in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England, Oct. 10, 1822. When 21 he was apprenticed to his father's trade, and in 1852 he came to America. He lived three years in New York City, and then went to New Jersey, where he enlisted in Co. D, 1st U. S. Sharpshooters. He went to the Army of the Potomac and fought in the seven days' battle before Richmond, at Fredericksburg,

Bull Run, Antietam, Frederick City and other places. He escaped unhurt, and held at the time of his discharge the position of Armory Sergeant of his regiment. He was discharged in front of Petersburg, Va., Sept. 14, 1864. He keeps as a trophy a sabre which he captured from a rebel Colonel. On leaving the service, Mr. Foster went first to New York, and then came to Gratiot County, locating on 80 acres on section 8, Washington Township. He has improved 35 acres, but has also worked at his trade in the mean time.

In August, 1847, he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of William and Martha (Dunch) Fletcher, natives of Kent and Middlesex, England. They both died in the old country, Mr. Fletcher having been a hotel-keeper until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Foster have had seven children, four of whom are living: Joseph, Richard, William and George. Mr. Foster has been Roadmaster in his township. Politically he is a Republican. He and wife are members of the M. E. Church.

**E**nos H. Kimmel, farmer on section 33, Pine River Township, is a son of Christopher C. and Phebe (Spears) Kimmel, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The father settled in Ohio in 1833, and came to Michigan in 1855, settling in North Star Township, this county, where he died, Jan. 20, 1873. His wife is still a resident of that township. Their family numbered 14, 13 of whom lived to be adults.

Enos H., the subject of this notice, was the second child and first son of the family, and was born in Hancock Co., Ohio, Aug. 15, 1841. He was 14 years old when his parents came to Gratiot County, and he remained with them three years longer. Then for two years he worked out by the month.

Aug. 12, 1861, he enlisted in the Eighth Mich. Vol. Inf. He served four years, and fought in 13 heavy engagements. At James Island, he was wounded by a shell, and in consequence lost from the right hand one finger and temporarily the use of two others. He was also slightly wounded in the thigh at Cold Harbor, Va. From this he was only off duty for three weeks. He was discharged at Washington, D. C.

Returning to Gratiot County, from the service, he

bought 80 acres of wild land in Pine River Township, which he has since converted into a valuable farm and a comfortable home.

In Clinton County, Dec. 24, 1865, he was married to Elmira A., daughter of Zebina and Ann Rice, natives of New England. She was born in Clinton County, Dec. 7, 1844, and died Aug. 12, 1873, leaving three children, George C., Rosa A. and Orrin R. He was again married, at St. Louis, Mich., July 4, 1875, to Lydia, daughter of John and Lucy Franklin. To this union came one child, Archie, who was carried away by the hand of death when two years old. Jan. 4, 1878, he married for his present wife, at Saginaw, Mich., Mrs. Alice Hale, daughter of Henry and Sarah Waymire, natives of Ohio, and widow of George Hale. She was also born in Ohio, Jan. 5, 1861. They have had one child, James G., which died at the age of two weeks. Mr. Kimmel is one of the enterprising, intelligent farmers of Pine River Township. Politically, he is a Republican.

**J**ohn Mulholland, farmer, section 24, Newark Township, was born in Seneca Co., Ohio, Nov. 6, 1839. He is a son of William and Eliza (Dillon) Mulholland. They were natives of Ireland, and became residents of the United States in 1828, settling in Ohio. Their family included three sons and four daughters.

Mr. Mulholland is the second son of his parents, and resided in the county where he was born until he was 28 years of age. He spent his early life as assistant of his father on the farm and in attendance at school, and, after reaching manhood, had the management of his father's farm six years. In the fall of 1864 he was drafted, but instead of entering the service himself he sent a substitute, to whom he paid \$1,000. He was married in Hancock Co., Ohio, March 14, 1867, to Sarah, daughter of George and Catherine (Krable) Graham, both natives of Ohio. Mrs. Mulholland is the second daughter, and one of seven children. Of her marriage three sons have been born—Homer G., Everett W. and Arthur M. The mother was born Nov. 21, 1842, in Hancock Co., Ohio.

The family removed to Gratiot County in the autumn of 1868, where Mr. M. bought 80 acres of

land in Newark Township. It was wholly in its original state, and the family took possession of a log house, which was their abode until the winter of 1881, when they moved into a fine frame house, newly erected. Mr. Mulholland proceeded with the improvements on his farm after the manner of men of his calling who fortify their possessions in wise judgment. In 1878 he built an excellent barn as an accessory to his careful and prosperous farming. He is an adherent to the principles of the Republican party, and his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**B**enjamin Burton, farmer, section 25, Arcada Township, was born in Crawford Co., Ohio, Feb. 27, 1853, and is the son of David and Sarah (Dewell) Burton, natives of Ohio. David Burton is a farmer by occupation, and resides in Pine River Township two miles from Alma. Until of age, Benjamin lived on his father's farm in Crawford Co., Ohio, and attended the common schools, receiving a very fair education. In the spring of 1874, he went with his father to Wyandot County, same State, and engaged in farming. He also did an extensive threshing business. Two years later, they removed to Seneca County, and located on a beautiful farm in Eden Township, where our subject remained till marriage.

Dec. 30, 1878, in Springfield Township, Jefferson Co., Ohio, he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Sarah E., daughter of John and Elizabeth (Robertson) Blythe, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and of Irish extraction. John Blythe was a farmer, and died in Jefferson Co., Ohio, July 2, 1873, at the age of 72; his wife died in the same county, May 10, 1850, aged 42. Sarah E. Blythe was born in Springfield Township, Jefferson County, April 30, 1848. When three years old, her mother died, leaving her the youngest of three children. Her father married again. She obtained a good education in the schools of her county, and cared for her father's household until his death. Five years later, she was married. For a little more than two years, Mr. and Mrs. Burton resided in Seneca County, on their farm of 60 acres. He then sold, and came to Michigan,

locating on 120 acres in Arcada Township. The farm is nicely located, and 107 acres are well improved. It has one of the finest orchards in the county.

They have a family of two daughters: Ada M., born Aug. 7, 1880; and Hattie E., born May 28, 1882. Mr. Burton has made many friends during his short residence in this county. Politically he is an ardent Republican.

**G**eorge Chandler, farmer, on section 28, Pine River Township, is a son of Charles and Alcinda (Fletcher) Chandler; the former born in Pomfret, Conn., Dec. 2, 1780, and the latter born in Windsor, Conn., in 1784.

They had a family of nine, three sons and six daughters. George, the second son, was born in Pennsylvania, April 16, 1816. He received a common-school education, and also acquired much valuable knowledge by private reading. At the age of 21, he learned the trade of millwright, which occupation he followed for over 20 years. He had charge of building the first grist-mill in Gratiot County, at Alma. It was afterwards destroyed by fire.

Previous to that, in 1852, he went by steamer to California, and for four years was most of the time engaged in mining. Returning to the Mississippi valley, he came in the summer of 1856 to Gratiot County, of which he has been one of the pioneers. He bought 160 acres of wild land on section 4, Arcada Township, improved the same, and after 16 years' residence sold out for the handsome sum of \$5,000. He then purchased 80 acres on section 28, Pine River Township, where he now resides, having 60 acres nicely under cultivation.

Sept. 24, 1845, at Jamestown, N. Y., he was married to Nancy Woodin, a native of Pennsylvania. This union was blessed with three children,—Martha, Jeremiah B. and Charles S. The first and last named are deceased. March 19, 1877, at St. Louis, he was again married, to Mrs. Eunice (Van Burren) Hubbell, widow of Dennis A. Hubbell, who was killed on Morris Island, S. C., in the late war. Mr. Chandler has been for six years Highway Commissioner, five years Township Treasurer, one year Supervisor, and three years Justice of the Peace, in Arcada Township. He is now Justice of the Peace in Pine

River. He has also held numerous school offices. He is in every sense a representative citizen. In political sentiment, he is a "through and through" Republican.

**H**enry J. Bentley, farmer, section 29, Newark Township, was born July 8, 1842, in Canada. His parents, Wilson and Miriam (Jackson) Bentley, were also natives of the Dominion, where they passed the entire period of their lives.

Mr. Bentley came to Michigan when he was 22 years of age, and first settled in Clinton County, where he passed five years, engaged in the manufacture of wooden bowls. In the spring of 1869 he bought 80 acres of land in a primeval condition, where he has since resided. He has cleared and improved about 60 acres, and has recently added 40 acres by purchase, 30 acres being improved. In political faith and action, Mr. Bentley assimilates with the Democratic party, and has been School Director in District No. 6, Newark Township, six years.

He was married in St. Johns, Clinton Co., Mich., Sept. 2, 1864, to Deborah E., daughter of Asa W. and Rhoda (Day) Ellsworth. The parents were natives of Canada, where Mrs. Bentley was born, April 16, 1842. The four children belonging to the household were born as follows: Oscar L., March 10, 1866; Melvina E., April 6, 1869; Charles A., July 3, 1876, and William J., April 8, 1880.

**W**illiam O. Johnson, farmer, section 33, Pine River Township, is a son of Otis and Sarah C. (Plumstead) Johnson. Otis Johnson was born on the Atlantic Ocean, while his parents were *en route* from Ireland to the great republic. Sarah Plumstead was a native of New York. William O. Johnson was the sixth son of a family of 14, seven sons and seven daughters. He was born in Ohio, but came with his parents when quite young to Michigan, settling in Oakland County. His father, with two of the sons, Robert and James, served through the Mexican war

and some time after returning, moved to Ionia County, where he resided until his death.

While living in Ionia County and attending the common school, the subject of this biography "took French leave" of home and started out to make his own way in life. He went to Oakland County, and hired out to a farmer for 40 days at 12½ cents per day. The five dollars thus earned, he immediately put at interest. He afterwards worked for six dollars per month, and next was employed in a hotel at \$13 per month. In the spring of 1854, he came to Gratiot County, and the following fall he deposited the money for 160 acres of wild land on section 33, Pine River Township. He at once sold 80 of this for \$25 more than it cost him; and the remaining 80 is his present farm. He built a log house and while living alone chopped the wood and timber from 35 acres. After living on the place nine months, he went to Missouri, where he was variously employed for three or four years before returning to his farm.

He was in the meantime married to Mary R., daughter of Thomas and Sarah Hale, natives of North Carolina. She was born in Cape Girardeau Co., Mo. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had two children: Emma L., born March 4, 1862; Alonzo P. (deceased), born May 20, 1865, and died Dec. 24, 1866. Mr. J. lived in his first log house two or three years, and then erected his present dwelling. His 80 acres are now all underdrained and in cultivation. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and in political sentiment is a Democrat.

**Sylvester Wheeler**, farmer, section 13, Newark Township, was born April 1, 1816, in Swanton, Vt. His parents, Jesse Wheeler, Jr., and Sally (Morgan) Wheeler, were also born in the Green Mountain State, and, when the son was but three years old, removed to Onondaga Co., N. Y. Later on, they removed to Batavia, N. Y., and after a stay there of two years they went to Oswego County in that State, where the father bought and improved a farm, and resided thereon nearly 40 years.

On reaching his majority, Mr. Wheeler commenced his life's contest single-handed. In 1852 he went to Kane Co., Ill., and a little more than a year later he

came to Michigan. After a brief residence in Ingham County, he came, in the winter of 1854, to Gratiot County, where he bought 120 acres of land under the Graduation Act. He subsequently bought 40 acres additional, and later disposed of 80 acres by sale. He holds 80 acres at present, with 65 acres in a finely advanced state of cultivation. Mr. Wheeler endorses and supports the principles and issues of the Republican party, and has been active in the school interests of his township.

He was married March 31, 1837, in Oswego Co., N. Y., to Hannah, daughter of William G. and Lavinia (Bristol) Peck. She was born Jan. 10, 1817, in Oswego County, and has become the mother of nine children, all but one of whom still survive. They are named Amanda J., William H., Edmund J., Almira M., Jesse C., Lavinia C., John W., George W. and Eliza A. Jesse C., the fifth child, died when he was 26 years of age.

**Novell J. Fuller**, farmer, section 9, Newark Township, was born April 16, 1827. His parents, Calvin and Bethana Fuller, were natives of Vermont and New York respectively, and their family included three sons and three daughters.

Mr. Fuller was the second son, and passed the years of his boyhood, previous to the age of 18, in obtaining his education. His parents removed to Ohio when he was five years old, and the Buckeye State was his home until 1872. In 1845 he began to "do for himself," and spent some time as a woodsman, after which he became a carpenter, and followed that business for 12 years. In March, 1872, he settled in Ionia Co., Mich., and there resided two and one-half years. In the same year he bought 200 acres of land in Newark Township, this county, whither he removed his family in 1875. His farm now comprises 160 acres, cleared and cultivated. Mr. Fuller belongs to the National Greenback party, and in the spring of 1883 was elected Supervisor, which post he resigned a short time after his election.

He was first married in 1848, in Medina Co., Ohio, to Elizabeth Inhan, a native of the Buckeye State. Three children were born to them. Julia, born in

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*S. A. Johnson*



1852, is the only survivor. Amelia and Samuel are deceased. The wife and mother died in 1854. Mr. Fuller was a second time married May 8, 1856, to Mary Coolman, who was born in Ohio, June 8, 1838. Of their ten children but two survive. Eva M., born Jan. 28, 1867, and Vero C., born July 16, 1869, are living. The following is the record of the dead: Lovell D., born Jan. 25, 1857, died Feb. 21, 1862; Clara E., born June 10, 1859, died Feb. 3, 1862; Joseph E., born Dec. 12, 1862, died April 23, 1864; Cora V., born March 27, 1865, died Sept. 19, 1866; Gracie B., born May 27, 1871, died Sept. 23, 1871; Ionia D., born May 5, 1873, died in September, 1873; Lilly D., born Sept. 25, 1876, died Feb. 6, 1877; Myrtie A., born Jan. 20, 1878, died Feb. 15, 1878. Aug. 28, 1878, the mother crossed the river to the land of eternal life, where her eight sons and daughters awaited her coming. Mr. Fuller was a third time married April 3, 1879, to Harriet E. Hayes, who was born Aug. 8, 1833, in the State of Vermont.



**Theron A. Johnson**, farmer, section 29, Pine River Township, is a son of Matthew and Mary (Robinson) Johnson, natives of Nova Scotia. They first settled, after marriage, in New Brunswick, afterward removing to Canada. In 1862, they came to this State and county, and settled in Pine River Township, where they now reside. Their family comprised seven children: Matilda, Sarah, Theron A., Bradley, Amanda, Mary and Lydia. Theron A., Bradley and Mary are yet living.

The subject of this biographical narrative, the oldest son of the family, was born in New Brunswick, April 12, 1834. At the age of 14, he came with his parents to Canada, and at 18 he engaged in carriage smithing. This occupation he followed for six years, and then went to Winneshiek Co., Iowa, where he worked at blacksmithing for four years. In June, 1862, he came to Gratiot County, and followed the same business at Alma, for three years.

In 1865, he was appointed Postmaster at Alma under President Johnson. After one year, on account of ill health, he resigned, and bought 160 acres of wild land in Pine River Township, where he now

resides. In the summer of 1883, he erected a large and commodious residence. He now has 100 acres of his farm under cultivation, and his surroundings all betoken thrift and industry.

July 23, 1856, at Bradford, Ont., he formed a life partnership with Miss Julia, daughter of David and Phoebe Lloyd, natives of Canada. Mr. Lloyd was killed in the Canadian rebellion. Mrs. Lloyd came with her daughter to Michigan, and died March 28, 1866. The daughter, Julia, was born in Canada, March 25, 1837.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have a family of eight children, born in the following order: Sarah A., June 13, 1857; Lily, May 29, 1859; Charles D., June 4, 1861; Ella, July 31, 1865; Alice, Nov. 9, 1868; Theron L., July 29, 1873; D'Arcy Lloyd, Dec. 31, 1875; and Ethel, April 25, 1878. Mr. Johnson is a prominent man, and has filled numerous offices of trust and honor, showing both his ability and his popularity. He was Supervisor from Arcada Township in 1864-5, and was Chairman of the Board. In 1881, he was the National candidate for State Senator, and was defeated by Hon. Giles T. Brown, the Republican nominee. He was editor of the *Gratiot Journal* most of the time from 1868 to 1872. In 1877, he was chosen Secretary of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which office he has since filled. Politically, he is now a zealous and influential member of the National Greenback party.

The portrait of Mr. Johnson is presented on page 292, and is that of a prominent and representative citizen and agriculturist of Gratiot County.



**Frank Smith**, deceased, was a farmer on section 24, New Haven Township. He was born in Prussia, Sept. 27, 1820. He worked as a common laborer in his native country until 1853, when he emigrated to the land of freedom and prosperity, settling first in Ohio and a year later on an 80-acre tract in this county, where he lived the remainder of his days. This country was then perfectly wild. Here he cleared and put in good arable condition 25 acres; was industrious, honest and prosperous, and a high-minded, consistent Catholic. His death—which was from dropsy—occurred Dec. 10, 1864, just after hav-

ing this drafted for army service. Having gone, on this military duty, as far as Flint, where the doctors pronounced him unfit for a soldier's life, he returned home, and in four weeks he was dead! He had been a soldier in the Prussian army for five years, a portion of that time an officer of rank.

Mr. Smith was married, in Newark Township, this county, May 1, 1855, to Miss Mary Wermuth, who was born in Baden, Switzerland, in March, 1833. When 17 years of age she came with her parents to this country, settling first in Fulton Co., Ohio, and afterward in Newark Township, this county, where she lived until marriage.

July 27, 1865, she married George P. Steadman, her present husband, who was born in New York State, Oct. 2, 1826, and emigrated to this State in 1842. He was a soldier in the last war, and, being shot in the left leg, at the second battle of Bull Run, he was incurably wounded. He, with his wife, spent the years 1879-81 in the gold regions of California. In politics Mr. S. is a Democrat, and he has held the office of School Moderator for nine years.

Mrs. S. is a noble woman, and is recognized as such by her neighbors. Her children by her first husband are: Caroline, born Aug. 30, 1851; Fred, born April 23, 1859; and Louis B., born Dec. 23, 1861, and died Dec. 8, 1864. By her present husband: Adaline, born Nov. 29, 1867; and Edgar, born April 21, 1871, and died Dec. 19, 1873.

**James S. Lance**, farmer on section 11, Fulton Township, is a son of James and Mary (Johnson) Lance, natives of New Jersey and Ohio. They settled in Wayne Co., Ohio, where they lived all their lives. James was born in that county Sept. 30, 1837. He received a limited education, and was about 19 when he left home to make his own way in life. For five years he worked on farms for others; and then he bought a farm in his native county. After a short time he sold out and bought a farm in Medina Co., Ohio. Soon he sold again, and returned to Wayne County.

In November, 1865, he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres, partly improved, on section 11, Fulton Township. Here he has been content to

stay. He has since added 40 acres, and now has 65 acres cleared. Dec. 12, 1861, in Milton, Wayne Co., Ohio, he was married to Amanda M., daughter of William and Clara (Lee) Lance, natives of New Jersey and Ohio. She was born also in Wayne Co., Ohio, Feb. 27, 1843.

Mr. and Mrs. L. have had six children: Ada F., born Oct. 23, 1863; Edward E., Jan. 17, 1866; Clara A., Jan. 11, 1868; Alfred S., July 30, 1871; Dewey W., Oct. 31, 1877; and one which died in infancy. Politically, Mr. Lance votes the Democratic ticket.

**Albert Smith**, farmer, section 20, Emerson Township, was born in Baden, Germany, March 22, 1842, and is a son of Ignatius and Catharine (Kline) Smith, natives of Germany.

At the age of eight years he came with his parents to the United States, and settled in Seneca Co., Ohio. His father died in Michigan in 1874, and his mother resides in Sumner Township, this county. When 15 years old he left home to learn the cabinet-makers' trade, with an uncle. Leaving him he spent one year on a farm, and then enlisted in Co. A, 49th Ohio Inf., under a Capt. Langworthy. He joined the 4th Corps of the Army of the Cumberland, and participated in the battles of Pittsburg Landing and Stone River, and in numerous lesser engagements. At Stone River he was taken prisoner and detained about two weeks. He was then paroled, went to Columbus, Ohio, was taken sick and went home on furlough. On regaining his health he engaged in the lumber business in this State, following that until 1869.

Nov. 4, of that year, he was married, at Alma, Gratiot County, to Josephine, daughter of Daniel and Nancy (Burgess) Griffith, natives of the State of New York. She was born in Wayne Co., Mich., Oct. 8, 1852, and when she was two years old her parents removed to St. Louis, this county. They afterwards settled in Emerson Township, where she lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Smith settled on a farm of 80 acres in 1869, which he had purchased in 1865, and he has now 140 acres, of which 60 are well improved. They are the parents of three living children, and one dead: Lewis, born Feb. 6, 1872; Bert A.,

born Feb. 10, 1879; Emma, born June 23, 1880; James, born May 14, 1877, and died May 17, 1877. Mrs. Smith is connected with the Baptist Church. Mr. Smith is a member of Emerson Lodge, No. 375, I. O. O. F. He has held the office of Highway Commissioner, and votes with the Democratic party.

**Simeon Gray**, deceased, late resident of section 11, Fulton Township, was a son of Semy Gray, and was born in New York State, in January, 1825. He came with his parents to Oakland Co., Mich., when quite young, and lived in that county until the spring of 1854. He then came to Gratiot County, and bought 80 acres in Fulton Township. He afterwards sold that place, and purchased 60 acres on section 11, where he resided until his death, in October, 1874.

Feb. 23, 1852, in Oakland County, he married Miss Susan, daughter of John C. and Amelia Grace, natives of Massachusetts and Maine respectively. She was born in Oakland County, March 4, 1834. Mr. and Mrs. Gray had nine children, six of whom survive: John H., Edna, Rachel, Wallace, Guy and Pearl A. The deceased are Capitola, Norma and Freddie. Mr. Gray was Highway Commissioner one term, and in politics was a Republican.

**William A. Krom**, farmer, section 26, Elba Township, is a son of Andrew and Huldah (Skinner) Krom, natives of Orange Co., N. Y. The father was by occupation a blacksmith. He came to Michigan and settled in Kalamazoo County in 1849. Mrs. Krom died in 1858. The son, William A., came to Elba Township in 1867, and engaged in farming and speculating in land. He now owns an excellent farm on sections 23, 24 and 25, 160 acres in extent. His lumber business, which he has carried on for 17 years past, is very extensive.

In 1868 he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Hattie Oberlin, daughter of Allen and Esther Oberlin, natives of Pennsylvania and Germany respectively. Two children resulted from this union:

Julia A., born Dec. 2, 1870, and Mary, born April 26, 1876. Mr. Krom had the sad misfortune to lose his wife Dec. 11, 1883.

He has held the confidence and good will of his neighbors ever since he began his residence in this county, and has been honored with a number of local offices. He has been State Road Commissioner for a number of years, and Township Treasurer for the last nine years. When he entered upon the duties of the latter office, he found the financial condition of the township very unsatisfactory, but he has now greatly improved the condition and management of the treasury. Politically, he is a "true blue" Republican. He is a member of Elsie Lodge, No. 238, F. & A. M.

**George Noll**, farmer and mechanic, section 31, New Haven Township, is a son of William and Betsy (Hart) Noll; the former, of German ancestry, was a native of Pennsylvania, where he lived until his death, at the age of 56. His wife, a native of Ireland, died in Pennsylvania.

Mr. George Noll, the subject of this sketch, was born in Greenwich Township, Berks Co., Pa.; when nine years of age his father died; from the age of eight years to 19, and from 20 to 22 he was a laborer for Jonathan Beaver, in his native county. He then (1835) engaged to learn the trade of blacksmith, and soon became a skillful workman, earning good wages; but his zeal in his calling led him to over-work and he broke down. In 1843, he went to Canada, where in about eight years his physician advised him to quit blacksmithing. He accordingly went upon a farm, in Ontario, and pursued agriculture until 1867, when he came to this State and purchased 80 acres of wild land where he now resides. He first stopped at Carson City six weeks, preparatory to erecting a house in which to dwell. He now has 72 acres of well improved land and a comfortable residence. In politics he is a Republican, and has held some of the township offices.

May 20, 1847, at Smithville, Niagara Co., Ont., Mr. Noll married Miss Margaret H. Carpenter, a native of Ontario, where she was born July 27, 1824. She is a woman of considerable physical strength and

executive ability. Mr. and Mrs. N. are the parents of ten living children and four deceased. The living are: Joseph W., born Jan. 22, 1848; Charles H., Nov. 4, 1850; Gershon M., Sept. 14, 1852; Jonathan A., April 18, 1855; James L., Feb. 7, 1857; Albert G., March 6, 1859; John B., Sept. 25, 1860; Sarah A., Aug. 8, 1862; Reneldo B., Sept. 3, 1864; and Mary Jane, Nov. 8, 1867.

Mr. and Mrs. Noll are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**B**arlow Worthing, retired farmer, section 10, Sumner Township, was born Nov. 29, 1812, in Waitesfield Township, Washington Co., Vt. His parents, Abner and Sallie (Barlow) Worthing, were natives of New England and of New England ancestry, and both died in Northport, Vt. His father was a carpenter and joiner by trade.

When three years of age, the subject of this sketch was moved with the family to Addison Co., Vt., where they lived until he was 12 years old; then they moved to Windsor County, and when 14 years old he went to live with an uncle, a tanner, in a different part of that State, but two years later he left him and returned home. He soon went to Canada, where he followed his trade of tanning, which he had learned of his uncle. While in the French settlements of the Dominion he learned the French language, which he learned to speak readily. On leaving Canada he went to Plattsburg, N. Y., on Lake Erie, where he worked a year at his trade; next he was a sailor on Lake Champlain for a year; then at home for a few months; then was on a whaling expedition 14 months. While on his return home from this voyage he visited St. Helena, and saw the first burial place of Napoleon Bonaparte. He also visited the curious island of Madagascar; then, crossing over to South America, he remained awhile in Brazil. He also stopped at the volcanic island of Amsterdam, southeast of the Cape of Good Hope. Their search for whales was principally in the Indian Ocean, going as far south as the 49th parallel.

On returning to his native country, he resumed tanning for two years; then for a year he worked in a morocco factory in Albany, N. Y.; then two years

at the tanning business again at his old home in Vermont; next, in 1839, he went to Wisconsin and Illinois, selling Yankee notions; then joined a boat crew at Peoria, Ill., and went to Memphis, Tenn.; then he visited Cincinnati and Pittsburg, when he enlisted in the Mexican war, near its close, and was not therefore called into active service. Spending one year in Madison, Ind., he worked at masonry 18 months in Illinois; was then two years and a half in Iowa, and finally, in 1855, he came to the land office at Ionia, and, under the Graduation Act, took possession of a half of section 10, where he still resides. Yet unmarried, he boarded with one of the settlers, and set out to improve his wilderness home. He successfully reduced a goodly portion of the land to a tillable condition, when rheumatism attacked him, and for the last 15 years he has done but little work. He was Supervisor of this township at the first, and during the years 1856-7, 1861, 1864 and 1868, Justice of the Peace eight years, Notary Public, Highway Commissioner, etc., etc. In politics, he is a substantial Republican, and in religion a member of the United Brethren Church.

Oct. 17, 1862, Mr. Worthing was married to Mrs. Sybil Metcalf, *nee* Kellogg, who was born in Bradford Co., Pa., July 4, 1831. By her former husband, her children are: Clara S. P., James H., Francis E. and Levi F. By her present husband, the children are: Sybil L., Mary L. and Barlow A. Mrs. W. is a member of the Free Methodist Church.

**G**eorge Whitman, farmer, section 29, North Shade Township, is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Case) Whitman, natives of Adams Co., Pa., the father being born in 1794 and the mother in 1795. The former died in 1869 and the latter in 1844. The father of Mr. Whitman followed the occupation of a farmer until his death.

The subject of our sketch was born May 25, 1832, in Wayne Co., Ohio, where the parents had moved at an early day. He remained under the parental roof-tree until he attained the age of 19 years, when he went forth upon the oft-traveled road of adversity, to battle against the trials strewn along its pathway.

Mr. Whitman was married to Miss Mary Righley, daughter of John and Rachel (Greenhoe) Righley,

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*Arnold Payne*

natives of the Keystone State, where the father was born in 1812 and the mother in 1816. Both are deceased, the father dying in Summit Co., Ohio, in 1856, and the mother in Erie County, same State, in 1882.

Mrs. Whitman, the wife of our subject, was born May 7, 1835, in Wayne Co., Ohio. After their marriage the husband and wife moved to Indiana, where they remained for seven years, then returned to Ohio and remained three years, from which State they emigrated to this county, arriving here Nov. 10, 1869; they located on section 29, North Shade Township, securing 80 acres of wild and unbroken land. By good management, coupled with energy and industry, he has placed his land under such a state of cultivation that he looks back upon the past and wonders how the improvement was ever accomplished. In 1883 he erected a large barn, 40 x 60 feet, which is one of the best in the township.

Mr. and Mrs. W. are the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter. John A., Joseph A. S., Douglas, and Amanda A.

Mr. Whitman has been honored with the position of Constable of his township for two terms; has been Moderator of his school district two terms, and Postmaster six terms. He is also one of the Directors of the County Fair Association, of Gratiot, Clinton, Ionia and Montcalm Counties, serving now his second term.

The grandfather of Mrs. W. was a giant in stature, being six feet and eleven inches in height. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, and died in Marshall Co., Ind., Dec. 15, 1867.

Mr. Whitman in political action, belief and sentiment is a staunch Democrat.

**D**avid H. Payne, farmer on section 31, Fulton Township, is a son of Arnold and Loana (Parker) Payne, natives respectively of Rhode Island and New York. They settled after marriage in the Empire State, and in 1832 came to Washtenaw Co., Mich. After a residence there of about four years, they removed to Livingston County, and thence to Ingham County. In the winter of 1846, Arnold Payne, with his wife and 13 children, came to Gratiot County and took

up a large tract of land on section 31, Fulton. He set about clearing his land, and built a log house. On this place he lived until his death, Nov. 24, 1879. His first wife died Feb. 25, 1850. In 1853 he was again married to Mrs. Mary (Bussell) Dickerman, who died Aug. 31, 1865. He owned at the time of his death 120 acres in Fulton Township, the old homestead.

Their family comprised 13 children, the following eight of whom survive: Abigail, James L., Day and Dwight (twins), Eliza, David H., Albert B. and Thomas R. The deceased are: Alma, Lucy, Mary, Perry and Arnold. The subject of this biographical notice, the 11th of the family, was born in Livingston Co., Mich., Dec. 5, 1839, and was about seven years old when his parents came to Gratiot County. He received a common-school education, and remained at home until 21 years of age, when he began to improve 40 acres given him by his father. After clearing 30 acres he sold out, and bought 40 acres on section 31. This he worked two years, when he again sold, and bought 80 acres on section 32. Two years later he removed to Clinton County, and bought 60 acres in Essex Township, where he lived about eight years. He then sold, and invested in village property in Maple Rapids, where he erected good buildings and lived one year, and then traded for a farm in Ionia County, where he lived from February, 1877, to 1880. He then made his last move, coming to this county and buying the old Payne homestead of 120 acres, 100 of which are nicely improved.

Feb. 22, 1868, in Lyons, Ionia Co., Mich., he was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of James and Bethie (Walling) Youdan, natives of England and New York State respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Y. came to Michigan and settled in Clinton County in 1844, where they lived until 1879, and then removed to Clare County, where they lived until his death, March 17, 1883. Mrs. Y. yet survives. Mr. and Mrs. Payne have four children: Harlan, O. D., Verne and Edith H.

Mr. P. has held the various school offices, and has been Township Clerk in Fulton one year. He has been Highway Commissioner in Clinton County. He is a Democrat, and is a member of the Masonic Order, being a Knight Templar. He is also a member of the G. A. R., and he and wife are members of Essex Grange, No. 429, P. of H.

publican. He has been Supervisor of Washington eight years, Clerk three years and Justice of the Peace six years. He has also been Highway Commissioner, and has held various other offices.

**E**rastus C. Farrington, farmer, section 30, Emerson Township, was born in Norfolk Co., Mass., Aug. 4, 1824, and was the son of Harvey and Nancy (Tilson) Farrington, natives of Massachusetts, and of old New England stock. They both died in the Bay State, at an advanced age, about 1868. Erastus worked at home until 16 years old, and was kept so busy with work that his school advantages were very limited. At the age mentioned, he was apprenticed to one Erastus Dupey, of Wrentham, Mass., to learn the trade of making shoes. After one year he returned home, and engaged with his father in this business, which they carried on together until he was of age.

At that age, he was united in marriage to Jimima Packard, a native of Maine. Eight years later they removed to Fulton Co., Ohio, and in the fall of 1854 they came to this State, locating on the present homestead, section 30, Emerson Township. For six or eight years after he came here, he followed his trade winters, and farmed during the summers.

March 10, 1866, his wife died, leaving six children, a seventh dying previous to her demise. Their names are as follows: Eugene E., born Oct. 29, 1853; Nancy E., born June 11, 1857; Nellie M., born Aug. 13, 1859; Charles W., born July 18, 1864; Alice, born March 26, 1851, and died Sept. 11, 1862; Elmer E., born March 15, 1862, and died Aug. 29, 1873; Willie, born Feb. 19, 1866, and died Aug. 4, 1875.

March 25, 1867, he was again married, in Wood Co., Ohio, to Laura, daughter of Jonas and Mary (Carpenter) Carter, natives of New England. She was born in Delaware Co., O., May 16, 1832, but at the age of one year her parents removed to Wood County, where she received a good education. At the age of 17, she began teaching district school, which she followed until 1864, and then devoted herself to the study of art. In 1865 she moved with her parents to this State and county, keeping up her

work as an artist until her marriage, since which time she has lived on the farm.

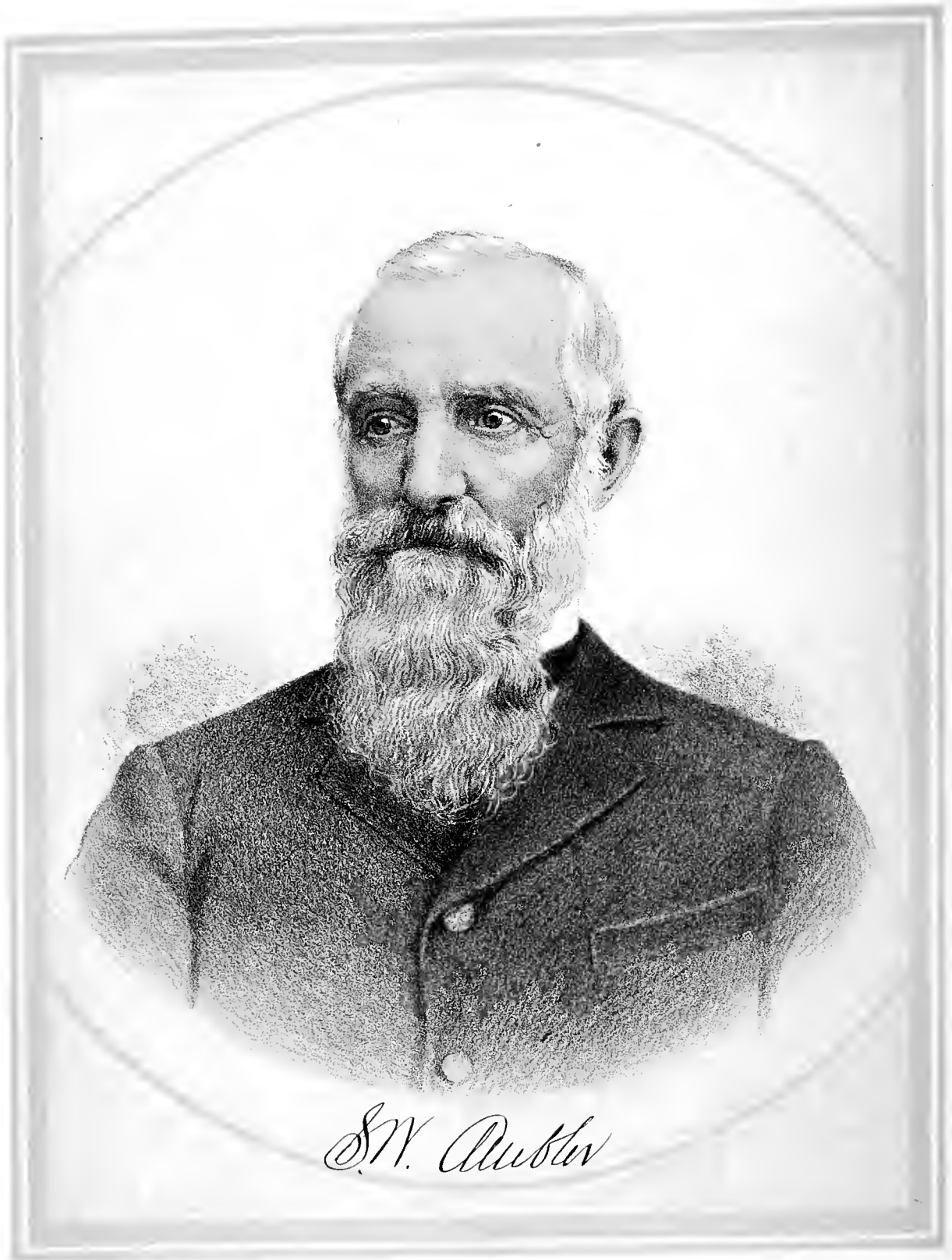
Mr. Farrington arrived in Emerson Township before an acre of wood had been cleared away, and after securing 40 acres he began to open up the country and make roads through the forest, then unbroken for miles in every direction. He has now 60 acres of very valuable land, most of it well improved. Beginning in a small log hut, he has lived to be able to have a large, well arranged and comfortable residence. He is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 123, F. & A. M.; and has been a Master Mason for nine years. In the lodge he has held the offices of J. D., S. D., J. W., S. W. and Tyler. In politics, he is an ardent and influential Republican. He belongs to the Baptist Church, and his wife to the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are socially popular, and few citizens of Gratiot County are more highly esteemed by their neighbors.

**R**oswell Danly, farmer, on section 36, Fulton Township, is a son of Ingalls and Electa (Angell) Danly, natives of the State of New York. The parents first settled in Jefferson Co., N. Y., where they followed the occupation of farming until their death. The father departed this life May 7, 1838; the mother, July 15, 1864. Their family included four sons and three daughters.

The eldest of the family was Roswell, born in Jefferson Co., New York, Oct. 24, 1827. He received a common-school education, and remained at home until 23 years old. After the death of his father, the labor and responsibility of managing the home farm largely devolved upon him. Although his home was with his mother until he was 23, yet at the age of 17 he embarked as a sailor on the lakes, which business he followed 14 years, i. e., from 1844 to 1858. Shipping before the mast as a common sailor, he gradually worked his way up to the post of mate, then pilot, and for four years commanded a vessel, thus earning the title of Captain, by which he is commonly known in the community in which he resides. He has a high place in the confidence and esteem of a wide circle of friends. In the fall of 1854, he located 80 acres of land in Clinton County, this



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*S. W. Austin*

State, and worked during the subsequent winters at clearing the same. In the summer of 1858, he bought 80 acres of partly improved land in Fulton Township, on section 36, where is his present residence. He has since added 40 acres opposite his farm in Clinton County, and has 100 acres well cultivated.

Jan. 29, 1851, in Jefferson Co., N. Y., he was united in marriage to Nancy Brougham. Her parents, William and Nancy (Rilyea) Brougham, were natives of the Empire State. Mrs. Danly was born in that State, May 24, 1829. Mr. and Mrs. D. are the parents of four children: William W., Viola J. (deceased September, 1864), James B. and Charles R. William W., the eldest, is at Boyne City, Charlevoix County, engaged in lumbering. He is married, and has two daughters.

Capt. Danly was the enrolling officer of Fulton Township during the war, and has held the office of Supervisor two terms. He is politically an ardent supporter of the Democratic party, and he is a member of the Masonic Order.

**S**chuyler W. Ambler, real-estate and loan agent at Ithaca, was born July 24, 1826, in Nassau, Rensselaer Co., N. Y. His father, Peter W. Ambler, was born in January, 1802, in Columbia Co., N. Y. The parents of the latter went in his infancy to Nassau. He was of English descent and was reared to the vocation of agriculture, which he made the pursuit of his early manhood, and later engaged in mercantile life. He went in 1833, to Yates, Orleans Co., N. Y., and in 1839 returned to Nassau, where he was interested a few months in the manufacture of woolen goods. He was a man of deep religious convictions, and in the winter of 1840 was licensed to preach; he was regularly ordained a minister of the Baptist Church in 1843. In 1846 he bought 60 acres of land in Nassau Township, which he managed about eight years and sold in 1854. A few years later he bought the property whereon he died, Oct. 5, 1873. He labored in the interests of religion in Columbia and Rensselaer Counties, in the State of New York. His wife, Polly (Waterbury) Ambler, was of English descent and was born in Nassau, where she died, in April, 1871.

Mr. Ambler was a diligent student in the early years of his life, and, at the age of 16, was placed at Transylvania Institute for the purpose of making a thorough preparation for college; but the plan of his education was never consummated, as his health failed and he was compelled to abandon the project. He was employed for a time on the farm and taught school a number of winters. In 1851 Mr. Ambler bought 200 acres of land in Nassau, and devoted his energies to the pursuit of agriculture until 1858, when he engaged in general mercantile pursuits at Brainard's Bridge, Nassau Township. Soon after the inception of the project he became associated with an individual named Hasting Kellogg, which relation existed and was managed successfully until the spring of 1869. At that date, Mr. Ambler sold his interest to his partner. He had sold his farm in 1863, and the disposal of his sole remaining business interest left him free to select a new location, which he was desirous of doing. He came to Jackson, Mich., and spent the summer of 1869, there examining the comparative claims of new districts in the Peninsula State, relative to the choice of a location. He fixed upon Gratiot County and arrived at St. Louis Nov. 6, 1869. He engaged in teaching the winter ensuing, and in the spring of 1870 he became a salesman in the mercantile establishment of Hiram Harrington, and continued in that vocation between two and three years. Meanwhile he was elected President of the village and served in that capacity one year (1872). In January, 1873, he came to Ithaca as Deputy County Treasurer, for A. B. Darragh, and discharged the duties of the position two years. In the fall of 1874 he was elected Treasurer and held the position four years. During the period of his official term he became interested in buying and selling real estate and in negotiating loans. On the expiration of his official obligations, he opened an office for the regular and systematic transaction of business in the avenues named, and has since been engaged in attention to his private affairs. He is dealing extensively in real estate, and now owns 700 acres of valuable farming lands in Gratiot County. He also owns town property, including a fine residence and a dwelling with two lots.

Mr. Ambler has been President of Ithaca three successive years and Trustee for two years. He has also served one year as Justice of the Peace of Emerson Township.

His marriage with Miss Charlotte M. Knapp, of Nassau, N. V., occurred Sept. 14, 1850. She was born in the same place, April 2, 1832, and is the daughter of Isaac and Melinda Knapp. (The mother resides with the daughter.) Mr. and Mrs. Ambler have had eight children, as follows: Mary E., wife of Robert Banwell, a merchant of Belvidere, Ill. (They are the parents of three children—Fred-die, Charlie and Irvine.) Sarah M. was married to Julius E. Lyon, who is now deceased and left two children—Florence and Lothrop M. She is now the wife of Isaac M. Sayles, of Ithaca, and has an infant child. Eva S. was born Aug. 29, 1856, and died Dec. 9, 1864. Irvin S. was born Sept. 27, 1858, and died Nov. 15, 1877. The remainder of those surviving are Nettie L., Inis, Willie and Fanny.

Mr. Ambler is a fair type of the substantial element of Gratiot County. He has conducted his business on a basis of integrity and uprightness, and guided his life in a manner that secures to him, at its later meridian, the comfort and content he has earned. His portrait, on another page, is a creditable acquisition to the list of similar representative men in this volume.

**E**dward Downs, farmer, on section 13, Fulton Township, is a son of John and Margaret (Foreman) Downs, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania. They first settled in Holmes Co., Ohio, and afterward removed to Hancock County, same state, where they at present reside. Edward was born in Holmes Co., Ohio, May 18, 1840. He received a common-school education, and remained at home until 21 years of age.

In May, 1861, he responded to the first call of President Lincoln for troops to suppress the Southern rebellion, and enlisted in the 21st Ohio Vol. Inf., which was a three-months regiment. In August, 1862, he again enlisted, this time in the 99th Ohio Vol. Inf., and he served from that time on to the close of the war. He was in 32 regular engagements, besides numerous skirmishes.

In October, 1865, he came to Gratiot County and bought 65 acres on section 23, Fulton Township. He afterward purchased 40 acres on section 13, where he now resides, and where he has put up a

good dwelling and other farm buildings. He has 80 acres under cultivation.

April 10, 1863, in Hancock Co., Ohio, he was united in marriage to Lucinda, daughter of John and Margaret (Gibson) Chaffin, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania. Mrs. Downs was born in Hancock Co., Ohio, Aug. 18, 1839, and is the mother of five children: James E., Ella M., Mary E., John L. and Milo V. Mr. and Mrs. D. have adopted as their own child Marcia Cole, and she is known as Marcia C. Downs. Politically, Mr. D. is a Republican.

**I**saiah Hatfield, farmer, section 36, Newark Township, is the son of Jacob and Catherine (Franks) Hatfield, the former a native of New Jersey, the latter of Pennsylvania. After their marriage, they located in Wayne Co., Ohio, where they resided more than 30 years. Their family comprised five sons and two daughters, named as follows: William, Michael, George, Jacob, Isaiah, Charlotte and Sally. Late in life, the parents moved to Medina Co., O., to reside with their youngest son, and there lived till the father's death. The mother returned to Wayne County, where she died.

Mr. Hatfield was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, April 28, 1822. He left home at the age of 16, and engaged in farming, afterwards becoming interested in managing threshing-machines, which business he pursued nearly six years. In 1853, associated with his brother Jacob, he went to the State of Iowa and bought 590 acres of land, which they sold after one season, and returned to Ohio. They bought 170 acres of land in Medina County, and held its proprietorship seven years. Mr. Hatfield sold his interest therein in the spring of 1861, and came to Michigan. He bought 80 acres of unimproved land in Newark Township, and disposed later of 40 acres. All but eight acres of the remaining moiety are cleared and under cultivation. He is independent in political sentiment and action, and has occupied the various school offices in his district. He is connected by membership with the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Hatfield was married Aug. 30, 1848, to Mrs. Polly (Weidman) Shank, widow of Michael Shank, and daughter of John and Barbara Weidman. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and after their

marriage removed to Canada, where the daughter was born Feb. 27, 1821. But one of three children born of her first marriage survives, Mariette. The others were named John and Henry. Three children have been born of her marriage with Mr. Hatfield: Teresa, May 16, 1856; Adam P., born July 18, 1849, and died March 24, 1850; George, born Feb. 2, 1850, and died Sept. 16, 1856. Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield are members of the Church of United Brethren. Mr. H. was for 30 years a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has for four years been a minister in the Church to which he now belongs.



**Noah Sooy**, farmer on section 1, Fulton Township, is the son of Samuel and Rebecca (Tailor) Sooy, who were of Welsh and Holland descent and settled in New Jersey. Noah was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, June 10, 1816, and received a common-school education in that county. When 18 years old he removed to Medina County, same State, and in the fall of 1866 he made his last, long move to this county, buying 100 acres on section 3, Fulton Township. After residing there 14 years he sold and purchased 77 acres on section 1, same township, where he now resides. He has 60 acres under cultivation.

Aug. 12, 1841, in Medina Co., Ohio, he married Miss Sarah Driskell, who was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Feb. 5, 1822. They have had seven children, of whom four survive: Elizabeth, Jemima, Avery and Corlis S. The deceased are: Perry, Joseph C. and Benjamin F. Mr. Sooy has been School Director two years, and in politics is a National.



**Henry Bodfish**, farmer, section 12, Bethany Township, is a son of Oliver and Sarah (Walker) Bodfish, who were natives respectively of Massachusetts and Maine, first settled in New Bedford, Mass., and afterward in Onondaga Co., N. Y., where Mr. B. followed agricultural pursuits and resided the remainder of his life, his death taking place April 8, 1883. His wife died Aug. 27, 1851.

The subject of this sketch was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., April 18, 1843. When 20 years of age he enlisted in the 10th N. Y. Cav., and served a year and a half, participating in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court-House, Cold Harbor, Weldon Railroad, Vaughn Road, Five Forks, etc.; was at the surrender of Gen. Lee. He was then at his home in Onondaga County a year, and next, in April, 1866, he came to Midland Co., Mich., where he followed milling and lumbering nearly 12 years. In the spring of 1878 he came to his present place, which he had bought eight years previously. At first it comprised 120 acres, but Mr. B. subsequently disposed of 40 acres, and a half of the remainder is now in a good tillable condition.

Sept. 6, 1874, Mr. Bodfish was married to Miss Emma, daughter of Seth and Julia A. (Crandall) Gould, natives of Canada. She was born in Canada, Aug. 18, 1852. The children of Mr. and Mrs. B. are John H., George, Sarah M., Mary G. and Frank L.

Mr. Bodfish is a member of the Masonic Order, and in politics is a "National."



**Hiram Townsend**, farmer, section 31, North Shade Township, is the son of Josiah and Dolly (Parker) Townsend, and was born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., Sept. 23, 1806. His parents were natives of Connecticut, where they were engaged in farming. They moved to Jefferson Co., N. Y., where they spent the remainder of their days.

At the age of 21 years, Hiram left the home of his parents and embarked on the voyage of life for himself. He learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed for about 14 years. During this period he spent much time of the winters in the manufacture of joiners' tools.

In the year 1854, Mr. Townsend married Miss Louisa, daughter of Amasa and Luna (Townsend) Page. Mr. Page was a native of New Hampshire, and the mother of New York State. Both of them have long since closed life's labors, the former dying in 1860, and the latter in 1858, both in New York. Mrs. Townsend died in 1847, in Jefferson Co., N. Y. Sept. 28, 1848, he was married to Miss Luna Page, a younger sister of his first wife.

Mr. Townsend moved from New York to Michigan in 1865, and located on section 31, North Shade Township, on a tract of 87 acres of land, of which 65 acres are in a good state of cultivation. The farm is well improved and has upon it good farm buildings. Mr. Townsend is the father of eight children, viz.: Luna, Erastus, Ambrose E., Eber L., Haulan, Orville H., Frank E. and Ida A. The first four were by his first wife. Politically, Mr. Townsend is a Republican.

**M**ilton H. Davis, farmer on section 16, Fulton Township, is a son of William and Sally M. (Cast) Davis, natives of New York State. He was born in Medina Co., Ohio, March 19, 1851, and at the age of 13 came with his parents to Gratiot County. He remained at home until 22 years old, and then purchased 80 acres of Government land in Otsego Co., Mich. Six years later he sold, and bought 85 acres in Fulton Township, this county, where he now resides. He has 70 acres under cultivation.

Feb. 22, 1873, at Ithaca, this county, he married Sarah, daughter of Peter and Nancy Leddick. She was born in Seneca Co., N. Y., Nov. 6, 1850. This marriage has been blessed with three children: James E., William T. and Nela M. Mr. Davis is a member of the M. E. Church, and in politics is a Republican.

**J**oseph E. Holton, farmer, section 14, Bethany Township, is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Barnes) Holton, who emigrated from England to America in 1849 and first settled in Jackson Co., Mich., and in 1866 where they now reside, in Bethany Township, this county. Joseph E., the eldest son, was born Aug. 1, 1842, in England; remaining with his parents until the war of the rebellion commenced, he enlisted, in August, 1861, in the 8th Mich. Inf.; but, being under 18 years of age, he was soon discharged, by request of his father. In August, 1862, he again enlisted, in the same regiment, and remained in the service until July, 1865, participating in 13 engagements. When

before Petersburg, Va., in April, 1865, he received a gunshot wound in his left thigh.

After his discharge he came to Jackson Co., Mich., and soon entered the commercial college at Albion, Mich., where he graduated. Since 1866 he has resided on his present place, where he is the owner of 120 acres of good land, with 57 acres cleared and subdued to a fine tilth. In the spring of 1880 he was elected Justice of the Peace, which office he still holds. Has been also School Director for six years and Commissioner of Highways. He belongs to the "National" party.

March 19, 1868, in Bethany Township, Mr. Holton married Miss Dorinda, daughter of Bernard and Dorinda Fox. (See sketch of Bernard Fox.) Mrs. H. was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., April 4, 1848. The children in this family are: Harvey B., Ida M., Carrie L., Jessie E., George W. and Fred. N. Jessie died when about three years old.

**F**rederick S. Kelly, retired farmer and stock-raiser, section 36, Ithaca Township, was born in Wood Co., Ohio, May 16, 1832. His father, John A. Kelly, was a native of Ohio, and was the first settler in Montgomery Township, Wood County. When he went there, the Indians were very numerous, and numbers of them would occasionally spend the night at his hospitable home. When he "raised" his cabin, he had to go 14 miles for help. In this pioneer home, the subject of this sketch passed his early childhood, and it was but natural for him to acquire that pluck and energy with which all successful pioneers are endowed.

Frederick Kelly's mother, Rachel Shawn, was a native of Virginia, came to Ohio when very young, and there lived until her death, in 1840. Her father was a soldier in the Revolution, serving seven years.

Frederick attended the first school in his native township. The school-house was a log structure, 14 x 18, covered with "shakes." The benches consisted of the roughest sort of basswood logs, split, and the legs inserted therein so as to form a half-round seat. The fire-place was made of sticks and daub, and the prominence of the corners admitted of the children climbing to its top, which was a fine resort

for the urchins of that pioneer school. The familiar trick of fastening the door, and then calling out, "Teacher, stay out or treat," was occasionally practiced on Christmas by the mischievous pupils; but on one occasion the master beat them at their game. He took advantage of the peculiar style of the chimney, and, by covering its top, smoked them out.

Frederick passed the first 22 years of his life in attending school, and in assisting his father to clear their farm and make a comfortable home. Feb. 17, 1853, he was married to Mary Davis, a native of Ohio. Two years later, they came to this State and entered 280 acres of land in Newark Township, this county. June 17, 1866, his wife died at her home in this county, leaving two children: Ella, born Aug. 25, 1857; and John, born Nov. 25, 1858.

Mr. Kelly was a second time married, April 18, 1867, to Mrs. Emma Jenner (*nee* Humphrey), daughter of John and Ann (Best) Humphrey, natives of England. She was born in Sussex, England, April 13, 1841. Her parents were farmers, and she lived at home and attended school in England until 15, when her parents brought her to the United States. Their passage across the Atlantic occupied six weeks. From New York city they went to Levanna, Cayuga Co., N. Y., thence to Springport; and in the fall of 1863 they came to this county and located in Newark Township. Emma's first husband, Henry Jenner, enlisted Sept. 3, 1862, was taken prisoner at Newbern, N. C., Feb. 2, 1864, and died in the prison pen at Andersonville, April 18, 1864, of small-pox.

Mr. Kelly enlisted, Aug. 12, 1862, in Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., commanded by Capt. Lafayette Church, of this county. He enlisted as wagoner, and was soon made "boss" wagoner, which post he held until he was honorably discharged, June 15, 1865, after serving nearly three years.

Jan. 11, 1881, he left his well improved farm of 280 acres in Newark township in care of his son, and purchased his present home of 40 acres on section 36, Ithaca Township, near the village of Ithaca. Here he lives a retired life, devoting a portion of his time to dealing in stock. He has by his second marriage one daughter, Fanny, born June 8, 1877, the namesake of her aunt, Fanny Kelly, who was for five months a captive among the Indians of Idaho. Mrs. Kelly's first marriage occurred Dec. 14, 1859; and by this marriage she has two sons: Thomas C.,

born Feb. 12, 1862, and Edward H., born June 5, 1863.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are not members of any Church, believing that a high morality, as taught by our conscience, is the best religion. He has held the office of Highway Commissioner for six years, and Township Treasurer for two years, besides minor offices. He was the second Treasurer of Newark Township. Politically, he is a zealous member of the National Greenback party.



**E**ter Myer, farmer, section 9, Bethany Township, was born in Prussia, Feb. 23, 1821. His parents were natives of the same country and there followed the occupation of farming until the year 1841, when they emigrated to the United States and settled in Ohio, where they both died, the former in 1875, and the latter in 1870.

Mr. Myer remained at home, in his native land, assisting his father on the farm and accompanied them to the States. On arrival in Ohio he engaged himself as a farm laborer for two years to a gentleman in the vicinity of Cleveland, afterward working in a brick-yard two summers and cutting wood in the winters. His next move was to Huron County, where he remained two years working on a farm, and then moved to Williams County, same State, and purchased 40 acres of land. He labored on this land for nine years, when he sold it and came to this county, arriving here in the year 1867. On arriving here, he purchased 80 acres of land on section 9, Bethany Township, and turned his undivided attention to the cultivation of the same. He has successfully cleared 62 acres of this land and placed it under good improvement, on 40 acres of which there is not a stump to be seen.

Mr. Myer was united in marriage June 20, 1850, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Miss Julia N. Middle, born in Germany, Aug. 31, 1821. She came to the United States in 1850, the year she was married.

Mr. and Mrs. Myer are the parents of six children, only two of whom survive, namely: Catherine, who was united in marriage to John Schultes, and is at present living on section 8, Bethany Township; and

Mary, the wife of Frank Peach, living on section 4, in the same township.

Mr. and Mrs. Myer are both members of the German Lutheran Church, and Mr. M. has held an office in the Church for many years.

In political opinion Mr. M. is a Democrat.

**J**ames M. McKee, farmer, section 6, Ithaca Township, was born in Niagara Co., N. Y., Jan. 14, 1836. His father was Anthony McKee, a native of Orange Co., N. Y., and of Scotch and German extraction. James was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native county. In 1867 he came to Washtenaw Co., Mich., where he worked at his trade of carpenter and joiner during the summer and taught school during the winter. He came to Gratiot County in 1873, taught one winter, and has since been engaged in agriculture, now owning 85 acres of well improved land.

Oct. 22, 1873, Mr. McKee married Miss Mary Killin, daughter of Patrick Killin, and their children are: Belle and Berenice.

Mr. McKee is a Freemason in good standing, having taken nine degrees in the mystic art.

**W**illiam H. Wheeler, farmer, section 12, Newark Township, was born Oct. 9, 1839, in Oswego Co., N. Y. His parents, Sylvester and Hannah (Peck) Wheeler, were natives respectively of Vermont and New York. (See sketch.) In 1852, when he was but 13 years old, his family went to Kane Co., Ill., and after a stay of more than a year they came to Michigan. He remained with them until 1863. They came to Gratiot County in 1855, after a stay of six months in Ingham County. Since that date, Mr. Wheeler has continued a resident of Gratiot County. He owns 160 acres of land and has 108 acres under fine improvements and in advanced cultivation. Mr. Wheeler is a Republican, and acts for the issues and interests of that party. He has been Director of School District No. 2 ten successive years, and has served four years as School Assessor.

He was married in Greenbush, Clinton Co., Mich., Aug. 6, 1863, to Mrs. Ann L., widow of George Hawkes, and daughter of John and Ann L. Cook. She is a native of England, and was born Nov. 5, 1839, near Canterbury. Her parents brought her to the United States when she was 12 years old. Her first husband died March 14, 1861, leaving two children,—Samuel J., born Dec. 11, 1859, and Thomas E., Sept. 6, 1861. Following is the record of the births of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler: Alfred W., July 3, 1864; George E., Aug. 29, 1866; Mary J., Dec. 5, 1868; Warren W., April 8, 1870; Cora E., July 29, 1873; Frederick H., July 8, 1876. The family attend the United Brethren Church, of which the parents are zealous members.

**B**ranklin Miller, the first resident lawyer of Gratiot County, was born in Lodi, Seneca Co., N. Y., March 13, 1833. His ancestors, back to an indefinite date previous to the Revolution, were farmers, and formerly resided in the township of Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y., emigrating to the "lake country" at the close of the war for independence.

He received the rudiments of a common English education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and, commencing at 16, pursued for three years a course of academic studies. The ensuing three years he studied law at Elmira, N. Y., and in 1855 he was admitted to practice in the courts of the Empire State. The same year, he came to this State and county, arriving previous to the first election of county officers, when he was elected Prosecuting Attorney,—the first to hold that office in Gratiot. He was the first resident licensed attorney, and at the next election was re-elected for a second term. Before the conclusion of this term, however, ill health compelled his resignation; and in the spring of 1859 he made the overland trip to California, going the next year to Oregon. On the discovery of the gold fields of Idaho, he was among the first to settle in that little-known Territory.

In 1871, he returned to Michigan, married, and remained a resident of Gratiot County until 1882, when he went once more to Idaho. He will be long remembered as one of the pioneers of this county.



He was among those who secured the location of the county offices at Ithaca, and he was the first Postmaster of the county seat, which he named in remembrance of Ithaca, N. Y. He purchased and brought into Gratiot County its first printing press. He was the original projector of the Michigan Central Union Fair Association, and was in various ways instrumental in the progress of the county and county seat.

**J**ohn P. Ruppert, farmer on section 27, Fulton Township, is a son of John P. and Christine (Sholler) Ruppert, natives of Germany, in which country they died. He was also born in Germany, Sept. 15, 1815, and in 1853 came with his wife and one child to the United States. For three years he lived in the State of Ohio. In the autumn of 1856, known as the "smoky fall," he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of wild land on section 27, Fulton Township, where he has since resided. He has now 40 acres under the plow.

He was married in the "Fatherland," in September, 1843, to Miss Anna B., daughter of Frederick and Mary B. (Christine) Buttner, natives also of the old country. She was born there Sept. 8, 1814. Mr. and Mrs. Ruppert have one son, George M., a sketch of whom is given in this work. They have formerly been members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Politically, Mr. R. is a Democrat.

**J**ohn Richard, Sr., farmer on section 34, Newark Township, is a son of John and Mary (Poorman) Richard, natives of Franklin Co., Pa. They followed farming all their lives and died in Westmoreland Co., Pa., whither they had removed. The father departed this life in May, 1833, and the mother Dec. 19, 1845.

The subject of this biography was born March 16, 1811, in Westmoreland Co., Pa., and alternately worked on the farm and attended school until 21 years old. At this age he was united in marriage with Rachel Fry, daughter of Michael and Regina (Spillman) Fry, natives of Luzerne Co., Pa. Mr. and

Mrs. Fry followed farming, and died in their native county, the father in 1853, and the mother in 1860. Their daughter Rachel was born May 27, 1815, in Westmoreland Co., Pa., and was the third daughter of a family of 13 children, all of whom are now dead but three.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard moved in 1846 to Ashland Co., Ohio, and in 1854 they went to Wood County, same State. Here he worked out a comfortable home from the dense forest. He is a man of iron constitution, and nothing in the way of hardship or toil could daunt him. In the spring of 1871, he moved with his family to Gratiot County, and located on 80 acres on section 34, Newark Township, where he now resides.

During the late war, he sent four sons into the army, and twice enlisted himself; but was not accepted, on account of his personal sacrifice in risking the lives of his sons. Mr. and Mrs. Richard have been the parents of five sons and six daughters. He is a staunch Republican, and with his wife belongs to the United Brethren Church. They have been Christians 40 years.

**J**ohn H. Jessup, farmer, section 25, Newark Township, is the son of Isaac M. and Eleanor (Schermerhorn) Jessup. The former was born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., April 5, 1810; the latter Nov. 20, 1815, in Rensselaer County, in the same State. Their marriage took place in New York, and in 1839 they emigrated to Michigan, and at first settled in Eaton County, going afterward to Wayne County. They maintained their residence there for 15 years, and in the spring of 1853 removed to Ionia County, where they are at present located. Four daughters and five sons were born to them: Jane M., Abram M., John H., Alida A., Jacob S., Andrew S., Mary E., Edward T. and Eleanor E. The last named child died when nearly three years old.

Mr. Jessup, of this sketch, was born Dec. 24, 1837, in Rensselaer Co., N. Y. He was 17 years old when his father located in Michigan, and he obtained his education in the common schools of the Peninsular State. On reaching the period of his legal freedom, he found himself with the world before him, to wrest

success from opportunity, or to wait in listless apathy for the fortune that comes soonest to manly, well-directed endeavor. In December, 1860, he came to Gratiot County, and became the owner of 63 acres of unimproved land in Newark Township, of which he is still proprietor. He built the customary log house, and continued its occupancy until 1880. In that year, he completed and took possession of a fine brick residence. To his original farm he has added 85 acres, and is now carrying on successful agriculture on 148 acres, of which 123 acres are finely improved land. Mr. Jessup belongs to the Republican element in politics, and has officiated three years as School Director in his district.

In October, 1864, he was drafted, and assigned to service in the 23d Mich. Vol. Inf., and was in the army nine months. He participated in the actions at Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., and at Port Anderson, N. C. Was honorably discharged from the service of the United States in June, 1865, at Washington, D. C.

Mr. Jessup was married Dec. 29, 1859, at Lyons, Ionia County, to Margaret R., daughter of Amos and Betsey (Grant) Dean, natives of the State of New York, where they were married, and whence they removed their family to Ionia Co., Mich., in 1854, and in 1861 again removed to Gratiot County, and located in North Shade Township. The father died June 29, 1857. The mother resides in Sumner Township. Mrs. Jessup is the second daughter of her parents, and is one of nine children born to them, viz.: Amos W., Nancy B., Darius E., Ezra J., Thomas H., Emma A., Rosa M. and Emery V. She was born in Yates Co., N. Y., Aug. 28, 1840. The sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Jessup are named: Charles H., Nettie E., Arthur H., George L., Frank A., William T., Glen O. and Bertha M.

**H**ubert Pierson, farmer, section 32, Washington Township, is a son of Silas and Phoebe (Davis) Pierson, natives of Essex Co., N. J. Silas Pierson was a carpenter and joiner, and in 1839 moved to Morrow Co., Ohio, where he and his wife both died. The subject of this sketch was born in Essex Co., N. J., Oct. 13, 1817. When 18 years old, he was apprenticed for three

years to the trade of harness-maker, at the expiration of which time he engaged in farming in Morrow Co., Ohio. In 1853, he removed to Gratiot County, purchasing of the Government 80 acres on section 32, Washington Township. There are now 60 acres nicely improved. In the spring of 1867, he built a large barn, and in 1873 he erected a neat dwelling, at a cost of \$1,000.

March 10, 1844, he was married to Lucy J., daughter of Samuel and Maria (Gould) Linscott, natives respectively of the State of Maine and New York city. Mr. Linscott was by occupation a mason.

Mr. Pierson has been Highway Commissioner of his township for three years, and has served occasionally on juries. He built the second house in Washington Township. There was at that time no road, and he had to attach paper to stakes, to guide to his place the men to whom he went five miles to ask to help him build. The nearest trading place was Dewitt, Clinton County. He and wife are members of the Christian Church. In politics he is a supporter of the Republican party.

**T**homas M. Granger, farmer, section 8, Pine River Township, was born March 3, 1841, in Hartsville, Steuben Co., N. Y., and is the third son of Allen and Margaret (Bover) Granger. His father was born in Vermont, and his mother was a native of New York. They settled soon after their marriage in Canisteo, Steuben Co., N. Y., and they still reside in that county.

Mr. Granger is the third son of his parents and one of ten children born to them. He received a common-school education, and at the age of 20 made his entry into the world in an independent capacity, and paid his father \$75 for the year's service yet remaining of his minority. He was empty-handed, but preserved a spirit of determination second to that of no man, the results of which, coupled with persistent labor, good sense and judgment, are plainly manifest in his surroundings. He came to Gratiot County in September, 1867, and settled at Ithaca. He remained in that place and vicinity nearly eight years. In 187- he bought 80 acres of land in Sumner Township, which he continued to improve three

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*Rolla A. Peet*



Mary E. Peet

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years, when he sold out and went to Alma. There he built a house and barn and resided about 18 months, when he exchanged the property for 80 acres of land belonging to P. Richardson, located in Pine River Township, where he has since followed the vocation of farming. He has purchased 17 acres additional, and has 75 acres under improvement. Mr. Granger is an adherent to the tenets of the National Greenback party.

He was married May 11, 1859, in Steuben Co., N. Y., to Mary B., daughter of Burnett and Margaret (Gibling) McDermott, natives of Ireland, where Mrs. Granger was born, Jan. 5, 1839. Three children—George W., Ella L. and Carrie L.—have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Granger. The only son and eldest child met his death at Fremont, Newaygo County, Dec. 21, 1881, by a terrible accident. He was engaged in making what is called a "fly switch" at the railroad station where he was employed, and was killed while in the performance of his duty.

The father and mother are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**R**olla A. Peet, farmer, section 31, Lafayette Township, is a son of John and Betsy (Clark) Peet, natives of Connecticut and New York, respectively. The former was by occupation a farmer, but also worked at the trade of a shoemaker. Rolla A. was born Aug. 18, 1830, in the State of New York, and worked on his father's farm until he was nearly 21 years old. Early in 1851 he went to Ohio, and worked on a farm until he was fully of age. He then married Mary Odell, daughter of Nathan and Betsy (Wright) Odell, and resided for a time in Lorain Co., Ohio. Mr. Peet enlisted in Co. B, First Ohio Light Artillery, in 1864, and was mustered out at Camp Dennison, Ohio, July 24, 1865. Returning home, he engaged in the dairy business one year, then sold his farm and came to Michigan in the spring of 1867. He first settled on 300 acres in Kent County. In 1875 he again removed, this time to Lafayette Township, Gratiot Co., settling on the south half of section 31. Of his 320 acres, 100 are cleared and 100 more chopped.

Mr. Peet's first marriage was blessed with six children, as follows: Frank M., born Nov. 22, 1852;

Odell, July 9, 1855; Gertrude, June 2, 1859; Louis M., Feb. 27, 1862; Benj. J., Nov. 21, 1867; Anna, Sept. 17, 1874.

He is liberal in his religious views, and politically he votes with the National party. In 1881, the first Mrs. Peet died, and he was again married to Miss Ida M. Fuller, a daughter of James and Polly (Schance) Fuller. She was born in Eaton Co., Mich., Sept. 17, 1865, and at the age of five came with her parents to Gratiot County.

As one of the leading and representative agriculturists and citizens of Gratiot County, we take pleasure in presenting Mr. Peet's portrait in this volume.

**G**eorge G. Nichols, jeweler at St. Louis, was born March 10, 1845, at Plattsburg, N. Y. He is the son of Gardner and Sabra (Martin) Nichols. His father was a son of Levi Nichols, proprietor of the Nichols House, at Plattsburg, and was also born in that place. Levi Nichols died at the advanced age of 94. The management of the hotel devolved upon Gardner Nichols before the death of his father, and he conducted it several years. In the spring of 1863 he removed his family to Medina, Lenawee Co., Mich., where he bought a farm of 160 acres of land.

Mr. Nichols was then 18 years old, and he attended the academy at Oak Grove several terms. In January, 1864, he determined to risk the fate of war, and enrolled as a soldier. He enlisted in Co. G, 30th Mich. Vol. Inf., and was in the service of the United States six months. He returned to Medina, and after attending school two terms went to Adrian and entered the employ of Japhet Cross to learn the details of the jeweler's trade. He remained nearly four years, and Jan. 10, 1870, came to St. Louis in impaired health, to obtain the benefit of the mineral water. After three months he became so much improved that he determined to engage in business and opened an establishment at the stand now occupied by McIntyre's drug store. He conducted the repair business, and as he succeeded in working up a considerable degree of trade he added jewelry, and by his good management has firmly established himself

in his business. He removed to his present quarters in May, 1882. In May, 1879, he was burned out on the old site, but with a very slight loss above his insurance. His business is prosperous and he employs his brother, John M. Nichols, as assistant in repairing and engraving. He is also agent for the New American Sewing Machine, No. 7.

Mr. Nichols was married Sept. 27, 1876, at Hastings, Barry Co., Mich., to Blanche, daughter of A. J. Newton. She was born in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. N. are the parents of one child, Carrie E., born Nov. 11, 1878, at St. Louis. Mr. Nichols is a member of the Knights of Honor.

**R**euben D. Maxwell, farmer, section 7, North Star Township, was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., June 3, 1834, and is a son of Cyrus Maxwell, who brought his family from Troy to Geauga Co., Ohio, in 1836, and to Monroe Co., Mich., in 1844, where the subject of this sketch resided until after the war. He served one year in that great struggle, in Co. H, Ninth Mich. Vol. Inf.; resided in Ingham Co., Mich., from 1866 to 1879, where he followed farming five years and ran a dray eight years; then came to this county, where he has since been engaged in agriculture, and now owns 124½ acres of good land.

Oct. 29, 1861, Mr. Maxwell married Miss Jane, daughter of Daniel Hillman, now deceased. She was born in Upper Canada, and was brought by her parents to Jackson Co., Mich., when only four years of age (1844). Mr. and Mrs. M. have three children, namely: Grace, Newton and Ira.

**M**arius Roop, farmer, section 5, North Shade Township, is a son of John and Mary (Mills) Roop, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Canada. Farming was their occupation. Mr. John Roop came when a young man to Toledo, Ohio, near which place he owned a farm. After a period, he moved 25 miles west of that city, and in 1856 to Montcalm County, this State, where in 1882 his wife

died. He is yet living with his daughter, Mrs. Evaline Thompson, in Montcalm County.

The subject of this sketch was born March 16, 1832, in Lucas Co., Ohio, near Toledo, remaining with his parents until 22 years of age as a farmer. Spending one year in Indiana, he came to Montcalm Co., Mich., where he remained two years engaged in various occupations. He cleared the land where Carson City now stands. In 1857, he located on a tract of 40 acres on section 5, North Shade Township, to which he subsequently added 40 acres. He now has 78 acres well improved, with house, barn, etc. Mr. Roop has been Justice of the Peace seven years, and School Director a number of terms. He is a Republican, and a member of Ithaca Chapter, No. 70, R. A. M.

In the year 1856, Mr. Roop married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of William F. and Eliza (Earls) Bigelow, natives of the State of New York. Her mother died a number of years ago, and her father is yet living, in Carson City, Mich. The two children of Mr. and Mrs. Roop are: Charles, born Aug. 24, 1858, and Alpheus, May 7, 1867.

**C**ornelius K. Samson, physician and druggist at St. Louis, was born in Dover, Dutchess Co., N. Y., March 21, 1825, and is a son of John and Sarah (Upson) Samson. The father was born in Dover, in 1776; the mother was a native of Waterbury, Conn., where she was born in 1780. In June, 1836, they came to Michigan and settled in Woodstock, Lenawee County. John Samson died Oct. 20, 1837. The demise of his wife occurred in 1860, at White Church, Kan.

Dr. Samson was a resident of Woodstock until he was 27 years of age, and was engaged in farming. In 1852 he went to Adrian and opened a store for the sale of books and stationery, and also entered upon the study of medicine. He continued the management of his book trade about a year, and after devoting some time to his medical studies, he commenced his career as a practitioner. In November, 1872, he came to St. Louis and purchased a stock of drugs and continued to operate at the stand where he first established himself, on the corner of Mill and Center Streets, four years. In 1876 he purchased the



building where he has since conducted his business. His stock includes drugs, patent medicines, oils and paints, books, stationery, groceries, etc. His trade is popular and prosperous, and he has a good office practice. He compounds the following proprietary medicines: Alterative Tonic, Ague and Chill-Fever Pills, Compound Cough Elixir, Carminative, Cough Syrup, Dysentery Pills, Constipation Pills, Dyspeptic Elixir, Canker Lotion, Expectorant, Hair Dye, Horse and Cattle Powders, Hoof and Healing Ointment, Heave Powders, Nerve and Bone Liniment, Compound Cathartic Pills, Family Panacea, Syrup Sarsaparilla Compound, Soothing Drops, Vegetable Liver Pills, Peptonic Vermifuge, Fluid Extract of Witch-Hazel and Healing Salve.

Dr. Samson was married Dec. 2, 1852, in Brooklyn, Jackson Co., Mich., to Wealtha L. Youngs. Two children have been born of their marriage: Ellie M. and Mary L. The former is the wife of I. C. Kendall.

**A**ndrew S. Jolly, farmer, section 20, Washington Township, is a son of Charles N. and Tryphena (Pulfrey) Jolly, natives of New York State. They followed farming in that State, where the former died in 1842. The latter died in Gratiot County, in 1880. Andrew S. was born Nov. 20, 1835, in Fayette Township, Seneca Co., N. Y. At the age of 10, he commenced peddling, which he followed for eight years. Coming to Monroe Co., Mich., he worked in the woods and on a farm for a year and a half; and then came to Gratiot County, in 1854.

In 1863, he enlisted in Co. L, First Michigan Engineers, and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. He fought at Murfreesboro, Tenn., but was generally on detached duty; and was finally mustered out in September, 1865, at Nashville, Tenn., and discharged the following month, at Jackson, Mich.

In 1854, he married Mary J., daughter of Daniel Brown, a farmer, and a native of New York. She was born in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Jolly first located on 40 acres in Fulton Township. In March, 1866, they removed to section 17, Washington Township, and in 1869 they removed to section 7, same

township. In 1873, they settled at their present home on section 20, consisting of 240 acres, 100 of which are improved. They have a family of nine children, are members of the United Brethren Church, and Mr. Jolly is a member of Moses Wisner Post, No. 101, G. A. R., at Ithaca, and votes the Republican ticket.

**J**ohn Jackson, farmer, section 4, North Shade Township, is a son of John and Hannah (Mathers) Jackson, farmers of Yorkshire, England, who came to America in 1827, and resided in the State of New York the remainder of their lives.

Mr. John Jackson was born Nov. 20, 1817, in Yorkshire, England, came to this country with his parents and when he was a lad nearly grown they died, and he left the old homestead and engaged in a distillery two years, then in farming in New York State until 1869, when he came to this county, locating on section 4, North Shade Township, on a tract of 77 acres of partially improved land, which he now has in fine cultivation. He owns altogether 400 acres. In religious belief Mr. Jackson is a Universalist, and in politics a Republican.

In 1850, Mr. Jackson was married to Miss Sarah A., daughter of Isaac and Jemima (White) Leonard, the former an agriculturist and a native of New York, and the latter of Connecticut; both died in New York State. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have the following children: Martha, born in 1852; Edwin, 1854; and John, 1865. The parents are members of the Grange, and Mrs. J. is also a Universalist.

**G**eorge Richardson, druggist, grocer and jeweler, Ithaca, was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., May 13, 1836, and is the son of George S. and Laura L. (Tyler) Richardson natives of Connecticut and Vermont, and of English-German and New England ancestry. They reside in Oakland County, aged respectively 75 and 74.

The subject of this biography went when two years old with his parents to Genesee County, this State.

His father being a drover, George had his full time for school until 20 years of age. He then engaged on the New York Central railroad as brakeman, afterwards changing to the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, on which road he was for a time a conductor. After four years of railroad life, he became a foreman in the Holland saw-mill in Saginaw County, where he remained two years.

On the breaking out of the great civil war, he responded to the first call of President Lincoln for troops, and enlisted in the first company of volunteers raised in Oakland County, of which he was made a Sergeant. This company was never mustered into the service, as many more companies offered than were needed under the call for three-months men. After the disbanding of the company, he enlisted in Co. A, 1st Mich. Lancers. That kind of troops was discontinued after seven months, but being determined to fight for his country he enrolled himself in Co. 1, 22d Mich. Vol. Inf., and served under Gen. Thomas. Shortly after his enlistment, he was selected as special messenger for Gen. Thomas at headquarters. Here he remained until July, 1865, and after his discharge he returned to Gratiot County.

He then settled on a farm of 320 acres, 160 of which he had purchased in 1861, in Lafayette Township. Only 10 acres were then improved, but after six years' residence he has improved 100 acres. He still retains 280 acres of that farm. In the spring of 1872, he came to Ithaca and purchased 44 feet frontage on Center Street, on which he established a grocery store. In 1875, he and Mr. Weatherwax erected the first brick building in the village. It was built 80 feet deep, with a front of 22½ feet, but is now 110 feet deep. The firm was Richardson & Weatherwax for two and a half years, when Mr. R. became sole proprietor. When he started in business, his stock was worth but \$1,200; but when, in 1881, he sold out to D. G. Hall, his stock was valued at \$7,000, and he did an annual business of \$18,000. Jan. 12, 1884, he resumed the business, now carrying a stock worth \$6,000. The period from 1881 to 1884 was spent at Petoskey, this State, two years of the time in the drug business.

July 3, 1862, in Northville, Wayne Co., Mich., he was married to Miss Jennie A. Watson, daughter of J. T. and Harriet (Wilcox) Watson, natives of Gene-

see Co., N. Y., and of Scotch and English descent. She was born in Livingston Co., Mich., May 13, 1842, and when 16 years old went with her parents to Oakland County, where she lived until her marriage, teaching school for some time previous to that event. Mr. and Mrs. R. have been the parents of seven children, four of whom survive: Flora H., born April 22, 1863; Rena L., July 3, 1867; Hattie H., Oct. 28, 1871; and George E., May 1, 1878. The deceased are: Iva, Laura L. and Jennie. The parents attend the Congregational Church. Mr. R. is politically a Republican, and has held the offices of Justice of the Peace and Township Treasurer in Lafayette Township. He was also Postmaster at Lafayette for five years. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity.



**Byron A. Hicks**, merchant, Bridgeville, Washington Township, is a son of Andrus and Betsy (Tilton) Hicks, natives of New York State. Mr. Hicks has been most of his life a tanner and furrier in New York State, where he and wife yet live. Byron was born May 27, 1844, in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and lived with his parents, working summers and attending school winters, until 15 years old.

In October, 1860, he came to St. John's, this State, where he was engaged in the store of John Hicks, in buying wheat, and at other employment. In 1864 he came to Gratiot County and engaged in buying staves, making his headquarters at J. B. Smith's hotel at Pompei. In the spring of 1865, he bought the grocery of Wilbur Coon, of Pompei, and carried on business there until the spring of 1867, when he removed to Bridgeville. He now keeps a full line of groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, and has a prosperous trade.

While at Pompei, he was married to Mary Avery, the daughter of John R. and Lovina (Saunders) Avery, natives of Rhode Island and Connecticut, respectively. Mr. Avery was a farmer. Mary Avery was born in the State of Wisconsin, in 1845, and died at Bridgeville in 1868, leaving one child, which died shortly after its mother. Mr. Hicks was again married, to Sarah M. Avery, a sister of his first wife, in April, 1870. This union has been blessed with

three children, viz. Bessie L., Clyde B. and Leo M.

Mr. Hicks has held the office of Supervisor from Washington Township, being elected in 1882. He has also been Township Treasurer for four years, and Township Clerk. He is a member of the Masonic Order, belonging to a lodge at St. John's. In politics, he is a supporter of the Democratic party.

**E**nretch Moench, farmer, section 4, North Shade Township, was born Feb. 2, 1817, in Germany, of German parents, namely: John D. and Barbara Hoffman, who died in Schwartzburg-Rudolstadt, Germany. The subject of this sketch emigrated to America in 1853, landing at New York, and settling in Waterloo, Jackson Co., Mich. In 18 or 19 months, that is, in 1855, he moved to this county, locating on sections 3 and 4, North Shade Township, the tract containing 320 acres, all wild land. Of this he has since sold one-half, and he now has about 70 acres in good cultivation.

Mr. Moench was married in 1855 to Wilhelmina, daughter of Conrad and Jacobenia Walter, natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, the former by occupation a butcher, and both long since deceased. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Moench are: Lewis W., Polly L., Henry R. and Wilhelmina. Their Church relations are Evangelical and Lutheran. Politically, Mr. M. was formerly Republican, but is now Democratic.

**P**eter Hoffman, farmer, section 32, North Star Township, was born in France, Feb. 19, 1816, a son of Frederick Hoffman, who was a native of Germany, and died in Havre de Grace, on his way to America. Peter was educated in his native country, and when he was 14 years of age the family emigrated to America, landing at Charleston, S. C.; two months later they came to Canton, Ohio, and in 1833 to Sandusky Co., Ohio, where Mrs. H. entered 80 acres of land, and finally died. Peter Hoffman came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., in February, 1849, and to Gratiot County in April, 1854, settling upon his present place May 13 following,—in the wild woods, with only savage beasts for neighbors. He had wild meat for a con-

stant article of food for years. He built the first house in North Star Township, a double log house, on section 29, on a part of the land he had entered. By industry and economy patiently exercised for many years, Mr. H. succeeded in developing and furnishing a fine farm. He has been engaged in agriculture all his life, except six months when he was in the boot and shoe trade in Alma, this county, and 18 months in Pompei.

Dec. 22, 1840, is the date of Mr. Hoffman's marriage to Miss Elizabeth Kay, daughter of Moses Kay, now deceased: she is a native of Crawford Co., Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. H. have had seven children, six of whom are living, namely: Eliza A., now the wife of Mr. Trask; Charles N.; Adolphus P.; Ann M., now Mrs. Johnson; Mary E., now Mrs. Housman; and Phocion P. The deceased was James, who died at the age of 11 years. Mr. H. owns 40 acres of land, and his wife 80 acres: total, 120 acres. He has been Highway Commissioner many years.

**F**ranks R. Lathrop, farmer, section 29, Bethany Township, is a son of George C. and Mary E. (Hall) Lathrop, and was born in Washtenaw Co., Mich., Dec. 24, 1840. His father, a farmer, was a native of New York State, and is still living at Meadville, Ingham County, this State. His mother, also a native of New York, is still living. When he was but a year old, the family moved to Waterloo Township, Jackson Co., Mich., locating upon a half section of land, and remaining there 20 years, and then moved to Ingham County.

Mr. Lathrop was brought up to agricultural pursuits, attending winter terms of school. He was married in Ingham County, May 29, 1871, to Miss Frances, daughter of William C. and Artemisia Munson, who was born in New London, Huron Co., Ohio, Feb. 26, 1845. Mr. L. followed farming in Ingham County until 1875. January 7 of that year, he bought his present farm of 80 acres, then all timber land. He has cleared 31 acres, and is under full headway toward permanent prosperity. He has been School Inspector and Drain Commissioner one year each in his township, and is a member of the Order of Knights of Labor.

The children in this family are: Miles, born in Ingham County, June 19, 1872; Cauleton, Sept. 20, 1875; Charles, born in Bethany Township, June 4, 1878; Fidelia, July 4, 1880; and Asher, March 31, 1882.

**T**homas W. B. Creaser, farmer on section 17, Fulton Township, is a son of William and Elizabeth (McCombs) Creaser (see sketch of William Creaser); and was born in the Province of Quebec, Oct. 19, 1851. He was quite young when his parents removed to Upper Canada. He received a common-school education when in the Dominion, and was about 20 years old when his parents came to Gratiot Co., Mich. He continued to live with his father until 25 years of age. In 1880 he settled on 50 acres of partly improved land on section 17, Fulton, to which he has added 40 acres. He has 35 acres improved.

Feb. 18, 1879, in Newark Township, he married Miss Ida M., eldest daughter of George L. and Caroline (Jones) Naldrett. To this marriage two sons have been born, Albert N. and Charles C. Politically, Mr. C. is a Democrat.

**J**ohn Harrison, farmer, section 17, Bethany Township, is a son of Thomas and Eliza (Hunter) Harrison, and was born in Kitley Township, Leeds Co., Canada, Jan. 19, 1833. His parents followed the occupation of farming, and Mr. Harrison was a constant resident under the parental roof-tree and followed the same vocation until 16 years old.

Mr. Harrison was united in marriage, April 17, 1853, with Miss Margaret, daughter of Andrew and Mary (Thompson) Lawson. She was born in Ensley Township, Leeds Co., Canada, June 30, 1839. They have had five children, namely: Thomas, born June 10, 1857; Walter, born Aug. 31, 1850; Eliza J., born Sept. 9, 1861; James H., born Dec. 26, 1863, died April 2, 1864; and John A., born Feb. 10, 1865, died April 3, 1866.

In March, 1866, Mr. H. and family came to this State and located at St. Louis, this county, and was

there variously engaged for some time. In the spring of 1869, he purchased 80 acres of land on the section on which he now resides, lived on it for two or three years, and then moved to St. Louis, this county, and afterward returned to the farm.

When he first purchased the land, it was covered with timber, and through his own energetic labors 60 acres have been cleared and 50 acres placed under good cultivation. He has a good barn and commodious residence and good orchard.

Their son Thomas is a farmer by occupation, resides in the same township as the parents, and was united in marriage to Miss Angeline Quidort. Walter was married to Miss Isabel Broadhead, is a farmer, and resides with the parents. Eliza J., their only daughter, is the wife of V. B. Ludwig, at present living in Ludington, this State, and engaged in "life-saving service."

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison are members of the Congregational Church and honored and respected citizens of their township.

Mr. H. has held the position of Township Drain Commissioner for two years.

**E**dward N. DuBois, farmer section 18, North Star Township, was born June 13, 1820, in Cayuga Co., N. Y.; his parents were Abraham and Elizabeth (Graves) DuBois, the former a native of Dutchess Co., N. Y., and the latter of Connecticut. They emigrated to Plymouth Township, Richland Co., Ohio, in 1822, where Edward was brought up and learned the shoemaker's trade. After following this vocation for about six years, he went, in January, 1853, to California, for his health, which he fortunately recovered. He returned in January, 1854, and soon afterward commenced farming. In 1857 he settled in Fulton Township, this county, and in 1867 upon his present farm, where he has since lived with the exception of six years when he resided in Ithaca.

July 1, 1841, Mr. DuBois married Miss Adeline A., daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Weeden) Boardman. Of their nine children only three are now living, namely, George M., Ida B. (wife of Mr. Jeffrey) and Edward. One daughter, Ella, died in her 17th year. The others deceased were, Theodore, Mary E., Harry and Frank. Mr. DuBois and his sons

own altogether 210 acres of land, where they are carrying on a prosperous business in agriculture.

Mr. DuBois was Deputy Sheriff of this county 13 years, Justice of the Peace four years in Fulton Township, and Highway Commissioner in North Star Township one year. He was the first Village Marshal of Ithaca, and held that position three years.

**Byron H. Sawyer**, attorney, at Ithaca, is a son of Robert and Caroline W. (Webb) Sawyer, natives of New York and Connecticut. The former has followed the occupation of farmer, and, with his wife, resides in Hillsdale County, this State. Byron H. was born Nov. 29, 1846, near Lima, Steuben Co., Ind., and lived with his parents until 22 years old.

He attended the common schools, and at 17 commenced a course at the Medina Academy, where he studied two years. Entering the office of Sawyer & Bean, he read law for one year, after which he took a two years' course in the Law Department of the University of Michigan, graduating with the class of 1872. Forming a partnership with Thomas J. Hiller, he practiced law at Hudson, Lenawee County, until 1879, when he came to Ithaca. Here he has since resided and practiced law. He also deals in real estate, and he owns 120 acres on section 5, North Star Township, 65 of which are improved. He has been Village Attorney of Ithaca for two years, and is now Trustee of the village and Circuit Court Commissioner. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and is politically a Republican.

**John McCuaig**, farmer, section 17, North Shade Township, is a brother of Alexander McCuaig, whose sketch is given, with parentage, on another page. The subject of this sketch was born June 15, 1835, in Newton Township, Canada. He remained with his parents on the farm, and attending school until 21 years of age; lived five years in Wayne Co., Mich.; then from November, 1861, he lived a year in the town of New Haven; and finally located on 80 acres of wild land, where he now resides and has 60 acres

finely improved. His large and commodious barn he built in 1881. He has been an industrious and judicious manager, and has accordingly enjoyed a good degree of prosperity.

In 1861 Mr. McCuaig married Miss Jane, daughter of William and Mary Clements, who was born Dec. 10, 1841, in Canada. Their eight children are: Mary A., John D., William H., Annie E., Samuel S., Myron, Alexander and Ernest S.

In 1864, Mr. McC. enlisted in Co. A, 23d Mich. Inf., which was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 23d Army Corps. He was in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., and in all the engagements in which his regiment participated. On the mustering out of his regiment, he was transferred to the 28th Mich. Inf., and was finally mustered out at Raleigh, N. C., in October, 1865. Mr. McCuaig has been Town Treasurer 11 terms, and has held several school offices. In all these capacities he has served the community well, being able, judicious, and a man of unimpeachable integrity.

**Esley J. Miller**, farmer and teacher, section 24, Bethany Township, is a son of John U. and Esther, *nee* Cronce, Miller, and was born in Erie Co., Ohio, March 1, 1841, in which county his father and mother both died, the former June 18, 1853, and the latter Dec. 8, 1863. The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, and on his farm, under the ennobling influences of kind and loving parents, our subject was reared. He attended the common schools of his native county, and assisted on the farm until he attained the age of 18 years, when he entered on the "morning" of his vocation, and taught school winters and assisted on the farm summers. At this period in his life, although thoroughly competent to pursue his chosen profession, he devoted a portion of two years to the pursuit of his studies in Oberlin College, the more thoroughly to prepare himself for the work of educating others.

In December, 1865, Mr. M. came to Ingham County, this State, and purchased 50 acres of land in that county. He then returned to his native county and was united in marriage, March 6, 1866, to

Miss Abbie E., daughter of Gilbert B. and Sarah (Roe) Hasbrook. She was born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., Feb. 3, 1846, and to their union two children have been born, namely, Alva R., May 4, 1869, and Fred J., March 26, 1871.

After their marriage they came to the land purchased by Mr. M. in Ingham County, and resided on the same until the following December, when they sold it and removed to this county. They located on 40 acres of land on section 24, Bethany Township, where they now reside. Mr. M. has cleared and brought under cultivation about 30 acres of this land, built himself a good barn, and has under contemplation the erection of a new and commodious building as a residence.

Mr. M. has taught 12 terms of school in this county, and has given universal satisfaction as to competency. He has held the office of Justice of the Peace for ten years, and is recognized as one of the representative men of his township.

The husband and wife are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and respected and esteemed citizens of Bethany Township.

**L**orenzo W. Kyes, farmer, section 19, Pine River Township, was born in Jackson Co., Mich., Sept. 20, 1832, and is the son of James and Cassandra Kyes, both of whom were born in the State of New York. Mr. Kyes has been a farmer since the days of his boyhood. Previous to engaging in farm labor, he passed his time in obtaining his education at the common school. In January, 1859, he came to Gratiot County and purchased the farm on which he has since lived, comprising 80 acres of wild land. He has placed 60 acres under improvement and cultivation, and thus added his quota to the progress and agricultural advancement of Gratiot County. Politically, Mr. Kyes is a Democrat.

He was married in Calhoun Co., Mich., Jan. 26, 1855, to Sarah S., daughter of Frederick and Sarepta (Fox) Wright. Her parents were among the earliest settlers in Gratiot County, and the family name is one of the leading ones in its pioneer records. Mrs. Kyes was born Sept. 18, 1837, in Jackson Co., Mich. Of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Kyes five

survive—Emmet M., Frederick M., Albert C., Charles R. and Hattie M. Those deceased were named Gertrude, Frank and Melissa. Mrs. Kyes died Dec. 8, 1883.

**N**orman N. Cowdrey, farmer, section 25, Newark Township, is a son of William P. and Mary (Bruce) Cowdrey. The parents were of Scotch descent, and after their marriage settled in Southern Ohio, where the wife and mother died in 1847. The senior Cowdrey removed his family, eight years after the loss of his wife, to Michigan, and located in Newark Township, Gratiot County, where he resided until his death, which occurred March 16, 1883.

Mr. Cowdrey was born March 8, 1848, in Ohio. He was in his first year of life when his mother died, and was a lad of nine when his father settled in Gratiot County, where he spent the intervening years until he reached the period of his legal freedom. When he was 15 years old (in 1863), he enlisted in the 1st Mich. Regiment Engineers and Mechanics as a musician, and served until November, 1865. His command was with Sherman in the historic march to Atlanta and the sea. On the morning of the day when he awoke and found himself the legal inheritor of man's estate, he started for Ohio with the purpose of fitting himself to pursue the calling of a carpenter and joiner. He found plenty of employ at that business summers, and engaged in teaching winters, thus alternating for a period of ten years, and at the end of that time (in 1879) abandoned his trade.

In 1872, he purchased 40 acres of improved land in the township of which his father was a citizen, and in 1876 erected thereon the necessary farm buildings. In 1879 he became a resident in Newark Township, and has since been closely identified with all its interests. In politics, he is a Republican of decided type. He has officiated one year as Constable, several years as Superintendent of Schools, one term as Supervisor, and is a member of the Board of County School Examiners, of which body he has been Secretary two years, and is present Chairman. He was elected to a term of four years as Justice of the Peace, but resigned at the end of the first year. He now owns, in addition to his first purchase, 66 acres of

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*John Jeffrey*



land in North Star Township, and has 85 acres improved.

Among the reminiscences of the life of Mr. Cowdrey is one unique and startling incident, which occurred while his father was *en route* to Gratiot County. They traveled in the manner common to emigrants of that primitive period—family and effects in a wagon drawn by an ox team. The road was shaded on one side by the uncut forest, and the boy and his father occupied the front seat together. The day was windy, and suddenly a hollow bass-wood tree, about 30 inches in diameter, fell across the wagon. The top was forked, and, as the tree fell, the spreading limbs enclosed the occupants of the seat, and they were preserved unharmed. The wagon was almost entirely demolished.

Mr. Cowdrey was married Nov. 5, 1874, in Ohio, to Alwilda, daughter of James and Sarah Hibbins. Her parents were natives of Ohio, and the children born to them numbered seven, six of whom are living. Their names are: Mary E., Martha E., Alwilda, Laura B., Edwin T. (deceased), Nettie M. and Roberta. Mrs. Cowdrey is the third daughter, and was born Jan. 27, 1854. Frank C., born July 20, 1877, and James R., May 19, 1882, are the two children born to Mr. and Mrs. Cowdrey. The latter is a member of the United Brethren Church.



**J**ohn Jeffrey (deceased), a pioneer settler of Gratiot County, to whom the township and village of Ithaca are largely indebted, and with whose name their growth and progress are indissolubly connected, was a native of Monmouth Co., N. J., where he was born Aug. 26, 1812.

The record of his early life is incomplete, but sufficient is known to warrant the inference that the years of his later youth and earlier manhood were passed in the exercise of the traits of character which secured the prosperity of his prime and later life, and rendered him a valuable acquisition to the citizenship of a new country. His earliest known occupation was in freighting on the Erie Canal, where he was engaged some years, but met only moderate success. He went to Niagara Co., N. Y., in 1836, which section was then in its early days. He bought

a considerable tract of land, and for a number of years devoted his energies to the improvement and cultivation of his farm. He achieved a success in proportion to his efforts, and accumulated what was then considered a fair competency. In 1853 he visited several of the Western States for the purpose of fixing on a suitable field for the development of his plans and projects in life, and finally located a tract of land at the geographical center of Gratiot County, which included the site of the present village of Ithaca. He took possession of his property in 1855, at which date his permanent residence and the improvements on his estate began. In 1856 he platted the village of Ithaca, and on the third day of March of the same year the Board of Supervisors established there the county seat. In 1860 the action was re-affirmed.

Mr. Jeffrey's location of land in 1853 included 1,120 acres, and he was continually buying additional tracts up to the date of his death. It was his policy to make no sales of land save to actual settlers, to which principle he strictly adhered. At the time he died he was the proprietor of about 5,000 acres, including choice farming and pine lands, and also a considerable portion of the original plat of the village. At the time Mr. Jeffrey became a resident of Gratiot County, the country in every direction was for miles an unbroken wilderness, and the position in which he found himself was one that required the exercise of untiring energy and exertion. But he possessed an iron constitution, perseverance and judgment, which made him equal to the emergency, and in the aggregate he probably underwent as much hardship and suffered as many privations as any of the early pioneers of Gratiot County; and to no one of them is the county more indebted for its present remarkable status of advancement and improvement. Prudence, economy, temperance and industry were marked traits of his character, and all the acts of his life were tempered by good judgment, sound sense and consideration for the permanent prosperity and welfare of the community to which he belonged, and of which he was for so many years a useful and honored member. He died March 5, 1874.

The portrait of Mr. Jeffrey appears on another page. It is a valuable addition to the collated history and biography of Gratiot County, and without it no book of the character claimed for the present volume would be in any sense complete.

Mr. Jeffrey was married Dec. 10, 1868, in St. Louis, to Mrs. Louisa (Smith) Baney. She was born March 6, 1835, in Newfane, Niagara Co., N. Y., and is the daughter of George and Arvilla (Bromley) Smith. Her first husband was David Baney, to whom she was married June 30, 1864, and by whom she had two children: Glenn E., born June 12, 1865, in Pompei, Gratiot County; and May P., born March 25, 1867. Mr. Jeffrey left two children: John, born Oct. 21, 1869, and Ira, Dec. 24, 1871. His widow became the wife of Joseph H. Seaver, June 18, 1879.

**J**ohn Broadhead, farmer, section 18, Bethany Township, is a son of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Jersey) Broadhead, and was born in Maryland, July 20, 1829. When he was a small boy the family moved to the State of New York, locating in Ulster County. As he grew up he followed mill sawing for 14 years. In 1856 he came to Michigan and was married, in Newark Township, this county, to Miss Emily Rooks, daughter of David and Sophia (Thompson) Rooks, who was born in Erwin, Steuben Co., N. Y., May 3, 1837. Their children are: Charles W., born July 24, 1862; Cora I., Jan. 10, 1865; Hattie E., Nov. 3, 1867; Ray, March 6, 1870. Cora I. is the wife of Walter Harrison, a farmer of Bethany Township.

Mr. B. is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and has served as Constable several years.

**W**illiam F. Brown, farmer, section 21, North Star Township, was born April 5, 1818, in Massachusetts. His parents were William and Clarissa (*nee* Flowers) Brown, natives also of Massachusetts. The latter died when William F. was but three years old. Mr. Brown is a descendant of one of three brothers who came from England among the first settlers of America. His parents located in Genesee Co., N. Y., in 1819, where his mother died. His father married again, and in 1827 moved to Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and in 1833 to Warren Co., Penn.

The subject of this sketch left home at the age 18

years, worked by the month several years, and in 1863 came to this county, where now, in North Star Township, he owns 70 acres of land. He was married March 20, 1841, to Miss Mary, daughter of Francis Ploof. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Brown two are living, namely, Eli W. and Charles W. One son, George F., was killed in the late war while fighting in defense of his country, in a skirmish near Louisa Court-House, soon after the battle of Spottsylvania Court-House. He was but 21 years of age. The other deceased son, James L., died when three years old. Eli W. is in Billings, Montana Territory, and Charles W. resides on a part of the homestead. Mrs. B. died Nov. 30, 1840, and Mr. B. married again Aug. 20, 1857, Miss Louisa M. Miner, daughter of Warren and Sophinia Miner, and by her had one child, Jay A. They have an adopted son, James W., now 28 years of age.

Mr. Brown is a member of the Masonic fraternity and Mrs. B. of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**W**elcome P. Partello, farmer, section 10, Bethany Township, is a son of Welcome J. and Rhoda (Phinney) Partello, and was born in Cazenovia, N. Y., Oct. 22, 1818. When eight years old his parents came to Washtenaw County, this State, settling in Salem Township, the second family in that township. There the father bought 80 acres of timber land, built a good log house, dug a well, and cleared 12 acres, when he discovered that he had located on the wrong piece of land. Accordingly he moved. When the subject of this sketch was 19 years old the family moved to Clinton Co., Mich., five miles east of DeWitt.

At the last mentioned place, July 31, 1845, he married Amelia J. Hoople, who was born in Canada, Nov. 28, 1821. By this marriage seven children have been born, viz.: Livonia, Julia, Welcome, Persis, Elson, Dwight and Olivia.

In Clinton County Mr. P. was most of the time engaged in agricultural pursuits, and had some real estate in the village of DeWitt. In March, 1856, he came to Bethany and took possession of a quarter-section of timber land where he now resides, having 60 acres in a profitable state of cultivation and

the value of the place enhanced by a number of improvements. When he first arrived on this tract it was all a wild forest. He moved with a yoke of oxen led by a horse. His father had settled on an adjoining place the year previous, and died eight years afterward: was the first Supervisor of the township. His mother died two years later. He has been Justice of the Peace three years.

The children are now scattered as follows: Livonia is the widow of Stephen R. Goodwin, and resides in Bethany Township; Julia is the wife of William Denman, a farmer in Huron Co., Ohio; Welcome is engaged in connection with a railroad at San Antonio, Texas; Persis is the wife of Harvey Atwell, a farmer in Bethany Township; Elson is living at home; Dwight is also at home, and Olivia is the wife of Ira Bentley, a farmer in Huron Co., Ohio.

**W**illiam Seifried, farmer, section 8, New Haven Township, was born in Salt Creek Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, March 25, 1833. His parents, Henry and Mary A. (Steele) Seifried, were natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. His father was a farmer by occupation, and after the year 1854 he lived until his death in the vicinity of Des Moines, Iowa.

Mr. William Seifried, the subject of this notice, lived with his parents (after 15 years of age in Wyandot Co., Ohio,) until his marriage, April 27, 1854, to Miss Martha, daughter of Isaac and Eva (Borders) George, natives of Pennsylvania and of "Pennsylvania Dutch" ancestry. Both died in their native State. Mrs. S. was born in Westmoreland Co., Pa., Oct. 9, 1832, and when five years of age her residence was changed to Wayne Co., Ohio. Six months after marriage Mr. and Mrs. S. moved to Hancock Co., Ohio.

When the first call for 600,000 more troops was made to aid in suppressing the great insurrection, Mr. S. enlisted, Aug. 11, 1862, in Co. G, 118th Ohio Vol. Inf., commanded by Capt. Samuel Howard, of the Army of the Cumberland. He participated in all the engagements of his regiment until the battle of Perryville, and for the nine months following that event his regiment was detailed for special duty on

the Kentucky Central railroad; then they were in active service again, being in the engagements at Covington Heights, Perryville, Knoxville, London, Mossy Creek, Resaca, Chattanooga, Buzzard Roost, Kennesaw Mountain, etc. He was then sick for more than two years in the hospitals at Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Nashville and Camp Dennison, Ohio, where he was honorably discharged, May 22, 1865. After residing then at his home in Hancock Co., Ohio, until fall, he came to Maple Grove, Barry Co., Mich. A little more than two years afterward he moved to Kent County, where he preached eight months as a minister of the "Church of God," then one year in the same capacity in Saginaw County. In 1870 he came to this county and homesteaded 80 acres where he now resides, and has improved 50 acres. He was the third settler on this section.

Mr. S. is now a minister in the Free-Will Baptist Church, serving acceptably. He is a strong Prohibitionist Republican, and has held some of the offices of public trust in his district. His wife is also a member of the Free-Will Baptist Church. The children in this family are: Isaac G., born May 31, 1855; Henry F., March 1, 1857; John W., Feb. 21, 1859; George M., Aug. 1, 1861; David M., Nov. 11, 1865; and Ella E., Oct. 9, 1867.

**F**reeman H. Rice, farmer, section 11, Fulton Township, is a son of Freeman and Sally (Hobart) Rice, natives of the State of New York. They settled after marriage in their native State, and afterward removed to Delaware Co., Ohio., where they lived until the fall of 1859. They afterwards removed to Mecosta County, this State, where the father died, in September, 1871. The mother afterwards removed to Eaton County, where she died, in June, 1873.

Their family comprised six sons and one daughter. Freeman H., the fourth son, was born in Genesee Co., N. Y., Feb. 19, 1830, and was seven years old when his parents removed to Ohio. He lived at home until about 34 years of age, and in the fall of 1864 came to Gratiot Co., Mich., and settled on 120 acres in Fulton Township, which he had bought during the administration of President Pierce. He has now 80 acres improved.

Oct. 14, 1863, in Eaton Co., Mich., he was married to Mrs. Mary E., daughter of Martin and Abigail Williams, and widow of Chester B. Rice (a brother of Freeman H., who died Aug. 10, 1861). Mrs. Rice had by her first marriage one daughter, Sarah A., and by her second a daughter and a son,—Viola and Herbert F. Mr. Rice is politically a Republican.

**J**ohn M. Walker, farmer, section 34, Newark Township, is the son of Stephen and Lydia (White) Walker. They were natives respectively of New York and New Hampshire, and after their marriage settled in the former State. They came to Lenawee Co., Mich., in its pioneer days and there passed the ultimate years of their lives. Five children were born to them,—Martha, David, John M., Nathaniel and Ransom.

Mr. Walker is the second son of his parents and was born March 15, 1831, in Niagara Co., N. Y. He was two years old when his parents removed to Michigan, and he continued under the parental authority until he reached his majority. He then apprenticed himself to learn the business of wagon-making and served two years. He was engaged in labor at his trade and as farm assistant five years, when he bought a farm in Lenawee County containing 75 acres, which he continued to manage until the spring of 1880, when he sold out and came to Gratiot County. He bought 100 acres of land in a State of partial improvement in Newark Township, on which he has since continued to reside and of which he has now 75 acres under cultivation. Mr. Walker held the position of School Director in Lenawee County six years consecutively, and in the fall of 1881 was elected School Assessor of District No. 4, Newark Township, of which position he is present incumbent. In political affiliation he is a Republican.

Mr. Walker was married in Fairfield, Lenawee Co., Mich., Oct. 12, 1856, to Elsie E., daughter of Job T. and Lydia (Laycock) Reynolds. Her parents were settlers in Jackson County, where the father died in 1840, and the mother seven years later. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are the parents of five living children: Milton D. died when he was nine years old; Ransom D., Cynthia I., Elveretta E., Lydia A. and Jessie S. are the names of those surviving.

**J**acob W. Snyder, general farmer, section 21, New Haven Township, was born in Montgomery Co., N. Y., Feb. 27, 1819. When 13 years of age he commenced to work out for neighbors, at farm labor, as his parents were poor; and his education was consequently limited. He was a laboring man in this capacity till he was about 30 years of age. In the meantime, Sept. 27, 1838, he married Miss Mehitable, daughter of David and Amy (Chapman) Hopkins, who was born in Stafford, Genesee Co., N. Y., Aug. 27, 1821. When six years of age she moved with the family to Allegany County, same State.

Mr. Snyder came to Michigan in the fall of 1853, locating first in Ionia County, and two years later in this county, pre-empting 80 acres on the section where he now resides, and undergoing the experiences common to frontier life, more fully described elsewhere in this volume. He and his noble wife bravely persevered and surmounted all obstacles. During the noted famine of 1856, they received but \$3 donation. Mr. Snyder has improved 60 acres of the old homestead, and he has never changed his residence since his first settlement. In national affairs he is a Republican, and he has held various offices in his township and district.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Snyder are: Amelia, Edwin F., Laura and Amy M., living; and Harrison, who died in the army, and Mary J., who died in infancy.

**T**homas A. Porter, farmer, section 18, Bethany Township, is a son of John and Jane (Atchison) Porter, and was born in Indiana, Nov. 5, 1827. When six months old the family moved to Canada. When he was 16 years of age he left home and learned the millwright trade, which he followed in various parts of the United States until 1861, and he has worked at it some since that date. He was for a time in California, where he was a member of a vigilance committee. His residence for six years was above Sacramento, near Auburn, Placer County, and he followed lumbering.

He first came to Michigan in 1845, stopping on the Saginaw Bay. In 1861, he returned to St. Clair Co., Mich., and shortly afterward he went to Saginaw County, where he "located" 960 acres of land for himself and brothers, his share being a third: at one time he owned 2,200 acres. He cleared 75 acres. As he was interested in lumbering in Missaukee County, he operated there two years. He then took an 18-months trip through the South, visiting the old battle-grounds. He entered the navy and was assigned to the U. S. gunboat "Pittsburg," of the Mississippi Squadron, being in the service ten months, and engaged in several skirmishes.

After the close of the war he returned to Saginaw; came to his present location in May, 1882, purchasing 45 acres. It is all in cultivation, and Mr. P. has shown himself to be a judicious and prosperous farmer.

Since 1854 he has belonged to the Masonic fraternity. He was married in St. Clair Co., Mich., Nov. 28, 1861, to Miss Julia P. Beech, daughter of Lucius and Julia A. Beech, who was born in that county, April 4, 1835.

**S**tanley L. Nichols, farmer, section 14, Pine River Township, was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., June 16, 1837, and is the son of Ezra and Hannah (Hipp) Nichols, both of whom were natives of New York. At the age of 18, Mr. Nichols began for himself in the world, and, for three years, worked out by the month as a farm laborer. He has devoted most of his life to the same noble calling, with the exception of about eight years, three of which were spent in the army and the remaining five years he labored as a teacher. He enlisted Aug. 14, 1862, in the 4th Mich. Cav., and received honorable discharge at Nashville, Tenn. The regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and Mr. Nichols took an active part in the various engagements in which it was involved, and upon him, as well as all others belonging to the same command, reflected the luster of the 4th Mich. Cav. in the capture of Jefferson Davis.

In April, 1879, he came to Gratiot County and bought 40 acres of land in section 14, Pine River Township. The entire tract was unimproved, and he

has since placed 20 acres under cultivation. He is a Republican in political sentiment, and a member of the Masonic Order. He was married in Berkshire Co., Mass., Dec. 11, 1866, to Ellen E. Harrison, daughter of John and Chloe Harrison. Her mother was a native of New York, her father of Massachusetts. Mrs. Nichols was born Oct. 18, 1843, in Lenawee Co., Mich. Three children have been added to the family circle—Maud C., Stanley E. and Ida L. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**E**phthah Earl, farmer, section 23, Newark Township, was born June 20, 1830, in Seneca Co., N. Y., and is the son of Stephen and Ann E. (Evans) Earl. Both parents were born in the State of New York, where they lived until the spring of 1841, when they removed to Michigan and settled in Kalamazoo County, where they continued to reside during the remainder of their lives. The mother died in January, 1863; the father's demise occurred in the following April.

At the age of 19, Mr. Earl became his own man, pursuing the vocation of agriculture, to which he had been trained. He passed six years as a farm laborer and two years was engaged in butchering, associated with his father. In the spring of 1861 he came to Gratiot County and bought the place where he has since resided, and labored until he has placed 60 acres under first-class cultivation. He has sold five acres. The family remained in occupancy of the pioneer log house until the summer of 1881, when a fine frame house was erected on the farm in which they have since resided.

Mr. Earl was married Dec. 7, 1854, in Ionia Co., Mich., to Mary J., third daughter of Nathan and Chloe (Tyler) Benjamin. Mrs. Earl's parents were natives of the State of New York, and on leaving there first settled in Ohio, afterward removing to Oakland Co., Mich., and from thence to Ionia County. They passed the last years of their lives with their children, the mother dying Jan. 18, 1866. The father breathed his last nine days later.

Mrs. E. was born in Oakland County, Aug. 8, 1833. She and her husband assumed the care of Viola M. Benjamin, a niece, when she was five years old, who remained with them until her marriage. They have

also a foster-child, Leonard E. Smith, born Jan. 26, 1874, who has been in their charge since his birth. Mr. Earl is a Republican in political sentiment. He has held the various offices of his school district and is a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity.

**W**illiam Isenhath, farmer, Pine River, is a son of John C. and Catherine Isenhath, natives of Germany, where they lived and died. William was born in Germany, Feb. 6, 1837, and resided in his native country until 20 years of age. Coming to the United States, he located in Erie Co., Pa., and was employed in farming for two and a half years. He then went to Ohio, and lived in Ashtabula County until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in the 11th New York Battery. He was in the service somewhat over one year, and was then discharged on account of disability.

In December, 1862, he came to Gratiot County, and with his brother-in-law, purchased 40 acres of land. He afterwards traded his share of the land for 40 acres on section 30, Pine River Township, where he now resides. He has since added 20 acres, and has 30 acres nicely improved and under the plow.

Nov. 20, 1863, in Gratiot County, he was married to Catherine Mullen, a native of Pennsylvania. This union has been blessed with nine children, seven of whom survive: Henry A., Mary A., Alvin, Willie E., Annie B., Wilda M. and Frankie D. Adeline and Elmer L. died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Isenhath are consistent members of the Lutheran Church. In politics, Mr. I. votes the Republican ticket.

**C**alvin C. Kryder, farmer, section 36, Newark Township, was born Oct. 6, 1839, in Ohio. His parents, Jonas and Mary (Everhard) Kryder, were born respectively in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He was engaged in farming in his native State until the age of 24 years. He went to Illinois in 1863 and there remained 15 years, and engaged in farming in Christian County. In the spring of 1878 he sold his farm in the Sucker

State and removed to Michigan, settling where he now resides in Newark Township, where he became proprietor of 40 acres of improved land by purchase. Mr. Kryder is a Republican in political affiliation.

He was married Jan. 25, 1866, in Medina Co., Ohio, to Charity, fourth daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Lance) Coolman. Following are the records of the five children born of this marriage, three of whom survive: Leslie A., born July 3, 1867, died July 31, 1868; Frankie F., born Jan. 17, 1869, died May 24, 1877; J. S. Shirley, Sept. 11, 1870; Oriette D. F., Dec. 18, 1872, and Cordie M. U., Nov. 26, 1874.

Mr. Kryder enlisted Jan. 25, 1865, in the 41st Reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and was in the service six months, receiving honorable discharge July 27, 1865, at Chicago. He was never in active service, as before the regiment could be duly equipped, mustered in and reach the front the rebellion was in a state of collapse and military necessities virtually at an end.

**S**eely Amsbury, farmer, section 36, Seville Township, was born Jan. 14, 1853, in Jackson Co., Mich., and is a son of Ira and Sarah (Patch) Amsbury. His father was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., and came when a child to Michigan with his parents. He was a farmer by occupation, and came to Gratiot County. On the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion he became a soldier, enlisting Oct. 8, 1864, in Co. C, 8th Mich. Vol. Inf. Among the noted incidents of the war in which he took part was the surrender of Gen. Lee to Gen. Grant at Appomattox Court-House. He received his discharge July 30, 1865. At the time of his enlistment he was Supervisor of Seville Township, which office he filled seven years. He was also Township Clerk two years. He died Feb. 5, 1873. The mother is still residing in Seville Township.

Mr. Amsbury was brought up to the calling of agriculture, which he has made the business of his life. In 1861 he came to Gratiot County with his parents, where his father located 80 acres of land in Seville Township, chiefly in an unimproved condition. The family encountered all the variety and incidents common to pioneer life. Mr. Amsbury owns 25 acres of improved land on which he is en-

gaged in prosperous farming. Politically he is a member of the National Greenback party, and in the years 1882 and '83 was elected Township Treasurer.

He was married in 1878 to Izora, daughter of Ira and Jane Phelps. The parents and daughter were natives of Wayne Co., N. Y.; the latter was born in 1860. She died April 30, 1881, in Seville.



**M**rs. Mindwell L. (Spencer) Crispel, residing on section 9, New Haven Township, was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Jan. 26, 1821. Her parents were also natives of that State, of English descent. Her father, Aaron Spencer, of Puritanical stock, died in California in 1874; and her mother, Martha, *nee* Moore, was of New England ancestry, and died in this State about 1855.

When 13 years old the subject of this sketch came with her parents to Hillsdale Co., Mich., where she attended the common school and was married, March 14, 1838, to John A. Crispel, a native of Ulster Co., N. Y., born June 20, 1812. He came to this State in 1836, where he lived until his death, in Jackson County, Oct. 7, 1880, aged nearly 70. He was a farmer, a prominent and exemplary citizen of the community, and satisfactorily filled several public offices, as Supervisor, etc. In religion he was a Spiritualist, and in politics a Republican. As a farmer he owned at one time two whole sections, less only 40 acres.

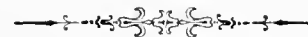
Mrs. C. is now in her 64th year, enjoying good health and her mental activity unimpaired. She has ever been an active, intelligent and philanthropic member of society. She attends the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**B**riggs B. Ellison, farmer on section 31, Pine River Township, is a son of George and Julia (Drake) Ellison, natives of Orange Co., N. Y. The father died in that county in 1814; the mother afterwards came to Michigan, and and died in Jackson County. The subject of this biographical sketch was born in Orange Co., N. Y.,

June 29, 1812. He being quite young at his father's death, the first 15 years of his life were mostly passed with friends of the family in Orange County. He was then apprenticed to the baker's trade, at which he worked until 19 years of age. In 1831, he went on a whaler, and made two voyages, lasting six years. In 1838, he came to Michigan and bought 120 acres of land in Jackson County, on which he settled and lived nearly 14 years. Selling out, he bought a farm in an adjoining township, where he lived for seven years. He then sold again, and in November, 1854, came to Gratiot County and bought 160 acres of partly improved land on section 31, Pine River Township, where he now resides. He has disposed of 120 acres, and of the remaining 40, 35 acres are under good cultivation. He has a good residence and a comfortable barn.

March 17, 1842, in Jackson Co., Mich., he was married to Miss Ardelia D., daughter of Francis and Henrietta (Carpenter) Bargarow. He was of English and French ancestry, and she was a native of Connecticut. Their daughter Ardelia was born in Saratoga Co., N. Y., June 2, 1825. Mr. and Mrs. Ellison have had a family of three, two living: Mary J., Carrie A. (died Jan. 5, 1867, aged 23) and Joseph A. Mr. Ellison has held for several years the office of Constable in his township. Politically, he is an ardent Republican.



**N**orman H. Wells, general farmer and stock-raiser, section 15, New Haven Township, was born in Westphalia, Clinton Co., Mich., April 13, 1843. His parents, David and Melinda (Gould) Wells, were natives of Connecticut and of English descent, and emigrated to Michigan about 1836, settling first in Oakland County, as pioneers; later, in Westphalia Township, Clinton County, where Mr. David Wells resided until his death, Aug. 28, 1883, having lived in that county 41 years! His wife had died Sept. 3, 1859, in that county.

Norman H., the subject of this sketch, remained at home until 19 years of age, working on the farm and in his father's brick-yards and attending school in his district, and at Wacousta, three miles away. He received a good education and taught public

school a short time. At the age above mentioned he set out as a common laborer, lumbering and farming, and attending school, in Portland, Ionia County, preparing to take a course at the State Agricultural College at Lansing, but lack of funds prevented him from carrying out the much desired project. In 1864 he came to this county and bought 80 acres, on section 13, New Haven Township. This was then principally covered with timber. He has since added by purchase 40 acres, and of the total 120 acres he has improved 100 acres, putting it in fine condition. He also owns 80 acres on section 23, of which he has 40 acres improved. Both of these farms are well equipped with the necessary buildings, orchards, etc. In 1874 he purchased 40 acres on section 15, to which he has recently added 40 acres, and has made some improvements upon the place.

In an early day Mr. Wells established a general store in Newark Township for country patronage. His was the first successful store in the country in this county, and he is considered the father of that branch of mercantile life in Gratiot County. He afterward sold out to George E. Blain, and returned to farming, in which vocation he has been successful. He owns an aggregate of 320 acres, divided into four different farms, having a total of 180 acres of good arable land. He has also been a real-estate dealer and loan agent for Eastern parties for some time, exhibiting a high order of business qualifications. He is a thoroughgoing, energetic and common-sense farmer. In political matters he is a Republican; was the first Township Superintendent of Schools after the abolition of the county-superintendency system, and has also been Township Inspector, Justice of the Peace and Highway Commissioner, holding each office two years. In all these capacities he has faithfully served the public.

Mr. Wells was married Nov. 6, 1870, in North Shade Township, this county, to Miss Martha, daughter of John and Sarah A. (Leonard) Jackson, natives respectively of England and New York, who came to the above mentioned township in 1869. Mrs. W. was born in Brownville, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Oct. 6, 1851, and came to this county when 17 years old. She has taught school several terms, successfully. Both she and Mr. W. are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their four children are: Herbert J., Laura A., John Floyd and Sarah J.

This family have in their possession an English sugar-bowl which was owned by great-grandparents, and is more than 150 years old; and another, of the American order, that is nearly 100 years old. They also have a hymn-book, 65 years old.



**M**oses Stevens, mechanic, carpenter and joiner, section 31, Ithaca Township, was born in Gloucestershire, Eng., Oct. 30, 1819, and was the son of Emanuel and Elizabeth (Gasser) Stevens, natives of England and of English descent. In his native country the father was a tinsmith, and he came to America in 1831, settling in the State of New York. He there engaged in farming, and died in 1842. The mother died in Tuscola Co., Mich., in 1881, at the age of 86 years.

When 12 years old Moses came with his parents to this country, and he lived in New York State until he was 21 years old. He was then married to Susan M. Hulett. They came afterwards to Tuscola County, this State, where she died, in September, 1871. April 1, 1874, he was married to Sabra Blair, who died in the same county a year later. Oct. 3, 1876, he was a third time married, at East Saginaw, Mich.; and he took for his life partner this time Mrs. Elmira M. Potter (*nee* Lake), daughter of Nicholas and Alzina (Cross) Lake, natives of St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and of English descent. They followed farming, and removed at an early day to Ontario, Canada. After 20 years' residence there, they came to Forestville, Sanilac County, where the father died, in September, 1854. His wife afterwards removed to Gratiot County, and then went on a visit to Iosco County, where she died, in December, 1874. Elmira M. was born at Smith Falls, Can., Jan 24, 1833. At the age of 19, she came to this State; and she was married at Grand Ledge, Eaton Co., Oct. 12, 1856, to William Potter, a native of New York. Three months later, they came to this county, and located a half a mile from Ithaca. Mr. Potter improved 120 acres of land, and died Sept. 2, 1863, aged nearly 33, leaving to the care of his widow three children, Ida B., George W. and Cora M.

Mr. Stevens had by his first marriage three sons



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and seven daughters, all of whom are living except one son and two daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens now live on the Potter homestead. They belong to the society known as Seventh-Day Adventists. In politics Mr. Stevens is an adherent of the Republican party.

**J**ohn Pool, general farmer and stock-raiser, section 12, New Haven Township, is a native of Jefferson Co., N. Y., where he was born Oct. 22, 1823. His father, Isaac Pool, was also a native of the Empire State, of English and Welsh descent, was a carpenter and joiner by trade, as well as farmer at times, and emigrated to Wisconsin in 1854, settling in Waushara County, where he was a prominent and respected citizen, and finally died. John's mother, Diadem, *nee* Buck, was also a native of New York State, of English ancestry, and died in Wisconsin.

The subject of this sketch was only five years old when his parents moved with him from his native place to St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., where he worked on a farm and at the carpenter's trade, and attended school, until he was of age. He then worked as a common laborer a few years near home. When 22 years of age, he bought 50 acres of land in St. Lawrence County, partly improved, and set to work upon it. Three years later he returned to his native county, where, June 13, 1849, he married Miss Lucy, daughter of John and Lydia (Jones) Kanautz, natives of the Empire State. Mr. K. was of pure German descent, and Mrs. K. of New England parentage and of English extraction. The former, an agriculturist, died in St. Lawrence County, May 30, 1880, and the latter in Jefferson County, July 31, 1850. Mrs. P. was born in Pamela Township, Jefferson County, Oct. 27, 1820, and was the third daughter and fourth child of her parents. Mr. and Mrs. P. have had three children, only one of whom survives, namely: Anna E., born Aug. 1, 1854, and married May 26, 1874, to Alex. McLaren, now residing in New Haven Township on a farm; Amanda J., born April 10, 1852, and died Feb. 4, 1853; and John W., born April 2, 1862, died June 2, 1880.

After marriage, Mr. P. followed farming on his place for three years, sold out, and one year later he

purchased property in the village of Herman, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., where he was engaged as a general laborer and farmer. He sold out there, and in the fall of 1854 came to Gratiot County, and purchased, under the Graduation Act, the southwest quarter of section 12, New Haven Township, where he now lives. Before settling here, however, he spent a short time in Iowa, then in Ionia County, this State, where he purchased 80 acres in the township of Fair Plains. While there, he and his family suffered a great deal from chills and fever. He sold out there in November, 1855, and the following February returned to this county and settled on his land. It was then a wilderness. Here, in a log shanty, 13 x 17 feet, he and his little family started out again to make a permanent home. The scenes of frontier life here, and the kindness and sociability of their early neighbors, are remembered with an ever-increasing fascination and delight.

His little cabin, afterward enlarged to 14 x 22, stood till the spring of 1861, when it was supplanted by a good-sized house, which still stands in striking contrast with his present mansion, built in 1874. His barn, 30 x 40 feet in dimensions, was erected in 1858, the first frame barn in the township. By additions to this structure, he has made it one of the largest barns in this part of the county. He has 200 acres of the best land in the township, with 100 acres well improved, watered and stocked, with a thrifty orchard of three acres, etc.

Mr. Pool has always been a strong Republican, and as a citizen of his township he has been honored with various offices, as Highway Commissioner for several years, Township Treasurer six years, etc. He and his wife are members of the Baptist Church.

Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Pool are given in proximity to this sketch, as they are representative of a worthy and exemplary class of citizens.

**J**ohn Hamilton, M. D., physician and surgeon at Pompei, was born in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, Oct. 31, 1830. He is a son of Thomas Hamilton, deceased, a native of Scotland, and who emigrated to America and settled in Carlton Place, near Ottawa, Canada, in 1842, and where two years later, in

1844, his family, including our subject, joined him.

Dr. Hamilton in early life manifested a desire to become a medical practitioner, and devoted his time and energies to the accomplishment of that purpose. He received the advantages afforded by the common schools, and then attended the High School at Almonte, Canada. He then turned his attention to teaching, and followed the same for some 12 years, devoting all his leisure time to research after medical knowledge, and afterward, before coming to the United States, was engaged in practice for some time. He then came to Michigan and entered the Detroit Medical College, from which he graduated with honors in 1876. In April of that year the Doctor came to Pompei, this county, entered upon the practice of his profession, and has built up a lucrative and successful one.

The Doctor was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Lang, daughter of Arthur Lang, deceased, and was born in Almonte, Canada. Ten children have been born to their union: Amelia, Helen, Thomas, Arthur, Marion, Jessie, John D., William R. and Harry H.

Amelia is the wife of Hiram White, and lives in Cranbrook, Huron Co., Canada. Helen is also married, and is the wife of John Taylor, who resides near Brussels, Huron Co., Canada.

Dr. Hamilton is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Masonic Order.

**R**obert F. Fleming, farmer, section 30, Pine River Township, was born at Ann Arbor, Mich., Feb. 1, 1834, and is a son of Charles M. and Peninah J. Fleming. His parents were both natives of the State of New York.

During the years of his minority, the life of Mr. Fleming was passed in the manner common to the farmers' sons of the place and period. The succeeding five years he spent in working by the month, and expended his earnings in the purchase of 40 acres of land in Jackson County, on which he settled at the age of 26 years. Between five and six years later he sold the place, and in October, 1865, came to Gratiot County, and bought 50 acres of land in Pine River Township, most of which was in an unimproved condition. Of this he has placed 40 acres under cultivation. Mr. Fleming is a Republican in political affinity.

He was married March 1, 1860, at Eaton Rapids, to Eliza A., daughter of Gardner Rice, a native of the State of New York. Mrs. Fleming was born July 30, 1835, in Cayuga Co., N. Y. Six of seven children born of this marriage yet survive,—Edward E., James H., Willie F., Carrie E., Cora E. and Elvira P. Calvin A. died when nearly two years old. The parents belong to the Presbyterian Church.

**W**illiam J. Naldrett, farmer, section 36, New Haven Township, is a native of England, where he was born April 10, 1828. His parents, Clement and Hannah (Hiscock) Naldrett, were also natives of the same county. (See sketch of George S. Naldrett.)

Mr. Naldrett was trained to the occupation of gardener in his native land, and at the age of 21 came to the United States. He first found employment in a nursery near the city of Rochester, N. Y., where he remained about three months. He practiced all the economy possible and saved sufficient money to enable him to proceed to Michigan. He came directly to Ann Arbor, where he remained six years, chiefly occupied in gardening. In the fall of 1854 he went to Lansing, Mich., and during the session of the Legislature in the winter following he was employed at the State House as fireman. He was engaged in gardening through the next summer, and in August, 1855, bought 58 acres of unimproved land on section 30, Newark Township, Gratiot County, built a small house and entered at once upon the labor of improving and cultivating his farm. In the fall of 1853 he had purchased 80 acres of land on section 29 in the same township, which he has since sold. He has increased his homestead farm to 112 acres and has put 70 acres under good cultivation. Mr. Naldrett is connected with the Order of Masonry and is an adherent to the Democratic party in political views.

He was married Sept. 28, 1854, in Detroit, to Mary, third daughter of Christian and Barbara Leonard. Her parents were natives of Germany, and she was born Sept. 29, 1831, in Baden, in the same country. When she was 21 years old her parents came with their family to America, settling at Ann Arbor,

Mich., where they both died. Of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Naldrett, three died in infancy—George, Cornelia and Clara. Those surviving are William C., Rose B. and Ernest H.



**Willet Reynolds**, farmer, owning 40 acres on section 17, North Star Township, was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., Feb. 7, 1834. His father, Abel Reynolds, deceased, was a native of Rhode Island. Mr. R., the subject of this sketch, was reared as a farmer, and received his education in the common school in his native county. He came to Clinton County, Mich., in 1854, and to this county in 1856, where he has since lived, except three years temporarily in Oakland Co., Mich. He served three years in the great war, as a Corporal of Co. G, Fifth Mich. Cav., participating in the battles of Gettysburg, Williamsport, Hagerstown, Boonsboro, Snicker's Gap, and in opposing Early's raid on Washington.

Mr. Reynolds was married in 1856 to Miss Lydia J., daughter of Nathaniel Neal (deceased), who was born Dec. 25, 1833, in Oswego Co., N. Y. Their four children are: Elizabeth, who married B. B. Tuttle; Jennette; Emma J., who married Marion Miner; and Helen L.

Mr. R. and wife are members of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.



**Thomas J. Clark**, farmer, section 21, Pine River Township, was born July 5, 1855, in the city of Norfolk, and is the son of Thomas and Rosa Clark. His parents lived in New York and had but two children, Thomas and William. The father was a naval officer and lost his life in the engagement at Hampton Roads when the Congress and the Cumberland were sunk by the Merrimac, an iron-clad Confederate vessel, now called the Virginia.

When Mr. Clark was ten years old he came to Michigan under the guidance and management of the Children's Aid Society, which at that time sent out 46 children to find home and friends in the shel-

tering homes of the Peninsular State. He spent the intervening years until 1868, in Lenawee County, with different individuals and variously employed. In the year named he went to live with Thomas J. King, of Hillsdale County, and, for three years, he worked for his board and clothes, after which he received wages, continuing to make his home with Mr. King until 1880, when he came to Gratiot County, where he owned 80 acres of land on section 22, Pine River Township, which he had bought seven years previous and had been partly improved. This he exchanged for 80 acres on section 21, on which he now resides. He has placed 40 acres under good cultivation and, in 1881, erected a fine barn of modern architecture.

Mr. Clark was married Dec. 9, 1880, to Myrtie H., daughter of Reuben and Rebecca (Smith) King. She was born April 2, 1856, in Jackson County, Mich., and her parents were natives respectively of New York and England. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have two children, Lloyd L. and Hiel C.

Mr. Clark is actively interested in local politics and is a Republican of decided type. He is a valuable citizen from his active, public spirit and warm interest in the progress and well-being of the community. He is rapidly placing his farm in the best possible shape for future profit, and deservedly is awarded the respect and confidence of his fellow-townsmen.



**John Franklin Henry**, farmer, section 31, North Star, was born in the village of Dummerston, Windham Co., Vt., April 29, 1829. His parents, John and Sandona (Davenport) Henry, were also natives of the Green Mountain State; they moved to Bellows Falls, in the same county, when the subject of this sketch was very young. Here the latter attended the village school during the winter seasons, and after he was 13 years old he worked upon the farm. In the winter of 1851-2 he went to California, where he engaged in packing supplies by mule express to the miners in the mountains. About the 1st of October, 1854, he started on his return, on the steamer "Yankee Blade," which, just after leaving the coast, was purposely wrecked by the Captain, who ran her on the breakers, expecting to secure the money on

board; but he was caught and placed in custody. A picture of this wreck is still in the possession of Mr. Henry. Remaining in California until the following July, he returned to his home in Vermont. During the month of August, 1862, he and family came to Gratiot County on a visit, and concluded to remain. He owns 67 acres of good farming land, where he is prosperously engaged as an agriculturist and cheese manufacturer.

Jan. 30, 1856, Mr. Henry married Miss Mary P., daughter of Thomas Mills, now deceased. She was born in Colchester, Chittenden Co., Vt., on the shore of Lake Champlain. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry are the following named: Edgar L., Inez L. (deceased), Charlotte M., Georgia B., Charles B. and George Hugh. Mr. and Mrs. H. are members of the Baptist Church, and he is also a member of the Orders of Masonry and Knights of Honor.

**OWNSEND A. ELY**, Postmaster at Alma, was born Aug. 27, 1843, at Wabash, Ind., and is the only son of Gen. Ralph and Mary E. (Halstead) Ely. (See sketch.) The parents were married at Brookville, Ind., and after marriage settled at Wabash, where they resided two years. They returned to New York, their native State, and after a year's residence there they came to Ionia Co., Mich., where Gen. Ely purchased 200 acres of unimproved land, and he entered into the merits of pioneer life. He vigorously prosecuted the improvement and cultivation of his farm. In April, 1856, he sold the place, and purchased 160 acres of land in Arcada Township, Gratiot County. The family constituted the first settlers on the north side of Pine River. Gen. Ely again commenced life as a pioneer, built a log house, platted the village of Alma, and embarked in various pursuits for the purpose of furthering the advancement of the place, and establishing, so far as lay in his power, substantial business interests at that point. He was engaged chiefly in farming, trade and milling interests until 1861, when he enlisted. On leaving the army in the fall of 1866, he went to Florida and purchased 130 acres of land, a part of which was located in the vicinity of Jacksonville. The remainder was situated 120 miles south of that city, and there he set out an

orange orchard, which included 40 acres of land. He spent a year in planting, and the second year lost the entire result of his labor, the frost killing all the young trees. He became disheartened, and returned to Alma, where he resumed farming, and pursued that vocation until 1874, when he was elected Auditor General of Michigan, and was re-elected to the office in 1876. While engaged in the discharge of the duties of the position, his business relations at Alma and in Gratiot County practically terminated; and when his connection with the office of Auditor General ceased, he interested himself in lumbering in Emmett County, where he remained until his death, which occurred April 14, 1883. His family included one son and six daughters.

At the age of 17, Mr. Ely, of this sketch, succeeded to the charge of the farm and other business interests of his father, who had entered the service of the United States, and he continued the management of his business and domestic affairs until the close of the war. Mr. Ely became roused, by the course and exigencies of the struggle with the South, to an interest in its issues, and enlisted Feb. 25, 1865, in the 8th Mich. Inf. He became Sergeant of Co. C, and was promoted to Second Lieutenant April 25, 1865. He was in the service until Aug. 14, 1865, and was under fire at Fort Stedman, and at the siege at Petersburg. He received honorable discharge at Detroit, Mich.

When he was 23 years old, he embarked in business for himself, and purchased 240 acres of land in Arcada, to which he afterwards added 100 acres. He continued the management and improvement of his property three years, when he sold out. He was appointed Mail Messenger between St. Louis and Saginaw, a position which he filled two years and nine months. He resigned the situation to accept one as conductor on the Saginaw Valley and St. Louis railroad. He operated in that capacity three years and three months, and resigned to establish himself in the hardware business at Alma. A year later he sold out, and was appointed to his present position of Postmaster at Alma. He succeeded to the place Aug. 6, 1881, by appointment under Postmaster-General James, and has discharged the obligations of the office with credit and honor, and to the entire satisfaction of the public. In political principle, he is an adherent to the tenets of the Republican party.



Mr. Ely was married at Alma, Sept. 25, 1866, to Maggie C., daughter of Dewitt C. and Edna F. (Utley) Chapin. Mrs. Ely was born at Chicago, Ill., June 27, 1845. Ralph C., born March 5, 1870, is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Ely.

**G**eorge Johnson, farmer, section 36, North Shade Township, is a son of Robert and Ann (Bell) Johnson, the latter a native of England; the former, a native of Ireland, settled in Canada in 1842; in 1866 he came to this county and settled on 40 acres of wild land, on section 26, North Shade Township, where he yet resides.

The subject of this sketch was born Aug. 17, 1857, in Peterboro, Can., and was brought by his parents to this county; at 20 years of age he commenced working by the month on a farm, and by this means he accumulated a sufficient amount of means to buy a farm of 80 acres, on section 36, North Shade Township, where he now has about 50 acres in a high state of cultivation.

Oct. 18, 1881, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Sarah, daughter of George and Lovina (Belden) Edmonds. The latter were natives of New York State, Mr. E. a farmer. He located on section 26, North Shade Township, in 1873, where the family yet reside. Mr. and Mrs. J. are the parents of two children, namely: Glenn, born Aug. 6, 1882; and Ora, Sept. 11, 1883.

On political issues Mr. Johnson is a Republican.

**C**ornelius A. Deline, farmer, section 35, Newark Township, was born Aug. 20, 1831, in Ridgeway, Orleans Co., N. Y. His parents, Peter and Charity (Snell) Deline, were natives of Montgomery County in the same State. They passed the years of their married life there until 1862, when they settled in Newark Township, and there the father still resides. The mother died May 15, 1869. Their family included seven daughters and one son. The sisters of Mr. Deline were named Miranda E., Mary J., Catherine E., Hannah L., Francis E., Martha A. and Julia J.

Mr. Deline is the eldest child. He obtained a fair education in the common schools and engaged in farming with his father until he was 23 years of age. In October, 1862, he came to Gratiot County and bought 110 acres of unimproved land, located on section 35 of Newark Township, and section 2 of Fulton Township. He has since added by purchase 40 acres to his original tract of land, and now has 120 acres in advanced cultivation and most promising condition. The log cabin, which was his home in his early days of labor and struggle, has been supplanted by a fine residence, of which he took possession in May, 1880. He is a Democrat.

He was married July 4, 1854, in Lockport, Niagara Co., N. Y., to Mary S., daughter of Peter and Susannah (Ziglar) Jones. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and their family comprised 12 children, viz.: John F., Evan, Rebecca A., Sarah, Lany E., Amanda, Rhoda A., Siglar, Lovisa, Lovina, Mary S. and Lotilla. Mrs. Deline was the eighth daughter and was born Oct. 15, 1836, in Genesee Co., N. Y. All the children of Mr. and Mrs. Deline, seven in number, died in infancy.

**A**aron Stanton, deceased, a pioneer on section 18, North Star Township, was a native of the State of New York, where he was born May 28, 1827. His father, Hiram Stanton, brought his family to Lenawee Co., Mich., when Aaron was a small boy, and where the latter was reared on the farm and educated in the common school. When he was 18 years of age the family removed to Clinton Co., Mich., where he resided until December, 1854, when he came to North Star Township, this county, settling on section 18, the present home of the family.

Although Mr. Stanton's occupation was principally that of farming, his natural genius and practical ability early led him to the skillful use of tools. He therefore worked much in wood, and some in a saw-mill. He was married Dec. 11, 1854, to Miss Hannah Hawkins, daughter of Benjamin Hawkins. She also was a native of New York State. Mr. and Mrs. S. had four children, namely: Philena J. (Pritchard), George L., Annie F. and William A. Mr. Stanton died Feb. 21, 1863, in Alexandria, Va., of measles,

about six months after he was enrolled into the United States service, as a member of Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf. He was then a member of the Free-Will Baptist Church, but formerly of the Christian Church in this county, there being no Church of his choice in his neighborhood. Mrs. Stanton afterward (1867) married M. M. Heath, and by him has had six children, two of whom are now living, namely, Emma M. and George E.

**John M. Sutphin**, dealer in wines and liquors at Alma, was born April 5, 1852, in Niagara Co., N. Y. He is a son of Ralph and Margaret (Crego) Sutphin, both of whom were natives of New York. They first located in Niagara County and afterwards removed to Michigan, where they settled in Jackson, and after a residence there of more than three years they moved to Clinton County, where the father died, March 14, 1864. The mother is still a resident of that county.

Mr. Sutphin was in the first year of his life when his parents came to Michigan. He passed his early years in obtaining an education, and at 16 was employed as a sawyer in a mill, where he worked nearly three years. Ten years succeeding he was employed as a clerk. In August, 1883, he came to Gratiot County and located at Alma, where he established himself in the business in which he still continues. In political faith he is a Republican.

He was married in Ensley Township, Newaygo County, March 27, 1872, to Adelia M., daughter of Calvin and Ellen Cook. Parents and daughter are natives of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Sutphin have two children: Claude L. and Maud M.

**Fredrick Boyer**, farmer, section 20, Newark Township, was born May 18, 1834, in Herkimer Co., N. Y. His parents, Joseph and Nancy (Shell) Boyer, were also natives of the Empire State. He was 14 years old when he came to Michigan and settled in Eaton County, where he remained until 1858. In 1854 he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of land, and of this he took possession in August, 1860. The place was in a wholly unimproved state and he

built a log house and proceeded, with all his energies, to clear and put his farm in a suitable condition for the successful pursuit of agriculture.

In 1862 he enlisted in the 26th Reg. Mich. Vol. Inf., and served until July 14, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Detroit. Among other engagements in which he participated were those of Cold Harbor and the siege of Petersburg. In one of the numerous skirmishes in which he took part, he received a slight wound in the right hip. On returning to Gratiot County he resumed his farm labors and has put 57 acres under a fair state of improvements. A good frame house has replaced the log cabin of his pioneer days, and he is in circumstances which warrant him in expecting a future of comfort. He is in sympathy with the beliefs and issues of the Democratic party, and has held the various offices in his school district.

Mr. Boyer was married March 17, 1858, in Eaton County, to Mary H. Boyer, a native of Herkimer Co., N. Y., and of their marriage five children have been born: Catharine M., Imelda L., John P. and Henry H. Another daughter, Ellen L., died when she was 18 years old.

**George W. Jennings**, lumberman and farmer, residing at Alma, was born Aug. 11, 1828, in Erie Co., N. Y., and is the son of Hiram and Mary (Rhodabaugh) Jennings. The parents were natives respectively of Virginia and Pennsylvania. After marriage they settled in Erie Co., N. Y., where they passed the remainder of their lives, the mother dying in 1829, the father in the fall of 1873. He was a blacksmith by trade. Their family included four children.

Mr. Jennings obtained his education in the common and high schools of the section where he was reared. He was nine months old when his mother died. At the age of 15 years, he engaged with a blacksmith to learn the trade, and worked as an apprentice about two years. Just before he was 17 years old his health failed, and he accordingly abandoned the trade of blacksmith, and embarked as a sailor on a whaling vessel. He continued in that vocation nearly five years. He suffered shipwreck once off the coast of Japan. After leaving the sea

he returned to Erie County, and spent three years in lumbering. In 1854 he came to Clinton Co., Mich., where he pursued the same vocation six years. In 1858 he came to Gratiot County, and settled in Arcada Township, where he bought 320 acres of unimproved land. On this he built a "block" house, claimed to be the best in Gratiot County erected after that method. He operated on this farm until 1862, when he removed to Alma, and has since been engaged as stated. Politically, Mr. Jennings is a Republican. In 1860 he was elected Justice of the Peace, and held the office successively until 1875. He was Supervisor of Arcada one term, and held various minor offices. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Jennings was first married at Maple Rapids, Clinton County, in July, 1854, to Zilpha A., daughter of Harvey P. and Lydia Lansing, natives of New York. Mrs. Jennings was born in 1839, in New York, and of her marriage three children were born: Frank E., Ida M. and George. The latter died when three years old. Mr. Jennings was a second time married at St. John's, Clinton County, April 29, 1866, to Sibyl, daughter of Alexander and Jane (Sprague) Fraker. Mrs. Jennings was born Jan. 29, 1845, in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and her parents were also natives of that State. Three children have been born to them: Harry A., Jennie M. and Morton F. The eldest of these died when nine months old. Both parents are members of the Congregational Church.

**H**iram W. Havens, farmer, section 27, North Shade Township, is a son of Samuel and Sarah A. (Tubbs) Havens, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of New York. Mr. Samuel Havens was a farmer. His first wife's maiden name was Amy Bennett: she died at an early day, and he subsequently married Miss Tubbs. He moved from New York to Michigan in 1837, settling in Lenawee County, where he died, in 1861; his widow is yet living, in Seneca Township, Lenawee Co., Mich.

The subject of this sketch was born March 28, 1837, in Niagara Co., N. Y.; remaining at home with his parents until he was 24 years of age, he came, in 1862, to Michigan and located 80 acres of wild land,

on the section where he now resides. He resided in Lenawee County five years longer, and then came to Gratiot County; but not until he was 35 years of age did he settle here to make it his permanent home. He has been Highway Commissioner three terms and School Inspector one term; has always been a Republican.

In 1872 Mr. Havens was married to Miss Ellen, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca (Burras) Hayck, natives of Huron Co., Ohio, who first moved to Williams County, that State, then returned to Huron County, thence to Lenawee Co., Mich., Fulton Co., Ohio, and finally Bloomer Township, Montcalm Co., Mich., where they now reside. Mr. and Mrs. Havens' two children are, Alta M., born June 13, 1875, and Hiram W., April 18, 1883, both in this county.

**S**amuel Lepley, farmer, section 34, Newark Township, was born in Union Co., Pa., Oct. 25, 1816, and is the son of John and Mary Lepley, both natives of the same State, where they married and reared their family. Mr. Lepley is a born and bred farmer, having spent the years of his early life in the practice of the details of that business, preparatory to making it the calling of his life. At 15 years of age he found himself at liberty to make a decided encounter with the world on his own behalf, and from that age until the year 1849 he was engaged in agriculture at various places. In the year named he came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., and in 1855 came to Gratiot County. He bought 120 acres of unimproved land in the township of Newark, settled on it and operated in true pioneer style. He reduced his estate by the sale of 40 acres and has, in the brief time included within the date named and the current year (1884), placed 70 acres of the remainder in satisfactory farming condition.

Mr. Lepley is a Democrat in political proclivity, and has always been keenly alive to everything that seemed to bear any reasonable promise of benefit to the community in which he has lived. He was instrumental in establishing the first school in the district in which he resides. Having been elected Director, he conducted a subscription and raised a small sum of money, with which he hired a teacher, paying her one dollar a week. For the first month she had

one pupil, but the school has been sustained ever since, and now numbers about 50 students. Mr. Lepley has held the office of Township Collector seven years in succession.

He was first married in Seneca Co., Ohio, to Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Caty, who was a German by birth. Mrs. Lepley was born in Maryland. Of her marriage to Mr. Lepley, eight children were born, whose names are: John W., Maria H., William F., James C., Cyrus, Mary J., Sarah L. and Andrew J. The mother died in March, 1872. Mr. Lepley was again married April 16, 1873, in Clinton Co., Mich., to Mrs. Mary (Boardman) Leary, daughter of Watson and Elizabeth Boardman, and widow of Walter Leary.

**B**ranch E. Jennings, with the firm of Bradley & Jennings, resident at Alma, was born July 4, 1857, at Maple Rapids, Clinton Co., Mich. He is a son of George W. Jennings, who was a native of the State of New York. His mother, Zilpha (Lansing) Jennings, was born in Michigan. After their marriage they settled in Gratiot County. Their family included two children: F. E. and Ida M. The mother died in Alma, in 1865. The father is still a resident there. He was formerly proprietor of the planing mill at Alma, where the son was trained to the same business.

Mr. Jennings was educated at the common and graded schools, and at the age of 20 years he went to Ithaca, where he was apprenticed for two years to learn the trade of making sash, doors and blinds. At the expiration of his indenture he went into partnership with his father. This relation continued two years, when it was dissolved by the withdrawal of Mr. Jennings, senior. Mr. Jennings, of this sketch, formed a partnership with A. Bradley in the fall of 1883, under the firm style of Bradley & Jennings, which relation continued until early in 1884, when Mr. Jennings sold his interest. He is at present contemplating erecting a store and entering mercantile life.

He was married at Saginaw, May 13, 1882, to Dora, daughter of A. J. and Louisa Brooke. Mrs. Jennings and her parents were natives of Wood Co., Ohio. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jennings: Nina, Oct. 13, 1883.

Mr. Jennings is an active temperance worker and belongs to Blue Ribbon Society and Order of Good Templars. He is a Republican in political sentiment.

**I**ra B. Ellsworth, merchant at Riverdale, Seville Township, was born May 26, 1826, in Erie Co., N. Y., and is a son of William and Lydia (Bentley) Ellsworth, natives respectively of Vermont and Canada. The father was a farmer in New York, and removed to Canada, where he lived some eight years; thence to Lexington, Sanilac Co., Mich., in 1837. He and wife both died in Sanilac County.

Their son, Ira, lived at home until 18 years old, when he lived a year with a Mr. Hurd in Marshall, this State. He returned to Lexington and for five years following was engaged in farming. He was then for six seasons on the waters of Lakes Huron and Erie, sailing to Cleveland and Sandusky. Coming to Montcalm County in 1861, he followed farming seven or eight years.

During the civil war he enlisted, Oct. 16, 1864, in Co. A, 1st Mich. Eng. and Mech., and served under Gen. Sherman. The regiment participated in the battles around Knoxville, but was principally occupied in such work as repairing bridges. He was discharged at Washington in 1865 and returned to his family in Montcalm County. They removed to Millbrook in 1871, and to Stanton three years later. They then lived a short time at Belltown, and for a year kept a hotel at Ithaca. His last move was to Riverdale, where he also engaged in the hotel business, following that a little over four years, before entering mercantile life.

He was married in 1847 to Almira Vancamp, daughter of John Vancamp. She was born in 1829, and died in 1850, leaving five children: Jefferson, Dewitt, Henry, Emeline and Ira. He subsequently married Louisa Pherris, a widow, the daughter of Rufus and Elizabeth Colburn, natives of New York State. Mr. C. was a manufacturer, and died when the daughter was quite young.

Mr. Ellsworth is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 123, F. & A. M., of Riverdale Lodge, No. 343, I. O. O. F. and of Pine River Lodge, No. 343, I. O. G. T. Politically he is an ardent Prohibitionist.

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*Herman J. P. Schneider*

**Herman F. P. Schneider**, of the firm of Wright, Schneider & Stutz, merchants and dealers in grain at Alma, was born June 29, 1849, in Pomerania, Germany. William C. and Louise (Penzel) Schneider, his parents, were natives of the same country and emigrated to the United States in the month of June, 1864. They at once located in Detroit, whence they removed in October, 1882, to Alma, and are still living there.

Mr. Schneider had reached the age of 15 years when his family came to the New World; and, owing to his father having become incapacitated from effort by illness, he has been their sole dependence and support. His first piece of labor was in the capacity of a wood-sawyer. He sawed and split a cord of "iron-wood," and has still a clear remembrance of profoundly wishing that he had never seen America. During the first year of his residence in Detroit he was variously employed, meanwhile suffering much from fever and ague. He found so little satisfaction and comfort in the disorder that, while operating as a laborer in Elmwood Cemetery, he could not help envying the freedom from hardship and disease of the silent sleepers in the city of the dead. The year following he became an employe' at the Russell House, where he was engaged nearly three years. In 1868 he entered the dry-goods establishment of Sebastian Kirchner, of Detroit, and a year and a half later engaged with Campbell & Linn as a clerk. After four months he was employed by Freedman Bros., entering their service when they opened their new store on Woodward Avenue. In July, 1870, he engaged with James Lowrie & Sons, where he remained until July, 1878, when he again became connected with the house of Freedman Bros. Two years later he was employed by Taylor, Wolfenden & Co. He remained with them 11 months, and in August, 1881, came to Alma. He formed an association with A. W. Wright and George D. Barton for the sale of general merchandise, under the firm style of Barton, Schneider & Co. This relation continued five months, when Mr. Barton withdrew and was succeeded by James A. Stutz, the style becoming Wright, Schneider & Stutz. The firm is established on a substantial basis, and its yearly transactions amount to \$100,000 in merchandise only.

Mr. Schneider belongs to the German Lutheran Church, of which his parents are also members. In political principle and action he is a Republican, and holds tolerant views. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., Peninsular Lodge, No. 12, at Detroit.

The portrait of Mr. Schneider, on another page, is a valuable addition to the collection of pictures of young and rising men of the present generation presented in this volume.

**William A. Bradley**, farmer on section 31, Seville Township, is a son of William and Harriet J. (Fisk) Bradley. The father was born in 1808, in Litchfield Co., Conn., and the mother in 1821, in Brattleboro, Vt. He was first a tin peddler, then a tanner, and later a real-estate dealer. He and wife now reside at 182, Duffield Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. They have four sons, four daughters, all younger than the sons, and 18 grandchildren, and the fortunate family has not as yet had a single visit from death.

The subject of this notice was born Aug. 27, 1845, in Sullivan Co., N. Y., and remained at home with his parents until he was 22 years old. He was first engaged in lumbering, and later in farming. He came from the Empire State to Grand Rapids, Mich., in the year 1870 and remained there one year looking after his father's affairs. He then came with his brother to Gratiot County and located on 320 acres of wild land on section 30, Seville. They built a fine house and a large barn, and cleared a portion of the land, and Dec. 31, 1873, Mr. B. was united in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Mary E. Whitney, daughter of Chauncey B. and Mary (Birmingham) Whitney, natives of Cayuga Co., N. Y. They came from that State to Ingham Co., Mich., in 1854, and in 1867 came to Sumner Township, Gratiot County. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley have a family of three: Wellington, Chandler and Forrest.

Mr. B. enlisted in September, 1861, in Co. F, 56th N. Y. Vol. Inf. The regiment was on detached duty with the Eastern army much of the time at Washington, and participated in two engagements, which nearly annihilated it. The remnant were finally discharged in New York State, with due honors. Mr. B. is politically a Republican. He is a member of Col. Ely Post, No. 158, G. A. R.

**W**illiam C. Beckwith, proprietor of the Beckwith planing mill and sash, door and blind factory at Ithaca, was born Aug. 8, 1827, at Utica, N. Y. Joseph P. and Sophronia (Coolidge) Beckwith, his parents, were both natives of the Empire State. His father was English by descent and a merchant by occupation. He died in the city of New York, at the age of 85 years. The mother was born in St. Lawrence County in 1805, and died there when her son was six months old. The father married a second time, and Mr. Beckwith of this sketch remained in St. Lawrence County until he was eight years old, when he accompanied his grandfather to Mendon, R. I. He went, shortly after, to the city of New York, where his father was engaged in the furniture business. He was a pupil in the common schools until he was 16 years of age, when he entered his father's furniture shop and thoroughly qualified himself for the vocation, acquiring a complete comprehension of the business in all its branches. In 1852 he went to Rochester, N. Y., and two years later to Ashawa, Can., and operated there four years.

He arrived at Ithaca April 9, 1858. The county was then in its incipency, but was also in the full flush of its ambitious courage and pushing the enterprises which marked its spirit and purpose; and Mr. Beckwith entered into them with all the strength and energy of his manhood's prime. He bought 120 acres of land in Emerson Township, situated on section 29, built there the log cabin of the pioneer and moved upon his property, where he exerted all his resources to the purposes of improvement until 1862.

In the fall of that year he was elected County Clerk and successively re-elected until he had filled the position eight years. To facilitate the discharge of his duties he removed to Ithaca, where he has since resided. In 1870 he commenced the manufacture of furniture and also engaged in building.

In 1871 he built the court-house at Ithaca. On the sixth day of June, 1874, his mill, which occupied the present site of the *Journal* office, was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$7,000, with no insurance. The business community of Ithaca felt the importance of his works as an accessory to the growth and pros-

perity of the place, and contributed a little over \$1,000 for his relief, which enabled him to construct the building in which he is now actively pursuing his business. It is 40 x 60 feet and two and a half stories high. The wing is 12 x 30 feet in dimensions and the engine house is 16 x 24 feet. He manufactures furniture, sash, doors, blinds and frames, and dresses lumber. He erected in his own interest the buildings used for the Masonic hall and the *Journal* office, which he afterward sold. In August, 1882, he formed a business association with Irving C. Wright and dealt in furniture. This connection existed until Aug. 17, 1883.

Mr. Beckwith has been prominent in local politics in the township of Emerson, where he has acted in the capacities of Clerk and Justice of the Peace. He belongs to Ithaca Lodge, No. 123, Ithaca Chapter No. 70, and the Council of Royal and Select Masters, No. 33, Masonic Order. He is a charter member of the organization known as the Knights of Honor.

His marriage with Emily R. Lane occurred July 7, 1848, at Colchester, Delaware Co., N. Y. She was born at Neversink, N. Y., Aug. 30, 1826, and is a daughter of William S. and Rachel Lane. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Beckwith, three of whom are living. Josephine H. married George W. Helt, and has two children—Clark and Althia. Charles L. is in his father's employ. He was married April 22, 1878, to Flora Brooks. They have two children—Sylvia M. and William H. Grace G. was married Dec. 24, 1883, to Walter L. Hilborn, one of the editors of the *Times*. The family of Mr. B. attend the Baptist Church.

**G**eorge W. Hearn, of the firm of Hearn & Grote, marketmen at Alma, was born July 12, 1856, in Oakland Co., Mich. He is a son of Edward and Mary A. (Polten) Hearn. Mrs. Hearn's first husband was William Salomon, and to this marriage was born one son, John W., now residing in Corunna. Mr. and Mrs. Hearn were natives of England, and came to the United States in May, 1853. They settled at first in Wayne Co., Mich., and afterward removed to Oakland County.



They went thence to Shiawassee County, where they yet reside.

Mr. Hearn was under the parental guidance until he reached the period of his legal freedom, devoting his time to study in the common and graded schools and in assisting in the farm labors. At the date named he began to work by the month as a farm laborer, and a part of the time as a butcher. He spent three years in this manner, when he gave up farming to devote his whole attention to the meat business. He came to Alma in 1878, and was employed in a meat-market for three years. In 1881 he established himself in that business in company with his brother, Charles W., which relation continued until January, 1884. Charles W. then sold his interest to Henry W. Grote. Mr. Hearn is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, and is a Republican in political sentiment.

He was married at St. Louis, Mich., May 26, 1881, to Josephine, daughter of Nelson and Fidelia Rogers, natives of the State of New York. She was born in Alma, Aug. 9, 1866.

**M**onroe J. Bosserman, general farmer and mechanic, section 16, New Haven Township, was born in Hancock Co., Ohio, April 18, 1856, and was a laborer on his father's farm until 23 years of age. Having obtained a good education, he taught school in his 20th year; the next two years he was learning the carpenter and joiner's trade; then he went to California, Colorado Territory, Kansas, Missouri and home in Ohio again, resuming his trade and taking contracts. Having bought 40 acres of land in his native county, he pursued farming until April, 1882, when he sold out, came to Gratiot County and, in company with his brother, purchased 100 acres of improved land where he now resides, on one of the best sections of the township. His works prove him to be a skillful farmer and carpenter, and his conduct in the community shows him to be a kind and obliging neighbor. In political matters he is a Republican.

Nov. 6, 1879, Mr. B. was married, in Hancock Co., Ohio, to Miss Lucy A. Krabill, who was born

Aug. 6, 1881, in Seneca Co., Ohio, and moved to Hancock County, that State, when ten years old. Mr. and Mrs. B. are members of the German Baptist ("Dunkard") Church. Their children are: Oliver B., born Nov. 3, 1880; and John E., Jan. 8, 1883.

**G**eorge W. Abbott, teacher, resident at Alma, was born April 26, 1848, in Jackson Co., Mich., and is the eldest son of Jacob and Mary (Thornton) Abbott. The parents were natives of Ohio, and settled first in Jackson County, where the father was engaged in farming. They came to Gratiot County in the fall of 1883, where they are now resident. Their family consisted of three sons and two daughters.

Mr. Abbott is the eldest son of his parents, and during the years preceding his majority he passed his time in obtaining an education and assisting his father in the labor of the farm. After reaching man's estate he devoted the alternate seasons of the ensuing eight years in working on the farm and attending school. He next entered the college at Hillsdale, and after a period of study there he went to the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, his course at both institutions covering three years. He then entered into the business of teaching, and has pursued that vocation in Jackson, Hillsdale, Ionia and Gratiot Counties.

Mr. Abbott is keenly alive and active in all matters of reform, especially in temperance work, to which he is ardently devoted. He belongs to the Sons of Temperance, and to the Order of Good Templars. He is liberal in religious views and is an adherent of the Republican party.

**W**illiam Franklin, farmer, section 20, North Shade Township, is the son of Samuel and Sarah (Muns) Franklin, natives of England. The former was a soldier in the British army some 23 years. He served in the numerous wars and was finally discharged and became a pensioner of the English Government. Both parents died in their native country.

Mr. Franklin, the subject of this sketch, was born Sept. 29, 1829, and remained with his parents at home until he was 26 years of age. At that age he came to the New World, landing in New York. He then came to Detroit, Mich., and remained in Wayne County for six years, when he came to Gratiot County, and located upon 40 acres of land on section 20, North Shade Township. To his original claim he has since added 140 acres, and he now has about 70 acres under cultivation. He has been largely engaged in stock-raising, and has one of the best equipped farms in the county. In 1876 he built a large barn, and in 1883 he erected a residence, at a cost of about \$2,000.

In 1856 Mr. Franklin was united in marriage with Miss Ellen, the eldest daughter of James and Honor (Dean) Watts, natives of England. Mr. Watts was a farmer by occupation. He died Nov. 12, 1883, in his native country. Mrs. Franklin was born in England, March 14, 1831, and came to America Dec. 19, 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin are the parents of six children, as follows: Ellen, Mary, John, Anna, Addie and William.

Mr. Franklin and his wife are members of the Baptist Church, at Carson City.

**J**ames Knowles, farmer on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 17, Bethany Township, is a son of Willard and Mirum (Nearpass) Knowles, and was born in Jackson Co., Mich., April 25, 1836: was brought up on a farm. When he was 17 years old, the family moved to Sauk Co., Wis., where they resided a number of years, and where his father bought 40 acres of land.

In the last mentioned place, May 4, 1850, he was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Henry and Mary (Staples) Oler, and a native of Ohio. By this marriage six children have been born, four of whom are living, namely: Charles, Mary E., Albert and Almeda. The deceased are William and Lewis. Mrs. K. died Aug. 4, 1874, in Wisconsin, and Mr. Knowles again married, June 7, 1877, Mary Thomas, a native of Wisconsin, who was born in 1850. By this marriage there have been three children,—Leonard, Rosa and Ernest.

Mr. Knowles returned to Jackson County, this State, in the fall of 1878, for one year, and then came to Bethany Township, this county, and purchased his present farm of 80 acres, 30 acres of which are well improved.

While a resident of Wisconsin, during the war, Mr. K. was drafted for the army, attached to Co. H, 6th Wis. Inf., and served bravely, engaging in the battles at Hatcher's Run, South Side, Yellow House, Lee's surrender, etc., besides a number of skirmishes. He was discharged at Jeffersonville, Ind. During the service he was slightly wounded in the right shoulder, by a minie ball.

He and his wife are members of the Baptist Church.

**F.** Covert, of the firm of Retan & Covert, proprietors of the Retan House at Ithaca, was born Feb. 4, 1846, in Seneca Co., N. Y. He is a son of Joshua and Rebecca (White) Covert. The father was born in 1817 in Seneca Co., N. Y., is one of the descendants of three brothers who came to America from Holland in the latter part of the 17th century. They settled respectively in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. From the latter Mr. Covert is descended. His mother was born in 1819, in New Jersey; both parents are yet living, in Ovid, Clinton Co., Mich.

Mr. Covert was educated in his native county, where he resided with his parents until he was 16 years old, when they moved to Munday, Genesee Co., Mich. There his father bought 160 acres of land, in an unimproved condition and covered with oak timber. The place was sold 13 years later and was justly considered the finest in the township, having been the field of the unremitted labors and cares of the father and his five sons. The family removed to Ovid Center, where Mr. Covert, senior, engaged in the drug business one year and then retired.

At the age of 22 years Mr. Covert engaged in the sale and shipment of cattle, in company with James Fires. This enterprise was conducted two years with success, when the same parties opened a meat market at Ovid. This relation and business existed seven years. On its discontinuance, Mr. Covert established himself singly, and continued to operate until April 25, 1883. At that date, associated with his father-

in-law, H. K. Retan, he bought the Fox House at Ithaca, which they remodeled and converted into the Retan House. It is the leading hotel at Ithaca, and has a capacity for 60 guests, and is doing a fine business. The popular and gentlemanly proprietors have secured an excellent reputation for the home and its management. Mr. Covert is the owner also of a fine home and three lots at Ovid. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and also belongs to the Order of A. O. U. W., an insurance organization. He was a member of the Village Council of Ovid two years.

Mr. Covert was married at Ovid, Oct. 14, 1872, to Harriet, daughter of H. K. Retan. One son—Leroy J., was born at Ovid, Sept. 19, 1874.

**J**ehu E. Parkinson, farmer, section 9, Pine River Township, was born Nov. 16, 1816, in Greene Co., Pa. He is a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Whitlock) Parkinson, both natives and life-long residents of the Keystone State.

Mr. Parkinson is the youngest of the children belonging to his father's household, and he received such education as was afforded by the common schools of the section where he was born and reared. He was an industrious and ambitious boy, and at 19 years of age he took a farm to work on shares, which he continued to manage four years. For some years subsequent he rented different farms, and also became proprietor of several by alternate purchase and sale. In June, 1866, he came to Gratiot County, and bought 80 acres of land in Pine River Township, all in an entirely original condition. He afterwards bought 80 acres additional on section 4, and has 110 acres under most creditable cultivation. His fertile fields and premises arranged and kept in fine order, together with his elegant brick house, which he erected in 1880 on section 9, all attest his prudence, judgment and good management. Politically, Mr. Parkinson is in affiliation with the National Greenback party.

While a resident of Pennsylvania, he lived in close proximity to the Virginia border, and being a Politizer he suffered many indignities and much persecution, which in nowise tended to diminish his loyalty to his political faith. On the organization of

the Republican party he adopted its principles, and furthered its issues with all the zeal of his nature. On the outbreak of the rebellion, his sympathies were strongly with the North, and in September, 1861, he enlisted in the 6th W. Va. Vol. Inf. He remained in the service over three years. The regiment was principally occupied in keeping open the communications between Grafton and Parkersburg, and also with Wheeling, besides doing special duty in giving all possible attention to the guerrillas that infested the mountains of West Virginia, a species of warfare involving the regiment in many petty engagements, which were fraught with more danger than importance. Mr. Parkinson was the first who safely conducted a party of contrabands, 13 in number, from bondage to freedom, piloting them through the military lines at the peril of his life, as the act was an infringement of military orders, and if detected the perpetrator was liable to be shot for disobedience. He received honorable discharge at Grafton. Mr. Parkinson is a gentleman of well-known philanthropy and generosity, and enjoys in an unusual degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow townsmen and neighbors.

He was married Feb. 27, 1837, in Greene Co., Pa., to Sarah Bradford, a native of that county, where she was born Oct. 8, 1815. Of this marriage, 12 children have been born, of whom six are living: Mary J., Henry J., Minerva, Nancy, Sarah A. and Clarinda. The deceased were as follows: Robert, Eli, a child that died in infancy, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Paulina. The family attend the M. E. Church.

**J**ohn A. Sias, farmer, on the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 15, Bethany Township, is a native of the Empire State. He was born in Cattaraugus Co., N. Y. March 14, 1849, and is a son of Solomon and Emily Sias. In 1859 his parents came to Pine River Township, this county, coming up Pine River from Saginaw in a canoe, with a family of seven children. His father purchased 20 acres on section 2, Pine River Township, and resided there some years. He died at the residence of his daughter, Ann Woodmansee, Feb. 4, 1884. His first wife died in New York, and his second wife is yet living.

He was a manufacturer of saleratus, potash, pearl-ash, etc.

Mr. John A. Sias, the subject of this sketch, bought 40 acres north of St. Louis, in the fall of 1877, resided there about six months, and then came to his present place, where he owns 40 acres and has 30 acres in cultivation.

He was married in Ithaca, this county, July 5, 1875, to Miss Nancy E., daughter of John G., and Esther Thompson. She was born in Ohio, Jan. 8, 1848. Their two children are Bessie, born May 9, 1876, in Pine River Township; and Katie, born in Bethany Township, July 10, 1877.

**H**omer Burns, farmer, section 23, Arcada Township, was born in Rutland Co., Vt., Sept. 11, 1817, and is a son of Stephen and Rhoda (Record) Burns. Stephen Burns was a native of Scotland, and by occupation a farmer. Coming to this country early in life, he settled in Vermont, where he died when Homer was but two years old. Rhoda Record was a native of Vermont, of New England parentage, and of English and German descent. After Mr. Burns' death she married again, and she died in the State of Wisconsin, about 1873.

When he was six years old Homer's mother and step-father removed to Chenango Co., N. Y., and five years later they went to Cheshire Co., N. H. Homer's step-father, a blacksmith, not treating him kindly, at the age of 11 he set out to care for himself. He was employed at various things until 22 years old, in Cheshire County, and then went to Oneida Co., N. Y., where for nine years he worked in a pail factory. June 27, 1843, at North Bay, Vienna Township, that county, he was married to Caroline M., daughter of Benjamin B. and Caroline (Hosmer) Murray, natives of New York and of Scotch descent. They followed farming, and moved to Hillsdale Co., Mich., where Mr. Murray died, July 2, 1873, at the age of 78, and Mrs. Murray, March 29, 1883, aged 72. Caroline was born in Oneida, Vienna Township, Oneida Co., N. Y., March 2, 1826, and died in Arcada Township, this county, April 2, 1881, aged 57 years and one month, leaving a family of four children. For 16 years previous to her death she had

been an invalid, but she bore her sufferings with true Christian fortitude, and complained, not even to her family, of her lot. She was a professing Christian, and died as she had lived, a kind-hearted mother and an affectionate wife. To her husband and sons and daughters, her loss is irreparable, and Gratiot County has lost one of its noblest pioneer women.

In 1847, Mr. Burns and family settled in Fayette Township, Hillsdale County, and seven years later they came to Gratiot County, locating on 180 acres on section 25, Arcada. Their land was then covered with the primitive forest, and not a stick had been cut from it. They built the second log hut in the township. During the first 18 months after his arrival the immigrants were so numerous that Mr. Burns spent 100 days of that time in helping new comers to build their dwellings. He has retained 140 acres of his original purchase and has 100 acres in a high state of cultivation. Though advanced in years he is active and energetic and one of the enterprising citizens of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Burns have had five children, three of whom survive: Caroline A., born April 19, 1847; Benjamin H., March 24, 1854; Charles E., Sept. 2, 1856. Charles A. was born March 23, 1845, and died when four months old; Adella R. was born Oct. 26, 1860, and died Feb. 9, 1883. Mr. Burns has held all the various school offices at different times and is now Assessor. He has been in office ever since his coming to the county. In political sentiment he is a Democrat.

**E**lder William S. Everest, minister and farmer, section 11, New Haven Township, was born in Sweden, Monroe Co., N. Y., Oct. 23, 1820. His father, Silas Everest, was a native of Vermont and a soldier in the war of 1812, and his grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Mr. E. is of the fourth generation in America from the old French Huguenot families of Normandy. His father was a mechanic, and died in 1858, aged 71; and his mother, Dora, *nee* Surgis, was a native of Connecticut, of Welsh descent, and died in 1854, in Oakland Co., Mich.

The subject of this sketch was taken with the family to Orleans Co., N. Y., when two years old,

where, in a village, he was reared and educated until 13 years of age, when the family removed upon a farm; one year later (1834) they settled in Wayne Co., Mich., in a comparatively new section of the country.

July 2, 1843, Mr. E. married Miss Eliza, daughter of Henry and Maria (Worden) Balwin, natives of Dutchess Co., N. Y., of New England parentage and of Holland Dutch descent. Mrs. E. was born in the township of Rose, Wayne Co., N. Y., March 15, 1827, and was brought to Michigan when only nine years old, the family settling in Wayne County. A year later they removed to Royal Oak Township, Oakland County. In this place Mr. E. remained, taking care of his parents until the death of his mother, when the remainder of the family moved to Montcalm County, this State, in 1854. Three years later his father died, and he resided there until October, 1872, except the years 1864-5, when he was engaged in the ministry at Ithaca. At the date above mentioned he sold out his farming interests in Montcalm County and settled on the quarter-section where he now resides, and where he has made improvements and established a comfortable home. The cultivated area comprises 90 acres.

Elder Everest began the public Christian ministry, in the Regular Baptist Church, in 1850, and has uninterruptedly continued in the ministry since that time. His wife has been an active member of the same Church for 34 years. The Elder is a staunch Republican, has been Township Supervisor, School Superintendent, Highway Commissioner, etc., and is a charter member of the blue lodge, F. & A. M., at Carson City.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. E. are: William H., Edward E., Anna E., Worden J. and Ada E., besides one deceased, Maria.

**S**olamore R. Moulton, farmer, section 31, Pine River Township, was born July 8, 1838, in Jackson Co., Mich. His parents, Warren C. and Caroline (Woodward) Moulton, were natives of the State of New York, and after their marriage settled in Jackson County, where they still reside.

Mr. Moulton remained a resident of his native county until he was 22 years old, and in the fall of 1863 came to Gratiot County and bought the farm where he now resides, consisting of 40 acres, chiefly in a state of nature. He has increased his property by an additional purchase of 20 acres, and has 30 acres under improvement and fine cultivation. Mr. Moulton is an outspoken adherent of the Republican party.

He was married in Jackson Co., Mich., Dec. 24, 1862, to Mary J., daughter of B. B. and Ardelia Ellison, residents of Pine River Township. Mrs. Moulton was born in Jackson Co., Mich., April 11, 1845. Of this union, one child has been born, Carra B. She died Nov. 12, 1880, when nearly 17 years old. The parents attend the M. E. Church.

**J**ames Greeley, farmer, section 20, Bethany Township, occupying the west half of the northwest quarter of the section, is a son of Philip and Polly (Garland) Greeley, and was born Dec. 31, 1814; was reared on a farm. His father was a Deputy Sheriff of Penobscot County, and was thrown from his horse and killed, leaving a wife and six children, in good circumstances.

The subject of this sketch was the third in the family of children. When 18 years of age he left home and began in the world for himself. He went to Boston and for three years did odd jobs with a team. He then went to Maine and bought a farm of 50 acres in Garland, where he resided until 1853. He was married in Hampden, Penobscot County, May 23, 1836, to Miss Sophronia Dow, a daughter of Amos and Hannah Dow, who was born in Hampden, Aug. 14, 1812. Of the seven children born of this marriage, four are living, viz.: Henry C., born in Garland, June 14, 1837, and died June 1, 1863; Mary, born July 18, 1829, is now the wife of Martin R. Weeks, a carpenter in St. Louis, Mich.; David, born Nov. 4, 1841, now in the lumber business in Foxcraft, Maine, and manufacturing spools; Sophronia G., Oct. 23, 1844, died March 27, 1857; Lucy W., July 19, 1847, and died April 10, 1871; Amos D., Sept. 16, 1849, now at home; and Charles F., July 7, 1855, now in the employment of Wright &

Ketchum, a lumber firm of Saginaw. The first two were born in Garland, David in Hampden, and the last two in Kenduskeag.

Mr. Greeley followed farming in Maine until April, 1876, when he came to Midland City, Mich., remained nearly a year, then pursued farming two years in that county, and finally, in 1879, came to his present place, purchasing 80 acres, where he has 30 acres cultivated and made a number of improvements

**A**lexander Johnston, farmer, section 36, Pine River Township, was born Sept. 27, 1831, in Scotland, of which country his parents, Joseph and Jane (Morrison) Johnston, were also natives. Mr. Johnston was 19 years of age when he came to America. He went first to the State of Pennsylvania, and three years later to Canada. He resided 12 years in the Dominion, and in the spring of 1866 he came to Gratiot County. He bought 60 acres of land in an unimproved condition, on which he built a small frame house, and at once proceeded to the work of clearing and improving. He has placed 50 acres in a fine state of cultivation. Mr. Johnston is independent in political views.

He was married July 12, 1856, to Maria, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Black) Thompson, natives of the North of Ireland, where Mrs. Johnston was born, Dec. 25, 1833. Of this union seven children have been born, five surviving: Mary J., Margaret E., Sarah E., Annie M. and George A. William and Joseph are deceased. The parents coincide with the Presbyterians in religious belief.

**A**dney H. Dobson, farmer on section 32, Arcada Township, was born in Adams Township, Hillsdale Co., Mich., Sept. 25, 1847, and is a son of John and Julia A. (McCurdy) Dobson, natives of New York. They now reside on a farm in North Shade Township, this county. Adney came to that township with his parents when seven years old and was there reared. Being on a new farm and in a new country, more hard work

than schooling fell to his share, and he worked with his father almost constantly until 1871.

Oct. 17, 1871, he was united in marriage to Susan, daughter of Manford and Susan (Riggs) Felton, natives of New York and Massachusetts. Mr. Felton is still living, in Ingham County, at the age of 68. Mrs. Felton died when Susan was two weeks old. Mr. and Mrs. Dobson resided for two and a half years in North Shade Township, and then moved to their present place of 80 acres on section 32, Arcada Township, which he had purchased in 1872. When he moved there in May, 1874, he found a dense forest; but he has now 60 acres nicely improved. He has done all the work of clearing and fencing himself, assisted only by one yoke of cattle. Mr. and Mrs. Dobson have two children: Ada, born July 21, 1872, and Inez Maud, born Aug. 23, 1881. Politically he is a staunch Republican.

**S**eymour S. Teed, farmer and stock-raiser, section 31, New Haven Township, was born in North Star Township, this county, Sept. 24, 1856. His parents, Joseph B. and Louisa J. (Stone) Teed, were natives of Pennsylvania and descendants of the early Dutch settlers of that State. In the fall of 1854 they came and located a quarter of section 17, North Star Township, there being but three families before them. In 1868 they moved to New Haven Township, where Mr. T. died, Nov. 27, 1878, at the age of 60½ years. His widow, now aged 48 years, is living with her son, and enjoys good health and a high degree of activity. She has been the mother of seven children, six of whom are yet living.

The family were pioneers in this county, and Seymour S., the subject of this sketch, among the first born in North Star Township, was therefore compelled to commence hard work at a comparatively early age. He was 12 years of age when the family moved to New Haven, and here, in the first schoolhouse erected in the township, he began to receive his first book knowledge. He was extraordinarily studious, and, "pursuing knowledge under difficulties" at night, he injured his sight for life. He attended a college at Ionia for a time, and at the age of 21 began teaching in Ionia, Clinton and Gratiot

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*J B Adams*



Counties. Since the death of his father, in 1878, he has had charge of the homestead, still the property of his mother. There are 55 acres in cultivation, and Mr. T. proves himself to be a practical and progressive agriculturist. He has been School Inspector three years; is an active and intelligent Republican, a public-spirited citizen, and in every public capacity has shown himself to be a man of the strictest integrity.

Mr. Teed was married June 30, 1878, in North Shade Township, to Miss Melissa, daughter of John W. and Catharine (Slepp) Force: the latter are natives of Pennsylvania and of Dutch descent. Mrs. T. was born July 27, 1861, in Lorain Co., Ohio, and was 11½ years old when brought by her parents to this county. Mr. and Mrs. Teed have one child, Bertha, born May 21, 1879. They are active members of the "Church of God" at Carson City.

**J**ohn B. Adams, merchant at Riverdale, Seville Township, is a son of Bradley and Nancy (Bacon) Adams, natives respectively of Vermont and Massachusetts. The father was a carpenter and millwright and a man of energetic character, well adapted to the building of material interests and with the natural capacity to enjoy and make useful the future which he merited. But disasters by fire and losses in other avenues prevented such a consummation. He came from New York to Michigan and located at Ypsilanti, Mich. A year later he purchased a tract of land in Shiawassee County, but after a twelvemonth of labor he discovered that his title was worthless. The loss entailed was \$4,800, which rendered him comparatively destitute. After spending a year with his son in Saginaw County, he once more bought a farm and engaged in its management. His wife died in 1863 in Brant, Saginaw County; his own demise, at St. Charles, in the same county, followed a year later.

Mr. Adams was born Nov. 11, 1836, in Brattleboro, Vt. He was reared under his parents' care until he reached his majority. He was reared as a farmer's son and acquired a liberal degree of tact, which with his natural talents and practical experience has enabled him to carve out for himself a successful career. His first venture in business life was in lumber inter-

ests at first, and later in mercantile affairs, in which he is still engaged. He has operated singly since 1883. During the 28 years previous to that date he was associated in business relations with a man named Freeman. At one period of his life he was engaged in navigation, and acted as engineer, mate, master and owner of a vessel, plying between St. Charles and Bay City. After this he was engaged as a lumberman in Montcalm County one year. In 1876 he came to Gratiot County and located on sections 21, 28 and 29, Seville Township, where he was heavily interested in lumbering. He brought his family to Gratiot County in February, 1878, and afterward purchased 320 acres of land on section 30, Seville Township, where he at present resides.

His wife, formerly Miss Ett Maxfield, was born in December, 1836, and is a daughter of Varius and Persis Maxfield, natives respectively of New Hampshire and New York. They are now residents of Genesee Co., Mich., and are aged 76 and 68 years. Mr. Adams is a member of Riverdale Lodge, No. 343, I. O. O. F., and Pine River Lodge, No. 343, I. O. G. T. In political sentiment he is an ardent Prohibitionist. His portrait is given on page 354.

**W**alter Graham, farmer on the east half of the northwest quarter of section 20, Bethany Township, is a son of William K. and Margaret E. Graham; the father died in the spring of 1883, in Lowell, Kent Co., Mich.: mother is also deceased.

The subject of this sketch was born in the north part of England, June 17, 1843. When he was nine years of age the family emigrated to Canada, and five years afterward to Lowell, Kent Co., Mich., where the parents both died. He came to this county in the fall of 1864 and purchased 40 acres, being the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 20, which he still owns.

The following spring, March 30, 1865, Mr. Graham married Mary E. Adams, a native of Ohio. By this marriage there have been ten children, as follows: George W., John W., Ida M., Jay W., Frank I., Fred, Edna M., Henry, Mary D. and Margaret D. (twins).

After a residence of eight years on his farm he

formed a partnership with George J. Acker and Charles B. Graham in St. Louis, in the manufacturing of sash, doors and blinds, in which relation he continued seven years, with marked success. He was in the furniture business six years, sold out and formed a partnership with his brother, C. B. Graham, in the grocery trade in St. Louis. The latter died one year later and Mr. Graham sold his interest and returned to the farm. He now has 120 acres of land, with 45 acres under good cultivation.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham are members of the Presbyterian Church.

**C**harles L. Fleming, senior member of the firm of Fleming & Church, dealers in fancy and staple groceries at St. Louis, was born Feb. 8, 1842, in Concord, Jackson Co., Mich. He is a son of Charles M. and Elvira (Humphrey) Fleming. His father in early life followed the business of a blacksmith and afterward engaged in agriculture, and later as a merchant; he was born Oct. 31, 1809, in Seneca Co., N. Y., and is now living in retirement at St. Louis, whither he removed about 1864, and where he has since resided. The mother was born Sept. 10, 1818, at Clyde, N. Y.

Mr. Fleming was brought up on a farm and completed his education by a course of study at Mayhew's Commercial College at Albion, Mich. He was engaged 16 years as a traveling salesman and passed the last five years of that period in the employ of Johnson & Co., of Detroit, handling specialties in the drug line. In 1878 he came to St. Louis, and in June, 1879, purchased an interest in his father's business, with whom he continued about a year and a half. At the expiration of that time his present associate, John M. Church, purchased his father's interest, and this connection has existed ever since, with gratifying success.

Mr. Fleming was married Dec. 11, 1866, in Leroy, Ingham Co., Mich., to Abigail, daughter of Joshua and Elthina (Wilkinson) Barnes. She was born Sept. 29, 1846, at Bakersfield, Vt. Following is the record of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Fleming: Lina A. was born Oct. 30, 1867, in Pine River Township; Lewis A. was also born in that township, Sept. 30,

1871, and died Jan. 26, 1873. Duane I. was born June 6, 1875, in Howell, Livingston Co., Mich. Ida May was born in Pine River Township, May 25, 1879. The parents and eldest daughter are members of the Presbyterian Church.

**A**lfred B. Scattergood, resident at Ithaca, was born in Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., Oct. 25, 1853, and is a son of Joshua and Caroline (Barker) Scattergood. His parents moved to St. John's when he was 12 years old, and, three years later, went to Mankato, Minn., where he resided eight years. He attended school until he was 16 years old and was then placed in a jeweler's shop at Mankato to learn the details of the business. He served three years and continued to follow the business until 1876, when he came to Ithaca and bought out the jewelry stock of A. A. Wood. He transacted business at the stand occupied by his predecessor three years and then transferred his stock to the store with C. E. Fink, where he operated two years. Mr. Scattergood sold his interest to Dixie G. Hall, who removed the same to the Richardson Block, where the management of the business in all its details is in the hands of the former proprietor.

Mr. Scattergood was married Oct. 25, 1883, in Hillsdale Co., Mich., to Nellie, daughter of Dr. James W. Niblack. She is a native of Ohio.

**I**ram B. Giddings, groceryman and provision merchant at St. Louis, was born July 1, 1850, at Palmyra, Portage Co., Ohio. He is a son of Jonathan C. and Mary E. Giddings who settled at St. Louis in 1866. He was then 16 years old, and he attended school until he was 18, when he entered the employ of his brother Charles W. Giddings (see sketch), as clerk in his furniture store. He operated in that capacity three years, when he engaged as assistant in the grocery of Thomas McDowell, with whom he remained two years. He then went to Saginaw City and was there appointed Deputy Sheriff under R. W. Andrus. He officia-

ted one year and then entered the employ of his chief in his grocery, where he remained two years. In 1879 he returned to St. Louis, and, after a short period spent as a clerk, he opened his present business, in which he established himself in August, 1880. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum.

Mr. Giddings was married June 23, 1880, at Saginaw City, to Gertrude B., daughter of Orrin J. and Jennie E. (Jeffreys) Showers. She died at St. Louis, July 18, 1883, leaving one child—Orrin C., born June 29, 1881.

**S**idney Thompson, farmer, section 8, North Star Township, is the son of Jeremiah D. and Elizabeth (Hoag) Thompson, and was born in the county of Schoharie, State of New York, Jan 17, 1813. His father was a native of Dutchess County and his mother of Albany County, N. Y., both of English extraction.

Our subject is enabled to trace the genealogy of his family on his father's side as far back as the year 1610, viz.: His father was a son of Silas Thompson, who was born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., and who was a son of Caleb Thompson, born in New Haven, Conn., in 1732, a son of Samuel Thompson, born in the same State in 1696, a son of Samuel Thompson, born in Connecticut in 1669, a son of John Thompson, born in England in 1632, and he a son of Anthony Thompson, who was born in the same country in 1610.

Mr. Thompson remained with his parents in the Empire State, attending the common schools, assisting on the farm and developing into manhood, when he accompanied them to Lenawee County, this State, in which place they arrived and settled in 1834. The family at this time consisted of the father, mother and 14 children, and earnestly and energetically did they, with one united effort, enter on the task of clearing and improving the parental homestead. Their trials and struggles were numerous, yet their souls were animated with that spirit of determination which so often, in the lives of Michigan's pioneers, has surmounted the "hill of difficulty" and conquered adversity that they successfully battled against and overcame them. Mr. T. having acquired a fair education in his native State, devoted consider-

able of his time to teaching, especially during the winters, and thus was enabled to replenish the family coffer with the proceeds of his mental labor.

March 8, 1838, Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Sarah Abbott, who died Jan. 22, 1839, leaving one child to the care of the father. Mr. T. was married a second time, Nov. 11, 1840, to Miss Catharine Baragar; by her he had three children, two of whom—Jerry D. and Mary E.—are living. Mrs. T. died April 24, 1876, leaving her husband a widower for the second time. Oct. 6, 1878, Mr. T. was married to Mrs. Eleanor Hill, daughter of John English, with whom he is now living and by whom he has had two children, namely: Sidney, Jr., and Walter. Mrs. T. had four children by her first husband, named as follows: Minnie, Marian, Mary and Elsie Hill.

Mr. Thompson owns a farm of 40 acres in North Star Township, and was Supervisor of the township for four years. While living in Lenawee County he was Postmaster at Dover about four years, Notary Public six years, School Inspector 21 years, and Township Clerk for 18 years.

**J**ohn Burns, manufacturer of and dealer in saddlery and horse furnishing goods at St. Louis, was born Jan. 18, 1860, at Toronto, Can., and is the son of Hugh and Betsey (McCormick) Burns. His father was a Canadian by birth and a marine captain by vocation, which line of business he is still pursuing. The mother was a native of Toronto and died when her son was but two years old.

Mr. Burns has been the maker of his own fortunes and career since he was nine years old. In his boyhood he went to school and labored alternately as he found opportunity, and at the age of 14 years he set about to learn his trade, and four years after he went to Detroit, where he worked in a harness shop six months. He proceeded thence to Bay City, where he remained three years. After spending six months at Saginaw, he went into business for himself at Portland, Ionia County, and was engaged in business about two years, with reasonable success. In February, 1883, he came to St. Louis and opened a shop for the prosecution of his business, opposite the Westsell House. Five months later he removed to the

stand he now occupies, where he has a well-assorted and valuable stock. He employs several assistants and contemplates the enlargement and extension of his manufacturing and retail business.

**J**oshua Scattergood, flour, feed and provision dealer at Ithaca, was born April 7, 1814, in Bucks Co., Pa. He is a lineal descendant from the early Quaker element of New Jersey, his ancestors on both sides being members of the Society of Friends, and of English extraction. His father, Thomas Scattergood, was, in his early manhood, extensively engaged in the shad-fishing in the Delaware River; was an officer in the war of 1812 and stationed at Havre de Grace; (his military accoutrements were preserved a long time by his descendants;) he died in 1834, at Lambertville, N. J., where he was keeping hotel, and was 46 years old. His mother, Elizabeth (English) Scattergood, Burlington Co., N. J., in 1784, and died in the city of Burlington at the age of 66 years.

Mr. Scattergood obtained a fair education at the public schools and at 16 engaged as a clerk, in which employment he continued until he was 22 years old. In 1836 he went to Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., and there secured a position in the same capacity, where he was occupied three years. In 1839 he entered into partnership with Benj. G. Barker for the purpose of prosecuting mercantile interests. The connection was discontinued at the end of three years, Mr. Barker retiring. Mr. Scattergood conducted the business singly until 1866, when he disposed of his stock and interests by sale and removed to St. John's, Clinton Co., Mich. He opened there a grocery establishment, which he conducted between two and three years. He made another remove to Mankato, Blue Earth Co., Minn., where, associated with his son Theodore, he engaged in the manufacture of fanning-mills and steel-toothed horse-rakes. Five years later, his health became so much impaired that he retired from business for the time being. He came to Ithaca in the fall of 1883, and has since been engaged in selling the celebrated patent flour of Minnesota. In November of that year, he erected a building for business purposes, where he is engaged in trade, as stated. Besides his property here he owns

real estate at Mankato. He is a charter member of Tonquish Lodge, No. 32, I. O. O. F., of which fraternity he has been a long time a member. While in Plymouth he held the offices of Justice of the Peace and Township Clerk, occupying the incumbency of each four years.

Mr. Scattergood was married at Plymouth, June 4, 1839, to Caroline E., daughter of B. G. and Deborah Barker. The parents moved from the city of New York to Detroit in 1835. Mrs. Scattergood was born in New York and died in Plymouth, in October, 1854, and left five children—Theodore, Edward B., William B., Helen C. and Alfred B. Mr. Scattergood was again married Sept. 10, 1857, at Plymouth, to Harriet B. Barker, sister of his former wife. Of this union one child—Bessie—has been born.

**E**lijah H. Travis, farmer, section 19, Pine River Township, was born Oct. 28, 1835, in Cayuga Co., N. Y. His parents, Lewis and Minerva (Roberts) Travis, were natives of the State of New York. They removed to Oakland Co., Mich., in 1860, and later came to Clinton County, where the mother died. The father died in Montcalm County.

Mr. Travis was educated in the common schools and was bred to the pursuit of agriculture. In 1859 he came to Michigan, and after a stay of six months he returned to his native State. The next year, 1860, he became a settler in this State, and in February, 1863, he bought the farm on which he has since resided, in Pine River Township. It included 80 acres of wild land, of which he retains 40 acres, with 30 under cultivation. Mr. Travis is a Republican in his political views.

He was married the first time Jan. 2, 1862, in Oakland Co., Mich., to Nancy S., daughter of Ralph and Hannah Quick. She died July 22, 1866, and left one child, Bert S. On the 21st of September, 1879, Mr. Travis was again married, at Alma, to Mrs. Hester A. (Hart) Baker, daughter of Philo and Dorothy Hart, and widow of Lewis K. Baker, who was one of the pioneers of Arcada Township, and who died Oct. 19, 1876. Her parents were natives of New York, and her mother died in Chautauqua County in that State. About the year 1868 her father came to

Michigan, and now resides at Alma. Mrs. Travis was born May 25, 1838, in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and was 18 years old when she came to Michigan. She is the mother of two children by her first marriage: Forest W. and Mary H. Mr. and Mrs. Travis are members of the Presbyterian Church.

**F**ranks E. Murdock, of the firm of Murdock Bros., dealers in granite and marble cemetery work, building work, cemetery fencing and stone goods at St. Louis, was born Feb. 24, 1849, in Dexter, Washtenaw Co., Mich. He began learning his trade in Dexter, and when he was 15 years old he went to Ypsilanti, where he spent a year perfecting himself in its details. He has worked at the same in various places, and came to St. Louis, Jan. 1, 1883. He purchased the interest of a former partner of his brother, who had established the business in which the firm of Murdock Bros. are engaged. They have supplied the materials for a number of prominent buildings in Gratiot County, among which are the opera house at St. Louis, the dwelling of Mr. Turck, at Alma, and the union school house at Ithaca. They deal in the New England granite and marble and all other popular stones for use or ornament.

Mr. Murdock was married Dec. 27, 1878, in Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., to Lillie, daughter of Hon. Bethuel and Annis Noyes. She was born April 24, 1854, at Plymouth, and of this marriage, one child—Agnes—was born Jan. 31, 1881, in Norwalk, Ohio.

**R**ev. George Older, residing on section 20, North Star Township, was born in New Pound Co., England, Dec. 15, 1824. He is a son of Samuel Older (deceased), who was a native of the same country in which our subject was born, and who emigrated to the United States in 1832 and settled in Athens Co., Ohio. Here our subject lived, assisting his father on the farm, which was situated on Minker Run, near Nelsonville, and attending the common schools of the county and developing into manhood.

Mr. Older was married in April, 1846, to Alletha,

daughter of Robert Calliss, deceased, and moved to Wood Co., Ohio. They remained there for several years, and then removed to this State, arriving here in 1865 and locating in Sumner Township, this county.

Rev. Older began his studies for the ministry after coming to this State, and traveled as a minister of the United Brethren Church for 13 years, and visited some 19 or 20 of the counties and organized many Churches. He is still engaged in the cause of Christianity, and preaches regularly every two weeks.

Mrs. Older died Aug. 5, 1858, leaving four children—Perry C., Randolph M., Emily A. and Martha E.—and many friends and relatives to mourn her loss.

Rev. Older was again married Aug. 23, 1860, to Miss Frances Kimberlin, and to this union one child, John, was born. Rev. Older owns 40 acres of land on which he and his family reside.

**J**ohn T. Noble, barber at St. Louis, the oldest resident of the tonsorial profession at this point, was born Oct. 4, 1849, in France. He is the son of John and Anna (Suzanne) Noble, who were natives of France, born respectively in 1824 and 1831. They came to the United States in 1854, and, nine months after their arrival in the new world, they went to Gallipolis, Gallia Co., Ohio, where they resided 13 years, the father following the vocation of a stone-cutter. In the spring of 1866, they came to Chesaning, Saginaw County, and two years later to Bath, Clinton Co., Mich., where they still live. His father owns 40 acres of land.

Mr. Noble learned the trade of his father, but, finding it distasteful, resolved to devote himself to something more to his liking. He worked in a barber's shop in Chesaning, and one in St. John's, where he acquired the skill necessary to the manipulation of the razor and shears. In the fall of 1869, he came to St. Louis, and opened the business in which he has been continuously engaged ever since. He has three chairs, and is assisted by his wife.

Mr. Noble is one of the oldest members of the Fire Department at St. Louis, being one of the first company. He organized the first Hose Company in the

place and was foreman seven years. In 1883, he was Chief of the Department, which, during the same year, he represented at the National Convention held at Cincinnati. While occupying the position of chief officer, he was presented with a fine silver trumpet by the Rubber and Gutta Percha Mfg Co. of New York, valued at \$45. He is the inventor and patentee of Noble's Durable Reel Hose Cart, which was patented June 26, 1883, and is considered a first-class machine.

In the fall of 1876, he went into training as a foot-runner, and, running his first race the following spring, traveled as a professional athlete for two years. He ran at one time 101 yards in ten seconds.

Mr. Noble was married Aug. 5, 1871, at St. Louis, to Emma A. Gifford. She was born Nov. 26, 1853. Her parents came to Gratiot County in its very earliest days, she being but five months old when they became pioneers. They built at first, for purposes of shelter, a bough house, on the Alma road. Her father owned a large farm, now known as the Goodrich place. Mr. and Mrs. Noble have two children—John E., born May 7, 1871, and Sarah S., born March 10, 1877.

**E**dward R. White, farmer, section 5, Pine River Township, was born Nov. 24, 1832, in Lake Co., Ohio. He is the son of Norman and Albina (Gloyd) White, natives of Massachusetts. Some years after their marriage they went to Lake Co., Ohio, and later in life to Medina County, in that State. They were the parents of 12 children.

Mr. White is the fifth son, and was about three years old when his parents went to Medina County. His father was a farmer, and he lived at home until he was nearly 24 years of age. In May, 1860, he came to Gratiot County, and became the possessor by purchase of 40 acres of unimproved land, and not long after made a further investment in an additional 40 acres. He has expended his time and energies with judicious management, and has a snug farm with 35 acres in fine improvement and under good cultivation. Mr. White is a citizen in excellent standing in his township, and has been Postmaster of Forest Hill (Pine River Township) two years.

He was married Sept. 11, 1856, in Medina Co., Ohio, to Almeda, fourth daughter of Daniel and Susannah (Whitcomb) Ross. She was born March 12, 1840, in Medina County, and her parents were natives respectively of Vermont and Canada. Mr. and Mrs. White have five children living: Cora A., Myrtie A., Orrin E., Ardie L. and Lettie E. They are the foster parents of a boy whom they took in charge when he was two weeks old, and have reared him as their own child. He is called Ernest White. Mr. and Mrs. White belong to the Disciples' Church.

**J**ohn L. Sinclair, Register of Deeds of Gratiot County, residing at Ithaca, was born March 26, 1848, at Inverness, Scotland. His father, John Sinclair, was a native of the same place, born Aug. 26, 1818, and died near London, Ontario, Dec. 4, 1855, whither he emigrated and worked at his trade of contractor and builder until his death. The mother, Catherine (McKay) Sinclair, is a native of Scotland and is still living, near London, Ont.

Mr. Sinclair was still young when his father died, and at 12 years of age was left to face the world alone. He went at 14 years of age to Ailsa Craig, Ont., where he engaged as a clerk in the store of A. G. McIntosh, general merchant. He remained there until the fall of 1866, when he came to St. Louis, and engaged a short time in lumbering. His next employ was with Luther Smith as clerk in his mercantile establishment, and he passed the next two years in his service and that of J. W. Wesels. He returned at the expiration of that time to London, Ont., where he became a clerk for R. McKenzie, grocery and provision merchant. He came to Ithaca in the fall of 1873 and entered the employ of John W. Howd, with whom he remained three years. He next engaged with Nelson & Barber, with whom he remained until the fall of 1882, when he was placed in nomination for the office of County Register, on the Democratic ticket, and made a successful run against George S. Van Buskirk, scoring a considerable number of votes in advance of his ticket. He has served a number of years as Village Clerk of Ithaca. Mr. Sinclair has taken 12 degrees in Masonry, of which Order he has been a member nearly 15 years. He

has been Master of Ithaca Lodge, No 123, three years.

He was married June 10, 1870, at St. Louis, to Mary J. Finch. She was born in Waterloo, Jackson Co., Mich., in August, 1847, and is the daughter of Reuben and Jane Finch. She died in Ithaca in 1877, leaving two children—Anna S. and Ernest L. Mr. Sinclair was again married in May, 1880, to Juliette L., daughter of Lathrop M. Lyon, and was born in Clyde, N. Y.

**C**harles R. Wright, farmer, section 19, Pine River Township, was born Oct. 28, 1846, in Parma, Jackson Co., Mich. He is the son of Frederick and Sarepta (Fox) Wright, and his father was a prominent pioneer of Gratiot County, with whose progress and comparative rank among the counties of the Peninsula State his name is inseparably connected.

Mr. Wright was nearly 13 years of age when his parents came to Gratiot County, and he has resided chiefly in Pine River Township from that period of his boyhood. He has pursued farming all his life and now owns 80 acres of land, with 65 acres under first class cultivation. Politically he is identified with the Democratic party.

Mr. Wright was married Oct. 28, 1866, in Pine River Township, to Sarah, daughter of Henry and Susannah (Bigley) Wolf. She was born in Ravenna, Ohio, Jan. 17, 1845, and her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Wright have lost two children by death: Charles R. and Jessie M., who died in infancy. There are now living: Mary E., Susannah and James K.

**E**lijah Beard, formerly clergyman and farmer, section 5, North Star Township, was born in Erie Co., N. Y., Jan 12, 1807. He is a son of Victory Beard, deceased, a native of Connecticut and a soldier under Gen. Wadsworth in the war 1812, and who moved his family to Delaware Co., Ohio, in 1816. Here our

subject attended subscription school, assisted on his father's farm and developed into manhood.

Elder Beard was married Aug. 16, 1829, to Miss Emeline, daughter of Peter Sunderland, a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in Miami Co., Ohio, in 1810, and to their union six children, all girls, have been born, namely: Mary E. (Martin), Louisa (Vance), Elmira (Vance), Catharine (Herrington), Christina (Herrington) and Annie E. (Morris).

In early manhood Elder Beard turned his attention to the gospel, and in addition to his farm labors was engaged in preaching in the Christian Church until 1855, when he moved with his family to this county. His labors as a minister have been quite extensive. He organized the first Christian Church in Greenbush, Clinton Co., this State; and the first one in Gratiot County, in Barns' settlement, North Star Township, and preached throughout this and Clinton Counties. He has recently sold his farm to his son-in-law, who has taken possession of it, and has also retired from the ministry, satisfied with his labors.

**S**ilas Moody, farmer, resident on section 9, Pine River Township, was born in Chatham, Medina Co., Ohio, May 30, 1839. His parents, William and Maria (Ross) Moody, were natives respectively of Massachusetts and Vermont. The father is a minister of the Disciples' Church, and has been an active laborer in its interests for more than 50 years. He was born Aug. 29, 1810, and was married Aug. 29, 1838, in Granger, Medina Co., Ohio. Ebenezer Moody, his father, was descended from one of three brothers who emigrated from England to Newburyport, Mass., about the year 1632. He married Lucy Wood about the year 1776, and of their family of nine children, two yet survive. He was a soldier of 1812.

Mr. Moody was a pupil in the common schools until he was 17 years of age, after which he spent four years in teaching and study, and attended a select school at Chatham summers. He spent seven winters in teaching school. In 1861, he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of wild land. Subsequent purchases have increased the aggregate of his estate to 400 acres, and of this 200 acres are under cultivation. He taught two winter terms of

school in Gratiot County, and spent the winter seasons of the following 20 years in traffic in hay, in which he has been extensively engaged, as well as in the purchase and sale of oats, pork and other agricultural products. His stock includes eight horses, 17 head of cattle, 180 sheep and 10 hogs.

In political connections, Mr. Moody is a Republican of decided type, and has been for many years an important factor in local affairs. He has been Township Clerk, School Inspector, Highway and Drain Commissioner, and has held several other positions of trust. He is President of the Gratiot County Agricultural Society, and has been connected with the County Board eight years.

Mr. Moody was married in Chatham, Medina Co., Ohio, April 6, 1861, to Ellen M., second daughter of Luther and Hannah (Jackson) Clapp. She was born in Chatham Jan. 8, 1842, and her parents were natives of Hampshire Co., Mass. The household includes two children, George A. and Ira C. Two others, Arthur N. and Edith C., have passed to the land of voiceless mystery.

Mr. and Mrs. Moody are both zealous members of the Disciples' Church, and during the past 14 years Mr. Moody has officiated as Superintendent of a Sunday-school. He is also President of the county Sunday-school organization.

**J**ohn Lanshaw, farmer, section 17, Pine River Township, was born Jan. 25, 1830. He is the son of Hans and Anna Lanshaw, who passed their entire lives in the Fatherland. Mr. Lanshaw passed the first 25 years of his life in his native country in the vocation of a farmer. He came to the United States in July, 1854, and went at once to New Jersey, where he remained four years, coming thence to Detroit. He spent three years in that city, and after a subsequent stay in Oakland County for a short period, he came in January, 1866, to Gratiot County, for the purpose of engaging in farming in accordance with early plans and purposes. He bought 100 acres of land in Pine River Township, to which he has added by subsequent purchase, and now is proprietor of 180 acres, with 110 in a state of advanced cultivation.

Mr. Lanshaw took a deep interest in the events of

the civil war, and finally became a soldier. He enlisted in March, 1865, in the 22d Reg. Mich. Vol. Inf. Three months after going to the field, 500 members of the regiment were transferred to the 29th Mich. Vol. Inf. He was among the number, and served in that command until his discharge at Detroit on the last day of August, 1865.

In the summer of 1883, he replaced his pioneer house with a substantial residence, where he now resides in the comfort and content which is sure to follow persistent and well-directed effort. He belongs to the National Greenback party.

Mr. Lanshaw was married Aug. 3, 1856, in New Jersey, to Anna Ziesse. She is a native of Germany, where she was born Nov. 29, 1833. Of six children born to them, four are living: William C., John H., Lillie A. and Minnie L. Eliza L. died when she was 11 years old. Another child was lost in early infancy.

**A**lbert H. Lowry, agent of the American Express Company and manager of the Western Union Telegraph office at St. Louis, was born April 13, 1854, near Romeo, Macomb Co., Mich., and is the son of William H. and Charlotte (Peeter) Lowry. His father resides in East Saginaw; he is a native of New York, and was married in Jersey City. In 1851 he removed his family to Romeo, and in 1865 to East Saginaw. The wife and mother was a native of New York and was born in Dryden, April 12, 1824. She died Feb. 6, 1883, at South Saginaw.

Mr. Lowry received a good common-school education, and, at the age of 16, entered a grocery in the capacity of clerk, where he remained two years. He then learned telegraphy in East Saginaw, and after six months' study in that art he took an office at Vassar, Mich., where he remained a few months and went thence to Bay City, where he was manager of the American Telegraph office at the Frazier House. He continued in that position three months and came to St. Louis in the interest of the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad Company. He operated at the depot two years, when he took the city office for the Western Union, and during the last three years has been agent for the American Express Company. In the



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*Thomas M. Harrod*



*Jane C Harrod*

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spring of 1881 he was elected Village Clerk of St. Louis by a majority of three, himself and the candidate for the office of Assessor being the only Republicans elected on the ticket. In the spring of 1882, he was re-elected by a majority of 45 votes, and was the only representative of his party elected. He is a member of the Masonic Order, belonging both to the blue lodge and chapter. He belongs to the Fire Department of St. Louis, of which he has been a member five years, two of which he has acted as Foreman of the Citizens' Hose Company, No. 1. In October, 1880, Mr. Lowry and Gen. Nathan Church, of Ithaca, built a telegraph line between St. Louis and Ithaca, which is the only line running into the county seat. It is owned and operated solely by Messrs. Church & Lowry. Mr. L. owns also a building lot at St. Louis. He is Captain of the St. Louis Bicycle Club, organized in January, 1884, with nine wheels.

**Thomas H. Harrod**, surveyor and civil engineer, section 5, North Star Township, was born in England, Oct. 27, 1847, and is a son of Jeremiah Harrod, also a native of that country. He came to Canada in the fall of 1871, and to this country in June, 1872, locating where he now resides. He has been Deputy County Clerk one term, County Drain Commissioner one year, and Deputy County Surveyor one year. He is now engaged in the business of surveying, in Bay City.

Mr. Harrod was married March 9, 1873, to Mrs. Jame E. Leppard, who was born in England, in 1839, and was brought to New York State by her parents, in emigration, in 1856, and to this county in 1864. Mr. and Mrs. H. have one child, John J., and one adopted daughter, Clara M. Harrod. Mrs. H.'s first husband, John Leppard, was born in England, April 15, 1848; was married Feb. 8, 1861; enlisted in the war for the Union in the fall of 1861, and died in Belle Island Prison, April 17, 1863. Mrs. Harrod's father, John Humphrey, of North Star Township, was born in Corydon, Surrey Co., England, July 29, 1810, and settled on section 5, this township, in 1864. He married Ann Best, and they had 13 children, eight of whom are now living, viz.: Jane E.,

Emma, Richard, Susan, John W., Ambrose, Eliza and Robert.

Mr. Harrod is in every sense a self-made man. He received a little schooling before he was 10 years old, but educated himself almost entirely by his own efforts. He acquired his knowledge of surveying before leaving England, at the age of about 20. Since 1876, Mr. H. has been licensed to preach in the M. E. Church, and he has labored regularly for the cause of Christianity. The likenesses of Mr. and Mrs. H. are given on contiguous pages.

**George S. Quick**, farmer on section 3, Sumner Township, was born in Oakland County, this State, Aug. 6, 1853, the son of Ralph and Calista (Treat) Quick, natives of Pennsylvania and New York, and of German and English descent. Ralph Quick was reared in his native State until eight years old, then in New Jersey until 16 years old. He then went to Seneca Co., N. Y., where he lived until 1834, working as a common laborer. He then came to Oakland Co., Mich., where he followed carpentry and farming until 1871. He then made his last move, to this county, purchasing 120 acres on section 3, Sumner Township. Here he has since lived, being an active worker until the death of his wife, March 29, 1882, but now living a retired life, with his son, to whom he leases the farm. He has been an active man, a progressive farmer and an intelligent citizen. He has been Highway Commissioner and Justice of the Peace one term each, was Supervisor of his township in 1875-6, and has held other minor offices.

He has always been connected with the Presbyterian Church, and politically has supported the Republican party. His wife was the mother of 12 children, and she left five of them, and a large circle of friends, to mourn her departure. She was 70 years of age.

The subject of this biography attended the common and graded schools and worked on his father's farm until 19 years old, and then came with his parents to this county. He has remained on the home farm until the present time, and now has the active management of it himself.

June 25, 1878, at St. Louis, he was married to

Miss Alvira, daughter of Nicholas P. and Lucy (Wright) Watts, natives of Ohio and Kentucky. She was born in Mercer Co., Ohio, May 27, 1852, and came with her parents to Michigan when very young. The family lived in Jackson County eight years, then came to Gratiot County. She lived in Arcada Township until her marriage.

Mr. Quick is an enterprising young man, inheriting the business ability, as well as the political faith, of his father, to whom he is a worthy successor of the the family name.

**M**artin Montigel, of the firm of J. M. Montigel & Co., at Alma, was born at Erie, Pa., Oct. 6, 1856, and is a son of J. M. and Anna Barbara (Segrist) Montigel. (See sketch of J. M. Montigel.) The parents of Mr. Montigel went to Ashtabula, Ohio, when he was seven years old. They were residents there eight years, and there the son was a student at school nearly that entire period. In 1871 the family came to Alma, where he again attended school, and when of suitable age he was employed in his father's foundry. In 1878 he was admitted to a partnership in the business, and the connection still continues.

Mr. Montigel is a member of the Order of Masonry and belongs to the blue lodge, No. 244, at Alma. He has also taken the Royal Arch degree and belongs to Chapter No. 86, at St. Louis. He is a Republican in political sentiment and is Treasurer of the Fire Department at Alma.

**F**rank Gilker, farmer on section 10, Arcada Township, was born in Prussia, at Cologne, on the river Rhine, Feb. 14, 1828. His parents were German, and his father was a farmer and grape-grower. He received a good education in his native tongue, and worked on his father's farm until 18 years old. He then set out for America, unaccompanied by either friend or relative. Landing at New York, he presently came to Detroit, where he was employed on the wharf for about two years. Thence he went to Ionia County, this State, where he engaged in farming for 15 years.

Feb. 18, 1863, he was married in Ionia County to Miss Ursula Raycroft, a native of Ireland, born in the city of Cork, Dec. 25, 1843. When two years old, she was brought by her parents to this country, and she was reared in Rochester, N. Y., coming to this State some time before her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilken, after three years of wedded life, came to Gratiot County and purchased 320 acres of wild land. By his own efforts, Mr. Gilken has cleared of the primitive forest and prepared for the plow 120 acres of good farming land. In place of his log hut and slab stable, he has now a substantial residence and good barns. One needs but to look at his buildings and stock to see that he is a progressive, intelligent farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. G. are the parents of eight children, six of whom are living: Frank D., born Dec. 14, 1863; Clara, April 5, 1865; Lizzie, Feb. 16, 1868; Mattie, Jan. 17, 1870; Elias J., July 29, 1877; Freddie, June 15, 1883; Thora, born Dec. 29, 1875, and died July 29, 1876; Alfred, born July 6, 1880, and died Feb. 6, 1882. In political sentiment, Mr. Gilken is an ardent Democrat.

**W**illiam Hayes, farmer, section 22, Pine River Township, was born in Geneseo, Livingston Co., N. Y., Oct. 3, 1821, and is the son of Dennison and Margaret (Daily) Hayes. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother was born in Ireland. After their marriage they located in Livingston County, where they resided until the death of the father, which occurred in 1846. The mother died in Alleghany County, N. Y.

Mr. Hayes remained at home as his father's assistant on the farm until he was 23 years old. At that age, in 1847, he came to Ann Arbor, and after a residence there of two years removed to Ionia County. In the fall of 1867 he bought 80 acres of land in Gratiot County, of which he has since been the proprietor. It was principally in a state of nature, and he has now a fine farm of 40 acres, all under improvement. He disposed of 40 acres by sale. Mr. Hayes is an adherent to the principles and issues of the Democratic party.

He was married in Geneseo, Nov. 26, 1843, to

Tirzah J., daughter of Silas and Cheney (Kent) Norton, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes have had six children: William O., John D., Isadore C., Marion A., Flora E. and Herbert N. The eldest son became a soldier in the war of the Southern Rebellion. He enlisted in February, 1865. On arriving in Washington his command was detailed for frontier service and ordered to Dakota to aid in quelling the Indians. He was seized with typhoid pneumonia, and died Sept. 9, 1865. He was 23 years old and at the dawn of a promising manhood. He left a widow and one child.

**S**amuel H. Loveland, dealer in furniture and undertaker's goods, at Alma, is the youngest son and child of Erastus and Olive (Forbes) Loveland, and was born July 28, 1832, in Washington, Berkshire Co., Mass. The parents were natives of Connecticut, where they continued to reside for several years following their marriage, when they removed to Washington, Mass., where the father engaged in the occupation of agriculturist. They continued to reside there between 30 and 40 years, when they went to Hinsdale, in the Bay State. Eight years later they returned to Washington, where they lived during the remainder of their lives. The father died Aug. 12, 1840, and the mother followed to the land of everlasting peace, in July, 1847. Four sons and four daughters were born to them, in the following order: Lewis, Amanda, Lucy, Erastus, William, Orrin, Almira, Louisa and Samuel.

Mr. Loveland was 15 years old when his mother died, and about the same time the privilege of constructing his own fortunes devolved upon himself. He hired out as a common laborer at \$5 a month, and worked diligently and steadily eight months. He bought a good suit of clothes, a trunk and minor articles necessary to a comfortable and creditable outfit. Thus equipped, he attended school and continued two years in alternate labor and study. At 17 years of age he began to work in a saw-mill, where he was employed two years. He next went to Seneca Co., N. Y., where he worked about 18 months in the machine shop of Messrs. Silsby, Race & Holly. (The senior member of the firm was the patentee of the Silsby fire engine, and the junior partner was the

inventor of the celebrated Holly water works system.) The employ proving unwholesome, he abandoned it and came to Midland Co., Mich. He arrived there in June, 1855, and bought 80 acres of pine land, where he spent 18 months in lumbering. He sold his place and went to Isabella County, where he bought 80 acres of farming land and entered upon the realities of pioneer life. He reached the county Feb. 7, 1857, and was the fourth settler in the township of Isabella, and for nearly two years his log house was the only meeting-house in that section.

Isabella Township was organized in 1856, and in the spring of 1857 the county was organized and 14 townships. Mr. Loveland was elected first Clerk of Isabella Township. He was the first Class-leader in the county, and the first Sunday-school Superintendent. He was also the first licensed exhorter in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the county, and his house was open to the preachers of every denomination who came to that section.

His tract of land was wholly in a state of nature and he proceeded with energetic and patient, untiring labor to the work of clearing and improving. He pursued his purpose until Aug. 13, 1862, when he yielded to the spirit aroused in him by the demands of the nation for help in her sore extremity, and enlisted in the 8th Mich. Vol. Inf. He was in the service nearly three years and experienced the pains and privileges of the soldier's fate at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Jackson, Knoxville, Blue Springs, Wilderness and Petersburg and numerous other engagements of minor importance. He was wounded in the side, at the battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864, and was confined a month in the hospital. He was honorably discharged in 1865, at Detroit, and returned to his family and labors in Isabella County. He there resided until the spring of 1874, when he sold his farm and entered into a partnership with David Lamb, in the manufacture of lumber, locating in Saginaw County. They were engaged in the prosecution of a prosperous and extending business when their property was almost entirely destroyed by fire. Mr. Loveland lost \$2,000. He removed to St. Louis, Gratiot County, where he engaged in labor as a carpenter. This he followed about a year, and subsequently spent one and a half years in the meat

business. In 1877 he bought a stock of furniture, in company with S. C. Smith. After operating two years they divided the stock, and in January, 1879, Mr. Loveland moved to Alma, established himself in the business in which he has since been engaged, and which he is managing with satisfactory results. In spite of his several reverses he has continued his efforts with brave hopefulness, and is fast regaining what he has lost.

Mr. Loveland was married at Seneca Falls, N. Y., May 24, 1854, to Sarah E., daughter of H. H. and Eleanor (Runyon) Baker, natives of New York. The mother died in the Empire State, and the father in Washtenaw Co., Mich., at the residence of his son. Mrs. Loveland was born Jan. 12, 1831, in Ontario Co., N. Y., in the village of Bethel.

Mr. Loveland is a decided radical in religious, moral and political sentiments. He has been from early life active and zealous in the interests of Christianity, and of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His religion is a concomitant of his daily life. In Isabella County he brought his views into bearing upon all his intercourse with the world at large, and was a pioneer representative of Christian principles coequal with his solicitude for the agricultural progress of the locality. He was there licensed as an exhorter and local preacher and aided materially in the construction of the first church structure built in Isabella County. He was true to his convictions of his obligations to his fellow-men while a soldier in the army, and by his consistent life and unremitting endeavors accomplished much permanent good. He is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows and belongs to the Good Templars. In the work of the latter society and the cause of temperance generally, he is fearlessly outspoken and zealous. He is a Republican in political connection.

**J**oseph Bussell, farmer, section 21, North Shade Township, is a son of Jonathan and Mary Bussell, natives of England. His father, a farmer, came to America in 1853, landing at New York and settling in Hillsdale Co., Mich., where he lived until 1867, when he died. His wife had died in England, in 1845.

Mr. Joseph Bussell was born April 20, 1839, in

Devonshire, England. At the age of 13 he came to America, and was first employed on a dairy farm for five years; he then came to Michigan and resided four years in Hillsdale County, and finally to the place which he now occupies. He first took possession of 160 acres, but has since sold half this land. When he came here it was all a howling wilderness; but by steady labor and judicious economy he has developed and equipped a fine farm, and is now surrounded with plenty. Besides, he seems to know how to enjoy the fruits of his many long and weary years of toil and care.

In 1862 Mr. Bussell married Miss Maria, daughter of Florival and Sarah (Leslie) Bartlett, who was born June 17, 1840, in the town of Cornish, New Hampshire. Her parents moved from that State to New York and thence to Michigan, and they now reside in Meridian Township, Ingham Co., near Lansing, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Bussell are the parents of seven children, viz.: Rowena, Alfred D., Mary E., William H., Joseph E., Luella and Elsie E. Mrs. B. is a member of the Christian Church, and Mr. B., in politics, is a Democrat.

**F**ranks Abbott, merchant, at Alma, was born Nov. 16, 1849, in Pulaski, Jackson Co., Mich. He is the son of Jacob and Mary (Thornton) Abbott, who are residents of Gratiot County. He obtained a fair education at the common schools of his native county, and studied subsequently at Ypsilanti, in the State Normal School. Till the age of 19 years he was engaged during the farming season in agricultural labors, and obtained his advanced education after that age, subsequently engaging in teaching, which vocation he followed until he was 31 years old.

In the spring of 1882 he engaged in mercantile traffic at Pompei, Gratiot County, where he continued until May, 1883. In that month he removed his stock of goods to Alma, and there established his business interests, which he is still conducting. He is a Republican in political principle and a warm advocate of temperance. He is a member of the Order of Good Templars and of the Sons of Temperance.

Mr. Abbott was married Dec. 5, 1883, at Alma



Mich., to Fanny E., daughter of S. C. and Fannie Blinn. The parents are natives respectively of the State of New York and Michigan. Mrs. Abbott was born Nov. 22, 1862, in Jackson County. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**M**oses G. Tyler, farmer, section 35, North Shade Township, is a son of David and Phebe (Orsburn) Tyler, natives of New York State. The former was a carpenter and a farmer. They moved to Wisconsin, where they both died.

The subject of this sketch was born June 8, 1822, in the town of Stafford, Genesee Co., N. Y.; living with his parents until he was 22 years of age, he went to work for himself, and was engaged on a farm by the month for 10 or 11 years,—five years for two different uncles. At the age of 30 he married Miss Salina, a daughter of Solomon and Axy (Law) Simon, natives of New York, the first-named a farmer. They both died in New York State. Mrs. T. is the fourth daughter in a family of nine children. In 1863 Mr. Tyler moved to Gratiot County, settling on 40 acres of wild land, on section 35, where he still resides. By his energy and judicious management he has made a fine farm on this place.

Mr. T. was once elected Justice of the Peace, but did not serve. He is now Constable. He is a zealous Republican. He has had four children, namely: Phebe A., Alvin L., Lyman M. C., Lorilla M. and Lucia: the last mentioned died at the age of 18 years.

**C**harles Grover, a highly respected young farmer on section 2, Arcada Township, was born in Ogden Township, Lenawee Co., Mich., Oct. 1, 1857; and is the son of Thomas and Maria (Sherwood) Grover, natives of Yorkshire, Eng. Thomas Grover was by occupation a carriage smith, and came to this country in 1850, locating in New York State. Two years later, he came to Lenawee Co., Mich., and after a few years there he came to Gratiot County, where

he died at his home on section 2, Arcada Township, Aug. 27, 1877, at the age of 65. His wife now resides at St. Louis, in this county, at the age of 68.

The subject of this sketch, when two years old, came with his parents to this county, and lived with them on section 2, Arcada Township. Here he was reared and educated. He now owns 60 acres of his father's homestead, 30 acres being improved and under cultivation. Aug. 29, 1881, at St. Louis, he was married to Estella Fields, daughter of Albert and Julia N. (Sperry) Fields, natives of Crawford Co., Pennsylvania, where, at Girard, Estella was born, Aug. 24, 1857. Coming with her parents to Bethany Township, this county, she was there reared, and lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Grover have one son, William. They are regular attendants of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, Mr. Grover sympathizes with the National Greenback party. He is a young man of intelligence and industry, and popular among his friends.

**M**arcus Ring, farmer, section 5, Pine River Township, was born Oct. 16, 1816, in Nova Scotia. His parents, Marcus and Mercy Ring, were both natives of the Province where their son was born, and where they passed the entire extent of their lives, the mother dying in 1826, the father in 1872. The latter was a sea captain, as was his father before him.

Mr. Ring went to sea with his paternal grandfather when he was 12 years of age, and was absent on his first voyage four years. On returning, he became a sailor on a vessel belonging to his uncle, in whose service he remained until he reached manhood. His early seafaring life was spent on English sailing vessels, and later he sailed on American vessels, the first of which was called the Susan Abigail. He was quartermaster one season on the steamer Atlantic, plying between Boston and Portland, Me. When Mr. Ring was 34 years old, he abandoned his sea life and went to Boston, where he learned the painter's trade, and for six years devoted himself to its pursuit in that city. In January, 1858, he removed to Gratiot County and bought 60 acres of land in its original condition in Arcada Township. He began making improvements, and two years later

exchanged the property for 80 acres of land in Pine River Township. He now owns 120 acres, and has erected good and substantial buildings, and placed 70 acres under first-class improvements. Mr. Ring is a Republican in political connection.

He was married in Nova Scotia, May 4, 1844, to Zilpha, fifth daughter of Rufus and Letitia (Wyman) Robbins. Nine children have been born of their marriage: William H., Eliza A., James M., Helen, Ada L., Jennie, Josephine, Norman J. and Effie M. The eldest son died in the army, and the second son and third daughter are deceased. Mrs. Ring is a woman of energy and fine abilities. She has been the able assistant of her husband, and is the blessed mother of a creditable family. She is one of the women whose energies, undaunted courage and persistent hopefulness have proven such eminent factors in the present prosperity of Gratiot County. The father of Mr. Ring died in 1868; her mother died in 1873. They were married May 28, 1811.

Mr. and Mrs. R. are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**W**illiam Wright, farmer, section 25, North Shade Township, is the son of John and Sarah (Barnaby) Wright. His parents were natives of England and in 1853 came to America, landing in New York City. From there they went to Ohio and located in Lorain County, where they remained about three years, when (in 1856) they came to Gratiot County. Upon coming to this county they located on 40 acres of land upon section 35, North Shade Township. To the original tract of land they subsequently added 240 acres, all wild land. Of this they afterwards sold 128 acres, leaving them still a large farm. The elder Wright remained upon this farm until his death, which occurred April 3, 1876, when he was at the age of 63 years. Mrs. Wright is still living upon the old homestead.

William Wright, the subject of this biography, was born March 14, 1839, in Suffolk Co., Eng., and came to America with his parents, and continued to reside under the parental roof until he was 21 years of age. At that time he went into the lumber woods, where

he worked during the winter and ran logs in the spring.

In 1861, when the dark and dreadful war cloud arose from the South, William Wright was among the very first to step forward in defence of the flag and honor of his adopted country, and none did more noble and valiant service than he. He enlisted in Co. D, Third Mich. Inf., which was attached to the Army of the Potomac. Among the numerous bloody engagements his regiment participated in were both the first and second battles of Bull Run and the seven days' fight before Richmond. At the terrible battle of Bull Run, Mr. Wright was wounded in the side and hip, and now receives a pension from the grateful Government he was then defending. He was taken prisoner at Centerville, Va., at which place he was also finally paroled. After his discharge he returned to the home of his parents, conscious that he had done his whole duty toward his country.

Mr. Wright was united in marriage in 1871, with Miss Libbie McFarlane. Her parents, John and Caroline (Johnson) McFarlane, were natives of New York State, and the parents of nine children, of whom Mrs. Wright is the fourth daughter. She was born, July 22, 1846 in Washtenaw Co., Mich. Mr. and Mrs. McFarlane are residing in Bath Township, Clinton Co., Mich., and engaged in farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Wright have been born three children: Ed. J., Ora C. and Ray.

Mr. Wright is a member of the Masonic Order, Lodge 145, Maple Rapids, of the Order of United Workmen and of the Billy Begole Post of the G. A. R., and politically is a Republican.



**B**enj. D. Ackmoody, merchant at Elwell, on section 35, Seville Township, is a son of Abraham H. and Hannah (Atkins) Ackmoody, natives of Ulster Co., N. Y. The father was a farmer, and moved with his wife to Ingham County, this State, where he died in the year 1865. She died Sept. 2, 1860, in Cicero, Onondaga Co., N. Y.

The subject of this biographical notice was born Dec. 25, 1842, in Onondaga Co., N. Y., and lived at home until 18 years of age. After the death of his mother, he lived with his brother in Cayuga Co., N.

Y., until he joined the army. In July, 1862, he enlisted in Co. H, 111th N. Y. Vol. Inf., and he was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He was taken prisoner of war at Harper's Ferry, Sept. 15, 1862, but was immediately paroled and sent to Chicago. He was declared exchanged in November of the same year, and Dec. 18 following he was sent to the hospital with the small-pox. He was finally discharged Feb. 17, 1863, at Camp Convalescent, Va. He returned to his native State, but July 21, 1864, he again offered his services to his country, enlisting in Battery L, 16th Heavy Artillery. He remained in the service until the close of the war, and was duly discharged Aug. 29, 1865.

He was married to Ellen Stone, a daughter of Elisha Stone, of New Hampshire. Mr. Ackmoody came with his wife in September, 1874, to Hillsdale, this State, where he lived six years. He then came to Gratiot County, and located on 80 acres in the township of Sumner. A year later, he went to Ellwell and engaged in mercantile life. He has a stock of drugs, dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, and has a good trade. Mr. and Mrs. A. have one son, born in the State of New York, March 1, 1867. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. A. is politically a Republican. He is a member of the F. & A. M., the P. of H., and the I. O. G. T.

**W**illiam W. Jackson, farmer, section 34, Newark Township, was born in Erie Co., N. Y., Sept. 16, 1832. His parents, William and Mary A. (Havens) Jackson, were natives respectively of Massachusetts and New York. They settled in the latter State and afterward removed to Connecticut, where they died.

Mr. Jackson was brought up to the calling of a farmer and has pursued it all his life thus far. At the age of 29 he rented his father's farm and continued its management three years. In March, 1865, he came to Michigan and bought 74 acres of land on section 3 of Fulton Township. On this he resided and labored 14 years. In 1878, he bought 30 acres of improved land on section 34, Newark Township. He still retains the ownership of his first land investment in Fulton, and, of the 104 acres in his posses-

sion, has 65 acres under improvement and in an advanced state of culture. Mr. Jackson is a Republican in political sentiment.

He was married in Erie Co., N. Y., Nov. 20, 1861, to Maria, only daughter of Alfred and Eliza (Rathbun) Chaffee. The former was born in Vermont, the latter in Cayuga Co., N. Y. Mrs. Jackson is a native of the county where she was married and was born March 12, 1840. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson. The survivors are: Hattie E., William A. and Charles H. Twin daughters, Alvira S. and Almira M., died in early infancy.

**M**ax E. Pollasky, merchant at Alma, was born Feb. 1, 1855, in Hungary. He is a son of Michael and Celia Pollasky, and was but 18 months old when his parents came to the United States. (See sketch of Michael Pollasky.) They settled in Detroit, Mich., where they resided some years, and when they removed to Alma in 1862 he remained in that city to obtain his education. He there attended the common schools and the high school, and was graduated from Goldsmith, Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College. In 1871 he came to Alma to take charge of his father's business, operating as book-keeper and general manager for six years. At the end of that time he engaged in the manufacture of wooden-ware, with his father as manager. In this he continued until 1878, when he removed to St. Joseph, Mich., and in company with a resident of that place erected one of the largest establishments for the manufacture of wooden-ware in the West. At the end of the first year this business relation was dissolved, and Mr. Pollasky went to Chicago and entered the employ of Messrs. Work, Packer & Co., as traveling salesman. He remained with them six months and engaged with Hays Thalheimer & Co., of Rochester, N. Y., for a period of one year. In 1880 he became connected with the mercantile house of Schloss Bros., whom he left in July, 1882, to engage with L. Newbouer & Sons, of Milwaukee, where he remained until the spring of 1883. In the winter previous, while still employed in the Cream City, he formed a partnership with his brother, Frank E., and they established themselves in the mercantile busi-

ness, in which they are still engaged. Mr. Pollasky is a member of the Masonic Order, and is a decided Republican in politics.

**J**ulius Mey, farmer, resident on section 9, Pine River Township, was born in Prussia, Jan. 22, 1827. He is the son of Ludwig and Amalia Mey, both of whom were natives of Prussia. When Mr. Mey was 19 years old he was conscripted to serve in the Prussian army, and pursued the career of a soldier three and a half years. After he obtained his release, in 1851, he came to America, and for two years was variously employed at different points. He came to Gratiot County in November, 1853, and bought the farm on which he has since expended his time and energies. He now owns 140 acres and has 45 acres under good cultivation, with a fine house and suitable farm buildings. Mr. Mey was one of the earliest settlers in Gratiot County, and the crowning event of his life is thus commemorated in rhyme :

"Some nine and twenty years ago,  
And on a certain day,  
A young man left old Prussia  
And his name was Julius Mey.  
He settled here in Gratiot  
And bought himself a home,  
But soon found it was not pleasant  
For man to live alone.

And I think that not long after,  
From Germany there came  
A young and lovely maiden:  
Miss Bremer was her name.  
And she also came to Gratiot;  
And I've heard that people say,  
She soon became acquainted  
With this young man, Julius Mey.

The groom looked young but manly,  
And he had a foreign air;  
And the bride was young and lovely,  
A wreath was in her hair.  
And the guests, though few in number,  
Said they had a pleasant time,  
Attending the *first wedding*  
*That happened on the 'Pine.'*"

The marriage of Mr. Mey to Wilhelmine Bremer occurred Nov. 18, 1855. She was born in Germany, and left her native land when she was 28 years of

age. Hannah, Minnie, Otto and Augustus are the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Mey. The family are all members of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Mey is a member of the National party.

The three oldest children are all school-teachers. The son, Augustus, is considerable as a musician, the organ being his favorite instrument.

**F**ranks A. Sexton, farmer, Bethany Township, occupying the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 22, was born in Huron Co., Ohio, March 21, 1855. He was reared on a farm in his native county until 1875, when his parents, Hiram and Adeline (Foot) Sexton, moved with the family to Breckenridge, this county, which place then consisted of one grocery and two dwelling-houses, one of the latter a log structure and the other a frame.

Here, March 26, 1879, the subject of this sketch was married to Miss Ida A., daughter of Lewis and Ellen Campbell, who was born in Marshall, Calhoun Co., Mich., Jan. 3, 1858. Mr. and Mrs. S. have one son, Dorr, who was born March 11, 1881, in Bethany Township.

At his present residence, Mr. Sexton bought 40 acres of land, and moved upon the place in 1880. It was then covered with timber. He has since cleared about 20 acres, erected a tasteful residence and barn, and is making many substantial improvements.

**A**lmeron Bradley, of the firm of Bradley & Stevens, proprietors of a planing-mill at Alma, was born Jan. 1, 1832, in Onondaga Co., N. Y. His parents, Almeron and Marinda (Norton) Bradley, were also natives of the same county, were married there and there passed the entire period of their lives, which continued but two years after their marriage.

Mr. Bradley was in early infancy when he became an orphan, and he was brought up by his grandfather. When he was 19 years old he turned his attention to learning the trade of a carpenter, which he followed six years in the city of Syracuse. In

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*D. W. Lewis*

1856 he came to Michigan and followed his trade in Oakland County. He was also engaged in mercantile pursuits three years, when he sold out and removed to Midland County. He was there employed as a builder and contractor about two and a half years. He then removed to Saginaw, where he was similarly engaged until 1871. In that year he went to Iowa and there operated as a hotel-keeper five years, at Greene, Butler County. At the expiration of that time he went to Cedar Rapids and once more followed the pursuit of building. He was occupied there five years, and then returned to Saginaw with three small children, his wife having died at Cedar Rapids. He worked at his trade in Saginaw three years, and in the spring of 1883 came to Alma. The following fall he entered into partnership with Frank E. Jennings for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds, and in the general building business, the firm being constituted as Bradley & Jennings. The firm is now Bradley & Stevens.

Mr. Bradley was first married in Orion, Oakland County, Jan. 9, 1859, to Almira J., daughter of Zetus Newell. She was born at Moore's, Clinton Co., N. Y., in 1839. Five children were born of this marriage, three of whom survive: Maud A., Minnie B. and Charles C. The mother died May 10, 1880. The deceased children died in infancy. Mr. Bradley was again married Jan. 1, 1881, at Saginaw, to Charlotte Hurd, a native of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In political connection he is a Republican.



**J**ohn W. Lewis, cashier and stock-holder in the banking house of Steel, Turck & Co. at Ithaca, was born in Stonington, New London Co., Conn., Nov. 20, 1844. He is a son of Benj. F. and Sarah (Rogers) Lewis. His father was born in Stonington, Dec. 13, 1814, and has been a resident there nearly all his life. He was engaged through his active career as a boot and shoe dealer, which branch of business he carried on extensively until his retirement. He is still a resident of Stonington. The mother was born

in New London Co., Conn., Dec. 28, 1817, and is still living.

Mr. Lewis received a careful education in the common schools of his native place, which he supplemented by two years' attendance at select schools. He had determined upon the vocation of carpenter and joiner, and spent two and a half years fitting himself for that calling as a pursuit in life. He followed that six months longer; and in June, 1865, came west to Jackson Co., Mich., remaining three months in Parma, after which he went to St. John's, Clinton County. He passed between two and three years officiating as a dry-goods salesman in a mercantile house, and in 1869 he became bookkeeper in the First National Bank of St. John's. He was there engaged seven years, and in July, 1877, he came to Ithaca, Mich., where he became manager in the banking establishment of Church, Bills & Co. In April, 1880, associated with nine others, he founded the banking house designated under the style of Steel, Turck & Co., which has continued in successful operation since, and in which he is still interested and officiating as Cashier. The house is engaged in all the branches of business common to similar establishments. In August, 1880, the banking establishment of Turck, Winton & Co. was founded at Alma, in which Mr. Lewis was interested as an organizer and stock-holder. His connection with the institution terminated in August, 1883. In the spring of 1880, in company with J. H. Seaver, he opened a general mercantile business at Ithaca, where the firm are having a profitable trade in dry goods, notions, crockery, ready-made clothing, groceries, etc. Their stock is well assorted in accordance with the local demand, and is valued at \$18,000. The annual transactions amount to \$65,000, and the magnitude of the regular business renders necessary the aid of six salesmen. The proprietors are also engaged in handling wool, grain and other local products, in which branch of business they embarked in 1882. Their warehouse is located on Pine River Street, near the railroad.

Mr. Lewis is the present incumbent of the office of Village Treasurer, and has held the office four years in succession. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, and is High Priest of Ithaca Chapter, No. 70. He also belongs to St. John's Commandery, No. 24, K. T. He owns his residence and

grounds at Ithaca, and, in company with Mr. Seaver, is the proprietor of a lot on Main Street, with 60 feet frontage, adjoining the bank block.

The marriage of Mr. Lewis to Ida Fox took place at Ithaca, Sept. 10, 1881. She was born in Bascom, Seneca Co., Ohio, Dec. 31, 1860.

The portrait of Mr. Lewis is given on a preceding page.

**R**iba Sexton, farmer, section 22, Bethany Township, occupies 40 acres, the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the section.

He was born in Huron Co., Ohio, Oct. 29, 1853, is the son of Hiram and Adeline (Root) Sexton, and was reared and educated upon the farm. In 1874 he came with the family to Breckenridge, this county, where his father purchased 240 acres, and still resides. His mother is deceased. In the spring of 1880 he bought 40 acres of section 32, Wheeler Township, and a year afterward he sold it and purchased his present farm, the tract consisting of 40 acres, one-half of which is now in good cultivation. He himself has made all the clearing, built a nice house, barn, etc.

He was married Dec. 3, 1875, to Hattie, daughter of Aaron M. and Lucy (Landon) Wheeler. To this marriage have been born two children: Seth and Maud.

**B**erbert C. Barrow, of the firm of Adams & Barrow, proprietors of the City Bakery at Alma, was born June 6, 1847, in Monroe Co., N. Y. His father, Thomas C. Barrow, was a native of England; his mother, Cordelia (Spicer) Barrow, was born in New York. After their marriage they located in Monroe County, where the father followed the vocation of wagon-maker nearly 20 years, afterward engaging in farming. They had a family of nine children, seven sons and two daughters.

Mr. Barrow of this sketch is the eldest son. He was under the guidance of his father until he reached the age of 19, when he went to Erie Co. N. Y., and engaged in business with Truman Willis. The rela-

tion continued 16 months, when their establishment was destroyed by fire and their business interests suffered irreparable damage. They dissolved partnership, and in the fall of 1866 Mr. Barrow came to Michigan and located at Alma. He afterward went to Edmore, in Montcalm County, where he was engaged in the management of a boarding-house for W. G. Pierce. On the termination of that engagement he bought a building at Alma and proceeded to put it in suitable condition for the prosecution of the baking business, in conjunction with a restaurant. While the repairs were in progress the building burned, involving a heavy loss. He formed a partnership with his present associate, D. W. Adams, in order to establish the business which they are now managing. In 1882 they erected the building they at present occupy, and where they are conducting a prosperous business. Mr. Barrow is a member of the Masonic Order and a Republican in political connection. In the spring of 1883 he was elected Councilman of the Village of Alma.

He was married July 4, 1874, at Alma, to Josephine, daughter of George H. and Eliza Gantz. She was born Feb. 18, 1856, in Gratiot Co., Mich. Her parents were natives of Ohio. The household of Mr. Barrow includes three children: Walter H., Thomas W. and Frances E.

**B**erbert N. Robinson, farmer and teacher, resident on section 16, Pine River Township, was born in Medina Co., Ohio, July 21, 1842, and is the son of Joshua N. and Julia A. (Bisbee) Robinson. They were natives of Massachusetts, and soon after their marriage settled in Ohio, where they resided until 1866. In the spring of that year, they came to Gratiot County and settled on section 16, where the family resided until the death of the father, June 8, 1872. The mother resides in St. Louis. Their family included three sons and two daughters.

Mr. Robinson obtained a good common-school education, and afterwards studied at Oberlin and Berea, Ohio. He was graduated from the Commercial College at Oberlin. When he was 20 years old, the shot fired at Sumter aroused his ambition to aid in suppressing the rebellion, and he enlisted in October, 1862, in the 128th Reg. Ohio Vol. Inf., and



remained in the United States service until the close of the war. He was in many important actions, and received honorable discharge at Columbus, Ohio.

On leaving the army, Mr. Robinson came to Michigan and bought 80 acres of unimproved land on section 16, where he has since expended his energies and labor until he has cleared and improved 60 acres of the land belonging to him, and built commodious and suitable farm buildings. Mr. Robinson has had a successful career as a teacher. He taught two consecutive years in Ithaca, and has devoted the winter seasons of the past 17 years, with but a single exception, to that calling. He taught three terms in Ohio previous to enlisting in the army. He belongs to the National Greenback party, and has officiated as School Superintendent.

Mr. Robinson was married April 23, 1868, in Pine River Township, to Melissa S., daughter of John S. and Diana (Ganong) Hildreth, both of whom were natives of New York. Mrs. Robinson was born Oct. 17, 1850, in Clinton Co., Mich. She and her husband have been the parents of five children, two of whom are yet living, James and Glen. Three died in early infancy. The parents are members of the Disciples' Church.

**James M. Hendershott**, farmer on sections 12 and 13, Seville Township, is a son of Isaac and Nancy (Worthington) Hendershott, natives of Pennsylvania. The great-grandparents came to the colony of Pennsylvania with the renowned William Penn. James' mother died in Michigan in 1837, when he was only six months old, the family having removed from Pennsylvania to Groveland, N. Y., and later to Tecumseh, Mich. The father, a carpenter, afterward removed to Manchester, where he was employed for 12 years, and then he went to Jackson County, where he died, in 1870, at the advanced age of 90. He served as a teamster in the late civil war, though then very old, and was discharged in 1865.

The subject of this biographical narrative was born Aug. 19, 1836, at Tecumseh, Lenawee County, Mich., and remained at home until 24 years of age, since which time he has followed farming. He went from Lenawee County to Manchester, Washtenaw County,

where he lived for 12 years. He then resided in Jackson County for ten years, working on his father's farm, after which he removed to Portland, Ionia County, and bought 20 acres of land, on which he lived for one year. He next lived for six years at Muir, Ionia County, and in 1872 came to Gratiot County and located 80 acres of wild land. He cut the first tree on his place, and by diligence and industry he has now opened up a nice farm.

In 1857, he was married to Mary Slater, the daughter of Joseph and Betsy (McKinstry) Slater, natives respectively of New Jersey and New York. The daughter was born May 7, 1841, and came with her parents from the Empire State to Lenawee Co., Mich. Mr. and Mrs. H. have a family of five: Isaac, Cora, Ellsworth, Leroy and Edward. Mr. H. has been Moderator of his district a number of terms, and is politically a Republican.

**David Bailey**, farmer and raiser of fine stock, section 12, Arcada Township, was born in Geauga Co., Ohio, Feb. 27, 1833; and is a son of Thomas and Lavina (Hayes) Bailey. Mr. Bailey was a native of New England, and followed farming. Lavina Hayes was a native of Ohio. The Baileys for several generations past have been sailors. David lived in Ohio with his parents until 11 years old, when they came to this State and located on a farm in Lenawee County. When 18, he engaged in the manufacture of brick; and in the spring of 1853 he went to Delta, Ohio, in the same business. A year later he returned to Lenawee County and became overseer of the brick-yards of M. C. Perkins & Co. He was thus engaged until his marriage.

April 1, 1857, at Delta, Ohio, he was united in marriage to Mary A., daughter of J. I. and Lucy (Sackett) Rector, natives of New York, and of German and English descent. They carried on farming in New York, and then at Delta, Ohio, where Mr. Rector was considered one of the most practical farmers in that part of the State. At Delta, Mary A. was born, March 8, 1837. She was educated in the common schools, and at Adrian College, and then taught school until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey remained in Fulton Co., Ohio, until late in the

winter of 1861, when they came to this State and county, and located on 80 acres of wild land which he had purchased in the winter of 1855. He has since added 80 acres by purchase, and now has one of the finest farms in the county. He has just completed a really handsome dwelling, at a cost of \$4,000, and all his farm buildings are first-class. In the spring of 1870, he established a large brick-yard, which he worked until 1881, in connection with his farm.

They have had a family of four children, two of whom are now living: Luella B., born Dec. 29, 185-; Clara B., born Jan. 20, 185-; and twins, born Aug. 12, 1863, and died in infancy. Mr. Bailey is a member of the Masonic Order, belonging both to the blue lodge and to the chapter. He held the office of Sheriff of Gratiot County for four years. In politics he is an active and influential Republican. Mrs. Bailey and her eldest daughter are members of the Baptist Church.



**J**ohn W. Doane, farmer, upon sections 8 and 9, Pine River Township, was born July 2, 1833, in Ontario Co., N. Y. He is son of Erastus and Hester (Stringham) Doane, who were both natives of the State of New York. They first settled in Cato, Ontario County, and in 1834 located in Livingston Co., Mich., where they passed the remaining years of their lives. The father died in August, 1861. The mother survived until Nov. 27, 1883. Rebecca, Jemima, Joseph, John W., Robert, Henry, Elnathan and Mary were the names of their children.

Mr. Doane was less than a year old when his parents settled in Michigan, where he has since been a resident. On reaching his majority he decided on the life of a pioneer, and in October, 1854, he bought 160 acres of wild land in Pine River Township. He has made subsequent purchases of land until he now owns 280 acres. He has cleared and improved 180 acres, and in the summer of 1875 he built a commodious frame house to replace the log cabin where he planned for the future, lived in primitive simplicity and which was endeared to him as the place where his children were born, and made sacred by the entrance of the "Guest" who crosses threshold, passes

door, and glides at will from floor to floor." In the summer of 1883 he erected a barn, after a modern pattern, which adds materially to the substantial appearance of the place.

On setting out in the enterprise which he has accomplished so successfully, and which manifests so unmistakably the quality of the efforts he has brought to bear upon the fulfillment of his projects, he borrowed the money with which to obtain proprietorship of his land. Energy, industry and perseverance have worked their inevitable results. He enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellows and has acted in the capacity of Treasurer of his township. He is deeply interested in educational affairs and has filled the several school offices in his district.

Mr. Doane was early aroused in the war of the rebellion to a sense of his duty in the exigency which threatened the integrity of the Union. Under the second call for troops he enrolled as a soldier, enlisting Aug. 12, 1861, in the 8th Mich. Inf. His service in behalf of the United States covered a period of three years and five days. The trophies of the Eighth Michigan are recorded in the pages of all the histories of the war. The valor of its soldiers and the hard-fought battle-fields which make up its roll of honor, are perpetuated by a deathless fame. Mr. Doane was engaged at James Island, where the bayonet charge of his regiment was made, whose daring had few parallels in the whole course of the war, at the second Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and the battle of the Wilderness. In the last he was wounded in the left knee by a minie-ball. He was so much disabled that he was discharged from the service at Annapolis, Md., Aug. 17, 1864. He enlisted as a private, passed through the non-commissioned grades of promotion, and on May 6, 1864, received his commission as First Lieutenant for meritorious conduct. He was wounded the same day.

Mr. Doane was first married Dec. 10, 1857, in Pine River Township, to Lucinda, daughter of Amasa and Mercy Packard. Of this union one child—Ida—was born, who died at the age of two years. The mother died Nov. 4, 1860. Mr. Doane was again married, in Pine River Township, March 17, 1865, to Martha A. Packard, sister of his former wife. Four children were born to them: Amasa, Erastus, Lucinda M. and Edith M. The second wife died Aug.

6, 1880. The third marriage of Mr. Doane was contracted April 3, 1881, with Minnie L., second daughter of Julius and Wilhelmine Mey (see sketch). She was born in Pine River Township, Aug. 28, 1858, and is a member of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Doane is a Republican in political faith and action.

**Daniel Chambers**, farmer, section 34, New Haven Township, is a son of Elias and Christiana (Stockman) Chambers, natives of Stark Co., Ohio, who died in Crawford County, that State, the former about 1838, aged 35, and the latter in November, 1850, aged 45.

The subject of this sketch was born in Liberty Township, Crawford Co., Ohio, July 14, 1836. After the death of his father he resided at various places, working at manual labor during the summer seasons and attending school winters. By his industry he thus obtained a good common-school education, and at 21 began teaching school, following this vocation for ten terms.

Oct. 17, 1861, Mr. Chambers was married, in his native county, to Miss Rosanna Brillhart, daughter of John and Mary (Hull) Brillhart, natives of York Co., Pa. Mrs. C. was born in Stark Co., Ohio, Feb. 23, 1842, but was brought up and educated in Crawford County, that State. In 1878 Mr. C. sold out his place in Ohio and purchased 80 acres of partly improved land on section 34, New Haven Township, where he now resides. He has the place well improved. The buildings are in good trim, the soil is in fine tillable condition, and there are present the usual appointments of a comfortable home.

Mr. Chambers is an Elder in the Dunkard Church, of which religious body his wife is also an active member. He has always refused to accept the many offices which have been tendered him by his fellow-citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Chambers have had the following children: John W., Daniel E., Milton M., Mary R. and James M.—the two latter deceased. John W. completed his education at the age of 18, and has since devoted his time to the profession of teaching in the common schools of this county. He is a thorough student and a skillful and successful teacher.

**Esther A. Runyan**, widow of Marshal F. Runyan, resident on sec. 31, North Shade Township, is a daughter of Silas and Mary (Barnes) Runyan, natives of West Stockbridge, Mass. The father was a cooper by trade, and also followed the occupation of a farmer. The parents moved to Oneida Co., N. Y., where they remained for a period of time and then removed to Ashtabula Co., Ohio, where they both died, the father Nov. 14, 1869, and the mother June 22, 1875.

Esther A. Runyan was born Dec. 2, 1814, in Oneida Co., N. Y. May 25, 1834, she was married to Marshal F. Runyan, who was born Sept. 19, 1810, and died Oct. 23, 1866, in Ionia Co., this State.

After their marriage they came from Ashtabula Co., Ohio, to Ionia city, this State, where they remained for a portion of a year and then moved to Lyons, same county, and there he followed the occupation of wagon-making for seven years, when they emigrated to this county and located on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 31, North Shade Township. They were among the first settlers in the township, and experienced all the trials and troubles incident to pioneer life. They have 35 acres of land under good improvement.

Mr. and Mrs. Runyan have been blessed with the birth of eight children, namely: Mary A., Frances, William, Harriet, George A., Alice A., Francis T. and Emma R.

Mr. R. held the position of Town Clerk, and in politics was a staunch Republican.

**Norman D. Vincent**, deceased, was a son of John and Lucretia Vincent, was born in New York, Oct. 10, 1827. When a boy he was employed in a cotton-mill at Cohoes, N. Y.; afterward he learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed a number of years. He was married in Niagara Co., N. Y., April 18, 1847, to Miss Sarah E. Miller, daughter of Daniel and Mary (Cress) Miller, who was born in Montgomery, May 10, 1831. By this marriage there were nine children, of whom four are living, viz.:

Mary, now the wife of Franklin Rowley, a farmer of Bethany Township; John H., deceased; Freeman, who died at the age of 21; Milo, now at home; Ida, widow of Clinton B. Snyder; Emma J., Hiram E. and Carrie A., all deceased, and Sarah E.

Mr. Vincent came to St. Louis in 1862, and bought the present homestead, 80 acres, in the spring of 1864. Having no house, he resided on the farm of John H. Suydam, near by. He followed his trade, mostly in St. Louis, until his death. In this village he built the residence of Henry L. Holcomb, helped build the grist-mill and a number of other large structures. The last house he put up was the residence of S. D. Hicks, a neighbor.

At the time of his arrival in this county his farm was covered with heavy timber. There were no roads, bridges, school-houses, etc. He built the school-house in his district in the spring of 1869. St. Louis at that time was very small, and the family had many trials incident to pioneer life. In October, 1863, Mr. V. was drafted to serve in the war, and placed in Co. D, 4th Mich. Cav., serving until the close of the war, working at his trade, building bridges, etc. He was for a time Township Treasurer, and he held other school offices. Of the homestead left by him there are now 35 acres in cultivation.

Mr. Vincent was killed Feb. 26, 1878, by the falling of a tree which he had cut. This sudden calamity cast an indescribable gloom over a large circle of relatives and friends.

**Thomas Argent**, farmer on section 22, Sumner Township, is a son of John and Elizabeth (Green) Argent, natives of England. Thomas was born in Huntingtonshire, Eng., Aug. 8, 1833, and at the age of 21 emigrated to the United States, locating first in Huron Co., Ohio, and two years later coming to Detroit. Except six years in Washtenaw County, he was engaged in farming near Detroit and in other places in Wayne County until the spring of 1881. He then came to this county and purchased 80 acres, partly improved, on section 22, Sumner Township. He has since added much to the value of the land by making further improvements.

June 5, 1854, in Cambridgeshire, England, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Golden, a native of that country. She died in Washtenaw County, this State, Sept. 11, 1867, leaving a family of four: Mary E., Alice M., George E. and Minnie, and these children are the only near relatives Mr. Argent has in this country. April 12, 1870, at Canton, Wayne Co., Mich., he was again married, to Miss Mary Gill, daughter of Richard and Hannah (Smith) Gill, natives of England, where the former was a shoemaker. The daughter, now Mrs. Argent, was born in Canton, Wayne County, Dec. 6, 1837, and lived in that county until her marriage. Mr. Argent has made many friends during his brief residence in Gratiot County. He has held the office of Overseer of Highways, and is politically "on the fence."

**Leazer F. Wiley**, farmer, section 7, Pine River Township, was born Dec. 23, 1834, in Pennsylvania. His parents, Isaac and Mary (Woods) Wiley, were natives of the State of New York, where they resided some time after their marriage. They went thence to the Keystone State, where they lived only about one year, then moved back to New York, where they reared their family, consisting of five sons and four daughters.

Mr. Wiley is the youngest child, and in early youth was thrown by circumstances upon his own resources. He maintained himself in a manner every way creditable, and in later years was largely instrumental in the care and support of his mother. He came to Gratiot County in the winter of 1859, and bought 80 acres of land in Seville Township. He came thither from the State of New York, driving the entire route with two horses and a buggy, which he exchanged in payment for his land. On this he resided four years. In 1863 he sold out and purchased 40 acres in Pine River Township, which constitutes his present home. He has increased his estate by the purchase of 63 acres additional, and his tillable land includes 50 acres, which is under advanced cultivation. He has made substantial progress in worldly affairs, and, in the summer of 1883, erected a good farm house. He is independent in political faith and action.

Mr. Wiley was married Dec. 23, 1857, in Orleans

Co., N. Y., to Clarissa, daughter of Luther and Sally (Strickland) Sackett. She was born Aug. 7, 1840, in Orleans County, and her parents were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York. Clara R., Mary C., Emory L. and Orson A. are the names of the surviving children. Two are deceased—Ellsworth and Marion F. The parents are members of the Disciples' Church. Mr. W. has been Justice of the Peace three years, and School Inspector one year.



**M**oses H. White, farmer and stock-raiser, section 33, New Haven Township, is a son of Noah and Dorothea (Sleeper) White, natives of New Hampshire and of Scotch descent; the former, an agriculturist, died in 1861, in Vermont, aged 68 years; and the latter died about the same time, at the age of 65.

Moses H. was born Oct. 26, 1815, in Waldron, Caledonia Co., Vt.; was brought up on his father's farm until nearly 14 years old, and then lived with an uncle until 18 years of age, during which time he had to labor hard and have no opportunities for education or recreation; and, although he was bound to his uncle by his father until he was 21 years of age, he ran away to Saratoga Springs and found employment as a stage-driver. After a time he went to Genesee Co., N. Y., and attended school a short time, paying his way by what he had earned as a stage-driver. Next he worked for awhile as a helper in the carpenter and joiner's trade; then, going to Rochester, N. Y., he made \$200 by riding the horse "Blucher" in a race and in speculating upon the race, and then drove stage awhile; then he found employment upon the farm of a gentleman of turf distinction; a year later he engaged as chieftain to the household, liveryman, etc., for a wealthy Quaker, serving in this capacity two years.

During the latter period, in April, 1838, he married Miss Miranda Wheelock, who was born Aug. 11, 1822, in Batavia, N. Y.; and they at once came to Jackson, Mich., where he was liveryman a year; the next summer he helped build a saw-mill. During this time he was for awhile disabled for work by fever and ague. Two years later he moved to

Ingham Co., Mich., locating on a farm of 40 acres; five years later he went to Lansing, and two years still later he returned to his farm. In the spring of 1856 he came to Gratiot County, settling upon a 40-acre tract, where he now resides. To the original purchase he has added 120 acres, and he now has this amount well improved. His farm, indeed, is not to be excelled in this part of the country. He has a good residence, barn and other buildings, etc.

Mr. White is a member of the I. O. O. F., is a staunch, influential Republican, has been Supervisor for five consecutive years, and has held all the other township offices. He was also Postmaster for a number of years. Mrs. W. is a member of the Regular Baptist Church. The living children of Mr. and Mrs. White are: Frances Z., Charity M., Phebe and Alfarata; the deceased are Charles A. and Chloe J.



**R**uman Richmond, farmer on section 34, Seville Township, is a son of Otis and Harriet (Van Brunt) Richmond, natives of the State of New York. Otis Richmond, a farmer also, resided in his native State until he was a young man, and then, coming to Michigan, located on 120 acres in the township of Bridgewater, Washtenaw County, where he lived about 20 years. Spending one year in Lenawee County, he then resided 19 years more in Washtenaw County. He died in 1857, and his wife survived him but six years.

The subject of this biography was born July 1, 1839, in Washtenaw County, and remained with his father until 21 years old. For some time he was then engaged at farming, carpentry, blacksmithing and other occupations, receiving on an average about \$14 per month. After three years he engaged in farming in Jackson County, and four years later he returned to Washtenaw County, where he was similarly engaged for three years. The ensuing eight years he lived in Hillsdale County, at the expiration of which time (in 1876) he came to Gratiot County and located on 80 acres on section 34, Seville. He has now one of the best farms in the township and good buildings, having erected a large barn in 1879, and a neat dwelling in 1882, at a cost of \$1,100.

He was married May 23, 1861, to Eliza J. Pykett,

who was born March 1, 1841, in Washtenaw Co., Mich., and is the daughter of Thomas and Catharine (Freeman) Pykett, natives respectively of England and Germany. They came to the United States at an early day, and settled in Washtenaw County, this State, where the mother died Aug. 6, 1864. The father yet lives, and has attained to the advanced age of 108. He has an iron constitution, has lived an active life, and is yet hale and hearty. Mr. Richmond is politically a National, and is a member of Elm Hall Lodge, No. 257, F. & A. M. Mrs. R. is a member of the Star Lodge, of Hillsdale County.



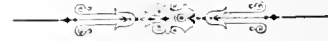
**J**ohn Medler, farmer on section 3, Sumner Township, was born in Bayham Township, Elgin Co., Ont., May 20, 1835. His parents were natives of Nova Scotia, and his father was a sailor most of his life. John was under the care of his parents until 16 years old, when he apprenticed himself to a carpenter, a Mr. McGinnis, of Burwell, in his native county. After serving a part of his time, he commenced working by the month for another gentleman. Thus he was engaged for two years, when he quit the carpenter business and engaged in farming on shares. Afterwards resuming his trade, he took job-work for four years. Then selling out, he came to this State and county, making his first settlement on section 3, Sumner Township, where he bought 40 acres of wild land.

He zealously set to work to improve his land, experiencing most of the privations of pioneers. He brought his flour 22 miles. He has by industry and economy added 40 acres, and the majority of the land is well improved. He has also a comfortable residence and farm buildings.

Oct. 20, 1858, he was united in marriage in his native county to Miss Mary Ryckman, a native of the same county, born July 29, 1839. She is the mother of one daughter, Bina J., who was born April 29, 1860. She was married March 13, 1879, to Charles E. Slingluff, who was born in Crawford Co., Pa., Dec. 3, 1854. He came to this State when 23 years old, and now works his father-in-law's farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Slingluff have a son, Marley, born Jan. 1, 1880.

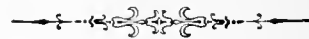
Mr. Medler has been Road Commissioner, and has held other minor offices. In politics, he is a National.



**J**oseph Wesley Fullerton, farmer on section 12, Sumner Township, is a son of John B. and Achey (Moody) Fullerton, natives of New Jersey and New York, and was born in Sharon Township, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Feb. 23, 1839. His father being a farmer, he worked at home until 24 years old, when he was married, in Addison Township, Lenawee Co., Mich., July 3, 1863, to Miss Jane E. Bragg, born in New Hampshire, May 11, 1838. Her father was by occupation a blacksmith, and followed his trade in New Hampshire until a year after the birth of the daughter, Jane. He then moved to Licking Co., Ohio, and three years later came to Michigan, locating in Somerset, Hillsdale County. Her mother dying when Jane was 11 years old, the latter was left to care for herself, and she worked as a domestic until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Fullerton remained in Hillsdale County six years, and in December, 1869, came to Gratiot, locating 40 acres of timbered land on section 12, Sumner Township. He has now improved 30 acres. They have two children, Fred and Eva. Mr. F. has held the various offices of his school district, and politically is a Republican.

He enlisted Aug. 16, 1861, in Co. C, 7th Mich. Vol. Inf. He served in all the engagements of the Peninsular campaign, and was honorably discharged in the spring of 1863.



**W**illiam Spurgeon, farmer, section 24, New-ark Township, was born in England, July 6, 1828. His parents, Stephen and Ann (Warren) Spurgeon, were natives of the same country and there reared their children—two sons and four daughters.

Mr. Spurgeon was the eldest child and remained in the place where he was born until he was 22 years

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*Elbridge Franklin*



old. In 1850 he emigrated to Canada and there engaged in farming three years, when he went to Niagara Co., N. Y., and there passed the same length of time in the same employ. In 1854 he removed to Oakland Co., Mich., and rented a farm on which he remained three years. He resided in the county six years. Meanwhile, in the summer of 1855, he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of Government land on sections 34 and 35 in Newark Township. In January, 1862, he removed his family, then including his wife and one child, to his possessions in Gratiot County, then in a wholly original state of nature. Here he has expended his energies with certain judgment and success, and now 60 acres of his farm are in a condition of advanced cultivation. In political faith he is in sympathy with the Republican party.

Mr. Spurgeon was married Aug. 30, 1860, in Oakland County, to Julia, eldest daughter of Crowell and Mary A. (Arthur) Moore. They were natives respectively of Nova Scotia and New York. Mr. Spurgeon is the eldest of three children—two daughters and one son—and was born in Canada, July 16, 1833. To herself and husband seven children have been born: Arabella, Willmina, Charles W., Stephen M., Lottie A., Susie M. and Willard H. Mrs. Spurgeon departed this life March 15, 1884. She was taken with a congestive chill and in 20 hours had left husband, children, relatives and friends to mourn their loss. She was a loving wife, a kind mother, a generous friend and a true Christian woman. Mr. Spurgeon belongs to the Baptist Church; Mrs. Spurgeon is a member of the Church of United Brethren.

**E**lbridge Franklin, farmer, North Star Township, was born in Lenawee Co., Mich., Jan. 14, 1840; his parents were John and Lucy (Carter) Franklin, natives of the State of New York. His father came to Lenawee County in 1835, when Michigan was a territory, remaining in that county until 1854, when he moved to Gratiot County and located in North Star Township, building the third house in the township, on section 33. Here he lived until his death, which occurred in 1873. His widow is still living, and resides in this township.

Mr. Franklin, the subject of this biographical

notice, was 14 years of age when he came with his parents to this county; he remained with them until he was of age, when, the great war having commenced, he enlisted, in August, 1861, in the 5th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served as a faithful soldier 15 months, being in the battles of Williamsburg, Va., and Fair Oaks. In the former engagement, May 5, 1862, he was slightly wounded in the breast, and in the latter, May 31, 1862, severely in the thigh. After five months at the hospital he was honorably discharged, Oct. 29, 1862, and returned home. His brother Luther enlisted in the same company as Elbridge, slept in the same tent, ate at the same mess, and fought in the same battles until the battle of Gettysburg, when he fell, a martyr to the cause of the Union. He then proceeded to improve 80 acres of land, which he had bought on section 32, where he now resides, and also worked on his father's farm; but in September, 1864, he again enlisted, this time in the 8th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served to the close of the war, being a participant in the siege of Petersburg, Va. Returning home, the subject of this sketch built the house which he now occupies. He has 170 acres of land, one-half of which is cultivated.

Sept. 11, 1864, in Ingham Co., Mich., Mr. Franklin was married to Miss Wealthy, third daughter of Lewis and Sarah Shaver, natives of the State of New York, who settled in Emerson Township, this county, in 1856. Mr. S. died in 1869, and his widow is still living, a resident of that township. Mrs. Franklin was born in New York State, March 22, 1845. The children of Mr. and Mrs. F. are Florence W., Luther E., Lewis T. and Grace O.

Mr. F. is a staunch Republican and temperance man, as a citizen setting an intelligent and consistent example for the community. He has held the offices of Township Clerk four years, Superintendent of Schools one year, and School Inspector four years. In the fall of 1864, he was elected Coroner, but being at the front, fighting for his country, he did not qualify. Mr. Franklin has been an educational man, having taught school 18 consecutive winters in this county. He is a member of the Masonic Order, of Moses Wisner Post, No. 101, G. A. R., and, with his wife, of Liberty Grange, No. 391, P. of H.

Mr. Franklin's portrait is given in this work, as one of the representative citizens of the county.

**G**eorge H. Steele, foreman and general manager of Steele's mill on section 28, Hamilton Township, was born in Orleans Co., Vt., May 16, 1851. He is a son of William Steele, a native of Scotland, who came to Vermont when a young man, where he died, in March, 1861.

Mr. Steele was raised on his father's farm until he was 15 years of age, at which time he left the parental home to battle against the trials of life alone, and came to St. John's, Clinton County, this State. Here he engaged in the sash, door and blind department of Steele's manufactory, and remained four years. For the next four years, he was engaged in the flouring-mill business. In December, 1879, he went to Detroit, where he was variously employed until April, 1881, when he came to this county.

He was married Aug. 1, 1871, to Dora, daughter of Bingley Russell, of Ithaca, this county. She was born in Ionia Co., Mich., July 8, 1854. To this marriage three children have been born; namely, Rena H., Eda M. and George Glen. The mill that Mr. Steele operates was built in 1866, and rebuilt and furnished with new machinery in the spring of 1871.

**J**acob Lewis, farmer, section 36, Wheeler Township, was born in June, 1844, in Wexford Co., Ireland, and is a son of John and Jane (Livingston) Lewis, farmers in Ireland, where Mr. Lewis died Nov. 27, 1855, and Mrs. Lewis died Dec. 23, 1878. At the age of 20, Jacob came to America, landing at Portland, Me., and was engaged in lumbering for 18 years. He was also the owner of a saw-mill in Saginaw Co., Mich. In 1881, he came to Gratiot County, locating on section 36, Wheeler Township. He has a farm of 240 acres, of which 110 acres are now nicely improved. He has erected a very fine residence and two large barns, built in 1878 and 1881, respectively.

In the year 1880, he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of George and Mary (Pierce) Lewis, natives of Ireland, where the father died Oct. 18, 1857, and where the mother yet resides. Elizabeth was born

in September, 1843, in county Wexford, Ireland, and came to America in 1880 with her husband, who had crossed the waters to find his lady love. They are the parents of one son, John G. E., born July 11, 1881, in this county. Mr. Lewis belongs to the Episcopal and Mrs. Lewis to the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He has held the office of Highway Commissioner in Wheeler Township, and during his brief residence in the county has acquired the esteem and confidence of a large circle of acquaintances. Politically he is an earnest supporter of the Republican party.

**R**obert T. Barrus, farmer, section 25, Newark Township, was born Jan. 16, 1822, in Onondaga Co., N. Y. His parents, William K. and Mary A. (Neal) Barrus, were natives of the same county, were there married and there the father died, Sept. 4, 1842. The mother died in Clinton County, Mich., March 18, 1871. The family comprised Robert T., Lucinda J., Calvin P., James C., John W., Mary E., Abigail A., Caroline, Sarah E. and Eunice.

Mr. Barrus was the eldest son of his parents and grew to the estate of manhood in his native State, where he was engaged in farming until 1866, when he came to Clinton Co., Mich. He bought 40 acres of wild land. Three years later he sold out and came to Gratiot County. In the winter of 1870 he bought 40 acres of partly improved land in the township of Newark, where he has since resided.

Mr. Barrus was married in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Dec. 17, 1845, to Harriet A., daughter of Nathaniel S. and Huldah M. (Tuttle) Ludington. The father was a native of New York and the mother of Vermont. They settled, after marriage, in Oswego County and afterward removed to Onondaga County, where the mother died, April 25, 1872. The father died in Ohio. Mrs. Barrus was born June 10, 1827, in Oswego County. She was seven years of age when her parents made their removal and she resided there until her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Barrus six children have been born, three of whom survive—Maria A., Edwin R. and Anna H. William P. and Herbert E. died in infancy. Lois A., a daughter, was born May 4, 1860, in Cayuga County and died

Feb. 2, 1880. She was as a child studious and ambitious, and, in addition to a course of study in the common schools, she attended the High School at Ithaca. At 16 she began her career as a teacher in Newark Township and continued the labors of her chosen calling in Newark, North Star, and Lafayette Townships in Gratiot County. She contracted a severe cold in her school-room, which resulted in typhoid-pneumonia. A complication of diseases followed and she died, after nine weeks of unremitting suffering. She was taken back to her native county for burial. She was warmly regarded and esteemed in both her social relations and her capacity as teacher. In religious connection she was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**George W. Aldrich**, farmer, section 26, Lafayette Township, is a son of Asquar and Betsy (Tarbell) Aldrich, natives of Vermont and Massachusetts respectively. His father left his farm in Massachusetts in 1813, and settled near Detroit. He there was engaged in farming for a number of years, and then removed to Macomb County, where he died in 1845. George W. was born May 27, 1828, at Detroit. He was married Aug. 16, 1853, to Martha A. Sturgis, born April 4, 1836, a daughter of Benjamin and Caroline (Olmstead) Sturgis.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich began to keep house in Oakland County, where he was engaged in farming for a year and a half. They then lived two years in Livingston County, and a short time in Shiawassee, Genesee and Clinton Counties. They then came to Lafayette Township, Gratiot County. They entered 160 acres of land, but afterwards sold 40 acres to one of the sons. Of their farm, 100 acres are well improved. They are the parents of eight children: George R., Anna D., Ira B., Emma J., Nora B., R. T., Charles E. and Robert G.; the last died July 23, 1880.

Mr. Aldrich served one year during the war, enlisting in Co. D, 6th Cavalry, Sept. 6, 1862, and being discharged Aug. 29, 1863, at "Convalescent Camp," near Alexandria, Va. In civil life, he has been Township Clerk, Highway Commissioner, Special Commissioner and Justice of the Peace, and has

held various school offices. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the G. A. R. He and his wife are Spiritualists.

**Stephen T. Sprague**, farmer, section 3, Pine River Township, was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., Oct. 23, 1828. His parents, Samuel and Phebe (Secoy) Sprague, were natives respectively of New York and Massachusetts, and removed from the Empire State to Fulton Co., Ohio, about the year 1849. The father was a soldier in the second war with Great Britain, and died while on a visit to his native State in January, 1857. The mother died in Hillsdale Co., Mich. Their family included eleven sons and one daughter. Seven are now living.

Mr. Sprague went to Ohio when he was 13 years old, there obtained his education, and was under his father's care and guidance until he was 20 years old. On leaving home, he was engaged as a farm assistant, and worked by the month one and a half years. He next rented a farm, which he conducted two years, after which he bought 40 acres of land in Williams Co., Ohio. He expended the labor of two years in its improvement, when he sold it, and again rented a farm in Fulton County, which he continued to manage two years. He came to Gratiot County in February, 1863, and purchased 80 acres of land in Pine River Township, located on sections 10 and 3. He drew lumber from St. Louis, and built a frame house on the section last named, and proceeded with the work of improving and cultivating his land. He bought 80 acres later, which he disposed of, and of his remaining tract has about 60 acres under improvement. Mr. Sprague has contributed to a large degree to the improvement of the county in which he resides. He has cleared 110 acres of land, chopping the timber thereon with his own hands. He is a Democrat in political connections.

He was married March 10, 1853, in Lenawee Co., Mich., to Susan, daughter of Eli and Annie (Thomas) Packer. She was born March 13, 1826, in Clinton Co., Pa., and her parents were also natives of the Keystone State. Mrs. Sprague is a lady of creditable literary attainments, and has had some experience as a teacher. The household includes seven children: William T., Letitia A., Alice L., David H., Hadsell

L., Ellen D. and Thomas C. The fourth child, David H., died when he was eight months old. The parents are members of the Disciples' Church.

**L**orenzo Blackman, grocer, Wheeler village, Wheeler Township, is a son of Ansel and Sarah (Higgins) Blackman, natives of Massachusetts and New York, respectively. They emigrated to Lorain Co., Ohio, where they farmed until their death, his occurring in April, 1855, and hers taking place in November, 1865. Lorenzo was born in Erie Co., Ohio, April 29, 1830. At the age of 19, he started out for himself, working on a farm until the war. In March, 1864, he enlisted in Co. G, 72d Ohio Inf. He followed his regiment through all its career, was engaged at Greentown, Tupelo, Nashville, Spanish Fort and other places. He came through without a wound, and was discharged at Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 19, 1865. He then came to Gratiot County, and located on 80 acres on section 17, Wheeler Township. He has 35 acres well improved. He is now engaged in the grocery business, carrying a well-assorted stock, and having a growing trade.

He was married in 1850, to Rachel Furman, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Furman, natives of New York and Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Blackman are the parents of seven children,—Mary J. (deceased), Lovina E., Sabra D., Evaline, Juliet, Nora M. (deceased), and Wilbur. Mr. Blackman has been Highway Commissioner of his township three years, Clerk two years, Supervisor one year, and Treasurer six years.

**W**illiam C. Jenkins, farmer, section 17, Lafayette Township, is a son of Richard L. and Ann (Lake) Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins, Sr., was a native of England, and emigrated to the "Great Republic" in 1800. Landing at New York, he was in a woolen factory for seven years, then a sailor for seven or eight years, and then in the woolen business again. The remainder of his life he followed farming. His wife

was a native of New York State, and died July 27, 1866.

The subject of this sketch was born Oct. 23, 1838. He remained with his parents until he was 28 years old, and then came to Clinton County, this State, where he lived ten years. He then came to Lafayette Township, locating first on section 19, and after a year moving to his present farm on section 17. He found it in a primitive state, and is rapidly converting it into a well improved farm.

June 29, 1869, he was united in marriage to Lucia J. Steenburg, an only daughter. They have been parents of four children, but one of whom survives, named Lee W. The other three died within a few days of each other: Ann E., Oct. 4, 1879; Joseph L., Sept. 30, 1879, and Buell J., Oct. 17, 1879.

Mr. Jenkins calls himself a Greenbacker politically. He has held the office of Commissioner of Highways for one term. He is liberal in his religious views.

**J**oseph Wright, one of the representative men and pioneer settlers of Hamilton Township, resident on section 18, is a native of Clinton County, this State, where he was born April 9, 1836. He is a son of Joseph Wright, deceased, a native of the State of New York, who came to this State at an early day and located in Oakland County and afterward removed to Clinton County, where our subject was born. Mr. Wright remained under the parental care, assisting in the support of the family and developing into manhood. He received the advantages afforded by the common schools of his native county and attended the State University at Ann Arbor and successfully prosecuted his studies.

In 1854, following the dictates of an ambitious desire, and relying on the combined elements so necessary to the success of the early pioneer, energy and perseverance, he came to this county, arriving Nov. 29, 1854, and entered on the arduous though pleasant task of establishing a home. Aided by that energy and determination so early inculcated into his mind, he laboriously entered on the task of improving his land, and now has 160 acres, the greater portion well improved. He has held the office of Supervisor two terms, Township Clerk two terms,

Highway Commissioner two terms and Justice of the Peace eight years.

Mr. Wright was married Sept. 5, 1855, to Hannah, daughter of Tartelus Eckles, and one child born to them, Charlotte N., is deceased. They have reared and educated two nieces of Mrs. Wright: Charlotte E. Robinson, born May 26, 1857, in North Star Township; and Sophronia V. Eckles, born April 19, 1863, in Washington. Charlotte was taken by Mr. and Mrs. W. when ten months old. After receiving a good education, she taught school ten terms, previous to her marriage, which occurred April 19, 1881, to Fremont H. Cook, of North Star Township. Sophronia was taken at the age of six, and lived with Mr. and Mrs. W. until her marriage, Aug. 8, 1882, to Henry J. Goodhall, of Hamilton Township. Mrs. Wright is a regular attendant on the United Brethren Church.

**J**ohn Schmidt, Jr., merchant, Wheeler village, Wheeler Township, is a son of John and Christiana (Rascher) Schmidt. The former was a tax-gather and pass-master in Germany, where he died in 1854; and the latter died in Germany in 1849. John was born Nov. 1, 1835, in the old country. At the age of 13, he came to America. Landing at New York, he first went to Toledo, where he spent 18 months learning the blacksmith's trade. The following summer he spent as mule driver on the Wabash Canal. He then enlisted in Co. D, 82d Ill. Inf., and served three years. He was engaged in 18 different battles, and was wounded in the battle of Dallas, Ga. He received his discharge at Chicago, July 3, 1865. Thence he went to Dallas City, Hancock Co., Ill., and from there he came to Michigan in March, 1866, locating on section 9, Wheeler Township. He sold his place, 120 acres, after improving 50 acres, building a good house and starting an orchard. When Mr. Schmidt settled on his place, there were no roads of any kind, and in after years he often went to St. Louis when the roads were almost impassible. In 1878, he entered upon mercantile life, and now has a large stock of dry goods, groceries and general merchandise.

In 1858, he was united in marriage to a widow lady, Christiana Wolfrom, whose maiden name was

Sibble, a native of Germany. They are the parents of one son—Edward, born in 1860. Mr. Schmidt has been Constable and Drain Commissioner of his township. In former years, he has supported the Republican party; but now he is classed as an independent.

**A**dram Gwinner, farmer, section 6, Ithaca Township, was born near Darmstadt, Germany, June 24, 1821, and his father, John M. Gwinner, was a native of Frankfort, and emigrated in 1830, with his family, to America, locating in Cumberland Co., Pa., and in 1833 removing to Seneca Co., Ohio, where he died in 1857.

Mr. Adam Gwinner came to Gratiot County in March, 1882, where he now owns a valuable farm of 77 acres, besides 14 acres within the corporation limits of Ithaca (known as Gwinner's addition). Mr. G. is a genius, being able to turn his hand to almost anything. Nov. 12, 1846, he married Miss Hannah, daughter of Austin McKinzie and a distant relative of McKinzie, the great Western explorer. She is a native of Carroll Co., Md. To Mr. and Mrs. G. have been born the following children: Philip, Melinda, Mandey, Mary E., Franklin, Esther and Emma.

**M**ery Crosby, farmer, section 22, Lafayette Township, is a son of John and Harriet (Owen) Crosby, natives of Connecticut. The father was at an early age taken by his parents to Albany Co., N. Y., where he was reared, and where he farmed until his death in 1867. The son was born in Albany, N. Y., Jan. 26, 1819. At the age of 19, he married Nancy M. Miller. In 1844 they removed to Wayne Co., Mich., where they lived three years, Mr. Crosby being engaged in teaching and preaching. In the same vocation, he lived at different times in Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties. In August, 1856, they removed to North Shade, Gratiot County, and located on 200 acres on section 32, arriving Aug. 16, 1856. He improved 20 acres of this farm.

In the spring of 1858, he was elected to the office

of Supervisor for North Shade Township. In the autumn of that year, he was nominated and elected County Clerk on the Republican ticket. He removed his family to Ithaca in February, 1859, and assumed the duties of his office. He opened the first set of Circuit Court books kept in Gratiot County. During all the sessions of court for the first year or more, he carried the books and files of the County Clerk's office to Alma and return on his back, a portion of the way through the wilderness. For a time after the expiration of his term of service, he served as Deputy Probate Clerk.

His first wife was buried in the year 1872. He was again married in 1877, to Elizabeth Morton, who was born in Huron Co., Ohio, Jan. 30, 1833, the daughter of Benj. K. and Catharine (States) Holiday, natives of New York and West Virginia respectively. Mr. Crosby had by his first wife two sons, James F. and Lott V.; and Mrs. Crosby has by a former marriage two daughters, Cindona M. and Mary S. In 1873, Mr. and Mrs. Crosby removed from Ithaca to Lafayette Township on section 22, and now live on a farm of 200 acres owned by William P. Stacy.

Mr. Crosby has been several times Superintendent of Schools in his township. He belongs to the Christian Church, and his wife to the Seventh-Day Adventists. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the Masonic Order. Politically, he is a Republican.

**A**lbert M. Shaw, farmer, section 31, Ithaca Township, is a son of John C. and Matilda (Berry) Shaw. (See sketch of John C. Shaw.) He was born in Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Mar. 19, 1860, and obtained a good education in the public schools. In 1877, he completed a course of commercial law and book-keeping at the Ann Arbor High School. For the ensuing few years, he assisted his father in running a dray line and in farming. He came to Gratiot County at the same time with his parents, and settled on section 31, Ithaca Township.

July 1, 1882, he was united in marriage to Emma, daughter of Richard and Margaret (Cooney) Ormerod, natives of Staffordshire, England, where she also was born, Feb. 19, 1864. Richard Ormerod was a blacksmith by trade, and came to America about 1872,

settling in Ohio. He died in that State Aug. 25, 1878. Mrs. Ormerod and daughter soon after came to this county and settled in Emerson Township. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were married at Elm Hall, in this county, and now live on 30 acres deeded them by Mr. Shaw's father. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a young man of intelligence and integrity.

**G**eorge E. Stone, farmer and stock-grower, section 32, New Haven Township, was born in Milford Township, Defiance Co. Ohio, June 1, 1847. His parents, Norman and Electa (Spaulding) Stone, were natives respectively of New York and Vermont, and of New England ancestry. Mr. Norman Stone was a farmer, and moved in 1844 to Ohio, as one of the first settlers in the northwestern part of the State. They are still living there, aged respectively 63 and 60 years.

It was in this settlement that the subject of this sketch passed his early boyhood. Being the eldest of the children, it fell to him to take a prominent part in the management of the new farm, which, amid the untoward obstacles of a frontier life, developed in him considerable executive ability. He secured withal a good common-school education. At the age of 20, Aug. 4, 1867, in his native township, he was married to Miss Matilda, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Clay) Gingery, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. Mrs. Stone was born in Seneca Co., Ohio, Aug. 2, 1849, and was seven years of age when her parents moved with her to Defiance County. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. S. resided on a farm in Defiance County until the fall of 1874, when they came to this county and settled on 80 acres on section 32, New Haven Township. This tract was then a wild forest, but Mr. Stone has now 40 acres in good cultivation, and the place equipped with a fine residence, barn, etc. He is a thoroughgoing, practical farmer. He is a minister in the Dunkard Church, of which religious body his wife is also an active member. In political matters Mr. Stone is a decided Prohibitionist Republican, and also a Good Templar. Has held the offices of Justice of the Peace and

Township Superintendent of Schools. He has taught singing-school at times for 17 years.

The family record is as follows: John H., born Aug. 24, 1868; Minnie P., Jan. 31, 1870; Electa A., July 9, 1875, and died Sept. 11, 1877; and Ira A., born July 28, 1880.

**J**ohn F. Shaw, farmer, section 31, Ithaca Township, was born in Pittsfield, Washtenaw Co., Mich., July 29, 1859, and is a son of John C. and Nancy Ann (Bowen) Shaw, natives of New England and Ontario, Can., respectively. When five years old, he went with his parents to Hamburg, Livingston County, and later to Ann Arbor. In the latter city, he attended the ward schools for six years. After completing his course of study, he assisted his father in running a dray line for three years. In May, 1878, he came with his father to this county, and lived on his farm near Ithaca.

Dec. 4, 1881, in North Star Township, he was united in marriage to Eliza, daughter of John and Ann (Best) Humphrey, natives of England. They were farmers, and emigrated to Cayuga Co., N. Y., where Eliza was born Feb. 25, 1863. Two years later, she came with her parents to North Star Township, where she grew up and was educated. After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw commenced keeping house, and made their home on 30 acres on the eastern half of his father's farm, which was given to them Nov. 12, 1881. Here they are making a comfortable residence. Mrs. Shaw is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Shaw is an energetic and industrious farmer, and is popular among his friends. They have one son, Benjamin Franklin, born Dec. 22, 1883.

**J**ames G. Brady, farmer, section 6, Pine River Township, is a son of Joseph and Martha (McKee) Brady, and was born in Seneca Co., Ohio, June 13, 1836. His father and mother were born in Pennsylvania. They first fixed their residence in Seneca Co., Ohio, and, later in life, came to Michigan, and settled in Gratiot County. In 1879, they removed to Maryland, where the father died, April 21, 1880. The

mother returned to Gratiot County after his death, where she still resides.

They had five daughters and two sons: James G., Maria, Barbara, Samuel S., Mary J., Sarah, Alice J.

Mr. Brady came to Gratiot County in June, 1855, and bought 80 acres of wild land in Pine River Township, on which he has since resided and now has 60 acres of tillable land.

During the war of the Rebellion, Mr. Brady became a soldier and was mustered into the service of the United States Feb. 13, 1862. He had enlisted in the 14th Mich. Vol. Inf., and was in active service until the close of the war, serving three years and one month and receiving an honorable discharge. Among other engagements he participated in the siege of Corinth, Stone River, and the march to the sea with Sherman, taking part in all the actions of that campaign. Mr. Brady belongs to the Masonic fraternity and is an adherent to the National Greenback party.

He was married in Pine River Township, Aug. 27, 1860, to Helen, daughter of Silas and Martha J. Biggs. Mrs. Brady was born in Branch Co., Mich., Dec. 27, 1846; and her parents are natives of the State of New York. She died Jan. 30, 1874, leaving four children: James S., born Aug. 15, 1861; Martha J., Jan. 10, 1866; Barbara E., July 29, 1867; Josephine H., Dec. 19, 1873.

**M**artin Kidder, farmer, owning 35 acres on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 21, and also 40 acres, being the N. W. quarter of the N. W. quarter of section 28, Bethany Tp., is a native of Nashua, N. H., where he was born Oct. 6, 1840. His parents were Nathan and Orline (Simons) Kidder. When nine years of age he lost his father. He then moved to Elsted, N. H., remaining there six years, then was at Yonkers, N. Y., three years and then moved to New Haven, Conn. His father was a teamster most of his life, and died in Nashua.

In Yonkers the subject of this sketch learned the trade of machinist, which he followed until the outbreak of the war, when, May 23, 1861, he enlisted in Co. F, 4th Conn. Vol. Inf.; three months afterward he was transferred to the 1st Heavy Artillery. He

was in the army service three years, participating in the engagements at Fair Oaks, Yorktown, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, under Gen. Butler, Drury's Bluff, and in a large number of skirmishes. He was honorably discharged in the field near Richmond.

Shortly after returning home to New Haven he went to Watertown, Conn., and worked on a farm seven years; then, in 1871, he came to St. Louis, Mich., and purchased a farm of 112 acres, in Lafayette Township, on section 4, but did not take up his abode there. He sold it seven years later. In 1872 he bought 40 acres on section 28, Bethany Township, and in 1877 he purchased land where he now resides, on section 21. He has cleared a portion of this land, put it in a fine tillable condition, erected good buildings, etc. Mr. Kidder is an influential man in his community, and is at present a Justice of the Peace.

Sept. 29, 1869, in Watertown, Conn., Mr. Kidder was married to Miss Mary J., daughter of David and Maria J. (Hobbell) Munn, who was born in Connecticut, June 18, 1851. Their two children are: Nathan, born in St. Louis, April 12, 1875, and Wealthy, born also in St. Louis, Dec. 10, 1877. An ancestor, Samuel Munn, moved from Milford, Conn., to ancient Woodbury, previous to 1680. His children were: Jane, Amy, Mary, Daniel and Samuel. John, the son of Daniel, had ten children. Of the third generation, Abel was born in 1758. David L., of the fourth generation, was born in 1794. David S., of the 5th generation and father of Mrs. Kidder, was born in 1826.

**D**aniel C. Mills, farmer, section 15, Pine River Township, was born Oct. 9, 1835, in the State of New York. His parents, Cyrus and Marilla (Chase) Mills, were also natives of the same State, and afterward removed to Pennsylvania. They went thence to Ohio, where the father died, in Medina County. The mother died in Stark County, Ohio.

Mr. Mills remained with or near his parents until he was 25 years old, obtaining his education in early life at the common schools. He made his first acquaintance with Gratiot County in August, 1854, and remained here more than a year, returning then to

Ohio, where he engaged 12 years in farming. He then sold his farm, and, in the spring of 1866, again came to Gratiot County and bought 40 acres of land on section 15. It was in a wild state and is now nearly all improved and cultivated. Mr. Mills is a member of the Masonic fraternity and belongs to the Republican party.

He was married Sept. 15, 1859, in Medina Co., O., to Esther, daughter of Daniel and Esther (Mitchell) Lepley. Mrs. Mills was born April 16, 1842, in Ohio. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. Of four children born to her and her husband, two survive: Perlie A. and James. The deceased children were Frankie and Willie, who died in infancy. Mrs. Mills is a member of the Disciples' Church.

**J**ohn C. Shaw, farmer, section 31, Ithaca Township, was born in Durham, England, Feb. 19, 1826, and is the son of William and Mary (Cancel) Shaw, natives of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire respectively. William Shaw was engaged in the cutlery shops of Sheffield, England, for a number of years. In 1831, he emigrated to America, and died in Kingston, Canada, of the cholera, one year later. John remained with his mother until 17 years old, when he came to Detroit and engaged as errand boy with Mr. George Duffield. He was thus thrown amongst a family of excellent breeding and high moral and intellectual qualities, and the impressions made on his youthful mind produced a most beneficial effect. The next few years were spent partly on a farm in Canada, and partly on the lakes.

March 3, 1846, at Troy, Oakland Co., Mich., he was married to Matilda Berry, a native of New York, and the adopted daughter of Charles M. Howard, of Detroit, Mich. She was born in 1824, and died in June, 1849, three years after her marriage, leaving two children to comfort her husband: Mary W., now of Detroit, and Charles H., now of North Star Township, this County. He was a second time married in Wayne Co., Mich., late in the fall of 1849, to Nancy Ann Bowen, a native of Canada. Being left an orphan when quite young, she knew little of her parents and relatives. She came to this State when 16 years old, and lived in Wayne County until her mar-



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Baltimore Hoyt

riage. One year after that event, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw went to Ann Arbor and then to Adrian. Their next move, in 1851, took them to Monroe City, where they lived three years. They then went to Ypsilanti, and lived there also three years, Mr. Shaw being janitor of the union school at that place. He then worked a small farm in Pittsfield, Washtenaw County, for nine years, when he went to Livingston County and purchased a farm of 200 acres. He cultivated this farm until April, 1869, when he went to Ann Arbor, and was a drayman and coal dealer until 1878. He then came to this county and purchased 98 acres adjoining the village plat of Ithaca, 40 acres being within the corporation limits. Only four acres had been improved at that time, but 60 acres are now in a state of thorough cultivation. He has deeded 30 acres to each of his two married sons, who live on the place, and otherwise disposed of six acres, so that he retains 32 acres in his own name.

By his second marriage, Mr. Shaw has six children, as follows: William A., born July 18, 1850; Matilda B., Feb. 9, 1853; Elizabeth, Oct. 13, 1854; Eva M., Sept. 12, 1851; John F., July 29, 1858; Albert M., March 19, 1860. Mrs. Shaw and four of her children are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Shaw is a Republican in political matters. During his brief residence in this county, he has by his progressive spirit and upright habits won the esteem of all his fellow citizens.



**Almore Hoyt**, farmer, section 19, Pine River Township, was born Sept. 23, 1826, in Monroe Co., N. Y., and is the son of Calvin and Sally (Holmbeck) Hoyt. His father was a native of Massachusetts, and his mother was born in Pennsylvania. Until the age of 20 Mr. Hoyt remained under the control of his parents. They had removed to Jackson Co., Mich., five years before and continued there to reside for 18 years.

Mr. Hoyt came to Gratiot County in January, 1855, and bought 320 acres of land in Pine River and Seville Townships. He sold that part of his estate lying in the latter, and has now a snug farm of 160 acres, with 100 acres improved and cultivated. In political affinity Mr. Hoyt is a Democrat. He has held the office of Justice of the Peace one term, and

that of Highway Commissioner three years. He has served as Township Treasurer five terms and held various other offices in his township and school district.

He was married in Calhoun Co., Mich., Jan. 26, 1858, to Ann E., daughter of Frederick and Sarepta (Fox) Wright. She was born in Jackson Co., Mich., June 26, 1840. Eight children have been born of this marriage: Emma S., Dec. 5, 1861 (died Feb. 20, 1884); Calvin B., Nov. 8, 1863; Dudley M., Sept. 23, 1865; Millicent A., Aug. 11, 1868 (died Aug. 9, 1870); George V., Oct. 8, 1870; Charlotte E., Dec. 16, 1873; Frank L., July 16, 1878; Edwin S., July 13, 1883.

The portrait of Mr. Hoyt may be found on another page. He is a leading, representative agriculturist and belongs to a family more intimately connected with the earlier history of Gratiot County than any other within its limits.

**William W. Comstock**, farmer, section 19, Emerson Township, was born in Leyden, Lewis Co., N. Y., May 18, 1823, and is the son of E. H. and Lucy (Jenks) Comstock, natives of New England and of New England descent. The father was proprietor of a large dairy farm in Lewis County, and worked it until his death, at the age of 74. The mother lived to the advanced age of 93. Until 20 years old, William worked on his father's farm and attended the district schools. In May, 1843, he came to this State and settled in Hillsdale County.

He was united in marriage, in Hillsdale County, June 14, 1846, to Margaret M., daughter of William and Mary (Thurston) Carothers, natives of New York, and of Scotch-Irish and English extraction, respectively. She was born in Yates Co., N. Y., Aug. 26, 1829. Her mother died four years later, and at the age of 10 she was adopted by Robert Mitchell, of Geneva, Ontario Co., N. Y. Here she remained as one of the family until the fall of 1845, when with her father she came to Hillsdale County, this State, and settled in Wheatland Township, where she lived until her marriage. Fifteen months after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Comstock returned to their native State, and settled in the vicinity of his birth-

place. In the winter of 1854-5, they came to this county and settled in Washington Township. Oct. 1, 1855, they started the Ithaca Hotel, at Ithaca, when there were but two business houses in the place. He first erected a hewed-log house for a hotel, but put up a frame building as soon as he could get sawed lumber. A part of that building still remains, as an attachment to the Retan House. He cut the trees from the ground on which the hotel was built. A few years later, he erected a three-story hotel on the lot now occupied by the Desermia House. This burned, and he erected the present Desermia House. In the summer of 1877 he removed to his farm two miles north of Ithaca. Here he now owns 240 acres of good land, with 100 acres well improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Comstock have had a family of eight children, four of whom are living: Nettie H., born Dec. 6, 1847; Addie A., Jan. 15, 1850; Eugenie L., Oct. 4, 1853; Wallace W., Jan. 30, 1860. The deceased are: Clarence E., born May 15, 1852, died Sept. 5, 1853; Clarence W., born July 30, 1855, died Sept. 16, 1858; Ralph T., born Sept. 29, 1862, died Aug. 2, 1865; Carlton H., born Sept. 22, 1866, died Oct. 27, 1873.

Mr. Comstock was the first Supervisor of Washington Township, and has been Justice of the Peace, Clerk and Highway Commissioner in Emerson Township. In politics, he is a staunch Republican. He started the first Republican paper in this county, called the *Gratiot News*. He is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 123, F. & A. M., Ithaca Chapter, No. 70, R. A. M., Ithaca Council, No. 33, R. & S. M., and St. John's Commandery, No. 24, K. T., at St. John's.

**T**homas J. Tann, resident of the village of Elwell, Seville Township, is a son of William and Hannah (Jenkins) Tann, natives of the city of London, England. William Tann was a merchant while in England, and came with his wife to the United States in 1819. They landed at New York city, and, railroads being then unknown, proceeded to Albany in a schooner. Thence they went shortly to Pittsford, N. Y., where Mr. T. followed the pursuit of agriculture until his death, in May, 1865. Mrs. T. died in 1825.

The subject of this biographical sketch was born

April 27, 1813, in the great city of London, and, coming to America with his parents, he lived with them until 21 years of age. Since then he has been employed in running a steam engine, in mercantile pursuits and in farming. He came to Oakland Co., Mich., in 1839, and remained in that county until 1846. Going to New York State he made that his home until 1854, when he came to Gratiot County and located a tract of 80 acres of land on sections 35, Seville, and 2, Summer. He still owns that place, purchased 30 years ago, without any financial incumbrance whatever. He received a duplicate of the land from Ionia, and two years later a deed from the Government, signed by James Buchanan. He has now 40 acres improved and suitable farm buildings.

April 27, 1839, he married Mrs. Sarah C. Lathrop, a widow, and a daughter of William Truman. She was born in 1802 and died in this county in 1876, leaving two sons and a daughter: George J., Charles W. and Emily H. (wife of Charles G. Phelps, a merchant of Elwell). Mr. Tann was elected County Coroner in 1861 and 1862. He has been Justice of the Peace two years, and is now School Inspector. He is a Notary Public, appointed by Gov. Jerome, and re-appointed by Gov. Begole. He belongs to the Seventh-Day Adventists, and to the Patrons of Husbandry. He is politically a staunch Greenbacker.

**J**ohn W. Mouser, resident at Ithaca, was born March 31, 1832, in Virginia. Daniel and Elizabeth (Hahen) Mouser, his parents, were born in the same State and were there engaged in the pursuit of agriculture. In the year 1846 the family removed to Ohio and resided some time in Seneca County, removing thence to Wood County, where they remained about ten years, going thence to Williams County, where the death of the father occurred, Sept. 11, 1877. The mother died in 1842, in Virginia.

The first important event in the record of Mr. Mouser was his marriage, which occurred Feb. 28, 1855, with Hannah, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Clemens) Landis. The father of Mrs. Mouser belonged to the agricultural community, and was also interested in stock-rearing. They went from Pennsylvania to Columbiana Co., Ohio, and afterward

moved to Wood County, in the same State. Later on they went to Indiana, but not long after returned to Toledo, Ohio. They are both deceased.

Mr. Mouser remained in Ohio after his marriage until 1857, when he removed with his family to Isabella Co., Mich. He located a farm in the unbroken wilderness, cutting his road thither through the forest. His family were among the first white settlers of the county, and he aided in every possible way in advancing the general interests and prosperity. Among other pioneer experiences was the cutting of the road from his farm to Indian Mills, near where Mt. Pleasant now stands. In 1872 he came to Gratiot County and located on section 13, Newark Township, on 80 acres of land. Of this tract about 70 acres are under good improvements, and a fine large barn, which Mr. Mouser built in 1875, is a noticeable addition to his valuable farm.

In 1862 Mr. Mouser became a Union soldier. He enlisted in Co. C, Eighth Mich. Vol. Inf., and was in actual service in three engagements. He received final discharge March 14, 1863, in Convalescent Camp, in Virginia. In political faith Mr. Mouser is an uncompromising Republican. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church, and are zealous workers in its interest. They are the parents of six children: James L., Sarah A., Daniel J., Mary L., Lincoln J. and George G.



**A**lmon Yerington, insurance agent, resident at Alma, was born in Rollin, Lenawee Co., Mich., Jan. 15, 1842, and is the son of William and Amanda (Bennett) Yerington. The parents were natives of Connecticut, and after their marriage settled in Lenawee County. In 1866 they came to Gratiot County and fixed their residence at Alma, where the father died, Sept. 11, 1877, and the mother passed to her home of unbroken rest and peace, Jan. 25, 1875. Nine children were born to them, three of whom died in infancy. Almon, Stephen D., Gertude, Mary E., George H. and Charles W. lived to years of maturity.

Mr. Yerington was 19 years old when the war of

the rebellion broke out. He had been reared under influences which fostered the principles he inherited of love of freedom and unity of country, and in May, 1861, he enlisted in the Third Mich. Vol. Infantry. The regiment was mustered into the service of the State in the same month, and into that of the United States in June following. Mr. Yerington was discharged in August, 1862, after 14 months' service. Among other engagements of less moment in which he was a participant were the first battle of Bull's Run and the fights of the Peninsula Campaign under McClellan. In December, 1862, he again enlisted as a soldier for the Union, in the Sixth Mich. Cav., and was detailed for service in Gen. Custer's Brigade Band. He was with Sheridan in the Valley Campaign, and was present at the surrender of Gen. Lee at Appomattox Court-House. He served in Gen. Custer's command during the remainder of the war, and when the Brigade was ordered to Wyoming Territory, on an expedition against the Indians, Mr. Yerington was detailed a member of the Post Band at Fort Leavenworth. He was mustered out of service Oct. 13, 1865.

In the spring of 1866, Mr. Yerington settled in Alma and opened a drug store—the first establishment in that avenue of trade in Gratiot County. He continued its management until 1875, when he sold out. In the spring of 1876 he was elected Justice of the Peace and has since continued the incumbent of the office. In 1875 he began to operate in insurance, in which he has been prosperous to a satisfactory degree. In political sentiment and affiliation he is a Republican. In 1867 he was appointed Postmaster of Alma by President Johnson and filled the position with honor 12 years. He has officiated several years as Village Clerk, and since he became resident at Alma has been intimately identified with its interests and prosperity. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and belongs to William Moyer Post, No. 152, G. A. R.

He was married May 21, 1871, at Alma, to Mary B., daughter of William and Lois A. (Peckham) Moyer. She was born March 21, 1853, in Oneida Co., N. Y. Her parents were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York, and were among the pioneer settlers of Alma. The father died in March, 1869; the mother is an inmate of the house of her daughter.

**M**ilton M. Lewis, farmer on section 3, Fulton Township, is a son of James H. and Sophronia (Hodges) Lewis, natives of New York. They came from New York to this State, and settled in Hillsdale County, where they reared a family of six children. Milton, the eldest son, was born in Hillsdale Co., Mich., Sept. 29, 1850. He received his education in the common schools, and remained at home until 19 years old, assisting his father while not at school, having come to Gratiot County with his parents when five years old.

At the age of 19 he settled on a farm in Fulton Township given him by his father. After a year and a half, he sold and bought 60 acres on section three, where he now resides. He has 40 acres under cultivation.

April 1, 1870, in North Star Township, he married Clara A., daughter of W. W. and Cornelia Baker. She was born in Ohio, Oct. 10, 1852. This union has been blessed with three children, but one of whom, William W., now survives. One died in infancy, and Herbert H. died when three years old. In the spring of 1883, Mr. Lewis was chosen Clerk of Fulton Township; and he has also held the various school offices in his district. Politically, he is a National. He and wife are members of the Christian Church.

**J**eremiah Brodebeck, farmer on section 30, Fulton Township, is a son of John K. and Elizabeth Brodebeck, natives of Pennsylvania. They first settled in the Keystone State, after marriage, and afterwards removed to Morrow Co., Ohio, where they lived until their death. Jeremiah, the fifth son of a family of seven sons and four daughters, was born in Morrow Co., Ohio, June 26, 1832.

He received a common-school education, and remained at home until 24 years old. He came to this county in January, 1859, and bought 80 acres of wild land in North Star Township, where he lived till March, 1882. Selling out, he then purchased 100

acres in Fulton Township, where he now resides. He owns 190 acres, of which 145 are cleared.

Oct. 1, 1847, in Morrow Co., Ohio, he married Miss Sarah J., daughter of James and Margaret (White) Baggs, natives of Virginia. She was born in Morrow County, May 3, 1836. Mr. and Mrs. B. have one son, Isaiah W., born Oct. 8, 1858. Mr. B. is a progressive farmer, and much interested in blooded stock. He supports the Democratic party.

Sept. 8, 1864, he enlisted in the 178th Ohio Vol. Inf., and he served in the Union army about 11 months, generally on detached service. He was honorably discharged at Raleigh, N. C.

**G**eorge D. Barton, lumberman, residing at Alma, was born in Rockingham, Vt., Jan. 10, 1836. His parents, Jeremiah and Sarah (Wetherby) Barton, were also natives of the Green Mountain State, where they married, lived and died.

Mr. Barton, after obtaining an elementary education at the common schools, pursued a course of study at the academy at Saxton's River in his native State, and subsequently attended the Green Mountain Liberal Institute at Woodstock, Vt. After the completion of his education he engaged as a farm assistant with his father until he was 26 years old. In 1862 he went to Chester, Vt., where he was interested in agriculture eight years. At the expiration of that period he engaged in trade there, which he pursued eight years. In 1879 he disposed of all his interests in his native State and, in March of that year, he came to Michigan and settled in Alma. He engaged in mercantile affairs with A. W. Wright, under the firm name of George D. Barton & Co. After operating in this relation three years he sold his interests to Mr. Wright. His next business venture was in lumbering with Mr. Wright and John O. Lumsdon, the concern operating as George D. Barton & Co., which constitutes his present business connection. The daily products of their mill comprise 35,000 feet of hard wood or 50,000 feet of pine lumber.

Mr. Barton was first married in Chester, Vt., Nov. 4, 1861, to Lucy A., daughter of Henry and Lucy (Lee) Morris. The father was a native of Vermont,

the mother of Massachusetts. The daughter was born Oct. 31, 1841, at Chester. Mr. Barton was again married Jan. 12, 1881, to Elmira C., daughter of Charles and Sylvia (Peck) Esty. The latter were natives of Vermont. Mrs. Barton was born Jan. 12, 1860, at Ludlow, Vt. One child, Fanny S., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Barton, Aug. 2, 1882.

Mr. Barton belongs to the Masonic fraternity and in political sentiment is an independent Republican.



**S**amuel C. Robinson, farmer and County Drain Commissioner, resident on section 24, New Haven Township, is the fourth son and seventh child of Stephen H. and Barbara (Noss) Robinson, and was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Dec. 17, 1845. The elder Robinson was of Irish-English descent, and followed the life of a farmer. He died in Paulding Co., Ohio, June 27, 1875, at the age of 72 years. His mother was a native of Cumberland Co., Pa., and died at her home in Paulding County, Oct. 9, 1882.

When seven years old Samuel accompanied his parents to Paulding County, where they located upon a new farm. Consequently during his early youth he encountered much hard work in helping to develop the farm and build the new house. He enjoyed only the advantages of the common schools in which to obtain an education. When the call for volunteers was made by President Lincoln to defend the Nation's honor and the Union, four sons left the home of Stephen Robinson, among whom was Samuel. At this time he was rejected on account of his tender age. In the fall of 1862, however, being then only 16 years old, he entered the service as a teamster. At the expiration of one year he returned home, and a few months later enlisted as a private in the company stationed at Carlisle (Pa.) Barracks. He was shortly afterwards discharged on account of disability, not being considered sufficiently strong for the duties of the standing army. He, however, at once enlisted in the 2d Ohio Heavy Artillery, commanded by Col. H. Gibson, of the Army of the Cumberland. This regiment was kept in reserve, and thus Mr. Robinson saw no particularly active service, although he was in several sharp skirmishes. In 1865, while in the service, he received a sunstroke,

which has since prevented him from engaging as actively and energetically in his work as his nature prompts him.

Mr. Robinson was honorably discharged from his country's service Aug. 23, 1865, returned to his home in Paulding County and became manager and tiller of his father's farm. During this time, however, he attended school preparatory to teaching. Two years later he purchased a small farm in the same county, and, Oct. 27, 1867, united his fortunes with those of Miss Almeda E. Cushman, daughter of John and Nancy (Russell) Cushman, natives of Ohio, and farmers by occupation. The father died in Pennsylvania in 1853, and the mother remains with her children and is 72 years of age.

Mrs. Robinson was born Sept. 8, 1844, and resided with her parents until she was 16 years of age, at which time, having completed her education, she began teaching school. This she followed for 18 terms. After Mr. and Mrs. Robinson's marriage they settled down upon their new farm, and he began teaching, which profession he followed till 1873. In the spring of that year he came to Gratiot County and located on section 24, New Haven Township. He at first purchased 40 acres of land, and subsequently sold it and bought 80 acres on another part of the same section. It was then timber land, but he now has 30 acres well improved, with a comfortable farm-house on it. To Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have been born four children: Lily May, born April 18, 1869; Ray C., Jan. 24, 1871; Roy F., Oct. 26, 1874; Nellie H., Oct. 13, 1876.

Mr. Robinson was elected as County Drain Commissioner in 1882, and re-elected in 1884. He has also served three years as Supervisor, and filled all the minor offices of his township. Politically he is a staunch Republican.



**N**apoleon Bradley, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel of Riverdale, Seville Township, is a son of William and Harriet (Fisk) Bradley, natives respectively of Connecticut and Vermont. The father has followed the business of dealing in real-estate, and now resides in the State of New York, aged 76. His wife is 69 years old. The family comprise four sons and four

daughters, all alive and in good health, and 17 grandchildren. Remarkable to state, there has never yet been a death in the family.

The subject of this biography was born June 20, 1838, in Sullivan Co., N. Y., and at the age of 12 went to Montgomery and attended academy for six months. Then he studied three years at the State Normal School, and a year and a half at Woodbury, Ct. For the ensuing two years he was engaged in the wholesale dry-goods store owned by Conklin, Shepard & Co., and then he lived at home until the breaking out of the civil war. He enlisted in the first company raised in Sullivan County, which was made Co. H, 28th New York Vol. Inf. He was sent to the Army of the Potomac under Gen. Banks, and fought at Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock, Antietam and Chancellorsville. At the last named place he was taken prisoner and was sent to the famous Libby Prison. Three weeks later he was paroled. His regiment was in the service two years and was then sent home and discharged at Lockport, N. Y. In June, 1863, he came home and remained a year.

In 1864 he was united in marriage to Harriet Barton, born April 17, 1841, and the daughter of William and Jane Barton, of the State of New York. Her father is dead, died in the year 1878, but her mother still lives, in the State of New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are the parents of three children: William A. J., Alvin N. and Marion H. Mr. B. is at present Deputy Sheriff of Gratiot County, appointed by Sheriff Peet. He is a member of Riverdale Lodge, No. 343, I. O. O. F., Riverdale Lodge, No. 343, I. O. G. T., and Col. Ely Post, No. 158, G. A. R. Politically he is a Prohibitionist.

**E**rnelius A. Franks, farmer on section 19, Fulton Township, is a son of George S. and Barbara A. Franks (see sketch of George S. Franks); and was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, March 19, 1843. He received his education in the common schools, and also attended the Edinburgh Academy, located in Wayne County. With the exception of six months, he lived at home until 23 years of age. In 1869, he bought 100 acres of wild land on section 1, North Shade, 25 acres of

which are improved. He has not lived in North Shade, however, having continued to live on his father's farm until the present time.

Oct. 29, 1864, in Wayne Co., Ohio, he was married to Miss Mary J., daughter of Armor and Jane (Orr) Anderson, natives of Ireland and Ohio. Mrs. Franks was born in Crawford Co., Ohio, Aug. 21, 1842. She and her husband have a family of four, Sylvester A., George A., Winfield S. and Annie J. Mrs. F. is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Politically, Mr. F. is a Democrat.

**W**illiam H. Brown, farmer, section 30, Emerson Township, was born in Royalton, Niagara Co., N. Y., Dec. 26, 1836, and was the son of Captain Robert and Ann M. (Noyes) Brown, natives of Rhode Island. Capt. Brown was most of his life a sea captain, and died in Royalton, N. Y., in 1858. His widow still lives, in Niagara County. Much of her life was spent in teaching in the village school.

The subject of this sketch passed his boyhood on his father's farm in his native county, and then gave his time to preparing for teaching. Attending the common schools and the college at Lockport, N. Y., he engaged in teaching at the age of 20. He was subsequently taken with inflammatory rheumatism, which made him an invalid for eight years.

After regaining his health he was married, in Royalton, to Malvina B., daughter of William and Jane (Searles) Morey, natives of Rensselaer Co., N. Y., of Welsh extraction. She was born near Lockport, N. Y., Oct. 24, 1837. At the age of 20 she began teaching, which she followed successfully till her 26th year, when she was married to Mr. Brown. They settled on a farm in their native county, teaching winters, and in the early spring of 1878 emigrated to this State and county, and settled on a farm of 80 acres in Emerson Township, which he had purchased the previous year, after selling his New York farm. Since coming here, he has come to be considered one of the most skillful and progressive farmers in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown have had seven children, of whom five survive: Alice May, born July 13, 1870; George N., born Jan. 31 1874; Reuben S.



born Oct. 16, 1875; Robert H., born May 8, 1877; Willie E., born May 8, 1882. Barker M. and Bina M., twins, were born Jan. 10, 1866, and died, the former March 13, 1870, and the latter, June 16, 1867. Mrs. Brown is an active member of the Baptist Church, while Mr. Brown is a member of the Universalist Church, of which he was a Trustee for 11 years. Politically, he is a Democratic Prohibitionist.



**M**icajah Wood, farmer, section 17, Pine River Township, was born Oct. 10, 1848, in Pennsylvania. His parents, William and Hannah (Hartley) Wood, were also natives of the Keystone State. Mr. Wood spent the years of his minority under the care of his parents, assisting on the farm and attending school. In 1865, he came to Isabella Co., Mich., and remained until the spring of 1871, purchasing 40 acres in 1870. In 1877, he bought 40 acres of land on section 11, Pine River Township, and in September, 1882, he bought 80 acres, where he established his homestead and has since resided. Of the first purchase he has 25 acres under cultivation, and, of the last, 55 acres are improved and under tillage. He belongs to the Republican party in political connection.

Mr. Wood was married Oct. 10, 1869, in Isabella County, to Rosa, daughter of John and Matilda Vanderbeek.

Mrs. Wood was born Sept. 22, 1854, in the State of New York. Lillie, Leslie and Minnie are the names of the three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wood. The parents are members of the Disciples' Church.



**O**race B Angell, farmer, section 17, Pine River Township, was born Aug. 21, 1853, in Lyon Township, Oakland Co., Mich., and is a son of Albert and Annie (Doane) Angell, natives respectively of New York and Michigan. Soon after their marriage, they located in Oakland County, and, later, in Wayne County, removing thence to Clinton County, where the father now resides. The mother died July 14, 1877.

Mr. Angell obtained his education at the common

schools and also at the select schools at Maple Rapids, where he was a pupil nearly three years, and at the age of 17 left home to make his own unaided way in the world. He was employed in a mill and as a farm laborer for about three years. He was engaged four successive winter seasons in teaching, and in 1873 he came to Gratiot County and bought his farm of 160 acres in Pine River Township. He afterward sold 80 acres and has 70 acres of the remainder under advanced cultivation. Since 1879, he has bred blooded sheep, and now he has also thorough-bred cattle. Mr. Angell is a Republican in political faith.

He was married April 10, 1879, in Oakland Co., Mich., to Clara E., daughter of John and Susan (Spinning) Travis. Mrs. Angell was born in Jordan, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Jan. 22, 1860. Her parents were also natives of the Empire State. Annie M. and Ira D. are the two children now included in the family circle. Mrs. Angell is a member of the Baptist Church.



**J**oseph B. Vliet, farmer, sec. 13, Pine River Tp., was born Dec. 13, 1837, in New Jersey, of which State his parents, Nathan and Sarah (Jewell) Vliet, were also natives. They resided there some years after their marriage, and removed to Oakland Co., Mich., where they remained until 1855. In that year they transferred their family and interests to Gratiot County. They lived about nine years in Fulton Township, occupied in agriculture. They removed thence to Pine River Township and bought 40 acres of land on section 14. On this they resided until the close of their lives, the father operating as a farmer and also working at the business of a mason, which was his trade. He died in January, 1871. The demise of the mother occurred in August, 1866.

Mr. Vliet was a child of two years when his parents came to Oakland County, and he continued to reside at home during the years of his minority. About the time he reached manhood he entered the employ of the U. S. Government and operated as a sawyer in the Indian Mills, on the Chippewa River, in Isabella County. He continued in that employ about three years. In 1860 he came to St. Louis, Gratiot County, and associated with his brother James established a grocery and provision trade, which they

conducted two years. On the termination of this period, Mr. Vliet bought the farm on which he has since lived, comprising 80 acres of land. Of this he has 35 acres under cultivation. He also owns several lots in St. Louis, on which he is now erecting buildings and otherwise improving them. The history of Mr. Vliet is similar to that of most of the better class of citizens of Gratiot County. He made his start in life with no aid but a laudable ambition, fortified by disposition and strength to work, and later by a helpful, faithful wife, one of the sort that forms one of the best elements in the substantial progress of the Peninsular State.

Mr. Vliet was married May 15, 1861, at St. Louis, to Deborah, daughter of Jonathan and Lucetta Mecum. She was born July 6, 1840, in Pennsylvania, her parents being also natives of the Keystone State. Of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Vliet, four survive. They were born in the following order: Mary L., Mina A., Ernest L., Bertie G. and George. Bertie died when he was 17 months old.

Mr. Vliet is a member of the Order of Masonry, and in political connections belongs to the National Greenback party.

**Thomas Raycraft**, farmer, section 20, Pine River Township, was born in County Cork, Ireland, May 15, 1846, and is a son of Richard and Martha Raycraft, also natives of Ireland. They came to the United States in 1847, and settled in Rochester, N. Y., where the mother died. The father came, later on, to Clinton Co., Mich., where he died, in June, 1860.

Mr. Raycraft is practically an American citizen, having been less than a year old when he was brought to this country by his parents. He has followed the vocation of agriculture since he was old enough for active labor, commencing his career as a farmer at the age of 13 years. In 1871, he came to Gratiot County, where he worked as a farm laborer two years, and in 1872 he bought 80 acres of land under partial improvements, where he has since lived and labored. In 1881, he built a fine farm house, which the family are now occupying. The farm consists at present of 120 acres of land with 100 acres under cultivation. Politically, Mr. Raycraft is identified with the National Greenback party.

He was married at Alma, Mich., July 4, 1871, to Mary, daughter of Harmon and Dora Coleman, natives of Germany. Dora M., Ely, Lee, Ora, Lottie and Thomas C. are the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Raycraft.

**John W. Otto**, farmer on section 3, Fulton Township, is a son of George and Ara (Parish) Otto, natives of New York State. He was born in Jackson Co., Mich., Jan. 20, 1838, and was quite young when his parents removed to Hillsdale Co., Mich. At the age of 17, he came to this county, in the spring of 1855, with his parents. He remained at home until 24 years of age, when he bought the old homestead of 60 acres on section 3. He has since added 60 acres to his farm, and has 100 acres well improved.

June 28, 1863, in Newark Township, he married Hannah M., daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Cady) Lepley, residents of Newark Township. She was born in Wood Co., Ohio, Feb. 28, 1846. Mr. and Mrs. Otto have three living children, George S., Charles F. and Cora E. They have buried two children,—Sophronia J. and an infant. Mrs. Otto is a member of the Christian Church. Politically, Mr. Otto is a Republican.

**William J. Pendell**, farmer and stock-raiser, section 36, New Haven Township, was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., April 2, 1839. His father, Peter B., was a native of Saratoga, N. Y., of German descent, and was a farmer by occupation. He died at his son's, in this township, Sept. 14, 1881, at the age of 83. The mother of William J. was Mary M., *nee* Babcock, of English parentage. She died at her son's, in New Haven Township, in 1860. His step-mother, Chloris, *nee* Holliday, was born June 18, 1820, in Allegany Co., N. Y., and is now living at her son's.

When seven years old the subject of this sketch came with his parents to Macomb Co., Mich., and three years later to Ionia County, where he worked on a farm and attended school for eight years. Thence, in 1856, he came to this county, where his

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*Sampson Ewenden*



Jane M. Overden

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father purchased 80 acres of perfectly wild land for a homestead. In 1858 they moved upon the place, to which the subject of this sketch has since added 80 acres and made a comfortable home. There are 120 acres under the plow, and his residence, recently built, cost about \$1,800. Mr. Pendell is an active and progressive agriculturist.

Sept. 12, 1861, is the date of the marriage of Mr. Pendell to Miss Elizabeth Husted, a native of Oakland Co., Mich., where she was born July 26, 1838. She died at her home, in this township, July 12, 1862; was the mother of one child, Leonora M. Mr. Pendell again married, Nov. 28, 1867, Amelia R. Worcester, who was born Nov. 29, 1843, in Allegany Co., N. Y., and when six years old came to Jackson Co., Mich.; at the age of 24 she came to this county, and was shortly afterward married. Her children are: Benjamin S., born Dec. 26, 1870; Thomas J., Jan. 21, 1873; Grace E., March 24, 1875; Gertrude E., July 14, 1878, and Adeline, Dec. 17, 1883.

Mr. Pendell has held the offices of Highway Commissioner and School Director; is a Republican on political issues; a member of lodge No. 145, F. & A. M., at Maple Rapids, and with his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**S**ampson Ovenden, farmer, sec. 19, Washington Township, is a son of William and Frances (Birch) Ovenden, natives of Kent, England. William Ovenden was by trade a bricklayer and plasterer, and came to America in 1852. He settled in Genesee Co., N. Y., and followed his calling until his death, in 1860. His wife still lives, in this county. The subject of this sketch was born Oct. 10, 1834, in Kent, England.

He first left home at the age of nine, but at 14 he left home permanently, going on the sea as a common sailor. His interesting travels lasted for a period of 12 years. He first shipped on a brig, under a Capt. Bray, at Margate, and made four voyages to Hartly Pole, England, in the coal trade. He next went on the schooner "Isabella," under a Capt. Smith, and ran from Margate to Liverpool. The schooner being then sold, he was discharged. His next service was on the brig "Hugh," under Capt.

Anderson, which carried coal to Brazil, and came back with cotton. Returning, he shipped on the brig "Burkby," under Capt. Henry, which went first to Cardif, Wales, for coal, then to Sierra Leone, Africa, then to Cosanco, back to Sierra Leone, and thence home to Liverpool. On the barque "Ellen Mary," under Capt. Legg, he went to the Isle of France, through the straits of Malacca to Singapore, to Amoy, to Shanghai, to the East Indies, to Singapore and China again, and once more to the East Indies. He next served on the ship "Englewood," under Capt. Randal, and went to Java; thence to St. Helena (Napoleon's prison), and thence to London. On the packet barque "Stratford," under Capt. Forrest, he sailed from London to Sidney, Australia, to Newcastle, Raymontares, and Sidney again. Shipping next on the packet barque "Jessie Burns," under Capt. Baker, he visited Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, and San Francisco. Going inland for the first time in many years, he worked for a time in the mines near Sacramento. Returning to San Francisco, he took passage on the "Golden Gate" to Agopoko, South America, and thence to Panama. Crossing the isthmus to Aspinwall, he went on the ship "Illinois" to New York City, where he found his parents. He then came to Michigan in search of his sister, whom he finally found in Gratiot County. For a time he was employed in Hillsdale County, by a man whom he had met in California.

July 28, 1862, he enlisted in Co. D, 18th Mich. Vol. Inf. During his service he fought in several sharp engagements, and he was finally discharged at Jackson, Mich., when he came to this county and purchased his present home on section 19. He was married to Jane M., daughter of James V. and Sarah Carr, both deceased. Mr. Carr died at Ithaca, Jan. 4, 1884. He was a soldier in the 23d Mich. Vol. Inf., and was buried with the honors of the G. A. R. Mr. and Mrs. Ovenden have had eight children, five of whom survive. He is a member of Eureka Lodge, No. 318, F. & A. M. Politically he has been a Republican ever since his arrival in the States. In local elections, however, he votes for the best man, regardless of party.

Mr. Ovenden was but a green sailor when he and his plucky little wife settled in the forest, and they were derisively called "bantas," by others who prophesied they would be soon starved out. They have,

by indomitable perseverance, triumphed over obstacles; and, though yet in the prime of life, they have lived to see many of their early neighbors give up the task of earning a home and drop out of sight in the race of life. Mr. and Mrs. Ovenden amply deserve representation among the portraits with which this work is embellished, and a double page near by is accordingly awarded them.



**E**dward Creech, farmer, section 9, Pine River Township, was born in Woodbridge, N. J., Dec. 25, 1841. His parents, Richard and Catherine Creech, were born in Ireland, and on coming to the United States located in New Jersey, and afterwards settled in the State of New York, where the mother died and the father still resides.

At the age of 15 years, Mr. Creech was thrown upon his own resources, and from that time until the advent of armed rebellion, he maintained himself by farming and as a sailor on the Hudson River. He enlisted June, 1861, in the 1st Mich. Vol. Inf., enrolling in Co. D. He served four years, and June 27, 1862, at the battle of Gaines' Mill, was severely wounded in the head by a minie ball, and was captured at the same time by the rebels. He was paroled two months later.

After his recovery, Mr. Creech was offered his discharge, but he declined its acceptance, and also refused assignment to the Invalid Corps. He returned to his command, and joined his regiment in July, 1863, while it was on the march to Gettysburg, and he participated in that engagement. His first enlistment was for three years, but in January, 1864, he again enrolled in the Union ranks. His regiment was one ordered on duty up the Weldon railroad, and when on the return from the work of destruction there, in a slight skirmish, he was hit in the right knee by a spent ball, and sustained some injury, but not sufficient to incapacitate from duty. He received a similar hurt in his left arm about ten minutes before Lee capitulated at Appomattox Court house. Another significant incident was a conversation Mr. Creech held with a rebel soldier on picket guard at Yellow House Tavern, on the Weldon railroad. The "butternut" anxiously inquired if McClellan was

likely to be elected the next President. Mr. Creech replied: "No, sir! We shall elect Abraham Lincoln and fight this thing out." The disheartened rebel exclaimed in despairing tones: "Oh, my God! when will I get home?"

After his discharge from the army he came to Jackson, Mich., where he was employed about six months in the capacity of guard at the State Prison. He went afterward to Hillsdale County, where he was engaged in buying and selling land to some extent. In the spring of 1872, he lost his home by fire, a misfortune rendered wholly disastrous from the fact that the building was uninsured. Mr. Creech went to Nebraska for the purpose of locating land, and entered a claim of 160 acres; but he did not conclude the terms of his claim, and soon after returned to Hillsdale County. He bought a farm there, which he sold later on, and coming to Gratiot County he bought the farm on which he has since resided, comprising 120 acres, with 90 acres under cultivation. Mr. Creech belongs to the National Greenback party in political affiliation.

He was married Oct. 30, 1866, at Jackson, to Melinda, daughter of Tunis and Eliza (Craig) Vrooman. Mrs. Creech was born Dec. 7, 1844, in Jackson Co., Mich. Of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Creech, three survive: Fred C., Ina A. and Tunis B. Five children died in infancy. The parents are members of the Disciples' Church.



**J**ohn M. Trask, ex-County Clerk of Gratiot County, resident at Ithaca, was born in Lucas Co., Ohio, April 8, 1840. He is a son of Linus L. and Nancy E. (Thompson) Trask, natives of New York. The father was a mechanic, and removed his family to Ottawa Co., Ohio, and, later in life, to Winnebago Co., Ill. In 1852 another removal was made, to Ottawa Co., Ohio, where the mother died, Feb. 21, 1865. The father's demise occurred Dec. 31, 1855.

Mr. Trask came to Michigan on attaining his majority, and entered a machine-shop at St. John's, Clinton County, where he spent eight months, in the year 1861. In December, 1860, he located a farm in Gratiot County. He enlisted as a soldier for the



Union in 1863, enrolling in Co. I, 27th Mich. Vol. Inf. The regiment was at first assigned to the Army of the West and was afterward transferred to the Army of the Potomac. Mr. Trask participated creditably in all the engagements of the Ninth Corps. He was wounded June 3, 1864, at Cold Harbor and received his muster-out Aug. 25, 1865.

Mr. Trask was married in 1862 to Eliza A., daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Kay) Hoffman. The father was of German birth, and emigrated to America when he was 14 years old. He has been a farmer all his active life, and is one of the first white settlers in the township of North Star. To him is accredited the honor of naming the town. Mr. and Mrs. Trask have three children: Clyde O., Midge M. and Ord J.

Mr. Trask is an adherent to the tenets of the Republican party. He has served the township of North Star six years as Clerk, and acted in the same capacity nearly a year in Fulton Township. In 1880 he was elected Clerk of Gratiot County, and proved one of the ablest officials in the discharge of the duties incumbent upon him known in the records of the county. He is now engaged with Nelson & Barber, general merchants at Ithaca. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and belongs to Ithaca Lodge, No. 123; also to Ithaca Chapter, No. 70; Ithaca Council, No. 33; and St. John Commandery, No. 24.

**S**alah J. Day, farmer, section 22, Pine River Township, was born Dec. 16, 1846, in Jackson Co., Mich. He is a son of Salah and Sarah (White) Day. His parents were natives of the State of New York, and after their marriage settled in Steuben County, where they resided until 1833, when they removed to Jackson Co., Mich. The father is deceased, and the mother is still living, in that county.

When Mr. Day reached his majority, he purchased a farm in Jackson Connty, which included 40 acres of land. On this he operated about two years, when he sold out, and in January, 1868, came to Gratiot County and bought 50 acres of partly improved land in Arcada Township. He returned to Jackson County without settling upon the farm he had pur-

chased, and in November, 1874, he exchanged the place for a livery stable at Alma. He managed that business upwards of a year, when he sold out, and in February, 1875, removed to Branch Co., Mich., where he had become the owner of a farm of 60 acres. On this he labored nearly a year, and then made an exchange of the property for 80 acres of land, where he has since operated, and which he has all improved, and has well cultivated. He is an adherent to the tenets of the National Greenback party in political views.

He was married Sept. 16, 1875, at Alma, to Eva J., daughter of James and Elizabeth Morrison, natives respectively of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Mrs. Day was born in Eureka, Clinton Co., Mich., Oct. 6, 1856. The family includes one child, Floyd S., born June 17, 1876. Mr. Day is a member of the Royal Arcanum.

**H**esse Casteel, farmer on section 25, North Shade Township, is a son of James and Sarah (Bierbauer) Casteel, natives of Westmoreland Co., Va., and Fayette Co., Pa., respectively. The father followed the occupation of a farmer, and during the winter months taught school. The parents moved to Ohio, in 1857, and located in Wayne County, where the mother died, in the year 1838. The father then returned to Pennsylvania, where he remained for a period and then removed to Fayette Co., Pa., where he is at present residing.

The subject of our sketch was born in Westmoreland Co., Va., Dec. 5, 1825. He remained at home assisting on the farm until the death of his mother, when he went to live with a friend of the family and with whom he remained until he was 18 years of age. On attaining that age he set out to battle against the trials of the world alone, unaided except by the indomitable energy and perseverance inculcated into his mind in childhood, and went to Richland Co., Ohio. He remained there, variously occupied, for a period of five years.

On the 14th day of March, 1850, Mr. Casteel left Ohio and started for the "Land of Gold," landing at San Francisco, May 7, of the same year. He went from there to Sacramento and thence to Georgetown,

and prospected in and around the latter place for some time. Not finding any claims worth working, he went to a canyon some 25 miles distant, but on arriving there the water was so high they could not work it, and he was compelled to return. He then went to Spencer Bar on the Middle Fork of the American River, and remained two months; from thence he went two miles below, formed a company, and dug a race 80 rods long and dammed the river. He was engaged in his mining operations for some 17 years, and three years acted as agent for a ditch company.

Mr. Casteel returned to Indiana in 1871, settled in Allen County, and remained three years, and then came to this State and located on section 25, North Shade Township, securing 160 acres. He has since disposed of 80 acres and added by purchase 19 acres.

He has held the position of Highway Commissioner, and in politics is a Republican.

**Prof. Adelbert E. Barstow**, for several years teacher of District No. 2, North Star Township, was born in Madison Co., N. Y., Oct. 2, 1846, and is a son of Wm. M. Barstow, whose sketch is given elsewhere in this work.

His parents came to Hillsdale County, this State, in 1853, and to this county in 1856. He was educated at the common schools of his district and at Ithaca, this county, and at the age of 21 began teaching. He has taught during the winter season most of the time for 16 years,—six terms in his home district, where he is now teaching. This is sufficient evidence of his ability to give satisfaction. He resides in Ithaca, where he is also conducting an insurance business, which his father attends to during the winter.

Mr. Barstow was married Oct. 2, 1871, to Cassie A. Barton, daughter of Wm. Barton, of Ithaca, an ex-soldier of the British army and a participant in the battle of Waterloo: he is now 86 years old, and has a very retentive memory. Mrs. Barstow's brother, Wm. Barton, was starved to death in the rebel prison at Salisbury, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. B. have had four children, as follows: Lottie (deceased), Hattie, Willie and Nellie.

Mr. B. has been Drain Commissioner two years and School Inspector two years. Mrs. B. has taught 20 terms of school, and as an educator she has become prominent.

**Henry Swift**, farmer, section 22, North Star Township, was born in Dutchess Co. N. Y., Oct. 30, 1805; his parents were of English ancestry. His father, Theodosius, was born in Litchfield Co., Conn., and his mother, Polly, *nee* Winchester, was born in the town of Anenia, Dutchess Co., N. Y.

Mr. Swift emigrated to St. Joseph County, this State, in the spring of 1837, and to this county in 1855, settling where he now resides. He is a blacksmith by trade, which he has followed nearly all his life. He was married in November, 1828, to Polly Lineberg; she died Feb. 8, 1845, and all her five children are now deceased. Nov. 22, 1860, Mr. S. married Mrs. Laura E. Flanagan, whose three children by a former husband and one child by Mr. S. are all deceased. Two of Mr. Swift's sons, Henry M. and George, grew to manhood, became soldiers in the late war,—in which George died,—and both on their decease left families to mourn their loss. One of Mrs. Swift's children, William H. Flanagan, was also a soldier in the late war, in which he was surrounded and taken prisoner: and after his return home, in February, 1864, he died, at the age of 19 years. Her daughter Nellie died at the age of 12.

Mr. Swift has been Highway Commissioner many years, and Township Treasurer one year.

**Con. Jacob M. Kemp**, retired merchant, resident at St. Louis, was born in Fayette Co., Pa., July 11, 1811. When he was five years old his parents, Edward and Eve (Pemod) Kemp, removed to Brook Co., Va. They remained there three years and again removed to Jefferson Co., Ohio. In 1826 they went to Richland Co., Ohio.

Mr. Kemp bought 80 acres of land in Vernon Township, Richland County, where he resided until

1851, when he settled near Bryant, in Williams County, in that State, bought a farm and remained on it six years. In 1857 he went to Isabella County and located in the township of Coe, near the northern limit of Gratiot County. He bought 320 acres of land, which he increased by subsequent purchase to 480 acres. He expended his best energies and judgment in its improvement. He built the first frame barn in Isabella County, and a suitable frame farm residence. He cleared 100 acres of the place, and in 1873 sold out. He came to St. Louis and engaged in keeping the hotel in 1870, then known as the Wessels House. He continued its management two years, when he opened a grocery, and later admitted his son, Joseph Kemp, to a partnership. The latter bought the entire establishment in February, 1882, and the father retired from active business life. He owns, besides his fine residence at St. Louis, ten dwelling-houses, two store buildings and a livery stable. He is a member of the Republican party in political principle, and while a resident of Richland County was prominent in public affairs. He was Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of that county three years.

He was married in the township of Plymouth, Richland County, to Harriet, daughter of Robert and Alice Hoy. She is a native of Virginia. Twelve children were born of this union, five of whom are living: Joseph W., grocer at St. Louis; Narcissa, widow of James Bennett, resident at St. Louis; Kate B., wife of A. J. Harrington, a practicing physician at St. Louis; George L., farmer of Pine River Township; Elizabeth, wife of N. E. Barber, a cabinet-maker at St. Louis.

**J**ohn Srodes, real-estate, loan and insurance agent, in company with S. W. Ambler, Ithaca, is a son of Thornton and Caroline (Strodes) Srodes, natives respectively of Virginia and Iowa. Thornton Srodes went with his parents from Virginia to Ohio, and thence to Iowa, where he married Miss Strodes. After marriage, he lived some 20 years in the State of Ohio, and then came to Gratiot County and located in North Star Township, where he is still engaged in agriculture. His wife died in Wyandot Co., Ohio, in 1856.

The subject of this biography was born May 4, 1854, in Wyandot Co., Ohio, and at the early age of 12 began to do for himself. He worked during the summers to obtain money with which to attend school during the winter. He attended Heidelberg College at Tiffin, Ohio, for three years, and thus attained a sufficiently liberal education to enable him to teach, which profession he has followed at times since.

May 10, 1877, he was married to Eunice, daughter of William M. and Eunice C. (McBride) Barstow (see sketch). She was born Aug. 11, 1859, in the county of Gratiot. Mr. Srodes is politically a staunch Republican. He is the second son of a family of three sons. The other two are: Solomon, a farmer of North Star Township, and George, a resident of the State of Colorado.

**S**ilas Randolph, farmer, section 8, Pine River Township, is a son of Cornelius S. and Margaret C. (Barber) Randolph. His father was born in the State of New York, Nov. 14, 1811, and became a resident of Michigan in the spring of 1834, when he settled in Seneca, Lenawee County. He was married June 10, 1838, in that township, and there resided until the autumn of 1882, when he removed to Gratiot County and now resides in Pine River Township (see sketch of Cornelius S. Randolph).

Mr. Randolph is the eldest of six children, five sons and one daughter, born to his parents. His birth occurred March 25, 1839, in Seneca, where he attended the common schools. He completed his education at the High School and Adrian College, at Adrian. When he was 17 years old he entered the employ of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad Company, and spent five years in their service save the terms of school which he attended meanwhile. The following five years he was engaged in agriculture, taking farms on shares. In 1870 he came to St. Louis and was employed four years in the bath house of the Magnetic Springs, after which he engaged as ticket agent for the Flint & Pere Marquette Railroad Company. The latter business not completely occupying his time, he also acted as clerk in a store. In 1877, he entered the service of the C. S. & C. R.

R. Company, where he was occupied two years. He came to Pine River Township in the spring of 1880, and bought 40 acres of land, which was chiefly in a state of nature. Of this he now has 30 acres under tillage. Mr. Randolph is a Republican in political principle.

He was married Sept. 15, 1864, at Adrian, Mich., to Rachel, daughter of Eben and Fanny Sparhawk. The parents were natives of Vermont, and, after their marriage, settled in Medina Co., Ohio, and afterward went to Summit County in that State, where Mrs. Randolph was born, April 18, 1842. She is the youngest of seven children—four daughters and three sons. Three children have been born of her marriage to Mr. Randolph: Emma, Maggie and Frank E.

The parents are members of the Disciples' Church.

**G**ilbert C. Smith, salesman with Nelson & Barber, Ithaca, is a son of Elihu and Maria (Sellick) Smith, natives of Vermont. The father has always followed farming, and moved from the Green Mountain State to St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and in 1867 came to Gratiot County. He now resides with his son, at the advanced age of 89. Gilbert's mother died in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., in 1860.

The subject of this notice was born Aug. 26, 1842, in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and at 18 entered a tub factory, where he was employed two years. Coming to Michigan, he worked at carpentry in Kent County a year and a half, and then lived for eight years north of the village of Ithaca. Next, he bought Gen. Church's interest in the dry-goods business of Nelson & Church, which he retained for two years. The ensuing five years he was engaged in the hardware business, and then he engaged as salesman with Nelson & Barber, in which capacity he has since continued.

He was first married in 1867 to Celia E. Putnam, daughter of Israel and Jane (Barber) Putnam. She was born March 8, 1845, and died Dec. 8, 1877, in the village of Ithaca, leaving two daughters—Lottie M. and Minnie J. He subsequently, in January, 1879, married for his present wife Molly Handy, who was born in Pontiac, this State, March 11, 1853. Mr. Smith has been Treasurer of Arcada Township,

and has been connected with the School Board ever since he has lived in Ithaca. He is a Republican, and with his wife belongs to the Baptist Church.

**W**illiam Barton, of Ithaca, was born in Kinross, Scotland, May 22, 1798, and is the son of William Barton, a native of County Tyrone, North Ireland. He was brought up and educated in the classic city of Glasgow. In 1814, he enlisted in the Duke of Wellington's regiment, and served nine years. He was in the famous battle of Waterloo, on which occasion only four privates and a sergeant besides himself, out of all his company, were able to walk away from the battlefield. Jan. 1, 1822, he crossed the ocean to the island of Jamaica, and the ensuing fall went to New Brunswick, thence to Eastport, Me., Quebec, Portland, Boston, Pawtucket, R. I., and to Columbiana Co., Ohio, in 1823, where he engaged in wool-manufacturing until 1854, when he came to this county, settling in Hamilton Township.

Jan. 17, 1827, he married Catharine Stickels, and five of their eight children are living, namely: Samuel, Sarah J., Mary L., Cassie and Laura H. William was starved to death in the prison at Salisbury, N. C. Cassie is the wife of Prof. A. E. Barstow. Mr. Barton is 86 years of age, and his wife 77: a venerable pair.

**B**uncan Cameron, farmer, section 28, Bethany Township, was born in York Co., Can., Oct. 29, 1844, and is a son of Archibald and Barbara (Lyon) Cameron, the former a native of Scotland, a farmer, and died in the Dominion of Canada, where the latter is still living.

In 1864, Mr. C. left Canada, resided a year in St. Clair Co., Mich., then a year at Richmond, Macomb County, this State, where he commenced to learn the carpenter and joiner's trade, which he followed about a year at Ann Arbor, Mich. He next resided several years at Jackson, Mich., where he followed his mechanical vocation and erected some very fine houses, six of which he sold for the proprietors.

In the fall of 1878 he bought, in Rives Township, Jackson County, 80 acres of improved land, resided there three years, and in the fall of 1881 came to Bethany Township, this county, and purchased the 40 acres where he now resides, on the southeast quarter of section 28; 20 acres are improved and in a high state of cultivation. Since residing here he has built a number of residences in this township.

On national questions, Mr. C. is a Democrat, and in religion he, as well as his wife, is a member of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

While a resident of Aurora, Can., Dec. 25, 1866, Mr. Cameron was married to Jennie McKinley, a native of that Dominion. Of the six children born by this marriage, four are living, viz.: Maggie, born April 12, 1868; Gracie May, April 15, 1871, and died in Bethany Township, April 12, 1882; Minnie Maud, born Aug. 2, 1873; Annie Albertha, June 8, 1876; Arthur A., Jan. 14, 1879; and Albert E., April 14, 1880, and died August 7th following. The first four were born in Jackson, and the last two in Rives Township.

Mrs. C. died in Rives Township, May 2, 1880, and Mr. C. was again married, in Jackson, Dec. 25th following, to Miss Annie B., daughter of George and Belle (Furgeson) Grindall, who was born in Jackson, Feb. 19, 1861. They have been the parents of two children: Georgie, born Aug. 22, 1881, and died Sept. 7, 1881; Frankie, born Dec. 31, 1883.

two children of Mr. and Mrs. Squire are Aaron L. and Julia E.

Mr. S. has been Township Supervisor one year, and is a member of the Adventist Church.

**Harlow Cramer**, farmer, section 24, Bethany Township, is a son of Jeremiah and Ruth, *nee* Lowry Cramer, and was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., May 28, 1830. His parents moved from that State to Freedom Township, Washtenaw County, this State, where they purchased 60 acres of land and followed the occupation of farming until their death, which occurred in 1843 and 1846 respectively. Mr. Cramer continued to follow the vocation of his father until 1855, when he came to this county and located 320 acres of land, being the south half of section 9, Bethany Township, on which he settled and began the arduous task of clearing and improving a home.

Mr. Cramer was married in North Plains Township, Ionia County, July 4, 1858, to Miss Mary C., daughter of Eli and Mary, *nee* Stevens, Dalrymple, and was born in Livingston Co., N. Y., April 14, 1840.

The husband and wife are the parents of nine children: Emily, wife of Elbert E. Ostrander, farmer in Bethany Township; Cheever, deceased; Adela, Harlow J., Minnie A., deceased, George D., Herbert R., Mary E. and William H.

Soon after his marriage, in August, 1858. Mr. C. moved on his farm and from thenceforth he threw all his energy and perseverance into the clearing and improving of the same. His trials were numerous, and yet his indomitable energy overcame them one and all. For his first residence he had eight sticks driven in the ground equidistant from each other, covered with boards and a blanket for the door. That same fall he cleared three acres of timber and put the land in wheat. He resided on this land until 1864, and then purchased 120 acres, on which he is at present residing. Here he began anew the clearing and improving of a home, and has cleared and improved 60 acres of it, and has a good residence, barn and orchard. He is a man of strong constitution, and on two occasions carried a bushel of wheat to St. Louis on his back and brought the

**Lorenzo Squire**, section 21, North Star Township, was born in Portage Co., Ohio, Jan. 22, 1821, and was the son of Aaron Squire, a native of Connecticut, who moved to Geauga Co., Ohio, in 1823 or '4. Lorenzo was reared on a farm, and educated in the common school, also at Meadville, Pa., and at the Twinsburg (Ohio) Seminary. In 1850 he crossed the plains to California, where he followed mining, mostly in the mountains, until the fall of 1853, when he returned home by water; but the next year he went to California again, remaining until 1859. The following year he commenced to establish a home in this county, and Feb. 13, 1862, he married and settled here. His wife is Caroline C., a daughter of Bohan Blair, deceased, and a distant relative of ex-Gov. Blair. The

grist home in the same way. There was no road to his place and he had no team.

Mr. Cramer was Township Clerk in 1860, and subsequently held the position of School Inspector. He is a man of ability, and in addition to following the vocation of a farmer has been extensively engaged in the occupation of a teacher. He began teaching when 20 years of age, in 1850, and taught in the schools at Freedom, Washtenaw County. In 1852 he taught in Bridgewater Township, and in 1854 in Superior Township, same county. In 1857 he taught the first winter school in the village of Hubbardston, and is a man closely identified with the educational interests of the county.

Mr. Cramer is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and an honored and esteemed citizen of the county.

**E**lias W. Lyon, photographer, at Ithaca, was born May 29, 1847, in Clinton Township, Essex Co., N. J. He is a son of Hervey and Elizabeth J. (Whaley) Lyon, both of whom were natives of New Jersey. His father was born July 20, 1810, in Clinton. He was a shoemaker by trade, and in 1851 removed his family to Essex Township, Clinton Co., Mich., where he bought a farm and resided until his death, which occurred Dec. 13, 1880. The mother resides on the homestead, which is a fine farm of 102 acres, with first-class improvements.

Mr. Lyon left home when he was 22 years of age for the purpose of fitting for the business which he has pursued thus far in life. He went to St. John's, and after a course of thorough preparation he went to several places in Michigan to prospect. In October, 1870, he came to Ithaca and established his present business, which has been popular and prosperous. Mr. Lyon owns his place of business and residence in Ithaca, and 80 acres of land on section 4, Washington Township, with 20 acres under cultivation.

He was married Aug. 19, 1871, to Viola R., daughter of Thomas L. and Anna R. (Good) Wasson. She was born Feb. 15, 1852, in Charlotteville, Niagara Co., N. Y. Floyd R., born Sept. 15, 1880, at Ithaca, is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Lyon.

The maternal grandfather of Mr. Lyon was a Major in the war of 1812, and his epaulets and cap were preserved some time in the family.

**C**harles D. Bryant, farmer, section 27, North Star Township, was born in Cuyahoga Co., N. Y., May 12, 1827; his father was Charles Bryant, a native of Vermont, and his mother was Eunice, *nee* Blackmore, a native of Cuyahoga Co., N. Y.: both are deceased.

The former removed to Lorain Co., Ohio, 1831, where the subject of this sketch was brought up on a farm and educated in the common school. At 18 he commenced to learn the trade of tanner and currier, and followed this business until 1854, when he settled on his present place, in a wilderness of deer, bears, wolves and Indians: the latter, however, were peaceable. In this lonely retreat Mr. Bryant built his humble log cabin, and he and his good wife laid to the task of creating a comfortable home by long, weary years of patient toil; and success has crowned their efforts. The land for which they paid 50 cents an acre is now worth more than \$75 an acre.

Mr. Bryant, Oct. 15, 1848, married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of John S. and Eliza (Stover) Tarr, natives respectively of Virginia and Pennsylvania. Mrs. B. was born July 6, 1830, in Wayne Co., Ohio. Their two children have been: Wilber, born Feb. 14, 1850; and Henry, born Nov. 14, 1851, and died Aug. 15, 1866.

Mr. B. enlisted in the last war, in February, 1865, in Co. C, — Ill. Vol. Inf., at Chicago. He is a member of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

**J**oseph Barden, liveryman at St. Louis, was born June 30, 1837, in Niagara Co., N. Y., near the city of Lockport. His parents, Hiram and Eliza (Fleming) Barden, left Lockport in 1844 and went to London, Ont., where they resided about a year. The father was a native of Massachusetts, and to the labors of his calling, which was that of a stone-mason, he added those of agriculture. In the early spring of 1847 he

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*H. C. Johnson*

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went to Huron Co., Mich., to buy land. When returning in a sail-boat, in company with Dr. Heth and his son and Peter Shooks, the lighthouse-keeper at Point aux Barques, the boat was capsized, as is supposed, as it was afterwards found stranded, but the bodies of its occupants were never discovered. The mother was born in Canada and is at present living near Cadillac, Mich. After the tragic fate of her husband, she removed to Port Huron, where the son worked for a time in the jewelry business, and afterward went to Mount Clemens, Macomb Co., Mich. Later he went to Troy, Oakland County and was there employed in farming. In 1865 he went to Ovid, in Clinton County, and there he bought a farm of 80 acres, on which he worked five years. In February, 1870, he opened a livery stable in the town of Ovid, and continued its management 13 years. He operated to a considerable extent in real-estate, bought and sold several farms, and did much in the way of clearing and otherwise improving the property in his hands. In September, 1882, he sold his property at Ovid, and the following December came to St. Louis, where, associated with P. Cornell, he bought the Commercial Hotel and barns. He keeps 17 horses, carriages and first-class livery fixtures, and conducts boarding, feed and sale stables.

Mr. Barden was married Feb. 13, 1862, in Troy, Oakland County, to Delia C., daughter of Rev. John and Margaret Martin. She was born on the family homestead, where she was married May 22, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Barden have two children, born in Ovid: Lura K., May 11, 1866, and Josie Belle, Dec. 25, 1873. The oldest child, Willie J., is deceased. Miss Lura is an accomplished young lady, a graduate from Miss Noble's Elocutionary Training School at Detroit, where she was awarded a gold medal.

Mr. Barden held the position of Marshal of the village of Ovid several years, and was also Constable while resident there. He belongs to the fraternity of Odd Fellows.

Rev. John Martin was born July 7, 1796, in Cayuga Co., N. Y.: his wife was born in December, 1800. They came from Fleming, in August, 1831, and settled in Troy, Oakland Co., Mich., and were among the early pioneer settlers there, where the father combined the two vocations of farmer and preacher. He experienced the varied conditions of pioneer farmer and circuit preacher in an unsettled country,

discharging the duties of his clerical position through several counties, sometimes being obliged to go on foot, and sometimes making his trips to his appointments on horseback. He labored in the interests of the Baptist Church, and at one time lived several years in Shiawassee County, near Corunna, where he was in charge of a religious society. Both the parents of Mrs. Barden are living, at Ovid, Clinton County.

**D**aniel C. Johnson, of the firm of Peet & Johnson, liverymen at Ithaca, was born in Madison Co., N. Y., Nov. 12, 1836, and is a son of Lemam and Sabrina (Rice) Johnson. His father was born March 12, 1810, in Litchfield Co., Conn., and was of French and English descent. In early life he was a millwright, carpenter and joiner, and in 1852 came to Gratiot County and bought 160 acres of land in Newark Township. He went back to the State of New York, where he resided until 1859, in which year he made a settlement on his property, where he died Sept. 15, 1880. He was Supervisor of the town of Newark eight years in succession. The mother was born in July, 1812, in Madison Co., N. Y., of English parentage. She died on the homestead in Newark Township, Oct. 1, 1879.

Mr. Johnson passed the years of his youth in alternate farm labor and school until he was eighteen years old. On leaving school in 1854, he came to Gratiot County to take charge of the land his father had bought two years previously, and which was, at the date of purchase, in a wholly natural condition. His uncle, Nelson Johnson, erected thereon the first structure built in the township of Newark. This was done in the spring of 1852, and the same individual cut five acres of timber, but did not put the same in a wholly improved condition. Mr. Johnson cleared 30 acres and erected a frame house. In 1859 his father took possession, and in the same year the son bought 80 acres of land on section 1, Fulton Township, where he moved in the spring of 1860, and there resided nine years. He cleared 66 acres, put the place in a finely improved state, with suitable buildings, orchard, etc., when he sold out and bought a home in Ithaca. In company with B. F. Shepard, he opened a general store, and continued in that

business relation until 1872. In the fall of that year, Mr. Johnson embarked in the grocery trade, which he managed successfully until the spring of 1876. In 1874, he accepted the appointment of agent for the administratrix of the estate of John Jeffrey, and the duties of the position occupied his attention chiefly until 1879. In that year, he formed a partnership in a general mercantile business with J. H. Seaver, which existed about a year and a half. On its termination, he once more embarked in the grocery trade, but closed the business on account of impaired health. In January, 1882, he was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Gratiot County, and in the summer of 1883 he and K. P. Peet entered into company in the building of a large barn for livery purposes, where they have since conducted an extended business. They keep 11 horses, with all necessary equipages and fixtures, also sale, feed and boarding stable. Mr. Johnson has held the various offices of the School Board, and has officiated several years as a member of the Village Council. He was Treasurer of Emerson Township one year; belongs also to the Masonic fraternity.

He was married Nov. 15, 1859, to Minnie Haight. She was born Dec. 26, 1836, in Madison Co., N. Y., and was the daughter of David and Orilla Haight. The two children of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born as follows; Edith, Feb. 7, 1862, who is now engaged in teaching in the graded school at Ithaca; and Dewitt, March 4, 1866, who is now working at the jewelry business in Ithaca. Mrs. J. died April 15, 1879, in this county.

The portrait of Mr. Johnson on a preceding page is the likeness of a representative citizen of Gratiot County, who has borne the brunt of its pioneer hardships, discharged his obligations as a man in every avenue to which he has been called, and who is still exerting an influence for the progress of his generation and the community of which he is a member. He owns a fine farm in Newark Township—one-half the original purchase of his father in 1852.

Mr. Johnson was a second time married at Ithaca, Nov. 8, 1880, to Helen M., youngest daughter of Henry and Nancy M. (Colister) Goodrich, who was at that time engaged in the millinery business. The former was born in New Jersey in 1808. He was a farmer, and removed to New York, whence, after a short residence, he came to Oakland County, this

State, where he was one of its pioneers. He afterwards went to Bath Township, Clinton County, where he entered a Government claim of 80 acres. It was in dense timber, and its proprietor cleared and improved it until it was one of the best farms in the section where it was located. He died in March, 1863. The mother was born Oct. 29, 1812, at Bald Hill, Ontario Co., N. Y., and died June 30, 1882. Of their nine children, eight are living. The eldest daughter, Phoebe, is deceased. Emily is the wife of W. D. Voorhies, a farmer of Ogemaw. Elizabeth is married to Henry Stockford, of Ithaca. Sarah A. is the wife of Isaac Hall, a farmer of Ingham County, located near Dimondale. Elvira is Mrs. A. B. Edwards, wife of a farmer of Watertown, Clinton Co., Mich. Philena is the wife of Edward M. Southwell, a farmer near Shaftsbury, Shiawassee Co., Mich. William H. is a farmer in Bath, Clinton County. Caroline M. is the wife of James Culver, a farmer of Bath Township, Clinton County.

A brother of the above, named Frank A. Johnson, who was born Nov. 25, 1839, in Madison Co., N. Y., once resided a few years in this county, and returned to Miller's Corners, Ontario Co., N. Y.

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**H**enry Wiseman, farmer, section 28, Newark Township, was born in Hanover, Germany, in September, 1831. His parents, Henry and Louisa Wiseman, were also natives of Germany. His father and two sons and a daughter came to the United States in 1848, but, his father being somewhat advanced in years, they remained but a short time, and returned to "Das Vaterland."

Mr. Wiseman remained in the State of New York six years, engaged as a farm assistant. He went in 1854 to Indiana, whence he returned, after spending one season there, to the Empire State. In the fall of 1855, he came to Michigan and fixed upon Gratiot County as favorable to his hopes and aspirations. He bought 160 acres of unimproved land on section 28, Newark Township, where he at first erected a "shanty" to shelter his small household until he could make arrangements for something better. Not long after he built a log house, which was their home until 1874, when he erected the fine frame house

which is now the family home. In 1880, he built one of the best barns in the township, 40 by 60 feet in extent. Of his original acreage, he has placed 85 acres under cultivation.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiseman are among the earliest settlers in Gratiot County, and have undergone all the pioneer experiences incident to the period of their location. Among them, they passed through the memorable "starvation period" of 1857, when corn bread was a luxury almost beyond reach. The old-country industry and energy which Mr. Wiseman has expended on his farm mark him as having met the success he has merited. His farm and its arrangement, fixtures and buildings, amply testify to his thrift, perseverance and good management. He is a Republican in political connection. In addition to his fulfillment of the duties of local citizenship, Mr. Wiseman furnished incontrovertible proof of his entire adoption of the country and its interests by enlisting as a soldier when they were in peril. He enrolled Aug. 5, 1862, in the 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., and was in the service two years and four months. His command was attached to the Army of the Potomac, and he was under fire through the seven days' fight in the Wilderness and at Spottsylvania Court-house. He received a severe wound in the left shoulder during the latter engagement, and in consequence was discharged, with honor.

He was married in the State of New York April 7, 1852, to Rosina, daughter of Jacob and Christiana Feldman, natives of Germany. Mrs. Wiseman was born in Germany Feb. 19, 1833. She is the mother of eight children, five of whom yet survive: Rosetta L., Luthera, Charles, John and Morris. Sophronia died when she was 11 years old, Caroline at the age of 13 years, and Dorothea died when nine years of age.

**Lorenzo C. Clark**, farmer, section 9, North Star Township, was born in Crawford Co., Pa., June 18, 1839. His parents were Watson D. and Elizabeth (Trace) Clark, both natives of that State, the former of English and the latter of German ancestry. They lived in Monroe Co., Mich., from 1849 to 1876, except four years in Wayne County. While in the latter place Lorenzo C. worked in a store and saw mill.

Mr. Clark, the subject of this sketch, enlisted in Co. E, Sixth Mich. Vol. Inf., Feb. 4, 1861, and was honorably discharged Aug. 20, 1865, his regiment doing garrison duty. In 1876 he settled on section 5, North Star Township. He is pursuing general farming, having 40 acres in his homestead. In the spring of 1883 he was elected Township Treasurer, which position he now fills. March 20, 1862, he married Miss Elizabeth N., daughter of David and Marietta (Baker) Brake, both of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have had nine children, namely: Willis C., Elva M., Lettie A., David G., Minnie R., Jennie E., John T., Libbie M. and Iva F.

**Belon Fleming**, senior member of the mercantile firm of Fleming & Newton at Riverdale, was born April 3, 1854, in Jackson Co., Mich. He is a son of Charles M. and Elvira (Humphrey) Fleming, natives of New York. After their marriage, they located in Jackson County, where they resided 25 years, after which they came to Gratiot County, and settled near St. Louis on 160 acres of land, which was principally in a wild state. The father proceeded to make improvements, and had placed 50 acres in tillable condition when he sold his farm. He moved to St. Louis, where he is now residing. He is 74 years of age, and his wife is 68 years old.

Mr. Fleming began his life as an independent seeker of his own advancement in the world when he was 23 years of age. His first employ was with A. G. Newton as clerk in his store at Riverdale. Later on, his employer established his business at Ithaca, and Mr. Fleming accompanied him thither in the capacity of assistant, and remained with him one year. Meanwhile his father had removed to St. Louis, and they opened a grocery in that village. The relation existed two years, when he sold his interest to his brother, Charles L. Fleming, now of the firm of Fleming & Church, at St. Louis. Mr. Fleming went to Vestaburg, Montcalm County, where he was interested in the grocery business more than a year and a half, when he returned to St. Louis and again entered the employ of Mr. Newton, who had established his business there. He acted as clerk about six months, when he became associated with

Mr. Newton in mercantile interests at Riverdale. Mr. Fleming is a Republican in political affiliation.

He was married in 1879 to Katie, daughter of Jacob Fell, now a resident of Fostoria, Seneca Co., Ohio. She was born in 1857. Elsie, eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Fleming, was born in June, 1881, in Montcalm County; Maud was born Jan. 25, 1883, in Gratiot County. The parents belong to the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches.



**B**enjamin Ray, farmer, section 31, Arcada Township, was born in Leroy, Lake Co., Ohio, Nov. 5, 1823, and is the son of George G. and Betsey (Billington) Ray, natives of the Mohawk Valley, in New York. They were of Dutch descent, and followed farming. Benjamin left the parental roof at the age of 20, and worked on his neighbors' farms as a common laborer until 23 years old.

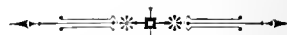
July 24, 1844, at Madison, Ohio, he was married to Nancy, daughter of Joseph and Abigail (Billington) Post, natives of New York. Three years later, they came to Van Buren County, this State, and located near Paw Paw. They farmed there for 23 years, and had a disastrous fire, that cost them \$1,000 and deprived them of their home. Mr. Ray then took a tour through the West, going as far as Virginia City, in search of the precious metals. He visited Montana and Idaho, and became familiar with the grand scenery of those territories. A year later, they settled on their present home in Arcada Township. He purchased 100 acres, of which 60 are under cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Ray are members of the Free Methodist Church. Politically, he is a Republican.



**W**illiam T. Pitt, Supervisor of Seville Township, residing on section 22, is a son of George and Eliza (Duncan) Pitt, natives, the former of England, and the latter of Cayuga Co., N. Y. The mother died when William T. was ten years old. The father came to Gratiot County in 1868, and located on 40 acres in Pine River Township. He now owns 80 acres.

The subject of this sketch was born May 13, 1841, in Oakland Co., Mich., and remained at home with his parents until 14 years of age, after which he worked out on a farm until 17 years old. He then lived for eight years in California, engaged in mining, dairying and farming. Returning to Oakland County, this State, he resided there until 1879, when he came to Gratiot County and located on 80 acres on section 22, Seville.

In 1869, he married Miss Betsy Lawson, daughter of Moses and Elsie (Baird) Lawson, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York. The father was a wagon-maker. She was born in Wayne Co., Mich., March 7, 1846. Mr. and Mrs. Pitt have one daughter, born July 14, 1872, in Oakland County. Mrs. Pitt is a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Pitt is politically a National. He was elected Supervisor in 1882, and re-elected in 1883.



**G**eorge S. Naldrett, farmer, section 31, Newark Township, was born in England Oct. 1, 1834. His parents, Clement and Hannah (Hiscock) Naldrett, were also natives of England. In 1849, they came to the United States and settled in Livingston Co., Mich., whence they removed three years later to Gratiot County and located in the township of Newark. They continued to reside there about 23 years, when they removed to Eaton County, and there completed their lives.

Mr. Naldrett was 15 years old when he came with his parents to America, and he remained under the parental authority until he arrived at the estate of manhood. On the advent of that period, he bought 80 acres of wild land on section 31, Newark Township. To this he has since added by purchase, and now owns 253 acres of land. His tillable land includes 160 acres. On taking possession of his farm in Newark, he erected a small but every way suitable and comfortable frame house, which his family occupied until 1881. In that year, he built a fine brick residence opposite the home of his pioneer days and labors, where he enjoys the results of his life of well-directed effort. He is one of the leading agriculturists of his township, and has been, in former years, extensively engaged in handling stock, but from im-

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*George S Nashobrett*





*Mrs. G. S. Aldrett*

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paired health has been compelled to abandon that branch of his business. He keeps, on an average, 50 head of cattle, 15 hogs and 4 horses. He is a Democrat in affiliation, but not aggressive in any sense; has always declined preferment in local offices, for which he has been frequently presented. He is a member of the Masonic Order.

Mr. Naldrett was married in Gratiot Co., Mich., Jan. 15, 1857, to Caroline, youngest daughter of Simon and Lydia (Kirby) Jones. The parents were born respectively in Vermont and Massachusetts, and settled in the State of New York, and later went to Ohio. In 1856, they became residents of Fulton Township, Gratiot County, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Naldrett was born in Seneca Co., Ohio, July 18, 1839, and was an inmate of her father's home until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. N. have become the parents of five children: Charles S., Ida M., Clement, Laura J. and Lydia J.

**J**ohn Price, farmer, on section 15, Fulton Township, is a son of William R. and Mary G. Price, natives of New Hampshire. They first settled in that State, after marriage, and in 1857 came to Gratiot County. Here they lived until 1873, and then removed to Maple Rapids, where he died, April 16, 1878; and she followed him from this world of trouble and of care four days later.

The subject of this notice was born in New Hampshire, Sept. 21, 1845, and was but 11 years old when his parents removed to this county. He remained on the farm, attending school and working for his father, until 18 years old. For almost ten years subsequent to leaving home he worked by the month at farming and brick-making. He then engaged in peddling for one year. In the spring of 1873 he bought 40 acres of partly improved land on section 15, where he has put up good buildings and has 30 acres under cultivation.

March 26, 1873, at St. John's, Clinton County, he married Mrs. Ann E. Price (*nee* Jenne), daughter of Ansel Seth and Narcissa Jenne, and widow of Charles A. Price. The latter died in Fulton Township, Jan. 7, 1868. She was born April 22, 1840, and had by her first marriage a son, Charles A., born July 16, 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Price have three chil-

dren: Eugene H., born Feb. 6, 1874; Frank A., born March 26, 1876; Jennie, born March 4, 1880. Mr. P. is a member of the Masonic Order, and votes the Democratic ticket.

**I**iram W. French, farmer on section 15, Seville Township, is a son of Joseph and Elvira (Loomis) French, natives of Vermont. He has followed the trade of blacksmithing, and came from New York to Michigan in 1854, and settled in Kent County. He afterwards came to Gratiot County, and located on 80 acres of wild land on section 15, Seville. He has 50 acres well improved.

In the year 1849, he was married to Christina, daughter of Peter and Julia (Massado) Jerue, of French descent. Her mother was drowned in Seneca Lake in 1853. This marriage has been blessed with three children: Adelbert H., Mary S. and Francis E. Mr. French has been Justice of the Peace four terms, and Highway Commissioner also four terms.

Francis E. French was born in Grand Rapids July 26, 1858. Emma Dubois, his wife, was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Feb. 29, 1864, and is a daughter of Edward and Mary A. (Burkhart) Dubois, who came in 1865 to Isabella County, this State, where they now reside. Francis French is politically an anti-Monopolist. He was chosen Clerk of his township in the spring of 1882. He and wife have one son, Francis E., born March 4, 1884.

**F**ayette Sweatland, one of the pioneer settlers of North Star Township, resident on section 12, was born in Franklin Co., Vt., July 25, 1829. He is a son of Philetus and Hannah (Barton) Sweatland, natives of Connecticut and Massachusetts, respectively. They moved to Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, in 1831, and Mr. S. remembers Cleveland at that time as no larger than Ithaca, this county, is at present. The family remained there until 1843, when they removed to Huron County, same State.

In 1854 Mr. Sweatland came to this State and entered 320 acres of Government land on the north

half of section 12, North Star Township, a portion of which he still owns and on which he is now living. He brought his family here, consisting of his father, mother, wife and child, in December of that year and entered at once upon the arduous task of clearing and improving his land.

Mr. Sweatland experienced all the trials of the early pioneer. His customary "log cabin" was erected in the woods and under the most adverse circumstances. He had only one neighbor within a radius of seven miles, and incessant individual toil were necessary to accomplish the aim so fondly cherished in his energetic mind. He worked diligently and earnestly, and to-day can look back upon the past and smile at the difficulty and adversity they offered.

Mr. Sweatland enlisted in the late civil war, enrolling in Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., Aug. 9, 1862, and was discharged June 13, 1865. He was detailed to accompany the ambulance train and had charge of one consisting of 18 wagons.

He was married in Seneca Co., Ohio, April 28, 1853, to Lydia, daughter of Dr. Elias Sower, whose biography we present in this work, and six children have been born to them, namely: Lorena, Josephine (died Jan. 14, 1875, aged 19), Hortense (died Dec. 2, 1872, aged 14), Theodore (died June 25, 1871, aged four years and ten months), Arthur E. and Benson D.

Mr. S. is recognized as one of the prominent men of the Township, straight-forward and honest in his dealings with his fellow man and one who has never sought political favor. He owns 240 acres of land in the County, and devotes his time to the cultivation and improvement of the same.

Mr. S. is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and likewise of the Knights of Honor and I. O. O. F.

**N**athaniel Walker, farmer, on section 24, Fulton Township, is a son of Stephen and Lydia (White) Walker, natives of New York and New Hampshire. They settled first in Seneca Co., N. Y., and came to Lenawee Co., Mich., about 1832, where they lived until their death. He died May 27, 1878, and she Aug. 7, 1882. Their family comprised four sons and one daughter.

Nathaniel, the third son, was born in Lenawee Co., Mich., Feb. 19, 1836, and worked on the farm and attended school until 21 years of age. In the spring of 1859 he came with his wife and one child to Gratiot County, and settled on 80 acres of land which he had bought two years previously. He at once built a log house and commenced to improve his place. He has since added 80 acres, and has now under cultivation 125 acres. He has recently erected a fine dwelling-house.

Nov. 2, 1856, in Fairfield, Lenawee Co., Mich., he married Miss Ellen E. Reynolds, daughter of Job and Lydia (Laycock) Reynolds, natives of Rhode Island and New York State. Mrs. Walker was born in Jackson Co., Mich., Jan. 26, 1838, and is the mother of 10 children, eight of whom survive: Sterah B., Effie E., Martha J., Anna C., J. D., Glenn A. A., Nora M. and Gertie Z. The two deceased are Lydia A. and John M. Mr. Walker has been Supervisor of his township two years. In politics he is a zealous and life-long Republican.

**M**arius Reid, of Reid & Bro., farmers and sheep-raisers, section 18, Arcada Township, was born in Almont Township, Lapeer Co., Mich., July 28, 1841; and is the son of Hulbert Reid, a native of Genesee Co., N. Y. The father is a farmer in Lapeer County, where he located in 1835, in a then new country. Having his full share of the hard work incident to clearing and improving a timbered farm, his time for study was limited. Such opportunities as he had, however, were assiduously improved, so that he acquired a very fair education. On the breaking out of the Rebellion, his patriotic impulses led him to offer his services to his country; and accordingly, when only 20 years old, Aug. 15, 1861, he enlisted in Co. L, 1st Mich. Vol. Cav., which belonged to Custer's brigade, and served in the Army of the Potomac. He fought in all engagements in which his regiment participated. He was never wounded, though he had some narrow escapes. At one time, in the Shenandoah Valley, he had a horse shot from under him, but he soon obtained another, and was off in pursuit of the enemy. At Perrysville, Va., after three years' service, he was honorably discharged.

Returning home, he taught school one winter, and then studied in an academy with a view to teaching. He next took a course in the Iron City Business College, at Pittsburg, Pa., studying also telegraphy. He was, after completing his course, then employed on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and then as operator on the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad at St. John's, Mich. Here he remained until 1869.

June 4, 1869, in Shiawassee County, he was married to Jennie, daughter of Edward and Isabella (Savage) Lawrence, natives of the North of Ireland and of Scotch descent. The father was by occupation a farmer, and died at his home in Vernon Township, Shiawassee County, in August, 1876; the mother resides on the old homestead, enjoying a hale old age. Jennie was born in Brownsville, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Feb. 25, 1847, and when very young she came with her parents to Shiawassee Co., Mich., where she was educated and lived till her marriage. In July, after that event, Mr. Reid quit the railroad, and with his brother engaged at St. John's in shipping wheat and other produce. In May, 1872, they came to Gratiot County and purchased 280 acres of partly improved land on section 18, Arcada Township. Messrs. Reid & Bro. have 175 acres under good cultivation, and keep 200 and upward fine sheep on hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Reid are the parents of six children, four of whom are living: May Lillian, born Jan. 4, 1870; Adelia, born Oct. 13, 1873; Anna, born Oct. 13, 1875; and Frank, born June 1, 1882. Mr. Reid is an active citizen as well as business man. He was elected Supervisor of Arcada Township in 1881, and again in 1883; was for some time Superintendent of Schools, and is now School Director. Politically he is a staunch Republican. In February, 1883, he was appointed for three years President of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Gratiot and Isabella Counties.

to this great republic with his father when 16 years old. He lived for eight years in Monroe Co., N. Y., and then went to Orleans Co., same State. A year later he went to Ohio, afterward returning to New York. He lived in the Empire State until October, 1853, when he came to Brooklyn, Jackson Co., Mich. During his stay here he was for a few months in the employ of the Government, as a blacksmith. He lived there until February, 1865, when he came to Gratiot County and settled on 80 acres of section 21, Fulton Township, which he had bought the year previous. He now owns 110 acres, of which 90 are improved.

Oct. 2, 1849, in Rochester, N. Y., he united himself in marriage to Miss Margaret, daughter of Richard and Ellen (Murphy) Hughes, natives of Ireland. She was born in County Down, Ireland, Nov. 10, 1828. Mr. and Mrs. S. have been the parents of ten children, six of whom survive: Michael H., Margaret A., Francis E., Tom J., Mary A. and Agnes. The deceased are: Ellen, Thomas, Patrick H. and Teresa. The parents are attached to the Catholic Church. Politically, Mr. S. votes with the Democratic party.

**Thomas Culy**, farmer, section 25, New Haven Township, is a son of Benjamin and Mary E. (Wykes) Culy, natives of England, who came to this State in 1835, and died in Scio Township, Washtenaw County, where the subject of this sketch was born, Sept. 22, 1835. He remained with his parents until 16 years of age, working on the farm. He then apprenticed himself to Alex. Sonier, in the vicinity of Dexter, that county, to learn the cooper's trade. In six months he commenced work as a "jour," but after a short time he tried farming; then resumed his trade a few years; next he worked at blacksmithing some time at Williamston, Ingham Co., Mich.; then worked on a farm again for a year, for his brother in his native township, then followed railroading three years, and then for a time alternated between farming and coopering.

He lost his wife, mother and sister at nearly the same time, an affliction seldom experienced by any one. At this time he lived in Parma, Jackson Coun-

**Patrick Sheridan**, farmer, on section 21, Fulton Township, is a son of Michael and Mary (Healey) Sheridan, natives of Ireland, where the mother died. The father came to the United States in 1827, and settled in Monroe Co., N. Y., where he died, Nov. 9, 1850. Patrick was born in Ireland, Jan. 5, 1826, and came

ty. Soon afterward, in the fall of 1867, he came to Gratiot County, settling first on 40 acres of section 25, where he still resides. To this he has added 80 acres, and made good improvements, recently erecting a fine house and barn. He is now considered a first-class farmer.

Mr. Culy was first married in September, 1856, to Miss Charlotte Baker, who was born and brought up in the State of New York. After a short residence with her parents in Washtenaw County, whither the family had moved, she was married, and then resided in Jackson County until her death, which occurred Aug. 29, 1865. Nov. 7, 1867, Mr. C. was again married to Miss Elizabeth Myra, who was born June 1, 1849, in Clinton Co., Ohio. She has become the mother of six children, namely: Clara, Sarah E., Rosa M., Frederick J., Emma G. and Ansel B.

Mr. Culy is in politics a Democrat, and has held several township offices.

**G**eorge W. Pulfrey, proprietor of the Pulfrey House, at Alma, was born Jan. 18, 1852, in Seneca Co., N. Y. His parents, Alexander and Susan A. (Longwood) Pulfrey, were natives of the State of New York, where they established their home after marriage. In 1863 they came to Michigan and settled in Washington Township, Gratiot County. After a stay there of five years they went to St. John's, Clinton County, where the father is yet living. The mother died there in 1874.

Mr. Pulfrey became his own master when he was 16 years old. About the time his parents removed to Clinton County, he began to drive stage between St. John's and St. Louis, and acted in that capacity about three years. In 1875, he engaged as a clerk in the Exchange Hotel at St. Louis, and was there employed until the spring of 1878 when he leased the Seaman House, at Alma. A year and a half later he bought the property and is still conducting the same business. The hotel is now known as the "Pulfrey House" and has accommodations for 35 guests. Mr. Pulfrey is a Republican in political principle.

He was married at Maple Rapids, Clinton County, Sept. 2, 1873, to Eliza, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Eicher. Mrs. Pulfrey was born Jan. 24, 1855,

in Gratiot Co., Mich. Her parents were born on the river Rhine, in France and Switzerland. Three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Pulfrey are named Herbert G., Grace M. and Iva M.

**W**illiam Smith, farmer, section 34, New Haven Township, is a son of Joseph and Mary (Stifler) Smith, natives of Pennsylvania and of English descent. William was born in Stark Co., Ohio, Nov. 31, 1839, where he lived till he was nine years old, when the family removed to Seneca County. There our subject worked on the farm, attending school during the winters, till he arrived at manhood's estate. He remained in his father's employment till he was 24 years of age, at which time he was united in marriage with Catharine Brillhart. The newly wedded couple settled down at once on a farm in Seneca County, where they remained for 16 years. At the end of that period they came to Gratiot County and purchased the farm owned by James Blain. This consisted of 80 acres, part of which was improved. He has since made some excellent changes in the farm buildings, has added 50 acres to his farm, and now has 93 acres under the plow.

Mrs. Smith was born in Stark Co., Ohio, Dec. 25, 1841, moving with her parents when 17 years of age to Crawford County, and afterward to Seneca County, where she was married. She is the mother of three children, as follows: Clara A., born Sept. 25, 1864; Jennie M., March 3, 1868; and Sarah B., May 31, 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the German Baptist or Dunkard Church, of which Mr. Smith is a Deacon. He has held several offices of his township and in politics is a strong Republican.

**G**eorge H. Yerington, agent of the American Express Company, resident at Alma, was born at Ionia, Mich., Aug. 19, 1853, and is the son of William and Amanda (Bennett) Yerington. His father was a native of Connecticut, his mother of Michigan. In the spring of 1865 they came to Alma, where they are yet resident.

At the age of 16 Mr. Yerington entered the em-

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*Stiles Kennedy M.D.*



ploy of his brother Almon, then a druggist at Alma. He was occupied there five years, until the business terminated by a change of proprietorship, and he was variously employed until June, 1881, when he engaged as clerk in the drug store of Geo. C. Waller. A year later he obtained a situation with George C. Beebe, and operated in the capacity of assistant several months. In January, 1883, he secured a position with Joseph B. Salisbury in the drug business, which relation continued until March, 1884. He is now with B. S. Webb, druggist. In the fall of 1883 he received his appointment as express agent. He is a Republican in political principle.

Mr. Yerington was married at Alma, Oct. 26, 1881, to Ada, daughter of C. P. and Maria Sherman. She is a native of the State of New York.

**K**entiles Kennedy, M. D., physician and surgeon, at St. Louis, is the son of Rev. George W. and Ellen (Jennings) Kennedy, and was born April 1, 1838, in Lebanon, Ky. His father was born in 1805, in New London, Pa., and was educated at Princeton College, at which institution he graduated with honor. He studied theology and entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, in whose interests he has labored since he commenced his career of active ministerial service. He has labored chiefly in Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, and is still acting in his vocation in Middletown, Del. On the paternal side Dr. Kennedy is descended from the sturdy race known and distinguished as Scotch-Irish. His grandfather, accompanied by two brothers, came to the American continent just prior to the colonial struggle for independence, and all three adopted the issues of the Revolution, engaging in the war, in which one of them held the rank of Major. They settled at New London, Pa., and founded the academy at that place. The institution has always held first rank in educational standing, and they continued its management a number of years. On the mother's side Dr. Kennedy is a lineal descendant of John Jennings, Duke of Ghent, better known to history as John of Gaunt. Humphrey Jennings, son of the Lancastrian ancestor, resided in Birmingham, England. He had five sons and two daugh-

ters. Three sons—Daniel, Augustin and William—came to America. The daughters were: Sarah, wife of the Duke of Marlborough, and Frances, Duchess of Tyrconnel, women whose beauty turned the heads of kings and revolutionized courtly circles. Daniel Jennings was born in 1690, in Suffolkshire, England. He sold his estate and came to Maryland in 1722, afterward removing to Virginia. His sons, Daniel and James, were in the colonial service during the entire period of the Revolution. The former was born Oct. 3, 1737, in Fairfax, Va., and died in 1783. The latter was born in 1735 and died in 1811. Daniel Jennings (third) was born in Virginia in 1769, was married in 1799, and died at Lebanon, Ky., in 1846. He married Sarah Jennings, a descendant from a collateral branch of the same family, born 1776, died 1852; and his daughter, whose full name was Mary Elinor Foster Jennings, was the mother of Dr. Kennedy. She was born in Virginia in 1808, and died in Lebanon, Ky., in 1840.

The parents of Dr. Kennedy removed to Delaware when he was in his boyhood, and soon after he became a pupil at the Milford Academy, where he was a student until he was 17 years old, when he entered the University of Pennsylvania, and was graduated from the Medical Department in the spring of 1858. He spent two years in prospecting through the West and Southwest, and finally settled in the Shenandoah Valley, Va., where he engaged in practice about one year, when he was appointed Surgeon in the Confederate Army, in the corps of Stonewall Jackson. He was afterward assigned to the command of Beauregard, and later to that of Gen. Robert E. Lee. He was taken prisoner at Newbern, N. C., and held in durance about one month in the city of Washington. After the close of the war he returned to private practice in Newark, Delaware.

The professional standing of Dr. Kennedy during the war is fully evidenced by the fact that, after the battle of Antietam, he was sent under a flag of truce by Gen. Lee to Frederick City as chief of a corps of surgeons to co-operate with the surgeons of the Federal army in relieving the wounded of both armies. The special order of Gen. Lee prescribed that all bills created by Dr. Kennedy in the line of his official duty and approved by him should be paid in gold by the Secretary of the Confederate Treasury at Richmond. He was at Frederick six weeks, and on his return was appointed Inspector of Hospitals as a

mark of appreciation of his services in the discharge of his responsible and arduous labors. Gov. Jervis, of North Carolina, while in attendance at the Yorktown celebration in 1881, related the following incident to Judge Brown and Robert Smith, Esq., of Ithaca. He was terribly wounded at the battle of Drury's Bluff in the shoulder joint, and the examining surgeons had decided on amputation as a necessity, and loss of life as more than probable. Dr. Kennedy chanced to pass at the moment, and Gov. Jervis called his attention to his case, and stated the determination of the other surgeons. After an examination Dr. Kennedy stated his opinion, which was that the arm could be saved with a loss of several inches in length. The instruments were turned over to him, and he successfully performed the difficult and, at that time, rare operation, resection of shoulder joint, to the great satisfaction and admiration of the surgeons present. On concluding his remarks, the Governor extended a very useful arm, observing: "Here, gentlemen, is the arm, shortening and all." He declared that he was furthermore indebted to Dr. Kennedy for his life. After the close of the war in 1865, Dr. Kennedy was offered the chair of Medical Practice in Richmond Medical College, but declined the honor.

In 1871 Dr. Kennedy came to St. Louis, where he has established a prosperous and popular business. He has taken a conspicuous part in the establishment of all public improvements, as the Holly water works, a good system of sewerage and splendid public schools. He is the owner of considerable village property, and is a member of the State Medical Society of Michigan. He is also known in the circles of medical literature as a contributor to the medical journals of the day.

In 1866-7, Dr. Kennedy wrote a series of papers, which were published in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter* of Philadelphia, on "Mistakes in Surgical Diagnosis," and cited many cases of patients and practitioners then living. These were the occasion of many acrimonious professional disputes, but the general *consensus* of opinion settled in favor of Dr. Kennedy. In 1869, he published a statement of his experiences in treatment of scarlet fever by cool baths and cool regimen. The idea was unique at that time, and called forth a storm of denunciation, but its great merit was soon demonstrated, and the treatment may now be found in all works on practical

medicine. In 1872, he wrote "The Mineral Springs of Michigan," a work which gave the first and only authenticated account of the quality of the famous waters of the State and its health results. It was published in a handsomely bound octavo volume, the first edition of which was soon exhausted. A second edition was about to be issued when the establishment doing the work was burned, and the plates were destroyed. Dr. Kennedy's work is mentioned by recent publications on the topic of mineral waters and summer resorts as authoritative. In 1870, through the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, he called the attention of the profession to the value of Iodoform as a remedial agent, and recited numerous cases illustrating its use. These papers were copied by the leading medical journals of this country and Europe, and Iodoform has taken a high position all over the world as a therapeutic agent. Since 1872, he has been a contributor to the *Detroit Review of Medicine* and its successors. Among his recent contributions to medical journalism which have attracted much notice are, "The Direct Abstraction of Heat as a Method in the Treatment of Typhoid Fever," and on the "Philosophical Treatment of Diphtheria."

Dr. Kennedy is prominent in local politics, and has been for several years Chairman of the Democratic County Committee.

In 1876, at the beginning of the "absolute money" furor, Dr. Kennedy made a speech at the Democratic convention in Ithaca in favor of "honest money." This speech was published in nearly every paper in the United States that was opposed to the absolute money scheme. The following paragraph caused it to be known as "Kennedy's milk-ticket speech":

Gentlemen, I show you another paper credit used a good deal in my neighborhood. It reads:

.....  
 GOOD FOR  
 : ONE QUART OF MILK. :  
 : E. Goodrich. :  
 .....

Now, Mr. Goodrich is a very worthy, energetic farmer who lives near me. Last winter we had a little deal, and I got several dollars worth of these paper counters. Now, suppose, when I applied for milk, Mr. Goodrich had fallen back on his dignity and said: "Sir, do you doubt my solvency? Are not my farms, lands, tenements and chattels pledged for that milk? Are not my resources as large as any man's

in Gratiot County? What you want is not milk but faith! You ought to have more faith in these tickets." Most of you would think Mr. Goodrich a very singular man. Now, suppose the murrain breaks out in Mr. Goodrich's herd of cows, or a drouth comes on and makes his pastures fail, and the quantity of milk is decreased by one-half, so that every morning, instead of giving him two of these tickets and getting two quarts of milk, I can only get one quart and give him one ticket. Everybody is served the same way. Pretty soon a part of our population get tired of half rations of milk and they hold a rousing indignation meeting, and a terrific resolution is passed that Goodrich shall issue—not more milk—but more milk tickets! which shall read, "This is one quart *absolute* milk!"

But, gentlemen, I have a piece of "absolute" money here. It was on white paper originally, but it has become yellow with age. It is rudely engraved. On its face is a ship, a plow, and three sheaves of wheat, emblematic, of course, of agriculture and commerce. It bears this legend, "This bill shall pass for sixteen shillings." This bill is about in the hundredth year of its existence, and it has failed to pass for anything for about 95 years. The "faith and credit" of the grand old commonwealth of Pennsylvania that issued this paper was as great as the human mind can conceive. Her men were of the highest order of patriots; they gave fortune and life as a free libation on the altar of their country, in the cause of freedom. There is a sweet odor of liberty still clings to this old bill—political liberty, individual liberty, for which martyrs have died and heroes contended for ages. The charter of human rights, the *habeas corpus*, was not suspended to print this bill. No arrests without warrant of law was made. A speedy trial by jury was denied no one. All the great rights of personal and community independence were held sacred. If government can create money out of nothing, this was the supreme moment of the world's history for the accomplishment of so great an end.

And yet, with all their patriotism and valor, with all their heroic deeds on land and sea, with a faith in the destiny of their country which stood side by side with the faith in their Creator, with a faith and credit built up of sterner stuff than ever bivouacked on the world's wide battle-field, and yet its paper absolute money failed; \$500 would not buy a pair of boots to protect your patriot fathers' feet from the frozen ground as they marched forward to liberty or death. My God, what a commentary on absolute money! We are told that the pensions of the soldiers of today's Republic are to be paid in this absolute money. If so when another centennial birthday comes to the Republic, some grandson of yours will stand here, where a grandson of the old Revolution stands to-day, and will show to that generation, as you see to-day,

the utter worthlessness of a dollar, so called, created out of nothing."

Dr. Kennedy is enthusiastic on the subject of revenue reform and is violently opposed to a protective tariff. He has written a good deal on the tariff question for leading journals of the country. One paper, on "Orange Culture in Michigan," first published in the *Detroit News*, has been republished in a large number of newspapers throughout the country, and published in pamphlet form by many of the free-trade clubs. It is styled by the *New York Times* "an exquisite burlesque on protection."

Dr. Kennedy was married Jan. 22, 1872, in Delaware, to Mary Reybold, the daughter of William Reybold. The Reybolds have long been known for their energy, enterprise, integrity and wealth. She died at St. Louis, March 22, 1878, and left three children: William, born May 28, 1873; George, May 23, 1876; and Mary, March 17, 1878. Dr. Kennedy was again married, Oct. 16, 1883, at Ghent, Ky., to Amanda, daughter of Hiram Froman, one of the most enterprising and successful agriculturists in the Ohio Valley. Mrs. Kennedy was born in 1859, in Kentucky.

The people of Gratiot County will doubtless be gratified to see the portrait of Dr. Kennedy in this work, and it is accordingly given, on a preceding page.



**J**ames McClelland, merchant at Sethton, was born in Seneca Co., Ohio, May 2, 1849. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania and of Scotch ancestry, and moved to Seneca County in an early day. He remained with his parents laboring on the farm and attending school until 19 years old, when he entered Heidelberg College, at Tiffin, Ohio, and laid the foundation for a good practical education. After two years' attendance at this institution, he took a preparatory course at the State Normal School, Republic, Ohio, contemplating teaching as a profession. He completed a collegiate course at Oberlin, Ohio, and then a commercial course. Next he learned telegraphy, and was operator at Bloomfield, Ohio, a year, then managed his father's farm and homestead for six years, and then came, in 1870, and purchased 80 acres of wild land in North Shade Township, this county.

where he commenced improvements. After clearing 40 acres he sold out, in November, 1873, and established a general merchandise store, at what is known as Sethlon postoffice, New Haven Township, with a stock of more than \$1,000. He has since increased his stock, adding agricultural implements to his trade, and his business amounts annually to nearly \$15,000. Mr. McClelland has held the office of Justice of the Peace. In politics he is a Republican.

March 31, 1876, Mr. McClelland was married, in Morrow Co., Ohio, to Miss Mary McWilliams, a native of Woodbury, that county. She was born May 14, 1856, and died Sept. 4, 1882, at her home in New Haven Township, leaving a husband and a large circle of friends to mourn her death. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as is also Mr. McClelland.

**T**imothy D. Ackles, farmer, section 24, North Star Township, was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., Aug. 13, 1835, and is a son of Partelus Ackles, a native of the same State. Mr. Ackles remained at home, on the parental farm, assisting in the maintenance of the family and attending the common schools until he arrived at the age of 19 years, when he set forth on the voyage of life to fight the battles of adversity alone.

Possessing an abundance of energy and perseverance, two necessary requisites to success; and, following the dictates of an ambitious determination to "possess a goodly share of this world's goods," and realizing the rapid growth which Michigan was destined to make, he selected this State for his home.

He arrived in Clinton County in the spring of 1854, and in the following fall came to this county. He experienced all the trials and adversities which encountered the early pioneers; and, possessing the true weapons with which to battle against them, an indomitable will combined with energy and pluck, successfully overcame them and added to his landed possessions until he now owns 282 acres of land, with a goodly portion under cultivation, and "comfort sitting in the lap of plenty" smiles at the trials of the past.

Mr. Ackles was married Aug. 20, 1865, to Abigail Fox, daughter of Jacob Fox, deceased. Three children have been born to them, and the Angel of

Death has thrown her arms around them all and borne them to a better home.

Mr. A. is a member of the Masonic Order and is one of the representative men of his township. He is now and always has been an active Republican. He has held several local offices in his township and school district.

**C**harles Westfall, of the firm of Westfall & Co., druggists at Ithaca, was born in Lyon Township, Oakland Co., Mich., Nov. 5, 1852, and is the son of Philetus and Lydia (Knapp) Westfall. His father was born April 1, 1822, in Phelps, Ontario Co., N. Y., and is now resident on his farm near Ypsilanti. His mother was born in Salem, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 7, 1829, and is still living.

Mr. Westfall remained in his native township until he was 14 years old, where he was a pupil at school. In 1866, his parents removed to Ypsilanti, where he became a student at the Normal School. He was engaged in study there until he was near his majority, and he was graduated in the full English course. He went home to his father's farm, and stayed until the spring of 1882. In May of that year, he formed a partnership with Byron S. Knapp, and established his present business at Ithaca. The firm have a good repute, and are meeting with gratifying success.

Mr. Westfall was married Nov. 26, 1872, to Ella, daughter of Nelson and Caroline Fowler, born in Superior Township, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 17, 1853. One daughter, Myrtie, was born in Canton, Wayne Co., Mich., Aug. 24, 1874.

**F**erry D. Pettit, liveryman, at Alma, was born April 6, 1848, in Allen Co., Ohio, and is the son of Melancthon and Jane (Thorpe) Pettit. His parents were born respectively in Niagara Co., N. Y., and Wayne Co., Ohio. The father was a farmer by occupation and, soon after his marriage, settled in the Buckeye State. In 1855 the family came to Gratiot County. The mother died Jan. 25, 1865, the father Aug. 5, 1866.

Mr. Pettit came to Gratiot County with his parents

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James A. Stutz

when he was seven years old. In 1863 he became a soldier for the Union, and was one of the youngest men in actual military service from the Peninsular State being but 15 years old. He enlisted in what proved to be one of the most celebrated regiments engaged in the war—the Fourth Mich. Cav. He served nearly two years and was in the engagements at Selma, Ala., and Double Bridges, Ga. He was in many skirmishes and unimportant actions, and also participated in the pursuit of Jefferson Davis in his flight from Richmond.

He returned from the army to Gratiot County and remained at home while his parents lived. For some years after their deaths, he was variously engaged at different points. He had bought meanwhile 80 acres of land in Emerson Township, on which he located in 1874. He continued the pursuit of farming until 1881, when he sold part of his farm and came to Alma. He at once opened an establishment for the prosecution of the business in which he has since been engaged. He is a Republican in politics. He has been Justice of the Peace in Emerson Township, and in the spring of 1883 was elected Constable of Arcada Township. In the summer of the same year he received the appointment of Village Marshal of Alma. He is a member of Moses Wisner Post, No. 101, G. A. R.

Mr. Pettit was married at Ithaca, April 6, 1874, to Cora A., daughter of Merritt and Fanny (Swan) Brown. She was born Aug. 26, 1854, in Niagara Co., N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Pettit have two children—Roy E., born April 15, 1875, and Clara J., born Dec. 6, 1877.

**F**erdinand Montigel, of the firm of J. M. Montigel & Co., at Alma, was born in Erie, Pa., Nov. 22, 1854, and is a son of J. M. and Anna Barbara (Segrist) Montigel. (See sketch of J. M. Montigel). Mr. Montigel received an education in both German and English, and when he was between nine and ten years old went to Ashtabula, Ohio, whither his parents removed. In March, 1871, he came to Alma and learned the details of the business in which his father engaged. In 1875 he became a member of the firm of J. M. Montigel & Co., founders and ma-

chinists. He is a man of industrious and energetic business habits and has gained an enviable position in society and business circles. He is a member of the Masonic Order and is in political views a Republican.

**J**ames A. Stutz, merchant and member of the house of Wright, Schneider & Stutz, resident at Alma, is a descendant from German ancestors. His parents were both born in Germany, whence they emigrated with their respective families in youth. On reaching America they settled in Detroit, and after some years went to Canada, where they married and settled. The family of Jacob and Mary A. (Vetor) Stutz comprised 14 children, eight daughters and six sons, of whom James A. was sixth in order of birth.

He was born June 12, 1852, in Rochester, Essex Co., Canada, and resided in the Dominion until he was 15 years of age. He passed the time previous to that age in acquiring his education at the common schools, and was also instructed in German.

In 1868, although a mere youth, he entered upon his struggle for place and advancement in life. He obtained a position as cashier in the dry-goods establishment of S. Kirchner, at Detroit. He operated in that capacity about a twelvemonth.

He was employed successively by Freedman Bros., J. Lowrie & Sons. With the latter he remained nine years, and at the expiration of that period re-entered the employ of Freedman Bros., with whom he has served one year. He operated in their behalf a second year, when, in November, 1880, he engaged with Taylor, Wolfenden & Co. as manager of the silk department in their new store. In June, 1882, he resigned his situation and came to Alma, where he became junior partner in the firm with which he is still connected. The business of the concern includes general merchandise and traffic in grain. The annual transactions represent \$100,000, exclusive of grain.

Mr. Stutz is a Republican in political faith and connections.

The publishers of this volume take great pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Stutz on another page. He holds deserved rank in the generation whose interests his efforts serve to advance.

**A**lexander McDaid, farmer, section 28, North Star Township, and an early pioneer of the same, was born in County Londonderry, Ireland, Sept. 13, 1828. He is a son of Joseph McDaid, deceased, native of Ireland, and he emigrated to the United States and settled in Chester Co., Pa., in 1846, from whence he moved, in 1849, to Hancock Co., Ohio, and in the fall of 1854 came to this State and settled on section 28, North Star Township, this county, where our subject has resided ever since. On his arrival in this county he entered the west half of the northeast quarter of section 28, Government land, on which he is now living.

The difficulty of establishing a home in the woods and clearing his land amid the adversities so common to the early pioneer, were successfully overcome by honest effort and ambitious aim, and Mr. McDaid remembers the past with smiles of satisfaction and content.

Mr. McDaid was married March 17, 1849, to Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Bartrim, and seven children have been born to their union, six of whom are living, namely: Joseph T., George M., Mary A., Margaret J., Warren A. and Cora M. The second son, John J., was drowned in Bad River, Saginaw County, this State, in 1873, and while in his 21st year.

Mr. McDaid is a member of the I. O. O. F., and an acknowledged representative man of his township.

**R**obert J. Bittner, farmer, section 22, Lafayette Township, is a son of Karl and Joanna (Horzick) Bittner, natives of Prussia, where they lived until their death. He was born March 20, 1828. At the age of 24 he came to America, and settled in Macomb Co., Mich., where he lived for eight years. He then spent several months in the State of Iowa. Returning to Macomb County, he shortly went to Shiawassee County. Sept. 14, 1861, he enlisted in the Eighth Infantry. He served three years, and was discharged in front of Petersburg, Va., Sept. 23, 1864. Among the many engagements in which he was present were James Island (S. C.), the second battle of Bull Run,

South Mountain (Md.) and Antietam. He was wounded in the last engagement. After his discharge he came to Shiawassee County, and in the spring of 1865 he came to Gratiot County. He bought 80 acres of land on section 22, Lafayette Township, where he now resides. He has 42 acres under cultivation.

He was married April 5, 1866, in Lafayette Township, to Jennie C., daughter of Ebenezer and Nancy (Bickford) Brownell, natives of New York. Mr. Brownell died in that State, and Mrs. Brownell still resides in Chautauqua Co., N. Y. Mrs. Bittner was born in New York, April 15, 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Bittner have had one son, Julius R., born Sept. 5, 1867.

Mr. Bittner is a member of Moses Wisner Post, No. 101, G. A. R., at Ithaca. In politics he is a Republican.

**N**athan Boyer, farmer, section 7, Arcada Township, was born in Maumee, Ohio, Oct. 7, 1840, and was the son of Daniel Boyer, a native of Schuylkill Co., Pa. The father was a gunsmith by trade, and worked at that in Pennsylvania, then in Ohio, and then in Michigan. He died in Pine River Township, near Alma, in this county, Aug. 3, 1874, aged 63 years. Nathan's mother was Savila Holcomb, a native of New England and of Scotch ancestry. She died when Nathan was quite young, in Medina Co., Ohio, whither the family had removed in 1840. After his mother's death, Nathan and his father went to Wyandotte County, and in the fall of 1855 they came to Alma, this county. At that time Alma contained three dwelling-houses and a log store, and was surrounded for miles by an unbroken forest. Here he passed his boyhood from 15 to 21, attending the common schools of Pine River Township.

Aug. 7, 1862, he enlisted in Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He participated in some heavy skirmishes, but escaped unhurt. After 14 months he was detailed to the Brigade Commissary department, where he served till the close of the war, being honorably discharged June 4, 1865. Returning home, he was married, Feb. 21, 1866, to Rosanna Winslow, who



was born in Ionia County in 1847, and died in Alma, Nov. 3, 1867. He was again married, in Pine River Township, to Flora E., daughter of William and Teresa Jane (Norton) Hayes, natives of New York. He was of Irish and German descent, and she of French and English. They followed farming, and came to Michigan in 1848, stopping at Ann Arbor. At that place Flora E. was born, April 24, 1850, and not many years later they moved to North Plains, Ionia County, where they lived 15 years. In that county she received her education. Afterward they came to this county and located in Pine River Township.

In the summer of 1870 Mr. and Mrs. Boyer located on 40 acres on section 7, Arcada Township. He has since added 40 acres, and has improved 68 acres. He erected a good house and barn, the former of which was burned March 21, 1873. This was a severe loss, but by perseverance he has conquered, and has rebuilt his house.

They have a family of three children: Dora Arminnie, born May 4, 1870; William Daniel, born May 4, 1872; and Herbert Merle, Aug. 31, 1882. Mr. Boyer is in politics a Greenbacker. Mrs. Boyer is a member of the Christian Church.

**E**dward A. Chase, farmer, section 9, North Star Township, was born in Greene Co., N. Y., July 4, 1826, and is a son of George Chase, now deceased, a native of the same county, and a farmer and mechanic, who removed with his family to Livingston Co., N. Y., in 1830. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of the county last named. He came to Ingham Co., Mich., in 1852, thence to Ionia County in 1856, and the following year to this county, settling where he now resides, in what was then wild woods. He lived in an extemporized shanty until fall, then built a log house. His wife helped clear and plant the garden spot. They planted their first corn with an ax; it came up nicely within six days after planting.

Mr. Chase enlisted in the late war, in Co. G, 23d Mich. Vol. Inf, but, being an invalid much of the time, he was kept at light-guard duty around the hospital. In his township he has been Justice of the

Peace 12 years, and has been Superintendent of the Poor about 14 years.

Mr. Chase was married Oct. 25, 1850, to Miss Susan, daughter of Richard Baldwin (deceased); she was born in Lancashire, England, Aug. 16, 1826, and came to America with her parents when 11 years of age. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Chase are, George B., Hattie (deceased), Richard, Cora (deceased) and Ella.

**E**vi Leonard, farmer, section 3, Pine River Township, was born April 6, 1828, in Pennsylvania, and is a son of Lot and Elizabeth (Mosher) Leonard, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State, where they resided all their lives.

Mr. Leonard continued to live in his native State, engaged in milling, until November, 1874, when he came to Gratiot County, and he has since been occupied in farming. In the same year of his removal hither, he settled upon the farm he now owns, consisting of 40 acres of land, all of which is now improved. He belongs to the National Greenback party.

He was married Dec. 31, 1863, in Greene Co., Pa., to Mary J., daughter of Jehu E. and Sarah Parkinson. (See sketch of J. E. Parkinson.) She was born in that county March 19, 1839. George C., Annie M. and Barnett P. are the names of the three children that have been added to the family circle. The mother is a member of the Disciples' Church.

**W**illiam A. Moore, farmer, section 34, Lafayette Township, is a son of Ezra A. and Mary (Wrigleworth) Moore, natives of Clarefield and Center Counties, Pa., respectively. Ezra A. Moore was by occupation a farmer, and lived in Pennsylvania until 1864. The family then removed to Ohio, and farmed in Medina County one year, and Sandusky County two years. In the spring of 1867 they came to Michigan and settled on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 34, Lafayette Township, this county. Mrs. Moore died July 11, 1868; Mr. Moore

married again, and is still living, in that township.

The subject of this sketch was born Nov. 9, 1852, and lived with his parents until 18 years of age, working on the farm and attending the common schools. He then went to live with H. R. Wilcox, on section 6, Lafayette Township, and learned the carpenter's trade. This he followed altogether for seven years. Sept. 16, 1877, he was united in marriage to Louisa, daughter of E. H. Burgin, of Lafayette Township. The following spring he purchased 80 acres on section 34, and has since followed farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore are the parents of two boys: Merton A. and Frank G., born Dec. 22, 1878, and March 4, 1883. Mr. Moore is a young man of enterprise, and is very popular in his community. He was elected Township Treasurer in 1878, and again in 1879; in 1880 was chosen Supervisor, and 1882 was appointed to a vacancy in the same office. Politically, he is a member of the National party. He belongs to the Masonic Order and to the Grangers.

**J**onathan Courter, farmer, section 7, Arcada Township, was born in Yates Co., N. Y., July 26, 1827, and is the son of David and Fanny (Sutton) Courter, natives of New York, and of New England parentage, though formerly of Irish and German extraction. They followed farming, and died in this county, the father Nov. 12, 1871, aged nearly 65, and the mother in the spring of 1881, aged 73 years and 10 months. Jonathan lived in his native county till four years old, then in Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., until 16 years old, attending school and working on the farm, and then came with his parents to Ionia Co., Mich. The family were early settlers of Orleans Township, in that county, and Jonathan being the eldest son, and there being no school in his neighborhood, he spent many years at work that most boys usually spend in study and play. He worked early and late, to help his father get their farm in good condition, until he was 21.

Dec. 25, 1848, he was married to Sarah A. Barton, who was born in Oakland County, Oct. 10, 1830. She died Sept. 28, 1856, leaving two children to com-

fort her husband: David F., born Oct. 18, 1850; John S., born Nov. 7, 1851. He was again married, in New Haven Township, this county, April 11, 1858, to Esther, daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Gingery) Wiles, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. The mother died at New Haven Center, Jan. 23, 1874. The father is still living on the homestead at the same place, at an advanced age. Esther was born Oct. 10, 1846, and passed her maidenhood in Wood Co., Ohio, and in New Haven Township, Gratiot County.

Immediately after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Courter settled on his homestead on section 7, Arcada Township. This consists of 170 acres, of which 100 are nicely improved and under cultivation. They have had a family of nine children, three of whom are not living. The living are: Alexander, born Jan. 10, 1859; Katie, Nov. 21, 1862; Rosa, March 25, 1864; George, March 7, 1868; Belle, April 11, 1875; Melville, March 2, 1877. The deceased are: Ida, Myrtie and Arthur.

Mr. Courter enlisted Nov. 4, 1864, in Co. F of the 10th Mich. Vol. Inf., and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. He did not serve in any active engagement, but was on garrison duty. He was honorably discharged July 19, 1865, at Louisville, Ky. He has been Assessor of his school district for two terms. In politics he is an ardent Republican.

**J**ohn A. Federspiel, farmer, section 25, Lafayette Township, is a son of Balthaser and Catherine (Conrad) Federspiel, natives of France. They came to America in an early day, and located at Buffalo, N. Y. She died in 1877, and he is still living, with his children in Michigan. John A. was born in Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 29, 1840. He left home at the age of 14, and worked at farming and other things until he was 20, and then was in a saw-mill one year. In 1862 he came to Michigan, and was employed in the woods during the winter seasons until 1872, when he bought 120 acres of wild land on section 25, Lafayette Township. He put up the necessary farm buildings and set about clearing and improving his farm, and now has about 80 acres under cultivation.

He was married in Niagara County, N. Y., Oct. 8,

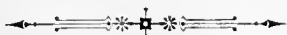
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1861, to Catherine Biggy, daughter of Philip and Mary (Gugarty) Biggy, natives of Ireland, where Mrs. Biggy died. Mr. Biggy first came to Canada, and then, after six months, to Lockport, N. Y. After several years there he went to Chicago, where he died. Mrs. Federspiel was born in Ireland, April 10, 1840. Mr. and Mrs. Federspiel are the parents of nine children: Anna E., born Nov. 26, 1862; William A., born May 25, 1864; Charles C., born July 23, 1866; Ella E., born June 5, 1869; Ada F., born June 19, 1872; Orin J., born March 11, 1875; Elmer B., born July 30, 1879; Melvin L., born Sept. 26, 1879; and Clarence A., born April 30, 1881.

Mr. Federspiel was Treasurer of his township for two years, School Treasurer three years, and was also elected Drain Commissioner to fill a vacancy. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Federspiel are adherents of the Catholic Church.



**H**atus E. Wright, farmer, section 19, Pine River Township, was born June 26, 1859, in the same township, of which he has been a resident all his life. He is a son of Frederick and Sarepta (Fox) Wright, and belongs to a family which has been identified with the history of the progress of Michigan since the termination of its Territorial days.

Frederick Wright was born in 1814, in Wayne Co., N. Y. He was reared to manhood in his native State, and in 1837 removed to Jackson Co., Mich. He was trained to the pursuit of agriculture and devoted himself to that calling in the township of Parma, where he settled and became a part of the pioneer element. He passed 21 years of his life in that place, actively engaged in aiding the growth and prosperity of his township and county. He was prominent in public affairs and contributed materially to the rapid development of that section of the Peninsular State. In 1858 he came to Gratiot County and purchased 500 acres of wild land in Pine River Township, where he spent the remainder of his life in striving to benefit his generation, and left a record of usefulness and merit which will live long in the memories of his neighbors and fellow-townsmen. He died May 1, 1880.

Mr. Wright aided his father in his agricultural

labors as soon as he reached a suitable age and acquired a good education in the common schools. His father died just previous to his attaining his majority, and he succeeded to the management of the farm. It then included 240 acres of land, 100 acres of which are in tillage and constitute, with the farm fixtures, a place which ranks in value with those of similar dimensions in Pine River Township. Mr. Wright is an adherent of the National Greenback party.

The marriage of Mr. Wright with Lillie E. Johnson occurred Oct. 13, 1878. She was born in the State of Iowa, May 29, 1859, and is the daughter of Theron A. and Julia Johnson. (See sketch of T. A. Johnson.) Pearl, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Wright, died at the age of two years.

“Two little childish hands, folded soft and silently;  
Two little curtained eyes, looking out no more for me;

Two little waxen cheeks, dimple-dented never more!  
Two little trodden shoes, that shall never touch the floor;

Shoulder ribbon, softly twisted; apron folded, clean and white,—

These are left me, and these only  
Of the childish presence bright.”

In the portrait of Mr. Wright, which appears on another page, is a representative of the family whose energy and enterprise have been the source of inestimable value to the development of Gratiot County, and the mantle of his ancestral thrift and virtues has fallen upon one who will preserve them worthily.



**F**ornelius S. Randolph, farmer, section 8, Pine River Township, is the son of Josiah and Esther Randolph, and was born in Warren Co., N. Y., Nov. 14, 1811. His parents were also born in the Empire State, and first settled in Warren County. They came to Michigan to spend the closing years of their lives with their son, and died in Lenawee County.

Mr. Randolph was 23 years of age when he came to Michigan, and he spent 13 years in Lenawee County engaged in farming and teaching. After that time, he devoted himself exclusively to agriculture,

and continued to operate there until the fall of 1882, when he came to Gratiot County and bought the farm he now owns. It consists of 40 acres of land.

Mr. Randolph was married June 10, 1838, in Lenawee County, to Margaret C. Barber. She was born Dec. 13, 1808, in Catlin, Chemung Co., N. Y. Silas, Thomas, Martha, James, Cornelius and Henry are the names of the six children born of their marriage. The parents are members of the Baptist Church.

**C**harles Butler, farmer on section 20, Fulton Township, is a son of Asa H. Butler, a native of New England, and was born in the State of New York, May 12, 1826. He lost his mother when quite young, and consequently but little is known of her. She left seven children, and Charles was left to care for himself to a certain extent. He received a limited education in the common schools. When seven years old he went to the State of Ohio, where he lived until the spring of 1864, when he came to Gratiot County and settled on 80 acres in Fulton Township, which he had bought the fall previous. He has most of his land now under cultivation.

Oct. 11, 1857, in Fulton Co., Ohio, he married Miss Emma, daughter of John and Laura C. (White) Stitt, natives of Massachusetts. Mrs. Butler was born in Portage Co., Ohio, July 25, 1836. Mr. and Mrs. B. are the parents of six children: Walter W., Della L., John S., Clara E., Lois B. and Melvin C. Della L. died when two and a half years old.

Politically, Mr. Butler is a Democrat.

**W**illiam F. Thompson, proprietor of the tub factory at Ithaca, was born at Massena, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., March 1, 1832. He is a son of Peter S. and Keziah (Fentress) Thompson. His father was an Englishman by birth, and was graduated from Oxford. He became a tutor, and spent some years as a teacher in his native land. In 1816, he came to the United States and settled in Virginia, where he followed the same calling, and was there married. In

1828, he removed with his family to Massena, N. Y., and there engaged in teaching. Later on he went to Potsdam, N. Y., where he was employed as sexton of Trinity Church 18 years. He afterwards went to Colton, in the same county, where he died at the age of 72 years. The decease of the mother, who was a native of Virginia, occurred when she was 80 years old. They were the parents of but two children, the elder of whom was a daughter, Jane S., the wife of George Dove (deceased), a farmer near Potsdam.

In early life, Mr. Thompson commenced a career of active business. He was but 17 years of age when he engaged in lumbering and milling, and soon after bought 120 acres of heavy timber land. He brought his property through the various processes of clearing and improving until he had the satisfaction of seeing it comparatively one of the finest farms in that section, and it was for some time the home and support of his parents, and the place where his father died. After that event, in 1864, he came with his mother to Howard City, Mich., and there built a mill for the manufacture of lumber, shingles and butter tubs, and associated with his sister's son, W. S. Dove, he bought a pine tract of 1,100 acres, under the firm style of W. S. Dove & Co. On this they have since been engaged in lumbering, and have nearly completed it. The mill and land is still in their possession. The mother returned to New York, and passed her remaining years in the care of her daughter at Potsdam.

In the fall of 1882, Mr. Thompson came to Ithaca and bought a grist-mill of J. H. Seaver, which he has remodeled and fitted for the prosecution of the enterprise in which he is now engaged. He is doing a prosperous business, and employs about 40 assistants. The works produce between five and six hundred tubs daily. In the winter of 1882 and 1883, he manufactured over 1,000,000 feet of lumber. The markets for the tubs manufactured are principally Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City. While at Howard City, Mr. Thompson was a member of the Council seven years, and served three years as Supervisor of Reynolds Township.

He was married while living at Colton, St. Lawrence, N. Y., Oct. 21, 1855, to Harriet Knapp, of Pierrepont, in the same county. Six children were born of the marriage, two of whom are yet living: William F., now foreman in the office of the Jackson

*Enterprise*, and Maud S., a young lady of 13 years. The mother died at Howard City, and Mr. Thompson was again married at Howard City to Annis S. Bush, of Pierson, Montcalm County. One daughter, Beulah, has been born of this marriage.



**B**ernard Fox, farmer, section 13, Bethany Township, is a son of Peter C. and Elizabeth, *nee* Shults, Fox, and was born in Palatine Township, Montgomery Co., N. Y., Jan. 27, 1814. His father followed the vocation of blacksmithing, and our subject worked at that occupation for some time and then learned the tailor's trade. He was occupied in the latter trade in Bath, Steuben County, for several years until 1853, and then returned to his former trade of blacksmithing.

Mr. Fox was married Sept. 2, 1835, to Miss Dorinda, daughter of Col. Henry and Anna, *nee* Blair, Kennedy. She is of Scotch descent, and second cousin of ex-Gov. Austin Blair, and was born in Bath, N. Y., Oct. 13, 1813. Mr. and Mrs. Fox were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living, namely: Hiero B., born Dec. 26, 1836, now a farmer in Pierre, Dak.; Elizabeth A., wife of Frank B. Myers, of Ithaca, born July 21, 1838; Sarah V., wife of David C. Rounds, farmer, in Lafayette Township, this county, born Aug. 9, 1841; Clarence K., farmer adjoining the parental homestead, born March 30, 1845; Dorinda, wife of Joseph E. Holton, farmer in Bethany Township, born April 4, 1848; Evangelia E., wife of Joseph Hutchison, farmer in Calhoun County, this State, born May 23, 1850; Leander M., farmer in Branch County, this State, born Jan. 29, 1853; Dewitt C., born Sept. 5, 1855; Peter W., born Sept. 6, 1839, died June 18, 1841, and Eleanor, born June 10, 1843, died Feb. 18, 1856.

Our subject moved to this State in May, 1854, and located in Ingham County. In 1855, he procured 200 acres of land, under the Graduation Act, on section 13, Bethany Township, this county, on which he is at present residing.

In 1857, Mr. Fox moved on this land and entered on the arduous though pleasant task of clearing and improving his home. He experienced all the trials

of the early pioneer, and being endowed with a large amount of energy and perseverance conquered all obstacles. He built the customary log cabin, which still stands near his present residence as a living tomb of the trials of the past. He cleared over 60 acres of his land and subsequently sold all he had with the exception of the lot on which his residence now stands, and where he and his life companion are living a retired and quiet life.

Mr. Fox is one of the citizens of the county who never asked or received the charity of the friendly outside world, but always contributed to the suffering around him, and more than a few have cause to look with gratitude upon his charitable donations.

In recognition of his integrity and ability, he has been honored with offices of trust. He was Supervisor, Township Clerk, and Justice of the Peace, and is recognized as one of the representative men of his township.

The eldest two sons of Mr. Fox were soldiers in the late war, and Mrs. F.'s father was a Revolutionary soldier under Gen. Sullivan, as Colonel. Her eldest brother, John Kennedy, was in the war of 1812, as Major, and was captured at Queenstown.



**A**lfred Burnett, farmer on section 29, Fulton Township, is a son of Nelson and Jane (Foreman) Burnett. They were born, reared and married in Dutchess Co., N. Y., and afterwards removed to Monroe County, same State.

They lived there 18 years, and then removed to Livingston Co., N. Y., where Mr. B. died Feb. 26, 1845. His wife yet survives. The family comprised three sons and six daughters.

The third son, Alfred, was born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., June 25, 1832, and was about three years old when his parents removed to Monroe County. Losing his father when 13 years old, he worked out by the month until 20 years of age. When 21, he came to Oakland Co., Mich., and worked a farm on shares one year. He then lived in Livingston County until 1868, when he came to Gratiot County and bought 60 acres on section 29, Fulton, where he now resides. He owns 80 acres, 62 of which are under cultivation.

Dec. 10, 1854, in Livingston Co., Mich., he married Miss Susan J., daughter of Philander T. and Betsy

(Wood) Utter, natives of Ontario Co., N. Y. She was born in Hopewell Township, same county, May 16, 1837. Mr. and Mrs. Burnett have four children living: Celia B., Mary J., Flora E. and Marion A.; and four deceased: James E., Julia M., Adelbert N. and Ada E.

Mr. Burnett has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church ever since his connection with it, holding official relations for 26 years. He first held the office of Steward for four years, then Class-leader and Superintendent of Sunday-school five years. This was prior to his coming to Fulton. Since his residence here, he has held the offices of Trustee, Steward, Superintendent of Sunday-school, and has been Treasurer of the Board of Trustees ever since its organization. One important work of his Christian life was the raising of funds and the soliciting of aid for the erection of the first Methodist Episcopal Church edifice at Fulton Center. He was also one of the finance and building committee. When discouragement seemed to overshadow the enterprise, he pushed forward with great vigor the labor of raising money, and said so long as he could get \$50 a day, he would not give up the work. Thus, by faithful and persistent labor, the object desired was accomplished, the contract let, and the work begun. He continued with fidelity the collecting of money and paying off the debt, finally completing it, and leaving money in the treasury. Among the heaviest donors were Sidney Sessions, Addis C. Gillett, W. W. Dalgliesh, Charles Kellogg, Alfred Burnett, Jason Kingman and William Kellogg.

**C**harles W. Hicks, sec. 32, Bethany Tp., was born in Schuyler Co., N. Y., July 29, 1842, and is a son of David and Mary (Buck) Hicks. He was brought up as a farmer's son. Sept. 9, 1861, in Elmira, N. V., he enlisted in Co. C, 50th Regt. Eng'rs. and Mech's., and served until April, 1863, in the mechanical department, building bridges, etc. He then returned to New York and was married, June 26, 1864, to Esther M., daughter of Virgilius and Sylvia (Dodge) Sweet; she was born in Richmond Township, Tioga Co., Pa., Jan. 16, 1847. In January, 1868, they came to Gratiot County, settling upon 40 acres, where they now reside. His

land at first was mostly timber, and a log house was the only building upon the place. He has now about 35 acres under cultivation, and is an industrious, economical farmer. He is a member of the G. A. R.

There are nine children in this family, as follows: Cora W., born in Steuben Co., N. Y., July 13, 1866; Arthur W., born in Gratiot County, June 13, 1868; Edna A., Nov. 23, 1870; Clara A., Oct. 30, 1871; Esther M., June 26, 1873; Lula S., May 5, 1875; Louisa E., Feb. 7, 1878; Charles W., May 19, 1881, and Seely D., Dec. 17, 1883. All except the first are natives of this county.



**J**ames B. Allen, farmer, section 6, Pine River Township, was born Nov. 1, 1831, in Seneca Co., N. Y., and is the son of Cornelius B. and Ann (Peterson) Allen. His parents were natives of New Jersey, and were respectively of English and German descent. They first located in New Jersey, and later on in life removed to the State of New York. In 1838, they settled in Lapeer Co., Mich., where the father died the next year. The mother died in Eaton County.

Mr. Allen came to the State of Michigan with his parents when he was only seven years old, and when he was 11 years of age he went to Ohio, and there remained three years, when he returned to Lapeer County. On reaching man's estate, he went to Eaton County and acted as assistant in his brother's store two years. He then formed a partnership with A. Howland, and established himself in mercantile business, a relation which existed a year and a half. On disposing of his interests, Mr. Allen came to Gratiot County and invested his means in 320 acres of land in Pine River Township. He subsequently sold 160 acres, and of the remainder has 90 acres under cultivation, with commodious farm buildings.

In all local history, it is nearly impossible to find the periods within one generation so widely contrasting as that of the date of Mr. Allen's settling in Gratiot County and his present circumstances, both of which periods are strongly typical. Soon after he located, the well-remembered time known as the starving period came on, from causes too well-known to re-



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*Edw. Melby*



*Adaline S. Kellogg*

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quire elaboration here. Mr. Allen, like all others, exerted every effort in behalf of the suffering, and among other practical deeds established the sale of articles generally required, operating on his farm. In 1859 he went to Alma, and there engaged in trade for nearly two years. He met with financial reverses and lost nearly all his property, but honest effort and careful management have placed him among the substantial residents of Gratiot County.

He was married at Grand Ledge, Eaton Co., Mich., June 29, 1854, to Lucy H., daughter of Jacob and Betsey Wood. Her parents were natives of New Hampshire, and settled in life in the State of New York. On coming to Michigan, they first went to Oakland County and thence to Eaton County, where the father died in 1877, and where the mother still resides. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Allen: Nettie T., May 12, 1856, and Myrtle H., Jan. 29, 1861. The latter died in Milford, Oakland County, June 23, 1883.

Mr. Allen was for many years an active Republican, but of late has allied himself with the National Greenback party. He has served three years as Justice of the Peace. Mr. and Mrs. Allen are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They have been zealous adherents to the interests of the Christian religion, and contributed of their strength and means to its maintenance. The first preaching in this part of Gratiot County was done in the house of Mr. Allen, by the Rev. Ellery Hill.

**Cassius M. Gardner**, farmer, section 8, New Haven Township, was born in Cayuga Co., Ohio, Feb. 6, 1848. His parents, Nelson P. and Nancy (*nee* Wood) Gardner, were natives of New England. His father, a carpenter and joiner by trade, and also a farmer, resides in Lyons Township, Ionia Co., Mich.

Cassius M. remained with his parents until 20 years of age, when he went to work in a saw-mill in Ionia Co., Mich. In the fall of 1872, he came to this county and purchased 40 acres of unimproved land, five acres only being cleared, where he began as a farmer and has since been successful. He now has 32 acres in good cultivation, has made many improvements and has demonstrated himself to be a

progressive, practical agriculturist. In political affairs he is a Greenbacker, and among his fellow citizens he has held the offices of Road Commissioner and School Director, with satisfaction to the people.

Mr. G. was married in the township of Lyons, Ionia County, Oct. 16, 1869, to Miss Nellie Dykeman, who was born in Yates Co., N. Y., Aug. 29, 1849. Her parents were natives of that State, of German and English descent. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner are, Eva, born Jan. 15, 1871; and Bennie, March 12, 1873.

**Benezer W. Kellogg**, a leading agriculturist of Gratiot County, resident on section 17, Newark Township, was born in Hadley, Mass., Feb. 6, 1815. His father, Giles C. Kellogg, was also a native of Hadley, and was a prominent personage in the Bay State in his generation. He was graduated from Yale College in the class of 1799, and studied for the profession of law, which he pursued during the whole of his active life. He was Register of Deeds of Hampshire County and was an efficient officer for 21 years. He represented his native town 10 years in the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He was in retirement 20 years before his death, which event occurred when he was 85 years of age. His wife, whose maiden name was Martha Hunt Warner, belonged to a distinguished family. Her father, Noahdiah Warner, was an officer of the Revolutionary War, and served from Bunker Hill to the surrender of Cornwallis.

Mr. Kellogg attended the common schools of his native town and afterwards completed his education at Hopkins' Academy, an institution which is still in existence, and has a world-wide and enduring fame.

On leaving school, Mr. Kellogg turned his attention to farming. Massachusetts offered little to an agriculturist of extended aspirations, and he came to Michigan to prospect somewhat. He left Hadley in August, 1839, and had but little intention of settling permanently or remaining long. In passing, it may be remarked that he has not since been east farther than the city of Buffalo. He settled in Cambridge, Lenawee Co., Mich. He and his wife owned 90 acres of partly improved land, which Mr. Kellogg cultivated 12 years, and, among other improvements, set

out a fine orchard, that section being peculiarly suited to the successful culture of fruit. He sold the place in 1853, and in the summer of 1854 bought 320 acres of wild land in Gratiot County, paying therefor 50 cents per acre under the regulations of the Graduation Act, a law which provided for the sale of Government lands, the prices ranging from 25 cents to \$1.25 per acre, according to the length of time such lands had been in market.

Mr. Kellogg entered upon his career in Gratiot County in true pioneer style, beginning with the building of a primitive log cabin, in the depths of the woods, to which he removed his family in May, 1855. He applied himself with all his vigor and energies to the work of clearing and improving, and has since added 180 acres by purchase. The noble farm of 500 acres exhibits one-half its acreage in tillage of the most creditable character. The fine residence, which supplanted the log cabin in 1876, and the barns and other farm buildings, are in keeping with the reputation of the owner as a progressive farmer.

Mr. Kellogg is a Republican in political sentiment and connections. He has been from the first interested in the progress of Newark Township and Gratiot County. He was elected second Supervisor of his township in 1858, and has been elected to the position 13 times, which he once held 7 years in succession. He was Chairman of the Board four years. He has been Township Clerk and officiated in most of the minor local offices. In 1859 he rented his farm and removed to Lansing, to obtain rest and recuperate his impaired health, as well as to give his children better educational advantages. The family remained at the capital two years.

Mr. Kellogg was married in Cambridge, Lenawee County, March 3, 1842, to Adaline L., eldest daughter of Abraham and Rebecca (Johnson) Butterfield.

Mrs. Kellogg was born Sept. 17, 1817. Of three children born of her marriage to Mr. Kellogg, two survive. They were born in the following order: Mary R., Jan. 22, 1843; Francis E. B., March 31, 1847; Hugh J., May 23, 1851 (died Nov. 24, 1869).

Mary R. was married to Charles W. Howland and resides in Newark Township, on section 18.

Francis was married Feb. 1, 1881, to Sarah E., daughter of Chester and Sophronia (Wade) Howland. Her parents were natives of New York, and were lineal descendants of John Howland and John Car-

ver (the first Governor of Plymouth Colony), both of whom were among the list of Pilgrims who came in the Mayflower in 1620. Mrs. Kellogg was born Feb. 5, 1855, in Hudson, Lenawee County. The young couple have two children and are cherished inmates of the Kellogg homestead.

The portraits of Mr. Kellogg and his estimable wife are presented on adjacent pages.

**George M. Ruppert**, farmer on section 27, Fulton Township, is a son of John P. and Anna B. (Buttner) Ruppert (see sketch of John P. Ruppert). He was born in Germany, May 25, 1852, and was about one year old when his parents came to America. He was educated in the common schools, and has continued to live with his parents until the present time. In 1878, he purchased 40 acres, mostly wild, on section 26, Fulton, and now has about 12 acres improved.

Jan. 2, 1881, at St. Louis, Mich., he married Miss Pauline, daughter of Chambers and Phieta (May) Garte, of German ancestry. This marriage has been blessed with one child, Nettie A. Mrs. Ruppert is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Ruppert votes the Democratic ticket.

**Abram M. Jessup**, farmer on section 26, Arcada Township, was born near the city of Albany, in Greenbush Township, Rensselaer Co., N. Y., Feb. 8, 1836, and is a son of Isaac M. and Eleanor S. (Schermerhorn) Jessup. Isaac Jessup was first a cabinet-maker and painter, and afterwards a farmer. He now resides in Ionia County, this State, at the age of 73. Eleanor S. Schermerhorn was a native of the "Holland purchase" in New York State, and was of Holland descent.

When Abram was only four years of age, he was brought by his parents to Wayne Co., Mich. The family afterward moved to Charlotte, Eaton County, but later returned to Wayne Co. When he was 19 years old, the family removed to Ionia County and

settled in North Plains Township. His education however, was received while in Wayne County.

Jan. 1, 1863, he was married to Amanda J., daughter of Sylvester and Hannah (Peck) Wheeler, natives of New York State. They have always followed farming, and they now reside in Newark Township, this county. Amanda was born in Oswego Co., N. Y., March 14, 1838, and moved with her parents at the age of 15 to Campton, Kane Co., Ill. They moved to Mason, Ingham Co., Mich., 15 months later, and afterwards came to Gratiot County, locating on a farm in Newark Township. Her parents now live in that township.

For the first 18 months after marriage, Mr. Jessup was engaged in burning lime on his father's homestead. He then came to this county, and purchased 63 acres, 40 in Newark and 23 in North Star. In the latter township he lived for a year, and then he moved across the line into Newark. Here he lived a number of years, and changed his forest tract into a highly cultivated farm. In August, 1880, he exchanged for 100 acres on section 26, Arcada Township, where he now resides. He has excellent farm buildings on his place, and expects to make it a model farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Jessup have two children: Eleanor E., born May 31, 1864; Mary V., born June 25, 1866. He is often solicited to accept township offices, but always declines. He was for two years Postmaster at Pompei. Politically, he is a Republican. Mrs. Jessup is a member of the U. B. Church.

**Richards, Althouse & Co.** The firm of Richards, Althouse & Co. are located at St. Louis, and engaged in the manufacture of all varieties of slack-barrel cooperage. The business is managed by Josiah C. Richards and Clarence W. Althouse.

Mr. Richards came to St. Louis in the fall of 1880 and, associated with Isaac Morris, built a stave mill in the township of Breckenridge, which establishment has since been sold. The mill which the company are now running at St. Louis was built in the spring of 1882, and is furnished with all the latest improved machinery. The firm became J. C. Richards & Co., and, Jan. 1, 1884, Mr. Althouse was ad-

mitted, the firm style becoming as stated. The concern owns a large mill at Ithaca, which was built in the spring of 1883. Each mill requires about 35 men in its operation, and the aggregate product of both represents about \$70,000 in value annually.

**David Van Leuven**, general farmer, section 10, New Haven Township, was born in Pleasant Valley, Livingston Co., Mich., March 21, 1834. His parents, John (a farmer) and Anna Eliza (Dietz) Van Leuven, were natives of Albany Co., N. Y., and came to Michigan in a very early day, crossing Lake Erie on the vessel "Walk-in-the-Water," on its first trip, and the first ever made by steamer, across that Lake. Owing to adverse winds, they were five weeks on the lake. Arriving in Detroit, then a village of but a few log huts, Mr. V. found he had but sixpence. After settling for a time in Wayne County, near Detroit, he moved to Livingston Co., Mich.

David, the subject of this biographical notice, was 11 years old when the family moved with him back to Wayne County, locating 17 miles from Detroit. Here he lived until the death of his father in the spring of 1864; one year later his mother died, both aged 61. To him, then 30 years old, was left by will the homestead, then of 74 acres, which he continued to manage for 15 years; then, in 1875, he rented this farm, came to Gratiot County and settled upon his wild tract of 120 acres, which he had purchased in 1862. Three years later he returned to Wayne County, and soon afterward sold his farm there, returning to his farm in this county, where he has since resided. The first year he improved 90 acres from the stump. He erected saw-mills, etc., and induced other enterprising parties to settle around him, thus accelerating the rise of the value of real estate in his vicinity. Indeed, his noble ambition led him to over-exert his physical energies and injure his constitution. He is still enthusiastic. Politically, he belongs to the Republican party, and socially to the Masonic Order, being a Master Mason in the lodge at Elm Hall, No. 257.

July 9, 1869, Mr. Van Leuven was married in Wayne Co., Mich., to Miss Katie, daughter of Timothy and Sarah (Choate) Walling, the former a native

of New York State and the latter of Michigan. Mr. W. was of English descent, and died in Monroe Co., Mich., in February, 1855, aged 44 years. Mrs. W. was a second cousin of the eminent Boston jurist and Senator, Rufus Choate. She is now living with her daughter, Mrs. V., is 64 years of age and retains her usual good health.

Mrs. Van Leuven was born in Monroe Co., Mich., Oct. 13, 1844, near the site of the famous Indian massacre on the River Raisin. From the age of 18 until 24, the date of her marriage, she was a school-teacher; and she would excel in that capacity now were she still in the profession.



**M**artin W. Cramer, farmer, section 11, Bethany Township, is the son of Jeremiah and Ruth (Lowry) Cramer, and was born in Marcellus, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Oct. 12, 1831. In 1837 the family moved to Freedom Township, Washtenaw Co., this State, and purchased 60 acres of land and followed the vocation of farming until their death, which occurred in 1843 and 1846, the father dying in the former and the mother in the latter year, leaving nine children.

In 1850 he left Washtenaw County and went to Plymouth, Wayne County, and remained there, variously occupied, for two years. He then located 120 acres of land in Tuscola County, on the present site of the village of Union. Mr. Cramer remained on this land for 15 months, and then came to this county and purchased 240 acres of land in Bethany Township, for 50 cents an acre, and on which he is at present residing.

In 1857, Mr. Cramer was selected by the citizens as the bearer of a petition to the Supervisors of the county at Ithaca for the naming of the Township "Fremont." The majority of the Supervisors did not favor the name and consequently rejected it. Mr. C. was then requested to give another name and offered the name Bethany, which was voted on and adopted.

Mr. Cramer was married Oct. 28, 1855, and was the first resident of Bethany Township to marry.

Mr. Cramer moved on his land early in 1855, and

in December of that year escorted his new bride to the humble "log cabin" on his place. Her effects consisted of a pillow-case full of bed-clothes, which she shouldered and started for the "land of promise." Coming to the river, the same being partly frozen, and there being no way to cross except by wading, Mr. C. "shouldered" his wife, "together with the bed-clothes," and safely forded the stream. At the raising of their cabin, all the white men in the township were present, namely: W. J. Partello, Sylvanus Groome, Alfred Clark, John J. Partello and Charles Vorce; and the remainder who assisted in the erection were Indians, some seven of them from the Mission.

Mr. Cramer now owns 105 acres of land, of which 65 acres is under good improvement and adorned with good buildings.

Mr. C. is and has been identified with the educational interests of his township and has been honored with the position of School Inspector.

Mr. C. was again married, to Miss Charlotte Andrews, of Bismarck, Eaton County, this State, March 24, 1876.

To his first union were born eight children, namely: Ambrosia, Alice, Chester, Ben Butler, Sylvanus, Martin W., Jeremiah and Emmett. One child, Sarah, has been born to the latter union, but has passed to the "better land."

Mr. Cramer was among the first to respond to the call of the martyr President for troops to engage in the late civil war, and enlisted at Ithaca, Aug. 12, 1861, in Co. C, 8th Mich. Vol. Inf., as private, under Capt. Ralph Ely, and served until Sept. 23, 1864. He participated in the engagements of the taking of Port Royal, Coosaw Ferry, S. C.; Wilmington Island, James Island, second battle of Bull Run, Chantilly, Antietam, South Mountain and Fredericksburg, and assisted in the capture of Morgan. He was also engaged in numerous skirmishes, and becoming indisposed was taken to the hospital at Louisville, where he remained several months, and was finally discharged at Lexington, Ky. At Coosaw Ferry, Jan. 1, 1862, he was one of the 20 picked men taken by Col. Ely, whose narrow escape is described at length in "Michigan and the War."

Mr. and Mrs. Cramer are members of the Christian Church and are respected and esteemed citizens of their township.



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*Wm. M. Barstow*

**W**illiam M. Barstow, farmer, section 22, North Star Township, was born in Smithfield Township, Madison Co., N. Y., Nov. 1, 1826, and is a son of Elias and Sally (Morgan) Barstow, both of English ancestry, the former a native of New York State and the latter of Ohio.

Mr. Barstow attended the common schools until 17 years of age, and then was employed in a woolen factory for 10 years, the last four years as foreman of the weaving department. During this time, namely, Oct. 15, 1845, at Morrisville, he married Miss Eunice McBride, daughter of John and Polly (Wilbur) McBride, who was born also in Madison Co., N. Y., July 30, 1828. Mr. and Mrs. B. have had eight children, seven of whom are living, viz.: Adelbert E., Mary E., Ellen E. (deceased), Charlie E., Eunice M., William Henry, Hiram Chancy, and Nellie F. The first named is married, and now resides in Ithaca, where he is an insurance agent. Mary E. is the wife of A. J. Brown, who is in the employ of Nelson Barber at Ithaca. Charlie is married and is living on section 15, North Star Township. Eunice M. is the wife of John A. Srodes, real-estate dealer at Ithaca; William Henry resides on the homestead; and Hiram Chancy is attending school at Ithaca.

About 1853 Mr. Barstow came West with his family and settled in Wright Township, Hillsdale Co., Mich., where he bought a farm of 40 acres and remained three years; he then came to North Star Township, bought 120 acres of timber land, erected a log cabin and began clearing away the forest. The country was new and Mr. B. had to encounter the hardships and struggles common to the pioneer. Here he cleared 65 acres, 40 of which he ultimately gave to his eldest son.

As a patriot Mr. Barstow has had both military and official experience,—the latter often as bitter as the former. Aug. 9, 1862, he enlisted in Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., Capt. Lafayette Church. Having helped recruit the company he was mustered in as Second Sergeant, and he served until Dec. 20, 1864, as Orderly Sergeant, participating in the battles of Mine Run, Spottsylvania Court-House and in a number of skirmishes. In the last named engagement

he was wounded, his right leg being shattered by a minie ball, which troubled him for a number of years. On account of this disability he was mustered out, at Detroit. About the same time he was wounded, he received a commission as Second Lieutenant; but he did not muster in as such. Officially, Mr. B. has been Township Supervisor nearly five terms, Township Clerk two years, Township Treasurer one year, Township School Superintendent two years, Justice of the Peace one year, and is at present School Inspector. He has also served as County Treasurer two terms,—1878-82. He was first elected on the Republican ticket, over Washington Clark, Greenback, running ahead of his ticket by a large number. In the fall of 1880 he was re-nominated by acclamation, and elected. He is a member of the G. A. R., and, with his wife, also of the Methodist Church.

Mr. Barstow's many friends will be pleased to see his portrait in this Album.

**E**ber Loomis, farmer, section 17, Seville Township, was born June 14, 1821, in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. He is a son of Eber and Julia (Thompson) Loomis. The former was born Jan. 25, 1779, in the State of New York; the latter was born Aug. 23, 1792, in Connecticut. The father was a farmer and shoemaker, and combined the two callings all his active life. After his marriage, he settled in his native State, where he resided some years, and removed thence to Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, whence they went later to Lorain County. The father died there in April, 1843; the mother died Oct. 9, 1865, in Branch Co., Mich.

After his father's death, Mr. Loomis was thrown upon his own resources, and was variously engaged. Among other occupations, he was a sailor on the lakes for some time. He was first married in 1840 to Delilah, daughter of Nicholas and Rachel (Haynes) Wood. She was born in the State of New York, and died in Erie Co., Ohio, in 1856. Of six children born of this marriage, three survive. The eldest son died in the army in 1865. In 1860, Mr. Loomis was married to Emily Eldred, daughter of Job and Mary (Dethrick) Eldred. Her parents were natives of the

State of New York. The children born of this second marriage are: Sarah E., Jessie, Ada, Eber, Cora, Maud and John W.

Mr. Loomis enlisted in 1865 in Co. B. 11th Mich. Vol. Inf. The regiment was assigned to garrison duty on the Knoxville & Chattanooga railroad, and was finally discharged Sept. 28, 1865, at Jackson, Mich. On leaving the army, Mr. Loomis joined his family in Branch Co., Mich., whence they came, in 1867, to Gratiot County, and Mr. Loomis located where he now resides. He bought 40 acres at first, and is now the proprietor of a farm containing 120 acres. Of this, 70 acres are cleared and improved. Mr. Loomis is a Republican in political faith and action, and has served a term as Road Commissioner. He is a member of the Order of Masonry, Lodge No. 257, Elm Hall. Mrs. Loomis belongs to the Church of the Disciples.

**H**enry L. Holcomb, lumberman and manufacturer of salt, residing at St. Louis, was born Aug. 22, 1808, in Granby, Hartford Co., Conn. He is a son of Thomas and Clara (Pettibone) Holcomb. His father was an attorney of some prominence, and passed the latter years of his life in the pursuit of agriculture.

Mr. Holcomb was reared to the calling of a farmer and was engaged in that vocation until he was 25 years old. At that age he embraced a seemingly feasible project for improving his fortunes, and operated four years as a contractor on the canal then being built between New Haven and Northampton. He again engaged in farming a short time, and then went to Georgia for the purpose of taking a contract on the Savannah Central railroad. This enterprise occupied two years, and at the expiration of that time he returned to the North. In 1848, he again went South and became a contractor on the Southwestern, Savannah & Brunswick railroad, and afterward on the Columbus Branch of the Southwestern. He was thus engaged eight years, after which he resumed farming.

In 1860, Mr. Holcomb came to St. Louis and made extensive purchases of timber land, owning in the aggregate 2,000 acres. The tract included the present site of the village of St. Louis. In 1861 he

built the saw-mill just north of the present grist-mill of James Henry. He continued its management until 1867, when he sold all his property in Michigan and returned to Connecticut and resumed operations on his farm, which he still retained. Six years later he found himself once more in possession of his property at St. Louis, the parties to whom he had sold it failing to meet the terms of the sale. The village had been platted and part of the lots sold, and Mr. Holcomb continued to dispose of them. The real estate of which he acquired possession amounted to 1,500 acres. He built the grist-mill referred to in 1875, and sold the same to James Henry in 1882. He has been continuously and extensively engaged in lumbering, and besides his operations nearer home, owned a saw and shingle mill in Rockland, Montcalm County, which he managed until 1883.

Mr. Holcomb built his present fine residence soon after coming to St. Louis the first time. In 1881 he built the Opera House Block, and another adjoining in 1882. The first-named is one of the finest structures at St. Louis. The auditorium of the Opera House seats 1,000 persons, and in the two blocks there are six commodious rooms for store purposes. The upper floor of the second block is devoted to offices and society rooms. Mr. Holcomb is the proprietor of several business buildings on Mill Street.

He was married at Granby, Conn., Sept. 22, 1828, to Aura P., daughter of Origen and Rosabelle Pinney. She was born Jan. 13, 1810, Simsbury, Conn., and died May 5, 1883, at St. Louis. Mr. Holcomb is a communicant in the Episcopal Church.

**M**ilo Standish, farmer and stock-raiser, section 9, New Haven Township, is a son of Samuel W. Standish, who was born March 12, 1797, in Vermont, and died July 26, 1883, in Hillsdale Co., Mich., at the age of 86 years. He was a descendant of Capt. Miles Standish, whose name is celebrated, and from whom the subject of this notice is of the sixth generation.

Milo Standish was born in the township of Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y., Dec. 11, 1833. When he was three years old the family moved with him to Hills-

dale Co., Mich., and at the age of 12 he set out in the world for himself, engaging to a farmer at \$4 a month. Four years later he began to work in a brick-yard as a molder, at Coldwater, Mich., in which vocation he wrought successfully until he was 21, except one year in Illinois, at the same trade. He then came to this county and engaged as a common laborer for John A. Crispel, and one year later he began to work upon and improve his present farm, which he had purchased in the fall of 1861. To this he has added 120 acres, and he now has 170 acres in a good state of cultivation. When he came here he had but \$3, and he is already worth about \$15,000. He has large and commodious farm buildings, and his residence, recently built, cost \$2,000. He has also been Highway Commissioner and held several township school offices. He is prominent among the farmers of his portion of the county, as a progressive, judicious and energetic agriculturist. On National issues he is a Democrat.

Mr. Standish was married March 22, 1862, in Liberty, Jackson Co., Mich., to Miss Mary Crispel, daughter of John A. and Mindwell L. (Spencer) Crispel (see sketch of the latter). Mrs. S. was born in Spring Arbor Township, Jackson Co., Mich., Jan. 6, 1844. When ten years of age, the family moved to Montcalm Co., Mich., and thence to Hillsdale County, where she received her education.

**J**ohn Thomas, farmer, section 4, Pine River Township, is the son of Stephen and Jane Thomas, and was born in England April 7, 1829. His parents were also of English birth and spent their entire lives in their native land.

Mr. Thomas caught the Australian gold fever, and, at the age of 19, went to the island continent, where he engaged in mining more than a twelve-month, and in 1849 came to the United States, and to Michigan. He spent the first year of his life on the American Continent in Clinton County, Mich., and in the spring of 1855 came to Gratiot County. He bought 240 acres of land in an entirely unimproved state, where he now resides. He has disposed or 80 acres, and, of the remainder, has 50 acres in tillage. Mr. Thomas is a Republican in political faith. He is one of the early settlers of Gratiot

County, and has passed through the vicissitudes of the pioneer's life, observing the gradual progress of the county to a fair rank in the Peninsular State.

He was married near Lansing, Michigan, to Mary A. Saunders. She was a native of the State of New York, and died Jan. 8, 1876. Four of six children born of her marriage to Mr. Thomas yet survive: Edgar S., Loretta J., Della A. and Irving J. Ada and Mary E. are deceased. Mr. T. belongs to the Disciples' Church.

**G**eorge W. Dawes, photographer at St. Louis, was born June 15, 1847, at Goshen, Mass., and is the youngest son of Dryden and Permelia (Hubbard) Dawes. He resided in his native place until he was 18 years old, when his parents, having sold their farm, they removed to Grass Lake, Jackson Co., Mich., where they had purchased a farm three years previous. The father's health failing, he sold his property at Grass Lake and removed to Manchester to give his children better educational advantages. The family now reside at Dowagiac, Mich.

Mr. Dawes received a substantial education, and in 1871 was graduated in the classical department of the union school at Manchester, Mich., when he was appointed Principal of the union schools of Antioch, Ind. He acted in that capacity two years, when he returned to Manchester and worked at his trade of builder, which he had learned previous to reaching his majority. In the spring of 1876 he came to St. Louis and operated as a carpenter and builder until the fall of 1882, when he entered the establishment of C. N. Stark, a photographer at Ann Arbor, and remained under his instructions until March, 1883, when he opened a gallery at St. Louis, where he has since been engaged in a prosperous business of increasing proportions and requiring two assistants.

He was married April 7, 1873, in Ypsilanti, Mich., to Eva S. King. She was born Oct. 28, 1854, at Ann Arbor, and is the eldest daughter of William S. and Sarah (Hall) King. Her parents removed to Ypsilanti in the fall of 1860, where she received a liberal education. One daughter, Nona, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Dawes, Dec. 17, 1878. Mr. Dawes is a

member of the order known as the Knights of Labor. He has been Superintendent of Schools of Pine River Township four years. He owns his residence on Olive Street.

**E**dwin S. Hoskins, editor and proprietor of the *St. Louis Leader*, was born in Ogden, Monroe Co., N. Y., July 2, 1843. He is a son of Myron and Sarah S. (Brown) Hoskins. His father is a native of Vermont and spent the earlier part of his business life as a contractor and builder, and later as a farmer. He is now in the insurance business at Paw Paw, Mich., and still retains his farming interests. The mother is also a native of Vermont and is still living.

Mr. Hoskins was reared on a farm and attended school chiefly, until he was 18 years old. He acted for nearly five years as a clerk in Brockport, and spent two years as an assistant in the postoffices at Brockport and Rochester. In 1866 he opened a grocery and provision store at Brockport in company with his brother, George W. Hoskins. A year later this business closed, and in 1867 the brothers went to Leavenworth Co., Kan., where he was employed on the Union Pacific railroad. Afterwards Mr. Hoskins was placed in charge of the Fairmount Station, where he operated two years. Returning East, he went to Allegan, Mich., where he engaged in milling and buying grain for his uncle, A. S. Brown, of whose business he had charge. He was well fitted for its management, having been engaged in Kansas in handling grain, in connection with railroading. He was thus occupied until the death of his relative, which event occurred in about four years.

In 1873 he went to Bellevue, Eaton County, and bought the *Bellevue Gazette*, which he conducted eight years, with reasonable success. In July, 1881, he came to St. Louis and bought the *St. Louis Leader*. It is published as a Republican sheet and enjoys a fine patronage, which is constantly increasing. A job office is conducted in connection therewith, in which branch Mr. Hoskins is doing a successful business. The work requires three assistants.

Mr. Hoskins was Assistant Secretary of the Senate of Michigan during the last session of that body

held in the old capitol building, in 1877-8. He was elected Secretary of that body in 1879 and has been successively elected every session since that date. He was Clerk of the village of Bellevue eight years, and held the same position in the township two years. He was married May 11, 1869, in Brockport, N. Y., to Minnie, daughter of Nathan and Melinda Fisk. She was born Jan. 2, 1847, in Monroe Co., N. Y. Following are the records of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins: Etta L., Nov. 6, 1871; Frederick M., May 29, 1873; Fern, Nov. 1, 1879; Ralph, June 21, 1882, at St. Louis, where he died Oct. 9, 1883. The two eldest children were born in Allegan; the third in Bellevue.

**I**iram Burgess; deceased, was born Oct. 10, 1802, in Cayuga Co., N. Y., married Keziah Terry for his first wife, and she died five years later. He married Betsey Placeway, a native of Vermont, and located in Allegany Co., N. Y. In 1837 they removed to Michigan and passed two years in Northville, Wayne County. They removed thence to Clinton County, where they settled on 160 acres of land in the midst of an unbroken forest. They held possession of the place four years and went to Livingston County, where they spent 12 years in agricultural pursuits. In 1853, they returned to Clinton County, and in 1855 settled on 80 acres of land on section 25 of Pine River Township, Gratiot County. It was situated in the unbroken wilderness, which had never before hardly known the presence of the foot of a white man, and the household experienced pioneer incidents sufficient for a volume.

Mr. Burgess afterward added 40 acres, on section 26, to his original tract of 80 acres, and, later in life, sold 20 acres to one of his sons, which left him in possession of 100 acres of land at the time of his death, which occurred April 9, 1879. He was a prominent citizen of the county from its organization, which he was instrumental in effecting, and was elected its first Sheriff on its obtaining its municipal regulations. He was also active in all matters pertaining to the progress and welfare of his township, of which he was the first Supervisor.

Mrs. Betsey (Placeway) Burgess is still living and

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*Franklin Squire*



and resides on the homestead. She was born Oct. 10, 1806, in Vermont, and is a daughter of William and Mary (Robbins) Placeway. Her parents were natives respectively of Nova Scotia and Massachusetts. She married Hiram Burgess Jan. 10, 1830, and became the mother of the following children: Nancy M., Frederick L., Julia A., Ann M., Mary A., Emery W., Clarkson L., James W., Seth C. and Betsey A.

**J**ohn B. Mallory, farmer on section 24, Seville Township, is a son of Isaac and Amy (Briggs) Mallory, natives of the vicinity of Glens Falls, N. Y. The father was early in life a blacksmith, but later was in agricultural pursuits. Both parents died in the Empire State.

The subject of this biography was born May 12, 1821, in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and lived at home with his parents until 28 years old, attending school during the winters of his youth, and working on the paternal farm in the summers. At the age mentioned, he was married to Corinna L. Wright, the second daughter of a family of one son and three daughters. Her parents were James and Julia (Strong) Wright, natives of Connecticut. James Wright was a farmer, and moved to Oswego Co., N. Y., and thence to Chautauqua County, same State, where he and wife both died.

Mr. Mallory resided in Hillsdale County, this State, two years, and in 1856 came to Gratiot County. He located on section 24, Seville, but a part of his land was situated on section 23. Settling in the midst of a dense wilderness, he has by perseverance brought into good shape a farm of about 100 acres, with good house and barns. He has been Treasurer of his township five years, and has also held the office of School Inspector. He has been elected Justice of the Peace several times, but has declined to qualify. Mr. M. is politically a Republican. He and wife are the parents of ten children: Walter C., Fayette A., Julia B., Frances C. (died June 19, 1873), Mina, Maurice, Eunice M., Nevada, Ralph and Anna.

**B**ranchlin Squire, farmer, section 30, North Star Township, was born in the County of Geauga, State of Ohio, Feb. 15, 1827, and is a son of Aaron Squire, deceased, a native of Connecticut. The son remained with his parents in his native county, assisting the father on the farm and receiving such instruction as was obtainable from the common schools and developing into manhood.

Feb. 23, 1851, Mr. Squire was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Ann, daughter of John Herrington, deceased, and he and his "life partner" came seeking a home in this State, and settled in Lenawee County. They remained there for three years, when, in 1854, they came to this county, and Mr. C. entered a 160-acre homestead for himself, and over 500 acres for his brothers, who soon afterward came to the county. His early settlement was characterized by all the trials and hardships experienced by the pioneer settler of the county. Nobly did he battle against all difficulties, and truthfully hath he demonstrated that the hill of adversity requires indomitable energy and perseverance to ascend it. He has continually resided in the county since he entered his homestead, following the occupation of a farmer, and has met with signal success in that calling. He has been honored with the offices of Clerk, Supervisor and School Director of his township, and possesses the respect and esteem of the citizens.

In religious sentiments Mr. Squire is an ardent adherent of the doctrines of the Seventh-Day Advent Church. He believes especially in the doctrine "that Saturday is the true Sabbath," and offers to those who dispute his belief the Decalogue to substantiate it. He is also a firm believer in the 13th chapter of Revelations and likewise the spirit of prophesy.

Mr. and Mrs. Squire have had eight children born to them, seven of whom are living, namely: Frank E., Helen, Eli E., Alice, John, Lucy and Sarah E. One daughter, Adell (Harphan), died in her 21st year, leaving two children to the care of her husband.

This work would be incomplete without a portrait of Mr. Squire, which is accordingly given, on the preceding page.

**L**ancelot H. Treat, farmer, section 11, Arcada Township, was born in Riley Township, Clinton Co., Mich., July 9, 1844, and is the son of Gordon and Mary (Willett) Treat, natives of New York. Gordon Treat was by occupation a farmer, and came to Michigan when a young man, locating in Oakland County, where he was married. He afterwards went to Clinton County, and died at his home in Riley Township, May 29, 1859, aged 59. He was one of the pioneers in both counties. His wife now resides in Clinton County, at the age of 63.

Launcelot was the third child and second son of a family of five, and received a good education in the common schools. After the death of his father, he lived three years with his mother, and at the age of 18 left home to serve his country in the war. Aug. 11, 1862, he enlisted in Co. G, 23d Mich. Vol. Inf., and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. He fought at Buzzard's Roost, Kenesaw Mountain, and other engagements. At Kenesaw, June 25, 1863, he was wounded in the left shoulder by a rifle ball, cutting the shoulder blade in two. Excepting this, he escaped unhurt, and was honorably discharged July 12, 1865, after which he returned home.

Jan. 26, 1871, he was married to Sarah, daughter of Henry and Ann (Gardner) Fisk, natives of Poultney, Rutland Co., Vt., and Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., and of mixed descent, they having English, French and Dutch ancestors. Henry Fisk was by occupation a carpenter and joiner, and died in Richland, Montcalm Co., Mich., in August, 1881. Ann (Gardner) Fisk is still living in that county, aged 58. Sarah Fisk was born in Bengal, Clinton County, Aug. 23, 1851, and received a fair education in her native county.

Two years after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Treat removed to Westphalia Township, Clinton County; and five years later, Aug. 22, 1878, they came to Gratiot County, purchasing 124 acres on section 11, Arcada Township. He has since purchased 30 acres, and now has one of the best farms in the county, 134 acres being well improved. He has recently erected a magnificent barn, at a cost of over \$2,000. Mr.

and Mrs. Treat have two children, as follows: Alta, born March 9, 1870; and Gordon D., born Feb. 1, 1873. In political sentiment, he is a liberal Republican.

**R**ansler R. Reed, of the firm of Leckenby & Reed, wagon manufacturers at St. Louis, was born Jan. 6, 1826, at Norwalk, Ohio, and is the youngest son of Hanson and Elizabeth (Powers) Reed. His father was a native of Kentucky, and, after marriage, went to Huron Co., Ohio, where, with the parents of his wife, he was among the pioneer settlers. The dates of birth and location in the Buckeye State have not been preserved, but the nativity of the father occurred about 1788, and that of the mother about three years later. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Reed was a soldier of the Revolution, and was more than 100 years old when he died. At the date of the settlement of Mr. Powers and his son-in-law in Huron Co., Ohio, inhabitants and improvements were very scarce. Where is now the beautiful city of Norwalk, there was then but an Indian encampment, and the father and grandfather of Mr. Reed erected and put in running order the first saw and grist-mill in that section. They were obliged to travel 70 miles for the fixtures of the establishment, which were conveyed all that distance on horseback. Hanson Reed was a prominent man in the section where he spent many active years engaged in aiding in the substantial progress of Northern Ohio. He was a God-fearing man, and on his death left a family of six sons, whose records in no sense detract from the remembered uprightness and integrity which characterized the life of the father. The latter died suddenly in 1828, when about 40 years old, at Perrysburg, Ohio, where he was engaged in fulfilling the conditions of an extensive contract to build a macadamized road over the "Black Swamp," a region which was the source of untold annoyance and dread to the emigrants, who were obliged to traverse its sloughs and quicksands. His widow survived until 1865, when she died, aged 74 years. The six sons are all living, and attest the tenacity of life and fine physical vigor which marked the ancestral lines from which they are descended. Franklin D., eldest son, lives at Norwalk, Ohio; James P. is a resident of Mason,

Ingham Co., Mich.; Eli H. resides in the northern peninsula of Michigan; Abraham P. lives in Missouri, and Dennis A. in Wisconsin. Eli, Dennis and Mr. Reed of this sketch became sailors, and the first-named has followed that calling all his life, during the business seasons. He spends his winters in hunting and trapping, and has made an extraordinary record with his rifle. He became a sailor when he was nine years old and has been on the lakes nearly 60 years.

Mr. Reed was less than two years old when his father died. At the age of 15 he became a sailor, to gratify an inclination to obtain a wider view of the world than what he saw bounded by the horizon inclosing the fields and hills of his native place. He followed the lakes until he was 32 years old and rose to the position of mate, which he occupied on a number of vessels. On becoming a landsman, he engaged in the calling of ship-carpenter, as he had a natural aptitude for the use of tools. In 1860 he came to Ionia Co., Mich., and bought 80 acres of land, on which he pursued farming and combined the labors of a builder with the duties of agriculture. Later, he went to Adrian, where he worked at his trade two years. He went thence to Macon, in the same county, where, associated with Israel Perrington, he bought a saw-mill, which they conducted two years. Mr. Reed next went to Corunna, Ind., where he owned a third interest in a lumber-mill. Two years later he went to Kendallville, in Indiana, where he engaged a short time as a wagon-maker. His next business venture was at Atwood, Ind., where he managed a lumber-mill in his own interest seven years, and afterwards pursued agriculture at that place about the same length of time. After working as a carpenter at Warsaw, Ind., a short time, in May, 1882, he came to St. Louis and bought out a furniture store, which he conducted six months and sold out. He entered into his present business relation Dec. 15, 1883, with E. Leckenby, and is engaged in the manufacture of carriages and wagons. Their works require four assistants, and each of the principals manages a different branch of the business. Mr. Reed is the owner of 36 feet frontage on Saginaw Street, and the lot runs back 30 feet, the tract containing two buildings, which are used for store-rooms, painting and turning rooms. The blacksmith and ironing shop connected with the establishment is the property of the senior partner.

Mr. Reed was married Dec. 4, 1843, in Norwalk, Ohio, to Cyrena M., daughter of Alvin Blodgett, a farmer of Huron Co., Ohio. Their three children are: Rose, Lora D. and Ella D. The first-named is the wife of Samuel Hatch, traveling salesman for Thorb & Hawley, of Detroit. The second daughter is the wife of John W. Ackley, foreman of the lumber-mill of the Grand Haven Lumber Company. The youngest is the wife of A. S. Thompson, foreman in the employ of H. L. Holcomb, of St. Louis. Mr. Reed is a member of the Order of Masonry and of the Odd Fellows. Himself and wife belong to the Presbyterian Church.

**T**homas Gallagher, farmer, section 5, Pine River Township, was born April 4, 1833, in Pennsylvania, and is the son of Thomas and Lucy (Hubbs) Gallagher, both of whom were born in the Keystone State. They removed in later life to Ohio, and after a residence there covering a period of nine years, they came to Michigan, where they passed their subsequent lives. The father died in Ingham County, the mother in Eaton County.

Mr. Gallagher was an infant about one year old, when his parents went to Ohio, and when he was ten years of age they came to Michigan. His father died the following year and he went to live with a man named Alexander Ingersoll, a miller by vocation, and was under his care and guidance until he was nearly 21 years old. He then engaged in a saw-mill, and continued there a year. The following season he rented a farm, which he conducted one year. In January, 1855, he came to Gratiot County and bought 160 acres of wild land, on which he has since resided. He has sold 40 acres, and of the remaining portion he has placed 90 acres in a fine state of improvement and cultivation. His farm buildings are such as will compare favorably with any in the township. He is independent in political views, and has held various local official positions. He has been School Inspector and taught a term of school in his own district.

Mr. Gallagher was married Nov. 28, 1852, at Grand Ledge, Eaton County, to Amanda, daughter of Oliver and Catharine (Grant) Russell. She was born in Shelby Co., N. Y., March 23, 1835. Her parents

were natives of the same State and her mother is cousin to General Grant. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher: Emily V., Mary J., Adelbert C., William J. and Charles H. The father and mother are zealous and active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Darius Ingalsbe**, farmer, on section 25, Arcada Township, was born in Ontario Township, Wayne Co., N. Y., April 13, 1827, and is the son of Ebenezer and Alzada (Aldrich) Ingalsbe. Ebenezer Ingalsbe was a native of Vermont, of English and Scotch descent, and a farmer by occupation. When very young he went to Wayne Co., N. Y., when that part of the State was covered with the primitive forest. He afterward removed to Alabama Township, Genesee County, where he died, June 15, 1855, a little over 77 years old. Alzada Aldrich was a native of Connecticut, of Welsh descent. After receiving her education in her native State, she removed to New York State, where she was married. She died in Wayne County, that State, Sept. 3, 1839, leaving a large family, of which the subject of this sketch, at that time 12 years old, was the sixth child.

Remaining with his father until of age, Darius then worked as a common laborer until his marriage, Feb. 12, 1852, to Clarissa, daughter of Israel and Laura (Jennings) Halleck. Israel Halleck, a relative of Gen. Henry W. Halleck, was a native of Long Island, and of Welsh descent. He farmed most of his life in Wayne Co., N. Y., and died in Wheatland Township, Hillsdale Co., Mich., Nov. 14, 1865, at the age of 78. Laura Jennings was a native of Truxton, N. Y., and of English parentage. In 1845 she came to Hillsdale County, this State, where she died April 12, 1882, at the age of 84. Clarissa (Halleck) Ingalsbe was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., July 3, 1832, and at the age of 13 came with her parents to Michigan. Here she was educated and lived until 19 years old, when she returned to New York and was married.

A few months after that event they removed to Spencer, Medina Co., Ohio, locating on a farm. After one year they removed to Lenawee Co., Mich.,

and a year and a half later they went to Hillsdale County. They lived there on a farm for 9 years, and, April 27, 1863, they came to North Star Township, Gratiot County, locating on section 3. Four days were required, on account of the muddy roads, to draw their load from St. John's, a distance of 22 miles. They located on 160 acres of heavily timbered land, and lived through most of the familiar experiences of all pioneers in a new country. The luxuries and many of the necessaries of life were wanting. Mr. Ingalsbe resided there 16 years, improving his land, and in April, 1880, he sold and purchased his present home on section 25, Arcada Township, one mile from Ithaca.

Mr. and Mrs. Ingalsbe are the parents of three living children: Lydia, born Sept. 21, 1853; Dee, born Sept. 25, 1859; and Laura, born April 3, 1865. Three are dead: Mary, born Oct. 25, 1855, and died Jan. 12, 1861; Amelia, born June 22, 1861, and died Oct. 10, 1874; and Clara, born Sept. 11, 1867, and died Sept. 2, 1878. Mr. Ingalsbe is one of the most respected citizens of the county. He is a Royal Arch Mason, of Ithaca Chapter, No. 70. He has held the office of Overseer of Roads for several years, and in politics is an active Republican.

**Samuel Gordon**, tanner and currier at St. Louis, was born in the District of Montreal, Canada, July 28, 1838, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Dickson) Gordon. His father is a native of Scotland and is now living in Canada, aged 96 years. His mother was also a native of Scotland and died in Canada, in the year 1855.

Mr. Gordon began to learn his trade when he was 16 years old and spent three years in preparation for the business which he has made the vocation of his life. After completing his indentures he entered the employ of the same man and remained until he was 26 years old. In 1862 he went to Redford, Clinton Co., N. Y., and there worked at his trade three years. In the spring of 1865 he came to St. Louis and built a tannery, which was located near the residence of Dr. Cheeseman. Two years after, he built his present place of business. The structure is 28 by 36 feet, with two wings, one of which is 16 by 26 feet in

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dimensions, the other 15 by 36 feet. In addition to the various branches of his business, he buys and sells grain, lime and coal, in company with J. O. Hilton. They are doing a heavy business and are the only dealers in coal and shippers of grain at St. Louis. Mr. Gordon owns his residence and an acre of land at St. Louis, and 40 acres in Jasper Township, Midland County. He was married at St. Louis, April 17, 1865, to Attie Slack, a native of Jackson Co., Mich. Five children were born to them, three of whom are deceased—Frank, Charles and Pearlle. Those living are William and Robert.

Mr. Gordon is a member of the A. O. U. W. He assisted in building the first church edifice erected at St. Louis. It was built by the Presbyterian society, and Mr. Gordon hewed the first stick of timber used in its construction.

**H**enry R. Pattengill, Superintendent of Schools at Ithaca, was born Jan. 4, 1852, at Mount Vision, Otsego Co., N. Y. Lemuel C. Pattengill, his father, was born June 3, 1812, in New Lisbon, Otsego Co., N. Y., early in life was a farmer by vocation, and later entered the ministry and spent many years laboring in the interests of the Baptist Church. In the latter part of 1852 he removed to Akron, Erie Co., N. Y., where he spent six years as a minister of the gospel, and went thence to Wilson, Niagara Co., N. Y., with his family. During his residence there he acted one year as Chaplain in the hospitals and among the soldiers, under the auspices of the Christian Commission, with headquarters at Harper's Ferry. In the fall of 1865 he removed to Litchfield, Hillsdale Co., Mich., where he was occupied in ministerial labor. In 1872 he removed to Ann Arbor, and in the summer of 1874 he came to Ithaca, where he died in March, 1875.

Lemuel Pattengill, paternal grandsire, was a native of Canterbury, Windham Co., Conn., and was a Captain in the Federal army during the second war with England. He was wounded and taken prisoner at Queenstown Heights, and exchanged a few months later. The great-grandfather was a carpenter and passed most of his life at Canterbury, where he died. The patronymic was originally "Pattengill," and a

large number of representatives of the name live in Connecticut. The mother of Mr. Pattengill, Mary G. (Gregory) Pattengill, was born in New Lisbon, Otsego Co., N. Y., Feb. 14, 1814. Her father, Seth Gregory, was a Baptist clergyman in that place and officiated over one charge there about 30 years. She now resides at Ithaca with the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Pattengill was in infancy when his parents went to Akron and was a lad of seven years at the date of their removal to Wilson. While the family resided there he met with a terrible accident. He was visiting in the adjacent country, and, while riding the leading horse attached to a reaping machine, the team became unmanageable and he was thrown. The fleeing horses dragged the reaper over him and he was caught in the gearing, the knives cutting into his hip and nearly severing his left leg, besides badly mutilating his left arm and hand. His life was despaired of many times during the months of suffering and illness that followed, but at the end of a year he was sufficiently recovered to move about with the aid of a cane, and he gradually came back to health. He had had a strong desire to become a sailor, but during his long struggle for life and health he determined to obtain an education, and as soon as he was sufficiently recovered he entered the Wilson Academy, which he attended as long as his family lived there. On their removal to Litchfield he became a pupil at the graded school and studied there five years. He then went to Hudson, where he pursued a preparatory collegiate course and entered the Literary Department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated with the class of 1874. He came to St. Louis, this county, where he received the appointment of Superintendent of Schools and occupied the position two years. In the fall of 1876 he succeeded to the same position at Ithaca, and has continued the incumbent since.

He has received an offer of an associate editorship of the *School Moderator*, published at Grand Rapids, which position he intends to accept at the close of the present school year.

He was "prophet" of his class when he was graduated, and was one of 11 selected Commencement speakers of 1874. While in college he acted two years as an editor of the *Chronicle*, a college paper published by the students. He has been Township Superintendent a number of years, and since 1877 has held the position of President of the Gratiot

County Teachers' Association. He has identified himself with all educational movements, and has conducted Teachers' Institutes in several counties hereabouts. In the fall of 1883 he was elected member of the County Board of School Examiners. In January of that year, he was chosen Secretary of the State Teachers' Association.

Although Mr. Pattengill has been untiring and unremitting in the duties pertaining to his official position and incidental interests, he is nevertheless keenly alive to all other issues likely to affect materially the general welfare of the community, and takes a proper and manly interest in local politics. In 1881 he was a delegate to the State Convention at Lansing to nominate Regents for the University, and in the fall of 1882 was a delegate to the Gratiot County Convention. He "stumped" the county during the State campaign of 1882, in the interests of the Republican party. In 1881 he was elected President of the village of Ithaca, running on both tickets, and was re-elected in 1882.

The portrait of Mr. Pattengill, appearing on a preceding page, is an eminently fitting addition to the Biographical Album of Gratiot County.

**H**ustavus Quick, farmer and stock-raiser, on section 11, Sumner Township, is a son of Ralph and Calista (Treat) Quick, and was born in Oakland Co., Mich., Feb. 8, 1846. He was engaged with his father on the farm until he was 20 years old, and in the meantime received a good common-school education. He then left home and for six years worked as a carpenter and joiner in the summer and whatever he could find to do in the winter. In the spring of 1871 he came to Gratiot County and purchased 40 acres of partly improved land. He has since added 20 acres, and of his whole farm 40 acres are now well improved. He has also built ample farm buildings. He is an active and shrewd farmer and at the same time stands high socially.

Oct. 11, 1871, he was married in Lyon Township, Oakland County, to Miss Rosaletta Taylor, daughter of Jonathan and Caroline (Christopher) Taylor, natives of Seneca Co., N. Y. She was born April 11, 1852, in the same town in which she was reared,

educated and married. She is the mother of one child, Jennie, born May 31, 1880. Mr. Quick is the present Treasurer of his township, and has held the office of Drain Commissioner two years. Politically he is a zealous Republican.

**C**harles J. Willett, attorney, at St. Louis, was born at Essex, N. Y., June 5, 1849, and is the son of Rev. Joseph T. and Cornelia A. (Whallon) Willett. His father was a Presbyterian minister and came to Grand Rapids in 1865, removing to St. Louis two years later, for the purpose of laboring in the interests of the Christian religion. He discharged the duties of his ministerial office at St. Louis and vicinity until 1879, when he went to Cincinnati and is now living there in retirement, aged 66 years. The mother is also living.

Mr. Willett was graduated from the High School at Grand Rapids in 1867, after two years' study, then, in the fall of the same year entered the Literary Department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he graduated in 1871. He went to Chelsea, Washtenaw County, and officiated as Principal of the Union School there a year. He returned to St. Louis and obtained a situation as clerk in the Gratiot County Bank, where he operated two years. In 1874, associated with Hiram Harrington, Lemuel Savins and Aaron Wessels, he organized the Merchants & Farmers' Bank. He was its cashier, and acted as such about two years. He had devoted his leisure to the study of law and was admitted to the Bar, Jan. 4, 1877. He entered upon the duties of active practice immediately after. He has been engaged in a lucrative and increasing law business ever since, and has attained satisfactory prominence in his profession through his connection with several cases of more than ordinary importance.

In the fall of 1880, Mr. Willett was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Gratiot County, and held the position one term. He has been Village Treasurer and President of St. Louis one year each. In the spring of 1881, he was nominated by the State Convention of the Greenback party as one of the Regents of the University, but was defeated, and in the fall of 1882 he was placed in nomination by the



Democratic and Greenback parties to represent the Eighth Congressional District, against R. G. Horr, but was defeated. In 1883, he was again a candidate for Regent, on the Union ticket, and was elected. In addition to his law business, Mr. Willett is engaged in real-estate and loan brokerage, in company with E. C. Phillips, and has extensive relations in these branches in Gratiot and neighboring counties.

He was married at St. Louis May 13, 1874, to Harriet Crossman. She was the daughter of Abisha R. and Margaret S. Crossman, and was born in Pelham, Ontario, Aug. 25, 1852. Her father died in 1867, and in 1871 her mother removed to St. Louis, Mich., where she died in 1876.

**David F. Courter**, a progressive young farmer on section 12, Sumner Township, is a son of Jonathan and Sarah (Barton) Courter (see sketch of Jonathan Courter), and was born in Orleans Township, Ionia Co., Mich., Oct. 18, 1850. Four years later he came with his parents to Gratiot County, and the family settled on section 7, Arcada Township. David remained with his father on this place until 22 years old, securing an elementary and practical education. He then purchased 120 acres of timbered land on section 13, Sumner Township, where he remained a year and a half, cutting timber, etc. Selling this place, he then bought his present farm of 80 acres on section 12. He has now 60 acres in a good state of cultivation, and has erected suitable farm buildings.

Dec. 24, 1875, at Alma, he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Dena Clark, daughter of Charles and Harriet (Davis) Clark, natives of New York and Connecticut respectively, and of Scotch and English extraction. Mr. Clark was a farmer, and died in Sumner Township, this county. Mrs. Clark now lives in Canada. Their daughter, Dena, was born in Ontario, Canada, June 28, 1860, and came to Michigan with her parents when 15 years old. Since marriage Mr. and Mrs. Courter have lived on the farm which he improved previously. March 22, 1881, his house and household goods were all destroyed by fire, the loss exceeding \$700. He is not a man to be long set back by such a loss, however, and is rapidly recovering.

Mr. and Mrs. C. are the parents of two children, Bertha M. and Allan F. Politically, he votes the Democratic ticket.

**Braham W. Russell**, resident of Ithaca, and Supervisor of the township of Ithaca, is a son of James W. and Jane (Wolfeale) Russell, natives respectively of the Keystone State and the Shenandoah Valley, Va. The father was a farmer, and settled in Trumbull Co., Ohio, as early as 1802. He served under Gen. Harrison in the second war with Great Britain, and was stationed at Fort Meigs, at Perrysburg, on the Maumee River. After his discharge, he returned to the old homestead in Trumbull County, afterwards removing to Paulding County, where he died. The mother died in Mahoning Co., Ohio.

The subject of this sketch was born Oct. 13, 1830, in Trumbull Co., Ohio, and remained with his parents until the death of his mother. He worked at various employments, until 19 years old, and then served an apprenticeship of one year in the wagon-making trade, which occupation he has since followed. In 1853, he went to Fostoria, Seneca Co., Ohio, where he lived until 1861. He enlisted in Co. E, 49th Ohio Vol. Inf., and, attached to the Western Army, participated in the great battle of Pittsburg Landing and in several other engagements. He was after a time transferred to the Signal Corps, in which he served the remainder of his term. He was finally discharged Aug. 22, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tenn. Returning to his home, he remained one year more in Fostoria, and in 1865 came to Gratiot County, locating at Ithaca.

In June, 1852, in Canfield, Mahoning Co., Ohio, he was united in marriage to Miss Emeline Morey, who was born July 10, 1829, in Perry Co., Pa., and is the daughter of William and Betsey (Sulibarger) Morey. The parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and settled in Ellsworth, Trumbull Co., Ohio, in 1836. Mr. Morey died the same year, his widow living until 1874, when she died at Champion, Trumbull County. To Mr. and Mrs. Russell, eight children have been born, five of whom survive: Willis A., Florence R. A., Carlos B., Fred G. and Cora C. I.

Mr. R. is a member of the I. O. O. F., F. & A. M., G. A. R. and K. of H.; and is politically an earnest Republican. He has been Supervisor of Ithaca Township from 1882 to the present time; Justice of the Peace from 1871 to 1882; and Superintendent of the Poor for nine years. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is a Trustee.

**E**lijah Curtis, farmer, section 3, Hamilton Township, and one of the pioneer settlers of the county, was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., June 6, 1802. His father, Ashbel Curtis, removed his family to London, Canada, in 1820, and there Elijah remained until 1836, assisting his father, and receiving limited educational advantages, when he came to this State and settled in the county of Oakland. There he remained, enduring the trials and deprivations of the pioneer settler in clearing and cultivating his land until 1855, when he came to this county and settled on section 3, Hamilton Township, where he at present resides.

Mr. Curtis was married Feb. 21, 1826, to Abbie Burdick, and eight children have been born to their union, only three of whom, James, Winthrop and Abigail, are now living. Mrs. C. died in February, 1868, and Mr. C. was again married in January, 1869, this time to Mrs. Rebecca Pickett, who had four children by a former marriage, namely: Mary, Joseph, Charlotte and Perry.

Mr. Curtis now owns 107 acres of land in this county; was Justice of the Peace 16 years, Postmaster seven years, and Supervisor of the township two years, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**A**loof Netzorg, general merchant at Ithaca, is a native of Russia, and is a son of Abraham and Rebecca (Keidan) Netzorg. He was educated in his native country, and at the age of 20 came to the United States. He joined his uncles, H. and J. Netzorg, at St. Charles, Saginaw Co., Mich., where they were in business. In order to accustom himself to the customs and language of the new world in which he found

himself, Mr. Netzorg followed peddling about two years and a half, after which he engaged as a clerk in the store of his uncles, where he remained about six months. He came to Ithaca in September, 1877, and entered into partnership with Nyman E. Yesner, and opened a store for the sale of general merchandise. This relation existed until Feb. 26, 1883, when Mr. Netzorg purchased the interest of his associate, and has since been engaged in the prosecution of a prosperous and gradually extending business. His stock is estimated at a value of \$12,000, and his annual business transactions represent an aggregate of \$25,000. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Since Mr. Netzorg came to America he has aided his brother Mayer and sister Dessie to come to this country. The former is in his employ as clerk and the latter is attending school.

He was married Jan. 6, 1881, at St. Charles, Mich., to Fannie Sodekson, of Mineola, Texas, and a native of Russia. Mr. and Mrs. Netzorg have a son and daughter, the former, Sallie, born April 12, 1882, the latter, Celia, May 29, 1883.

**S**eph W. Kemp, grocer and dealer in boots, shoes, crockery and glass-ware at St. Louis, was born May 28, 1834, in Richland Co., Ohio. He is a son of Jacob M. and Harriet (Hoey) Kemp, who went to Williams Co., Ohio, in 1851. They were pioneers and settled on a farm which was mostly in an original state. Seven years later the family came to Michigan and settled in Coe Township, Isabella County, where the father bought a farm.

Mr. Kemp obtained his education in the common schools and was reared on a farm. He helped his father clear a considerable part of the farm in the Buckeye State, and accompanied the family to Isabella County. Soon after he went to Jackson County, where he spent two years. In 1858 he had bought 100 acres of land in Coe Township, where his father resided, located on section 24, where he cleared 40 acres and made other improvements. He came to St. Louis in January, 1872. His father had preceded him and established himself in trade. The son operated for a time as his assistant, and, later, enter-

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*D R Sullivan*

ed the employ of Joseph Tibbett, where he remained 18 months. On the termination of this relation, he formed a partnership with W. A. Williams, and engaged in the sale of groceries and provisions at St. Louis. This relation existed nearly two years, when Mr. Kemp, Sr., bought out the interest of Mr. Williams and the business was conducted by the father and son four years. Mr. Kemp then became sole proprietor by purchase and has continued since to manage the business singly. He established himself where he is now located in the winter of 1878-9, and is meeting with reasonable success. He owns his residence and grounds and four lots with dwellings, besides 40 acres of land on section 12, Pine River Township, and 200 acres of land in Jasper Township, Midland County.

Mr. Kemp was married Dec. 25, 1860, to Roxana, daughter of Joseph and Margaret A. Davison. She was born in Warren Township, Trumbull Co., Ohio, April 27, 1844. Of this marriage one child was born, in Isabella Co., Mich., Nov. 21, 1862: Josephine C., now the wife of George Wilson, salesman in the store of Mr. Kemp. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have one child: Maud, born March 10, 1881, at St. Louis.

**J**oseph H. Dodge, farmer, section 4, Washington Township, is a son of Alonzo and Mary A. (Morton) Dodge—the former born in Vermont in 1828, and the latter in Ohio in 1829. Alonzo Dodge came to Clinton County in 1855, and 12 years later came to Gratiot, locating on 80 acres of wild land on section 4, Washington Township, his present residence. He had to cut a road a mile and a half to his place. During his residence here, his occupation has been farming and threshing.

The subject of this sketch was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Dec. 17, 1848. At the age of 20, he was united in marriage to Ella C. Krepps, third daughter of a family of eight—four sons and four daughters. She was born Oct. 5, 1852, and her parents are Christian and Elizabeth A. (Bear) Krepps, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Krepps is a farmer, and came to Michigan in 1852, locating in Clinton County, where he and wife yet reside, on a farm of 160 acres.

When 19 years old, Mr. Dodge purchased 80 acres

of land, and by industry and good management now has an excellent farm of 120 acres. In 1881, he erected the finest house in his township, at a cost of \$1,600, his former dwelling having been destroyed by fire the previous year. He has been Highway Commissioner, and has also held the office of Director in his school district. He is a member of Eureka Lodge, No. 318, F. & A. M. Politically, he is a Democrat.

**D**aniel R. Sullivan, farmer on section 33, Pine River Township, is a son of Cornelius and Margaret (Murphy) Sullivan, natives of Ireland. They were married on the Emerald Isle, and soon after, in 1829, came to America, first settling in Boston for one year. They then removed to Newport, R. I., and in 1836 came to Michigan and settled in Washtenaw County. Six years later they removed to Jackson County, where they both died. They had a family of 12 children, eight sons and four daughters.

Daniel R., the subject of this narrative, was the eldest son of the family, and was born in Newport, R. I., June 8, 1830. When six years old his parents removed to Michigan, and he remained with them much of the time until 32 years of age. He received a common-school education, and at the age of 18 went to New Orleans, La., where he remained 13 years, chiefly engaged in steamboating.

In August, 1854, he located 160 acres of wild land in Pine River Township, this county, and in the fall of 1861, on his return from the South, he came to Gratiot County and settled on his farm, where he has since resided. He first built a frame house, but this was finally superseded by a fine brick residence, into which he moved Dec. 24, 1877. He has added to his estate 320 acres in Pine River and Arcada Townships, and now has one of the model farms of the county, 250 acres being under cultivation.

In December, 1862, in Arcada Township, he was married to Miss Jeannette, daughter of Emery and Maria (Lewis) Adams (see sketch of Emery Adams). She was born in Liberty Township, Jackson Co., Mich., Dec. 28, 1842. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan have had four children: William C., John D., Pearl (died in infancy) and Maggie M. Mr. S. has held the

offices of Supervisor one year, and Highway Commissioner several years. In the spring of 1883 he was elected Township Treasurer, which position he now fills. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and politically is identified with the Democratic party. Mrs. Sullivan is a member of the Episcopal Church.

The portrait of Mr. Sullivan on page 472 is that of a representative farmer and citizen of Gratiot County. His character as a man has secured for him the permanent respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens, which is expressed in the various trusts committed to his care.

**W**illiam S. Townsend, farmer, section 33, Emerson Township, was born on the Atlantic Ocean Aug. 22, 1843, while his parents were on their way from Edinburgh, Scotland, to America. He is a son of William W. and Dorothy (Smith) Townsend, natives of Scotland. Mr. Townsend, Sr., was a dry-goods merchant in that country, and died in Toronto, Canada, soon after his arrival. The mother also died about the same time, leaving three children: George, now a farmer residing near St. Thomas, Canada; Martha (died in Toronto); and William S., the subject of this sketch. The last named learned the blacksmith trade in Belleville, Canada, and followed that calling for a number of years in Belleville, Canada, Albany, N. Y., Rome, N. Y., New York city, and Oswego, N. Y.

On the breaking out of the war, he became infused with the idea of serving his country, and in August, 1862, he enlisted in Co. G, 147th N. Y. Inf., under Capt. Gary. He served two years, being in a number of engagements, and was discharged at Washington City. Returning to Oswego, he settled on 14½ acres a mile and a half from that city, and engaged in raising garden truck. He resided on this place, which he had purchased before entering the army, until 1869, and then exchanged for his present farm of 160 acres. The next three years were spent in the mines in California, and then one year in Oswego. July 4, 1876, he arrived in Ithaca, and settled on his farm a mile and three-fourths from town. It was then all timber, but he has cleared 50 acres,

chopped 20 acres, and made other improvements.

He was married in Oswego, N. Y., July 12, 1860, to Jane, daughter of Jesse and Thyrsa Gray, born near Oswego, May 3, 1843. They have one son, William E., born in Oswego July 11, 1861, and an adopted daughter, Minnie, born Sept. 7, 1876. Mr. Townsend is a citizen of standing in the county. He is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 70, F. & A. M.

**D**avid Elliott, superintendent of the Wright farm, on section 4, Arcada Township, near Alma, was born in Durham Co., Canada, on the banks of Lake Ontario, and in the vicinity of the city of Toronto, April 10, 1833. His parents, Moor and Catharine (McCombs) Elliott, were of Irish and Scotch descent, followed farming for a livelihood, and died in Canada. He passed the years of his youth on his father's farm, and was educated in the common school. Arriving at the age of independence, he worked at farming for himself for six years, and then, in company with his brother, went to Brant Township, Bruce Co., Canada, where they each purchased a farm. David kept "bachelor's hall" for one year, when the destroying element, fire, consumed his dwelling and all its contents, entailing a loss of \$1,000. He then returned to his native county, and one year later, in the spring 1864, he came to Michigan, locating in the vicinity of Adrian, Lenawee County. Here he was connected with a nursery, and also worked at farming. He next spent a short season in Canada. Returning to Adrian, he was for five years engaged with Mr. Brackley Shaw, the present State Senator from the Sixth District.

Oct. 19, 1869, he was married in Hudson, Lenawee County, to Miss Jane, daughter of Henry and Jane (Burns) Burns. They were of Scotch descent, but were reared in Ireland. Jane was born in Adrian, Sept. 1, 1845, and resided in her native place until marriage. Immediately after this event they went to Bruce Co., Canada; and two years later, selling their farm of 50 acres, they returned to Lenawee County and lived for three years on a rented farm. In the fall of 1875 they came to Gratiot County, where Mr. Elliott purchased 80 acres of partially improved land in Pine River Township. This farm he operated

until recently, when he leased his farm for five years, and engaged with Mr. Ammi Wright, of Alma, as superintendent of his beautiful farm just east of the corporation limits.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott have one daughter, Alvira, born Sept. 2, 1870. Mr. E. is a scientific farmer, an intelligent citizen and a pleasant neighbor. Politically, he is a Democrat.

**B** mery W. Burgess, farmer, section 25, Pine River Township, was born May 2, 1837, in Northville, Wayne Co., Mich. He is the sixth child and second son of his parents, Hiram and Betsey (Placeway) Burgess (see sketch of Hiram Burgess). He was 17 years old when the family came to Gratiot County, and passed his entire minority assisting his father on the farm, and experiencing all the incidents common to pioneer life. Gratiot County was unorganized, settlers were few and far between, and everything was in the most primitive condition. Emigrants to Gratiot County found no accommodations between Maple Rapids and St. Louis, save at the "Half-Way House," in what is now the township of Ithaca, one-fourth of a mile from the village, which institution deserves permanent record as auxiliary to the first settlement of this section. It was built and managed through the enterprise of a man named Paul Avery. It was constructed of basswood bark, and was about eight by sixteen feet in dimensions. It had two apartments—one inside for a dormitory, and the other *outside* for a dining-room. The floor of the sleeping-room was covered with boughs and straw, and accommodated from two to twenty persons. Mrs. Avery was always the first to retire. Mr. Avery followed, and the guests arranged themselves in the space that remained. The furniture of the establishment consisted of a table, constructed of bark laid across supports of poles, which were supported in turn by forked stakes driven into the ground, and the arrangements for sitting at a meal consisted of a bark bench similarly constructed. Later, Mr. Avery built a log house, which served as a tavern until the influx of inhabitants, the progress of civilization, and the building of good routes of travel made it no longer necessary. One incident related by Mr. Burgess

exhibits alike the perplexities of the early settlers and their solicitude for the welfare of each other. His father reached his home late one night from Maple Rapids, bearing supplies for the nearest neighbor, who lived miles away in the vicinity, and set out at daylight in company with his son. They followed the road up to a certain point indicated by a beech tree, which was "blazed" to mark the turning off place. On reaching it, they turned to the right and drove until dark through the woods and over a trail, covered with 14 inches of virgin snow, and indicated only by the absence of under-brush. It was a wearisome day. The horses moved reluctantly, and never faster than a walk, and the light which shone through the trees from the huge fire outside the cabin they were seeking was the most welcome sight Mr. Burgess can remember in all his life. The cabin was built of logs without chinking; the floor was of the variety known under the term "puncheon," and the roof was made of "shakes," with one square left out to serve the purposes of a chimney. Warmth was maintained by the fire outside, which was half the size of the domicile. This is one picture of pioneer life in Gratiot County in 1855, and it is believed that this was the first time a horse team passed over that route.

Mr. Burgess was married Jan. 1, 1859, in Pine River Township, to Marcella S., daughter of Abraham and Annie M. (Barrett) Woodin. The ceremony was performed in the log house of the bride's father by Elder Fay, a Baptist minister, in the presence of 16 invited guests. At the time, Mr. Burgess owned 40 acres of wild land, a yoke of two-year-old steers, and a cow. He rented a farm, and moved thither with his wife and all his earthly goods. The latter were drawn at one load on an ox sled by the steers aforesaid. After buying one-fourth of a pound of tea and a pound of saleratus, he had 25 cents left wherewith to begin the world. The nearest neighbors were a mile and a half away in one direction, and three miles in another, and six weeks elapsed before Mrs. Burgess saw the face of a white woman. Mr. Burgess drove the team to St. Louis which moved Dr. Gifford, the first resident physician at that place, who went to housekeeping in a bough house with his wife and one baby. The party spent one night in the woods while *en route*, Mrs. Gifford and her infant daughter, four months old, being made comfortable in the shelter of a fallen pine, while the men slept

under the sky. The "baby" is the wife of John Nobles, of St. Louis. Mr. Burgess drew the logs to build the "Crawford House," the first hotel erected at St. Louis.

The family lived on the rented farm a year, and took possession of the place they owned. This was increased by the purchase of 80 acres additional, and they resided on it six years. In 1869 it was sold, and Mr. Burgess bought 80 acres, where he has since resided, and managed his agricultural interests with success. He has 60 acres cleared and improved, and has erected a good house and barn. He is a Republican in political connection.

Mrs. Burgess was born in Harmony, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Nov. 22, 1881. Abraham Woodin, her father, was born in Gorham, Ontario Co., N. Y., Oct. 3, 1809, and died Nov. 23, 1860. Jeremiah Woodin, his father, was born in Cobleskill, Schoharie Co., N. Y., in 1784, and died in 1871. His wife, Martha (Wallin) Woodin, was born in the same place in 1796, and died in March, 1862. Anna (Barrett) Woodin was born in Gorham, Ontario Co., N. Y., July 1, 1811, and is still living. Her father, Cornelius Barrett, was born Nov. 6, 1778, on Martha's Vineyard, and died Nov. 10, 1853. Elizabeth (Sawyer) Barrett, his wife, was born in Connecticut Nov. 13, 1784, and died in November, 1864. Mrs. Burgess had four brothers and four sisters: Wallace W., Washington H., Jay A., Hiram U., Martha A., Ophelia N., Elizabeth M. and Olivia E. She has been the mother of six children, born as follows: Etta, March 10, 1861; Lillie M., June 2, 1871; Glen H., Sept. 16, 1878. Elberon C. was born Jan. 4, 1860, and died March 9 following; Clark was born March 10, 1864, and died March 20, 1866; Maud was born Aug. 14, 1866, and died July 7, 1867.

**G**ilbert B. Porter, jeweler at Alma, was born at Vermontville, Eaton Co., Mich., May 6, 1854, and is the son of Stewart H. and Cornelia T. (Hopkins) Porter. His father was a native of New York, his mother of Vermont. They were married and settled where their son was born, and the mother is still resident there. The father died Nov. 10, 1882. Seven children were born to them—Robert S., Clara T., Gilbert B., Frederick

R., Harry, Frank and Harry. The three last named died in infancy.

Mr. Porter received a good education in the place of his birth, and when he was 20 years old interested himself in learning the details of the business which he has since followed. He worked at it a year in Vermontville and one year at Charlotte. In April, 1879, he settled at Alma and established his business, which has been prosperous and increasing. He acts and believes in political matters in accordance with the principles of the Republican party.

He was married June 29, 1881, at Alma, to Ella E., daughter of Reed Latimer. Mrs. Porter was born in Schoharie Co., N. Y., and her parents were natives of the same State. Olive T., only child, was born Jan. 1, 1883, and died July 10, of the same year. Mr. Porter belongs to the Congregational Church.

**W**illiam L. Litle, carpenter and joiner, section 17, New Haven Township, was born Ontario, Canada, Dec. 2, 1837. His parents, Ralph and Miranda (Purchase) Litle, are natives respectively of Canada and New York, and are now residing on a farm in North Star Township, this county.

When 11 years of age, the subject of this sketch moved with his parents to Hillsdale Co., Mich., where he worked with them upon a farm until of age, except two years, which he devoted to the trade of carpenter and joiner, under the instruction of John Rush, of that county. He was subsequently under the supervision of a carpenter named Potter for a year, after which he prosecuted the trade independently for for some time.

Nov. 17, 1861, Mr. Litle married Miss Sarah E. Smith, who was born in Williams Co., Ohio, Nov. 15, 1847, and when eight years old came with her parents to Hillsdale Co., Mich., remaining with them there until her marriage.

After marriage, Mr. Litle became a contractor for building, and he erected many houses in that county, from 1861 to 1869, when he moved to North Star Township, this county, purchasing 40 acres of land and, in connection with farming, followed his trade. In April, 1873, he exchanged this land for 80 acres



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*Mary J. Wood*



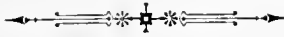
A. A. Wood

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of unimproved land where he now resides, and moved upon it. To this he has added by purchase 80 acres, and of the quarter-section he now owns he has 50 acres in good cultivation, and the place well furnished with the necessary farm buildings, etc.

Mr. Litle has been Road Commissioner and School Director. In politics he is a decided Republican, and in social affairs a member of the Masonic blue lodge at Ithaca.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Litle are five in number, and all living, viz.: Fred E., born Aug. 31, 1862; Clara E., March 23, 1864; Lillian A., Aug. 19, 1865; Huldah E., June 29, 1869, and Charles J., Sept. 6, 1877.



**A**lfred A. Wood, grocer and provision dealer at Ithaca, was born Nov. 12, 1839, at Genoa, Cayuga Co., N. Y. He is a son of Jesse Y. and Harriet (Teed) Wood, both of whom were born in Dutchess County, in the State of New York, in 1798 and 1802, respectively. The father was one of three brothers who came from England.

Mr. Wood spent the first 16 years of his life in acquiring his education and assisting in the blacksmith shop of his father. At that age he went to Sycamore, DeKalb Co., Ill., and learned the jeweler's trade, which he followed as a vocation five years. When armed rebellion involved the land in civil war, he returned to his native place, and enlisted in Co. G, 11th N. Y. Vol. Inf., Capt. Lewis W. Husk. He served two years and ten months, and was in the engagements at Harper's Ferry (where his regiment was captured by the rebels), Wilderness, Fairfax Seminary, Cold Harbor, and many others of greater or less importance. He was discharged at Philadelphia.

Three brothers of Mr. Wood were in the Union service. Luther Wood was wounded in the wrist during an action and sent to the hospital, where he contracted small-pox and died. Edwin L. Wood was drafted and assigned to the 76th N. Y. Vol. Inf., and died while in the service. William F. Wood enlisted in the 9th N. Y. Heavy Artillery, and survived the war.

Six months after Mr. Wood's return to Genoa from

the battlefield, he came to Charlotte, Eaton Co., Mich. Within a year he opened a jeweler's shop, which he continued to manage four years. In 1870 he came to Ithaca and established himself in the same line of business, and, three years later, was appointed Postmaster. He discharged the obligations of the position seven years, his wife acting as assistant. In 1873, he received the appointment of Deputy Sheriff under Wm. H. Pratt, which position he held four years. His appointment as Under-Sheriff with George L. Patch followed, and he remained in the office four years more. In November, 1880, he was elected Sheriff on the Republican ticket, and was placed in nomination in 1882 for the same position, but was defeated by the Fusion candidate. In the spring of 1882, he was appointed Deputy United States Marshal.

Among the many clever arrests made by Sheriff Wood is that of Thayer and Lewis for passing counterfeit one-dollar pieces at several business places in Ithaca. The former was arrested May 12 at Ithaca while passing the bogus coin. Under a severe pumping by Sheriff Wood, he made a clean breast of the whole business, telling where he lived, who made the money, etc. Armed with this information, Sheriff Wood and Constable Pettit went to Thayer's home on section 3, Elba Township, disguised as timber "lookers." Rapping at the door of a small hut situated in the woods away from anybody, they were met by the lady of the house, Mrs. Thayer. The lady was asked if Mr. Thayer was at home. After an answer in the negative, they told her they heard he had some oak timber to sell, and if she had no objections they would look the timber over. They then passed into the woods, taking the dimensions of trees with a log rule they had with them. After nearly a half hour they heard the report of a rifle, and shortly after another, when they espied the man with the gun, who moved in an opposite direction; but Wood and Pettit still continued their new vocation as timber buyers, and finally succeeded in entirely gaining the man's confidence, for he came to where they were, when he was asked, "Is this Mr. Thayer?" "No, Mr. Thayer is away from home." At this, the officers paid no more attention to him, as he carried a Winchester rifle on his shoulder, but continued to estimate timber, all the time carrying on conversation with him, when finally Sheriff Wood spoke of his gun, what a splendid-looking piece it was, at the same

time reaching for it. It was handed him, and after viewing it he handed it back. Then Pettit did the same thing, except handing it back; but, instead, he covered the hunter with his own weapon, Sheriff Wood at the same time placing the handcuffs upon him. He begged not to be handcuffed, nor to be taken to the house. He was left in charge of Pettit while Sheriff Wood proceeded to search the house, where he found four sets of dies for one-dollar pieces, and one set of steel dies for 25-cent pieces, brush, acids, etc., while upon the person of the prisoner were found 12 bogus dollars and a burglar's key. United States Marshal Matthews complimented Officers Wood and Pettit very highly upon their capture of the prisoner, and said: "It was very seldom that such a neat haul was made by any officials, even those highly skilled in the business."

Soon after coming to Ithaca, Mr. Wood bought the old Postoffice building, where, Dec. 1, 1882, he opened the business he has since pursued. He carries a full line of staple and fancy groceries, and is engaged in a successful and popular trade.

Mr. Wood is a member of Ithaca Lodge, No. 123, and Ithaca Chapter, No. 70, in the Order of Masonry; of the Rising Star Lodge of Odd Fellows at Ithaca; of Moses Wisner Post, G. A. R., and of the Union Prisoners of War Association.

His marriage with Mary J. Haines occurred Dec. 14, 1865, at Lodi, Kane Co., Ill. She is a daughter of James and Margaret (McKinley) Haines, and was born in Kane County, Jan. 14, 1847. Mr. Haines fought for the Union during the war of the rebellion. He enlisted in the 124th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was in much active service. He died at Vicksburg soon after the battle fought at that place.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood have had four children, whose record is as follows: Effie, born Jan. 14, 1869, in Charlotte, died May 21, 1873, at Ithaca; Alfred C., born May 3, 1874; Jessie, April 8, 1881; and Cassie, Sept. 8, 1883. The three last were born at Ithaca.

The portrait of Mr. Wood, which appears on the opposite page, is that of a man whose career in life typifies the best element on which to found substantial relations in society and the community at large. He has served his generation in all laudable capacities and emergencies, as the details recorded in this sketch manifest, and has accomplished the duties of his manhood and citizenship in a becoming and

worthy manner. The portrait of his estimable wife is given as a suitable and worthy companion picture to that of Mr. Woods.



**W**ylvester B. Prichard, merchant, at Ithaca, was born Jan. 26, 1826, in Nelson, Portage Co., Ohio. He is a son of Ephraim and Hannah (Seely) Prichard. The father was born Feb. 25, 1790, at Great Barrington, Mass., and died in Nelson, March 21, 1864. The mother was born in Cherry Valley, N. Y., July 28, 1799, and died Aug. 18, 1866, in North Star Township, Gratiot County.

Mr. Prichard was reared on a farm and received a common-school education. In November, 1851, he began peddling for a livelihood, and continued to follow it on foot for about 18 months, when he bought a horse and increased his lines of goods according to his increased facilities, including groceries, Vankee notions, dry-goods, boots and shoes and tinware. His business prospered under his careful management, and at the end of six years he drove a double team and carried, in addition, a line of light hardware. He continued the same branch of business seven years longer, operating almost exclusively in Ohio. In February, 1866, he came to the township of North Star, in Gratiot County, and remained two months with his mother, who had removed thither in May of the previous year. He returned to Ohio, settled his business and returned to North Star to remain permanently. He bought, on coming to Gratiot County, 80 acres of land in Newark Township, which he afterward sold. Soon after his return, Aug. 4, 1866, he bought the site of his present place of business of John Jeffrey, and built the store he now occupies and where he is engaged in a prosperous business. He opened his mercantile interests at Ithaca ten months later than Wilbur Nelson began operations in the same line, and is consequently the second oldest merchant in that place. He built his dwelling on St. John's Street in 1872.

Mr. Prichard was married, May 25, 1869, in Rock Creek, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, to Emily J., daughter of William B. and Hannah Hunt. She was born June 25, 1839, at Hart's Grove, Ashtabula Co., Ohio. Two children have been added to the household of

Mr. and Mrs. Prichard: Lee W., born March 4, 1870, and Blair S., born March 16, 1878. The latter died Aug. 29, 1881. He was crushed beneath a falling barrel of sand, pulling it over upon himself while trying to climb on the top of the same.

**N**ehemiah Lamb, farmer, section 36, Elba Township, is a son of Thomas B. and Clarinda M. (Gardner) Lamb, natives of New York. Thomas B. Lamb was a physician, and came to Michigan in an early day. Nehemiah left home to make his own way in life, at the early age of 13. He first went to Wisconsin, remaining from September, 1858, to March, 1859. He then lived in Illinois until May, 1861, when he enlisted in Co. B, 12th Ill. Vol. Inf., serving seven months. In September, 1862, he came to Hamilton Township, Gratiot County, and engaged in the practice of medicine and in farming. The 12th of July, the following year, he re-enlisted in Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served the remainder of the war. His regiment was engaged in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac, and Mr. Lamb did his full share of the fighting. He then practiced medicine with his father in Oakland County, and by himself in Wayne County, until 1878, when he came to Gratiot County and settled at his present residence. He is now principally engaged in farming, and is at present building a large dwelling-house.

Dec. 18, 1872, he was married to Caroline, daughter of William and Mary (Odell) Rodgers, natives of New York. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the G. A. R., and in politics is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Lamb are active members of the Baptist Church.

**J**oseph Greer, farmer, section 23, Newark Township, was born May 30, 1826, in Columbiana Co., Ohio. He is a son of Thomas W. and Catherine (Rhodes) Greer, the former a native of Pennsylvania, the latter of Virginia. Their family included nine children, four sons and five daughters. Mr. Greer is the third son.

He was engaged in farming with his father after he had passed the period of his early boyhood, until he

was 25 years old. In November, 1854, he came to Michigan and bought 160 acres of wild land on the section of the township where he now resides. He is a "dyed-in-the-wool" Republican, and in the civil war indicated his claims as a friend of his country by responding to the summons of her rulers in her time of need. He enlisted in July, 1862, in the 26th Regt. Mich. Vol. Inf., and continued in the service, until Feb. 16, 1864. He lost his right arm in the first battle in which he engaged, receiving the injury Nov. 23, 1863, in the fight at Mine Run, Va., and was discharged on recovery. He is in receipt of a pension. He has held the various school offices of his district and has been Township Treasurer four years.

Mr. Greer was married Oct. 23, 1851, in Wyandot Co., Ohio, to Lydia, daughter of John and Eliza Hawkins. The father was born in Rhode Island, the mother in New York. Mrs. Greer is the only daughter, and was born July 7, 1832, in Knox Co., Ohio. Of her marriage with Mr. Greer, nine children have been born, of whom one, Thomas W., is deceased. He died Jan. 7, 1876. The living are: Eliza C., James W., Maria A., Mary J., Carrie S., Clara S., George W. and Bertha E.

**J**ason Kingman, farmer, on section 20, Fulton Township, is the son of Justus and Patty (Chatman) Kingman, natives of Vermont. They first settled in Madison County, N. Y., and afterward removed to Tioga Co., Pa., where he died, in 1830. She died four years later, in Onondaga Co., N. Y.

The subject of this biography, Jason Kingman, was born in Cortland Co., N. Y., June 11, 1819, and was 11 years old when his parents removed to Pennsylvania. When he was 16 years old, having lost both his parents, he was obliged to make a start for himself, and for two years he was employed in farming for others. He then went to sea as a common sailor, and followed that life until 1853, when he came to Lenawee Co., Mich. For two years he was engaged in making pearlsh. In 1855 he bought a farm in Lenawee Co., Mich., which he worked for a short time. Selling this place, he purchased a farm

in Fulton Co., Ohio, where he lived eight years. In the spring of 1864 he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of land on section 20, Fulton. He has since disposed of 30 acres and has 40 acres improved. In the summer of 1883 he built a finely-planned residence.

In Adrian, Lenawee Co., Mich., in December, 1855, he married Miss Mary J. Cooley, who was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., Jan. 13, 1834. Her parents, Justus and Clarissa (Baker) Cooley, were natives of the State of New York, and came to Michigan in an early day, settling in Medina, Lenawee County, where they yet reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Kingman are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the Masonic Order. Politically, he has always supported the Republican party, but being very pronounced in his temperance views, he casts all his influence with the Prohibitionists.

**Lucius J. Van Leuven**, proprietor of Van Leuven's Hotel and lumberman, resident on section 6, Seville Township, was born Sept. 26, 1828, in Waterloo, Albany Co., N. Y. He is a son of Nicholas and Mary P. (Delamater) Van Leuven, both of whom were natives of Albany Co., N. Y. The father followed the calling of a farmer, and located in Washtenaw Co., Mich., where he became the proprietor of 40 acres of land on which he resided about 30 years. In a very early day in the history of the county, he came to Gratiot, and located on 160 acres of land in Sumner Township. The farm was entirely in a state of nature and he cleared 20 acres. The mother died on the homestead in 1873; the father died Feb. 22, 1875, while living with his son in Seville Township.

Mr. Van Leuven became his own master at the age of 19 years, when he bought his time of his father. He became a farm laborer and worked for \$6 a month. He was thus occupied two years, and then was apprenticed to learn the daguerrean art, as it was then styled, and he spent two years in its acquisition; but he decided not to prosecute it as a business, and accepted an offered situation as clerk in a grocery, where he remained a year. He returned to

Washtenaw County and spent two years in the pursuit of agriculture. In the autumn of 1854 he came to Gratiot County and located on section 3, Sumner Township. He pre-empted 120 acres of land, on which he resided about three years, when he went South and spent a year in Missouri; after which he returned to Michigan and lived in Ionia County nearly two years. He then came to Seville Township, Gratiot County, and located 160 acres on section 6. He bought afterwards another tract of 160 acres, and subsequently 80 acres adjoining, in Montcalm County. The addition of 100 acres more in Gratiot County, lying adjacent to his former acreage, makes him the possessor of a magnificent farm of 500 acres. He has been extensively engaged in farming and lumbering ever since he came to Gratiot County. He also owns a saw-mill. In all his business affairs he has managed judiciously and is now the owner of a fine estate and has valuable business connections, which render him one of the most substantial of the farmers of Gratiot County. Politically he is a Republican, and has served his township in the capacities of Justice of the Peace and Highway Commissioner.

He was married to Mary, daughter of Reuben Delamater, and widow of Calvin Sweet. They have two sons and three daughters. Their names are: Warren, Elton, Laura, Ida and Myrtle.

**Reuben Botsford**, farmer, merchant and Postmaster, New Haven Center, was born in Whitby Township, Ont., Canada, Jan. 27, 1827. His parents, Gesbem and Prudence (Plumb) Botsford, were natives respectively of New York and Canada, of New England parentage. Both are deceased, Mr. B. dying while sailing on Lake Ontario.

Reuben remained at home until of age, obtaining a common-school education, learning the shoemaker's trade. Four years later he learned the trade of tanning. In prosecuting the latter business he injured himself physically, so that he had to return to shoemaking. He gradually passed into the mercantile business, which he followed for six years, and then returned to shoemaking again for three years. Next he purchased a farm of 50 acres in St. Clair Co.,



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*L. H. Town*

Mich., which he improved to some extent, but spent most of the time for four years in lumbering. In 1870 he came to this county and settled on 40 acres in Fulton Township, where he conducted a shoeshop in addition to his farm. He sold out in a few years and bought a quarter of section 13, New Haven Township, and several years later still, he purchased a quarter of section 15, same township, which is now his farm. He has since sold 80 acres to his sons, and 40 acres of the remainder he has under good improvements. He was appointed Postmaster in 1880, and established a general store, commencing with a small stock, which is constantly increasing according to the demands of his growing trade. In politics Mr. B. is a Republican, and as a citizen, officer, farmer, etc., he stands high.

Mr. Botsford was married in Whitby Township, Ont., Can., Nov. 2, 1845, to Miss Martha Lambkins, a native of England, who was born Feb. 2, 1830. She is a member of the Regular Baptist Church, in which denomination Mr. B. is a Deacon.

**E**verett H. Town, grocer at Breckenridge, Wheeler Township, is a son of Lorin and Fidelia (Barns) Town, natives of New York. Lorin Town was by occupation a millwright and miller. He and wife are both dead. The subject of this sketch was born Aug. 10, 1840, in Madison Co., N. Y. While still under 21, he enlisted, April 29, 1861, in the 12th N. Y. Vol. Inf. He was discharged the same year. Sept. 16, 1863, he re-enlisted, serving in Co. G, 16th New York Heavy Artillery. The following spring he was attached to Co. A, 1st N. Y. Mounted Rifles. He was also on detached service, at the headquarters of Generals Butler, Cary and Smith. In 1865, he returned to New York, and being prostrated with sickness, did not return to the army. In the fall of 1872 he came to Gratiot County, and engaged in the hoop business with Warren Crandall.

At the age of 28, he was married to Hannah Hicks, daughter of John W. and Ann Hicks, natives of Montgomery Co., N. Y. They are the parents of four children: Judson J., Fidelia A., Burr E. and Lena M. Mr. Town entered the grocery business in 1879. He now keeps a full line of general merchandise,

and has a thriving trade. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the K. of H. He has held the office of Township Clerk for two terms. In politics he is a radical member of the National Greenback element.

Mr. Town's portrait may be found on the opposite page.

**M**osear Morse, farmer, section 15, Arcada Township, was born in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, near Cleveland, April 16, 1827; and is the son of Nehemiah and Olive (Underwood) Morse, natives of Pennsylvania and New York, and of New England ancestry. They followed farming, principally in Ohio, and died, the father in that State, in 1840, and the mother in Minnesota, in 1878.

The subject of this biographical notice lived at home until two years after his father's death. Then at the age of 20, he began to work as a common laborer among his neighbors, giving the pecuniary proceeds of his toil to his widowed mother, for her support. In the winter of 1849, he came to Michigan, and first found employment in Ionia County.

In that county, Nov. 9, 1851, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary A., daughter of Abraham and Mary (Weston) Keefer, natives of Pennsylvania. They removed from that State to Ohio, where, in Stark County, June 30, 1830, the daughter, Mary A., was born. She was educated in the graded schools of her native county, and lived with her parents until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Morse remained in Ionia County until February, 1855, when they came to Gratiot County and located on 160 acres on section 15, Arcada Township. This was then wild land, and the country, for miles around, was covered with an unbroken forest. No roads were cut, and the only means of traversing the country was by following the Indian trails. Their first habitation was a small log house, and was among the first of those pioneer castles built in their neighborhood. Before erecting this dwelling, Mr. Morse passed his first night in the township in the house of Homer Burns (see sketch). He attended the first "town meeting" of Arcada. His primitive log hut is now supplanted by a commodious residence, and he has one of the finest barns in the township. He has a large and productive

orchard, and his farm, which has been improved principally by his own efforts, reflects credit on his management. He is a truly representative citizen. He and wife are pleasant neighbors, and their many friends hold them in high esteem.

Mr. and Mrs. M. have been the parents of two daughters, both of whom are now deceased: Jennie, born Aug. 26, 1852, and died April 26, 1875; and Melissa, born April 26, 1854, and died May 1, 1871. In political sentiment, Mr. Morse is a Democrat.

**J**ames B. Wheeler, farmer, Wheeler village, Wheeler Township, was born Aug. 6, 1829, in Steuben Co., N. Y., and was the son of Joseph and Sarah (Kennedy) Wheeler, natives of New York and Vermont. Mr. Wheeler, Sr., died in December, 1860, and Mrs. Wheeler in August, 1879, in Steuben Co., N. Y. James B. began to work for himself at the age of 23, and was employed on a farm in New York until April, 1861, when he came to Gratiot County. He settled on section 28, Wheeler Township, on 320 acres, but now has 107 acres, having sold a portion. When he first came here he found an unbroken wilderness, there being no house nearer than St. Louis on the west, and seven miles to the east.

He was united in marriage in 1864 to Ida L. Smith, who was born in the State of New Jersey, Nov. 28, 1848, the second daughter of John H. and Jane (Castimore) Smith. The former was a native of New Jersey, was by profession a millwright, and died in 1872. Mrs. Smith was also a native of New Jersey, and died in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler have had five children: Newell Grant, John H., Joseph B. (died in 1865), Nattie (died in 1870) and Francis C.

Mr. Wheeler is one of the truly representative men of the county. In his own neighborhood he enjoys the respect of all who know him. He was the first Supervisor of the township which bears his name, and he held that office three terms. He has also been Justice of the Peace for two terms. He is a member of the Masonic Order. Both he and wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, he is a Prohibitionist or liberal. Mrs. Wheeler is an earnest temperance worker.

**H**iram Haring, farmer, section 31, North Shade Township, was born Jan. 7, 1844, in Summit Co., Ohio, and is a son of Charles and Hannah (Wilttrout) Haring, natives of Lancaster Co., Pa., both of whom died in 1861, the former April 4 and the latter May 5. Mr. Haring, the subject of this notice, was reared on a farm and educated at the public school. At the age of 19 he began teaching school as a winter vocation. When 26 years of age he married Susan Foltz, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Peck) Foltz, natives also of Lancaster Co., Pa. Mrs. Haring was born Dec. 4, 1843, in the same county, and her parents emigrated to Summit Co., Ohio, in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. H. have five children, viz.: Elton E., Jennie L., Percy E., Mary E., Ophir L.

In 1870 Mr. Haring came to Michigan, settling in Bloomer Township, Montcalm County; in 1875 he moved to the town of Lebanon, Clinton County, and a year later to his present locality, upon a tract of 80 acres of land. He has since been also engaged in the lumber business to some extent. At present, in company with M. L. Peck, of Hubbardston, he is buying logs for Hays & Packard, of Muir.

Mr. Haring is independent in politics. He has held the office of Town Clerk two terms, being elected in 1880 and 1882; is Vice-President of the Central Fair Association of Hubbardston, and has been officially connected with that body for ten years. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**I**saac Jason, farmer, section 28, New Haven Township, is a son of George and Jane (White) Jason, natives of New York and of English descent, who moved first to Ohio and then to this State. His father, a farmer, is still living, in Montcalm Co., Mich., in which county his mother died, in May, 1876.

The subject of this sketch was born in Ionia Co., Mich., Nov. 2, 1839. He lived with his parents until ten years of age, in his native county, then for a time in Medina Co., Ohio; and then eight years with his grandparents, in Harnisville Township, samel

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*John E. Densmore*

county, attending the common school during the winter seasons. After residing again in Ionia County awhile, and in Montcalm County, a portion of the time being mail-carrier from Greenville to Ithaca, he came to this county. While engaged as above he purchased 80 acres of land, where he now resides.

Dec. 31, 1865, in this township, he married Miss Charity, daughter of Moses and Miranda (Wheelock) White. (See sketch of the latter.) Mrs. J. was born in Aurelius Township, Ingham Co., Mich., in September, 1846. When five years old she was brought by her parents changing residence, into Clinton Co., Mich., and three years later to this county, where she lived with her parents until marriage. By her energy and native tact she obtained a good education and for several years followed the profession of teaching.

Mr. Jason has brought into cultivation the whole of his original purchase, and he now has also control of his father-in-law's homestead. He is an excellent farmer. He has also held the office of Constable, is a staunch Republican, and is a member of the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 262, at Carson City. Mr. and Mrs. J. are members of the Regular Baptist Church. Their living children are: Elmer E., born Jan. 22, 1867; and Jessie B., Sept. 18, 1868, and they have had one child, Myrtie, now deceased, who was born Dec. 20, 1872.

**J**ohn E. Densmore, farmer, section 2, Fulton Township, is a son of Rufus and Louisa (Stebbins) Densmore, natives of Massachusetts. They settled first in Ionia Co., Mich., and there the mother died. The father afterward removed to Clinton County, where he died, in Essex Township, in September, 1847. John E. was born in Ionia Co., Mich., March 28, 1837, and was only eight years old when the family removed to Clinton County. He received some schooling, but, his parents dying when he was very young, his opportunities were very limited. From the age of 11, he was thrown almost entirely on his own resources for making a livelihood; but energy and perseverance brought their due reward.

In May, 1858, he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of partially improved land on section 2, Fulton Township, where he now resides. He

has erected suitable buildings, and has 65 acres well cultivated. Jan. 1, 1858, in Greenbush, Clinton County, he married Miss Lucinda M., daughter of John and Mary Ann (Watson), Manchester, natives of New York. Mr. M. came to Clinton County in 1844, his wife having died in New York State. Mrs. Densmore was born in New York, in Stafford, Genesee County, June 18, 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Densmore have had nine children, eight of whom survive: Ada M., Charles R., Lewis C., Elsie L., Delia F., Mary E., Henry J. and Helen A. (twins) and Jennie L. Lewis C. died Sept. 3, 1865. Mr. Densmore has held the various school offices of his district, and in politics is a firm and uncompromising Republican.

Jan. 19, 1864, he enlisted in a company of sharpshooters attached to the 27th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served 17 months. He fought in the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania and Cold Harbor. In the last named engagement, June 3, 1864, he was wounded in the left foot by a minie ball, which kept him off duty for six months, and he was even then not fit for active service. He was accordingly detailed for hospital service. He was honorably discharged at Detroit, Mich., in May, 1865. Portrait on opposite page.

**F**rederick H. Hamlin, senior member of the firm of F. H. Hamlin & Co., resident at Alma, was born in Oneida County, N. Y., July 16, 1850. He is the fourth son and sixth child of Joseph and Adelia (Willard) Hamlin, both of whom were natives of State of New York and born respectively in Oneida and Herkimer Counties. They are residents of the former and are engaged in agriculture. They have had eight sons and three daughters.

Mr. Hamlin obtained his education at the common schools and at Whitestown Seminary, Oneida County, residing at home until he was 20 years of age. In 1870 he went to Utica, N. Y., and procured a situation as clerk in a dry-goods store, where he remained two years. In 1872 he went to Iroquois Co., Ill., and engaged in stock business, in which he was occupied three years. His next remove was to Cedar Lake, Montcalm Co., Mich., where he had the sole management of the mercantile business of William S. Nelson, for nearly seven years. In January, 1883,

he came to Gratiot County, entered into an association with James T. Hall, of Alma, and they established the business in which they are at present engaged, the manufacture of hoops. With the aid of a working force of 20 men they make 25,000 to 30,000 hoops daily. Dec. 1, 1883, they admitted E. B. Green to an interest in the concern. In his business connections, Mr. Hamlin enjoys a high degree of confidence. In political relations he is a Republican.

He was married in 1876, at Cedar Lake, to Anna E. Cavis. Mrs. Hamlin was born in Pennsylvania, of which State her parents were also natives. To her and her husband, one child, Walter J., was born, Feb. 22, 1878.

**H**enry Kelso, hardware merchant at Alma, was born in Richland Co., Ohio, Sept. 14, 1849. His parents, Samuel and Ann (Miller) Kelso, were born respectively in Pennsylvania and Ohio. They settled after marriage in the latter State, where they lived about 27 years. In the fall of 1875 they came to Michigan and settled at Berrien Springs. After a residence there of three years they went to Indiana. In the autumn of 1883, the father was ordained a minister, and went to Illinois, where he was settled in charge of the Lutheran society at Mier, Wabash County. The family included 12 children.

Mr. Kelso is the eldest son, and at ten years of age went to live with his grand-parents in Richland Co., Ohio, and remained with them six years, attending school and assisting on the farm during the summer months. He went to Wood County, where he was engaged for some time by the month as a farm laborer. He passed three years in this manner, and in 1867 entered upon an apprenticeship at Fostoria, Ohio, to learn the business of tinsmith, and served his full indentures of three years. He came to Michigan in the autumn of 1870, and followed his trade some months at Battle Creek. He next went to Lansing, where he spent a winter, going thence to Saginaw, and worked at his occupation in both places, remaining in the latter about two years. An attack of illness compelled him to go to his father's in Indiana, and after recovery he went to Ohio and remain-

ed there one summer, after which he came again to Lansing. Soon after he went to Livingston County, where he was engaged a short time as a tinsmith, in the employ of a house in Fowlerville, and in a short time opened a shop on his own behalf, where he operated four years. On selling out, he moved to Webberville, Ingham County, where he formed a partnership with George L. Adams, under the style of Kelso & Adams. At the end of nine months, Mr. Kelso bought his associate's interest, and conducted the business singly about one year, when he sold out and moved to Macomb County. There he bought out a stock of goods and carried on the concern about ten months. He came to Gratiot County in the fall of 1881, and spent a winter at Ithaca, working at his trade. The following spring he came to Alma, and embarked in business with H. C. Stafford. Ten months later, the latter sold his interest to Mr. Kelso, who managed the business alone until the spring of 1883, when he formed a business association with J. D. Mandeville. This partnership continued but a very short time, and was terminated by Mr. Kelso, who sold his interest to his partner. He engaged in business shortly after with his brother, Charles G. Kelso, under the firm name of Kelso Bros., and they are now managing a successful and growing business.

Mr. Kelso was married in Livingston County, May 6, 1876, to Marietta K., daughter of David Johnson. Two children, Albert R. and Romain, have been added to the household. Mr. Kelso is a member of the Republican party and himself and wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**A**lexander M. Wiley, farmer, on section 5, Arcada Township, was born in Pittsburg, Pa., April 28, 1832; and is the son of Isaac and Mary (Wood) Wiley, natives of New York State. Isaac Wiley followed the calling of shoemaker, and died in Philadelphia about 40 years ago. His wife died in Gratiot County, Feb. 2, 1863. Alexander M. was taken to New York State when two years old, by his parents, where they lived ten miles south of the city of Rochester. Some ten years later, they removed to Otisco Township, Ionia County, this State, where they lived six years, farming and working a saw-mill. He then went to Portage City,



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*P. R. Phillips*



*Louisa M. Phillips*

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Columbia Co., Wis., where he worked at lumbering for three years. Then he came to Greenville, Montcalm Co., Mich., and thence to Jackson, this State.

March 20, 1853, 10 miles south of Jackson, he married Cynthia C., daughter of Emery and Maria (Lewis) Adams (see sketch). She was born in Niagara Co., N. Y., Oct. 14, 1834, and when two years old came with her parents to Jackson Co., Mich., where she was educated and lived until her marriage. After that event, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley removed to Rushford, Winnebago Co., Wis. In the spring of 1855, they came to this county, and located on 50 acres on section 5, Arcada Township.

Oct. 7, 1863, he enlisted in Co. C, 8th Mich. Vol. Inf., under Capt. Hovey, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He fought at Fort Steadman, March 25, 1864, and Petersburg, April 2, 1864, as well as in other engagements. Returning home, he located on 83 acres on the east half of the northwest quarter of section 5, Arcada, and devoted himself to the improvement of the same. He has now 73 acres under cultivation. He and wife are well read, intelligent and kind-hearted people. They have had six children, named as follows: Fernando M., Francis E., Alton G., Mattie M., Edwin J. and Millie. In political sentiment, he is a staunch Greenbacker.



**P**armer R. Phillips, retired farmer, resident at Ithaca, was born Nev. 17, 1822, at Pleasant Valley, near Titusville, N. J. His father, Joseph M. Phillips, was born May 1, 1786, in the same place, and came of a direct line of Scotch ancestry. In 1823 he removed his family to Ovid, Seneca Co., N. Y., and in June, 1832, he made another remove and settled on section 1, Salem Township, Washtenaw Co., Mich. He bought 80 acres of unimproved land, which his son Parmer was interested in clearing and improving. He was married the second time, to Charity Hice, a native of New Jersey, who became the mother of two daughters and one son. The issue of his first marriage included five sons and two daughters. The names of the ten children are: Stephen, Phebe, Theodore, Ephraim, Peter, Aaron and Mary (twins), by the first marriage;

and Parmer R., Frances and Charity by the second marriage. He made a permanent settlement with his family in Fulton Township, Gratiot Co., Mich., in 1859, locating on section 36, where he died in September, 1872. The mother also died on the homestead in Fulton Township. Peter Phillips, the grandfather of Mr. Phillips of this sketch, was born July 1, 1742; was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and died in Seneca Co., N. Y., at the age of 84 years. His wife's maiden name was Mary Morehead. They were the parents of three sons and two daughters: Titus, Peter, Joseph M., Betsey and Rebecca.

Mr. Phillips, youngest son of the family, was 19 years of age when he went to Northville, Wayne Co., Mich., to learn the trade of shoemaker with his brother Peter, and made that his business nine years. During that time his marriage with Louisa M. Bryant occurred, at Livonia, Wayne County. The event was solemnized Dec. 15, 1847. Mrs. Phillips was born June 7, 1830, in Weedsport, N. Y., and is a daughter of John and Annie (Hodge) Bryant. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, six of whom are now living. They were born in the following order: Julia, deceased; Joseph, residing at Ithaca; James H., manager of his father's farm in Fulton Township; Mary H., wife of Stephen Barrett, resident on the family homestead; Annie, Frank, Jennie and Freddie; Fannie and Robert are deceased. Annie is teaching in a graded school at Alma, Frank is agent and operator at Cedar Lake, Jennie is a teacher and has been for several years Principal of the public schools in Estella. Joseph Phillips is believed to be the oldest white child born in Gratiot County. He was born April 30, 1852.

In 1851, Mr. Phillips came to Fulton Township and located 160 acres of Government land on section 35, to which he added 160 acres by later purchase, and owns the south half of the section. He has placed 180 acres in first-class condition, with suitable farm house and other buildings, and with 12 acres of unusually valuable orchard. He has engaged somewhat in lumbering. In 1864, in company with Solomon Wyman and Capt. Roswell Danly, he bought a steam saw-mill in Bridgeville, which they reconstructed and operated seven years; later on, associated with John Bryant, he contracted with the State for the construction of 11½ miles of the State road from Leland to Northport. The work con-

sumed between two and three years and cost \$8,000. Before it was completed, Mr. Phillips removed to Essex, Iowa, on account of the ill-health of the members of his family. They remained in the Hawkeye State about two and a half years. On his return to Fulton he bought a stage route from St. John's, Clinton County, to St. Louis, which he managed between two and three years, in company with Solomon Wyman. At the end of the period named he sold his claim to his associate, and bought 35 acres in the village of Ithaca, which he platted, and has since sold, with the exception of four acres to which he has retired. During his connection with the stage business he removed to St. Louis, and while the family resided there the youngest son died, of fever. In consequence of this loss, he disposed of his interest to Mr. Wyman, as stated.

In political principles, Mr. Phillips is a Democrat. In 1879 he was elected to the office of Superintendent of the Poor, and in 1882 was elected again to the same position. He became a member of the Masonic Order in 1860.

As one of the pioneers and prominent representative men of Gratiot County we take pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Phillips, in connection with that of his estimable wife.

**J**ames K. Jenne, farmer, section 11, Fulton Township, is a son of Ansel S. and Narcissa (Merrill) Jenne, natives of New York State. In an early day, about one year after marriage, they came to Ohio and settled in Medina County, where he died, Aug. 20, 1882. His wife survives, in Medina County. Their family comprised four sons and four daughters, of whom James K. was the second son.

He was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Oct. 24, 1844, and remained with his father, attending school and working on the farm, until 22 years of age. In the spring of 1865, he came to Gratiot County and bought 120 acres of wild land on section 11, Fulton Township. He at once built a house and began to improve his farm, and to realize how well he has succeeded one should visit his place. He owns 180 acres, 140 of which are cleared and cultivated. In

the summer of 1882 he built the fine residence which he now occupies.

Dec. 16, 1866, in Fulton Township, he married Miss Miranda S., daughter of Albert and Miranda S. (Beach) Wheeler, natives of Connecticut, where Mrs. Wheeler died about 40 years ago. Mr. Wheeler afterwards came to Gratiot County and was one of the first settlers of Fulton Township, where he died in November, 1880. Mrs. Jenne was born in Litchfield Co., Conn. She and her husband are the parents of two sons: Burton S. and Herbert A. Mrs. J. is a member of the Congregational Church, and Mr. J. of the Methodist Episcopal. Politically he votes the Democratic ticket.

**L**ivedo S. Barber, of the firm of Nelson & Barber, general merchants at Ithaca, was born July 21, 1846, in Parishville, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. His father, Cyrus R. Barber, is a native of Vermont and a farmer by occupation. The mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Parker, was also born in the Green Mountain State, of English ancestors. The parents still reside in Parishville, N. Y.

Mr. Barber obtained his early education in the common schools until he was 17 years old, when he entered the academy at Potsdam and spent four terms at that institution. He next engaged as a clerk in Potsdam with Watkins, Leete & Co., general merchants, with whom he stayed five years. In 1872 he went to Kansas, and engaged in teaching school near Garnett until the fall of 1873, when he came to Ithaca and entered the store of Nelson & Smith as salesman. He remained in their employ until August, 1875, when he succeeded to a proprietary interest in the business by purchase, the firm style becoming Nelson & Barber. Their stock is valued at \$25,000, and their annual transactions in their various avenues of trade aggregate about \$200,000, covering operations in grain, lumber, wool and merchandise. They own a fine elevator 32 x 61 feet, with a wing 28 x 28 feet in dimensions and one and a half stories in height. They have a retail lumber-yard in the rear of this structure, and handle lumber, lath, shingles, etc., in which they are doing a successful business. Mr. Barber owns a fine dwelling and

grounds and several building lots in the town in company with Mr. Nelson. They are also the owners of a farm of 80 acres in the township of North Star.

Mr. Barber was married July 19, 1875, at Potsdam, to Francene Swift. She was born in that place April 19, 1852, and is the daughter of Hiram and Aurilla Swift. Roscoe S., born May 15, 1878, and Anna, born March 19, 1880, are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Barber.

**C**harles E. Webster, farmer, on section 11, Fulton Township, is a son of Lyman and Dimmis (Stebbins) Webster, natives of Massachusetts, where they first settled and lived about 12 years. They then came to Kent County, this State, where they were among the first settlers of the city of Grand Rapids. He built the first saw-mill in that city. The family afterwards removed to Ionia County, and then to Clinton County. In 1850 the father went to California, and two years later to Australia. He was last heard from in 1856, in which year it is supposed that he died. The mother died Nov. 28, 1875. Their family comprised four sons and six daughters, of whom Charles E. was the third son.

He was born in Clinton Co., Mich., April 2, 1839, and educated in the common schools of that county. He remained at home until 22 years old, taking care of his father's farm and being largely instrumental in the support of the family. In 1861 he built a house on 40 acres of land, which had been set apart for him from his father's estate. After one year he came to Gratiot County (February, 1862) and for one year worked a farm on shares in Fulton Township. He then purchased 80 acres of partly improved land known as the Benson farm, on section 12, same township. There he lived until December, 1874, and then moved into the fine residence he now occupies on section 11, where he had previously bought 40 acres. He now owns 300 acres on sections 11, 12 and 13, 230 acres being well improved.

Jan. 1, 1861, at Maple Rapids, Clinton County, he formed a life partnership with Josephine E., daughter of Cornelius and Parmelia (Amidon) Campbell, natives of New York State. Mrs. W. was born in St. Lawrence County, that State, June 7, 1840. Mr.

and Mrs. Webster have been the parents of three children: Carrie E., Birdella I. and Cornelius S. (died Oct. 15, 1866).

Mr. Webster has been and still is an active and prominent man. He has been for 17 years Supervisor of Fulton Township, which is a longer service than any other man in Gratiot County can show. He was elected Justice of the Peace in April, 1863, and served till July 4, 1882, over 19 years. In 1875 he was appointed Notary Public, by Gov. Bagley, and held the commission four years. In 1883 he was re-appointed. He has been the Democratic nominee for Sheriff four times, but, though he ran ahead of his ticket each year, he has failed to receive a majority. He met the same fate twice when he ran on the Democratic ticket for County Treasurer. His Democracy is Simon-pure, and he is one of the most influential members of that party in the county. He is a member of the Masonic Order.

**J**ohn D. Mandeville, hardware merchant at Alma, was born in Allegany Co., N. Y., March 29, 1858, and is the son of John D. and Susan (Pomeroy) Mandeville. The parents were of French and German descent, and were natives of the State of New York. They married and settled in the Empire State, where the father died Nov. 29, 1867. The mother still resides there. Their family included seven children, five of whom grew to maturity.

Mr. Mandeville was the youngest son, and remained at home until he was 17 years old, and obtained his education in the common schools. He began life as a clerk at Elmira, N. Y., but acted in that capacity only six months, and resigned the position to engage with his brother in the insurance business at Olean, N. Y., where he continued to operate eight years. In April, 1883, he came to Alma and purchased an interest in the hardware store of H. Kelso. He afterward became sole proprietor, and has since conducted the business, which has been increasing in extent and profit, singly. In political views, Mr. Mandeville is a liberal Republican.

He was married at Kendall Creek, McLean Co.,

Pa., May 24, 1832, to Nellie, daughter of the Hon. A. A. Craig. Judge Craig was formerly a Paymaster in the United States Army, and now resides at Corry, Pa. Mrs. Mandeville was born Oct. 25, 1864, at Erie, Pa.



**S**teward Harrison, farmer, section 10, Pine River Township, was born in Ontario, Canada, Dec. 25, 1835, and is the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Hunter) Harrison. His father was born in Ireland and his mother in Scotland.

Mr. Harrison resided in Canada until 1861, when he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and there followed the vocation of a saddler about six years, having learned the trade in Canada. In the fall of 1867 he came to St. Louis, Gratiot County, and established his business there, working at his trade until the spring of 1876, when he sold out and bought 80 acres of land, to which he has since devoted his time and energies. He has placed 40 acres under cultivation, and built a comfortable and creditable house. Mr. Harrison belongs to the Order of Masonry, and is independent in political belief.

He was married Oct. 14, 1869, at Ithaca, to Mary, daughter of George and Nancy (Lackey) Woolley. Parents and daughter are natives of Canada, where the latter was born March 19, 1854. Two of three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Harrison are living—Thomas H. and Nettie M. John died in infancy. The parents belong to the Presbyterian Church.



**D**r. John H. DeMay, physician, at Ithaca, was born Aug. 22, 1851, in Fairport, Monroe Co., N. Y., and is a son of Abraham and Nancy (Davitt) DeMay. His father was born Aug. 18, 1814, in Amsterdam, Holland, where he was a musician. In 1856 he came to Shiawassee Co., Mich., and adopted the occupation of a farmer. He bought two farms in Conway Township, one containing 65 acres, the other including 80 acres. He sold his property three years later and went to Livingston County, where he bought 120

acres of land in the township of Deerfield, and was there resident seven years, going thence to Wright Township, Hillsdale County, where the family still reside.

During the early manhood of Dr. DeMay he finished his elementary education attending school winters, and passing the summer seasons as a clerk. He attended the High School at Hudson, after which he passed five years as salesman in hardware stores at Jackson, Mich., and St. John's. He began to prepare for his profession at the latter place, and read medicine under the direction of Dr. A. J. Wiggins. He afterward entered the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he remained three years, and was graduated with the class of 1879. He at once opened an office at Ithaca, where he has since continued the practice of his profession and has established a large and growing business. He is now Medical Examiner for the Knights of Honor and the Knights of the Maccabees.

Dr. DeMay was married Sept. 6, 1876, to Ella, daughter of Henry and Zilpah W. (Allen) Walbridge. She was born at St. John's, Oct. 31, 1856. Of this marriage there is one child, Gracie, born Jan. 2, 1879. The Doctor is a member of the State Medical Society of Michigan, and belongs to the fraternity of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Village Council of Ithaca.



**C**onrad Westenhaver, farmer on section 22, Fulton Township, is a son of George and Sarah (Brown) Westenhaver, natives of Ohio, where the mother died. The father died in the State of Wisconsin. The subject of this biography was born in Stark Co., Ohio, May 16, 1822.

Losing his mother when he was only seven years old, he was "bound out" on a farm until he should be 18 years of age. He was consequently deprived of the usual privileges of home, and his education was very limited. When he was 13 years old, his master lost his wife, and he was left to shift for himself. He followed farming for some time, and then came to Michigan. In June, 1854, he came to Gratiot County, and entered 160 acres of wild land on section 36, Newark Township. This land he soon



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after traded for 80 acres on section 22, Fulton Township, where he has since resided. He has 70 acres under good cultivation.

Aug. 31, 1843, in Seneca Co., Ohio, he married Miss Rebecca Clark, daughter of Matthias and Maria (Copeland) Clark, natives of Pennsylvania. She was born in Huntington Co., Pa., Jan. 5, 1827. Mr. and Mrs. W. have had ten children: Maria E., Sarah R., Ananias, Sylvia E., Hettie, Minerva, Matthias, Effie and Nancy. All these grew to be adults. Ananias died Aug. 28, 1881, aged 32 years, seven months. Sarah R. died April 21, 1879, aged 32 years, five months. Mr. and Mrs. W. are active and consistent members of the Christian Church. Politically he has always been identified with the Democratic party.

**R**oman Fyler, farmer, section 24, North Shade Township, is the son of Shaler and Mary (Hulbert) Fyler, of Puritan descent, the former a native of Connecticut, and the latter of New York. Mr. F. was a farmer, and still lives in New York State. He was married in June, 1819, in that State; his wife, the second child of a family of eight, died in September, 1824, in the same State. He came to Michigan in an early day and located land, but returned to New York, where he died, Oct. 12, 1850.

The subject of this sketch was born Aug. 28, 1822, in Madison Co., N. Y. After his mother's death he lived at various places until 1843, when he settled in Jackson Co., Mich. In about ten years he came to this county and located on section 24, where he still resides. He took possession of 160 acres of wild land, 60 acres of which he has reclaimed from the forest and put into a fine tillable condition.

Politically, Mr. F. is a staunch Republican. He has been Justice of the Peace some four or five terms, Highway Commissioner, School Inspector, etc.; indeed, he has held office almost continuously during his residence in this township. He has been Delegate to the County Convention a number of times; was one of the first jurors of the county, while it was attached to Clinton County; had to go to DeWitt to serve on the jury; and was also a member of the only grand jury ever subpoenaed in the county.

In 1852, Mr. Fyler was married to Miss Elizabeth M., daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Kinney) Brink, the former a native of New Jersey. They were the parents of five sons and five daughters. Mr. and Mrs. F. have no family of their own.

The portrait of Mr. Fyler, on the opposite page, is a valuable addition to this Album.

**B**eddis C. Gillett, farmer on section 15, Fulton Township, is a son of Jason and Emma (Fellows) Gillett, natives of Onondaga Co., N. Y. They came to Washtenaw County, this State, and resided there, on a farm, over 30 years. Then selling out, he bought a farm in Lawrence Co., Mo., where they lived a year and a half. He died there in 1861. His wife returned to Washtenaw County, where she died, Nov. 16, 1867.

The subject of this biography was born in Washtenaw Co., Mich., March 4, 1842, and was educated in the common schools. Feb. 16, 1862, at the age of 20, he enlisted in the 14th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served three years and four months. He participated in Sherman's famous march to the sea, and on this march, while out with eight others foraging, he was taken prisoner. After four weeks of confinement, he was paroled, and set at liberty. At the expiration of his term of service, he returned to Washtenaw County, and for a year worked by the month on a farm.

In February, 1868, he came to this county and purchased 40 acres of partly improved land on section 15, Fulton Township, where he now resides. He has since added 80 acres by purchase, and of his whole farm, about 70 acres are cultivated. The house which he built soon after coming to Gratiot County was destroyed by fire, Feb. 19, 1881; and the following spring he built the fine residence which he now occupies.

Aug. 29, 1867, in Sharon, Washtenaw Co., Mich., he married Miss Mary T., daughter of Moses T. and Harriet L. (Brown) Graham, natives of New York, where they were both veteran school-teachers. Mr. Graham died in March, 1851. Mrs. Graham afterward came to this State, and now resides in Washtenaw County. Mrs. Gillett was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Aug. 29, 1850. She and her husband are the parents of two daughters: Winnie I. and Emma H.

Mr. and Mrs. G. are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, he is a Republican and a firm Prohibitionist. He is an active worker in all temperance movements.

**A**lexander C. Henry, farmer, section 11, Pine River Township, is the son of John and Elizabeth Henry, and was born April 7, 1857, in Washington Co., Pa. His parents were also natives of the Keystone State, and in 1866 they came to Michigan and settled in Pine River Township, where the father died Oct. 9, 1869, and the mother followed him to the land of eternal rest and peace July 24, 1877.

Mr. Henry came to Michigan with his parents, and has followed farming most of his active life. In 1878 he bought 80 acres of land, part of which was under some degree of improvement, and he has increased its value and appearance by his judicious expenditure of labor and good judgment. He now has 55 acres under cultivation. In 1882, he built a commodious house and convenient barn.

Mr. Henry was married Nov. 22, 1880, at St. Louis, to Clara R., daughter of Jerry and Henrietta Davis, natives respectively of Michigan and Pennsylvania. Mrs. Henry was born Sept. 29, 1865, in Midland Co., Mich. Clyde W., their only child, was born July 4, 1883. Mr. Henry is a Republican in political sentiment.

**M**ark Burdette Suydam, deceased, formerly resident on section 29, Bethany Township, was born March 28, 1854, in Granby, Oswego Co., N. Y. He is a son of John H. and Harriet A. (Buel) Suydam, and in 1856 his parents removed to Ohio, where they passed about 18 months in determining upon a location. They settled in Elmore, Ottawa County, where they remained six years. In April, 1865, they removed to Gratiot County, and an incident of their arrival was the announcement by them of the fall of Richmond and the surrender of Gen. Lee, the first intelligence of the event which reached Ithaca.

The family settled a mile and a half southeast of St. Louis, and a few months later removed to the village.

The first marked event of the life of Mr. Suydam happened when he was less than three years old. He was playing in the yard and fell in the well. The screams of an older brother brought the mother, who instantly descended into the well and rescued the struggling child. But she could not climb to *terra firma* with him, and she ordered the other child to lower the bucket, which was fastened to an old-fashioned well-sweep, and the brother drew the child up in safety. The mother remained in the well until help came to her relief. The farm where his parents settled was in the "uncut forest," and Mr. Suydam remembered clearly the howling of the wolves and other incidents of pioneer life, which impressed themselves deeply on his childish mind. He first attended school in Gratiot County in an old log building, without desks or other conveniences, which was located near the site of the Vincent school-house. After his father's removal to St. Louis he attended school there winters, and skated on what is now Milk Street. A wheat-field lay on the west side of the route and there were not more than a dozen frame houses in the village. He was a bright scholar and acquired an excellent education, which he at one time purposed to utilize in teaching, but his genius for tools and natural love for mechanical labor triumphed and he became a carpenter, and worked at that business some years.

He was married June 8, 1873, to Mary E., daughter of Dr. Chauncey J. and Cornelia (Lombard) Goode-nough. The young couple set out in life with little means except energy and determination, which they put into effective operation, the husband working as a carpenter, the wife as a teacher in the then "high school" of Brenckenridge, officiating in a small board house in the woods with only a small patch of ground cleared. In January, 1876, they settled on 40 acres on his father's farm, where he built a nice residence and barn. He worked without intermission until he had cleared 35 acres and had placed himself in circumstances to live in comparative ease. In 1881 he disposed of most of his personal property and took a trip through the northern part of the State, for the benefit of his health. He was seized with fever immediately on his return, which left him in an enfee-

bled condition, and a violent cold in the spring of 1882 ended in bronchial consumption, of which he died, Jan 10, 1884. His two little sons died within 11 months, during the last 15 months of his own life, which affliction depressed him greatly.

Mr. Suydam was generous to the needy, provident for the future and a firm though affectionate father. He was conscientiously opposed to liquor, tobacco and secret societies.

Mrs. Suydam was born in Lapeer, Mich., where both her grandfathers were among the earliest pioneers. She was the eldest of six children, three of whom died young. Two brothers, Albert and Willard Goodenough, reside in Isabella County. Her father came to St. Louis in the fall of 1869, where he resided until his death, June 15, 1875. Mrs. Suydam holds 31 acres of her homestead, where she resides, with her remaining child. Her children were born as follows: John C., April 25, 1874, and died Oct. 8, 1882; Carrie E., March 18, 1876; Charles B., Dec. 21, 1882, and died Sept. 10, 1883.

**H**enry A. Delavan, merchant at Alma, is the son of Tompkins C. and Esther (Jessup) Delavan, and was born Aug. 1, 1810, in Seneca Co., N. Y. His father was a native of Dutchess Co., N. Y., and his mother was born in Norwalk, Conn. After marriage they settled in Seneca County, where they resided 40 years and became, after that long period, residents of Jonesville, Mich. Of 13 children born to them ten reached maturity.

Mr. Delavan is the third son. His parents were pioneers of the county where he was born, having settled there about the close of the eighteenth century, and the son obtained his preliminary education at the common schools, whose sessions were held in the primitive log house. He finished his studies at the academy at Ovid in Seneca County.

At 16 the privilege of self-support devolved upon him, and he embraced an opportunity to become an assistant in a country store at eight dollars a month. He soon became expert and efficient, and after eight months made a contract with his employer to serve at \$200 yearly, and he received this compensation two years, after which his salary was \$300 for a year's

services. He remained in the same establishment until he was 19 years old, when he clerked for his brother-in-law two years and then went into business. He opened a store at Jefferson, now Watkins, and did business, boarded and ran a warehouse, respectively in the counties of Schuyler, Steuben and Chemung. He continued to operate from that stand for seven years, when, in October, 1838, he forced a sale of the bulk of his stock and transferred the remainder to Jonesville, Hillsdale Co., Mich., where he established himself in traffic in general merchandise. He continued to operate there until 1844, combining his mercantile affairs with speculation in land to considerable extent. In the year last named he purchased 2,000 acres of land in Hillsdale, Branch and Jackson Counties, and engaged somewhat extensively in farming, locating near Jonesville. He continued agricultural operations about ten years, when he sold his farm and moved into town. In 1861 he was appointed by the United States Government, Assessor of Internal Revenue in what was then the First Michigan District. He discharged the duties of the position until 1865, when he again turned his attention to farming. In 1870 he removed to Alma, where he resumed his former occupation as merchant. He has since operated continuously as such, combining therewith transactions in grain. In 1876 he erected an elevator at Alma having a capacity of 7,000 bushels. His possessions include two farms of 80 acres each in Arcada, and 60 acres of land in Seville. Of the aggregate 220 acres, 100 are in tillage.

In 1874, Mr. Delavan associated with himself his two sons, Charles L. and George M. Their mercantile operations reach about \$30,000 yearly, with heavy transactions in grain, the latter sometimes amounting to an aggregate of 140,000 bushels annually.

Mr. Delavan was married in Watkins, N. Y., Dec. 5, 1835, to Mary T., daughter of Isaac I. and Catherine (Tillinghast) Leake. The parents were natives respectively of New York and Connecticut. The daughter was born Oct. 8, 1812, in Albany Co., N. Y., was educated in the common schools and attended school of higher grade at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, in her native State. The issue of her marriage with Mr. Delavan was nine children, of whom three are dead—Cornelia, Anna L. and Julia. Those still living and who survive the mother are named Mary C., Catherine I., Agnes T., William A.,

Charles L. and George M. Mrs. Delavan died Aug. 20, 1870, in Jonesville, Hillsdale County.

On attaining to the dignity of man's estate and the assumption of the prerogatives of his citizenship, Mr. Delavan identified himself with the old-line Whig party under the leadership of Henry Clay. He is now a member of the Republican party.

**M**atthew H. Udell, farmer, section 15, Pine River Township, was born July 10, 1835, in Canada, and is the son of Matthew and Mary (Hamilton) Udell, both of whom were natives of Canada. Mr. Udell pursued the vocation of a farmer in the Dominion until April, 1880, when he came to Gratiot County and bought 120 acres of land under partial improvements, on which he has since resided. Seventy acres of the farm are now under first-class cultivation, and the place reflects credit on the proprietor in every detail. Mr. Udell is a Republican in his political belief.

He was married in the County of York, Canada, Feb. 15, 1858, to Melinda, daughter of James and Nancy (Kester) Foresyth. She was born in York County Dec. 25, 1841, and her parents were also natives of the Dominion. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Udell includes seven children: Rachel A., Albert E., Arthur S., Solomon O., Nathan B., Jane G. and David H. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**W**illiam D. Dickinson, farmer, section 17, Bethany Township, was born in Marion Township, Wayne Co., N. Y., July 28, 1838. His parents, David G. and Catharine (Foote) Dickinson, were also natives of New York, and were of English and German descent. His father, a farmer most of his life, died in Ohio, June 2, 1880, and his mother is still living, in that State, now aged 69 years.

Mr. D. was 13 years of age when the family moved to Medina Co., Ohio, settling in Spencer Township, where he attended the public school until 18 years

of age; then, after spending a year in the East, he followed farming a couple of years in Iowa, and two and a half years in Whiteside Co., Ill. Returning to Ohio, he was married, in Ashland County, Sept. 2, 1862, to Miss Harriet F., daughter of Leroy and Sophronia A. (Close) Chaffee, natives of New York and of English ancestry; she was born Jan. 21, 1837, in Medina Co., Ohio. The children of Mr. and Mrs. D. are, Merrit N., born June 28, 1863; Leroy D., Aug. 3, 1867; and William H., Dec. 15, 1870. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson resided in Spencer Township, Medina Co., Ohio, until the fall of 1868, when they came to Gratiot Co., Mich., and settled on a quarter-section of land where they now reside. Of the original tract they have sold 40 acres, and of the remainder 60 acres are improved, and a comfortable home is established. Mr. D. has proved himself to be a skillful agriculturist and an esteemed member of the community.

**D**avid Fry, retired farmer, resident on section 28, Sumner Township, was born in Cumberland Co., Pa., July 4, 1820. His father, John Fry, a native of Pennsylvania, was by occupation a farmer, and went from that State to Missouri, where he died in 1878, aged 81. His mother, Eve, *nee* Fockler, was also a native of Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, and died in Missouri in 1878, aged 85.

The subject of this biography came with his parents to Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, when he was two years old, and two years later they went to Wayne County, same State. Thence the family removed to Seneca County, where they resided 30 years on one place. David remained under the paternal roof until 23 years old. Oct. 15, 1843, in Seneca County, he was united in marriage to Miss Susanna, daughter of Jacob and Letta (Marshall) Green, natives of New England and Ohio. Jacob Green was a farmer and carpenter, and both he and his wife died in Ohio.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Fry settled on his father's homestead, which he worked on shares for seven years. In 1856 he went for a time to Marshalltown, Iowa. Returning, they went to Hancock Co., Ohio, in the summer of 1857, where he farmed and ran a threshing-machine until 1866. In the

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*Sidney Slocustings*



summer of 1866 they came to Gratiot County and located 120 acres of wild land on section 28, Summer Township. There were at that time but few permanent settlers, and only one other on the same section. Mr. F. has by his own efforts improved 113 acres and built the necessary farm buildings, including a comfortable residence.

Mr. and Mrs. F. have a family of 10: Sarah J., Lucinda, Rebecca, Joseph, Anna G., Jacob, John, Grandville, Mary D. and W. George. Mr. Fry has held various school offices, but has declined all other offices tendered him. Politically, he is a Democrat of high standing.

**S**idney S. Hastings, farmer, surveyor and engineer, resident at St. Louis, was born in Champion, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Aug. 25, 1827, and is the son of Sidney S. and Clarissa (Fitch) Hastings. His father was a mechanic during the early part of his life, and in later years a farmer. He removed his family to Medina Co., Ohio, in 1837, and there bought 160 acres of land in Guilford Township. This land was mostly covered with dense forest, and absorbed the labor of ten years of himself and three sons wholly to improve it and put it in tillable condition, with comfortable buildings.

The educational advantages of Mr. Hastings were limited to two or three months at the district school in the winter, and when in his 20th year he attended one term at the village academy. The winter succeeding his attaining his majority, he taught a district school in a small log house, very dilapidated, where he exercised the authority of a pedagogue over 54 pupils at the rate of \$11 per month of 24 days. He taught school during the next two winters, and worked through the summers at the carpenter's trade. He spent part of a fall term at the village academy reviewing his studies, and attended one term at Twinsburg Academy. In the winter of 1852-3, in company with a young friend, he went to Cincinnati, thence down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. After a few days in that city, they proceeded across the Gulf of Mexico to Matagorda Bay, in Southern Texas, where they remained four months,

working at the carpenter's trade, and receiving good wages. They returned by the river to Galena, Ill., where they hired a conveyance to Rockford, the railroad terminus west of Chicago.

Mr. Hastings taught school in the winter of 1853-4, and in 1855 came West to look for a location. He remained two months at Lansing, where he learned something of Gratiot County through A. M. Crawford, who was a land-holder there, and had platted the village of Pine River. The Legislature of Michigan had, during its session in 1854-5, passed an act creating Pine River the county seat, and Mr. Hastings accompanied Mr. Crawford to Gratiot County, both walking the entire distance from Lansing. He located 200 acres of land on section 27, Bethany Township, went to Flint, and entered his claim. He proceeded to Lansing, and a few days later returned to St. Louis, where he arrived July 5, 1855. He found two log houses, one built by Sylvanus Groom, on the south side of the river, and on the east side of Main Street; since removed. The other was built by Joseph Clapp near the dam. Mr. Clapp was then building a saw-mill, and Mr. Hastings assisted in its completion. About the middle of August he decided to remain at St. Louis, and received from Mr. Clapp a lot, situated on the corner of Mill Street and Washington Avenue. It was covered with the primeval forest, and Mr. Hastings cleared a small space and built a log house, the third erected in the village, where at the time there were but 20 acres of partially cleared land. The house was raised by four white men and 12 Indians, and when it was finished Mr. Hastings sent for his wife, and proceeded in a canoe to Saginaw to meet her. They came by the same means of transportation to the "Forks," now Midland, where the man whom he had engaged to bring the party to Midland unloaded the family and effects on the bank of the river, five miles below Midland, whither Mr. and Mrs. Hastings walked. They found some friendly persons, who went with a flat-boat and conveyed their goods to Midland, where Mr. Hastings succeeded in engaging an Indian, who brought himself and wife and trunk to St. Louis, to whom he paid \$8 for the service in advance. The journey consumed three days, and on his arrival at St. Louis Mr. Hastings engaged two Indians and two canoes, and returned for the goods left behind at Midland, camping at night.

He found his services as a surveyor were in immediate demand, and he at once engaged in the work in this vicinity and in Midland County. He was elected County Surveyor in the fall of the year of his arrival, 1855, and has pursued the same calling ever since. He surveyed and platted the villages of Alma, Ithaca, Riverdale, Estella, Breckenridge and Wheeler, besides ten additions to St. Louis.

Among other important pieces of work he has accomplished is the survey of the State Road to Saginaw from St. Louis when the country was in a state of unbroken wilderness; and also the survey of the State Road to Newaygo, and from St. Louis to Midland; also from St. Louis to Bridgeville, near St. John's. He also assisted in surveying the route of the Saginaw Valley and St. Louis railroad. He has been County Conveyer or Deputy since the organization of the county. He is a member of the State Association of Engineers and Surveyors, and has held the various village offices at St. Louis. He is a member of the Baptist Church, and upon the organization of the society at St. Louis he was made Deacon, and has held the position continuously ever since. He bought the site of his present residence in 1866, and also 180 acres of land. He now owns 70 acres on the east side of the village, 50 acres of which are platted and known as S. S. Hastings' Addition.

Mr. Hastings was married in Guilford, Medina Co., Ohio, March 2, 1854, to Julia, daughter of David and Harriet Dix. Of this marriage seven children were born, four sons and three daughters: Frank W., born Dec. 29, 1854, mail agent between Saginaw and Lake View, is a graduate from the Agricultural College at Lansing. He is a practical surveyor, and was Postmaster at St. Louis about three years; Forest B., born Feb. 26, 1857, is a farmer on section 16, Bethany Township; Russell M. was born March 16, 1859; Mary E. was born Jan. 11, 1862, and died Aug. 27, 1863; Fannie E., born Sept. 6, 1865; Charlie S., May 31, 1869, and Hattie C., Nov. 30, 1871, reside at home with their parents.

The portrait of Mr. Hastings, which appears on another page, is presented with peculiar satisfaction, which is universally shared by the patrons of the work, among whom are a considerable number who live to remember the period referred to by Mr. Hastings in the data given herewith, and the services he performed in which his wife shared:

"Nearly all the settlements in Gratiot County were made under the Graduation Act, passed by Congress Aug. 4, 1854, by the provisions of which the price of the land was reduced to 50 cents an acre. Probably three-fourths of the land in this county was located by actual settlers within eight months after its passage. Most of them were men of small means, who could only command sufficient money to enter claims of 40 or 80 acres, which were located in the dense forests, miles from roads or trails and discoverable only by expert woodsmen. Few of such settlers were able to take immediate possession of their claims, but they made some slight improvements and returned to their former homes to earn teams and sufficient provisions to ensure them from suffering until they could maintain themselves and families.

"In February, 1856, the Commissioner of the General Land Office issued the following 'Circular,' to all settlers on these lands:

"LAND OFFICE AT IONIA, MICH.,  
Feb. 20, 1856."

"Sir—Under instructions from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, you are hereby called upon to produce testimony to perfect your title to the land entered by you on the 27th day of Dec., 1854, at this office, per certificate of purchase, No. 13558, for 'actual settlement and cultivation,' under the provisions of the act of Congress, entitled 'An act to graduate and reduce the price of the public lands to actual settlers and cultivators,' approved Aug. 4, 1854. A form of the required testimony is hereto annexed.

"If such testimony be not produced at this office within two months from this date, it will be regarded as an abandonment of your claim to the land, and the case will be reported to the General Land Office, in order that steps may be taken for throwing the land into market again, after proper notice.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servants.

"A. F. BELL, Register.  
"FRED HALL, Receiver."

"This circular caused an immediate immigration of a large number of settlers into Gratiot County to fulfill its terms, which, under the circumstances, were simply outrageous. It was in the winter, and the hardships were greater and proportionately severe, as many of the settlers were compelled to take possession of their land and build houses without lumber. In many instances means were found to evade the law, and I was reminded of the results of an enactment in the early days of Canada, which granted land to settlers on condition that they should 'chop down and chop up and roll out four rods of highway in front of the land.' The settler would take two witnesses, go to the land on the line of the highway, take his ax and 'chop down' into the roots of a tree

and 'chop up' as high as he could conveniently reach, then lie down at length on the ground and roll over four or five rods out of the bounds of the highway. This done, he presented himself at the land office, accompanied by his witnesses, and made oath that he had 'chopped down and chopped up and rolled out four rods of the highway in front of his land!' The subterfuges resorted to by the sufferers of Gratiot County, sometimes presented features of equal absurdity.

"The circumstances narrated must of themselves have been productive of unparalleled suffering from the influx of numbers so great as to render their support in the unsettled sections an utter impossibility, but the condition that ensued was, in point of fact, beyond the vagaries of the wildest and most erratic imagination. The summer of 1856 was extremely dry and the small patches of corn and potatoes were well-nigh failures. A windy day occurred in October after the leaves had fallen, and fires broke out from all the little clearings throughout the county. The woods were soon on fire in every direction, and when it expired the ground was covered with ashes to a depth of from one to four inches. The smoke was suffocating and so dense that vision beyond a few feet was wholly obstructed. People could not safely venture from their houses because of the intense darkness, and candles were necessary when sewing and reading were to be done. Our Board of Supervisors was in session and transacted its business by candle-light. The cattle died in considerable numbers, and many of the inhabitants were violently ill. The river looked like lye, and the fish died. The sound of falling timber echoed through the woods continuously. This state of things continued 14 days, when we were relieved by a shower.

"As the winter drew on, we began to realize what hard times were. The small crops were divided with the new comers and were soon exhausted. As soon as the trails were passable for sleds, farmers from the south brought in provisions to barter for shingles, and soon nearly every house was a shingle shanty. When the snow disappeared the trails again became impassable, and by May supplies were almost wholly exhausted, many subsisting on fish, turnips and leeks. Rumors of the destitution in the north began to reach Lansing and the cities beyond. A meeting was called in Detroit and a clergyman named Hickey was

selected for a tour of investigation. He shipped his horse to St. John's by railroad, and followed the trail thence to St. Louis *via* Maple Rapids and Itasca. There was no hotel at St. Louis and he stopped with me. He said he had inquired of all whom he had seen of the amount of provision on hand. On the morning following his arrival he made a long tramp north and west in Pine River Township, returning at night to my house. Among other incidents of the day, he mentioned meeting a small boy, whom he questioned concerning his breakfast, and was informed that he had "bagas and salt." Further inquiry elicited the fact that the bill of fare for dinner varied in the substitution of salt for bagas and bagas for salt. Mr. Hickey decided that the necessity demanded immediate action, and that the supply of provisions would not hold out two weeks. Many were entirely destitute and borrowing of their neighbors. He recommended that the Board of Supervisors be immediately called together to take action in the matter. He said that the people of Detroit had raised several thousand dollars for the relief of the destitute, whom they wished to remain on their lands. I recommended that provisions be sent instead of money, and suggested that should supplies be sent to Saginaw they could be brought hither in canoes. Mr. Hickey returned to Detroit and submitted his report. In a few days I received a communication from John Owen, of Detroit, Chairman of the Relief Committee, stating that he had forwarded a quantity of provisions to G. W. Bullock at Saginaw City, subject to my order, and requesting me to take measures to convey them to St. Louis and distribute them to the needy and destitute. My field was to include the north half of Gratiot County, and all of Isabella County. He also stated that he had established a depot of supplies at Benedict's, near Maple Rapids, for the benefit of the south half of Gratiot County. I was staggered by the letter and all it implied. I was young and unaccustomed to business of that character, and reflection greatly multiplied the apparent difficulties of the situation. It invited a summer of labor without compensation, and the probabilities of incurring enmity were great; but inclination gave way to duty, and I laid aside my compass and chain and entered into the work. The route to Saginaw by the river was at least 100 miles. There was no road and the channel of the river was dangerous from logs and rocks, and the current was

rapid. But there was no alternative. A trader named Wilden owned a boat, named for his daughter, a buxom German maiden, the Red Susan, made for him by an Indian named Chib-i-nee, from a monster pine that grew near where now stands the residence of Mr. Elwell. The boat would carry 6,000 pounds, and its owner offered it for the required purpose. Seven men could take it to Saginaw and load it in two days. Five days were required in the return. None but the most hardy could endure the labor and fatigue and the exposure consequent upon camping nights on the banks of the river. Mr. L. D. Mosher, of Alma, owned a boat and brought up a number of loads. Following is one of his bills of lading:

\*SAGINAW CITY, June 17, 1857.

\*Delivered to L. D. Mosher, per your order, to carry to you at Pine River, Gratiot Co., Mich., for distribution to the destitute the articles named below: 10 bbls. Flour, 1 bbl. Pork, 1 bbl. Hams, 1 bag Potatoes, 4 caddies Tea, 6 lbs. each, 4 packages Tea, 1 box containing 2 pcs. Denims and Shirts, 1 pr. Boots, 1 lot Women's and Misses' Shoes.

To S. S. HASTINGS, ESQ.,

Sup. Pine River, Gratiot County.

G. W. BULLOCK, Agent."

Supplies were also brought in considerable quantities by Mr. R. Ely and the Indians, many of whom performed the same service with their canoes. All were paid in provisions. On the days when supplies were expected to arrive the people for miles around flocked to St. Louis, numbering from 25 to 100 persons. I usually weighed out to each man 20 to 50 pounds of flour, 10 of pork and a quantity of corn meal and beans, proportioning the amount to their family and ability to carry. I had potatoes for seed, tea for the sick and a few pairs of women's shoes for the barefoot. Few or no applications were made for supplies by those who had money to obtain elsewhere. We continued to receive aid until the people began to use green corn and dig new potatoes, when I informed Mr. Bullock that assistance was no longer necessary."

Mr. Hastings omits to state the amount of labor he performed and the personal effort made by himself and wife to alleviate the suffering which was necessarily brought to their knowledge. The people who came in from the country were always pinched with hunger, and they never returned unfed. Mrs. Hastings' own hands prepared substantial meals for a large proportion of the needy, and she spent the summer of 1857 in virtual fulfillment of the command "to

feed the hungry." Her name belongs to the recorded history of the "starvation period" of Gratiot County.



**H**enry Stitt, farmer on section 19, Fulton Township, is a son of John and Laura (White) Stitt, natives of Berkshire Co., Mass. They lived in that county until some four years after marriage; then lived in Portage Co., Ohio, 15 years; then in Fulton County, same State, nearly 13 years; and finally came to Gratiot County, where, in Fulton Township, Mr. Stitt had previously purchased 100 acres. Before he was fairly settled, however, he was taken sick, and died at the residence of her son Harry, Sept. 4, 1864. His wife lived the remainder of her life with her children, and died at the residence of her son Winfield, Dec. 26, 1877. Their family comprised three sons and one daughter.

The subject of this biographical sketch was the second son. He was born in Berkshire Co., Mass., July 4, 1833, and was only two years old when his parents removed to Ohio, in which State he was reared and educated. He left the parental roof at the age of 22. In the fall of 1862, he purchased a tract of wild land on section 19, Fulton Township, and built a log cabin. The following February, he returned to Ohio and brought back his family to their new home. He has since added 40 acres, and has 100 acres under cultivation, besides making necessary improvements in the way of erecting farm buildings, etc. In November, 1880, he moved into his present fine residence, which he had just completed.

March 24, 1861, in Medina, Lenawee Co., Mich., he was united in marriage to Miss Mary A., daughter of Henry and Roxa (Francis) Huyck, of German and American ancestry. She was born in Richland Co., Ohio, Nov. 8, 1840. Mr. and Mrs. Stitt have been the parents of three daughters, two of whom survive: Dora E. and Laura C., living, and Cora E., deceased when about six months old.

In the spring of 1883, Mr. S. was elected Supervisor of Fulton Township. He was Treasurer for two years, and has held minor offices in the gift of the people. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and in political sentiment is identified with the Democratic party.

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*Mrs Kate A Whitman*



*J. P. Whitman*

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**J**osiah P. Whitman, of the firm of Whitman & Son, liverymen at Ithaca, was born in Springport Township, Jackson Co., Mich., April 18, 1841. He is a son of Clark R. and Keturah A. (Pratt) Whitman. His father was born in Stanbridge, L. C., and is now a resident of Ithaca. The mother was a native of the State of New York, and died Nov. 29, 1850, in Springport. The parents were pioneer settlers of Jackson County, and owned a tract of land in Concord, which they sold a year after its purchase, and removed to Springport, where the father owned several farms successively.

Mr. Whitman was a pupil in the schools of his native town until he was 15 years old, when he became an assistant on his father's farm. When he reached the age of 20 years, he engaged as traveling salesman for George M. Cady in the notion trade, and a year later entered into the business on his account. He operated several years with satisfactory results. In the fall of 1865 he came to Ithaca in company with two brothers, George and William Whitman. The three formed a partnership, opened a tea and grocery store and established a country exchange trade. Mr. Whitman bought the interests of his brothers a few months later, and, after managing the business one year alone, he sold to Cady Brothers. In 1867 he bought the site of the building where he is now doing business, and in the following summer erected a structure for a store in which he established a grocery. Four months later he sold his stock to Samuel J. Thoenen and opened a livery barn. In 1881 he built a brick livery stable, 33 by 157 feet in dimensions. The barn is two stories high and he keeps 15 horses, with vehicles of all sorts, to accommodate the demand. The store building has a frontage of 60 feet and a considerable mercantile business is managed there by the proprietors. The residence of Mr. Whitman is located on the same grounds. He owns 40 acres of land on section 1, in the township of Ithaca. He is the inventor of a patent carriage top bow support, which is becoming popular in the trade. It was patented Feb. 20, 1883. He has been one of the Trustees of Ithaca two years.

Mr. Whitman was married Oct. 26, 1862, in Clarence Township, Calhoun Co., Mich., to Kate A. Kashenider. She was born Nov. 17, 1844, in Akron, Ohio, and is the daughter of Michael and Catherine Kashenider. George M. was born in Springport, Sept. 4, 1863, and Floyd C., born at Ithaca, April 5, 1875, are the surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Whitman. Wilfred C., born March 5, 1873, died Sept. 16, 1877.

The portraits of Mr. Whitman and wife appear on neighboring pages, and are, like many others in this volume, the likenesses of enterprising and worthy citizens of Gratiot County.

**J**ames D. Vallance, farmer, section 4, Fulton Township, is a son of James and Elizabeth (Brewbaker) Vallance, who first settled in Pennsylvania, then in Richland Co., Ohio, and then moved to Wood Co., Ohio, where he died, and where she still lives. The subject of this narrative was born in Fayette Co., Pa., May 17, 1831, and was about three years old when his parents removed to Ohio. He was educated in the common schools, and lived at home until 22 years of age. He then engaged in farming, and rented different farms for six years. He then bought 40 acres, on which he lived until 1866.

Coming to Gratiot County in that year he purchased 80 acres of wild land in Fulton Township, where he now resides. He has since added 109 acres to his farm, and has about 100 acres under cultivation. June 15, 1862, in Wood Co., Ohio, he married Sarah, daughter of Tobias Bassler, a native of Pennsylvania. They had two children, George M. and John H.; and the latter died when two and a half years old. Mrs. V. dying, he was again married, March 11, 1860, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of David and Mary Leslie, natives of Stark Co., Ohio. She was born in Carroll Co., Ohio, Aug. 10, 1842. By this marriage, Mr. Vallance has had two children, Jackson D., and one who died in infancy. Mrs. V. is a member of the United Brethren Church, and Mr. V. is politically a Republican.

Mr. Vallance enlisted, Aug. 8, 1862, in Co. B, 111th Ohio Vol. Inf., and served till June 10, 1865,

when he was discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio. He was in the battles of London, Tenn., and Lenore Station. At the last named place, where the fighting began Nov. 14, 1863, and continued one week, he was taken prisoner early in the morning of the third day. He was confined till Sept. 6, 1864,—two weeks in Atlanta, Ga., two months at Pemberton Castle, Va., three months on Belle Island, and then for a long time at Andersonville. In that iniquitous pen, he suffered for six months all the horrors of "man's inhumanity to man." He was then for two months at Charleston, S. C., and then at Florence, S. C., where he was finally exchanged.

**J**ames Bates, farmer, section 1, New Haven Township, was born in Seneca Co., N. Y., May 31, 1802, his parents of English descent. His father, Thomas Bates, was a Captain in the British army for 16 years, and, except a few years' sojourn in Canada, he lived all his life in England, where he died in 1854. His mother, Ann, *nee* Hutson, died in England, her native country, in 1858.

When seven years of age, the subject of this sketch was taken by his parents to Cambridgeshire, England, and four years later he joined his uncle, James Bates, who was at the time Captain of a fruit vessel bound for Amsterdam. Shortly after arriving, they were pressed aboard a man-of-war, and the former was assigned the position of cabin boy, which place he kept about four years, when he had to go aloft as an active sailor. In the meantime they were taken to France, which country was then at war with England. While there he, in company with 11 other young sailors, maneuvered a scheme to "skip" the war vessel, and, succeeding, they soon arrived in England, where young James engaged to labor on the public works of the beach, etc. Thus employed until 1851, he emigrated to America, landing at New York, and settling in Oakland Co., Mich., where he had a farm on shares for three years. In 1854, he entered, at the Ionia land office, 120 acres of wild land, where he now lives, before examining it. The year following he settled upon the place, then several miles from any other settlement. He had to go to Ionia and St. John's for provisions. Although

many in this part of the country succumbed to the hardships of the period and returned East, Mr. Bates kept up his courage and bravery until a time of greater plenty arrived. He has retained his original purchase, added 120 acres, improved 60 acres, and made for himself and family a good home. He is esteemed as a true, sturdy, and high-minded pioneer. He has worthily filled the school offices of his township, and in respect to national issues he is independent.

During his early travels, Mr. Bates visited the East Indies, and on his way was wrecked near the coast of Arabia, his vessel being lost in a chase by a piratical vessel. He, with others, had to work their way to shore in a row-boat, and were thus exposed to the dangers of the sea for 14 days with but little provision. They were reduced to the last extremity, and were about to "cast lots" as to who should be thrown overboard, when they suddenly reached shore.

Mr. Bates was married Dec. 25, 1844, in Hardingham, England, to Miss Elizabeth Mail, a native of that country. She was born Oct. 11, 1818, lived at home until 12 years of age, then was with her grandmother until her death, and returned home, where she remained until her marriage. The living children of Mr. and Mrs. Bates are: Eliza, born Jan. 24, 1852; James Thomas, Jan. 24, 1855; Elizabeth, July 2, 1858; William, March 18, 1860; Rosetta, March 16, 1862; and Susan A., Aug. 20, 1863. The deceased are five infants, four named Elizabeth R. and one named George.

**W**illiam W. Fraker, carpenter and farmer, section 12, Fulton Township, is a son of Alexander and Jane (Sprague) Fraker. They settled after marriage in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., where they still reside. Their family comprised two sons and four daughters, of whom William W. was the eldest son.

He was born in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., Jan. 13, 1846, and lived at home attending school and working on his father's farm until 18 years old. Sept. 5, 1864, his patriotic impulses led him to enlist in the 20th New York Vol. Cav., and he served about nine

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months. He did not participate in any heavy engagements, as his company was generally on detached service, performing such duties as usually fall to the lot of cavalry commands.

In July, 1865, he came to Gratiot County. He was variously employed until 1872, when he bought 40 acres of wild land on section 12, Fulton Township. He has erected good farm buildings, has added 60 acres to his original purchase, and of his whole acreage, 82 acres are cleared and cultivated. Dec. 25, 1867, in Washington Township, this county, he married Miss Martha, daughter of William W. and Lucinda E. (Schuyler) Armstrong. Mr. and Mrs. A. were natives of New York, and came to Gratiot County in 1864, settling at their present home in Washington Township. Mrs. Fraker was born in Herkimer Co., N. Y., March 2, 1852.

To this marriage has been born one child, Aug. 17, 1870, named Ray. In political views, Mr. F. is a thoroughgoing Republican.

**A**lson P. Kinney, farmer on section 31, Fulton Township, is a son of David A. and Esther (Platt) Kinney, natives of Connecticut and New York. They first settled after marriage, in Tioga Co., N. Y., afterwards removing to Huron Co., Ohio, where they lived until death, his occurring Feb. 25, 1861, and hers in 1872.

Their family comprised four sons and two daughters. Alson P., the second son, was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., June 7, 1828, and was about 11 years old when his parents removed to Ohio. He received his education in the common schools, and also attended the Norwalk Academy at Norwalk, Ohio, for eight terms. He remained at home until 22 years old and then was engaged for eight winters in teaching in different places. He partially learned the carpenter's trade, under his brother, Edwin Kinney, the well-known architect and builder. Afterwards he obtained employment as foreman on a farm in Richland Co., Ohio, which position he held for seven years.

In March, 1861, he came to Gratiot County and bought 120 acres of land in Fulton Township, section 31. He has since disposed of 20 acres, and has

now 60 acres in an advanced state of cultivation. He enlisted during the rebellion in the 13th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served nine months and one day, receiving an honorable discharge at Detroit, Mich.

Oct. 3, 1865, in Richland Co., Ohio, he married Miss Lydia J., daughter of Abraham T. and Thankful (Kirby) Huff, natives of New Jersey and Massachusetts. Mrs. Kinney was born in the State of New York, March 16, 1833. She died Sept. 21, 1863, having been the mother of four children: Flora J. (died when 16 years old); Carrie K., Ida E. and Abraham P. Mr. Kinney is a member of the Baptist Church, and is politically a Republican.

The portrait of Mr. Kinney will be appreciated by all, especially those of his neighbors who have worked by his side in carving comfortable homes out of the dense forest.

**M**rs. Ellen M. Wolford, wife of Lewis B. Wolford, section 29, New Haven Township, was born in the township of Newark, Wayne Co., N. Y., July 14, 1845. Her parents, Peter B. and Mary M. Pendell, were also natives of the State of New York, and emigrated to Michigan in 1846. After spending two years in the eastern part of the State, they removed to Ionia County, and in 1857 they came to Gratiot County, then a wilderness. Seeing the situation, Ellen, then 13 years of age, began to devise some plan for her own support. As every family in the vicinity did their own housework and cared not to hire help, she could find nothing within her reach except the profession of teaching, for which she was yet to qualify herself. There were then a few organized school districts in the township of New Haven, which was her home.

According to her decision, she began in May, 1859, to follow her chosen profession, and for 13 long and weary years, through summer's heat and winter's snows, she fulfilled the duties of a pioneer teacher's life. During this time she married George M. Bennett, who soon afterward joined the Union army; but in the spring of 1863 he returned home with the dreadful disease, consumption, fastened upon him, and for seven tedious and painful years his wife had to support the family by her profession. He died in

the summer of 1870, before the Government had provided for any pension, and the family had been increased in 1867 by the birth of their first child, Augusta E. In July, 1870, their second child, Georgia, was born; yet Mrs. B. had to support her little ones, providing a nurse, etc., by the means she could earn teaching school; and she bravely succeeded.

In March, 1871, she went to Ithaca and taught two terms in the village school, and then returned to New Haven Township, continuing her profession. In February, 1873, she married Davis Wiles, and commenced the duties of a farmer's wife, then entirely new to her. The tide of prosperity then set in, and continued until April, 1877, when Mr. Wiles died, after bequeathing to her the homestead on section 29, New Haven Township. His father and brother resorted to litigation in order to obtain possession of her farm, which remained undecided for four years. This severe trial was a test of Mrs. W.'s bravery, fortitude and patience; but she won in the contest and retained her home. For her judicious management of this perplexing case, she has received many compliments.

In January, 1881, she married Mr. Lewis B. Wolford, and to them one child, Mary L., was born Aug. 12, 1882.

**James Buck**, farmer, section 14, Pine River Township, was born Oct. 21, 1837, in Canada, and is the son of John and Isabella (Potter) Buck. His father is a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother was born in Ireland. They settled in Canada for a time, and afterwards went to Ohio, where they yet reside.

Mr. Buck was an infant of one year or thereabouts when his parents removed to the Buckeye State, where he grew to man's estate, and remained a resident of Medina County until his removal to Michigan. In July, 1863, he enlisted in what was designated as Hoffman's Battalion, and was afterwards assigned to the 128th Ohio Vol. Inf. He was in the service two years, and at the close of the war was honorably discharged at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio. He came to Gratiot County in February, 1874, and bought 80 acres of land, chiefly in an unimproved condition, situated on section 17, and now

owned and occupied by Micajah Wood. Mr. Buck owned the place about eight years, and while he resided thereon cleared and fitted for cultivation 40 acres. He sold it in 1883, and purchased 80 acres, which he now occupies. Of this farm, 45 acres are under improvement. Mr. Buck belongs in political connection to the National Greenback party.

He was married Nov. 2, 1858, in Medina Co., Ohio, to Hannah, daughter of Seth and Phebe (Clark) Lewis, natives of the State of New York, who settled in Medina County, and still reside there. Mrs. Buck was born in the same county April 25, 1842. Allen D., Jennie A., Minnie M., John L. and Walter E. are the children belonging to the household. The mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Leora W. Montague**, farmer, section 11, Fulton Township, is a son of Thomas and Harriet (Rice) Montague, natives of Vermont, where they lived until the mother's death, Jan. 11, 1851. The father then removed to Ottawa Co., Mich., where he lived until March 5, 1860, when he was killed by the falling of a tree. His W., the fifth of a family of ten, was born in Vermont, Aug. 29, 1832, and was educated in the common schools.

At the age of 20 he left the paternal roof and went to Lucas Co., Ohio, where he worked by the month for two years. He was then at Grand Rapids, this State, for a year, and then at Granville, engaged in lumbering for eight years. Aug. 13, 1861, he enlisted in the 1st Regt. Mich. Eng'rs. and Mech's., and served nearly one year, when he was discharged on account of sickness. Returning to Michigan he settled on 160 acres in Ottawa County, which he had purchased previous to enlistment. There he lived three years, and then for two years again was employed by the month. In February, 1867, he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of partly improved land, where he now resides. He has 60 acres nicely under cultivation.

Aug. 17, 1862, in Ottawa County, he was united in marriage to Miss Amelia, daughter of Samuel B. and Sybil (Scaton) Brown, natives of the State of New York. She was born in Medina Co., Ohio, March 1, 1838. Mr. and Mrs. M. have two daughters:

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*James Paddock*



Edna M., born May 23, 1864, and Norma P., Sept. 6, 1874. Mr. M. has held the office of Highway Commissioner, and the various school offices. He and wife are adherents of the Presbyterian faith. Politically he is independent.

**J**ames Paddock, Probate Judge of Gratiot County, resident at St. Louis, was born in Waterloo, Jackson Co., Mich., March 4, 1842, and is a son of Griffin and Mary (Lincoln) Paddock. The line of his parental ancestors is of New York origin, and his grandfather came thence in 1836 to Jackson County, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death. His father was born Oct. 8, 1815, in Camillus, Onondaga Co., N. Y. He was a man of fine intellect, and studied for the vocation of a lawyer. He became eminent in his profession, which he has followed all his life. He went to Waterloo in 1836, and practiced in the Circuit Courts of Jackson ten years, removing to Ingham County in 1846, where he bought 160 acres of land in the township of White Oak. Soon after he located, he was elected Probate Judge of Ingham County, and moved to Mason to facilitate the discharge of the duties of the position, which he filled four years. He was then elected Circuit Court Commissioner, and served four years, after which he returned to his farm, and still resides thereon. The place is in an unusually advanced state of cultivation, and is highly creditable to the taste and sense of its proprietor. The mother died there Oct. 8, 1883.

Until the age of 22 years, Mr. Paddock remained at home. He obtained a solid fundamental education at the schools of the section where he resided, and was reared to the vocation of agriculture. In 1864, he took charge of his father's farm, and continued its management until 1868. In that year he came to St. Louis, and, associated with James K. Wright, opened an office for the transaction of business in real estate and insurance. The relation existed about a year, when he was elected Justice of the Peace, and, with the exception of a single year, he has held the incumbency ever since, meanwhile continuing to prosecute his real-estate and insurance

business. In 1870, he commenced to read law with J. K. Wright, and in 1875 was admitted to practice in all the State Courts. He was nominated in the fall of 1880 for the position of Probate Judge, and was elected over the Fusion candidate by a majority of 227 votes. In political connection, he is a Republican of decided type, and has served four years as Clerk of the village of St. Louis. He has served two years as a member of the Village Board of Trustees. He owns a fine residence at St. Louis, a farm of 40 acres in Bethany Township, one of the same dimensions in Pine River Township, and a third, containing 120 acres, in Ingham County.

Judge Paddock was married Jan. 1, 1865, in White Oak, Ingham Co., Mich., to Sarah Post. She was born Aug. 17, 1842, in Iosco, Livingston Co., Mich., and is the daughter of William C. and Ursula (Smith) Post. The household of Judge Paddock includes a lively and promising family of five children. The eldest was born June 26, 1868, in White Oak. Bertha, Katie, Alice, James, Jessie and an infant yet unnamed were born at St. Louis. Bertha and Katie are deceased.

Judge Paddock's portrait appears on the opposite page. The fine character of its prototype, his stainless record, and public and private position, render it an meritorious addition to the gallery of portraits of the prominent citizens of Gratiot County contained in this volume.

**S**amuel Sheller, farmer on section 10, Fulton Township, is a son of Henry and Sarah (Gantz) Sheller, of German descent. They first settled in Washington Co., Pa., and removed later to Seneca Co., Ohio, where they lived until their death. Samuel was born in Washington Co., Pa., Jan. 24, 1823, and was about ten years old when his parents removed to Ohio. He received a very limited education in the common schools, but only before going to Ohio.

He lived with his father until 24 years old, when he went to Hancock Co., Ohio, where he had a farm of 100 acres given him by his father. He resided there 20 years, and then sold out. After six months in Morrow County, he purchased 80 acres near Fos-

toria, in Seneca County, where he lived nine years; and then traded for 120 acres in Fulton Township, this county, where he now resides. He has 90 acres cleared and in a good state of cultivation.

June 15, 1848, in Seneca Co., Ohio, he married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Susannah Hartman, natives of Pennsylvania, where Mrs. S. was born, March 19, 1824. By this marriage there have been 11 children, of whom eight survive: William H., Amos, Mary E., Francis M., Jacob M., Noble R., Chauncey B. and Imo E. The deceased are Samuel H., and two who died in infancy. Politically, Mr. Sheller is independent, with a leaning toward the Republican party.

**Carl A. Sheffield**, hardware merchant at St. Louis, was born in Huron, Erie Co., Ohio, Aug. 31, 1837, and is a son of Augustus and Clarissa (Pangborn) Sheffield. In early life his father was a shoemaker and, later, gave his attention successively to the callings of lumberman and grocer, and finally was concerned in the erection of an extensive machine shop at Findlay, Ohio, in which he retained his interest for a number of years. He died about the year 1864, in Texas, Ohio. The mother was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and is now residing at Findlay. Of a large family of children, four only are living. Mr. Sheffield of this sketch is the eldest; Hattie is the wife of John Bolton, a traveling salesman of Findlay, Ohio; Jean is a tinsmith at Charlotte, Mich.; Clara is the wife of Alvin Nichols, a photographer at Findlay.

Mr. Sheffield was but nine years of age when his parents removed to Findlay, and he was there a resident until he had reached the age of 25 years. He acquired a substantial elementary education, and studied one year at the Wesleyan University of Ohio. In 1857 he began to read law under the direction of Messrs. O'Neil & Blackford, a distinguished law firm of Findlay. He remained in their office two years, when he was admitted to the Bar. He entered upon the duties of a practitioner, but at last combined the labors of a teacher therewith and gave much attention to the latter business. He taught school successively in Texas, Defiance, Macomb and Ottawa in Ohio, and in the two last named places officiated

two years in each as Principal of the schools. In the fall of 1864 he enlisted at Findlay in Co. A, 178th Ohio Vol. Inf., and was in the service until the termination of the war, serving as regimental clerk. On his discharge from the army he went to Blanchard, Ohio, and opened a hardware store, where he operated about 18 months. In 1870 he came to Alma, Mich., and there established himself in the same business. He is the founder of what is known as Ellison Corners, where he operated about a year and a half. He came thence to St. Louis, where he purchased the interest of Mr. Saint, of the firm of Saint & Shiffer, hardware dealers on Main Street. The new association removed their stock to the Suddam Block, and in December, 1871, were burned out, losing \$5,000 with no insurance. Two months later they opened their business in the Ringenberg property under the firm style of Shiffer & Sheffield. In August of the same year Mr. Sheffield became sole proprietor of the business and its relations by purchase, and has since conducted his affairs alone. He carries a fine and judiciously assorted stock and is doing a prosperous business, requiring several assistants.

He is a member of the Order of Masonry, of the Royal Arcanum and belongs to the G. A. R. Post at Louis, and has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since his sixteenth year.

The marriage of Mr. Sheffield to Mary, daughter of Hyman G. Coates occurred near Macomb, Ohio, in the year 1862. Following are the names of the children born of this marriage: William (deceased), Arthur, Otie, Grace and Charles (twins), and Mamie.

**Lewis B. Miller**, resident at Alma, was born Feb. 8, 1824, in Fayette Co., Pa. He is a son of Ludwig and Barbara (Baysinger) Miller, who were natives of the same county.

Mr. Miller resided in the Keystone State until 1866, devoting his attention to farming. Here he cleared and nicely improved the greater part of a 160-acre farm, on which he lived 16 years. At the date named, he came to Isabella County, where he bought 234 acres of land, with 25 acres improved. On this he lived five years, and cleared 90 acres. He

had 20 acres additional in "stumps," and had erected a suitable and convenient farm house, when he exchanged the estate for property at St. Louis, to which place he removed, and remained there between six and seven years. He also owned 80 acres of land in Pine River Township, which he managed and labored to improve for four years, when he sold out. He exchanged his property at St. Louis for 75 acres in Pine River Township, whither he removed. He remained on it five years, cleared about 30 acres, and fenced the entire property. Among other improvements, he set out a fine orchard. In the spring of 1883, he sold this property for \$3,500, and took up his residence at Alma, where he had previously started a livery stable. In October, 1883, he disposed of the last named business. He is now erecting a feed store. He is independent in political connections, and has held the various school offices in Pine River Township.

Mr. Miller was married in Fayette Co., Pa., Nov. 28, 1847, to Barbara, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Yates. She was born in the county where she was married, Aug. 5, 1823. Of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, two died in infancy. The survivors are: Joseph L., Robert, Andrew J., Ludwig, Ellen and William M.

**J**ohn S. Wright, farmer on section 3, Fulton Township, is a son of John and Sarah (Barnaby) Wright, natives of England. They came to the United States in the spring of 1853 and settled in Ohio, where they lived about two years. In the spring of 1855 they came to Gratiot County, and settled in North Shade Township, where the father died, April 3, 1876. The mother yet survives.

The eldest son, John, was born in England, Jan. 3, 1837, and came at the age of 16 with his parents to America. He was 18 years old when they settled in Gratiot County. In the spring of 1859 he purchased 40 acres on section 10, Fulton Township, and built a log house. He has since added 115 acres by purchase, and has 100 acres nicely improved. In the summer of 1881 he erected a fine brick residence on section 3, where he now resides.

July 3, 1859, in North Shade Township, he married Angenett, daughter of Isaac and Sarah Garner

and widow of Benjamin Camp. Mrs. Wright's parents were natives of New York State, where she also was born, Feb. 23, 1837. She and her husband are the parents of eight living children: Sarah E., Ermina M., John S., Emma J., William H., Burt E., Hattie L. and Lillie M. Arthur B. and Henrietta are deceased. Mr. Camp, Mrs. Wright's first husband, died in Wayne Co., Mich., in the summer of 1858, and by him she had one son, Adelbert.

Mr. Wright enlisted Sept. 8, 1864, in the 29th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served till the close of the war, being discharged at Murfreesboro, Tenn. He fought at Decatur, Ala., and in a number of skirmishes. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and in political sentiment is a Democrat.

**M**artin V. Smith, senior member of the firm of M. V. Smith & Co., real-estate, insurance and loan agents, St. Louis, was born March 24, 1839, in Tioga Co., N. Y., and is a son of Stephen and Eleanor (Van Vliet) Smith. His father was a farmer and a native of Schuyler Co., N. Y. He removed with his family to Jackson County, Iowa, in 1861, and died there in 1865. The mother was born in Schuyler County and died in Jackson Co., Iowa, in 1864.

Mr. Smith was educated in the common schools and reared to manhood on a farm. He accompanied his parents to Iowa and was there engaged in farming until 1865, when he opened a grocery in Maquoketa, Jackson County, associated with his brother, Stephen S. Smith. This connection existed two years, when he engaged in the business of a liveryman and in purchase and sale of stock in the same place until 1869, when he went to Labette County, Kansas. After a brief delay he went to Springfield, Mo., and spent several years in the stock business. He returned to Jackson Co., Iowa, where he passed some time in inaction, suffering from an affection of the eyes, which rendered close application to business dangerous. He passed a year at East Saginaw, and in the spring of 1877 he came to St. Louis, and in company with William A. McOmber, opened an office as a real-estate agent. Two years later the firm became Smith, Faunce & Brooks, and not long after other transfers of business made the firm

style Smith, Tripp & Garbut. Later it became Paddock, Giddings & Smith, which relation soon ceased, and Mr. Smith was again associated with his former partner, Mr. McOmber. The last connection was entered into July 5, 1883, and is still in operation. Mr. Smith is the owner and proprietor of a large and fine residence on Main Street, six lots on Franklin Street, and one on Washington Avenue; also 40 acres on section 1, Pine River Township, which is all under improvement, with dwelling, barns, orchards and other attractions; also 40 acres of land on section 12, Bethany Township; also 80 acres in Coe Township, Isabella County, which is under improvements; also 40 acres on section 12, Pine River Township, in improved condition and under cultivation.

**J**ohn O. Lumsden, lumberman and cashier for A. W. Wright, with whom he is also associated in the lumbering business in the firm of Geo. D. Barton & Co., their mill and yard being located at Alma, was born March 5, 1856, at Detroit. His father, John Lumsden, was a native of Scotland, and his mother was born in England. The parents were married at Hampton Court Palace, England, and in 1837 came to America. They settled on the banks of the Hudson River, in the State of New York, and there became agriculturists. Two years later—in 1839—they came to Detroit and engaged in farming. The farm was situated between Woodward and Cass Avenues, and extended one mile south. The father died Feb. 20, 1881, in Detroit. The mother is still resident there. The family included seven children.

Mr. Lumsden was the third son of his parents, and remained under their jurisdiction until he was 14 years old, when he became shipping clerk in the business house of A. W. Copeland. After a service there of five years, he embarked in business on his own responsibility, and opened a produce and commission establishment, which he continued to conduct with varying success until June, 1881. At that date, he engaged as clerk with Mr. Wright in his office at Saginaw City. Six months later, he came to Alma as a representative of the interests of his employer, and

in October, 1882, became associated with him in his lumber mill, which he is still managing.

Mr. Lumsden was married in Detroit Dec. 6, 1882, to Belle H., daughter of Hugh and Mary Louise (Copeland) Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Lumsden are the happy parents of one child, born Oct. 17, 1883.

They are communicants in the Episcopal Church. Mr. Lumsden is a Republican of the most radical type.

**H**ylvester B. Heverlo, Treasurer of Gratiot County, resident at Ithaca, was born Sept. 7, 1836, in that part of Delaware Co., Ohio, which is now known as Morrow County. He is a son of Barnet and Mary (Smith) Heverlo. His father was descended from Welsh ancestors, and was born in Delaware; he died in Morrow Co., Ohio. The mother was born in Maryland, and died in the same county in the Buckeye State.

Mr. Heverlo spent the time previous to arriving at the age of 18 years, alternately in attendance at school and in farm labor. At that age he became a pupil at Mount Hesper Seminary, where he remained four years. He engaged in teaching five years and then in sheep-raising on his father's farm. This occupation he followed five years. In 1867 he formed an association with several parties in a general mercantile business, the firm being known under the style of Clark, Heverlo & Co. The partnership existed a little less than three years, and on its dissolution in 1871 he moved to Alma and established himself in the grocery trade, which he continued in that avenue solely until 1878, when he added boots and shoes to his stock. In the fall of 1882 he was elected Treasurer of the county on the Fusion ticket, running ahead of his ticket largely and receiving his election by a majority of 272 votes. While in business at Alma he filled many important positions of trust and responsibility.

Mr. Heverlo was married at Duplain, Clinton Co., Mich., March 5, 1867, to Mrs. K. K. Cobb, daughter of Joseph and Deborah A. Keen and widow of John T. Cobb. She was born in Delaware Co., Ohio. Her only child by her first marriage, Montruel Cobb, is deceased. Three children have been born of her marriage to Mr. Heverlo: Arthur K. (deceased), Jesse F. and Bertha M.

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*James Wood*

**J**ames Wood, farmer, section 29, Pine River Township, was born Jan. 13, 1817, in Madison Co., N. Y. His parents, David and Esther (Hunt) Wood, were also natives of the Empire State, and the father died there. The mother came to Michigan and passed the latter years of her life, dying about the year 1874.

Mr. Wood spent the years of his minority in obtaining a common-school education and in acquiring a practical knowledge of the vocation of agriculture. He found himself at 21 years of age with his future to make unaided, save by his own merits and exertions, and he entered bravely into the struggle. He spent four years as a laborer by the month, after which he adopted the plan of working farms on shares. At the end of three years he found himself in circumstances to warrant his operating more independently, and he bought 100 acres of land in Madison County, which he managed nearly four years. At the expiration of that time he found it desirable to change his business and he devoted the ensuing six years to operations in a saw-mill and in the manufacture of cheese boxes.

The agricultural capacities of Michigan after her admission as a State, increased in popularity with augmenting speed and strength, and Mr. Wood determined to make a venture in a portion of the State which seemed to offer rich promise, and he decided upon Gratiot County as a desirable point, from its proximity to civilization and its apparent resources. He came hither in the spring of 1855 and bought 160 acres in Pine River Township, on which he established his homestead and where he has since resided. His land was all in primeval forest and he set himself vigorously to the work of clearing and improving, and now has one-half of his original acreage in the finest state of culture. Mr. Wood is a Republican in political sentiment and action, and has served his township three years as Road Commissioner.

The marriage of Mr. Wood to Deborah Cornell occurred April 4, 1841, in Dryden, Tompkins Co., N. Y. She was born April 3, 1820, in Madison Co., N. Y., and is the daughter of Elijah and Eunice Cornell. She is a sister of the late Ezra Cornell,

founder of the University at Ithaca, N. Y., which will bear an honorable name through successive generations to come, in a perpetuity whose endurance will rank only with its merits. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wood, as follows: Eunice C., April 25, 1842; Daniel C., Jan. 29, 1844; W. Irving, Dec. 31, 1846; Alice E., June 30, 1848 (died Dec. 10, 1873); Ella F., May 22, 1850; Corydon L., Sept. 30, 1852; Frederick, Jan. 29, 1855; Edith M., Oct. 13, 1857 (died March 31, 1858); Ida J., March 8, 1859; Lucretia M., Aug. 15, 1862. W. Irving became a soldier and lost his life in defense of his country. June 18, 1864.

How sleep the brave who sink to rest,  
By all their country's wishes blest!

The portrait of Mr. Wood appears on the last page. It is the likeness of a man who has wrought success and an honorable name by his integrity and usefulness in his generation, and by undeviating effort in the line of duty and honor.

**T**homas J. Gulick, physician and farmer, section 27, Lafayette Township, is a son of Henry and Rachel (Manning) Gulick, natives of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, respectively. They first settled in Ohio, and then after two years moved to Davis Co., Ind., where they remained ten years, and where Mrs. Gulick died Sept. 4, 1820. Then he removed to Seneca Co., N. Y., and finally came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., and passed the remaining eight years of his life with his son Thomas. The latter was the second of seven children, and was born in Davis Co., Ind., Sept. 4, 1820. Until 24 years of age, he worked hard on his father's farm, and his education was consequently very limited. Perceiving the advantages to be derived from a good education, he obtained one as he best could. He is a self-made man, made what he is by close application. Often did he sit up nights to study by the light of a pine knot. He had three uncles who were physicians, one of whom, Hon. Jehiel H. Halsey, an ex-Congressman from New York, rendered Thomas assistance by good advice and pecuniary loans. On leaving home, he went to Bradford Co., Pa., where he was principally engaged in farming for two years. The next eight years he

passed in Seneca Co., N. Y. In February, 1854, he came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., where he followed farming until 1867, when he went to Iowa. There he lived on a farm for a time. Returning to Hillsdale County, he remained there till February, 1874, when he came to Gratiot County. He bought 160 acres, nearly all wild land, on section 27, Lafayette Township, where he has since resided, farming and practicing medicine. He has about 50 acres under cultivation.

He was first married in Seneca Co., N. Y., Sept. 8, 1844, to Phebe Jane Pollard, a native of New York. They had two children, Mary E. and Benjamin F., the former of whom died at the age of 16. Mrs. Gulick died May 24, 1859, and he was again married in Hillsdale Co., Mich., Sept. 24, 1859, to Mary E. Barber, a native of New York, born Sept. 26, 1831. This union has been blessed by four children,—Henry, Rachel E., Thomas J. and George N.

Dr. Gulick was Health Commissioner three years, and State Road Commissioner one year. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and is in politics a Jacksonian Democrat. For 15 years, he was an efficient minister of the gospel, though he at the same time followed other occupations for a livelihood.

**J**ohn M. Montigel, senior member of the firm of J. M. Montigel & Co., at Alma, was born Dec. 3, 1822, in Germany, and is the son of Ferdinand and Regina E. (Dold) Montigel. His parents were born, married, lived and died in Germany.

Mr. Montigel remained in his native country until he was 32 years old, when he came to the United States and settled in Erie, Pa. He was employed in a foundry there, and continued to reside at that point ten years. In 1863 he went to Ashtabula, Ohio, bought out a foundry, and established himself in business. He continued the management of his affairs there eight years and sold out. In the fall of 1871 he came to Alma, and commenced operating in his present line of business, which includes a foundry, wagon and carriage works, and a general repair shop. He is associated with John F. Schwartz, and the firm is known as J. M. Montigel & Co. The

concern transacts a degree of business yearly that is represented by \$20,000 in the aggregate.

Mr. Montigel was married in Erie, Pa., March 5, 1857, to Anna Barbara Segrist. She was born March 26, 1825, in Switzerland, and came to the United States about the year 1850. They have had three children: Ferdinand, Martin and Wilhelmine. Mr. Montigel is a Republican in political sentiment and action, and both himself and wife are members of the Congregational Church.

**D**ouglass Hyatt, farmer on section 2, Fulton Township, is a son of James and Elizabeth (Sutphen) Hyatt, natives of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. They first settled in Yates Co., N. Y., where she died. He died in 1875.

Douglass was born in Yates Co., N. Y., Oct. 10, 1824. He received his education in the common schools, and remained with his father until 30 years of age. He then worked his father's farm on shares for seven years.

Coming to Gratiot County in the spring of 1866, he bought 40 acres of wild land on section 2, Fulton Township, and at once set about building a log cabin and improving his land. He has since added 40 acres, and of his whole farm 50 acres are now well cultivated.

Sept. 25, 1853, in Ontario Co., N. Y., he was married to Miss Susan, daughter of Robert and Sophia (Yakely) Robinson, natives respectively of Scotland and Orange Co., N. Y. Mrs. H. was born in Albany, N. Y., July 14, 1835. They have seven children: Alpha L., Harriet I., Libbie M., James L., John H., Nettie S. and Albert D. William U. and Charles E. are deceased. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and is politically a Democrat.

**J**ames W. Howd, clerk and manager of the loan and real-estate office of Gen. Nathan Church, at Ithaca, was born July 5, 1841, in Wayne Co., N. Y., and is the son of John W. and Elizabeth (Sutherland) Howd. His father was born in the State of New York, of English and Scotch ancestry, and during the early part of his



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*Alvin Hodges*

life was a carpenter and joiner by trade. In 1845 he removed his family and interests to Branch Co., Mich., and bought 120 acres of land six miles west of Coldwater. On this the family resided some years and made important and valuable improvements. In 1851 they removed to a farm of 80 acres located near Rome Center, Lenawee Co., Mich., which they owned and occupied one year. At the end of that time the senior Howd bought a grist-mill located on the river Raisin, six miles northwest of Adrian, called the Warsaw Mills, which he managed nearly one year, and afterward engaged in buying and shipping cattle, sheep and hogs. Sept. 3, 1854, he came alone to Gratiot County, and bought 225 acres of land on section 18, North Star Township. He employed assistants and built a log house and arranged to occupy the place with his family. He settled there with his wife, two sons and three daughters in the spring of 1855. He helped to organize and had the honor of naming the township. The father and sons went about the work of clearing away the forest and put 60 acres in first-class condition. When the Southern Rebellion broke out their agricultural affairs were in a most promising condition. The sentiment which pervaded the whole North was shared by the settlers of Gratiot County, and Mr. Howd, of this sketch, enlisted Aug. 13, 1861, at Ovid, Clinton County, enrolling as a private in Co. D, 1st Mich. Cav., Capt. J. B. Parks. He was in the service three years, and was in several engagements previous to November, 1862, when the company was placed on detached duty as "Provost Guard," at Alexandria, Va., where it remained until August, 1864. Mr. Howd was mustered out at Washington, D. C., receiving his discharge at Detroit. On his return to his home he was appointed Under-Sheriff by David Bailey, Sheriff, and occupied the position over two years. In 1866 he associated with Giles T. Brown, in the prosecution of pension and bounty claims. This relation existed about two years. In 1870 he was appointed Deputy County Clerk, under Gen. Nathan Church. Two years later he was elected Justice of the Peace and filled the office several years in succession. This office he had also held from 1867 to 1870. His next appointment was as Deputy County Clerk, under William B. Scattergood, where he officiated for six years, having entire charge of the office during the last year of Mr. Scattergood's term of office.

In 1881 he entered the service of General Church in the business in which he is now engaged, and in which he has since continued. Upon the organization of the township of Ithaca in 1881, he was elected Justice of the Peace for a short term. Being re-elected in 1882, he is still the incumbent of the office. He is a member of the blue lodge, Masonic Order, and belongs to the fraternity of Knights of Honor. He is also a member of Moses Wisner Post, No. 101, G. A. R.

Mr. Howd was married Aug. 12, 1866, at Alma, to Emma G., daughter of William and Lois A. Moyer. William C., eldest child, was born Nov. 2, 1867, and died Sept. 10, 1868. Lois E., born Sept. 26, 1870, and James G., born July 9, 1881, are the surviving children.

Mr. Howd owns his residence and two lots therewith; also several business lots in Ithaca, upon one of which he has erected a business building, two stories in height, 22 by 65 feet in dimensions. He owns also 80 acres on section 4, Newark Township, a half interest in 160 acres on the same section, besides 40 acres on section 15, Lafayette Township.

**R**ivin Hodges, deceased, late farmer on section 8, Fulton Township, was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Nov. 3, 1834, and is the son of Alanson and Lucy (Pool) Hodges, both of American ancestry. He was the second son of a family of five children, and lived with his parents until he attained his majority.

In 1855, he came to Eaton County, this State, where he was engaged in farming until December, 1864. He then came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres on section 8, Fulton Township. During his life, he added largely to his estate by purchase, and also sold some land. He was at times the possessor of 600 or 700 acres of land, and at the time of his death owned 430 acres, 200 of which were under cultivation. He had also erected good farm buildings. For 10 or twelve years he dealt in staves, in connection with his other business.

April 7, 1860, in Barry Co., Mich., he took as the life partner of his joys Miss Amelia, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Dills) Van Volkenburg, natives of the State of New York. The father died April 5,

1870; the mother yet survives. Mrs. Hodges was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Nov. 26, 1833. She and Mr. H. had two children: Ada A., died July 6, 1875, when 13 years old; and Estelle M., died April 13, 1873, aged 18. Mr. Hodges held the offices of Highway Commissioner, Township Treasurer and School Treasurer. He was politically a Republican, and was at the time of his death a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows' fraternities. His death occurred March 18, 1882, at his home in Fulton Township.

As one of the worthy representative pioneers of Gratiot County, as well as of Michigan, we present the portrait of Mr. Hodges in connection with this sketch.

**J**acob H. Miller, millwright and miller, section 34, Pine River Township, is a son of Henry and Barbara (Scease) Miller, natives of Somerset Co., Pa. They were married and first settled in Pennsylvania, and afterwards removed to Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, where they resided until death. Their family comprised 14, seven of each sex. Jacob H., the subject of this biographical notice, was born in Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, Nov. 19, 1823, and was the fifth son. He received a common-school education, and when 16 years old was employed by his oldest brother in a flouring mill for three years. For the ensuing two years, he was overseer in his father's and brother's mill; and he has been similarly engaged to the present time. He came to Gratiot County in the winter of 1867, and built the first flouring mill of any consequence in Alma, for James Gargett. He also built the mill now used as a hoop-mill by F. H. Hamlin & Co.

July 3, 1843, in Holmes Co., Ohio, he was united in marriage to Sarah, daughter of Abraham and Susanna Troyer, natives of Pennsylvania. She was a native of Holmes Co., Ohio, and was born March 24, 1822. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have had nine children: Magdalene, Susanna (deceased), Barbara, Daniel A., Jacob H. (deceased), Benjamin, Jane, Thomas W. and Sarah E. (deceased).

In the spring of 1883, he traded his village property for his present farm of 38 acres, 15 of which are

under cultivation. In the spring of 1881, he was elected a Trustee for the village of Alma; but he resigned after serving one year. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and politically is a staunch Republican.

**E**vi Ceasar, farmer on section 24, Fulton Township, is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Hoffer) Ceasar. He is of German and Swiss descent, and was born in Northumberland Co., Pa., Nov. 14, 1814. When he was ten years old his parents removed to Wayne Co., Ohio, where they died. In February, 1841, he removed to Fulton Co., Ohio, where he lived 13 years.

In 1854 he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of wild land on section 24, Fulton Township, where he now lives. He has put up excellent buildings, and now owns 126 acres, of which 96 are under cultivation.

In April, 1840, in Wayne Co., Ohio, he married Miss Angelina Cane, a native of that county. She bore him one son, Henry W., and died about 1845. Feb. 18, 1848, he married Catherine, daughter of Philip and Catherine Brodbeck, natives of Germany. She was born in Maryland, Sept. 20, 1832. Mr. and Mrs. C. have had seven children, six of whom survive: James F., Matilda A., Sarah C., Alma G., Alvin A., Ida A. and Eda A. Alma G. died when two months old. Mr. C. has held the office of Superintendent of Highways for several years, and has also been School Inspector. He and wife have formerly been members of the United Brethren Church. Politically he is a Democrat.

**M**arcus Bancroft, farmer, section 13, Arcada Township, was born at Nelson, Portage Co., Ohio, within a few miles of Hiram College (Pres. Garfield's *alma mater*), Sept. 28, 1834, and is the son of Austin and Nancy (Morris) Bancroft, natives of Connecticut, and of English ancestry. The Bancroft family is distantly connected with the historian Bancroft. Austin Bancroft has been a farmer, and still resides in Portage Co., Ohio, aged 76.

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*Lydia M. Peet-*



*K. P. Peet*

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The subject of this sketch lived with his parents until of age, obtaining a fair education in the schools of his county. March 4, 1857, he was united in marriage at Ravenna, Ohio, to Cynthia Hannah, daughter of David and Cynthia (Mills) Hannah, natives of Connecticut, and of Irish and English descent. They followed farming, and are both dead, the mother dying when the daughter was but six months old. The latter was born in Nelson, Portage County, Feb. 15, 1839, was there educated, and there lived until her marriage.

Mr. Bancroft farmed in his native county until Feb. 9, 1865, when he enlisted in Co. E, 196th Ohio Vol. Inf., under Captain Baker. The company served under Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, in the Army of the Cumberland. He was honorably discharged at Baltimore, Sept. 11, 1865, after nine months' service. In the fall of 1866, he and family came to Ithaca, this county, where he worked the following winter. May 3, 1867, he purchased 80 acres of timbered land on section 13, Arcada Township. He has put 60 acres under the plow, and erected a comfortable residence and barn. They have two children: Jennie, born July 15, 1869, and Hallie A., born May 13, 1871. Mr. Bancroft is an able farmer, and a good citizen. He votes with the Democratic party.

**R**osciusko P. Peet, of the firm of Peet & Johnson, liverymen at Ithaca, and Sheriff of Gratiot County, was born Oct. 19, 1843, in Rochester, Lorain Co., Ohio. His father, John Peet, was born Aug. 5, 1801, on Long Mountain, Conn., and was of mixed English and Welsh lineage. He was a shoemaker in early life, and in later years became a farmer. He died at Jamestown, Ottawa Co., Mich., March 3, 1881. The mother, Betsey (Clark) Peet, was born in 1803, in Penfield, Monroe Co., N. Y., and died in Rochester, Ohio, Feb. 4, 1860. They had 13 children, 12 of whom grew to maturity.

Mr. Peet is the 12th child of his parents, and acquired a fair education in the common schools, and when he was 19 years old he went to the academy at Savannah, Ohio, where he studied one year. Two of his brothers, Charles D. and Rolla A., enlisted in

the spring of 1863 as soldiers for the Union, enrolling in Co. B, 1st Ohio Light Artillery. Mr. Peet also enlisted Aug. 24, 1864, as a private in Co. I in the same regiment, Capt. Hubert Dilger. He was discharged June 13, 1865, and returned to Rochester, where, in the following spring, associated with his brother Rolla, he embarked in dairy business and stock-raising. They spent a year in the manufacture of butter and cheese and sold out. In the spring of 1867 they removed to Kent Co., Mich., where Mr. Peet bought 84 acres of land on section 6, Bowne Township. A year later, he bought 140 acres on section 31, Lowell Township, and there resided until the fall of 1872, when he exchanged property with his father, who had bought and settled on a farm of 50 acres in Jamestown, Ottawa Co., Mich. Mr. Peet resided there until the spring of 1875, when the exchange was reconsidered, and the places passed into the possession of their original owners. In the fall of that year, Mr. Peet engaged to teach a winter term of school (an occupation he has followed several terms) at Centerville, Caledonia Township, and then exchanged his farm for 320 acres of land on section 31, Lafayette Township, Gratiot County. It was all in timber, and he proceeded to clear and improve 100 acres, on which he has placed farm buildings and fixtures of the most creditable character. He devotes most of the acreage to the production of hay, and with his brother, R. A., and N. G. Peet, his cousin, is interested in the raising of Holstein stock. He owns a fine young registered thorough-bred heifer, which he bought when she was two years old, at Meadville, Pa. He is also engaged in raising fine blooded horses.

Mr. Peet belongs to the National Greenback party, and in the fall of 1882 he was elected Sheriff of Gratiot County by a majority of 187 votes on the Fusion ticket. He moved to Ithaca Dec. 22, 1882, and in the summer of 1883 he formed his present business relation with D. C. Johnson, and erected the building they now occupy as a livery stable. It is 40 x 80 feet, and is two stories in height. Their business is in a flourishing condition. Mr. Peet has held the offices of Township Supervisor two years, Clerk one year, School Superintendent two years, School Director a long time, and numerous minor offices. He is a member of the Knights Templar, Masonic Order.

Mr. Peet was married April 8, 1864, at Adrian, Mich., to Lydia M., daughter of Isaac J. and Clarissa A. (Rising) Sage, the former a native of New York, and of English and Welsh descent. She was born Jan. 3, 1847, in Huntington, Lorain Co., Ohio.

She was the youngest of eleven of her father's children, and the youngest of nine children born to her mother. Her parents moved to Ohio in 1818, where her father died about 20 years ago. Her mother is still living and residing in California, at the advanced age of 75 years. Mrs. Peet attended a course of a year and a half at college, at Savannah, Ohio, with a view of taking charge of the female department of her brother's medical infirmary in California. The six children of Mr. and Mrs. Peet were born as follows: K. Rolla, Dec. 29, 1864, at Rochester, Ohio, where also a daughter, L. Amarette, was born Jan. 11, 1867; Susie E. was born Dec. 8, 1868, in Lowell, Mich.; C. D. was born Dec. 22, 1873, at Jamestown; J. Raymond was born Nov. 3, 1877, in Lafayette Township; James O. was born in the same township Aug. 10, 1881.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Peet on preceding pages are those of citizens of Gratiot County who have been active in the best general interests of their generation, and who have achieved success by effort and perseverance in laudable enterprises.

**A**rren W. Baker, farmer on section 9, Fulton Township, is a son of Philip S. and Hannah A. (Pearl) Baker, natives respectively of Westchester Co., N. Y., and Connecticut. They lived first in Tioga Co., N. Y., then in Huron Co., Ohio, and then in Lorain Co., Ohio, where the mother died. The father died in Erie Co., Ohio.

The subject of this narrative was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., Jan. 13, 1823, and was 11 years old when his parents removed to Ohio. He received a good common-school education, and lived under his father's roof until 27 years of age. He then rented a farm for a few years, after which he went to Fulton Co., Ohio. There he bought a farm on which he lived two years. In the fall of 1854 he came to Gratiot County and bought 120 acres of wild land on section 10, Fulton Township. Here he built a log

house and lived until the spring of 1865. In the fall of that year he purchased 162 acres on section 9, where he now resides. He has since added 78 acres, and has improved 200 acres of his farm, which is well cultivated.

Feb. 24, 1850, in Erie Co., Ohio, he married Cornelia A., daughter of William and Margaret (Lewis) Rosecrans, who was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., Oct. 27, 1834. This marriage has been blessed with five children: John C., Clara A., Oscar M., Lewis L. and Edwin N. In political sentiment, Mr. Baker is a Democrat. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.

**J**ames H. McNall, farmer, section 20, Lafayette Township, is a son of John and Lura (Kellogg) McNall, the former born in Canada in 1801, and the latter in Massachusetts in 1816. During their wedded life, they settled in Niagara Co., N. Y., where he is still living, at the advanced age of 83. The wife died in 1860. It was in Niagara County that James H. was born Jan. 28, 1839. In his youth, he attended the common schools of his neighborhood, and also spent two years at the Gaspport Academy, and two years at the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in Lima, Livingston Co., N. Y. His home was with his parents until he was 26 years of age, when he bought a farm of 60 acres in his native county. After cultivating this for a short time, he sold out and bought another farm, 100 acres in extent, in the same county. He resided here 11 years, and then sold again, removing to Middleport, and engaging in mercantile life for three years. Disposing of his interest in this business, he came with his brother in April, 1881, to Gratiot County, and settled in Lafayette Township. Here he had previously bought a farm of 360 acres, which he has since divided with his brother. He now owns 160 acres, about 70 of which have been under the plow.

He was married in Middleport, Niagara Co., N. Y., Nov. 10, 1864, to Harriet E., daughter of Benjamin F. and Harriet (Waterman) Freeman, natives of Niagara County. The latter died when the daughter was but two years old, but the former is still living. Mrs. McNall was born Aug. 12, 1845, in Kent Co., Mich., where her parents owned 1,000 acres of land, and where they lived about two years.

Mr. and Mrs. McNall have two children: Laura A., born Aug. 23, 1866, and Benjamin F., born May 17, 1874.

In the spring of 1883, Mr. McNall was chosen Supervisor of Lafayette Township, which office he now holds. In politics, he is a staunch Republican.

**L**evi G. White, farmer, section 21, Pine River Township, was born in Plainfield, Hampshire Co., Mass., Oct. 13, 1821, and is the son of Norman and Albina (Gloyd) White. The family removed to Lake Co., Ohio, in 1825, and went afterwards to Medina County in the same State.

Mr. White remained at home with his parents until he was 24 years old and followed farming as a vocation. His eyes became diseased and for some years he occupied his time in peddling. He came to Gratiot County in February, 1865, and bought 40 acres of land, nearly all of which was in an unimproved condition. He now owns 80 acres and has one half his place under fair cultivation. Mr. White is a Republican in political faith and has held the various school offices in his district. While in Ohio, he was for three years Assessor of his township.

He was married Oct. 16, 1845, in Medina County, Ohio, to Fanny W., daughter of Seth and Mehitabel (Randall) Robinson, natives of Massachusetts. Mrs. White was born in Plainfield, Hampshire County, March 3, 1824. Three of ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. White are deceased. Those surviving are: James H., Annie E., Elliott L., Florence E., Myra A., Edward F. and Alta M.

**L**ewis Hood, farmer, section 27, Lafayette Township, is a son of William and Louisa (Bartlett) Hood, natives of New York. They came to Michigan in an early day, and settled in Lenawee County, where Mr. Hood took up 160 acres of land, and he has resided on it ever since. Mrs. Hood died in December, 1883. Lewis was born in that county July 21, 1840. At the age of 18 he left home and learned the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked till 1881. In the

spring of 1876, he came with his family to Gratiot County, and located in Ithaca, where he resided for nearly six years, working at his trade. He then exchanged his property in the village for 160 acres of partly improved land on section 27, in Lafayette Township, where he now lives.

He was married in Hillsdale Co., Mich., Jan. 31, 1863, to Elizabeth J., second daughter of Richard R. and Ellen (Collins) Britten, natives of New York, who came to Michigan in an early day, and settled in Hillsdale County, where Mr. Britten died, in the fall of 1875. His wife is still a resident of Hillsdale County. Mrs. Hood was born April 11, 1840, and lived at home (except seven years spent in teaching) until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Hood have had two children, but one of whom now survives. Dora D. was born Dec. 27, 1865; Myrtie M. was born June 10, 1871, and died June 6, 1872.

Mr. Hood was elected School Director in the fall of 1883. He is a member of the Masonic Order. He and wife and daughter are members of the Presbyterian Church. In politics, Mr. Hood is a Democrat.

**W**illiam H. Brower, farmer, section 32, Pine River Township, was born in Seneca, Lenawee Co., Mich., March 31, 1841, and is the son of Archibald and Julia A. (Millet) Brown. His parents were natives of the State of New York and settled in Lenawee County about the year 1833. The father is still living in that county; the mother died in 1853.

Mr. Brown remained at home as his father's assistant until he was 23 years old, when he engaged in the manufacture of brick, in which he continued three years. Since that time he has given his attention exclusively to farming. He owned several places successively in Lenawee County and followed agriculture there until September, 1883, when he removed to Gratiot County and located on 120 acres of land he had purchased in April previous, and on which he has since resided. Of this, 40 acres are located on section 5, Arcada Township, and 80 in Pine River Township. He has 100 acres under good cultivation. Mr. Brower is an adherent to the principles of the National Greenback party.

He was married Jan. 8, 1871, at Adrian, Lenawee Co., Mich., to Margaret M., daughter of Robert R. and Cynthia A. (Phetterplace) Fuller, natives of the State of New York. Mrs. Brower was born Nov. 13, 1846, in Palmyra, N. Y. The family includes three children—Nellie C., Hattie M. and Charles W.

**E**dward L. Drake, of the firm of Drake & McCurdy, druggists, general merchants and undertakers, at Estella, was born in Scipio, Cayuga Co., N. Y., April 3, 1811, and is the son of Elijah and Abigail (Stoddard) Drake, natives of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, and of Puritan and English descent respectively. Elijah Drake was by occupation a farmer, and in 1835 came to Oakland Co., Mich., where he died in 1846, at the age of 92. He was one of the pioneers of Oakland County.

When the subject of this biography was ten years old, his parents removed to Genesee Co., N. Y., where he lived until 15 years old, being educated in the common schools. He then apprenticed himself to Willard J. Cheapen, a tanner at Perry, N. Y., and worked for him for four years. For the ensuing 11 years he taught school winters and worked at farming in the summers, alternately. In 1849, he connected himself with the publishing house of Allen & Co., of Detroit, and for five years was engaged in supplying township libraries. He afterwards became a resident of Ingham County, where he carried on farming for a time. He was also engaged in buying wool and selling cloth for a New England company, being the first man to establish a wool trade in that county.

He came to Gratiot County in 1862, and engaged in mercantile business at St. Louis. Two years later, near that place, he engaged in farming; and after being thus occupied for two years, he was again for two years in mercantile life at St. Louis. Thence, in the same calling, he removed to Estella. Here he has been occupied in his store ever since, excepting when busied in official duties. The firm carry a stock worth \$3,500, and do an annual business of about \$5,000. Mr. Drake is also engaged in dealing in real estate.

Jan. 12, 1836, in Wyoming Co., N. Y., he was

married to Miss Ambrosia Lacey, daughter of David and Polly (Williams) Lacey, natives of New York. Mrs. Drake was born in Saratoga Co., N. Y., May 24, 1813, and died at Ann Arbor, Mich., in August, 1839. Mr. D. was again married in Allegany Co., N. Y., April 15, 1842, to Mrs. Cynthia B. Caper (*nee* Condevy), born in Vermont, March 23, 1810. She is now in her 74th year, and in excellent health.

Mr. Drake's first marriage was performed by the father of President Chester A. Arthur, a Baptist minister, and the President was himself for two years a member of Mr. Drake's Sunday-school class. Mr. D. has held every township office from Supervisor down, excepting Pathmaster. He is now Justice of the Peace, which office he has filled for six years. Politically, he is a zealous supporter of the Republican party. He is highly respected as a citizen and liked as a neighbor.

**I**srael B. Wolfe, farmer, section 5, Arcada Township, was born in Jefferson Co., Pa., Jan. 1, 1839, and is the son of Henry and Susanna (Bigley) Wolfe, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. Henry Wolfe was a farmer, and died in Gratiot County in 1862. Mrs. Wolfe still lives in Pine River Township, aged 68.

When four years of age, Israel was taken by his parents to Portage Co., Ohio, and settled in the vicinity of Ravenna. They went 16 months later to Lucas County, where they lived until 1850. They then came to Monroe County, and lived five years on a farm in Whiteford Township. Israel then came to this county, and worked on a farm for one of his father's acquaintances until his majority, giving the proceeds to his parents. For a time he then worked on farms in the summer and in the lumber woods in the winter. Later, he purchased a threshing-machine, and engaged in threshing during the proper season. He was the first to cross Pine River with such a machine.

Dec. 21, 1862, he was married to Martha, daughter of Emery and Maria (Lewis) Adams (*see* sketch). She was born March 17, 1846, and died Feb. 10, 1864, leaving an infant, which survived her but a few months. She was a woman of excellent character,

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Marcus Pollasky,  
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and of one of the first families in the county, and her loss was a great one to her many friends. Jan. 1, 1866, he was married to Mrs. Amanda Turner (*nee* Hildreth), daughter of John S. and Diana (Ganung) Hildreth, natives of New York. Amanda was born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., Feb. 12, 1843, and when five months old was taken with her parents to Oakland Co., Mich. They afterwards removed to Clinton County, where her first marriage occurred to Burr Turner, a native of New York. He was a farmer, and was accidentally drowned in Pine River at St. Louis, this county. She had one son by that marriage, James W., now a resident of Fulton Township, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe settled on 40 acres on section 5, Arcada Township, and have since added 40 acres by purchase. He has 60 acres nicely improved and cultivated on the banks of Pine River. They have had two children. Ida B., 14 years of age, and Allie H. died when three years old. Mr. Wolfe is a member of Alma Lodge, No. 244, F. & A. M. He has held the offices of Treasurer in the lodge and School Assessor, of which latter office he is the present incumbent. Politically, he is a liberal Democrat.

**M**arcus Pollasky, attorney and real-estate broker at Alma, was born Sept. 6, 1861, at Detroit. He is the son of Michael and Celia (Wix) Pollasky. (See sketch.) In 1863 his parents came to Alma. He was an infant in his mother's arms, and the early years of his life were passed at home. Until he was ten years of age he was a pupil at the district schools of Alma, when he was sent to Detroit, where he attended English and German schools in that city for three years.

On returning to Alma Mr. Pollasky engaged in mercantile occupations as his father's assistant. In 1876 he went to Ann Arbor and entered the High School, where he studied two years preparatory to entering the University. After a year of study in the Literary Department of the latter institution, he went to Detroit to accept a situation as traveling salesman in the interests of J. K. Burnham & Co. He continued with them two and a half years, and returned to his early habits and inclinations, entering

the Law Department of the University of Michigan, and at the same time resuming his studies in the literary course. He pursued a full course of legal study, to which he devoted two years, and was graduated in March, 1883, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. At the close of the first year of his legal course at Ann Arbor he was admitted to the Bar of Michigan at Ithaca, and during his vacation he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the State. He was afterward admitted to practice in the United States Court at Detroit.

Mr. Pollasky is still in the earliest years of his manhood. Although so young, he has all the privileges of a practitioner in the State and Federal Courts, and is already distinguished in his profession, in which he holds a deservedly high rank as an advocate.

He is a Republican in politics and liberal in his religious convictions. In April, 1883, he was elected Village Attorney of Alma, which position he still holds. His marriage to Nellie A. Waldby occurred Jan. 16, 1884, at Adrian. She is the only daughter of Ebenezer I. and Emmeline (Backus) Waldby, and her father is one of the pioneer bankers of Michigan. He is still engaged in the prosecution of a general banking business, having succeeded the First National Bank of Adrian. The young wife of Mr. Pollasky had won enviable position among the famed daughters of Southern Michigan through her lovely character and personal merits. Mr. Pollasky is an ardent admirer of pleasant domestic surroundings, and in this latest addition to his successes he considers himself newly equipped for struggle and achievement.

The portrait of Mr. Pollasky is presented on page 546. It is that of a fine type of the manner of men who are to be incorporated in the immediate and future annals of Gratiot County.

**J**oseph Grover, farmer, section 13, Arcada Township, one of the representative citizens of this county, is a son of Thomas and Maria (Sherwood) Grover, natives of Yorkshire, England. Thomas Grover was by occupation a carriage smith, and came to this country in 1850, locating in New York State. Two years later,

he came to Michigan and settled in Lenawee County. Seven years afterwards, he came to this county, where he died at his home on section 2, Arcada Township, Aug. 27, 1877, at the age of 65. His wife now resides at St. Louis, in this county, at the age of 68.

The subject of this sketch was born March 12, 1837, and attended the common schools in his native country until 13 years old, when his parents emigrated to this country, and came first to New York State and then to Michigan. Excepting one year spent in the far West, he lived with his father until 32 years of age.

Jan. 13, 1868, he was married to Mary A., daughter of William Barnes, a native of England. William Barnes was a farmer, and came to this State and county, and located in North Star Township about 30 years ago, where he and wife died in the latter part of 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Grover lived on the old homestead about four years, and then removed to Lenawee County. Nine years later they returned to Gratiot, and purchased 160 acres of good land on section 13, Arcada Township. He now owns 159 acres, of which 125 acres are well improved.

They have a family of four sons, as follows: William H., born June 20, 1870; Thomas A., Sept. 16, 1872; Joseph, Aug. 30, 1874; Charles, April 30, 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Grover are highly respected by a wide circle of friends. Mr. Grover is politically a Democrat. He invariably declines all offices.

**C**larissa Baxter is the widow of Benjamin Baxter, who was a resident on section 34, North Shade Township, and farmer by occupation. He was born Dec. 10, 1841, in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and was a son of Asa and Lucinda (Campbell) Baxter, natives of the same State.

The parents came to this State and located in Ionia County in an early day, and thence removed to this county, and located on section 34, securing 200 acres, 134 acres of which, by energy and perseverance, have been placed under a good state of cultivation, and adorned with suitable and substantial buildings.

The son accompanied the parents to this county,

and after the death of the father, which occurred June 24, 1847, he assisted in the support of the family until he attained the age of 23 years. He was married to Miss Clarissa, daughter of William and Clarissa Edmister, April 15, 1863.

Mr. Baxter died Sept. 3, 1883, in this county, leaving five children to the care of the mother, namely: Ellsworth, Anna, Asa, Elgie, Benjamin.

Mr. Baxter was a member of the Disciples' Church. In political sentiment and belief, he was a staunch Republican.

**C**olecott L. Stebbins, manufacturer and dealer in boots and shoes at St. Louis, was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., Sept. 10, 1822, and is the son of William and Sarah (Bradish) Stebbins. His father was a builder by vocation and was born March 19, 1795, in Springfield, Mass., where he died in September, 1858. His mother was a native of Vermont and is also deceased.

Mr. Stebbins passed the first 18 years of his life in obtaining his education, and, in 1840, turned his attention to acquiring the details of the calling which he has since made the business of his life. He served an apprenticeship of three years. In 1845, his parents removed to Warren, Trumbull Co., Ohio, and a year later he went to Rochester, N. Y., and owned a boat on the Erie Canal. He engaged in freighting until 1849, when he made a trip to Philadelphia for the purpose of obtaining a load of coal, and on his way homeward his barge sunk, at New York, whereby he incurred a loss of \$300 above the insurance. He went to Troy, N. Y., and there obtained a position as clerk, which he filled until January following, when he let himself to learn the business of a wood-turner. In 1853 he removed to Lansingburg, and there spent three years acting as foreman in a bedstead factory. He went thence to Warren Co., N. Y., where he was engaged in the erection of a saw-mill and remained there some months, when he returned to Troy and found employment in a nail factory. He made his next change of base to Warren, Trumbull Co., Ohio, where he resided from December, 1857, until March, 1859. In that year he came to St. Louis, where he bought 156 acres on sec-



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*A. F. Wright*

tion 6, in Bethany Township. After clearing 20 acres of this, in 1864 he exchanged for property in St. Louis, consisting of six village lots, which he yet owns. He then engaged in the sale of general merchandise, which enterprise he continued two years. He next entered the employ of Holcomb & Evens, in a saw-mill, and remained in that situation and in other branches of lumbering until 1874, when he entered the foundry of the same firm and operated as foreman two years. The firm became Holcomb & Clark, and he acted in the same capacity until 1876, when Mr. Holcomb became sole owner of the business and retained Mr. Stebbins as chief manager until July, 1877, when he was stricken with paralysis. He recovered his health to some degree, and in August, 1883, he opened his present shop, where he is doing a fairly prosperous business. While he was on his farm, Mr. Stebbins held the office of School Director two years, and also officiated as Highway Commissioner. He has been Justice of the Peace and Township Treasurer since his location at St. Louis.

Mr. Stebbins was married in Troy, N. Y., May 22, 1850, to Lucinda Francisco. She was born in Rensselaer Co., N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins are the happy parents of eight children, all of whom are living. They are named: Edgar A., Arthur M., Clara F., Frederick A., Orville W., Minnie M., Bessie B. and Myrtle B.

**C**iel F. Wright, hardware merchant at St. Louis, was born Aug. 15, 1846, in Parma, Jackson Co., Mich. He is the son of Deodatus and Serena (Fox) Wright. His father was born April 25, 1812, in Wayne Co., N. Y.

His mother is a native of the same county, and both parents are still living in the township of Parma, whither they removed about the year 1837, and purchased 320 acres of land. Their farm now includes 240 acres, and is one of the finest in that section of Michigan justly noted for its agricultural progress.

Mr. Wright did pioneer duty on his father's farm, and aided in clearing it of timber and otherwise improving it. He attended school winters until he was 18 years old. In 1870 he came to St. Louis, and in company with his brother, Smith W. (since deceased),

opened an establishment for the sale of agricultural implements, and they continued to prosecute the business until the death referred to, when Mr. Wright became sole proprietor. He has by degrees changed the character of his trade, and now deals in general hardware, tinware, cutlery, etc., and makes a specialty of stationary and portable engines, boilers, saw-mills and all fixtures pertaining to the machinery in which he deals. He employs about half a dozen men; carries a stock estimated at \$15,000 in value, and is doing a prosperous business. When Mr. Wright came to St. Louis, the town was in its first days. He purchased a building site, and erected a structure for the establishment of his business, which was one of the first for the purpose in St. Louis. The building at the commencement was 16 x 24 feet in dimensions, but since has grown to the following sizes: the hardware store, 20 x 120 feet; small ware room in the rear of store, 16 x 32 feet; and a large store house near the railroad, 24 x 70 feet and two stories high. The latter is used for the storage of buggies and machinery of all kinds. The term "self-made" has become trite in its frequent application, and in the case of Mr. Wright simply means that, starting empty-handed, he has held the confidence of the business world by integrity and devotion to his business relations, and by his strong good sense and reliable judgment, which constitute a man's best capital.

Mr. Wright is a Democrat in political affiliation, and has held the office of Town Clerk of Pine River two years; he has been a member of the Town Council the same length of time. He belongs to the Royal Arcanum, is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and for 12 years has been a prominent member of the Fire Department of St. Louis. About 1873 he was appointed Secretary of the Company, and held the position two years, when he was elected Foreman, and continued in that capacity until 1882. He was appointed Chief of the Department, and attended the first Firemen's Convention at Battle Creek; is now First Assistant Chief of the organization. In 1876, the Company presented him with a fine silver trumpet as a testimonial of their esteem and appreciation of his services. The Company is considered the best in the State, an estimate amply justified by its achievements. In 1882, the organization went to the tournament at Charlotte, and bore away the second prize for merit, including \$100, with a hand en-

gine. At the contest at Marshall in 1883, it took the first prize, \$125 in money, and the State Banner of Championship, valued at \$100.

The property of Mr. Wright consists of his business building and site, residence and two lots, a store building, and a farm in Isabella County, comprising 40 acres of land.

He was married at Panna Nov. 25, 1868, to Rebecca, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Geiger. Parents and daughter were natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Wright have been the parents of two children: Hattie L., born at St. Louis Nov. 18, 1876, and Serena, who died when she was ten months old.

The portrait of Mr. Wright, which appears on page 550, has more than a common value to his generation from the family to which he belongs, and in his connection with the affairs of St. Louis.

**A**ndrew Townsend, farmer, section 8, New Haven Township, was born in Ireland, Dec. 10, 1810, of Irish parentage. His father, a farmer, died in the old country, March 11, 1846, at the age of 82. His mother died a few years later, aged about 70. Young Andrew worked with his father upon the farm until 1830, when they emigrated to America, locating first in Detroit, Mich., and afterward buying some land near that city in Wayne County, where they pursued agriculture until 1840. Andrew then enlisted in the United States frontier service, as a member of Co. I, 4th Artillery, and served five years, in Michigan and the East.

On receiving his discharge, at Fortress Monroe, Va., he returned to farming again in Wayne Co., N. Y., until 1866, when he sold out and purchased 80 acres of section 8, New Haven Township. The place was slightly improved. Three weeks after his location here with his family, his son Joseph, 12½ years old, lost himself in the swampy wilderness while out hunting, and died from sheer exhaustion in running to find himself. He was found a corpse in the deep wild-wood, and indescribable was the consequent terror of the community.

Most of his original purchase Mr. Townsend has improved, and added the usual farm buildings. He

is an exemplary farmer, an earnest Republican and faithful in the discharge of the duties of the public offices which his fellow citizens have given him.

Dec. 24, 1845, in the Emerald Isle, Mr. Townsend was married to Miss Jane Rodgers, a native of that country, of Scotch-Irish descent, and a great-grand-niece of John Rodgers, of martyr fame. Others of her ancestral relatives have also been martyrs. Her father, Joseph Rodgers, was in early life a weaver. He educated himself for the ministry, but ill health compelled him to abandon the idea of entering that profession, and he became a merchant and a writer for various periodicals. He died in 1844, at the age of 62. Mrs. T.'s mother, Mary, *nee* McCory, is of Scotch ancestry and is yet living. Mrs. Townsend was born Feb. 2, 1827, about 25 miles from Belfast, Ireland. She was educated in the common school of her country, but, owing to the prejudice of the people at that period, she was not allowed more. Nevertheless, she is a well-informed, intellectual, affable lady, blest with a happy memory and sound faculties. She and her husband are members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The children of Mr. and Mrs. T. are six, namely: Mary, Agnes, Eliza, Margaret, Joseph and Leander; Joseph being deceased, as before mentioned.

**A**ron M. Wheeler, farmer, occupies the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 26, Bethany Township, a 40-acre tract. This gentleman is a native of Washington Co., N. Y., where he was born Feb. 23, 1821, the son of George and Sally (Patten) Wheeler. He was reared as a farmer's son, but when he was ten years of age his father died. He was married June 23, 1843, in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., to Eliza J. Preston, a sister of the well-known banker of Detroit, David Preston. Of the three children born of this marriage, Melissa is the wife of Julius P. Gilmore, a book-keeper in Mr. Preston's bank at Detroit; Ellen is the wife of Henry Bridge, foreman of the Detroit Water works; and David is a member of a paint-manufacturing firm at Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. W. died Jan. 19, 1849, aged 26 years; and Mr. Wheeler again married April 19, 1849, in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Lucy J. Landon. By this mar-





*William Culy*



*Eliza Culy*

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riage, there have been eight children, seven surviving, as follows: Sarah, now the wife of Seth Burgess, a farmer in Pine River Township, this county; Mary, the wife of Wm. C. Garbutt, a merchant at St. Louis; Hattie, wife of Alba Sexton, a farmer of Bethany Township; Emma, the wife of Wm. Holmes, of Detroit; James A., clerk in the postoffice at St. Louis; Frederick, at home; and William, at St. Louis. Chesley D. is deceased.

Mr. Wheeler, the subject of this biographical notice, located in Bethany Township in November, 1867, upon his present place, where he now has 30 acres cleared and a comfortable home. A good residence, barn, etc., grace the premises. Mr. W. is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in his township he has been Highway Commissioner three years.

**W**illiam Culy, farmer and stock-raiser, section 36, New Haven Township, was born in Lincolnshire, England, April 24, 1826. His father, Benjamin, and mother, Ann (Ward) Culy, were also natives of Albion's Isle, and of pure English blood. The first mentioned, a farmer, emigrated in March, 1835, and settled in Washtenaw County, this State, in the vicinity of Dexter, where he improved an 80-acre farm. His wife had died in 1833, in Lincolnshire, England, at the age of about 40 years. Mr. C. died in Washtenaw County, in 1858, aged 73. He was one of the first settlers in Scio Township, that county, and was a prominent and highly respected citizen.

The subject of this sketch worked on the farm with his father until he was 26 years of age, receiving a common-school education. At this age, May 26, 1851, in that county, he was married to Miss Eliza Naldrett, who was born in Middlesex, England, June 15, 1830, and came to this country when 19 years old. Her parents, also English and of English ancestry, emigrated to this country two years afterward and located on 240 acres of wild land on section 36, New Haven Township, this county, which they improved and made of it a splendid farm. Mrs. C's third child, Ann R., was the first child born in this township, her birth being Dec. 13, 1855. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Culy are: Eliza J., born

April 8, 1852; George, July 21, 1853; Ann R., Dec. 13, 1855; Hannah M., Aug. 8, 1857; Alice J., Feb. 5, 1858; Mary H., July 25, 1860; Stephen B., Oct. 17, 1866; and Albert H., Feb. 19, 1867.

On national issues Mr. Culy is a decided Democrat, and as a citizen he has been rewarded with various school offices in his district.

A portrait of this gentleman and also that of his wife appear in this Album, on pages just preceding.

**G**eorge O. Doud, farmer, section 36, Washington Township, is a son of Theodore and Julia A. (Brewer) Doud. Theodore Doud was born in Poultney, Vt., and, serving an apprenticeship at Fair Haven, Rutland Co., Vt., was employed as an edged-tool manufacturer. He afterward removed to Geauga Co., Ohio, where he died. Mrs. Doud was born in Boston, in 1797. The subject of this sketch was born in Rutland Co., Vt., Aug. 13, 1816. Leaving the parental roof at the age of 16, he was employed on a farm until 28 years old.

In 1840, he was married to Mary A. Lyon, daughter of Ephraim and Eunice (Saunders) Lyon, natives of New Jersey. They afterward removed to Knox Co., Ohio, where Mr. Lyon died at the age of 65, and Mrs. Lyon at the extreme age of 107. In the year 1836, Mr. Doud came from Vermont to New York State, and in 1839 he went to Ohio, where he engaged at the carpenter's trade. In the fall of 1856, he came to Gratiot County, where he had purchased 80 acres on section 36, Washington Township, two years previously. To this he has since added 40 acres, and he has 50 acres well-improved. He and wife were among the first settlers in the township. He has filled the office of Township Treasurer for five successive years, but will accept no more offices. When first elected, the township was in debt \$500, and at the expiration of two years the debt was cleared and the treasury in a sound condition. Politically, Mr. Doud is a Republican. He and wife are the parents of three children: Theodore, Julia A. and Eunice. Theodore enlisted in the 3d Mich. Vol. Cav. in 1862, and served in the Western army about six months. He obtained a furlough on account of disability, and was then discharged, in May, 1863. In

the spring of 1864, he re-enlisted and was assigned to the 2d Mich. Vol. Inf. At Petersburg, in July, he was gallantly leading his company against the enemy, when he was killed by a shell from a Union gun. Mr. and Mrs. Doud now live alone, excepting with a young man named Daniel, who was given to them in infancy.

**E**dwin Hasbrook, merchant, Breckenridge village, Wheeler Township, is a son of Gilbert and Sarah (Roe) Hasbrook, who followed farming in their native (Dutchess) County, N. Y., until 1857, when they moved to Iowa. Their next move was to Ohio, where they lived eight years, and then they came to Bethany Township, Gratiot County.

The subject of this sketch was born Dec. 26, 1839, in Dutchess Co., N. Y. Coming West, he located 240 acres of wild land in this county April 18, 1866. He cleared 36 acres. Commencing in 1876, he clerked six years for C. H. Howd in a store, and in the autumn of 1882 he started in business for himself. He has a nice store, a good stock of dry goods, groceries and general merchandise, and a growing trade.

Oct. 28, 1873, he was married to Julia, the second daughter of Reuben and Hannah Coffin. This marriage resulted in one child, Eddie J. His second marriage occurred in 1880 to Cora B. Goodno, daughter of Romazo and Susan Goodno. Mr. Hasbrook is a popular citizen of his township, and holds the office of Township Clerk, to which he was elected in 1883. In politics, he votes uniformly with the Republican party.

**R**ev. Francis T. Flewelling, minister and farmer, resident on section 31, Bethany Township, was born July 26, 1831, in Warren Co., N. Y., and is a son of Francis and Jedidah (Tyler) Flewelling. The family patronymic is a corruption of the Welsh name Llewellyn, one of the titles of a former Prince of Wales, to whom the family trace remote kinship.

Francis Flewelling, Sr., was born in the vicinity of the city of New York in 1807. He was a wagon-maker by trade, and in the year 1829 he was married to Mrs. Jedidah (Tyler) Fletcher. The mother was born in 1790 in Crittenden Co., Vt., and belonged to the same family from which President Tyler descended. The father pursued his vocation at different points in the State of New York some years. In the fall of 1844, he came to Michigan and settled at Hanover, Jackson County, where he purchased a farm and engaged in agriculture. He sold the place in 1864, and removed to De Witt, Clinton County, where he purchased another farm. He continued its management about 12 years, when, his health becoming impaired, he again sold his estate and bought property in the village of De Witt, to which he retired. His death occurred Dec. 6, 1879. The mother survives, and is residing with her son in Bethany Township. She is 94 years old. The Flewelling family are among the heirs of Anneka Jans, and claimants to the Trinity Church property in the city of New York.

The Rev. Mr. Flewelling obtained his early education in the common schools. He received his discharge from his obligations as a minor at the age of 18, when he began his contest with the world. The year following he bought 40 acres of land in Jackson County, paid sufficient to secure his title and possession, and ran in debt for the remainder. He taught school the following winter in Pulaski, receiving \$12 a month and "boarding round." The board was assessed according to the "scholars," and sometimes the school money was six months in being collected, the method being *pro rata*. He continued teaching winters and working on his land summers until it was wholly improved and paid for.

In the fall of 1857, Mr. Flewelling applied for and obtained a position as an officer of the State Prison, located at Jackson. He became a "guard," and was assigned to a place on the wall, armed and under orders to shoot convicts who attempted to escape. On the third day, about 40 prisoners tried to escape by scaling the walls, and two succeeded. The bullets flew but no one was injured, and the rebellious convicts were secured.

The marriage of Mr. Flewelling to Mary C. Whitney, of Jackson, occurred in December, 1858. Her parents, Nathan and Elizabeth Whitney, were pioneer

settlers of Wheatland, Hillsdale County. They came from the State of New York in 1837, and located 160 acres of land in the (then) wilderness. They encountered all the varieties of pioneer experience, among which were frequent nightly visitations by wolves, and at one time a harvest of 50 heads was piled in the cellar awaiting the payment of the bounty. Mrs. Flewelling was born on the homestead June 24, 1841. In 1855, her father became an employe at the prison in Jackson, where he officiated in various positions until 1862. The daughter is the only survivor of a family of four.

After his marriage, Mr. Flewelling assumed charge of the paint shop attached to the wagon works of the prison contractors. Three years later, he engaged in farming on a place he had purchased near De Witt, Clinton County. He sold the place in the winter of 1882, and bought the farm where he now resides, including a quarter of section 31. It is in fine agricultural condition, and fitted with a nice residence and highly creditable farm buildings. His family includes two children: Frank L., born April 14, 1860, in Jackson, and Ralph Tyler, born Nov. 23, 1871, in De Witt.

Mr. Flewelling was ordained a minister of the Free Methodist Church in the fall of 1880 at Gaines, Shiawassee Co., Mich. He was in the traveling connection two years while a resident of De Witt, since which time he has been in the local ranks.

**M**ichael S. Howell, farmer on section 18, Fulton Township, is a son of William L. and Belinda S. (Taft) Howell, natives of New York State. Soon after marriage they came to Michigan and settled in Macomb County, afterwards removing to Hillsdale County. In 1858, they came to Gratiot and made their home in North Shade Township, where Mr. Howell still resides, and where Mrs. Howell died in June, 1868. Their family consisted of five sons and three daughters.

The eldest son, Michael S., was born in Hillsdale Co., Mich., Aug. 11, 1839, and made his home with his parents until 21 years old, although much of the time after he became old enough he worked by the

month for others. In the fall of 1861, he enlisted in the Ninth Mich. Vol. Inf.; and he was in the service of his country about four years, most of the time on detached duty. He was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., and coming to Gratiot County he bought 40 acres of wild land in Fulton Township. There he settled and lived two years, when he traded for 80 acres in North Shade. Eleven years later, he sold, and then bought 80 acres on section 18, Fulton, where he now resides. He has about 45 acres under cultivation.

Aug. 18, 1866, at Maple Rapids, Clinton County, he married Miss Hattie M., daughter of Henry and Roxy (Francis) Huyck, natives of New York State and Massachusetts. Mrs. Howell was born in Huron Co., Ohio, May 5, 1844. She and her husband have been the parents of four children, three of whom survive,—Arthur W., Myrtie B. and Laura M. Floyd R. died when six months old. Mr. Howell is a member of the Masonic Order, and supports the Democratic party.

**J**ohn Christman, retired capitalist, residing at St. Louis, was born June 20, 1807, in Tonawanda, N. Y. He is a son of Jacob and Mary (Nellis) Christman, and resided in his native place until the fall of 1836, when he bought 160 acres of land in Williams Co., Ohio. In February, 1839, he came to Washtenaw Co., Mich., where he prosecuted his trade of builder, which he had learned in early life in his native State. He pursued that business a number of years, and at length bought 135 acres in Saline Township, in Washtenaw County, where he resided 28½ years. He then sold out and bought 90 acres in the same township, which he retained one year. His health failed, and he sold his farm, removing into the village of Saline. In the fall of the same year, 1865, he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of land on section 25, Pine River Township, on which he made considerable improvement. In 1866, he bought some lots at St. Louis, near where he now lives, and the following year built his residence. He engaged in the grocery trade, in which he continued six years, and on selling out he retired from active business. He owns two lots near his home, which

are devoted to the culture of strawberries and other small fruits, etc. He also owns seven dwellings in St. Louis, which he rents.

The marriage of Mr. Christman with Jane Decow occurred April 6, 1827, in Tonawanda, N. Y. She is a daughter of Eber and Susannah (Baumwart) Decow, and was born July 8, 1812, in Canada, near the present location of Simcoe. Ten children were born of this union, as follows: James D., farmer, residing at New Boston, Wayne Co., Mich.; Henry C., carpenter, living at Rome Center, Lenawee Co., Mich.; Amanda J., wife of Winters White, a farmer of Winneshick Co., Iowa; Margaret D., wife of Henry Decow, farmer of Jasper Township, Midland County; Frances, wife of Artemus Cook, a farmer of Pine River Township. The remaining five are deceased. Mr. Christman has been Constable of St. Louis five years, and has served a short time as Marshal of the village. He and his wife are members respectively of the Wesleyan Methodist and Methodist Episcopal Churches.

Mr. Christman's grandfather on father's side was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and was wounded in the shoulder at Bunker Hill.

**J**ames A. Cassada, farmer on section 32, Fulton Township, is a son of James and Abigail (Kinyon) Cassada, natives of Massachusetts and New York. They settled in Tioga Co., N. Y., where he died in 1836, and she in 1842.

The subject of this biography was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., Sept. 10, 1828. Losing his parents when quite young, he lived from the time he was 12 years old until of age with his brothers. He then learned the carpenter's trade, at which he had already worked to some extent. He worked diligently, and before he was 21 he was taking contracts on his own account. In this business he has since been engaged.

He came to Michigan in 1846, and lived in Monroe County eight years. He then lived one year in Ingham County, and in the spring of 1855 came further North. In July he bought the farm he now owns.

Oct. 20, 1852, in Bedford, Monroe Co., Mich., he

married Miss Clarissa W., daughter of Matthias and Eunice (Kinyon) Gardner. She was born in Southport, Tioga Co., N. Y., Dec. 12, 1827. Mr. and Mrs. C. have had five children, three of whom survive: Lannes, Adelaide B. and Elmer E. Kansas and Harris Kendall are deceased.

Mr. C. is a member of the I. O. O. F., and is politically an ardent supporter of Democracy. He has held the office of Justice of the Peace for 12 years, Constable two years, and Township Clerk 14 years.

**G**eorge W. McHenry, real-estate and loan agent at St. Louis, was born near Almond, Allegany Co., N. Y., Jan. 11, 1813. His father, Matthew McHenry, was born in Pennsylvania, was a farmer, and died when the son two years old. His mother, Anna (Dudder) McHenry, was a native of New Jersey, and died in 1853.

Mr. McHenry followed the vocation of farmer until he was 40 years old, when he met with an accident and sustained a fracture of his right thigh, which necessitated some different calling, and he abandoned agriculture. He moved to Almond, and soon after was appointed Deputy Postmaster, a position he filled three years. He then engaged in the grocery business and also assisted in the postoffice, thus covering a period of two and a half years. In the spring of 1857 he came to St. Louis and built the first hotel structure erected in the town and named therefor. It was located on the corner of North and Pine Streets. He managed the St. Louis House about ten years, sold out and built his residence. Mr. McHenry acted as Deputy Postmaster two years, and, just before the breaking out of the war, was appointed Postmaster and held the position until 1876, when he established the business in which he is at present engaged.

The year in which Mr. McHenry came to St. Louis was that indicated as the "Starvation year," when the privations precipitated upon the people of Gratiot County by the rapid influx of the population invited the attention and interest of the surrounding States. Among other deficiencies which caused much inconvenience and, indirectly, suffering, was the lack of houses, there being literally none at this point. St.





*J. P. Dwyer*

Louis had but six houses, and Mr. McHenry assisted in building the first bridge across Pine River. A grist-mill was built the same year, part of which is preserved in the mill now owned by James Henry. He was elected Treasurer of Pine River Township, and held the position in 1879-80, and was also Township Clerk six years. He has acted as Justice of the Peace 16 years, and is a member of the Pioneer Society of Gratiot County.

Mr. McHenry was married in Almond, N. Y., to Lucinda, daughter of Charles and Lucy Holloway. She was born June 5, 1812, and died June 10, 1880. She became the mother of five children, four of whom survive her: Susannah is the wife of Geo. L. Boynton, a boot and shoe dealer at Hornellsville, N. Y.; Matthew is deceased; Augustus is a jeweler at Hornellsville; Harriet is the wife of William Nelson, lumberman and farmer of Cedar Lake; Sarah married A. P. Foland, a merchant and farmer of Wheeler, Gratiot County.

**J**ohn T. Swigart, Clerk of Gratiot County, resident at Ithaca, was born July 5, 1845, in Bloom, Seneca Co., Ohio, and is a son of Samuel and Maria (Dinkel) Swigart. His father was born in Maryland, was a carriage and wagon maker by trade, and died in Seneca Co., Ohio. His mother was born in Rockingham Co., Va.

Mr. Swigart is of German descent, his grandparents on both sides having been emigrants to the United States from the Fatherland. When he was about ten years old, his mother came with her family of five children to Fulton Township, Gratiot County, and there bought 40 acres of land. William, the eldest son, was then a young man, and is now living near Dixon, Lee Co., Ill., where he is a farmer and dealer in agricultural implements; Robert, third son, and Scott are engaged in the hardware business at Maple Rapids; Mary E., only daughter, is the wife of Warren E. Dewitt, proprietor of a sash and blind factory at Ithaca.

Mr. Swigart is the second son of his parents. He was 16 years old when the war of the rebellion broke out, and too young to enlist; but as youth is a disease which time is sure to remedy, he waited as patiently

as possible, and in October, 1863, he enlisted at Detroit, in Co. M, 1st Mich. Engineers and Mechanics, and served until the close of the war. The company was one that made a distinguished record for gallantry, and is mentioned specially for meritorious service in some of the most authentic histories of the Southern rebellion.

Mr. Swigart is now the owner of 100 acres of farming land in Fulton Township, which he has materially improved, and supplied with good buildings, farm fixtures, etc. Its orchards and other improvements render it one of the most valuable places in that section of the county. From 1874 to 1879, he and his brother, Robert, were engaged in buying staves and timber for Merrick, Fowler & Esselstein, of Detroit, handling large sums of money. He held the position of Township Clerk one year (1881), Justice of the Peace five years, and officiated in other positions of trust and responsibility. In the fall of 1882, he was elected County Clerk on the Fusion ticket, running against J. M. Trask, the previous incumbent. He received a majority of 48 votes. Mr. Swigart belongs to the Orders of Masonry and Odd Fellows, and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

He was married Dec. 25, 1876, to Ella A., daughter of Lyman and Martha Crowley, a native of New York. Edna M., born March 26, 1879, and Raymond G., born May 22, 1881, are the names of their two children. The mother of Mr. Swigart married Roswell Reynolds, now deceased, and she lives at Ithaca with her son.

Mr. Swigart's portrait may be found on the last page. As a type of the possibilities within the reach of every American citizen under the fostering influence of American institutions, it forms a valuable addition to the collection in this volume, and takes a finer worth from the manly integrity and unblemished character of its prototype.

**C**harles V. Bostwick, proprietor of the Ithaca barber shop, was born Nov. 18, 1850, in Scio Township, Washtenaw Co., Mich., and is a son of Dr. Victor M. and Phebe W. (Ray) Bostwick. The father was a native of Eastern New York, and a graduate from the school

of the Rensselaer County Medical Society. He was a practitioner in his native State some years, and came to Washtenaw County in its pioneer days. He died Aug. 2, 1862, in Webster Township. The mother is also a native of the Empire State, and is now living with her youngest son in Dexter. She is the mother of nine children, seven of whom survive: Electa, Henry, Harrison and Harriet (twins), Sarah, Charles and Oliver. John and Robert are the deceased. The former was a soldier for the Union during the war of the rebellion, and lost his life in the service of his country. Harrison was also a soldier throughout the entire war, and spent three months in Libby Prison. Henry was in the service of the United States two years.

When he was 16 years old, Mr. Bostwick went to Dexter to learn the art of photography, which he followed six years there, and then removed to Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., purchased a gallery and remained two years. He followed the same business four years longer, operating successively at Detroit, Grand Rapids and East Saginaw. At the latter place he fitted himself for his present business, and in the spring of 1876 opened a shop at St. Charles, in Saginaw County. A year later he came to Ithaca and established himself, and has continued to do a successful business. Bath rooms are connected with his operating rooms, and his business requires the aid of one assistant.

Mr. Bostwick was married Dec. 25, 1871, at Plymouth, to Josephine, daughter of James and Olive Miller. She was born April 20, 1852, in Plymouth. James, Katie and Charles are the names of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Bostwick, born in Plymouth, Jan. 31, 1876, May 25, 1879, and Jan. 16, 1884, respectively.

**R**ichard Hughes, machinist, section 30, Bethany Township, adjoining the village of St. Louis, was born in Cheshire, England, April 21, 1836. When 16 years of age, Mr. Hughes went to Manchester, England, and there learned the trade of a machinist. This was not accomplished until six years of apprenticeship had passed. In 1857, he emigrated to Canada and located at Hamilton, where he was engaged in

the Great Western railroad shops for four or five years.

He was married at Hamilton, Sept. 30, 1858, to Miss Mary, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Clark) Pritchard, and was born in Simcoe, Canada, Nov. 26, 1837.

Mr. and Mrs. H. are the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: John R., born Aug. 9, 1859; William H., Nov. 8, 1861; Richard E., Sept. 13, 1865; Alice E., Oct. 22, 1867; Emma I., April 20, 1870; Maud M., June 9, 1872; Charles C., Oct. 21, 1879. Margaret is deceased.

The parents originally owned business property in Detroit, this State, which they exchanged for the 80 acres on which they at present reside. Mr. H. is at present engaged in the Alma Machine and Blacksmith Shops. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, though he believes in voting and working for the best candidates regardless of party.

**G**eorge H. Newton, farmer on section 32, Fulton Township, is a son of Harris and Eliza A. ((Perrin) Newton, natives of Vermont and New York. (See sketch of T. T. Newton.) He was born in Avon, Oakland Co., Mich., March 29, 1840, and received a common-school education, also attending for three terms the academy at Rochester, Mich.

He lived at home until 21 years of age, and Aug. 6, 1861, he enlisted in the 5th Mich. Vol. Inf. Going into the service as a private, he was promoted for gallant conduct to First Sergeant. He fought in 38 engagements, and at the battle of the Wilderness was wounded in the left leg by a minie ball, which injury confined him for eight months. At Hatcher's Run, he was twice taken prisoner on the same day; but he made his escape both times, on the first occasion by his own efforts, and on the second by being retaken by the Union forces. He was in the service of the United States for four years.

Returning to Michigan he bought 80 acres in Clinton County, which he farmed for five years. Selling out, he then engaged in the hardware and agricultural implement business at Maple Rapids, in connection with H. J. Ridenour. This partnership



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continued for two years, when Mr. N. bought out the entire business, which he conducted for eight years. He then sold his hardware business, but he continues to deal in agricultural implements.

In the spring of 1882, he bought 100 acres of land on section 32, Fulton Township, and he has now about 90 acres under the plow. He traded his stock of hardware for a farm on section 20, Fulton, consisting of 80 acres, 70 of which are under cultivation.

Dec. 26, 1865, at Avon, Oakland County, he formed a life partnership with Miss Ann, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Postle) Graham. She was born March 17, 1841, in the same county in which she was reared and married. Mr. and Mrs. N. are the parents of three children, as follows: Mary E., born Sept. 21, 1866; Thomas M., Sept. 29, 1868; and Sarah G., April 19, 1871.

Mr. Newton has been Highway Commissioner in Clinton County, was for one term village Councilman of Maple Rapids, and is now Treasurer of that place. He is politically a Democrat; is a member of the F. & A. M., A. O. U. W. and G. A. R.; and with his wife, of Essex Grange, No. 429, P. of H. They are also members of the Christian Church.

**J**oseph Harlock, farmer on section 1, Fulton Township, is a son of William and Mary A. (Welbury) Harlock, natives of England. He died July 30, 1880, while she yet survives. Joseph was born in Boston, England, April 30, 1837, and when 17 years old came to America with an older brother, having received a common-school education. For two and a half years he was variously occupied, and then for a while he worked for a firm in Lansing, this State. For the ensuing six years, he was employed in a carding-mill in the summers, and in other mills winters.

In February, 1864, he came with his family to this county, and bought 40 acres of wild land on section 1, Fulton Township. After completing a log house, and just getting fairly settled, in the fall of 1864 he enlisted in the 23d Mich. Vol. Inf., and served till the close of the war. He fought at Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., and in minor engagements, and was finally discharged at Detroit, this State. Returning to Gratiot County, he resumed his occupation

of farming, which he has since followed. He has added 40 acres to his original purchase, and has improved 72 acres.

Dec. 25, 1862, at Lansing, Mich., he married Lodiska J., daughter of John and Alzina (Peck) Groom, natives of New York State. Mr. Groom died at the age of 50, and Mrs. Groom died at the age of 35. Mrs. Harlock was born in Clinton Co., Mich., Jan. 19, 1846. She and her husband are the parents of seven children: Mary A., born June 19, 1864; Orelia A., Aug. 8, 1866; William J., April 14, 1868; Frances E., July 11, 1871; Lillian Pearl, Jan. 8, 1874; Charles D., April 6, 1876; and Myrtie V., Feb. 7, 1878. Orelia A. died when only five years old, April 6, 1871. Mrs. Harlock is a member of the Congregational Church. Mr. Harlock is politically a Republican.

**G**eorge W. Clark, farmer on section 12, Fulton Township, is a son of Nathaniel and Lucy (Flint) Clark. They were natives of Otsego Co., N. Y., where they married and settled.

After a few years, in September, 1837, they removed to Novi, Oakland Co., Mich., where they resided until their death. They reared a family of nine, of whom George W. was the second son. He was born in Cooperstown, Otsego Co., N. Y., Sept. 27, 1833, and was but four years old when his parents removed to Michigan. He received his education in the common schools of Oakland County, and lived with his parents until he attained his majority. In December, 1854, he came with his wife to Gratiot County and selected 80 acres of wild land on section 12, Fulton Township.

He built a log house and set about clearing his land, and occupied the pioneer cabin until the summer of 1879, when he built the fine residence which he now occupies. He has added 140 acres to his farm by purchase, and 185 acres are now cleared and scientifically cultivated, making really a model farm.

He was first married at Farmington, Oakland Co., Mich., Oct. 13, 1854, to Martha L., daughter of Lewis Norton, natives of the State of New York. Mrs. Clark died April 20, 1877, having been the mother of six children: Wilbur, Wilda E., Burr A., Nora A., Clifton S. and Claude L. Wilbur, Clifton S. and

Claude L. are deceased. Mr. C. was again married, in Ithaca, Sept. 27, 1882, to Ruth A., daughter of G. W. J. and Sarah A. (Hills) Willoughby, natives of New York State. Mrs. W. died in Ohio, Jan. 29, 1859. Mr. W. came to Gratiot County in 1869 and settled in Fulton Township, where he lived till his death, which occurred June 3, 1882. The daughter, Ruth A., was born in Occola, Crawford Co., Ohio, Aug. 16, 1853.

Mr. Clark is a member of the Masonic Order, and in politics votes the National ticket. He has been Highway Commissioner three years, and Justice of the Peace four years.

As one of the prominent citizens and agriculturists of Gratiot County, we present in connection with this sketch the portrait of Mr. Clark.



**O**scar F. Jackson, hardware merchant at Ithaca, and dealer in Ovid buggies, Jackson and Harrison wagons, was born May 11, 1846, in Westminster, Canada. He is a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Hammond) Jackson. His father was born in Vermont, in November, 1816, and is a millwright by trade. His mother was born in May, 1820, near London, England. In 1857 they came to Almont, Lapeer Co., Mich., where the father pursued his trade. They removed in 1859 to Lapeer, where the senior Jackson is still living. The mother died Dec. 31, 1876, in North Branch, Lapeer Co., Mich.

Mr. Jackson attended the common schools of Lapeer and was also a student in the union school of that place until 1863, when, although but 17 years old, he became a soldier. He enlisted in June of that year in Co. K, 4th Mich. Cav., Capt. W. H. Smith. He was in the service 11 months, and was discharged from hospital No. 8, at Nashville, Tenn., on account of disability. His father enlisted in the 1st Mich. Regt. Engs. and Mechs., on its organization, and served until it was disbanded, and on the organization of the 4th Mich. Cav. he enlisted as Commissary Sergeant and served until March 4, 1864, when he was honorably discharged and returned to Lapeer.

On leaving the army, Mr. Jackson went to learn the trade of a tinsmith, in Lapeer, and served three

years. He then went to Flint and worked there at his trade a year, when he returned to Lapeer and engaged in the same occupation until November, 1870, after which he followed it at North Branch, Lapeer County, until April 23, 1871, when he came to St. Louis, Gratiot County, and entered the employ of Wessels & Scriver. He worked two years in their tinshop and three years as book-keeper and salesman. In 1877 he formed a partnership with A. F. Wright, who was engaged in the same business. They operated together successfully two years, when Mr. Jackson sold his interest to his partner and came to Ithaca in January, 1879. He bought a stock of hardware of G. C. Smith, and has since operated at the same stand. He carries a fine assortment of hardware and articles common to the trade, and his annual transactions represent about \$12,000. His trade in wagons and carriages is also considerable. He owns his residence and grounds. In 1880-1 he was Trustee of the village of Ithaca, and is a member of the Odd Fellows Order and Royal Arcanum.

He was married, Sept. 4, 1870, in Lapeer, to Cynthia S., daughter of Edward C. and Rebecca Ney, of Oregon Township, Lapeer County, where Mrs. Jackson was born, April 20, 1853. Gillian, born Sept. 6, 1871, in North Branch, Lapeer County, and Arthur M., born April 23, 1882, in Ithaca, are the names of their two children.



**T**heodore O. Daniels, farmer, section 16, Fulton Township, is a son of John and Betsy (Ramage) Daniels, natives of Ireland and New Jersey. They settled after marriage in the State of New Jersey, where the father died in January, 1829. The mother came to Michigan many years after, having remarried, and died in Fulton Township, this county, Jan. 9, 1863.

Their family comprised two sons, of whom Theodore was the younger. He was born in New Jersey March 17, 1829, and as his father died when Theodore was but two months old, he lived with his mother until he attained his majority. He came to Lenawee Co., Mich., in the spring of 1855, and remained there about six months, when he went to Van Buren County. In the spring of 1861, he came

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*Charles W. Marvin M.D.*

to Gratiot County and bought 40 acres of wild land in Newark Township, where he lived 12 years, with the exception of over two years in the army.

He enlisted Sept. 14, 1863, in the 1st Mich. Engineers and Mechanics, and was honorably discharged at Jackson, Mich., Sept. 22, 1865. Returning to his home in Gratiot County, he lived in Newark Township until the spring of 1873. Selling out, he then bought 40 acres on section 15, Fulton Township, where he lived eight years. He again sold, and bought a farm of 100 acres, where he resided a year and a half. Disposing of that place, he then bought 125 acres on section 16, where he now resides. He has 100 acres under the plow, and everything about his place betokens thrift and good management.

Aug. 28, 1852, in the State of New Jersey, he was married to Miss Margaret, daughter of Jephtha and Elizabeth (Lemons) Denee, who were of Scotch and Irish descent. Mrs. Daniels was born in New Jersey April 10, 1827. She and her husband are the parents of six children: John S., Martha A., George H., William D., Viola E. and Rhoda S. Mr. Daniels has filled the different school offices, and is politically a supporter of the Republican party. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the A. O. U. W.

**C**harles W. Marvin, M. D., physician and surgeon at Ithaca, was born April 15, 1824, in Sharon Township, Richland Co., Ohio. He is a son of Stephen and Sarah B. (Sherwood) Marvin. The father was born in Fairfield Co., Conn., Jan. 8, 1797. He was a tanner and carrier by trade, and married Sarah (Burr) Sherwood, a relative of the celebrated Aaron Burr, and two months after that event came with his parents, Isaac and Hannah (Hoyt) Marvin, to Richland Co., Ohio. They drove with their teams through Pennsylvania to the verge of civilization, and cut the last miles of their route through the woods to their location in Shelby Township. Stephen Marvin located 60 acres of primeval forest land, which is now included in the site of Shelby. On this he settled, cleared and improved the entire tract, and there reared his family. He died on his homestead, Aug. 10, 1868. His wife was born June 26, 1800, and

died in Sharon, on the place which had been her home for 60 years. Isaac Marvin, Jr., was born February, 1774, and became a pioneer settler of Ohio in 1819. He was married Jan. 8, 1794, and died Oct. 12, 1850, on his farm, which was located a short distance northeast of Shelby. The wife was born Aug. 19, 1773, and died March 27, 1858. Isaac Marvin, Sr., great-grandfather of Dr. Marvin, was born Feb. 10, 1745. The great-grandmother, Rachel (Burns) Marvin, was born Dec. 9, 1746. The maternal grandmother of Dr. Marvin, Deborah (Sherwood) Moyer, was born Jan. 5, 1783. She was twice married. Her first husband, Daniel Sherwood, was a Captain in the West Indian service. After his death his widow became Mrs. Moyer.

Dr. Marvin spent his youth in acquiring his elementary education, and on arriving at a suitable age assisted in the business of his father. In the winter of 1845-6 he taught school, and then began to read for his profession. In 1847 he entered the office of Dr. H. O. Mack, under whose direction he pursued his studies for some time, and during the winters of 1849-50-51 he was a student at the Western Reserve Medical College at Cleveland, Ohio, where he was graduated in the spring of 1851. He at once began his career as a practitioner at Johnsville, Morrow Co., Ohio, where he remained two years, going thence to Freeport, Wood County, in the Buckeye State. In the fall of 1859 he commenced practice in Perrysburg, and in the following spring (1860) he came to Gratiot County. He selected a site for a residence at Ithaca, and during the erection of his house he resided with Russell Burgess, his brother-in-law, a farmer, residing three and a half miles northwest from the village. He took up his abode at Ithaca in the fall of 1860, and continued the practice of his profession there until June, 1864, when he was commissioned Assistant Surgeon of the 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., and was in that service until the close of the war. He was mustered out with the regiment at Jackson, and resumed his vocation at Ithaca, which he has continued since without intermission. He has acquired reputation and popularity in his profession, and is now occupying the position of United States Examining Surgeon for pensioners. He owns a fine farm of 80 acres on section 2, Newark Township, with 45 acres under cultivation. On first coming to the county he took the declared position of a friend

of general education, and has ever since been active in promoting school interests. In 1863 he was elected a school officer, and held one position six years, when he was elected Director, and has discharged the duties of that position ever since, having been successively re-elected. He has been one of the most prominent in the establishment of schools, and one of the most successful in placing them in efficient operation. He was chiefly instrumental in selecting the site and supervising the construction of the Union School building at Ithaca.

Dr. Marvin was married in Freeport, Wood Co., Ohio, Dec. 18, 1857, to Martha J., daughter of John and Sarah L. (Brenholtz) Brooke. She was born Sept. 27, 1827, in Hughesville, Lycoming Co., Pa. Louis J., born May 29, 1859; Seymour S., Nov. 7, 1861 (died Nov. 1, 1867); Ella S., Oct. 23, 1866; and Burr, July 7, 1871, are the names of the children who have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Marvin. They are members of the Congregational Church at Ithaca, which the Doctor was instrumental in organizing June 7, 1866. He has been one of the official board since that date, and is now Clerk of the society.

The portrait of Dr. Marvin may be found on page 570. His private and public record is such as to render it a valuable acquisition to the Biographical and Portrait Album of Gratiot County.

**L**udwick D. Miller, liveryman, of the firm of Miller Bros., at St. Louis, was born July 27, 1854, in Greene Co., Pa, and is a son of Lewis B. and Barbara (Yates) Miller. His father was a farmer in the Keystone State, and in 1869 removed with his family and interest to Isabella Co., Mich., and bought 235 acres of timber land on sections 23 and 26, Coe Township. There the family resided about seven years and cleared and otherwise improved 125 acres of the land, putting the place into a first-class condition for profitable agriculture. It was afterward sold and the family removed to St. Louis, where they resided four years; going thence to Pine River, they settled on a farm and resided there until 1883, when they went to Alma. The father there erected a building and went into business, opening a livery stable.

Mr. Miller was variously engaged for a year after reaching his majority, when he went to Jackson, Mich., where he remained nine months. He returned to St. Louis and became assistant in Whitman's livery stable, where he operated until Nov. 8, 1883. On the 28th of January, 1884, he opened a feed and boarding stable, where he is now established in the livery business, and, March 5, 1884, formed a partnership with his brother, Andrew Miller. They are doing a safe and profitable business, and keep six horses and livery fixtures to suit their patrons. They also manage boarding, feed and sale stables in connection with their livery.

Mr. Miller was married in Pine River Township, May 13, 1879, to Cora Olger. She was born near Bellevue, Montcalm Co., Mich., and is a daughter of James and Harriet Olger. They have one son, Floyd, born Aug. 22, 1882, at St. Louis. Mrs. Miller died Nov. 9, 1883.

**W**illaby B. Lathrop, senior member of the milling firm of Lathrop, Kimball & Co., Elm Hall, was born in Jackson, Mich., Aug. 17, 1849; and is a son of George C. and Mary E. (Hall) Lathrop, natives of New York.

They trace the family back to 1637, when John Lathrop, a priest in the Anglican Church, was for dissenting and heretical views expelled from the Church. He, in common with many others who wished a place to establish their own religion, came to America, and for nine generations the Lathrops have been one of the prominent families of Puritan New England. George C. Lathrop has been a farmer, and came from New York to Michigan more than 50 years ago. He now resides in Ingham County, at the venerable age of 80. His wife is 77. His first location in this State was in Washtenaw County, on the present site of Ann Arbor. Not a house had then been erected, and scarcely a tree cut. Michigan was then a young Territory. Afterward, he settled in Jackson County; and seven years later he removed to Lansing. After two years more he removed 20 miles from that place, and commenced to clear a farm for his three sons and five daughters.

When seven years old, the subject of this biographical narrative commenced to make his own way in



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James L. Clark

life, spending one year in the American Express Company's office at Ionia. Going into the lumber woods, he was there employed until 1876, and then began to take contracts for himself in Montcalm and Osceola Counties. He averaged 2,000,000 feet annually. In September, 1880, he established a flouring mill at Elm Hall; and the following year, receiving Mr. Kimball, of Saginaw, as a partner, he added a saw and shingle mill. They do a flourishing business in all departments of milling. They own in partnership, 526 acres of land, 286 of which are improved. At the present writing, there are in the mill-yard over 3,000,000 feet of lumber. In their grocery, which they have besides their mill, the receipts are \$50 daily.

Oct. 24, 1883, at Ionia, he was married to Miss Julia Coffin, daughter of Benjamin Coffin. She was born in December, 1863, and receiving a good education, partly in the graded schools of St. Louis, she began teaching. She followed this four years, and one year later was married. Politically, Mr. L. is a staunch Republican. He is a public-spirited man, and has done much for his community.

**J**ames L. Clark, attorney, resident at Alma, was born Feb. 17, 1855, in Lenawee Co., Mich. He is the son of Cortez C. and Laura (Daily) Clark, and his parents were born respectively in Ohio and New York. Mr. Clark is of Puritan descent, his ancestors having been among the early settlers of Plymouth, and of that company which afterwards made the first settlements in the Connecticut Valley, where the grandfather of the subject of this sketch was born. The family were active in the French and Indian wars, and also the two wars against Great Britain. After their marriage Mr. C.'s parents settled in the Buckeye State for a few years, afterward removing to Lenawee Co., Mich. In 1862 they came to Alma, where they lived nine years. In the spring of 1871 they went to Ithaca, Gratiot County, and in 1880 the father decided on a removal to Austin, Texas, where his wife joined him the following year. The senior Clark was first married to a Miss Westbrook, of Ohio, by whom he had two children: Caroline and Hattie. She

died, and Mr. Clark contracted marriage a second time, with Laura Daily. James L., Florence M., Delbert J. and a child who died in infancy constitute the issue of the second marriage.

At the time of the removal of his parents to Gratiot County Mr. Clark was but seven years old. He was a member of the paternal household until his father transferred his interests to Ithaca. On the 10th of April, 1865, the people of Alma were celebrating the fall of Richmond, and Mr. Clark, then a lad of 10 years, stood on the steps of the residence of T. A. Johnson in company with the children of that gentleman watching the proceedings, when an iron ring, which had been placed between the anvils to make the firing more effective, burst, and a piece four inches in length and an inch in width struck his right hand, another fragment hit his knee and glanced between his legs, injuring a child of Mr. Johnson that stood near. The injuries were severe and resulted in three months' illness which nearly cost him his life. The use of his right hand was permanently destroyed. Mr. Clark has been heard to say that this accident, though maiming him for life, was really a blessing, for it forced the consideration of other means of gaining a livelihood than by manual labor, which his surroundings would naturally have led him into.

He acquired a knowledge of primary studies at the common school in Alma and attended the State Normal School at Ypsilanti. In 1871 he commenced teaching, which business he pursued diligently until 1877. In July of that year he entered the law office of William E. Winton, at Ithaca, where he read preparatory to his profession until June, 1879. He was admitted to practice at the bar of the Peninsular State in April preceding, and two months later established himself in practice at Elm Hall, in Gratiot County. He remained there one year and removed to Alma, where he opened an office for the prosecution of his business.

Mr. Clark is a prominent member of the Republican party and is largely interested and active in local political affairs. He has been much in public life, and during his vocation as a teacher he was elected School Inspector of Emerson Township, and discharged the duties of the position one year. In 1880, after his removal to Alma, he was elected Circuit Court Commissioner, and in 1882 was re-elected,

and is still fulfilling the obligations of the office. He was chosen Village Attorney in 1880 and held the position two years. During the campaign of 1880 Mr. C. somewhat distinguished himself as a campaign speaker, and it was frequently remarked that he had a promising future before him.

Mr. Clark is a man of brilliant parts, scholarly attainments and unimpeachable record. He possesses a cultured mind, whose resources are unusually well disciplined, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has made the best use of his opportunities.

He was married June 25, 1879, in Arcada Township, to Florence, daughter of Lafayette and Sophronia (Benjamin) Church. (See sketch.) Mrs. Clark was born March 25, 1859, in Gratiot County. Of two children born of their marriage but one survives: Hugh, who was born May 14, 1883. Cornelia was born Oct. 8, 1881, and died Jan. 11, 1882. Mrs. Clark is actively and prominently connected with the Baptist Church.

Mr. C. took an active interest in working up and organizing the L. A., Mt. P. & N. R. R. Co., and upon its organization was offered the position of Secretary, but declined it on account of his legal business requiring his entire attention.

The portrait of Mr. Clark, which is presented on another page, is a valuable acquisition to the large collection appearing in this volume. His connection with a prominent family, his own merits as a citizen and his professional capacity make him prominent, and he is distinguished for his inherent traits of character which render his future a foregone conclusion.

**M**artin Carlin, farmer on section 19, Fulton Township, is a son of Patrick and Bridget (Moran) Carlin, natives of Ireland. He was born on the Emerald Isle, County Mayo, Parish Barischoole, Nov. 11, 1813, and was about 33 years old when he came to America. He settled in Gratiot County in the fall of 1852, and purchased 80 acres on section 19, Fulton. He now owns 100 acres, 55 of which are under cultivation.

He was married in Ireland, in February, 1844, to Mary Masterson, who was born about 1825. To

this couple have been born 12 children: Michael, Martin, Margaret, Mary, John, Edward, Jane, Thomas, James, Henry, Francis and Annie. Mr. Carlin is politically a Democrat. He and wife are members of the Catholic Church.

**J**ames J. Payne, residing in Maple Rapids, Clinton County, was born in the State of New York, Dec. 2, 1825, and is a son of Arnold and Loana (Parker) Payne, natives of New York. (See sketch of D. H. Payne.) He was brought up after the manner of farmers' sons, and followed farming until his services were required by his country.

He enlisted in the third year of the war, in Co. M, 1st Mich. Eng. and Mechs., and served nearly two years. He now resides in Maple Rapids, and owns a farm on section 32, Fulton.

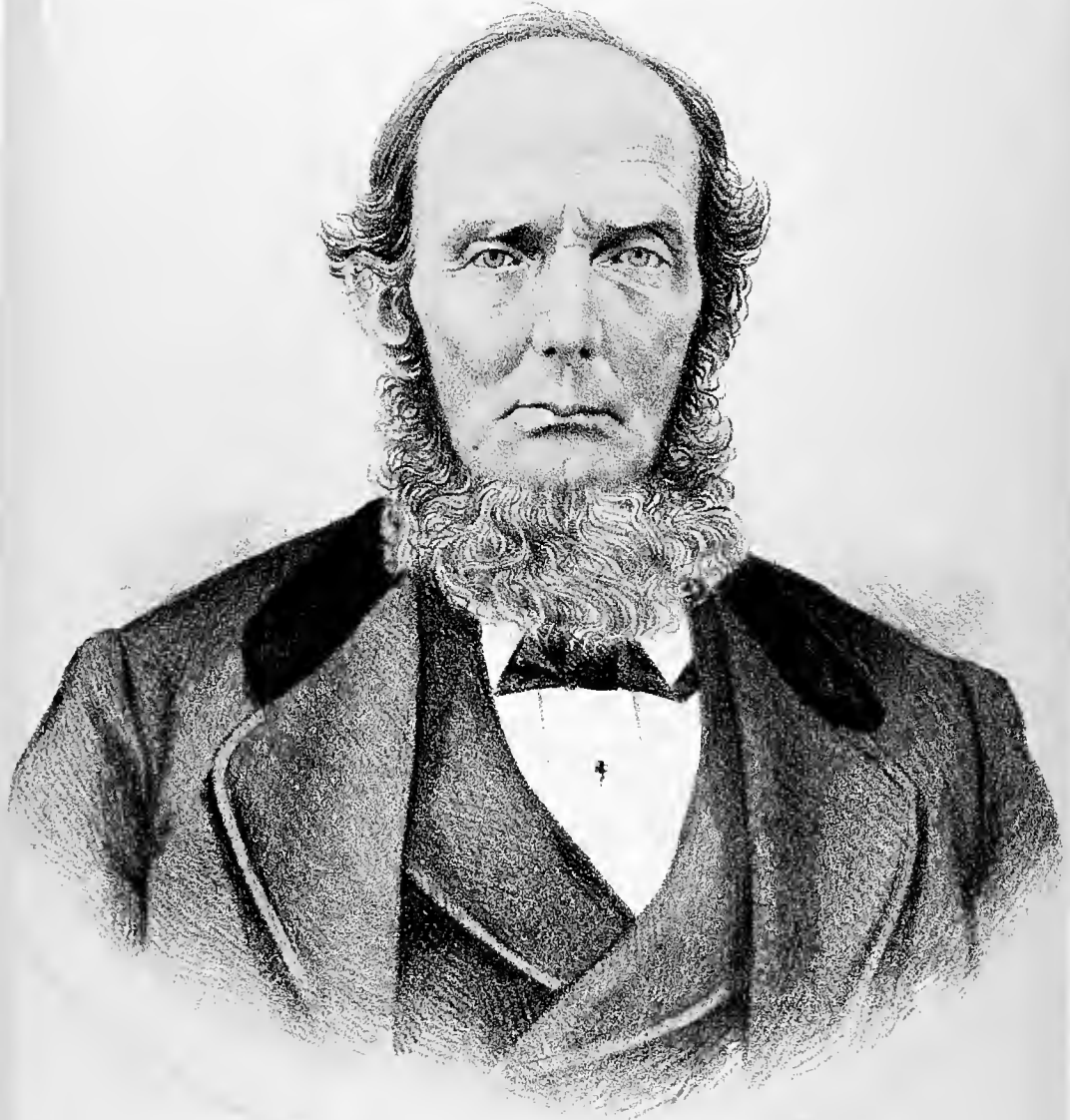
He was married in 1847, in Ingham Co., Mich., to Maria J., daughter of Watson and Eliza Boardman. She was born in Connecticut, in the year 1822. The following children have been added to the household: Sarah L., John A., Arastine M., Daniel W., Gilbert R., Lizzie J., Emmett J. and Caroline J.

Mr. Payne is politically a Republican. He is a member of the Christian Church.

**M**ichael McNamara, a prominent farmer, resident on section 10, Sumner Township, was born in County Clare, Ireland, Nov. 1, 1826; and is a son of James and Mary (Curtis) McNamara, natives of the Emerald Isle. James McNamara was a farmer by occupation, and died in his native country, in October, 1846. His wife died a year and a half later, in the spring of 1848.

The subject of this biographical notice passed his youth on the farm on which his father was tenant, assisting in the slavish life of an Irish farmer in that landlord-ridden country, who has more powerful obstacles to his success than the Michigan pioneer who goes into the dense forest 20 miles from the nearest settlement. In spite of adverse circumstances, how-

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Emory Adams



*Maria Adams*

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ever, he acquired a fair common-school education, as well as a practical knowledge of life. At the age of 17, he set out to make his fortune, and at Bristol, England, he worked for a master builder for six months. Going then to Cardiff, Wales, he was employed on a railroad. Thence he went to Doules, and thence to Rummy, where he was employed in the iron works for one year. Next, he proceeded to Tradaga, where he was similarly engaged for three years.

He then returned to his native place, and after a few days' visit he, in company with a sister-in-law, embarked at Liverpool for the United States. Landing at New York city in May, 1849, he went first to West Stafford, Conn., where he worked for farmers. In 1851, he journeyed to Springfield, Mass., and worked for one summer in the stone quarries there. He then came to Chicago, Grand Rapids and Ionia. While operating a hotel at the last named place, he met Messrs. Isaac and George Gee, of Gratiot County, who prevailed upon him to come into the woods, "keep shanty" and work for them. He consented, and in April, 1855, made the move. For one year he was thus employed as a common laborer, his wife doing the housework. During this time he purchased 80 acres of Government land under the pre-emption act, on section 10, and at the expiration of the year he commenced working for himself. He built him a log house, covered with shakes, and gradually, in time, he redeemed his fertile acres from the dense forest and useless stumps, and brought into being a model farm. From time to time he has added to his original 80 acres, and now he has 400 acres, with 250 acres under high cultivation, the most extensive farm in the township. In place of his first rude dwelling, with puncheon floor, and with but three boards of sawed lumber in its whole construction, he has now one of the largest and finest residences in Gratiot County, and barns and other farm buildings in proportion.

Dec. 31, 1854, near Springfield, Mass., he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Hollarron, a native of Clare Co., Ireland. She came to this country with three sisters when quite young, and for the first four years after her arrival she worked as a domestic in New York City. She then went to Massachusetts, where she was similarly employed until her marriage. She has been an earnest worker, a faithful wife and

affectionate mother, and a fit companion to her husband in his life work. She is the mother of seven children, of whom six survive: James, born June 6, 1855; Cornelius, Dec. 29, 1857; Henry, Dec. 26, 1859; Michael, March 10, 1862; Mary, March 31, 1864 (died in July, 1866); Katie, July 31, 1869; Sarah, Nov. 12, 1873.

Mr. and Mrs. McNamara are connected with the Roman Catholic Church. He has held many of the township offices, and is at present Drain Commissioner. Politically, he is a National Greenbacker. His oldest son, James, born June 16, 1855, was the first white child born in any of the three northern tiers of townships in the county.

**M**ery Adams, farmer, section 5, Arcada Township, was born in Sullivan Co., N. Y., March 17, 1813, and is the son of Jason and Olive (Bears) Adams, natives of New England, and of the old Puritan stock. His early boyhood was spent with his parents in his native county and in Seneca Co., N. Y., and later in Niagara Co., N. Y. He lived with his parents until his marriage, Dec. 24, 1836, in Newfane Township, Niagara County, to Rachel M., daughter of John and Phebe (Case) Lewis, natives of New York and of English and German descent. She was born in Montgomery Co., N. Y., Feb. 8, 1818. At the age of 14 she removed with her parents to Orleans County, and afterwards to Niagara County, where she lived until her marriage.

In the fall of 1837, Mr. and Mrs. Adams came to Jackson Co., Mich., where they lived in Liberty Township until February, 1854. They then came to this county and purchased 360 acres of unbroken forest land in Arcada Township. They were among the first white settlers in that part of the county, but were surrounded by friendly Indians. By his own efforts, Mr. Adams has succeeded in improving 100 acres; and he has given his three married children all a good start in farming. He and wife have a very pleasant home two miles from the village of Alma, and stand exceptionally high in the estimation of their friends, for upright character, energetic mind and hospitable disposition.

Aug. 12, 1861, Mr. Adams enlisted in Co. C, 8th

Mich. Vol. Inf., and he served under Gen. Stephens. The principal fighting he saw was in the South Carolina campaign, at Port Royal, James Island and Wilmington. He was often detailed for special duty while in the service. He was neither captured nor wounded, but his health was seriously impaired by hard marching and by continued exposure. He was honorably discharged Dec. 9, 1862, when he returned home and gave his attention to improving his farm. And well has he succeeded. The first nine days after he brought his family to this county, they lived in a tent. They then had a log cabin, and from that they have come to have a residence and farm buildings that are an honor to the community in which they live.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams have had 12 children, but Death has with unkind hand robbed them of eight. The living are: Cynthia C., born Oct. 14, 1855; Edwin J., Feb. 26, 1841; Phebe J., Nov. 29, 1843; Loda G., Oct. 17, 1854. Lewis was born Dec. 25, 1845, and died in October, 1846; Ralph A. was born April 8, 1850, and died Sept. 17, 1852; Martha Maria, was born March 17, 1845, and died Feb. 10, 1863; and five others died in infancy. Mr. Adams held the office of Township Treasurer for three successive terms, being the second one elected to that office in the township. In politics he is an ardent Republican. He and wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Alma.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Adams appear on other pages. The biographical records of Gratiot County are rendered more valuable to the future by the addition of the likenesses of these members of its pioneer settlers who have borne the labors and privations of its early history and now enjoy its prosperity.

**J**ames M. Wood, farmer, section 2, Pine River Township, was born March 10, 1832, in Greene Co., Pa. He is the son of William and Hannah (Hartley) Wood, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Until he attained his majority, Mr. Wood passed his life in attending the common schools and working on his father's farm. On reaching the period of his legal freedom he rented a farm, which he conducted

several years, after which he bought a saw-mill, in company with two partners. This enterprise lasted about three years, and on detaching himself from it, Mr. Wood, associated with his brother, bought 150 acres of land. His brother was then a soldier in the Union army, and his interest in the property continued until March, 1865, at which time he came to Gratiot County. During the year he bought the farm he now owns, comprising 165 acres of wild land. Of this he retains 125 acres, and his tillable land now includes 40 acres. Mr. Wood is a decided Republican.

He was first married in Greene Co., Pa., to Elizabeth Leonard. She was born in the Keystone State, and became the mother of nine children: William L., Archibald H., Levi L., Cephas E., Lena L., Sarah Belle, Hannah A., George T. and Henry F. Mrs. Wood died in August, 1876. Mr. Wood was again married in May, 1880, to Mrs. Emily (Baker) Acker, widow of Jonas Acker. Mr. and Mrs. Wood are members of the Disciples' Church.

**J**acob Burnham, one of the oldest living pioneer settlers in Gratiot County, resident at St. Louis, was born April 22, 1805, near Coburg, Canada West, and is a son of Nathan and Joanna (Ferguson) Burnham. He was reared on a farm and bred to the calling of an agriculturist. On reaching his majority he bought a farm and entered upon active, independent life with every prospect of smooth, safe progress to prosperity, but, in an unfortunate moment, he signed obligations for other parties, whose failure to discharge their own indebtedness involved him in a loss of \$5,000, by which he became dispossessed of his farm. He made a determined struggle through the next four years, working at carpenter work and in a saw-mill, and again bought a farm in the Dominion, located in Reach Township, Ontario County. On this he resided until the fall of 1856, when he came to St. John's, Clinton Co., Mich. A year later he came to St. Louis, and entered the employ of Richard G. Hillyer in the management of a saw-mill belonging to him and Henry L. Holcomb, who afterward became the sole proprietor of the property. Mr. Burnham conducted

the business of the mill 17 years altogether, since which he has been variously engaged.

The marriage of Mr. Burnham with Nancy Brown occurred Sept. 16, 1827, near Grafton, Canada. She was the daughter of Edward and Rachel (Cole) Brown, and was born May 4, 1810, in Brockville, Canada. She died Jan. 14, 1860, at St. Louis. Of nine children born of this union, four are living: Julia A., wife of Alexander Chisholm, a farmer of Lafayette Township; Phatina B. Z., wife of Moses Thompson, a farmer in Dickinson Co., Iowa; Ursula, wife of Elijah Going, a miller in Salt River village, Isabella County; Sophronia, wife of Herbert L. Lord, a builder, resident at St. Louis with Mr. Burnham.

The old home first occupied by Mr. B. and his family on coming to St. Louis was built by Mr. Grooms, and it was the first house built on the present site of the village. At the date of Mr. Burnham's purchase, the town contained less than a dozen families, and everything was in the most primitive condition. No streets had been opened and he assisted in opening the first thoroughfare. The old home, which was purchased by him, together with one and a quarter acres of ground, has been recently torn down. It was situated on the bank of the river on Main Street, in block 46. The first grave was dug in the garden attached to the house, and received the remains of a young girl, Alice Clark. They were afterward interred in the St. Louis cemetery. Betsey Campbell, sister of Miss Clark, was the next to require a final resting place, and her body was also buried in the same garden, but was sent after some time to Salt River village, Isabella County.

**G**eorge L. Kemp, farmer, section 16, Pine River Township, is the son of Jacob M. and Harriet (Hoy) Kemp, the former a native of West Virginia, the latter of Maryland.

After their marriage they located in Richland Co., Ohio, and in 1857 came to Isabella Co., Mich., and thence to St. Louis, Gratiot County, where they still reside.

Mr. Kemp was born May 25, 1846, in Richland County, and was a lad of 11 years when his parents came to Michigan. At 18 he became a soldier in

the Union cause and enlisted in the 2d Mich. Vol. Inf. He was in the service 17 months and received an honorable discharge. He was 21 years old soon after the close of the war, and on attaining his legal freedom he settled upon a farm his father bought for him while he was absent in his country's defense. It was situated in Isabella County, and included 160 acres, which he continued to improve for 11 years, when he sold out, and in December, 1879, he removed to Gratiot County, where he bought 120 acres of slightly improved land on section 16 in Pine River Township. He has placed 50 acres under good cultivation, and in the summer of 1881 he built a fine modern barn on his farm. In political faith he is a Republican.

Mr. Kemp was married March 14, 1877, to Francinkey, daughter of Samuel and Elma Abbott. Her mother was born in Kentucky, her father in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Kemp was born in Kosciusko Co., Ind., Oct. 20, 1844. Mr. and Mrs. Kemp are the parents of three children: Kittie B., Samuel M. and Freddie S. The parents are members of the Disciples' Church.

**P**hilip Fritz, farmer, section 36, Newark Township, was born in Venango Co., Pa., Feb. 8, 1822, and is the youngest son of his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Huffman) Fritz. They were both natives of the Keystone State and of German ancestors.

When Mr. Fritz was seven years of age, his father moved to Medina Co., Ohio, where he lived till 1880. He then came to Gratiot County, where he died May 3, 1882. On reaching manhood, the brothers, Philip and Amos, bought their father's farm and managed it in company for 18 years, when the former sold his interest to his brother and, purchasing a share in the estate of his father-in-law, conducted the place six years, then sold out, and in April, 1868, he came to Gratiot County and purchased 158½ acres of land, on which he has since resided. To this he has added 60 acres, and at present writing 136 acres of his farm are under cultivation. Mr. Fritz is a "died-in-the-wool" Republican, and interested in all matters that seem to possess inherent elements likely to benefit the general public. In 1870 he gave half an acre

of land to the township of Newark, adjoining the school-house in district No. 1, on condition of the plat being surrounded with shade trees and the proper grading done.

Mr. Fritz was married June 6, 1851, in Medina County, to Barbara, second daughter of John and Barbara (Giesinger) Wideman. The parents were natives of Pennsylvania, removed thence to Canada and later to Ohio, where the father died. The mother came to Michigan to pass her remaining days and died March 9, 1879, in Newark Township. Mrs. Fritz was born in Ohio, Dec. 29, 1826. Ten children born of this marriage are all living. Their names are, Francis J., William O., Amos W., Jacob M., John E., Radintha J., Rosalinda, Joseph A., Mary E. and Florence A.

Mr. Fritz has served the township of Newark as Collector of taxes five years, and has held the various school offices. He is connected with the Masonic fraternity and himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**G**eorge Rockafellow, farmer and stock-raiser on section 16, Summer Township, is son of John and Elizabeth (Frale) Rockafellow, natives of New Jersey, and of Scotch and German descent. The father has followed the occupation of carpenter and joiner, and is yet living, in the State of Nebraska, aged 83. The mother died in 1849, in Crawford Co., Pa.

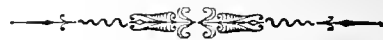
The subject of this biography was born April 29, 1839, in Livingston Co., N. Y., and when two years old his parents removed to Crawford Co., Pa. Here he lived with his parents until 18 years of age, and was then apprenticed to the trade of wagon-maker, under Elliott Byres, of Crawfordstown, Pa. Serving his time, he went to the oil regions of Pennsylvania and was employed as a driller until July 1, 1861. On that date his patriotic feelings led him to enlist in Co. C, 62d Pa. Vol. Inf., and he was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, under Gen. McClellan. July 2, 1862, at Malvern Hill, he received a gunshot wound in the right leg. A permanent lameness resulting, he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. He fought in the seven-days' battle before Rich-

mond, and in other engagements, and was discharged, July 11, 1864, after serving three years.

Returning to his father's farm, he worked there for a few months; and in the spring of 1865 he was appointed mail agent on the Warren & Franklin railroad, in Pennsylvania. After a year he was transferred to the Farmers' railroad, where he remained a year. Coming then to this State, he located 160 acres on section 16, Summer Township, then entirely in its primitive wild state. After chopping about 10 acres, he sold, and bought 120 acres on the same section, where he has since resided. He has since improved 45 acres, has sold 50 acres, and purchased 80 acres additional on section 20.

Sept. 28, 1871, at Salt River, Isabella Co., Mich., he was united in marriage to Miss Jane, daughter of William and Susanna (Huff) Smith, natives of Somerset Co., Pa. Mr. Smith died in Wood Co., Ohio, in 1862, aged 60; and Mrs. Smith died in 1870, aged 59. Jane was born in Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, Jan. 20, 1842, and was reared and educated in Wood Co., Ohio, where she went with her parents when five years old. In 1871, she came to Michigan, and one year later she was married.

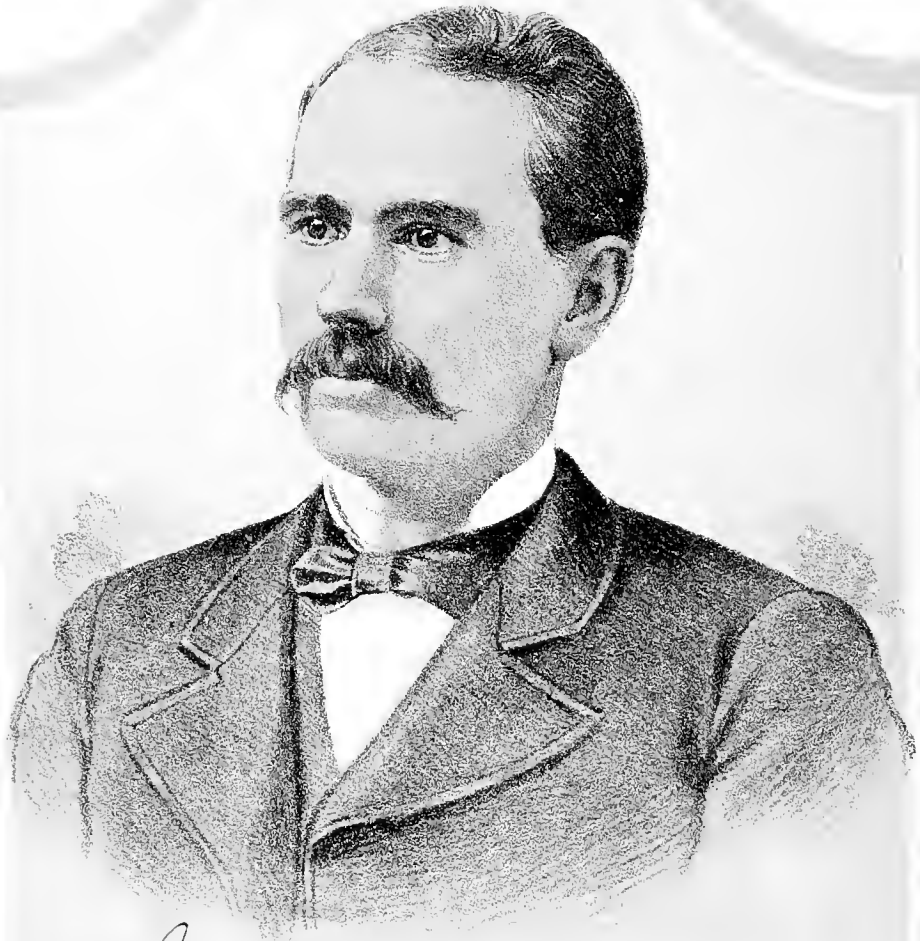
Mr. and Mrs. Rockafellow are the parents of four children: Charles E., George F., Samuel L., and John A. He has held the office of Highway Commissioner, and has also held various school offices. Politically, he is a zealous and uncompromising Republican.



**E**ugene Kirby, manager of the Wright House at Alma, was born Sept. 12, 1853, in Oswego, N. Y. His parents, Capt. Allen M. and Hannah (Scott) Kirby, were natives of Vermont. After their marriage, they located at Oswego. In 1860 they removed to East Saginaw, where they were resident about 23 years. The father there engaged as a Captain on the Lake steamers. In the summer of 1883 they removed to Detroit, where they now reside.

Mr. Kirby was nearly six years of age when his parents came to East Saginaw. He was there educated, and continued to reside until the fall of 1883. In 1876 he became Clerk of the Bancroft House, in which capacity he served about one year, when he

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William D Tucker

engaged as steward of the same house. After discharging the obligations of the position three and a half years, he resumed the duties of clerk, and officiated as such two years. He terminated his engagement in the autumn of 1883, and removed to Alma, where he assumed the management of the Wright House, which justly claims precedence of similar establishments in the Peninsular State.

Mr. Kirby was married Oct. 30, 1883, at East Saginaw, to Hattie M., youngest daughter of Amos and Rachel (Ingals) Martin. Mrs. Kirby was born July 27, 1863, in Goderich, Canada, where her parents located after their marriage.

Mr. Kirby is identified with the interests and issues of the Republican party. He has been "mine host" of the Wright House but a comparatively short period, but long enough to render himself popular, and he has won a highly flattering degree of the public confidence. His affable, genial temperament and attention to the small considerations which contribute so largely to the comfort of the patrons of an establishment possessing the uncontested claims which pertains to the Wright House, is conclusive evidence that, in this instance, "the right man is in the 'Wright' place" literally.

**W**illard Davis Tucker, editor and proprietor of the *St. Louis Herald*, and President of the Village of St. Louis, was born March 25, 1841, in Bainbridge, Chenango Co., N. Y. His father, Davis Tucker, was born in Cherry Valley, Otsego Co., N. Y., Aug. 21, 1808, and was the second of eight brothers, sons of Caleb and Thirza (Foster) Tucker, their grandfather being Joshua Tucker. This branch of his ancestry was from Connecticut and Vermont stock, and was originally from England and Wales.

His mother, whose maiden name was Catharine Lake, was born Sept. 24, 1808, in Dutchess Co., N. Y., and was the fifth in a family of 11 children. Her father, John McCord Lake, was a Connecticut Yankee of French and Irish antecedents, and her mother, Betsey (De La Matyr) Lake, daughter of Capt. William De La Matyr, of Brooklyn, descended from Holland stock, and belonged to the now numerous family

of De La Matyrs who trace their ancestry to one Hollander of that name, who immigrated to this country and located at what is now Brooklyn, some time in the sixteenth century.

Davis Tucker, father to the subject of this sketch, was a farmer and came to Michigan with his family in May, 1844, and located in Grass Lake Township, Jackson County, where (and in adjoining townships) he engaged in his occupation till the spring of 1854, when, having purchased a large farm in Branch County, 11 miles west from Coldwater, he removed with his family to the new home. Here the father died, Oct. 4, 1854, and the property, passing into the hands of an administrator, mainly disappeared in costs and fees. The remaining members of the family migrated to Springport, Jackson County, in which township, and in the adjoining townships of Hamlin, Eaton County, and Clarence, Calhoun County, they were engaged in agriculture, having purchased farms in each of those townships.

The subject of this sketch was one of a family of seven children, five girls and two boys, being the sixth in order, and the second son. Only the two sons are living at the present time, the girls one by one having all passed away, all having arrived at womanhood, and all, excepting the youngest, married and with families. The brother, Albert C., resides in Charlotte, Eaton County. From and after 1859, the subject of this sketch, his youngest sister, Martha De Ette, and his mother, constituted "the family," the others having all gone for themselves. Mr. Tucker received a common-school education, and has taught three terms of school; the winter of 1863-4 in his own district in Clarence, the winter term of 1868-9 in St. Louis, in what is now called the "West Branch," and in 1871-2 in District No. 2, fractional, of Pine River and Arcada.

At the breaking out of, and during, the war, Mr. Tucker greatly desired to respond to the country's call for defenders, but, owing to the duties devolving upon him in the care of an aged mother and young sister, it seemed a thing impossible to do. In the summer of 1864, however, circumstances seemed more propitious, and he enlisted as a private in Co. D, 28th Mich. Vol. Inf., and was mustered into the service at Marshall, Sept. 1, afterwards going to Kalamazoo, where the organization of the regiment was completed. The regiment went South in October,

halting at Louisville, where Companies D and B were put to detached service, and did duty at Louisville, Nashville and intermediate localities, till February, 1865, when the regiment was assigned to the 23d Army Corps, and ordered to join the command in North Carolina. Proceeding to Alexandria, Va., a three-weeks halt was necessary to await the breaking up of the ice in the Potomac, after which the regiment proceeded by water to Beaufort, N. C., thence to Newbern, where Mr. Tucker was left in the small-pox hospital, having contracted that dread disease in Alexandria, and suffering everything but death during the week's stormy passage on the Atlantic. When partially recovered from this, he passed through a siege of pneumonia, supplemented with hernia of the lungs and mumps, and when discharged, June 15, 1865, after the close of the war, his health was very much broken. He gradually recovered, but it was two years before he regained his usual health.

In August, 1866, Mr. Tucker, with his mother and sister, removed to St. Louis, Gratiot County, then a small hamlet, and engaged in the business of building, which calling he followed until March 1, 1881, when he bought the *St. Louis Herald*, and the duties of editor and publisher have since occupied his time and attention. The *Herald* is the oldest paper by priority of establishment published at St. Louis, and is the only National Greenback paper in the county. It has a large and growing circulation in Gratiot and adjoining counties, and enjoys a liberal advertising patronage. The job work and ornamental printing done at this office is of the best, and would be a credit to towns of a much larger size. The *Herald's* influence in politics is considerable, it being a fearless exponent and advocate of anti-monopoly and the principles of the National Greenback Labor party.

The death of his sister, De Ette, occurred Nov. 8, 1871, after an illness of more than seven months. His mother died Aug. 18, 1882, having been an invalid with rheumatism for nearly five years, and most of that time in nearly a helpless condition.

Mr. Tucker remained a bachelor until Dec. 17, 1883, when he was married, in Jackson, Mich., to Miss M. Louise Briggs, one of the most highly esteemed young ladies of St. Louis. She is a daughter of Ira R. and Eliza Briggs, and was born in Wales, St. Clair Co., Mich., June 30, 1860.

Mr. Tucker has for several years been quite prominent in local politics. On the incorporation of the village of St. Louis in the fall of 1868, he was elected Street Commissioner, and served one term. In the spring of 1873 he was elected a member of the Village Board of Trustees and served two years. In 1875-6-7 he was Village Clerk, and in 1875 was also Clerk of Pine River Township, and was Village Marshal during the year 1877. In the spring of 1880, having moved into the township of Bethany (in which St. Louis is in part located), he was elected Supervisor of his township, and was re-elected in 1881 and 1882. In 1880 he was the Fusion candidate for Judge of Probate, and received upward of 2,400 votes in a total of 5,000. His defeat was the fate of the whole ticket, with the exception of Prosecuting Attorney. In March, 1883, he ran on the "People's" ticket for Village President, and was elected, receiving considerably more than twice as many votes as his opponent. He was re-elected in the spring of 1884.

The portrait of Mr. Tucker is presented on another page.

**S**amuel Newton, farmer, section 20, Emerson Township, was born in Buckneshire, Eng., June 12, 1831, and is a son of Thomas and Ann (Hine) Newton, natives of England, and residing on a farm but 45 miles from the city of London. He is a lineal descendant of the old Newton family of which Sir Isaac was the most distinguished member. His parents came to the Great Republic in 1850, and finally settled in Barry Co., Mich. In that county his mother died in 1858. His father still lives, aged 73.

Samuel's educational advantages were very limited. At the age of seven he went to live with his grandparents, and when 14 years old he was apprenticed to John S. Monday, a butcher of Aylesbury, England. Two years and a half later, he went to London and worked as a "jour" in the trade he had learned. Afterward he was employed on a railroad. In 1850 he took ship for this country. For the first eight years after his arrival, he farmed near Ann Arbor, this State.

Sept. 5, 1852, in Washtenaw County, he was united



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*L. M. C. Chapin*

in the bonds of matrimony to Jane, daughter of William and Isabella (Evans) Imission, natives of Yorkshire, England. Mr. Imission was a shoemaker by trade, and followed that calling until he came to this country in 1852. Since then he has been a farmer. He settled in what is now Emerson Township in 1854. When the township was organized, it was intended to name it in his honor; but "E" was substituted for "I" by mistake. He died in September, 1880, nearly 70 years old. His wife now lives with her daughter, enjoying a ripe old age of 75 years. The daughter was born in Yorkshire, Eng., Nov. 10, 1833. Six years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Newton settled on section 21, Emerson Township. In 1867 he purchased on section 20, 80 acres, his present residence; he has since added 40 acres, and has altogether 60 acres of highly improved land. He has made all improvements, and erected all buildings, himself.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton have had nine children, of whom six survive: Martha J., born July 19, 1854; Mary B., March 17, 1859; William H., Aug. 1, 1861; Jessie L., Jan. 13, 1864; Ellie M., Oct. 7, 1866; Frederick C., July 11, 1870. A baby died in infancy; Sammie was born Dec. 30, 1869, and died Jan. 2, 1870; Nora was born April 5, 1873, and died Aug. 12, 1875. Mr. Newton is a member of Emerson Lodge, No. 375, I. O. O. F., and holds the office of Guard. He has been Overseer of Roads for a number of years, and in politics is a Democrat.

**J**ames Otto, farmer on section 9, Fulton Township, is a son of George and Ara (Parrish) Otto, natives of New York State. He was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., Oct. 11, 1833, and was but two years old when his parents removed to Hillsdale Co., this State.

Here he received a common-school education, and remained at home most of the time until 24 years old. In the summer of 1855, he came to this county, and bought 80 acres of wild land on sections 7 and 10, Fulton Township. He has since added 40 acres on section 4, and has over 100 acres nicely improved.

April 26, 1858, in Fulton Township, he married Miss Josephine, daughter of Andrew T. and Sarah

(Runnels) Wordwell, natives of New York State. Mrs. O. was born in Waterloo, N. Y., Oct. 19, 1843. She and her husband are the parents of 12 children, eight of whom survive: Ara, Ira T., Amasa J., Alma, Perry, Ampter B., Leroy and Zelma M. The deceased all died in infancy. Mr. O. has been Constable two years, and has held the minor school offices. In politics, he supports the Republican party. He and wife are members of the Christian Church.

**D**e Witt C. Chapin, deceased, formerly one of Gratiot County's prominent citizens, was a son of Theodore H. and Margaret (Fox) Chapin, natives of New England and New York respectively. Theodore H. Chapin was by profession a lawyer, and practiced at the Bar until his death. The family comprised three sons: De Witt C., Theodore H., Jr., and Christopher F.

The subject of this biography was born May 28, 1816, and received his education in the common schools of Lockport, N. Y., and at the academy at Lewiston, N. Y., of which latter institution he was a graduate. He then read law in the office of his father, and was admitted to the Bar before he was 21 years of age. About 1837 he came to Michigan, locating in Cass County one year. He next lived for several years in Southern Illinois, and a short time in Farmington, Oakland County, this State. Going to Clinton County, he was elected Clerk of that county for two years. Then removing to Allegan County, he was for four years Prosecuting Attorney, and four years Judge of Probate. Returning to Clinton County, he was for three terms again County Clerk.

In December, 1864, he came to Gratiot County and located at Alma, where he followed his profession five years. In the fall of 1870, he was elected Register of Deeds of this county, and removed to Ithaca. He was re-elected in the fall of 1872, and continued to fill that responsible office until his death, Jan. 29, 1873, ending a life of exceptional activity and usefulness. He had filled important county offices for nearly 20 years; was endowed with peculiar talents; possessed of unquestioned integrity, and universally liked and respected.

Dec. 25, 1843, he formed a life partnership, in Clinton Co., Mich., with Miss Edna F., daughter of William and Mahala Utley, natives of Vermont. Edna F., the fourth of a family of nine, was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Dec. 18, 1822. By her marriage with Mr. Chapin, she had a family of ten, six surviving: Margaret M., Delia H. (deceased), William W. (deceased), Ella F., Laura C., Nettie M. (deceased), Frank W., Fred. W., Carrie F. and Louise (deceased).

About 1860, Mr. Chapin purchased 326 acres of land on section 31, Pine River Township, which estate has been equitably divided among the children; and Mrs. Chapin now lives a tranquil life with her sons, Frank and Fred.

The portrait of Mr. Chapin is presented on another page. Its appearance in the Portrait and Biographical Album of Gratiot County adds materially to the value of the volume, and will be the source of general satisfaction.

**H**enry Read, a prominent farmer, section 1, Fulton Township, is a son of Henry and Sarah A. (Ranger) Read, natives of England, where the father died, June 24, 1851. Mrs. Read came with her family to America in 1854, and settled in Ohio, where she married Albert Wheeler, March 17, 1858. He was a native of Connecticut. They came to Gratiot County the same year, and settled in Fulton Township, where he died, Nov. 22, 1881. Mrs. Wheeler had by her first husband three children,—Rosa L., Henry, and Frederick (died at the age of nine).

The subject of this biographical narrative was born in England, Feb 26, 1848, and was four years old when the family emigrated to the Great Republic. He received a limited education in the common schools of Ohio and Michigan, and at the early age of 14 began to work by the month at farming. This he followed seven years, and then rented a farm for himself, which he worked for two years. In 1871, he bought 40 acres of partly improved land on section 1, Fulton Township, to which he has since added 40 acres. He has good buildings, and has about 60 acres under cultivation.

Oct. 9, 1870, in Clinton Co., Mich., he was married to Miss Mary C., daughter of Jacob and Nancy

(Lewis) Hanes, natives of Pennsylvania. She was born in Williams Co., Ohio, Sept. 15, 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Read are the parents of three children: Frederick H., Robert H. and Bessie F. Robert died when 14 months old. Mr. R. was elected Justice of the Peace in 1882, and now holds that office. Politically, he supports the Democratic party. He and wife are members of the Congregational Church.

**E**lmar W. Ely, editor of the *Alma Record*, was born Aug. 29, 1853, in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and is a son of Derwin and Helen (Hart) Ely. His father was a native of Chautauqua County also, and the marriage of his parents occurred in the village of Delanti, in the same county. They remained there resident two years, when they came to Michigan and, in 1855, settled in Alma. The father was a farmer and built a pioneer house on the north bank of Pine River. He inhabited his log house a year and erected a dwelling on the south bank of the "Pine," which is now incorporated in the building known as the "Moyer House." Two years later he sold out to his brother, Flavius, and returned to his native county, where he resumed his occupation as agriculturist and remained seven years. On the death of his brother, Flavius, at Alma, he returned to that place and assumed charge of the children of his brother. He is still resident at Alma, and combines the occupations of builder and farmer.

Mr. Ely remained under the management and guardianship of his parents until he was 18 years of age, when he began teaching school. He taught a term in a rural district of Isabella County, and afterwards repeated the experience in Gratiot County. In order to improve his education, and to fit himself for a life of usefulness in accordance with his preferences and hopes, he attended the State Normal School at Ypsilanti three terms. After leaving school, he obtained a position in the Auditor General's office at Lansing, and officiated in the capacity of clerk nearly seven years. In June, 1882, he returned to Alma, and was engaged during the summer in light farming, after which he turned his attention to transactions in real estate, in which he was engaged until November, 1883. In that month, he assumed the

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*Mrs. R. A. Gee*

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editorial management of the journal published at Alma, and known as the *Alma Record*. In political principles Mr. Ely is independent, but his tendencies incline to harmonize with the tenets and issues of the Republican party.

He was married at Jackson Jan. 21, 1880, to Minnie H., daughter of Newton and Jane (McFarland) Whitney. Mrs. Ely was born Nov. 8, 1855, in Lansing. Jessie G., only child, was born April 21, 1882.

**G**eorge E. Gee, farmer and stock-raiser, section 15, Sumner Township, is a son of Joseph and Eleanor (Seaton) Gee, and was born in Lyons Township, Wayne Co., N. Y., Sept. 23, 1833. At the tender age of six years, he was left to fight life's battles without the protecting guidance of a father. For three years he was under the care of a Mr. Gardner, of his native county, attending school winters, and working summers for his board and clothing. From this time until 18, he worked by the month for two substantial farmers in his neighborhood. He then went home and worked the homestead farm for three years. In the summer of 1854, he went to Cleveland to join his brother Isaac (see sketch), and in the fall of that year came to this county and located 400 acres on the corners of sections 10, 11, 14 and 15.

The following spring, in company with his brother, he began the task, which, persevered in, has made a model farm, one of the best in the county. He has retained of his original purchase 230 acres, 200 of which are in a state of scientific and profitable cultivation. He has over 2,200 rods of tile drainage, and his residence, barns, etc., are just what one would expect to see under the ownership of a man like George E. Gee. He has a well 206 feet deep, from which excellent mineral water flows.

April 25, 1858, in Pine River Township, at the residence of the bride's parents, he was married to Miss Rachel A. Kress, daughter of James and Mary (Hultz) Kress, natives of New York, and of French and German extraction. James Kress has been a farmer, and, with his wife, now lives in Alma. Their daughter, Rachel, was born in Liberty Township, Jackson Co., Mich., Nov. 30, 1842. When 13 years

old, her parents came to Gratiot County and settled at Alma, where nothing but log huts were then to be seen. There she was reared and educated, and, after teaching two terms of school, was married, at the age of 16. She has been a faithful wife, an affectionate mother, and a good neighbor. She has been the mother of four children: Jay, Lulah (deceased), Eulah and Eddie.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Gee are presented herewith. Some years ago Mr. Gee suffered from a sunstroke, which, coupled with his energetic, ambitious spirit, has brought upon him the most terrible affliction to which humanity is heir. Disease and overwork destroyed the texture of an unusually fine mental organism, and in 1880 he was placed under the care of skilled and efficient physicians at the asylum at Kalamazoo, where he receives all possible aid and tender consideration. In his living death, he is sincerely lamented and lovingly remembered by kindred and friends.

**J**oseph Sidel, farmer on section 15, Fulton Township, is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Murray) Sidel, natives of Pennsylvania. They first settled in Perry Co., Pa., afterwards removing to Lawrence County, same State, and thence to Wood Co., Ohio, where they died.

The subject of this biography was born in Perry Co., Pa., Sept. 8, 1833, and was educated in the common schools. At the age of 18, he was apprenticed for three years to learn the blacksmith trade. After serving his time, he started in business for himself in Lawrence County. Five years later he removed to Wood Co., Ohio, where he followed his trade, and also bought a small farm. His home was there for six years, including three years spent in the service of the Stars and Stripes.

Aug. 10, 1862, he enlisted in the 123d Ohio Vol. Inf., and during his term he fought at Winchester, Martinsburg, and numerous other engagements. At the siege of Petersburg, he was taken prisoner, only three days before the surrender of Lee. After his brief incarceration, he was honorably discharged, at Columbus, Ohio. In the spring of 1866, he came to Gratiot County, and purchased 40 acres on section 11, Fulton Township, where he lived, improving the

same, for three years. Selling out, he purchased 40 acres on section 14, where he lived a year and a half. He then traded for 40 acres on section 15, where he now resides. He now owns 120 acres, 96 of which are under cultivation. In the summer of 1882, he built a fine residence. He has also substantial barns, and other necessary buildings.

Jan. 5, 1854, he married Nancy J., daughter of William and Mary A. (Summerville) Allen, natives of Pennsylvania. She was born in Lawrence Co., Pa., Feb. 18, 1834. Having no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Sidel have reared from infancy three children of his sisters: Joseph Delano, Nettie C. Delano and Ella A. Sidel.

Mr. S. was elected Township Clerk in 1883. Politically, he is a Democrat. His wife is a member of the Lutheran Church.

**N**athaniel C. Brooks, farmer, section 24, Pine River Township, was born Oct. 22, 1822, in Trumbull Co., Ohio. His parents, John and Hannah (Russell) Brooks, were natives of Massachusetts, and settled in Trumbull County in 1812, where they passed the remainder of their lives. The father died in 1822, and the mother's death occurred in 1824.

The son was in infancy when his parents died, and he was cared for by his grandfather until he was 13 years of age. He obtained some schooling previous to that age, and on finding himself thrown upon his own resources he was variously engaged in lumbering and other occupations until he was 25 years old. In 1847 he bought a farm in his native county, which contained 72 acres. This he sold and bought another, and these transactions were several times repeated until 1874, when he came to Gratiot County and bought the farm whereon he now resides, comprising 77 acres. He has now 63 acres all under advanced improvement. He is a Democrat in political faith.

Mr. Brooks was married the first time in Braceville, Trumbull Co., Ohio, to Lois Wilnot. She was a native of Pennsylvania, and of the five children born of the union but one survives, Jessie L. Mary, Franklin and two others, unnamed, died in infancy. The mother dying, Mr. Brooks was married a second time in November, 1869, in Warren, Trumbull Co.,

Ohio, to Mrs. Marcia A., daughter of Charles Tucker, and widow of Robert Russell, M. D. The latter was born in Ohio, and died in 1864. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brooks: Nellie G., Freddie C. and Gale O. Nellie G. died when she was two years old.

**W**illiam Brice, Supervisor North Shade Township, residing on section 17, was the son of Thomas and Charlotte (Gore) Brice, natives of England, where they both died, the date thereof being unknown. He was born in the native land of his parents, March 10, 1830, and resided under the parental roof-tree until he attained the age of 13 years, when he engaged to a farmer in the neighborhood by the month.

In 1854, Mr. Brice left his native land and sailed for the United States and landed in New York City. He came directly from there to this county, and located on section 17, North Shade Township, where he is at present residing.

The experience of Mr. Brice in establishing a home in the then wilderness of Michigan, was similar to many others of the early pioneers. Obstacles seemingly insurmountable constantly presented themselves; yet, being endowed with those gifts, energy and perseverance, he triumphed over all, and, as a monument to his labors, has 70 acres, of the 120-acre tract he purchased from the Government, well improved, and within his household content sits in the lap of plenty and smiles at the trials of the past.

Mr. Brice was one of the pioneer settlers of the county, and as such, erected the customary log cabin, and in time replaced it with a more substantial structure. He has now in course of erection a still more commodious and far more handsome dwelling, consisting of three uprights, two 16 x 26 and the other 16 x 30, which will cost, when completed, in the neighborhood of \$2,500.

Mr. Brice was married Feb. 5, 1854, to Rebecca M., daughter of Richard and Sarah Harlow. She was born Nov. 25, 1834, and died Sept. 27, 1865, in this county. To their union were born three children: Richard W., Maria H. and Sarah E. He subsequently married Mrs. Caroline Burt, widow of Nathaniel S. Burt, Jr. She was born Nov. 12, 1842,

in Ross Township, Kalamazoo County, this State, and came to this county with her parents in 1850. Her parents, Norman and Catharine Sturgis, were the first settlers of the county.

Mr. Brice is truly one of the representative men of the county, and that he is appreciated by the citizens is clearly shown by the recognition of his ability as a proper person to hold the offices of trust in the township. He has held the position of Supervisor for 13 terms, from 1871 to 1884, was Treasurer for nine successive years, and has held some Township office for the past 22 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Brice are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, Mr. B. is a staunch Republican.

**J**ohn W. Wolfe, farmer on section 22, Fulton Township, is a son of James and Mary E. (Shonkwiler) Wolfe, and was born in Seneca Co., Ohio, May 1, 1833. He received a good common-school education, and also attended the Heidelberg College at Tiffin, Ohio. He remained at home until he had nearly attained his majority and then rented a farm in Seneca Co., Ohio, on which he lived for 12 years. He next lived two years in Clyde, Ohio, and then moved on a farm in Seneca County, given Mrs. Wolfe by her father. Two years later he sold that place and came to Gratiot County. This was in the spring of 1872. He bought 140 acres of partly improved land on section 22, Fulton Township, where he now resides. He has since added 80 acres to his farm, and now has under cultivation 188 acres. In the summer of 1881 he built a fine modern dwelling, and his home and farm are models of their kind.

April 6, 1854, in Seneca Co., Ohio, he married Miss Harriet, daughter of Michael and Christina (Smith) Neikirk, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively. Mrs. Wolfe was born in Seneca Co., Ohio, Dec. 29, 1834, and is the mother of ten children, nine living: Albert B., Willis K., Doctor Mc., James M., Ollie D., John E., David N., Berty W. and Clinton L. Myrtie G. died when six months old. Mr. Wolfe has held the office of School Director. Politically he is a National. He and wife are members of the Seventh-Day Advent Society.

Mrs. Wolfe also finished her education at Heidelberg College. Mr. W. has taught three terms of school, and takes a deep interest in school matters. He and wife and four of the children—James M., Ollie D., John E. and David N.—belong to the order of Sons of Temperance.

**J**ames L. Foote, farmer, section 33, Lafayette Township, is a son of Henry K. and Minerva (Henderson) Foote, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Connecticut. They settled in Oakland Co., Mich., in an early day, where he practiced his profession—medicine. In response to his country's call, he enlisted in the Fifth Cavalry, and was given the rank of a Second Lieutenant. He died in the service at Poolesville, Md., in February, 1864. His wife passed the remainder of her days with her children, and died at the home of her son, James, in January, 1881.

James L. Foote was born in Oakland Co., Mich., Jan. 9, 1837. He was educated in the common schools of that county, and lived there till 24 years of age, following the business of farming. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 5th Mich. Vol. Cav., with the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant, and he was with his father when the latter died. His regiment served under Kilpatrick and Custer. After 19 months' service, he was honorably discharged at Washington. He then returned to Oakland County, and after a short time removed to Gratiot County, where he began to improve the farm which he had bought, consisting of 160 acres, on the northwest quarter of section 33, where he now resides. He has 60 acres under cultivation, with good farm buildings. His stock comprises 15 cattle, 3 horses, 60 sheep and 10 hogs.

Mr. Foote was first married, in Oakland County, to Caroline R., daughter of Enoch and Isabella Shepard, and a native of Michigan. This marriage was blessed with six children, five of whom are living: Henry K., Belle, Minerva, Rolla E. and Caroline R. Ernest died in infancy. The mother died May 8, 1874. Mr. Foote was again married April 27, 1876, to Elizabeth, daughter of William and Susanna (Bates) Barnes, natives of England, where Mrs. Foote was born April 2, 1847. By this second marriage, there are four children: Sarah L., May J., Gertrude M. and Jessie L.

Mr. Foote has been Township Treasurer one year, Clerk four years, Justice of the Peace four years, and has held various school offices. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and is politically a Republican.

**G**eorge W. Price, farmer, section 23, Fulton Township, is a son of William R. and Mary G. (Page) Price. They were born and married in the old town of Gilmanton, Belknap Co., N. H., where they resided until 1855. Mr. Price then came to Gratiot County, and the following year he returned and brought his family. They settled on section 22, Fulton Township, where he owned 140 acres, mostly wild land. They partially improved this land and resided on it until 1872. Mr. Price then sold and removed to Maple Rapids, where he died, April 15, 1879, and she, April 19, same year. Their family comprised three sons and three daughters: George W., Charles A., Mary A., John W., Sarah and Clara.

The subject of this biographical narrative, the eldest of the family, was born in Gilmanton, Belknap Co., N. H., Dec. 2, 1834. He attended the common schools, the Belknap County Academy, and for three months the Gilmanton Academy. He taught school two terms. With the exception of one summer he lived at home until 21 years old. He then went to Lynn, Mass., and for four years was employed as foreman on the "Town Farm." He was then employed in the grocery business at the same place until June, 1861, when with his wife he came to Gratiot County. He purchased 40 acres on section 22, Fulton Township, and there lived until 1866, when he sold out and then bought 80 acres on section 23, his present residence. He has now 55 acres improved and under cultivation. He has for a number of years also dealt in stock.

June 4, 1861, at Lynn, Mass., he was married to H. Ann, daughter of David and Caroline (Rhodes) Oliver, natives of Lynn, Mass. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver resided in Lynn until her death, Dec. 12, 1849. He then came to Ohio, and for 11 years lived with his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Huntington. He then came to Gratiot County and passed the last 19 years of his life with his daughter, Mrs. Price. He died April 28, 1883, aged 95 years and six months.

Mr. and Mrs. Price, having no children of their own, reared and educated an orphan, Samantha J. Hatfield, who lived with them until her marriage. Mr. Price has held the office of Justice of the Peace one term, and has been also School Inspector. He was appointed Notary Public in 1872, which office he now holds. He is a Royal Arch Mason, and, with his wife, belongs to Essex Grange, at Maple Rapids. They are prominent members of the East Fulton Congregational Church. At the organization of that society there were but four members, of whom Mr. and Mrs. P. were two. He was the only male member. He has been Clerk of the Church from the beginning to the present time. Politically, Mr. Price leans to Democracy. He is, however, a strong Prohibitionist, and takes a deep interest in all temperance movements.

**J**ames McGregor, farmer on the west half of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 18, Bethany Tp., is a son of Robert and Margaret (Morrison) McGregor, of Scotch ancestry, and was born in Donegal, Ireland, May 4, 1825. When he was ten years of age his parents moved to Ontario Co., N. Y., and followed farming there a number of years. Mrs. McG. died there, and the remainder of the family removed, in 1847, to this State, settling in Somerset Township, Hillsdale County, and residing there about a year. Not liking the country, all except two brothers returned to New York.

One of the latter, the subject of this sketch, remained there four years, and next was a year and a half in the employ of Dr. Patterson at Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., Mich. He then returned to New York, and was married in Canandaigua, Ontario Co., N. Y., Jan. 1, 1849, to Miss Catherine Hanavan, a native of Ireland. Of their seven children, since born, six are living, namely: Fanny, born Oct. 26, 1849, and died May 24, 1864; William, born Aug. 5, 1851, now living in Canandaigua, N. Y.; Robert, born Dec. 27, 1853; Mary E., Sept. 14, 1857; Emma, Sept. 14, 1860; James A., Sept. 21, 1862; and George B., Dec. 1, 1864.

In 1857 Mr. McGregor again returned to Hillsdale

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*E. Goodrich*

Co., Mich., farmed on shares for several years, then bought 120 acres in Somerset Township, on which he lived two years; then he sold and came to Bethany Township in 1868, and purchased 80 acres where he now lives. He has cleared 80 acres, has an orchard, has built a nice residence, barns, etc.

**W**illiam J. Gargett, farmer and stock-raiser on section 16, Sumner Township, was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Dec. 26, 1841, and is a son of John and Mary (Woodward) Gargett, natives of Yorkshire, England. John Gargett was a farmer, and came to the United States in 1828, locating in Ohio, where he still lives, aged 81. His wife is 69 years old, and they are truly a venerable pair.

The subject of this biography passed his youth on his father's farm, and received his education in the common schools and at Berea University, which he attended for two years. In September, 1861, at the age of 19, he enlisted in Battery A., 1st Ohio Vol. Light Artillery, under the command of W. F. Goodspeed. He was in all the principal engagements of the Army of the Cumberland, and at Stone River he was captured by the rebels. He remained under their inhospitable protection but one hour, for in that short space of time he was recaptured. He was slightly wounded in the left leg at the battle of Chickamauga. He was sick in the winter of 1861-2, with typhoid fever, but during the most of the war was actively engaged in marching or fighting. He was promoted to Corporal Sept. 13, 1864, and discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, July 31, 1865.

Returning to his home in Medina County, Mr. Gargett shortly came to this State and county, and located 120 acres on section 16, Sumner Township, where he has since resided. In September, 1866, at North Plains, Ionia County, he joined his fortunes for life with Miss Catharine A., daughter of Thomas and Eleanor (Seaton) Barnborough, natives of Ireland and New York, respectively. They were of English and Scotch descent, and died, the former at North Plains, Ionia County, in November, 1881, and the latter in Sumner Township, this county, in February, 1883. Mrs. Gargett, their daughter, was born in Lyons,

Wayne Co., N. Y., Aug. 14, 1842, and when nine years old came with her parents to Ionia Co., Mich. In that county she was educated, and she taught school for several terms.

Immediately after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. G. settled on their then new farm, which contained little but standing wood and log heaps. He has since demonstrated his capacity as a farmer by bringing 100 acres of his place to a high state of cultivation, and has built a comfortable residence and substantial barns. Mrs. G. owns 80 acres, 60 of which are improved, on section 21. Mr. Gargett is highly respected and popular, and has been Highway Commissioner for six years and has held all the school district offices. Politically, he is a Republican.

**G**obertson Goodrich, deceased, formerly resident on section 35, Pine River Township, was born Oct. 31, 1825, in Oakland Co., Mich. He was a son of Alanson and Sarah (Stout) Goodrich, both of whom were born in the State of New York. His parents came to De Witt, Clinton County, in 1836. They were pioneers of Oakland County and at the time of their removal there that section of Michigan was in an entirely natural state. Their children were born and reared under all the circumstances incident to first settlers. The conditions in Clinton County were precisely the same, and there Mr. Goodrich continued his experiences as the son of a pioneer and shared with the family the privations and pleasures of that variety of existence. He went to Newaygo County when he was 25 years of age and again encountered the experiences, which were no longer novel. He lived in the township of Big Prairie ten years and was engaged during that time in lumbering on the Muskegon River. In 1860 he returned to De Witt, where he resided until 1865. In the spring of that year he again voluntarily renewed his pioneer life in Gratiot County, settling in Pine River Township, where he bought 144 acres of land. He spent the remaining years of his life in improving his property; and the handsome estate, with its attractive brick residence, fine large barn and other

creditable farm buildings, present substantial testimony of his good taste, judgment and the energy and perseverance which wrought such results. He died Aug. 2, 1882, and left the record of a well-spent life. He is held in honored and loving remembrance by his family and neighbors. His portrait is presented on another page.

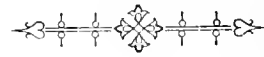
Mr. Goodrich was first married to Elizabeth A. Lott, who was born in Michigan. Of this marriage two children were born: George and Viola. The elder of these died Dec. 14, 1881, when he was 23 years of age. The mother died Dec. 16, 1855. Mr. Goodrich was a second time married, Oct. 23, 1864, to Louisa (Tinkham) Lounsbury, daughter of Levi and Lydia (Chase) Tinkham and widow of Herman H. Lounsbury. The latter was born in Oakland County and died in the service of his country, Jan. 2, 1863. Alanson M., Francis M. and Bertie are the names of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich.

**C**harles M. Brown, dealer in saddlers' and harness-makers' goods at Ithaca, was born Sept. 10, 1857, in Niagara Co., N. Y., and is the son of Merritt J. and Fannie E. (Swan) Brown. His father was born in 1826 in Niagara County, is a miller by trade, and resides at present in Kent County, this State. His mother was born in Niagara County, and is descended from English and Scotch ancestry. In 1861 the family went to Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., where the father enlisted in the service of the United States. He fought to the close of the war.

They settled at Pompei, Gratiot County, in 1865, and the senior Brown came to Ithaca and was employed in the saw and grist mill of William M. Comstock, in which he bought an interest a year later, and the family moved to Ithaca.

Mr. Brown attended the common schools until he was 15 years old, when he secured a situation as clerk at Ithaca. He operated in that capacity until May, 1876, when he went to learn the trade of harness-maker with Theodore Ryckman. He remained until the fall of 1879, acquiring the details necessary to a perfect knowledge of the business. He then engaged in journey-work until March, 1882, when he

purchased the interests and business relations of his former employer. He is doing a good business and carries a fine stock of all varieties of goods common to similar establishments; he employs two or three assistants. Besides his business he owns two building lots in Ithaca. In the spring of 1882 he was elected Clerk of Ithaca Township.



**S**ely D. Hicks, farmer, section 32, Bethany Township, was born July 24, 1831, in Orange Township, in what is now Schuyler County. He is a son of David and Mary Hicks. His father was born in March, 1801, and was a descendant of English and German ancestors. He passed the early years of his life in the business of builder, and at 35 years of age bought 72 acres of land in the extreme southeastern corner of the township of Orange, where he passed the remaining years of his life, and died in April, 1862. His wife and nine children survived him. Three daughters passed to the land of the hereafter before him. Mary (Buck) Hicks, the mother, was born in Connecticut, and was a daughter of Ebenezer and Jane Buck. She died on the homestead in November, 1866.

The first important event in the life of Mr. Hicks, of this sketch, was his marriage to Clarissa, daughter of Moses H. and Betsy Benham. She was born Jan. 6, 1834, in Reading, Steuben Co., N. Y., and was married Nov. 23, 1852. In the spring of 1853, Mr. Hicks bought 43 acres of land in the township of Dix, Chemung Co., N. Y., and continued its management two years. In the fall of 1855 he sold the farm, left his wife with her mother, and turned his face Westward, designing to go to Minnesota to purchase land. He met an uncle in McHenry Co., Ill., who induced him to go to Missouri, where, in the spring of 1856, he bought 160 acres of land in Daviess County. The land office was situated in Platte County, whither he proceeded twice to arrange the necessary preliminaries to secure his title. The period was one that stands most prominent in the political record of this country, and that part of Missouri swarmed with border ruffians. The state of turmoil and violence seemed terrific to people o-



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*H. L. Townsend*

peaceable proclivities and quiet aspirations, and on the 23d day of May Mr. Hicks left Missouri for his native State, where he remained until April, 1869, when he came to Kent Co., Mich. In company with Archibald Robbins and J. W. Griswold, he built a saw, planing, shingle and lath mill in Spencer Township, and managed its affairs with satisfactory results three years. At the expiration of that time, he sold his interest and went to Maple Valley, Montcalm County, and managed a saw-mill for a Grand Rapids firm. This completed the sixth year in which he had been constantly engaged in building and running saw-mills. He next went to Bay City, where he was offered \$5 per day to run a circular saw, but declined the position. In July, 1874, he bought the farm where he has since resided, and has 58 acres in a state of advanced cultivation, with a fine orchard large barns, and a most attractive residence. He is considered the representative farmer of Bethany Township.

Mr. Hicks has always been a warm advocate of the principles upon which the Republican party was founded. He cast his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and acted in a direct line with his first convictions until 1877, when he became an adherent of the tenets of the National Greenback element, and assisted in the organization of the party in his township. He served as Supervisor of his town in 1876-7-8, and in the fall of 1880 was nominated by the Labor party for Sheriff. The Republican candidate, A. A. Wood, was elected.

**H**omer L. Townsend, deceased, late farmer and stock-raiser on section 11, Sumner Township, was a son of Chester and Delight (Wilber) Townsend, natives of Genesee Co., N. Y., and of English and Irish extraction; he was born also in Genesee County, Feb. 14, 1817. Receiving his education in the common and high schools of his native county, he came to this State when 18 years old, and engaged in teaching in the common schools of Livingston County.

After a time he went to Detroit, where, in 1842, he was united in marriage to Miss Jeannette Wilcox, a native of New York. She died at her home in

Detroit in the winter of 1850, having been the mother of two children, both of whom died in infancy. At the time of her death, her husband was running a hotel. Abandoning this soon after, he went to Livingston County, and after a time to Lansing. He soon located a tract of land near Maple Rapids.

Oct. 5, 1854, at Eaton Rapids, he was again married, to Miss Ruby, daughter of Josiah and Lorilla (Clark) Piersons, natives of New York, and of French and English descent. Josiah Piersons was a farmer and died in February, 1861. His widow is still living, on the old homestead near Eaton Rapids, and is now 79 years old. Ruby was born in Orangeville, Genesee Co., N. Y., Aug. 3, 1833, and when four years old her parents came to Eaton County, this State, where she lived until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Townsend spent two months at Maple Rapids, and then located on 160 acres of wild land on section 11, Sumner Township, this county. For several winters afterwards, he was employed as a cook in lumber camps, a trade which he learned when a boy, and followed several times in after life. He built a comfortable residence, and made many improvements, before he died, which event occurred Feb. 19, 1879. He left a sorrowful wife and two daughters to mourn his death,—Ruby and Nettie. He was the father of two other daughters, Ella and Emily, who died in infancy.

Mr. Townsend was a prominent man in his township and in the county. He was the principal means of securing the organization of Sumner Township, wading around in the deep snow for two weeks to secure sufficient names on the petition. He was the first Sheriff in Gratiot County, serving two terms. He was a staunch and influential Republican, and something of a politician, and he held nearly all the township offices, at different times. He had a high respect for the great Senator Charles Sumner, in whose honor the township was named, through his instrumentality.

The social position of the family is of the best character, and in the portrait of Mr. Townsend, which may be found elsewhere, his friends will receive a genuine pleasure. His life was identified with the general interests of his township, and he spared no care or effort to secure the general welfare. Mrs. Townsend resides on the homestead.

**W**illiam Woodmansee, farmer, section 12, Pine River Township, was born Aug. 29, 1837. His parents, George and Anna (Cole) Woodmansee, were born respectively in Massachusetts and New York. They were in somewhat straitened circumstances, and early in life the son became the main support, a duty he discharged 15 years in a manner highly creditable to himself.

He came to Isabella County in 1856, where he resided four years, and in 1860 he bought 120 acres of land in Pine River, Gratiot County. It was wholly unimproved, and he afterwards sold 40 acres. He has placed 50 acres of the remaining 80 under good improvements and cultivation. In politics, Mr. Woodmansee is identified with the National Greenback party.

He was married Sept. 11, 1861, to Amy A., daughter of Solomon Sias, of Isabella County. She was born in New York, and her parents in Vermont and Connecticut. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Woodmansee: Lucy M., Hollis E., Dennis E. and Nettie E.

**W**illiam R. Wight, Assistant Postmaster at Ithaca and Clerk of Ithaca Township, was born July 2, 1854, in Grafton, Lorain Co., Ohio, and is a son of Leonard and Parthena (Sheldon) Wight. His father was born June 19, 1815, in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and in 1858 removed his family and interests to Eaton Co., Mich., where he bought 80 acres of land near Charlotte, and resided there until 1875. The mother was born June 26, 1822, in Pennsylvania and died in Eaton County, this State, Sept. 2, 1874. The following year the father returned to Lorain Co., Ohio, where he again married and remained two years. In 1877 he came to Paw Paw, Mich., where he is now resident. The children of his first marriage were six in number, of whom one is deceased, Lydia, eldest child. Francis, Sheldon, Mason, William and Abraham are living.

Mr. Wight was brought up after the method com-

mon to farmers' sons, attending school winters and working on the farm summers, until the fall of 1874, when he left home and was married, Oct. 23, of that year, to Frances M., daughter of Silas and Laura (Briggs) Dean. She was born Nov. 22, 1855, in Kalamo, Eaton County. Mr. Wight remained in the latter place one year after his marriage, when he removed to Edgewood, Gratiot County, where a son, Ira D., was born, May 25, 1880. Mr. Wight bought a farm of 80 acres in Hamilton Township, and Nov. 15, 1875, was appointed Postmaster of Edgewood. He held the situation until March 3, 1881, when he sold his farm, and in August of the same year came to Ithaca, and was appointed to his present position. He has been in active public life for a number of years; he was Supervisor of Hamilton Township one year; officiated as Clerk two years; as Justice of the Peace four years, and Township Superintendent of Schools two years. In 1880 he was Census Enumerator of the townships of Hamilton and Elba. He was elected Clerk of Ithaca Township in the spring of 1882; is a member of the Odd Fellows' fraternity.

**L**angdon B. Longwell, farmer and carpenter, section 24, Pine River Township, was born Dec. 30, 1845, in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and is the son of James and Margaret (Winslow) Longwell. His parents were natives of the State of New York, and after their marriage became residents of Crawford County, where the mother died Nov. 17, 1849. The father remained in Crawford County until the spring of 1870, when he came to Gratiot County, where he resides with his son.

At the age of 16, Mr. Longwell became a soldier. He enlisted in the first year of the war in Battery I, 1st Illinois Light Artillery, and was in that service six months. A year after he again enlisted, enrolling in the 12th Ohio Cavalry, and served in the cause of National unity 26 months more. He received honorable discharge, and on his return to the Buckeye State he went to Crestline, where he obtained employ in the machine shops of the railroad company. A few months later he engaged in carpentry, and has followed that as a vocation 16 years. He came to Gratiot County in November, 1869, and is the owner

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*Mrs. Ellen C., Cheesman*



*Dr John R. Cheesman*

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of a small farm, which he has placed under first-class cultivation, and makes a specialty of raising fruit. Mr. Longwell is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, and also of the G. A. R., Post Wm. D. Wilkins, No. 91, at St. Louis. He is a member of the Republican party.

He was married Jan. 29, 1867, in Bucyrus, Ohio, to Lorinda M., daughter of Charles and Lillis (Weaver) Barber. They were natives of Ohio and New York, and the daughter was born Oct. 2, 1849, in Morrow Co., Ohio. The household includes five children: Jennie B., Bertha L., Henry W., Lizzie J. and Lula B. Lillis, eldest daughter and first-born child, died when she was six months old.



**Dr. John R. Cheesman**, one of the oldest settlers now resident at St. Louis, and oldest physician by priority of location, was born at Cazenovia, N. Y., March 10, 1820.

His father, Joseph B. Cheesman, was born Feb. 4, 1788, in the city of New York, and was the eldest son of Joseph Cheesman, a native of Queen's County, Long Island, who was by trade a mason, and served during the entire course of the war of the Revolution as Captain of Artificers, and was engaged in building the fortifications at West Point. Elizabeth (Crawford) Cheesman, wife of Joseph Cheesman, was the eldest daughter of John Crawford, descendant of a Scottish Earl, who emigrated to the American Continent previous to the Revolutionary war. He was a man of wealth and unblemished character and belonged to the Society of Friends. The father of Dr. Cheesman was a book-binder by profession, and married Sarah Rowling, who was born in Yorkshire, England, July 20, 1797. The son was about a year old when his parents removed to the city of New York. On reaching a suitable age he was sent to the Mechanics' School in Chambers Street, until he was 19 years old, when his parents removed to Auburn, N. Y. He attended the academy in that city one year, and when he attained to man's estate, he went to Chicago where, associated with his brother, William H. Cheesman, he established a drug store under the Commercial Hotel on Randolph Street. This enterprise lasted two years, during which time he stud-

ied medicine with Dr. Hunt, and took a course of lectures at Rush Medical College, in that city. He sold his interest in the drug store to his brother, and, being in impaired health, he went to Brooklyn in the southern part of Michigan.

In 1854, he came to Gratiot County and located on what is now sections 5 and 6, Hamilton Township, where he entered a claim of 320 acres of Government land, all in a wild state. He cleared and improved his farm and maintained the practice of a pioneer physician. He was married in Chittenango, Madison Co., N. Y., Oct. 13, 1847, to Mary Ann, daughter of Capt. Chapman, of that place. Of this marriage three children were born, as follows: Laura A., wife of Rev. Theodore Nelson, of St. Louis, Mich., born Nov. 11, 1848, in Manlius, Onondaga Co., N. Y.; Jessie C., born in Chittenango, N. Y., Aug. 21, 1850, now wife of Samuel A. Flint, of St. Louis; Frank, born in Hamilton, Gratiot County, July 2, 1857, and died Oct. 6, of the same year in Brooklyn, Jackson Co., Mich. The wife and mother died Aug. 1, 1857, in Hamilton, Gratiot County.

On the occurrence of this event he went to Brooklyn with his little children, where he left them in the care of his sister, and attended the Medical Department of the University of Michigan one winter, when he returned to Brooklyn and formed a business partnership with Dr. J. R. Crowell, which continued two years. He was married Sept. 26, 1858, in Napoleon, Jackson County, to Mrs. Ellen E. Moulton. One child has been born to them, Minnie M., at St. Louis, May 20, 1862.

In January, 1860, Dr. Cheesman came to St. Louis, and was for many years the only resident physician, and had a large and thriving practice. His brother, Edward T. Cheesman, owned a portion of the site of St. Louis, then in a wild condition, and Dr. Cheesman bought of him 80 acres, all of which was then platted. His brother had erected a building on his tract for the sale of general merchandise, where Dr. Cheesman established himself, and his stock comprised drugs, dry goods, hardware, etc., and he carried on an extensive trade, a large proportion of which was with the Indians, who were then numerous. This was the first store in St. Louis, and it was under the management of Dr. Cheesman ten years. The county was then in an unsettled condition, and of the few white settlers comprising the village at that time,

Mr. Cheesman is one of the survivors, resident at St. Louis. The Doctor inhabited a primitive log house, situated in front of his present residence, and his wife and daughter (Mrs. Nelson) attended to the customers of the store. Dr. Cheesman maintained his practice until 1880, when on account of infirm health he retired.

He has been active in all the duties of citizenship and devoted much attention to the substantial progress and prosperity of St. Louis. On the organization of the county he was elected Judge of Probate, and held the position one year. He has served on the Board of Village Trustees, and is now one of the oldest members of the Masonic Order in the county. The first Masonic meeting was held at St. Louis over his store when the lodge was organized. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and his wife belongs to the Baptist denomination. He was elected President of the County Pioneer Society on its organization, and has occupied the position continuously since.

Dr. Cheesman owns 40 acres of land on section 26, Pine River Township, and has a brickyard in the village of St. Louis, where he owns a fine bed of fire clay. He was a member of the School Board of St. Louis for several years; and was first President of the Michigan Central Union Fair Association of Isabella, Midland, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties, the first meeting of which was held Oct. 5, 6 and 7, 1875, midway between the villages of St. Louis and Alma.

The portraits of Dr. and Mrs. Cheesman appear on other pages. In presenting them in the Biographical and Portrait Album of Gratiot County, the value of the work is increased in many respects. As the likeness of pioneers, no estimate can be made of their worth and fitness, but it is insignificant compared with their value to those of St. Louis and Gratiot County, to whom the patronymic became a household word under circumstances which have left indelible impressions upon all concerned. The worth of Dr. Cheesman to his generation can only be understood and appreciated by the beneficiaries of his skill and timely aid on occasions of sore need. A pioneer physician who spends his life and devotes his strength and abilities to the amelioration of the suffering incident to most newly settled localities, consecrates himself to one of the noblest works possible to humanity.

**J**esse Trapp, farmer and stock-raiser on section 6, Sumner Township, was born in Lucas Co., Ohio, Aug. 27, 1836, and is the son of John and Barbara (Mathews) Trapp, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. The father was early in life a carpenter and joiner, and later a farmer. Jesse lived with his father, working on the farm and attending the common and graded schools of his native county, until nearly 25 years of age.

Aug. 5, 1861, he enlisted in Co. 1, 14th Ohio Vol. Inf., and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, under Gen. Buell. He fought at Nashville, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Goldsboro, Resaca, Mill Springs and Shiloh, as well as in minor engagements. He was shot through the arm at Jonesville, Tenn., and received two other flesh wounds. Entering the service as a private, he was successfully promoted Corporal, Sergeant, Orderly Sergeant, Sergeant-Major, and finally, in September, 1864, First Lieutenant, which last rank he held when discharged, July 5, 1865, after serving faithfully nearly four years.

Returning home to Lucas County, one year later he came to Michigan and took charge of the 320 acres on sections 5 and 6, Sumner Township, which had been left him by his father at the latter's death. He has retained 200 acres, of which 100 are well improved and under cultivation. He has erected a suitable dwelling and necessary farm buildings, at a cost of \$2,000.

June 23, 1867, at Grand Rapids, Wood Co., Ohio, he was married to Miss Anna E. Sterling, daughter of Seneca and Mary (Blaker) Sterling, natives of Pennsylvania, and of English and Scotch descent. She was born in Wood Co., Ohio, Jan. 21, 1841, and was reared and educated in the common and graded schools in that county. At the age of 17, she began teaching, which occupation she followed for nine years, previous to her marriage. She is the mother of one daughter, Winifred G., born July 17, 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. T. are active members of the United Brethren Church, and he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees in the Church. He has also been for 17 years Superintendent of the Union Sunday-school,

of Elm Hall. He has held the office of Township Clerk for two years, Superintendent of Schools for three years and other minor offices. Politically, he is an active and influential Republican.

**A**ron C. Brown, farmer and lumberman, section 32, is a son of Abner and Anna (French) Brown, and was born in Niagara Co., N. Y., in Hartland Township, Feb. 4, 1833. When ten years of age his parents moved with him into Newfane Township, near by, where he was married, Feb. 24, 1853, to Miss Jane E. Lake, daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth (Sowle) Lake, who was born in Montgomery Co., N. Y., July 23, 1834.

In 1859, he came to Bethany Township, this county, and bought 80 acres where he now resides. Feb. 24, 1861, he arrived with his family at the house of Judge Nelson, Arcada Township, on their way to their Western home. Here he has now 55 acres under cultivation, with 20 acres more cleared; has also a nice residence, barns, etc.

Thus has Mr. Brown arisen from primitive beginnings in a pioneer country. When he first came here there were only 19 families in St. Louis, and only three frame houses. There was no road to his place. He and his family are the oldest residents in their neighborhood, and ever since his location here he has followed farming, and for fourteen winters he has also followed lumbering. He at present keeps a boarding-house where the Toledo, Ann Arbor & Northern railroad is being built. Mr. B. is a member of the Good Templar lodge at St. Louis.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Brown are: Elmer, born March 23, 1854, and died Sept. 8, 1861; Charles H., born Nov. 21, 1857, died Aug. 18, 1876; Laura E., born April 8, 1861, is the wife of Ellis Colburn, a farmer of Emerson Township.

**W**illiam H. Coventry, farmer, section 22, Pine River Township, is the son of Robert and Rachel (Clark) Coventry, and was born Nov. 7, 1833, in the State of New York. His parents were also natives of the Empire State, settled there in married life, and there completed the round of their earthly existences.

Mr. Coventry entered upon his single-handed contest with the world when he was 16 years old. He spent one season as a farm laborer, and obtained employ in a machine shop, where he operated seven years. He then resumed farming as a vocation. In 1865 he came to Ingham Co., Mich., and bought 80 acres of land, which he managed four years. In 1869, he exchanged the property for a house in Litchfield, Hillsdale County, removed to that place, and spent 18 months in the employ of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad. He again traded his property for a farm in the same county. He afterwards went to Branch County, and spent two years in farming. In February, 1877, he came to Gratiot County, and bought the farm on which he has since lived and labored. It comprised 75 acres of land under partial improvement, and he has brought the place to a profitable and creditable condition. In political affinity, Mr. Coventry is a Republican.

He was married April 4, 1861, to Hannah, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Stringham) Iden. She was born Dec. 14, 1838, in Orleans Co., N. Y. Her parents were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York. Following are the names of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Coventry: Sarah J., Anna M., William, Francis, Minnie M. and Harriet A.

**W**illiam J. Carr, farmer on section 14, Fulton Township, is a son of Thomas and Lucinda (Atwater) Carr, natives respectively of Ireland and Connecticut. They first settled in Madison Co., N. Y., where Thomas Carr followed farming until his death. The mother also died in that county. Their family consisted of two sons and three daughters, William J. being the youngest.

He was born in Madison Co., N. Y., June 28, 1821, and received a very limited amount of schooling. He lived with his parents until 34 years of age, that is, until their death. He has never worked for others except his father, in his life. In the fall of 1860 he came to Gratiot County and contracted for 160 acres of land in Washington Township. He soon gave this up, however, sacrificing \$100, which he had paid on the same. He then purchased, for \$700, 80 acres on

section 14, Fulton Township, which, after he had erected a house, cleared 60 acres, and made other small improvements, he sold for \$4,000, a handsome profit. This was in 1875. The same season he bought 40 acres on section 14, where he now resides. He has erected suitable buildings and has all his land in a good state of cultivation.

Oct. 13, 1840, at De Ruyter, Madison Co., N. Y., he married Miss Sarah A., daughter of Andrew and Clarissa (Hotchkins) Somberger, of German and American descent. She was born in the State of New York, April 23, 1823, and bore to her husband 12 children, of whom the following six survive: Clarissa L., Harriet A., Stephen S., Esther L., Mary A. and George W. Six are deceased: Thomas A., Harvey W., Arthur E., Ernest F., Henry S. and one who died in infancy. Mrs. Carr died May 13, 1863. Mr. C. was again married, July 3, 1864, to Rebecca R., daughter of Erastus and Orpha (Fisk) Tinklepaugh, born in Greenbush, Clinton Co., Mich., Dec. 5, 1843. This marriage has been blessed with five children, of whom one, Archie L., is deceased. The living are: Cora A., Eda M., Maggie B. and Edward L. Mr. Carr's second wife died Oct. 7, 1880. He is a member of the Congregational Church, and a Republican.

**W**illiam A. McOmber, of the firm of M. B. Smith & Co., real-estate, loan and insurance agents, St. Louis, was born in Saratoga Co., N. Y., in the town of the same name, July 15, 1812. He is a son of Pardon and Eunice McOmber, and is the youngest of six children born to his parents, four of whom yet survive. His father was born July 6, 1777, and was a native of the Empire State; was a carriage-maker by trade, and died Dec. 25, 1860, in Gaines, Orleans Co., N. Y., where he settled in 1819. The mother was born Feb. 27, 1783, and died in August, 1869.

Mr. McOmber was educated with considerable care and attended the academy at Gaines until he was 16 years old. In 1829 he went to Lockport, Niagara Co., N. Y., where he conducted a stage route about three years. He came to Michigan in its Territorial days, reaching here Oct. 10, 1832. He came at once to Gratiot County and found the country

covered with the primeval forest and populated by Indians. He remained but a short time and returned to his native State, passing the succeeding several years in or near Lockport.

In 1840 he came to Adrian, Mich., and there he began the fur trade with the Indians in the interests of the American Fur Company, which he carried on extensively for some years, gradually extending his field and operating from various points. He established trading posts at Adrian, Jackson and DeWitt. In 1851 he rented the old Lansing House, which he conducted two years, and then became clerk with John Swegles, Auditor General of Michigan. He was employed in the capacity of clerk in that office about two years, and, in 1854, he came to St. John's, reaching there during the progress of its survey. He was still in the employ of General Swegles, who had a store there, and he remained in that capacity about a year. He then engaged in the Indian trade several years at St. John's, in company with David Sturgis, with whom, in 1861, he went to the oil regions of Pennsylvania. They spent some time sinking for oil and Mr. Sturgis came back to Michigan and died. Meanwhile the celebrated United States oil well was sunk by Thomas Brown and others, and proved one of the best and most profitable. Mr. McOmber bought an interest therein and eventually became interested in several oil wells in that region, all of which were of celebrity and value. He was at Oil City, Titusville and other places which have become famous, when oil was first struck, and his operations in that commodity were very successful. In 1868 he returned to Orleans Co., N. Y., and the following year to St. John's, Mich.

In 1870 he came to St. Louis, and the firm of Ferry & McOmber, real-estate agents, was formed. This relation continued until 1872, when the style became McOmber & Paddock, and the new organization continued in operation until 1877, when it became McOmber, Smith & Brook. In 1881, Mr. McOmber commenced operations in the several branches of his business singly, continuing until July, 1883, when the present firm known as M. V. Smith & Co. was established. The concern is doing an extensive business, in their own interests and in behalf of others.

Mr. McOmber has been Township Clerk of Pine River one year and has been Notary Public all the time since he came to St. Louis. He was one of the

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John. F. Schwartz

original projectors of the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis railroad, and did much by way of obtaining subscriptions, right of way, and in other avenues. He was one of the originators, in 1875, of the agricultural society known as the Michigan Central Union Fair Association, and was its Secretary one year. He is a member of the Order of Masonry and also of the fraternity known as the Knights of Labor.

Mr. McOmbler was married near St. John's, Clinton County, to Ann E. Gardner. Lena E., only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McOmbler, is the wife of Thomas P. Potts, cigar manufacturer at Monongahela, Pa. Charles H., only son, is traveling salesman for Henry F. Rohlbock & Co., machinists and manufacturers at Pittsburg, Pa.



**J**ohn F. Schwartz, a member of the manufacturing firm of J. M. Montigel & Co., at Alma, was born Feb. 1, 1852, at Erie, Pa., and is the son of Stevan and Barbara (Segrist) Schwartz. His parents were born respectively in Germany and Switzerland. His father died when he was but 1½ years old, and at the age of eleven years, Oct. 14, 1863, he moved to Ashtabula, Ohio, where he acquired a good common-school education and afterwards attended the academy at Kingsville, Ohio. At the age of 16 he began to learn the business of a molder. In 1871 he came to Alma, where he formed an association with J. M. Montigel, his step-father, and established what is to-day the best equipped foundry and machine shop in the county.

In 1879, Mr. Schwartz saw the need of a good carriage and wagon shop, and accordingly the same year they branched out into this business, to which he has since given his whole attention, the works having grown into one of the leading industries of the place.

Mr. Schwartz is a member of the Masonic Order, and in political action and sentiment affiliates with the Republican party. He has been Village Clerk for three years, Assessor for one year, and has been a member of the Village Board for a number of years, and at present fills that position.

He was married Oct. 16, 1876, at Alma, to Au-

gusta, daughter of George and Lena Bahlke, natives of Germany. Mrs. Schwartz was born in Trenton, Mich., May 25, 1856. The two children born to this marriage are Lena and Edna.

The portrait of Mr. Schwartz is presented on the opposite page.



**T**homas Franklin, farmer, section 19, North Shade Township, was born Feb. 15, 1838 in Bedfordshire, England. His parents, Samuel and Sarah (Muns) Franklin, were natives of England. The former was a gardener by occupation, and served more than 20 years as a soldier in the British army. He died in England in 1840, and Mrs. Franklin died Jan. 18, 1881.

Thomas remained under the parental roof until 1857, when he came to America, coming immediately from New York, where he landed, to Wayne Co., Mich. Here he was employed at various kinds of labor until 1860, when he came to Gratiot County, located 40 acres of land on section 5, North Shade Township, and embarked in life as a farmer. Only a few months had rolled by, however, ere the Government called for volunteers to suppress the rebellion that had broken out in the South. Of the thousands of true and loyal men that responded to the call, none were more devoted to the old flag than Thomas Franklin, the subject of this sketch. He enlisted in October, 1861, in Co. D, 13th Mich. Inf., and served three years and ten months, having veteranized at the close of his first term. He was a participant in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Stevenson, Ala., Perryville, Ky., Savannah, and at the battle of Bentonville received a wound, a minie ball passing through his right leg and striking the left. He also fell in the hands of the rebels at this place. He was with Sherman in his famous march to the sea. He was discharged, after making a brilliant record as a soldier, July 26, 1865, at Louisville, Ky. He returned to Gratiot County, and again resumed the quiet and peaceful role of a farmer, and since has been quite successful. He owns a farm of 120 acres on section 19 of North Shade Township, of which 90 acres are under a good state of cultivation, with excellent dwelling and farm buildings. He also owns 79 acres of timber on section 22.

In 1865 (Oct. 4), Mr. Franklin was united in mar-

riage with Miss Julia A., daughter of Abijah and Freelove (Gale) Reynolds, both of whom were natives of West Chester Co., N. Y. They removed to Illinois, where they remained for two years; then they returned to Cayuga Co., N. Y., where the former died in 1880, and the latter in 1878. Mrs. Franklin was the eldest daughter, and was born Aug. 19, 1825, in Orange Co., N. Y.

Mr. Franklin is a member of the Masonic Order and of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in politics is a Republican.

**C**harles W. Giddings, attorney-at-law, St. Louis, was born in Sherman, Fairfield Co., Conn., Feb. 9, 1847, in the same house where his father, Jonathan C. Giddings, was born Oct. 5, 1822. His mother, Mary E. Giddings, was born in the town of New Milford, Litchfield Co., Conn., Aug. 31, 1822. The subject of this sketch was about one and a half years of age when his parents moved to Palmyra, Portage Co., Ohio, where the father engaged in farming for a time, but again turned his attention to the mercantile business, in which he had been educated in his boyhood days, until shortly after the war broke out, when he became a soldier in the Union army and there remained until nearly the close of the war. In 1866, the family came to St. Louis, where the senior Giddings purchased 60 acres of land within the present limits of the village. This land has since been platted and recorded as "Giddings' Addition." The father was elected Supervisor of Bethany Township the year following his removal hither, and he was elected seven years successively. He was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors several times and held the position of member of the Village Council two terms. He served eight years as a Justice of the Peace. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity; and after he located at St. Louis, he devoted considerable time to transactions in real estate, in which he was interested to the time of his death, Jan. 14, 1883. He was a man of ability and influence, and his death was deeply lamented by a large number of friends.

Mr. Charles W. Giddings acquired his education

while his parents resided at Palmyra, attending the common schools until he arrived at the age of 13 years, when he was placed in a private school, which for most of the terms he attended until, in company with his parents he came to St. Louis, where he has since resided. Shortly after his arrival here he learned the carpenter's trade. He was 22 years of age when he commenced business independently as a builder, and combined with that the furniture and undertaking business. In 1873, he was appointed Under Sheriff of the county by Sheriff Pratt, and held this position for four years, during which time he also held an appointment as Deputy United States Marshal of the Eastern District of Michigan. After his appointment as Under Sheriff he closed his other business interests and devoted his entire attention to the duties of his office and the study of the law, entering the office of James K. Wright of St. Louis, who during his period of study formed a law-partnership with Freeman W. Whitney, under the firm name of Wright & Whitney. In March, 1877, he was admitted to the Bar after passing a very satisfactory examination, and at once entered upon the practice of his profession as the junior partner of the firm of Whitney & Giddings, which existed one year. He then opened an office on his own account, but was for a time associated with Judge Paddock in the real-estate business in connection with his interests as an attorney.

In January, 1883, he associated with him in the law business, B. H. Scoville, under the firm name of Giddings & Scoville, which continued until October, 1883, when the firm dissolved, and Mr. Giddings took into his office as a partner, Joseph A. Crandall, a young man of fine education and marked ability. The firm of Giddings & Crandall are doing a prosperous business, and combines therewith transactions as loan agents.

Mr. Giddings, since his admission to the Bar, has been a member of the Village Council and Corporation Attorney.

In 1878 he was elected Circuit Court Commissioner on the Republican ticket, and in 1880 received the nomination for Prosecuting Attorney, but was defeated by the Fusion candidate, who was endorsed by the Democrats.

He is a member of the Masonic Order, Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workman, and is



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*James A. Wright*

Past Master of the latter organization at St. Louis. He was married at St. Louis, Nov. 26, 1871, to Lovila, daughter of Horace Higby. She was born in Niagara Co., N. Y. Her parents were natives of that county, and removed to Michigan at an early day. Mr. Giddings' earliest traceable ancestor was George Giddings, who came from St. Albans, England, to Ipswich, Mass., in 1635.

**J**ames K. Wright, Prosecuting Attorney of Gratiot County, resident at St. Louis, was born in Parma, Jackson Co., Mich., March 3, 1844, and is the son of Deodatus and Serena (Fox) Wright. His father was born in Williamston, Mass., April 27, 1812, and in early life accompanied his parents to Wayne Co., N. Y., where he grew to man's estate on his father's farm, and was brought up to that profession.

In 1837 the parents of Mr. Wright came to Michigan. They left the State of New York in what is now known as a prairie schooner—a covered wagon—and in this case drawn by horses. The journey was long and wearisome, and they settled on 160 acres of land in Parma, then a wilderness of timber. But they had health, hope and courage, and bent the best energies of their young lives to securing a home for themselves and the little ones who came to bless and brighten the pioneer home and refresh their ambitious desires to do and dare. Clearings were made and improvements pushed with great rapidity. The nearest wheat market was Detroit, nearly 100 miles away, and sometimes wheat brought but 60 cents per bushel after the wearisome toil of planting, waiting, harvesting and drawing to market; but it kept affairs moving, and gradually the ingress of civilization, with its facilities, relieved their burdens, which in the light of to-day, and the memory of sad experiences and loss by death in the family circle, fade into nothingness. The marriage of the senior Wright with Serena Fox occurred in Huron, Wayne Co., N. Y., Oct. 26, 1836. Of their marriage, ten children were born, seven sons and three daughters. Five sons and two daughters yet survive. The father has been one of the leading citizens of Parma, and has served as Justice of the Peace 30 years. He was elected

Supervisor 12 times and has always been actively connected with the public interests of the township.

Mr. Wright grew up in the manner common to the sons of pioneer farmers of Michigan, attending school winters and working on the farm summers. He was a youth of keen perceptions. Whether the school methods of those days were better incentives to intellectual capacity than those of modern date, is an open question; but the local history of the entire country manifests what sort of men they developed. At 17 Mr. Wright came to Pine River Township, where his uncle, Frederick Wright, was then resident, and taught a winter term of school in the "Wright" district. He returned home and passed the next summer on his father's farm. The succeeding winter he taught school in the same place, where he opened his career as a pedagogue, returning, as before, to the home-roof at Parma. The following winter he was a student at Albion Seminary, where he studied six terms, and aided in the management of the farm. He thus employed his time three years. His father's large family and increasing expenses rendered it necessary for him to depend on himself for his educational privileges, and he managed his own domestic affairs during the time he was a student at Albion. He had a room and did his own cooking and maintained his frugal way of life until he had finished his studies and was admitted to the Bar at Jackson. In the spring of 1865 he entered the law office of Thoms G. Pray, of Albion, where he read for the profession of attorney, and was admitted to practice in the State Courts Sept. 26, 1867. He opened his office at St. Louis, Dec. 2, 1867, and has since continued the prosecution of a large and prosperous practice. He is of the Democratic faith, but wins and holds the confidence of men of all political beliefs, as is evidenced by the results of his various elections. In 1869 he was elected Supervisor of Pine River Township, and in the fall of 1870 was elected Prosecuting Attorney and Circuit Court Commissioner on the Democratic ticket, of which he ran ahead about 600 votes, the county being strongly Republican. He was re-elected Prosecuting Attorney in the fall of 1874, and held the position two years. He was again elected in 1882 and is discharging the obligations of the position with the same conscientious faithfulness and rectitude which has secured and perpetuated his popularity. He is a member of

the Masonic fraternity and belongs to the blue lodge. He is likewise connected with the Royal Arcanum Insurance Society, of which he was a charter member. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Wright was married Feb. 20, 1870, at Parma, Jackson Co., Mich., to Lorinda, daughter of Henry Housman. She was born Feb. 21, 1842. Soon after they were married they came to St. Louis to make their future home, at which place they continued to live and keep house until the time of her death, May 10, 1883. For years she had been a partial invalid, and her sufferings were intense; but through all her pains she was patient, uncomplaining, and cheerful, and by her gentle ways and noble example she endeared herself to all who knew her; in truth, it may be said:

None knew her, but to love her,  
None named her, but to bless her.

Few persons could have been more sadly missed or sincerely mourned than Mrs. Wright, and few, indeed, who can lay claim to a greater number of devoted friends.

The portrait of Mr. Wright, which appears on another page, in a two-fold sense is a valuable addition to the historical records of Gratiot County. He is a son of the Peninsular State by birth and heritage, and of Gratiot County in experience and position. The statement of what he has achieved through honest desert is all the eulogy he needs.

**A**lexander McCuaig, farmer, section 18, North Shade Township, is a son of Donald and Mary (Morrison) McCuaig, the former a native of Scotland, and the latter of Canada. They both died in the Dominion—Mrs. McC. Feb. 9, 1851, and Mr. McC. in 1882.

He was born March 20, 1831, in Newton Township, Canada. He remained at home with his parents until he was 21 years of age. He then worked in the lumber regions one year in Upper Canada, and next, in 1853, he located in the town of Livonia, Wayne Co., Mich., and ten years subsequently came to Gratiot County, settling on 80 acres of wild land, where he still resides, having 40 acres cleared, and substantial improvements made.

Mr. McCuaig was married to Deborah, daughter of Benjamin and Luey (Lewis) Luther, natives of Massachusetts and occupants of a farm, who emigrated first to New York State and then to Michigan, settling in Wayne County. Mr. L. died July 30, 1882, in Gratiot Co., Mich., at the advanced age of 74 years. Mrs. L., aged 79, is still living with her daughter, Mrs. McC.

In 1864, Mr. McCuaig enlisted in Co. A, 23d Mich. Inf., and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 23d Army Corps. He participated in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tenn., and in all the other engagements of the regiment. On the mustering out of his regiment, he was transferred to the 28th Mich. Inf., and was finally discharged at Raleigh, N. C. Since the war he has been a faithful and exemplary citizen, pursuing his prosperous vocation of farming. He is a Republican; has been Highway Commissioner three terms, and held other local offices. He and his wife have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 20 years.

**W**illiam H. Laycock, farmer on section 23, Fulton Township, is a son of John and Polly (Hatt) Laycock, of English and German ancestry. They first settled in New York State, and afterwards removed to Wayne Co., Mich., where they lived one year. They then moved to Genoa, Jackson County, where she died. He died at the residence of his son William, Jan. 21, 1880.

The subject of this biographical sketch was the second son of his father's family, and was born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., Nov. 17, 1828. He was about seven years old when his parents came to Michigan, and he lived at home until 21 years old, when he went to Lenawee County. Here he worked by the month, and worked a farm on shares, for almost three years. Coming to Gratiot County in the spring of 1853, he pre-empted 80 acres of wild land on section 27, Fulton Township. This he sold for \$100, the ensuing fall, and then he purchased 80 acres on section 23, where he now resides. He has since added 40 acres to his farm, and has about 80 acres under cultivation. He has erected a fine modern-

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appearing residence, which will compare favorably with any in the county.

Dec. 19, 1852, in Essex, Clinton Co., Mich., he married Huldah M., daughter of Newman and Eliza (Booth) Terry, natives of New York. They came to Michigan in 1831, and settled first in Lenawee County. They afterwards removed to Clinton County, where the mother died, March 26, 1880. Mr. Terry is now spending his last days with his children. Mrs. Laycock was born in Fairfield, Lenawee Co., Mich., May 8, 1835.

Mr. and Mrs. L. have had eight children: Almon, Charlie N., Loelda, Ellis, William G., Erva R. and Ora D. and one which died in infancy. William G. died when 16 months old. Politically, Mr. L. is identified with the Republican party. He has been one of the few permitted to see Fulton Township in all stages of its development. When he settled there, there were but three families east of Pine Creek, in the township.

In September, 1864, he was drafted into the army, and was assigned to the 23d Mich. Vol. Inf. He served ten months with honor to himself, and fought at Nashville and Franklin, Tenn., and in minor engagements.

**W**illiam D. Scott, M. D., of Ithaca, was born Nov. 15, 1841, in Essex, Clinton Co., Mich. Samuel M. Scott, his father, was a native of New Hampshire. He was essentially a New England man, and spent the first years of his life within the influences which pervaded the East at that period. He was Democratic in politics, and deeply interested in all issues which the times developed and the march of civilization made exigent. He removed to the counties of Clinton and Ionia in 1838, and, in company with a man named Osgood, bought 160 acres of land in Essex, Clinton County. He returned East, and in 1840 was married, in the State of New York, to Sarah S. Gilmore, a native of Maine. She died in Essex, Mich., in September, 1863. Soon after his marriage, the elder Scott came to Essex, purchased the interest of his associate, and proceeded to the work of improving his property, a laborious and tedious process, for lack

of conveniences and facilities. He was a Democrat in politics, alive to all the interests of the community, and his abilities and experience made him a valuable accession to the new and unorganized county. He was the first Sheriff of Clinton County and subsequently held the combined office of Clerk and Register of Deeds. He was also actively interested in the promotion of school interests. Later in life he was elected to represent his District in the Legislature of Michigan, and at the time of his death, April 26, 1850, was in his third term as Representative.

Dr. Scott obtained his elementary education at the common schools and was a pupil a few terms at a select school. At the age of 18 he commenced preparation for his profession and entered the office of Dr. C. W. Brown, of Maple Rapids, with whom he was connected till that gentleman's death, in May, 1863. Prior to this time, however, in October, 1862, he entered the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, taking one course of lectures. He then returned to Maple Rapids, where he remained till October, 1863, when he removed to Bridgeville, Gratiot County, and pursued his profession till January, 1865, when he took up his residence at Ithaca. In the fall of that year, 1865, he went to Chicago to avail himself of the advantages of Rush Medical College, and was graduated there as a physician and surgeon, in the class of 1866. He at once returned to Ithaca and has built up a good practice in the village and adjacent country.

Soon after establishing himself at Ithaca, he was appointed United States Examining Surgeon for Gratiot County, which position he held until the spring of 1881, when he resigned and went South for a few months owing to poor health. Dr. Scott was married at Ithaca, April 25, 1868.

His family includes three daughters: Ella M., Sarah J. and Blanche. One son, William M., died when five months old.

The Doctor is a member of the State Medical Society and belongs to the Order of Masonry and Odd Fellows. Politically, he is a Democrat, and has always figured largely in the counsels and deliberations of that party in the county, and wields no little influence in directing its destiny. His portrait, which appears on the opposite page, is a valuable addition to the galaxy of prominent citizens found within the pages of this volume. It will be highly prized by the

patrons of this work, a very large proportion of whom are personally known to him, and by whom he is especially admired, not only for his ability and skill as a physician and surgeon, but for his personal worth as a citizen, his genial quality of head and heart.

**L**ewis B. Loomis, farmer, section 30, North Shade Township, is a son of Gideon and Lydia (Barnes) Loomis, natives of Connecticut and Vermont respectively. The parents lived in the State of New York, and the father followed the occupation of a farmer until his death, which occurred in Yates County, in that State, in 1854, the death of the mother having taken place in the same county in 1849, six years prior.

Lewis was born Sept. 8, 1828, in Yates Co., N. Y., and lived with his parents until he arrived at the age of majority. Prior to attaining this age, he had passed a season in this State, and returning to his native State he engaged himself by the month, and worked in that way until he was 23 years of age. He then began to make for himself a home in the forests of Gratiot County.

Mr. Loomis was united in marriage to Miss Olivia W., daughter of Abraham and Jane (Wilson) Bartholomew. She was born April 9, 1832, in Yates Co., N. Y. At the age of five years her parents both died, leaving her to the care of an aunt of her father, where she remained until she had attained the age of 14 years, when she went to a neighbor's family, and there lived until she was 18 years old. At the age of 25 she was married to Mr. L., and in 1852 they came to this State and located in Ionia County, where they remained a year. From Ionia they emigrated to this county, and settled on a fractional lot on section 30, North Shade Township, containing 62½ acres, which he had procured from the Government.

They were among the early settlers in the township, and the many trials they encountered and successfully overcame are forcible reminders of what energy and perseverance, backed by strong determination, can accomplish. The location selected for their home was a wilderness. He had kept "bachelor's hall" for four years previous to his marriage, and at that time not a single house could be found

between the point where his is now located and Matherton, Ionia County, a distance of four and one half miles. Civilized Indians were his visitors, and here we divert from narration of events to state, "two fair maidens of the forest created quite an impression upon our subject." All kinds of game were plentiful, and deer and bear abounded; and looking back to those days of trials, our subject, with so many other early pioneers, rejoices over the above mentioned fact.

Mr. and Mrs. Loomis are the parents of two children: Alfred B., born Jan. 27, 1858, and Willie J., born May 12, 1868.

Mr. Loomis assisted in the organization of the county, and, together with Henry Lane, were Delegates to the Convention. He officiated as Coroner of the county when the same was first organized; has been School Inspector of the Township for a number of terms; Director of his school district, and also Moderator.

Mr. and Mrs. Loomis are both active members of the United Brethren Church. He has been Superintendent of the Sabbath-school for 15 years, and Class-leader 15 years. She was Steward of the class to which she belongs, and fulfilled the position with ability. Mr. L. has also filled the position of Steward, and their home goes by the name of the United Brethren Hotel and Rest for the Weary.

In political connection, Mr. L. is a staunch Republican.

**R**uben D. Perrine, Justice of the Peace, resident at St. Louis, was born March 13, 1829, in Livingston Co., N. Y. He is son of Daniel and Phebe (Howell) Perrine, and was reared to manhood on a farm. He obtained a substantial elementary education, which was supplemented by study at the academy in Aurora, N. Y., and at a similar institution at Seneca Falls. He became a teacher and has devoted considerable time to the pursuit of that vocation, both in his native State and in Michigan.

In 1853 he came to Jackson County and settled in Rives Township, where his father bought 203 acres of land lying on the Grand River and well known as the "Old Freeman Farm." His parents are still re-



siding in that estate. Mr. Perrine bought 60 acres of land near his father's home, which later on he sold and bought another, lying opposite the homestead of his parents. On this he lived and labored, and cleared about 50 acres. He went to Rives Junction, where he conducted a line of grocery business and also acted as station agent for the Jackson, Lansing & Northern Railroad Co. about 18 months. In October, 1869, he came to St. Louis, and after some time passed in various occupations he bought a third interest in a cabinet-shop. This enterprise and its relations continued ten months, and after its termination he began to interest himself in insurance, and prosecuted that branch of business three years. He has been in active, useful public life much of the time since he became a resident of the county; has held the positions of Township Clerk, and in 1882 was elected to the office of Magistrate, and is still discharging the obligations of the position; also held the same office one term in Rives.

Mr. Perrine was married Feb. 5, 1857, to Mariette, daughter of Francis and Amy Beverly. She was born Feb. 17, 1836, in Steuben Co., N. Y. Cassius D. is the only child living. He was born in Rives, Sept. 17, 1860.

Mr. Perrine owns and manages a farm, which includes 61 acres of choice land located in Pine River Township, section 2, four miles northwest of St. Louis. He and his wife are members of the Congregational Church.

**C**harles C. Foote, farmer, section 32, Lafayette Township, is a son of Henry K. and Minerva (Henderson) Foote, natives of New York and Connecticut, respectively. (See sketch of James L. Foote.) He was born in Oakland Co., Mich., April 13, 1835. At the age of 18 he left home and went to New Albany, Ind., and passed two years as apprentice to the carpenter's trade. Returning to Milford, Oakland County, he followed his trade most of the time for seven years. During this period, he passed three months at Oil City, Pa. In August, 1861, he came to Gratiot County, and bought 160 acres of wild land, in Lafayette Tp., section 32. Going back to Oakland County, he returned with his family to their new home, erect-

ed a log house, and began to clear and improve his land. He now has 80 acres under cultivation. In 1871 he built the fine house which is now his dwelling.

He was married in Oakland County, May 9, 1860, to Sarah, second daughter of Jacob and Catharine (Wurtz) Peters, born in Brighton Township, Livingston Co., Mich., Sept. 10, 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Foote have 10 children: Mary E., William K., Anna M., John H., Margaret J., Charles P., Jacob C., Edith A., Frank and Sarah.

Mr. Foote was Supervisor of his township two years, Clerk three years, and has held the various school offices in his district. In politics, he is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Foote are members of the Presbyterian Church.

**S**ylvester C. Smith, furniture dealer at St. Louis, was born in Columbia Township, Jackson Co., Mich., Aug. 23, 1840, and is a son of Edward and Eliza (Day) Smith. His father was a native of the State of New York, and removed in 1834, with his family, to Jackson County. He was one of the earliest of the pioneer settlers of Columbia, where he died in 1862. The mother was also a native of the Empire State, and died in 1858 in Columbia.

Mr. Smith was brought up as a farmer's son and attended the winter terms of school while acquiring an education. On arriving at the period of his legal freedom and independence, he went to Illinois, where he was engaged as salesman for a manufacturing company of Massachusetts, in the sale of sewing machines. He operated in their interests about 18 months, when he returned to Jackson County and bought 70 acres of land in his native township. Two years later he sold his farm and went to the adjoining town of Liberty, where he opened a store for the sale of general merchandise, and continued four years. He then made a transfer of his business interests to Hanover, in the same county, where he transacted mercantile affairs nearly four years. In 1875 he came to St. Louis and engaged in the sale of sewing-machines for the Remington Company. A year later, in the spring of 1876, he entered into a

partnership with L. W. Kent, in the sale of furniture. This connection was in existence a year and was terminated by Mr. Smith selling his interest to his partner. Subsequently, Mr. Smith and Samuel Loveland entered into a partnership and bought the furniture stock of S. H. Holmes. In March, 1877, Mr. Smith became sole owner and has since conducted the business alone. He removed to his present stand in June, 1883. His stock represents several thousand dollars, and he is engaged in a prosperous business, including the sale of furniture and undertaker's goods, in which latter he has the largest trade in the county, with commensurate facilities, including caskets, hearse, and the Boyd grave vault. He is also managing an extensive repair trade. He has been a member of the School Board at St. Louis two years, and belongs to the Board of Village Trustees. He owns 70 shares in the silver mines of the Mineral Mountain Company in the Santa Rita Mountains of Arizona.

Mr. Smith was married Dec. 24, 1863, in Woodstock, Lenawee Co., Mich., to Frances M. Allen, born Aug. 22, 1845, in the State of New York. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Smith are: Carrie E., born Aug. 23, 1864, in Columbia; Hattie, born in Liberty, 1870; Edward A., born Jan. 18, 1876, in St. Louis.



**J**ohn M. Glover, farmer on section 14, Arcada Township, was born in Brutus Township, Cayuga Co., N. Y., July 26, 1821, and is a son of William and Adelpia (Hayward) Glover. He is the fifth child and fourth son of a family of 10, the oldest of whom is 71, and the youngest 50. All are residents of Michigan except one, who lives in Missouri. William Glover was a native of New Jersey, and descended from the old Puritan stock of New England. He was by occupation a weaver, learning his trade in New Jersey, and came to Michigan in 1844. He died in 1854, in Washtenaw County. Adelpia (Hayward) Glover was a native of Salem, Mass., and died in Washtenaw County in 1858.

The subject of this biographical narrative lived at home with his parents until 21 years old, and received a common-school education. Leaving the parental

roof in the fall of 1842, he came to Washtenaw County, this State, and worked on farms in Sylvan Township for three years.

Dec. 31, 1846, in Waterloo Township, Jackson County, he formed a life partnership with Miss Lydia A. Earl, daughter of John and Rhoda (Castle) Earl, natives of New Hampshire and Vermont, and of English and Scotch descent. She was born in Essex Township, Essex Co., N. Y., and at the age of five was taken to Erie County. The family afterwards moved to Jackson Co., Mich., where she lived until her marriage.

Three years after that event, Mr. Glover purchased a farm of 40 acres in Jackson County; and three years later they went to Washtenaw County and lived a year. They then came to Gratiot, where, in the fall of 1854, he located 160 acres on section 14, Arcada Township. They were then in the midst of a forest so dense that they could only see daylight by looking heavenward. Their first house was of the rudest pattern, being of logs, with no floor, and covered with "shakes." The door was made also of home-made lumber, but it was afterwards replaced by a door made from the first lumber sawed in the county, produced by Francis Nelson and William Prouty, with an old-fashioned "whip saw." On settling here, Mr. Glover's household effects would inventory about \$100, and he had but \$5 in cash. The first straw in their beds was hauled 21 miles. He cut the first road in his school district. The town meetings and elections were held in his house for seven consecutive years.

Mr. G. now has 140 acres of good farming land, of which 80 are in an excellent state of cultivation, and a fine residence that cost over \$2,000. He is 62 years old, but is a progressive farmer; and being of an active temperament he works hard every day. July 4, 1875, he was kicked by a young horse in the side of the face and head, and the bones of his upper and lower jaws were broken. From this injury he duly recovered, and he has otherwise always had remarkably good health. For 29 years his doctor bill was less than \$30. Mrs. Glover is a woman of remarkable endurance, and has been a fit companion to her husband in his pioneer work. For some time, in the early days, they ground their corn in a coffee mill, and went 30 miles to post-office and mill.

Mr. and Mrs. Glover have had four children:

T. W. HARRIS  
P. H. HARRIS  
A. HARRIS  
THE HARRIS COMPANY  
P. H. HARRIS



*James Gargitt*



*Mrs Louise Gargett*

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Rhoda A., Mary E., Frankie L. and Rebecca J. (died April 15, 1862). Miss Rhoda has been a teacher in the common schools for some time. Mr. G. and wife are active members of the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination. He has held the offices of Overseer and School Director for a number of years. Politically, he is entirely neutral. He is a man of most excellent personal habits, having never tasted tobacco or spirituous liquor.

**J**ames Gargett, capitalist, resident at Alma, was born July 15, 1825, at Godmanchester, Canada. His father, Robert Gargett, was born July 10, 1800, in Yorkshire, England. He came to the United States when he was 16 years old and settled in the State of New York, where he was married to Elizabeth Perkins. She was born April 13, 1805, in Connecticut. They remained in the Empire State only a brief time after their marriage, going thence to Canada. After a residence there of 12 years, they removed to Summit Co., Ohio, and made a permanent settlement. There they resided 37 years, leading lives of frugality, usefulness and success. They died in 1871 by the hand of violence, and their tragic fate and the condign punishment of its author is matter of record and terrible memory in Summit County. The murderer, whose name, John Hunter, is handed down in its infamous notoriety, was apprehended, tried, convicted and hung in October, 1871, at Akron, Ohio. The entire family of Robert and Elizabeth Gargett, consisting of three sons and six daughters, lived to mature age. They were born in the order named: John, James, Elizabeth, Sarah, Mary, Martha, Orpha, Chloe and Rodney.

Mr. Gargett was ten years old when his parents went to Ohio, and he remained with them until he was 24 years of age. He acquired a good common-school education, and at 19 engaged in teaching winter terms of school, a business he pursued four years. In 1849 he was married, and soon after that event he engaged in farming in Summit County, and, in addition to his agricultural pursuits, engaged in the construction of Artesian wells. He managed his two-fold business interests at that point four years, and in 1853 sold his farm and engaged in commission business in the city of Cleveland. He continued

his operations in that avenue four years and meanwhile became proprietor by purchase of a half interest in a hardware store in Frederickstown, Ohio.

In the latter enterprise he was associated with Alexander Love. His business was unusually prosperous and he became the possessor of \$20,000, the result of honest enterprise, but his partner trifled with the firm name and interests, and by endorsing for outside parties overwhelmed its affairs, causing a total loss. Mr. Gargett continued the commission business singly and operated with the success due to his efforts and energies. In the summer of 1857 he again found his affairs in an inextricable condition owing to his own indorsement to aid others in keeping their business afloat. As a result, he found himself involved to the extent of \$21,000. He discharged every dollar of his obligations and proceeded with his business as he best could until the fall of the same year, when the universal upheaval of all the trade and the business relations of the country, coupled with his impaired health, forced him to succumb to the pressure, and his business in Cleveland was brought to a termination. He still owned an investment of \$4,000, he had previously made in Sumner Township, Gratiot County, in a general store; and in the winter of 1858-9 he removed to Michigan, where his property was invested, and found that nearly all the goods had been trusted to the new settlers; and in consequence of the failure of crops, that brought on the memorable starvation times of Gratiot, they were unable to pay, and the whole thing was a failure.

Jan. 1, 1859, he came to Alma, and on that day purchased a stock of merchandise belonging to Gen. Ralph Ely, on credit. On the following morning, before breakfast, he opened trade, and continued in the mercantile business and in settling up until June 9, 1861, when disaster overtook him in the form of robbery, arson and fire, and he lost all he possessed except his real estate, purchased by Mrs. Gargett in her own right from the avails of her father's estate.

The next fall, associated with H. B. Hulbert, he bought a stock of goods from James Shearer, on three, six, nine and twelve months' credit, and once more established himself in business. The war having broke out, by possessing the pluck to keep well stocked with goods, the rapid advance sent him on the high road of prosperity, and thus he continued until the fall of 1867. In June of that year Messrs.

Gargett & Hulbert built a flouring mill. This enterprise was put in operation owing to its need by the community, flour being \$14 per barrel, and many men desiring employment. In the fall of 1867 the joint proprietors made a division of property, Mr. Gargett taking charge of the flouring-mill and Mr. Hulbert assuming sole proprietorship of the mercantile connections and the management of its unsettled affairs. It had been previously conducted in the name of H. B. Hulbert, owing to embarrassed conditions. Mr. Gargett zealously prosecuted his milling interests, and in 1869 erected a woolen-mill, which he leased for a period of five years to parties from Ohio, who filled it with first-class modern machinery. The lessees made a failure of their venture, and the concern changed hands three times. Disastrous results were the consequences every time, and in order to retain the enterprise at Alma, Mr. Gargett was compelled in the spring of 1873 to purchase the machinery and fixtures, and he gave his attention to the manufacture of woollens until 1880, when the mill was destroyed by fire. He had also conducted his milling interests to the same date and the same fire swept away both branches of his business, and in both he met with a total loss of his interests. Disaster in one form or another had marked his business career, and only his indomitable will and courage and determination to wrest success from circumstances kept him afloat. In the fall of 1870 he commenced the construction of an elegant dwelling, which was completed a year later at a cost of \$18,000. In the summer of 1876 the fire-fiend destroyed the beautiful residence. In the spring of 1872 he was induced to lend assistance to Josiah F. Lathrop in getting a drive of logs down Pine River, and enable him to pay \$1,490 he owed for supplies from the mill,—a piece of good nature and desire to aid him in every possible manner and the business prosperity of the locality, which resulted in the loss of \$28,000. In 1873 he found himself with his mills and real estate in his possession, but without a dollar for the transaction of business. His reliability, integrity and perseverance stood him in good stead, and he obtained means to operate his woolen-mill, and devoted to it his entire personal attention until its destruction in November, 1880. Four years previous to that event his prosperity was most satisfactory. Since that date he has prosecuted the business of a

real-estate broker and attended to the management of his general interests.

Mr. Gargett is a Republican in political principle, and in the fall of 1862 was elected to the Legislature of Michigan, and served during the biennial term of 1862-3. During this session he was Chairman of the Committee on Towns and Counties. He has also been Supervisor of Pine River Township one year.

He was married May 24, 1849, in Lyons, Wayne Co., N. Y., to Louisa, daughter of Joseph and Eleanor (Seaton) Gee. She was born in Lyons, May 24, 1831. Her parents were natives of the Empire State, where the father died in the year 1840, leaving a valuable estate. The mother removed to Ionia Co., Mich., and died Feb. 9, 1883, while on a visit to Mrs. Gargett, her daughter. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gargett, two children have been born, one of whom survives, Minnie L., born April 5, 1850. George, born Dec. 5, 1858, was accidentally scalded Dec. 5, 1860, death resulting in a few hours. The parents are both members of the Seventh-Day Advent Church.

The personal record of Mr. Gargett presents a fine exhibit of what a man may accomplish, despite a long series of business disaster and personal affliction. The tragic termination of the lives of his parents, his losses by fire and the mismanagement of others to whom he extended a helping hand, the sudden and irreparable loss of his only son by a painful accident, and the long illness of his wife, who in 1873 was stricken by paralysis, from the effects of which she suffered three years, constitute an appalling array of adverse circumstances, and would have utterly crushed common men. But no misfortune has overwhelmed him. Each new disaster developed in him the essential traits of his character which have rendered him one of the most valuable citizens of Alma, where he resided before it held even a promise of the importance to which it has attained, and in which he has been a prominent factor. The village was platted by him in 1859, and he has since been continually interested in its progress.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Gargett are presented on other pages of this work. They are an accession to the list of prominent persons whose likenesses appear in the Album of Gratiot County, from the business relations of Mr. Gargett in his town-



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J. V. Johnson

ship and county, and the high social position which his family holds. Mrs. Gargett, though still suffering from impaired health, retains all her vigor of intellect and exercises all the interest and solicitude for the happiness and comfort of her friends and associates which have characterized her through life. In 1871 Mr. Gargett determined to give his wife the benefit of a long out-of-door excursion, believing it would tend to the restoration of her health. He had a "palace coach" constructed, at a cost of \$1,100, fitted in every way for comfort, and on the 27th of September, 1881, they set out for an overland trip from Michigan through the Southern States. Mrs. Gargett's facile pen supplied a graphic and entertaining account of the trip for publication in the *Gratiot County Record*, published at Alma. Her letters gave interesting items of incidents of travel, meeting with old friends, data of agricultural probabilities and possibilities in the sections traversed.

He returned to Alma Oct. 21, 1882, to witness the prosperity of the village of which he had had so much anxiety in years past. And now, as he lays aside in a measure the cares of life, he desires to leave on record that he owes much of his success in overcoming severe trials and obstacles to the faithfulness and good counsels of his wife, and of the fact that he had always allowed her to retain her own property in her name, whereby she could aid him as no one else would when disasters come thick and fast, and those who are friends in prosperity turn a cold shoulder in adversity.

**F**erome Vernon Johnson was born in the township of Emmett, Calhoun Co., Mich., Sept. 20, 1844, in a log cabin, which was built at the first settlement of the county, on the north bank of the Kalamazoo River, six miles west of Marshall, and within a half mile of the station now known as Wheatfield, on the Michigan Central railroad. His early youth was passed as that of other pioneer boys in those days. At the age of eight years his parents moved to Marshall Township, in the same county, where they still reside. The only education he obtained was that furnished by the common district school of the times.

At 17, becoming tired of the monotony of farm life, with the consent of his parents, he selected for an occupation the printing trade, mastered the intricacies of the art, and entered the broad arena of life with brilliant anticipations and an ambition to be something more than a follower among his fellow men.

March 4, 1868, at Galesburg, Ill., he was married to Miss Sadie H. Bell, by Rev. George Norcross. Six children have blessed the union, four of them—three girls and one boy—now living: Jessie Gay, born May 8, 1870; Lamont Kinyon, March 28, 1877; Sadie Alta, May 27, 1879; Bessie Bell, Sept. 14, 1881.

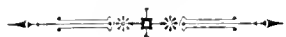
The same year of his marriage he purchased at Charlotte, Mich., the *Charlotte Argus* (afterward changed to *Leader*), which paper he published and edited until the close of '74, when an almost fatal illness compelled him to give up the business. In June, 1876, he established the *Ingham County Democrat*, at Mason, Mich., but in the fall of '77 disposed of it, returned to Charlotte and re-purchased his old office. In 1882 he sold the office and established in September of the same year the *Gratiot County Democrat*, at St. Louis, Mich., which had been suspended a year previous. This he has published since with very satisfactory success, notwithstanding the office was burned out on the night of January 4, 1884.

Mr. Johnson's parents may well be called pioneers in Michigan. His father, Kinyon Johnson, was born near Smyrna, N. Y., and came to Michigan in 1836. Kinyon's father, Nathaniel Vernon Johnson, was a Rhode Islander, and served faithfully through the Revolution, returning to his farm and family at the close of the war. His mother, *nee* Miss Mary Potter, was born near Oswego, N. Y., and came to Michigan in 1831, living in the State six months without seeing another white woman's face, and undergoing all the privations and hardships consequent upon the settlement of a new country. Her father also served during the Revolution with fidelity and honor. Both parents are still living upon the old homestead in Marshall Township, enjoying the days of their declining years with a contentment which is the outgrowth of a busy, industrious life, being now upward of 73 years old.

During a busy and eventful life, Mr. Johnson has found time to work more or less in local and State politics, having served two terms as Recorder of the

city of Charlotte, four years and a half as Chief Engineer of the Fire Department of that city, and was elected Alderman there in 1882 for a two years' term, resigning to move to St. Louis. At present he is Chief Engineer of the St. Louis Fire Department, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the village, to which latter place he was elected for a two years' term March 5, 1884. During 12 years, he has been a member of a volunteer fire department, ten years ago aiding in the organization of the Michigan State Firemen's Association at Battle Creek.

The portrait of Mr. Johnson may be found on page 638, and is presented with much satisfaction as a citizen and journalist of Gratiot County, as well as in his pioneer relations to the State of Michigan.



**H**amilton Pritchard, farmer and stock-raiser, section 1, Sumner Township, was born in Gorham Township, Yates Co., N. Y., June 16, 1818, and is a son of Levi and Lydia (Pratt) Pritchard, natives of Connecticut, of New England ancestry. The father was by occupation an iron smelter and charcoal maker, and came to Clinton County, this State, where he died in 1863. The mother died in Yates Co., N. Y., when Hamilton was two and a half years old.

When he was eight years old, the family removed to Seneca Co., N. Y., and two years later he began, while yet a young lad, the battle of life, working out by the month for farmers. In 1841, in Hornellsville, Steuben Co., N. Y., he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Lucy Brown, who was born in that county in 1824. She died Jan. 16, 1863, in Isabella County, this State, having been the mother of seven children. There were four daughters and three sons, and three of the former and one of the latter are dead. The living are: Francis S., born Nov. 9, 1844; Charles H., May 24, 1848; Henry C., June 8, 1853. The deceased are: Mary H., born March 30, 1842; Martha and Martin (twins), born Aug. 26, 1857; Lucy, April 10, 1860. She was a good woman, and a fit companion to Mr. Pritchard in his strife with the sturdy forests of Michigan.

Aug. 1, 1864, he took for a second wife Mrs. Minerva Hahn (*nee* Newville), daughter of Charles and Lucy (Corkins) Newville, natives of New England.

She was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., Aug. 21, 1836, and came with her parents to Wood Co., Ohio, when it was very sparsely settled. There she was educated, and lived until her first marriage. By her first husband she has a son, Lewis, who is living with her still; and by her second, five children: George (married), Levi, Nora, William and Melita.

Mr. Pritchard is one of the pioneers of Gratiot County, having come here September, 1854. He located on 160 acres on section 1, Sumner Township, and Oct. 19, 1854, he brought his family here. He was the first person to make a permanent settlement, and his was the first family to come into the township of Sumner. There was but one family between him and Alma, and it was on the site of Mr. D. Sullivan's present residence. From that point he cut his own road, at a cost to him and Timothy Bordwell of a day and a half's labor. Mr. Bordwell was the second settler in the township, and is now a resident of Edmore, Montcalm County.

The third year after coming, Mr. P. raised his first crop of wheat, which he flailed out on the ground. After getting it out of the straw, he hauled it in the chaff a distance of 33 miles to get it cleaned and threshed for the bread necessary to live on. He has known a neighbor to start out with a hand-sled for 100 pounds of flour, and before returning be obliged to make a new sled, the first being worn out.

He has now a fine farm of 280 acres of land, of which 200 are nicely improved. He has a productive orchard, three acres in extent; and a comfortable residence has succeeded the log house which he succeeded in raising after he and wife and four children had slept ten nights on the ground, covered with shakes laid on a pole resting on forks driven in the ground. Mr. P. is politically a National. He has held all the various school offices. Mrs. P. is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**J**ames Fry, farmer, section 24, Pine River Township, was born Nov. 13, 1806, in Pennsylvania, and is the son of Peter and Sarah (Chapman) Fry. He resided at home until he was 20 years old, when he engaged as a farm laborer, and spent five years in that capacity working by the month. In 1836 he rented a farm, and continued to pursue agriculture after

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*E. W. Lyon*

that method for several years, when he bought a farm in his native State. He remained there until the spring of 1865, when he came to Gratiot County. He bought 280 acres of land in Pine River Township. On this he resided, and carried on farming with success until 1871, when he exchanged the farm for the place where he now resides. In political views, Mr. Fry is a Republican.

He was married Sept. 9, 1829, in Pennsylvania, to Hannah, daughter of Benjamin and Rhoda (Pruden) Wilson. Mrs. Fry was born Jan. 8, 1811, in Washington Co., Pa. Her parents were natives of New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. Fry have had 12 children: Sarah, Rhoda, Mary, Benjamin, Peter, David, John C., William, Eliza A., Woodruff, George W. and Elizabeth A. John died when he was six years old. The family are attendants at the Disciples' Church, of which the parents are members.

**Lias W. Lyon**, photographer, at Ithaca, was born May 29, 1847, in Clinton Township, Essex Co., N. J. He is a son of Hervey and Elizabeth J. (Whaley) Lyon, both of whom were natives of New Jersey. His father was born July 20, 1810, in Clinton. He was a shoemaker by trade, and in 1851 removed his family to Essex Township, Clinton Co., Mich., where he bought a farm and resided until his death, which occurred Dec. 13, 1880. The mother resides on the homestead, which is a fine farm of 102 acres, with first-class improvements.

Mr. Lyon left home when he was 22 years of age for the purpose of fitting for the business which he has pursued thus far in life. He went to St. John's, and after a course of thorough preparation he went to several places in Michigan to prospect. In October, 1870, he came to Ithaca and established his present business, which has been popular and prosperous. Mr. Lyon owns his place of business and residence in Ithaca, and 80 acres of land on section 4, Washington Township, with 20 acres under cultivation.

He was married Aug. 19, 1871, to Viola R., daughter of Thomas L. and Anna R. (Good) Wasson. She was born Feb. 15, 1852, in Charlotteville, Niagara

Co., N. Y. Floyd R., born Sept. 15, 1880, at Ithaca, is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Lyon.

The maternal grandfather of Mr. Lyon was a Major in the war of 1812, and his epaulets and cap were preserved some time in the family.

As one of the representative business men and prominent citizens of Gratiot County, we take pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Lyon in this Album.

**Joseph Wiles, Jr.**, farmer, section 21, New Haven Township, was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Dec. 29, 1829. His father, Joseph Wiles, Sr., was a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, or "Pennsylvania Dutch," and was formerly a minister in the Dunkard Church, but now a retired farmer, on section 21, New Haven Township. He came from Ohio to this State in the spring of 1855, as one of the first settlers in the above named township. He has ever been closely identified with the religious interest of this community. He has reared 12 children, one of whom is a minister.

The subject of this sketch is the second son, second child and the eldest now living, of the above mentioned family. He lived in his native county until about 12 years of age, when the family moved to Seneca Co., Ohio. When 20 years of age he set about taking care of himself and obtaining the rudiments of an education. At 21 he set out as a common laborer, working as such for four years. In the meantime he purchased 80 acres of land in Seneca Co., Ohio, making some improvements thereon preparatory to marriage. March 1, 1855, in Seneca Co., Ohio, Mr. Wiles was married to Lucinda E., daughter of Philip S. and Elizabeth (Countryman) Jones, natives of New York, the former of New England parentage and the latter a descendant of the Mohawk Dutch. Mrs. W. was born in Danube Township, Herkimer Co., N. Y., Oct. 29, 1835. Her parents came to Ohio when she was a small girl, and she remained with them until her marriage. Shortly after that event they sold their property in Ohio and came to Michigan, purchasing 160 acres of wild land where they now reside. They moved here in May, 1855, and commenced the laborious and monotonous work of a pioneer, surrounded by the wild forests and an-

imals, whose music only lends fear and silence to the inmates of the human home. The advance Mr. Wiles has since made has left the mark of progress and prosperity upon the premises, demonstrating their possessor to be a practical and shrewd farmer. He has also held nearly all the offices of his township. He is a strong Republican. Mrs. W. is a member of the Baptist Church. Their children are: William L., Angenette, Loretta A., Adelbert F. and Minnie R.

**S**amuel McCutcheon, farmer, section 5, Washington Township, is a son of James and Jane (Springer) McCutcheon, natives of Pennsylvania. They followed farming, moved to Fulton Co., Ohio, and afterward to Seneca County. James McCutcheon died in 1870, while visiting in Fulton County. Mrs. McCutcheon died in Texas, in 1878. Samuel was born Sept. 11, 1836, in the State of Pennsylvania. At the age of 25, he left home and married Mary Anspaugh, daughter of Jonas and Catharine (Hiple) Anspaugh, natives of Stark Co., Ohio. They moved to Williams Co., Ohio, where they resided 24 years. Both are dead. Mrs. Anspaugh died March 26, 1861, leaving 12 children, of whom Mary was the eldest.

In 1864, Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon came to this State and county, and located on 160 acres of wild land on section 5, Washington Township. He has now about 80 acres improved and in 1883 he built one of the best barns in the township, at a cost of \$1,000. Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon have had nine children, five of whom are living. Their names are as follows: Ella, Charles F., Amelia, Rutherford B. and Catharine. In politics Mr. McCutcheon is a Republican.

**D**inley Dodge, farmer on section 23, Fulton Township, is a son of Thomas and Jane (Wilson) Dodge. They were natives of New York, and removed to Indiana, where Mr. Dodge died. His wife afterward came to Monroe, Mich.

The subject of this biographical sketch was born in the State of New York, Sept. 5, 1833. He lived

with his grandparents in Genesee Co., N. Y., until he was 16 years old, at which time he went to live with an uncle in Buffalo, N. Y. A year and a half later he returned to Genesee County, where he lived till the fall of 1858. He then came to Gratiot County, and bought 80 acres of wild land on section 23, Fulton. He has 65 acres under cultivation, and has good farm buildings.

Nov. 29, 1857, in Orleans Co., N. Y., he was married to Miss Caroline McDonald, a native of Scotland. This marriage was blessed with seven children, of whom five survive: Mary J., Charles R., Fred. J., Cora M. and Roy J. The deceased are Mabel L. and Maggie L. Losing his first wife by death, Mr. Dodge was again married, at Maple Rapids, Mich., May 1, 1881, to Miss Minerva L., daughter of William H. and Polly (Stafford) Kellogg. She was born in Livingston Co., Mich., Aug. 3, 1854. By this marriage, Mr. D. has one daughter, Gertrude. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and politically he is a Republican.

**D**aniel Wiles, minister and farmer, section 21, New Haven Township, was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Jan. 1, 1839. His parents left Pennsylvania, and moved to Wayne Co., Ohio, before Daniel was born. From that State they moved to Indiana and thence to Wood Co., Ohio. The parents emigrated from the latter State to this county and located on section 21, New Haven Township, where our subject remained and assisted in the care and support of the family until he attained the age of manhood.

On attaining this period in life, Mr. Wiles returned to Ohio and was united in marriage to Miss Mary, daughter of John and Catharine (Heller) Ronk, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent.

She was a resident of Wood Co., Ohio, and was born in Dauphin Co., Pa., March 15, 1838, going to Ohio when quite young.

The newly married couple, immediately after marriage, returned to this State and located on section 17, this township, procuring 40 acres of land. Six years later he sold his 40 acres and purchased 80 acres on section 21, same township, where he has since constantly resided and of which land he has placed one half under good improvement.



Mr. and Mrs. Wiles have three children, namely: Florentine F., Calvin D. and Benjamin E. They are both connected with the Church of God, and Mr. W. has held the Eldership of the Church for three years. He is an active worker and one whose efforts have been rewarded.

Mr. Wiles has held an official position in the School District, and is an able worker in the educational interests of his township.

Politically, Mr. W. is a believer in and supports the principles of the Republican party.

**R. Wheeler**, M. D., homeopathic physician and surgeon at St. Louis, was born in York, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Dec. 20, 1858. He is son of Charles and Eliza J. (Miller) Wheeler, who remained residents of York Township until 1872, when they removed to Ypsilanti.

Dr. Wheeler was then 14 years of age, and he became a pupil at the State Normal School, where he graduated in 1876. In the fall of the same year he began his professional studies at the University of Michigan, and was graduated in the department of Homeopathy with the class of 1879. He officiated one year, during his connection with the University, as Assistant to the Chair of Surgery, and was the first resident physician and surgeon who held the position at the State Homeopathic Hospital connected with the University, from its opening until Oct. 1, 1882. He was Instructor in Minor Surgery and Botany in the Homeopathic College during the years 1881-2.

The predominating characteristic of Dr. Wheeler is a love for the natural sciences, and he has devoted a large amount of time to botany. He made important additions to an exhaustive list of the flora of his native county, published in 1881, among which were two species of *Dicentra*, one of which had been some time extinct. The fine herbarium at the Homeopathic College of the University was collected and arranged by Dr. Wheeler, and includes nearly every indigenous medicinal plant, together with a respectable showing of foreign plants of like character, collected by exchange. In this he contributed materially to the benefit of the classes, as the advantage of the specimens for practical instruction during lectures can be readily estimated. The private herbarium in

the possession of Dr. Wheeler is one of the most valuable individual collections in the State, and comprises thousands of mounted specimens, indigenous and foreign. The latter were obtained by exchange from Europe, and have been collected by correspondence. The flora of the Pacific coast is largely represented, and the collection of Lake Superior plants is very complete. In 1882, Dr. Wheeler presented to the Homeopathic State Medical Society a full list of medical plants indigenous to Michigan, a very material service.

In April, 1883, he located his practice at St. Louis, succeeding to the business of Dr. C. H. Lutes, a physician of the same school, who had been a practitioner of popular standing and repute for some years. Dr. Wheeler has been resident but a short time, but has secured the confidence of a large circle of patrons. He gives special attention to surgery and surgical diseases, in which branch of his profession he has had unusual facilities. While in charge of the University Homeopathic Hospital at Ann Arbor, he had the benefit of the rare and difficult cases treated by the faculty under his observation, and left to his care after operation, a responsibility which tended to qualify him for the practice of that branch of his profession, and render him careful and reliable in the discharge of its duties.

**John O. Clark**, farmer, section 12, North Shade Township, is a son of John and Mary (Orr) Clark, the former a native of the Isle of Skye, Scotland, and the latter of Kilbarchan, Scotland. Father was a soldier of the British navy in the Revolutionary war, after which he returned to his native heath, where he ultimately died, in the town of Paisley. His wife died nearly the same time.

The subject of this sketch was born Jan. 1, 1829, in the town of Paisley, Scotland. At 11 he ventured out as a sailor upon the briny deep, serving his apprenticeship on the vessel "Maggie Mitchell," Capt. Clark commanding. They were engaged in the East India trade. Mr. C. served on this ship five years, and on other vessels six years—that is, until Oct. 27, 1851, when he landed in New York city from the bark "Riley," Capt. Volume commanding. He then

settled in Niagara Co., N. Y., and was then engaged on the Erie Canal until 1852; he next engaged in railroading on the branch from Lockport to Buffalo; in June, 1854, he went to Ohio, and was employed on the railroad from Cleveland to Columbus until 1865; from May 1, 1864, to Aug. 24, 1864, he was in the army as a member of Co. H, 145th Ohio Vol. Inf., with the Army of the Potomac. His regiment did not participate in any battles. He was discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio, and immediately returned to the Cleveland & Columbus railroad. In the spring of 1865, he came to Gratiot County and located on section 12, North Shade Township, on a farm of 115 acres, to which he has since added 200 acres in one body.

In public affairs Mr. Clark is a Republican; he has been Assessor of his school district; is a member of Maple Rapids Lodge, No. 145, F. & A. M., and also of Bill Begole Post, G. A. R., at Maple Rapids.

Dec. 12, 1851, Mr. Clark married Miss Dorothea, daughter of Frederick and Christina Mugkelberg, natives of Prussia. Mr. and Mrs. Clark are the parents of eight children, namely: John H., Albert W., Augusta M. (who died Feb. 13, 1859), William J., George D., Frank L., Mary C. and Anna M.

**G**eorge J. Coleman, farmer on section 20, Emerson Township, was born in Morenci, Lenawee Co., Mich., Sept. 22, 1854, and is the son of Isaac N. and Lovisa J. (Moon) Coleman, natives of Medina Co., Ohio, and Niagara Co., N. Y. They have followed farming during most of their lives, and now live on a farm and pass their time in social and religious pleasures, in Emerson Township, section 30. George J. came with his parents, at the age of one, to this county and lived with them near Ithaca until 17 years old. He attended the graded schools of the village a portion of the time. He worked for a season in the lumber woods near Saginaw, and then was employed for two and a half years in Nathan Church's mill at Ithaca, losing scarcely a day from his work the while. Going to Mecosta County in the fall of 1875, he worked in the woods until the spring of 1879, when he returned to his father's home.

March 25, 1880, at Ithaca, he was united in mar-

riage to Celia, daughter of William and Lydia Putnam, natives of New York and of New England descent. They followed farming in their native State until 1869, since when, except one year in Saginaw County, they have lived in Emerson Township, this county. Celia was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., Jan. 5, 1862, and coming, when eight years old, with her parents to this county, she grew up and was educated in Emerson Township. After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Coleman settled on a farm purchased seven years previously, on section 20, Emerson Township. At this time the land was covered with the virgin forest; but they have cleared 35 acres and made other improvements. They have one child, Roscoe L., born Oct. 19, 1881. Mr. Coleman is an active Republican, and now holds the office of Highway Commissioner, which he has filled for two terms.

**J**ames A. Nelson, farmer, section 14, Fulton Township, is a son of James and Sarah (Eddings) Nelson, natives of Pennsylvania. After marriage they settled in Ohio, four years later returning to Pennsylvania. Their next move was to Mahoning Co., Ohio, and later they removed to Hancock County, where they died. Their family comprised four sons and six daughters.

The subject of this biography, the third son, was born in Mahoning Co., Ohio, Sept. 3, 1822. He received a common-school education, and assisted his father on the farm until 22 years old. He then engaged in farming on his own account. He came from Hancock Co., Ohio, to Gratiot County in the fall of 1858, and bought 160 acres of wild land in North Star Township, on which he built first a log, and afterwards a frame house. After five years, he sold and bought 80 acres on section 13, Fulton Township, where he lived one year. He bought and sold several farms, and in the fall of 1879 he moved to Arcada Township and bought 80 acres. Four years later, he returned to Fulton Township and bought 80 acres on section 14, where he now resides. All his land is now under cultivation.

Feb. 8, 1849, in Beaver Co., Pa., he was married to Miss Lucinda Newton, a native of Pennsylvania. She bore him one child. He was again married at Detroit, Mich., Feb. 8, 1859, to Mrs. Mary, daughter of John and Margaret (Gibson) Chiffin, and widow

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*Louisa Seaver*



*J. H. Seaver*

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of George Fairchild, who died in Ohio July 9, 1856. Mrs. Nelson's parents were natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, and she was born in Wayne Co., Ohio. She had by her first marriage four children: Margaret M., John A., Lillie A. and Mary (died in infancy); and by her second three children: Eugene A., Charles C. and Ella M. Eugene A. died Oct. 26, 1881, when 20 years and 21 days old. Mrs. N. is an attendant of the Seventh-Day Adventist society. Mr. N. votes the Republican ticket.

Mr. Nelson enlisted Feb. 18, 1864, in a company of sharpshooters attached to the 27th Mich. Vol. Inf., and served till the close of the war. He was in the battles of Spottsylvania, Wilderness, Mine Run, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. He was slightly wounded in the hand by a spent ball at Mine Run. He was honorably discharged at Detroit, Mich.

**J**oseph H. Seaver, a prominent capitalist of Ithaca, and one of the leading men of Gratiot County, was born Feb. 6, 1846, in Stockholm, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. He is a son of Joseph and Diantha (Ober) Seaver, and in the paternal lines of descent comes of English and Scotch ancestry. The father was born in 1825, at Crown Point, Essex Co., N. Y., and died in 1869, in Clark Co., Wis. The mother was a native of Essex County, where she was born in 1826, of mixed Scotch and German lineage. She died in Stockholm, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., June 30, 1859.

Mr. Seaver was brought up on his father's farm until the death of his mother, when he was placed in charge of a farmer named Ralph Osgood, in whose care he remained until 1863, when he went to the little village of Keene, in the township of Rossee in his native county, and obtained a situation as salesman in the establishment of A. C. Ellis, grocery and provision dealer. He remained in that employ until the spring of 1865, when he came to Michigan and remained one year on the farm of Mr. Ellis, in Coopersville, Ottawa County. In May, 1866, he went to Wisconsin for the purpose of assisting in the survey of the ship canal route from Sturgeon Bay to Lake Michigan. Two months later he returned to Coopersville and operated about three months in a tannery. His next employ was as a clerk in the mer-

cantile establishment of Miner & Miller, located at Berlin in Ottawa County. He came in the winter of 1868 to Hamilton, Gratiot County, where he arrived February 28th, and at once entered upon the duties of chief manager of the mercantile and lumbering interests of Robert M. Steel, his brother-in-law, where he officiated until July, 1870, when he went to St. John's, Clinton Co., Mich. He discharged the duties of book-keeper for the St. John's Manufacturing Company one year, and in July, 1871, went to McLeansboro, Ill. Mr. Steel was building the Southeastern & St. Louis railroad and Mr. Seaver was placed in charge of the construction corps engaged in building bridges and putting in culverts. He remained four months and again returned to Hamilton, in the same capacity in which he had formerly operated. He remained in charge of "Steel's mill" until Jan. 15, 1877. In the fall of 1876 he was elected Register of Deeds of Gratiot County, and in the winter ensuing fixed his residence at Ithaca, in order to facilitate the discharge of his duties as incumbent of a county office. He officiated as Register four years.

In November, 1879, Mr. Seaver purchased a stock of dry goods of John W. Howd, of Ithaca, and became associated with Daniel C. Johnson in the transaction of mercantile affairs under the firm style of D. C. Johnson & Co. Their business was conducted satisfactorily and with success until the spring of 1881, when Mr. Seaver purchased the interest of his partner. He at once proceeded to the erection of the Bank Block, for the Jeffrey estate, a building 71 feet square and three stories in height, and, in company with John W. Lewis, established an extensive mercantile business. Their stock includes dry goods, ready-made clothing, hats, caps, boots, shoes, groceries, crockery and other lines of goods suited to the demands of the patrons of the establishment. In May, 1880, the banking house of Steel, Turck & Co. was organized, with quarters in the store of D. C. Johnson & Co. On the completion of the new building the banking firm took possession of elegant and commodious quarters arranged for their accommodation.

In 1879, Mr. Seaver bought the old Ithaca flouring mill, the building which is now occupied by W. F. Thompson as a tub factory. He carried on the business of the mill at that stand upwards of three

years, and in August, 1882, put into practical operation a project for the building of a new mill, which was in complete running order in April, 1883. The structure is 36 x 56 feet in dimensions and is fitted with steam power and four run of stones. The mill is devoted chiefly to custom work and grinds 125 bushels of wheat and 400 bushels of feed daily (10 hours).

Ithaca is indebted to the energy, perseverance and capital of Mr. Seaver and Gen. Nathan Church for the extension of the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis railroad. The track was graded, the ties supplied and the culverts built through the combined instrumentality of these gentlemen.

Mr. Seaver owns 320 acres of land on section 13, in Newark Township, which is finely improved and supplied with all necessary farm appurtenances of the best class. He is the proprietor also of 40 acres on section 26, in Arcada Township, and owns a half interest in 200 acres on section 4, in the township of Bethany. His town property includes the tub factory and three lots. Mr. Seaver was one of the original organizers of the banking house of Steel, Turck & Co., at Ithaca, and of Turck, Winton & Co., at Alma, and is still connected with the former in the capacity of stockholder.

His portrait is an appropriate addition to the collection of the business men of Gratiot County appearing in this volume. Comment upon the enterprise and unremitting solicitude and activity of Mr. Seaver for the benefit of his generation is unnecessary. The statement of what he is achieving in his daily efforts is all the case requires.

Mr. Seaver was married Nov. 2, 1869, to Augusta M. Steel, of Craftsbury, Orleans Co., Vt. She died Aug. 28, 1877, at Ithaca. Mr. Seaver was again married June 18, 1879, to Mrs. Louisa Jeffrey, widow of John Jeffrey.

This book is honored in presenting the portrait of Mrs. Seaver. She is, so to speak, a part of the history and wonderful progress of Gratiot County, of which she has been many years a resident. In her character of wife and mother, she is a typical woman, and in her interest and exertions for the advancement of the society which she adorns, has incontrovertible claims as a leader. Her experiences and natural traits of character fit her for any station in

life, and she is enjoying the advantages of the position to which she is justly entitled as one of the leading ladies of Ithaca.

**B**yman T. Cassada (deceased), late farmer on section 31, Fulton Township, was a son of James and Abigail (Kinyon) Cassada (see sketch of J. A. Cassada), and was born in the State of New York July 27, 1819. He was one of the pioneers of Gratiot County, coming to this county in the spring of 1856, when he bought 20 acres of land in Fulton Township, on section 31. He resided upon this place, to which he added five acres, until his death, which occurred April 30, 1870.

April 27, 1841, in Chemung Co., N. Y., he married Miss Thirza Minton, daughter of John and Phebe (Jones) Minton, natives of New Jersey and Connecticut. Mrs. Cassada was born in Chemung Co., N. Y., March 12, 1820. Mr. and Mrs. C. had two children: Amanda, born Jan. 18, 1842, and died Sept. 29, 1866; Laura, born July 29, 1843, and died May 21, 1867.

Mr. C. held the office of Supervisor of Fulton for six successive terms, and was also Justice of the Peace for a number of years. He took an active interest in the welfare of his township. He supported the Democratic party, and was at the time of his death a member of the Masonic Order. Mrs. C. is a member of the Christian Church. She has added 15 acres to the farm since her husband's death, all of which is improved.

**B**arney Swope, farmer section 21, Wheeler Township, is a son of Barnhart and Elizabeth (Neff) Swope, natives of Maryland. Mr. Swope, Sr., was part of his life a farmer, and a number of years was also engaged in mercantile life, in Hagerstown, Md. From 1847 to 1852, he resided in Ohio, and in the latter year he came to Jackson Co., Mich., where he died three years later. Mrs. Swope was a second time married, to John Yager, and they now live with their son-in-law in Bethany Township.

The subject of this sketch was born in Washing-



ton Co., Md., June 12, 1840. He left home at the age of 15, and began to work by the month for a time on a farm and then in a dry-goods store, and then at various other things until he was 21 years old. Aug. 20, 1861, he enlisted in Co. I, 6th Mich. Vol. Inf., which was transferred to the heavy artillery. He was on garrison duty at Baltimore until March, 1862, when he was sent to Ship Island, in the Gulf of Mexico. He fought at Pass Mauchac, Baton Rouge, at Vicksburg, Miss., and in other engagements, six in all, besides skirmishes. He was wounded by a gunshot in the shoulder, at Port Hudson, May 27, 1863, and was finally discharged at New Orleans, Sept. 7, 1863. He had four and a half inches of bone taken out of his arm, and now draws a pension, which he richly deserves, it being but an inadequate return for the loss he has sustained in the defense of his country.

In 1865 he was united in marriage to Margaret, daughter of William and Harriet (Thompkins) Parrish, natives of the State of New York. They emigrated to Jackson Co., Mich., in 1835, where Mrs. Parrish died, and Mr. Parrish and second wife afterward came to Gratiot. Margaret was born Oct. 3, 1845, in Jackson Co., Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Swope are the parents of seven children: William J., John H., Agnes E., Edgar U., Walter E., Bessie M. and Frances R. Mr. and Mrs. Swope came to this county in 1864 and located on section 6, Wheeler Township, and after one year removed to section 21, on a tract of 80 acres. He has since added 80 acres more and has a fine residence, completed in 1883. He has been Deputy Township Clerk one year, Clerk one year, Justice of the Peace a number of years, and has been Supervisor for nine terms. Politically, he is a Republican. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Wheeler Village.

**S**idney Sessions, farmer and owner of 80 acres of land on section 21, Fulton Township, is the son of Nathaniel and Chloe (Thompson) Sessions, natives of Connecticut. They first settled in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and in 1837 they removed to Ionia Co., Mich., where she died Nov. 14, 1879, and he died shortly after, March 15, 1880.

Sidney, the sixth of a family of 14 (nine boys and five girls), was born in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., July 19, 1828, and was nine years old when his parents removed to Michigan. He was educated in the common schools, and assisted his father on the farm until 18 years old, when for five years he worked by the month at farming in Wisconsin and Iowa. Returning to Ionia County, he shortly after bought a farm, which he worked for two years. He then bought village property in Pewamo, Ionia County, where he lived a year and a half. In the winter of 1869, he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres on section 21, Fulton, where he now resides. He has 60 acres under good cultivation.

Jan. 1, 1861, at Charlotte, Eaton Co., Mich., he married Miss Elizabeth A. Wallace, a native of Ionia County. She died in October, 1862. Feb. 11, 1864, in Ionia County, he married Miss Sarah A., daughter of John and Lurany (Whitford) Stoddard, natives of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard first lived in New York State, and afterwards came to Michigan, finally locating in Clinton County, where Mr. S. died Aug. 14, 1862, and Mrs. S. Aug. 16, 1864. Mrs. Sessions was born in Washtenaw County, this State, July 16, 1837. Mr. and Mrs. S. have one son, Harry P., born Jan. 31, 1865. Mr. S. is politically an earnest Prohibitionist, and on general issues has usually supported the Republican party.

**H**enry Smith, farmer, section 29, Bethany Township, is a son of Ira and Zada (Hitchcock) Smith, and was born in Skaneateles, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Sept. 10, 1825, and was reared and educated on the farm. In September, 1851, he went to Butte Co., Cal., and was engaged in gold mining about two years, having several claims on the South Fork of Feather River. He returned to New York a short time, and in the spring of 1854 came to the site of what is now St. Louis, this county, when but two families were living in the place. He "located" a number of tracts of land in the vicinity of St. Louis and also near Alma. He was also Clerk of the Township there two years. In the fall of 1856 he was elected County Clerk, over Orville Wood as an opponent. He was elected as a Republican by a good majority.

After his term of service expired he settled on section 35, Pine River Township for two years, "keeping back," and then moved to section 26, same township, where he had a quarter-section of land, 100 acres of which he cleared.

Oct. 22, 1856, Mr. Smith married Miss Julia A., daughter of Elijah and Julia (Bullock) Porter, who was born in Chautauqua Co., N. Y., June 28, 1833. Mr. and Mrs. S. had the three following children: Julius H., now mining in Colorado; Cornelia A., now attending college at Kalamazoo, Mich., and E. Louise. Mrs. S. died in Pine River Township, May 19, 1862, and he again married in the same township, May 4, 1864, Miss Sarah E. Porter, a sister of his former wife, who was born in Coshocton, Ohio, Sept. 12, 1839. By this marriage there have been six children, three of whom are deceased. Miles R. is clerk in a drug store in St. Louis; Mortimer and Arthur E. are the other two living. The deceased are Laura A., Mary B. and Virgil.

In February, 1882, Mr. Smith came to his present location, where he owns 80 acres, and has 30 acres in cultivation. He has a good home, all made by himself in spite of many adverse fortunes, and his energy and judicious management insure permanent prosperity. He is a member of the pioneer society, and also a charter member of the Masonic lodge at St. Louis, No. 188. He was the first Clerk of Pine River Township, holding the position two years.

**S**tephen M. Boyle, farmer on section 29, Fulton Township, is a son of Andrew and Joanna (Barry) Boyle, natives of Ireland. They emigrated to Canada about 1825, and settled in Northumberland County, where Mr. Boyle died. His wife afterwards came to Gratiot County, where she lived until her death.

Their son, Stephen M., was born in Northumberland Co., Ontario, Sept. 12, 1838, and received a good common-school education, remaining at home until 20 years old. In April, 1859, he came to Gratiot County, and for one year he lived in Newark Township. He has owned at different times several tracts of land, and in 1872 he bought 160 acres on section 29, Fulton, where he now resides. He owns at pres-

ent 180 acres, of which 80 are in an advanced state of cultivation.

He was first married in Northumberland Co., Ontario, Oct. 19, 1865, to Mary Lang, a native of Canada. She died July 15, 1868. He was again married at St. John's, Mich., Sept. 25, 1872, to Sarah J., daughter of William R. and Mary (Page) Price. She was born in Belknap Co., N. H., July 25, 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Boyle have become the parents of two children, Winfield R. and Mary G. Mr. B. has held the office of School Inspector. He is politically a Prohibitionist. He belongs to the Masonic Order, to the G. A. R., and, with his wife, to Essex Grange, Patrons of Husbandry. He and wife are also members of the Christian Church.

Dec. 10, 1863, Mr. Boyle enlisted in the 4th Mich. Vol. Cav., and served till January, 1865. He was with Sherman in his famous march to the sea, as far as 30 miles south of Atlanta, when, in a hand-to-hand encounter, he was wounded in three different parts of his body. He carries two bullets to this day.

**I**srael Cole, Postmaster at Edgewood, this County, is a son of Leonard Cole, a native of Ulster Co., N. Y., now deceased, and was born in Orange County, same State, Nov. 27, 1808. He received all the advantages which the common schools of his native county afforded, and lived and developed into manhood while a resident of the State, remaining there until 1833, except from the fall of '28 to the fall of '29, which time he spent in the South. In the spring of that year, having united himself in marriage a year previous, 1832, to Miss Mary J. Hopkins, he and his young bride moved to Orleans County, their native State, and entered on life's battles.

Mr. Cole then traveled as a Methodist Protestant preacher for 23 years, until 1856, when he and his partner in life settled in Erie County, New York. Here he followed the occupation of a farmer for six years, then engaged in working at masonry during the summers and working in a mill until November, 1878, when, having lost his wife, with two of his children he came to this State. He settled in Edgewood and opened a general mercantile store, in which business, together with that of Postmaster, he

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*W. A. Church*

is now engaged and obtaining his portion of the trade of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Cole had born to them the following children: Margaret (Chapman, of Boston, Mass.), Agnes (Knapp), Leonard (of Las Vegas, N. M.), Isabella (Stetson, of Lee Co., Ill.), Theresa and Seneca M. (live at home), Alexander (La Junta, Col.), Louisa (Lawler, of St. Thomas, Can.), and Mary A. (Shuman, of this township).

**On William S. Turck**, of the banking house of W. S. Turck & Co., at Alma, and Steel, Turck & Co., at Ithaca, is a resident at Alma. He is one of the pioneer settlers of Gratiot County and ranks among its prominent citizens. He is the son of Zachariah and Rebecca (Decker) Turck. His father was born in the State of New York and was by vocation a tanner and currier. His mother was a native of Schoharie Co., N. Y.

Mr. Turck was born in Port Hope, Canada, Aug. 7, 1839. He received a fair elementary education at the common schools, and at the age of 16 he began an apprenticeship with his brother Henry, who was engaged in the tannery business in Clark Township, Durham Co., Canada. He served about four years and then went to Shelby, Orleans County, where he remained until 1860, when he came to Isabella Co., Mich., and obtained employ at Indian Mills, on the Chippewa River, near the site of Mount Pleasant. The establishment was owned by the United States Government and included a grist-mill. Mr. Turck remained there a year in charge of the flouring department. In the fall of 1861 he rented a saw and grist mill at Alma. The now promising village was then in its earliest incipency, and consisted of three log houses in the midst of a dense forest. He continued the management of the mill until August, 1862, when the spirit which enrolled the name of Michigan on the highest battlements of fame proved too strong to withstand, and he yielded to its overpowering influence. He arranged his private affairs and enlisted at Alma in Co. D, 26th Regt. Mich. Vol. Inf., Capt. Lafayette Church, and was mustered into service as 2d Lieutenant of the company. The honorable record of the "26th Michi-

gan," which outranked every other regiment in the war as skirmishers, included every name on its roll. It was constructed of the surplus companies for whom there was no assignment in the organizations of the 24th and 25th Michigan regiments, and represented the best blood and position in the Peninsular State. From the time it went into rendezvous at Jackson until the close of the war it was the object of a deep interest, and its course through the remainder of the war was observed with justifiable pride at home and won unstinted commendations in military and official circles. Its members were noticed for special appointments for personal bravery by the brigade and corps commanders, and its efficiency, patriotism and order in the suppression of the rebellion conferred upon it a prominence second to none. On going to the front, in December, it was assigned to Provost duty at Alexandria, Va., and in the spring following proceeded to Suffolk, which place was endangered by the threatened assault of the insurgents under the rebel Longstreet. It was sent to New York to protect the city during the famous riot of 1863 consequent upon the draft. Its arrival upon the scene of action was hailed with delight, and the New York journals glowed with encomiums on the bravery, intelligence and military discipline of the regiment, for which they bespoke the appreciation and welcome of the citizens of the great metropolis. Its duty in New York and the harbor being done, it rejoined the Army of the Potomac and was assigned to the 1st Brigade, commanded by Gen. Miles, in the 1st Division, 2d Army Corps, in which it remained until the termination of the war. Mr. Turck was promoted to 1st Lieutenant, April 15, 1863, and was made Captain, Aug. 12, 1864. He was in 28 engagements, including all the prominent actions of the war after the assignment of the regiment. At the battle of Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864, he was wounded in the head by a minie ball and was off duty in consequence ten days. On the occasion of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court-House, Capt. Turck was in charge of the brigade skirmishers. The regiment was mustered out June 4, 1865.

Mr. Turck returned to Alma and engaged in lumbering during the winter of 1865-6. In the fall of 1866 he was elected County Treasurer, and was twice re-elected to the same position, holding the office an aggregate of six years. In consequence of

impaired health he determined to devote his energies to agriculture, and bought a farm one mile north of Ithaca. He passed the succeeding eight years in its improvement, and then returned to Alma, where, associated with A. W. Wright and others, he founded the banking house with which he is at present connected. He was one of its stockholders and held the positions of cashier and manager. In August, 1883, the bank was re-organized under its present style, and since that date has been engaged in prosperous financial transactions common to institutions of similar scope and character. Upon the formation and organization of the banking establishment of Steel, Turck & Co., he became a stockholder therein.

Mr. Turck is interested in the milling business at Alma, and in 1881 built a flouring-mill. It is constructed of brick, 45 x 80 feet, with three stories above the basement. Its producing capacity is 100 barrels daily, and it is fitted with 11 sets of rollers and three "run" of stones. Four men are employed and the mill is operated chiefly on custom work.

Mr. Turck has been a Republican since he attained to the privileges of citizenship, and has always been fearless and outspoken in the interests of the party. In the fall of 1876 he was nominated in the Republican Convention, held at Ithaca, as member of the House of Representatives in the Legislature of Michigan. He was elected by a large majority, running 150 votes in advance of his ticket. During the session he performed much effective service in the interests of his constituency, introduced several important bills and served on the Committees on Local Taxation and Drainage. He was re-elected in 1878 and was again in advance of his ticket. He was appointed Chairman of the Railroad Committee and on the State School at Coldwater.

Mr. Turck has been a member of the Masonic Order 22 years, in which he has taken 12 degrees. He has been the incumbent of all the important positions in the lower body and was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Michigan, and acted eight years as High Priest of Chapter No. 70, of Ithaca. He owns a fine residence at Alma, besides a considerable amount of village property. He is managing extensive stock interests on his farm of 400 acres located in the township of Arcada, three miles from Alma. The war, business, and political record of Mr. Turck afford the best possible manifest of his

merits as an American citizen. He needs no fulsome flattery to perpetrate the undefiled name transmitted to the generations to come on the pages of the Biographical Album of Gratiot County. His portrait, which appears on a preceding page, is one that enhances the value of the work and will be received with the greatest satisfaction by its patrons.

Mr. Turck's marriage to Louisa A. Ely occurred Sept. 15, 1864. She was born July 18, 1845, in New York, and is the daughter of Gen. Ralph and Mary E. Ely (see sketch of Gen. R. Ely). Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Turck, as follows: Ralph, June 26, 1865 (died in 1866); Ruby, June 28, 1869 (died in 1872); Lena M., Sept. 9, 1872; Raymond C., Oct. 12, 1874.

**T**homas J. Hoxie, farmer, section 22, Fulton Township, is a son of Thomas J. and Elizabeth (Hathaway) Hoxie, natives of New York and Massachusetts respectively. They first settled in Genesee Co., N. Y., whence, in 1845, they removed to Fulton Co., Ohio. There they lived until their death. Mr. Hoxie fell dead in the Island House, Toledo, in 1876, while returning home from Washington, D. C. Mrs. Hoxie died in January, 1874. Their family comprised six sons and one daughter: Eliza, Joseph, William E., John B., Thomas J., Calvin H. and Lyman P.

The fourth son, Thomas J. Hoxie, was born in Livingston Co., N. Y., Aug. 26, 1843, and was one year old when his parents removed to Ohio. He remained at home until 17 years old, and then began the battle of life for himself. He attended the common schools while a boy, and for two winters taught school himself. At the age mentioned, he bought a farm of 40 acres of wild land in Fulton Co., Ohio, where he lived two years. He then sold, and in the summer of 1863 came with his wife and one child to Gratiot County, where he purchased 40 acres of timbered land on section 26, Fulton Township. Here he lived nearly two years. He has bought and sold several farms in Washington and Fulton Townships, making his last change in the spring of 1877, when he traded 160 acres on section 22, Fulton, for 80 acres on sections 22 and 27. He now lives on section 22, and owns 160 acres, of which 100 acres are nicely improved.

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*Lafayette Chew*



May 19, 1861, at Morenci, Lenawee Co., Mich., he married Miss Martha A., daughter of Walter S. and Elizabeth (Smith) Coleman, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman were among the first settlers of Williams Co., Ohio. They finally settled in Fulton Co., Ohio, where she died, March 3, 1881. He went to Arkansas, and died at Eureka Springs in February, 1883. Mrs. Hoxie was born in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, Dec. 10, 1844, and is the mother of six children: William E., Cecilia A., Lyman W. L., Thomas J., Joe M. and Herbert W.

Mr. Hoxie has taught school in this county 11 terms. He has been School Superintendent two terms, and has held the various school offices. His wife and daughter are members of the Advent Church. Politically, he is a Democrat. Mr. H. is a relative of the wife of Hon. Jefferson Davis, the famous ex-President of the Southern Confederacy. An uncle, Joseph Hoxie, was for many years a Senator from New York, and he raised and equipped a regiment for the Government during the rebellion. Mr. Hoxie's father was also in the late war, and the ancestors of both Mr. and Mrs. H. were in the Revolution.

**Lafayette Church**, farmer on section 2, Arcada Township, and whose portrait is given on the opposite page, was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., July 16, 1816, and is a son of Willard and Sally (Davis) Church, natives of Connecticut. Willard Church was descended from the old Puritan stock, and was a soldier all through the Revolution. His cousin, Capt. Church, was one of the leaders on the side of the Colonists in King Philip's war. The Church family was one of the first of New England, and its members were prominently identified with its Colonial history. Sally Davis was of English parentage, and her family came from the other side of the waters much later than the Churches.

Lafayette was the youngest of nine children, all of whom grew to be adults, he married, and have families about them, before death began to thin their numbers. His father died in Livingston County, this State, at the advanced age of 88. The educational advantages afforded the subject of this sketch in his boyhood were very limited, and most of his

time was spent at work on the farm. When 16 years old, he left the parental roof to seek his own livelihood. He was first employed in a drug-store at Providence, R. I., for about three years, during which time he improved his leisure hours in study, and attended school to some extent. Returning home, he lived there one year, and in the fall of 1836 came to this State, spending the following winter in Oakland County. The next spring he went to Ionia, then a mere village of a hundred or so inhabitants. He was afterwards employed in Clinton County and again in Ionia.

Jan. 29, 1840, at Lyons, Ionia County, he was united in marriage to Sophronia, daughter of Nathan and Chloe (Tyler) Benjamin, natives of New York State, and of English and Irish extraction. She was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, Oct. 26, 1823, and when a year and a half old, she came with her parents to Oakland Co., Mich. Thence they removed to Ionia County, where she lived until her marriage. Her father drove the first wagon over East Plains, of that county, and also the first wagon into Maple Rapids. Mr. and Mrs. Church lived at Lyons seven years, and then went to Wheatland Township, Hillsdale County, where they lived until 1854. In the winter of that year they came to Gratiot County, and purchased from the Government 80 acres of land in what is now Arcada Township. They were among the very first settlers, and were familiarized with all the hardships of pioneer life. Mr. Church has since added 120 acres to his farm, but the farm has been mostly divided up among the family, and he now has 60 acres, well cultivated. He helped to start the town of Ithaca, building a house, and starting a saw and grist mill at that place in connection with Francis Nelson and John Jefferson.

Mr. and Mrs. Church have been blessed with ten children, of whom two have gone to "that bourne whence no traveler returns." The living are as follows: Nathan, born Nov. 22, 1840; Susan, Aug. 22, 1849; Marie E., Oct. 9, 1851; Avolin, Dec. 22, 1853; Julia, Sept. 7, 1856; Flora, March 25, 1860; Willard, May 19, 1861; Fred, June 2, 1863. S. Cornelia was born Aug. 3, 1842, and died March 23, 1878; Frances A., born Aug. 5, 1844, and died Sept. 17, 1865.

At the first general election held in Gratiot County, Mr. Church was chosen County Treasurer, which

office he held four years, and he was also the first Treasurer of Arcada Township. In May, 1855, he organized the first Sunday-school started in Gratiot County, meeting at the house of F. Way, midway between Alma and St. Louis. July 19, 1862, he received from the Governor of the State a commission as Second Lieutenant, and authority to raise a company of volunteers. When a sufficient number had been raised, they were mustered in as Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., and Lieutenant Church was immediately made Captain of that company, which contained many of the best citizens of Gratiot County. He held that rank for 18 months, and was then, on recommendation of the principal officers of the regiment, commissioned as Regimental Chaplain. This position he held until the rebellion closed with the surrender of Gen. Lee, of which historical event he was an eye-witness. He was at the head of his company at the battle of Mine Run, and distinguished himself on other occasions. His son, Nathan, held the rank of First Lieutenant in the same company, and the two fought and marched together until the close of the war. They were honorably discharged in June, 1865. Since the war, Capt. Church has led a quiet and retired life at his home in Arcada Township. He is highly respected by all his numerous friends, and his long residence and gallant services have won him a front place among Gratiot County's leading citizens. Politically, he is an ardent and influential Republican.

**T**imothy Pressley, farmer, section 24, Newark Township, was born Feb. 14, 1822, in Hannstone Parish, 12 miles east of Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, where his parents, William and Anna (Holmes) Pressley, were born and passed their lives. They belonged to the agricultural class and the son was reared to the same calling.

He came to the United States in 1844 and landed at the city of New York. His first experience in the Great Republic was novel, and almost startling. During his first night in New York, while occupying a room with several other young men, they were serenaded by a myriad of katydid, an insect entirely

strange to them. During a great part of the night they were kept awake, conjecturing who the disputing parties might be, who seemed to be trying to decide by verbal contest whether Katy did or didn't. To add to the weird effect, a number of the common insects usually called "lightning-bugs" were flying around in the darkness. These seemed to be peace-makers, trying to pacify the disputants. Mr. Pressley made his first location in Ostego Co., N. Y. After a residence there of three years he removed to Columbus, O., and passed three years, acting as Steward in the American Hotel. He went next to Richland Co., Ohio, where he operated as a farm assistant for about seven years. In November, 1857, he came with his family, then comprising his wife and three children, to Michigan. He fixed upon Gratiot County as promising to afford a suitable field for the development of his labors and aspirations, and bought 80 acres of land in an unimproved condition on section 34, in Newark Township. He experienced many severe privations during his early years in Gratiot. On one occasion, having to go to St. John's on business, he had but 75 cents in money. Paying 50 cents for a night's shelter for his steers, and 25 cents for himself, consumed the entire supply of specie in his possession, and his entire subsistence during the two days' journey was a little bread made of bran and water brought from home. In spite of hardships almost incredible, Mr. Pressley persevered in his resolve to make a home in the woods of Michigan, and he retained the farm on which he first located for 22 years. In 1879, he sold it to J. M. Walker. He had made previous purchase of 40 acres on section 33, on which he built a house and continued the pursuit of agriculture a few months, when he again sold out. In April, 1881, he bought 110 acres on section 24. This is his homestead and he is engaged in successful farming on 90 acres of well-improved, valuable land. He also owns a lot in the village of Alma, on the corner of Fourth and Superior Streets. It is on section 3, Arcada Township. Mr. Pressley is a Republican in political connection and served 18 years as School Director in District No. 4, Newark Township. In the spring of 1883 he was elected Highway Commissioner.

He was married Feb. 1, 1850, in Columbus, Ohio, to Sarah E., eldest daughter of Harmon Earl, a native of the Dominion of Canada. The daughter was

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*Daniel A. Buff*



*Mrs Daniel O. Cuff,*

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born Nov. 5, 1829, in Columbiana Co., Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Pressley are the parents of eight children. Six of these are living, named as follows: Emma J., Clarissa A., Eva E., Rosa J., Frank L. and Hannah E. Charles Nelson died when nearly 14 years of age. Walter H. was about the same age when he died.

**D**aniel O. Cuff, Under-Sheriff of Gratiot County, resident at St. Louis, was born in Brandon, Rutland Co., Vt., May 12, 1834. His father, Thomas Cuff, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, and is now living in Sandstone Township, Jackson Co., Mich., 74 years old. His mother, Clarissa (Frost) Cuff, was born in Brandon, and is 75 years of age. The parents removed from the Green Mountain State to Michigan in 1838. They located at Jackson, which was then a hamlet in its most rural condition and consisted of a few log huts and a log hotel. The State Prison was located there about that time, and Thomas and Patrick Cuff took the contract to build the wall, which was constructed of tamarack poles 22 feet long, set in trenches, from which the institution was called "The Tamaracks." Thomas Cuff bought three acres of land, a part of which is now included in the Jackson County Fair Grounds, and built two log houses thereon, one for himself and the other for his father. He was one of the first to be appointed a prison guard, and officiated in that capacity three years. On the building of the Michigan Central railroad, he was one of the contractors, and constructed seven miles of the track west of the city. The venture proved successful, and he went to Sandstone, then larger in fact and promise than Jackson, and bought 320 acres of land in the township, where he has since lived. The place was located in heavy "oak openings," and very valuable for agricultural purposes. The homestead now includes 160 acres, and is in admirable condition, with two fine residences and suitable and substantial farm buildings. One of the dwellings is occupied by the family of a son, and two younger, Norman and Thomas, reside with their father.

The early years of the life of Mr. Cuff, of this sketch, were spent in active labor. He first worked

as a lumberman, and, when his father took a contract to furnish stone for paving the streets of Detroit, he assisted in the work of delivering the material at the side track in Sandstone. He was thus occupied two years. At 20, he became his "own man" and went to Ionia, where he engaged in rafting square timber from Lyons to Ionia and Grand Rapids. He worked as a laborer on the extension of the Detroit & Milwaukee railroad from St. John's to Grand Rapids until the track was completed to Ionia, when he took a contract to build two and a half miles west of that city. When the road was in running order, Mr. Cuff became Section Master between Lyons and Ionia, and served a year in that position. He acted the next year as Division Master between St. John's and Saranac. He resigned the latter post, and took a contract to fence both sides of the railroad track from Ionia to Lyons. The job occupied a year, and on its completion Mr. Cuff went to Hubbardston, in Ionia County, and entered the employ of a heavy lumber firm as foreman in their mill and lumber yards. He remained with them four years, and then obtained a situation as clerk in a drug store in Hubbardston.

In 1862, the public interest in the fact that armed rebellion had grown to such proportions as to engage the attention of the whole civilized world superseded every private ambition. The impulses of the emergency swayed every class of men, and the response of Michigan to the sentiment which ruled the summer and autumn of 1862 gave the grand Peninsular State a prestige whose record will glorify the pages of history while time endures. Mr. Cuff enlisted at Hubbardston in Co. K, 21st Mich. Vol. Inf., Capt. Herman Baroth, and was in the service of the United States nearly three years. On the organization of the company, Mr. Cuff was appointed Sergeant, and Nov. 12, 1863, was promoted to the position of Second Lieutenant. The regiment was mustered out June 8, 1865. Mr. Cuff participated in the following engagements: Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Savannah, Averysboro and Bentonville. After receiving his discharge, he came to St. Louis and opened an establishment for the sale of boots, shoes and groceries, in company with James S. Eager. He sold out at the end of two years, and engaged with H. L. Holcomb as foreman in his mills and lumber yard. He officiated in that position seven years. In 1876, he bought a farm of

40 acres in Pine River Township, on section 36, which he still owns. The place is all cleared and finely improved. In the years 1880-1-2, Mr. Cuff was engaged in buying grain for Nelson & Barber, of Ithaca.

Mr. Cuff has been the incumbent of responsible public positions ever since he became a citizen of Gratiot County. In 1872 he was elected Trustee of the village of St. Louis and retained the position two years. The following year he officiated as Village Assessor, and in 1874 filled the same office. In 1875 he was elected President of the Board of Trustees of St. Louis and again in 1876. In 1877 he was elected Supervisor of Pine River Township and was successively re-elected five times. In 1880-1 he served as President of the Village Board. In the fall of 1882 he was the Fusion candidate for Representative of Gratiot County, and ran against A. B. Darragh. Probably two more popular candidates were never in the field in a local election. Mr. Cuff made a vigorous and well-nigh successful campaign, virtually securing a triumph, as Mr. Darragh won by only 34 votes. In January, 1883, Mr. Cuff was appointed Under-Sheriff of Gratiot County by K. P. Peet, and is at present discharging the obligations of the position. His record affords a fine illustration of the inherent value of republican institutions to men of energy, perseverance and self-respect. He was born heir to the grand American privilege of unobstructed effort, and he applied himself manfully and creditably to his struggle with opportunity. The victory he carries on his banners is the just reward of his integrity and endeavors.

Mr. Cuff was married at Hubbardston, Dec. 10, 1859, to Harriet E., daughter of Elijah and Sarah (Goodwin) Marlett. Her father was born Nov. 30, 1802, in Scipio, Cayuga Co., N. Y., and was the son of Peter and Mercy Marlett, natives of New Jersey. He grew to manhood in the town of Penfield, Monroe Co., N. Y., and was married Sept. 17, 1826, to the daughter of Chauncey and Sarah (Hubbard) Goodwin. After their marriage they went to Rochester, N. Y., where Mr. Marlett worked about one year as a carpenter and builder, removing at the expiration of that time to Steuben, Oneida Co., N. Y. He lost his health and came to Michigan in 1836 and settled at Ionia. His wife came in 1837. Their family included six children, born as follows: Rich-

ard Ely, March 18, 1829; Clinton Erastus, Feb. 12, 1832; Sarah Maria, Oct. 20, 1834; Celia Sophia, April 17, 1837; W. H. H. July 21, 1841; Harriet E. (Mrs. Cuff), April 13, 1843. Mr. Marlett died at Ionia, Mich., Feb. 24, 1845, of lingering consumption, from which he was a sufferer 21 years. He left a wife and four children. He was a man of integrity and exalted Christian character and left a record of honesty and uprightness which is still fresh and green in the memory of many, though nearly 40 years have gone since he passed to the shelter of a home "whose curtain never outward swings." Chauncey Goodwin, the grandfather of Mrs. Cuff, died Feb. 17, 1788. Her grandmother was born in Middletown, Conn., Nov. 2, 1790. Mrs. Marlett was born Oct. 13, 1809, in Steuben, Oneida Co., N. Y., and is the oldest of 14 children, seven of whom are living. After her husband's death she maintained and brought up her four children, residing at Ionia until 1862, when she came with her youngest daughter to St. Louis, where she is still a resident and is nearly 75 years old. Her oldest son, Richard E., became a soldier and enlisted in 1863, in the 21st Mich. Vol. Inf. He was attacked with camp diarrhea and sent, March 13, 1865, to Danel's Island Hospital, N. Y., where erysipelas set in, and he died March 29, 1865.

The record of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Cuff are as follows: Florence E., born Sept. 5, 1860, died Oct. 17, 1865; Horace E., born Feb. 1, 1863, died Oct. 12, 1870; Norman E. was born Oct. 15, 1867; William H., Sept. 7, 1869; Hattie E., June 24, 1877; D. O., born Oct. 24, 1880, died May 6, 1883.

Thus He sent an answer to my earnest praying;  
Thus He keeps my darling free from earthly stain;  
Thus He folds the pet lamb safe from earthly straying;  
But we miss him sadly and cannot still the pain.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Cuff are given in this volume in connection with this sketch.

**N**icholas Joslin, farmer on section 3, Seville Township, is a son of Henry and Katie (Edee) Joslin, natives of Rhode Island and New York State, respectively. The father was by occupation a carpenter, and lived in New York until his children came to Michigan, his wife dying in the meantime, in 1830. He lived



with his children in this State for many years, and a little previous to his death, in 1860, went to live with a daughter, in Joliet, Ill.

The subject of this biography was born June 3, 1816, in Monroe Co., N. Y., and lived at home with his parents until he was 14 years of age. His mother dying, he then left home, and served three years as an apprenticed chair-maker, and also as an apprentice to the house-painter's trade, which he followed until he came to Michigan, in 1837. He lived in Wayne County 20 years, during which period he served in the Mexican war, in the capacity of Arsenal Sergeant. In 1857, he came to Gratiot County and bought 240 acres of land on section 3, Seville. At that time almost all the vast territory north of him was a dense wilderness. He has nicely improved 80 acres, and now smiles contentedly at the recollection of past trials.

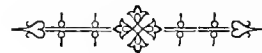
Oct. 10, 1841, he was married to Nancy M. Freeman, who was born March 2, 1824, in the State of New York. Her parents, Arial and Polly (Moore) Freeman, were natives of the State of New Hampshire. She died March 8, 1854, leaving three children, Edward, William and Ida. Mr. J. married for his second wife Minerva C. Freeman, a daughter of Adan and Elmira (Mason) Freeman, natives of New Hampshire and Vermont. To this marriage have been born seven children,—Adan W., George W., Ella A., Uzal, Charles L., Irena L., Eda J. D. Mr. Joslin has been complimented with the offices of Justice of the Peace and Highway Commissioner, and he has held some school office ever since coming to the county. He is politically a Democrat. He and wife are consistent members of the Free Methodist Church.

**C**harles H. Axtell, builder and contractor, located at Alma, was born Nov. 9, 1833, in New Jersey. He is a son of Jonathan R. and Mary E. (Smith) Axtell, both of whom were also natives of New Jersey. They came later in life to Livingston Co., Mich.

Mr. Axtell is the eldest of 11 children born to his parents, and at the age of 17 years he was apprenticed to acquire the details of the profession of

builder and served three years. He embarked in business for himself on attaining his majority, and has since given his attention and energies exclusively to his interests in the avenues pertaining to his vocation, with the exception of the period of time he spent in the service of his country as a soldier for the Union. He enlisted in April, 1861, in the 3d Mich. Vol. Inf., and after one year of service he was discharged for disability. In the spring of 1863 he again enlisted and was mustered into the service as Brigade Band Master. At the end of the war he received honorable discharge at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., when he returned to Michigan and resumed the duties of his occupation. He is a Republican in political affiliation, and a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, of Masonry and of the fraternity of the A. O. U. W.

Mr. Axtell was married in Ionia, Dec. 5, 1858, to Mary E., daughter of Thomas and Orpha (Beckwith) Cornell. They were natives of Long Island, N. Y., and were among the pioneer settlers of Ionia County. Mrs. Axtell was born in Ionia County, Feb. 21, 1831. The household includes the following children: Hattie O., William B. and Fred R.



**J**oseph I. Lovell, farmer and stock-raiser on section 16, Sumner Township, was born in Lordstown Township, Trumbull Co., Ohio, April 28, 1824, and is the son of Ira and Lydia (Lewis) Lovell. Ira Lovell was born in Vermont, March 17, 1791, was a mason and farmer, and died in Trumbull Co., Ohio, in January, 1852, aged 61. Lydia (Lewis) Lovell was born in Rhode Island in 1789 and died in Clay Co., Ind., in September, 1851, aged 62.

The subject of this biographical narrative remained at home until 24 years of age, the last four years, owing to his father's disability, having the active management of the farm. His father giving him \$300, he then went to Indiana and purchased 80 acres near La Grange, La Grange County. Two years later he returned home to care for his father, who was becoming very feeble, and he remained at home until the death of both his parents, who died

three months apart. All his little property was consumed in the expenses of sickness and death. "Misfortunes never come singly," but in groups, and Mr. Lovell was prostrated with fever and remained ill for about two years; during which time he was helped by his father-in-law. Recovering sufficiently to perform manual labor, he began to farm on shares in his native county, and four years later in the fall of 1856 he came to Michigan and located 40 acres in Seville Township, this county. The following year he purchased 40 acres on section 16, Sumner Township. He has since added 40 acres, and of his 80 he has by his own efforts redeemed 63 acres from the dense forest and placed them under cultivation. He has recently erected a large and commodious barn, at a cost of \$600, and made other convenient improvements. He makes the breeding of Norman horses and Yorkshire hogs a specialty, and his stock shows his ability and success as a breeder.

Oct. 7, 1847, in Newton Township, Trumbull Co., Ohio, he was united in marriage to Miss Lydia O. Gillmer, daughter of William and Catharine (Miller) Gillmer, natives of Ohio and of Scotch and Dutch descent. William Gillmer was successively a teacher, printer and farmer, and died in Trumbull Co., Ohio, May 4, 1850, aged 56. His wife died at the same place, Feb. 7, 1883, aged 84. Their daughter, Lydia O., was born Dec. 4, 1828, and lived with her parents until her marriage at the age of 19. She is the mother of three children: Rachel A. (died when ten months old), William I. and Ella A.

Aug. 12, 1862, Mr. L. enlisted in Co. D, 26th Mich. Vol. Inf., and he was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He served generally on garrison duty in the reserve, etc., and was discharged for disability, May 5, 1864, his foot, early in his service, having been severely mashed by cars. He was under fire of the rebels every day, near Yorktown, Va., from April 20 to May 23, 1863. March 17, 1865, he was drafted into the service again and assigned to Co. K, 16th Mich. Vol. Inf. The close of the war was, however, at hand and he was discharged May 20, 1865.

He is a member of Col. Ely Post, No. 158, G. A. R., at Elm Hall. He has been elected to the office of Township Clerk, and other positions, but being no office seeker he has always refused to qualify. Politically, he is a zealous National Greenbacker.

**J**ohn Kipp, farmer, section 35, Pine River Township, was born July 26, 1807, in Cayuga Co., N. Y. His parents were Barnabas and Mary (McKillip) Kipp, the father a native of the State of New York, the mother of Pennsylvania. They first settled in Adams County, near Gettysburg, Pa., and went afterwards to Cayuga Co., when it was in its pioneer days. Later in life they went to Erie Co., N. Y., where the father died. The mother died in Michigan.

Mr. Kipp grew to man's estate after the manner common to the sons of farmers of the period and place where he was brought up. He lived at home until he was 22 years old and was reared to the vocation of agriculture. In 1831 he went to Maryland, where he engaged in teaching three years, and afterward became interested in mercantile pursuits, which he followed about 12 years, meeting with moderate success. In 1853 he sold his interests and came to Wyandot Co., Ohio, where he engaged in the hardware business and also in farming. He thus operated seven years and in 1860 came to Genesee Co., Mich. He purchased 50 acres of land, which he continued to cultivate until 1871, when he sold out and came to Gratiot County. He bought 60 acres of partly improved land, which has since been his residence and field of agricultural operations: has 35 acres of his farm under improvements. He belongs to the National Greenback party in political connection.

He was married May 4, 1834, in Maryland, to Elizabeth A. Leaming. She was born in that State, May 12, 1812. Of her marriage to Mr. Kipp, several children have been born, three of whom survive—William J., Mary E. and Charles A. The parents are members of the Presbyterian Church.

**E**dward J. Walbridge, attorney and member of the law firm of H. and E. L. Walbridge at Ithaca, was born Nov. 1, 1856, at St. John's, Clinton Co., Mich., and is a son of Henry and Zilpah (Allen) Walbridge. His father was born in 1819 in the State of Vermont, and has been for a long period of years a

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Wm. Anderson

prominent attorney at Clinton and Gratiot Counties as well as a conspicuous member of the political element. In early life he was a Whig and was a delegate to the National Convention at Jackson, where the Republican party in this State came into being, since which time he has been one of its staunchest adherents, as are his three sons. He has practiced his profession in Clinton County 25 years and has held the office of Prosecuting Attorney two terms; was also Circuit Court Commissioner several terms. He ranks high in his profession and is a leading citizen of the county. The mother of Mr. Walbridge was born Nov. 2, 1820, in Vermont. Her parents were Ethan and Hannah Allen, and her father was second cousin to the hero of Ticonderoga for whom he was named.

Mr. Walbridge was a student at the High School at St. John's until he was 19 years old, when he received the appointment of Deputy Postmaster of that place. He discharged the duties of the position about 18 months, when he entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he studied a year. Mr. Walbridge was in a sense to the "manner born," as his association with his father and interest in the details of the law, together with varied experiences and reading in his father's office, had familiarized him with the minutiae of legal matters to a valuable extent. On leaving the University he devoted himself to the full completion of his studies for the legal profession, and took advantage of the opportunities afforded in his father's business. He left Ann Arbor in the spring of 1878 and in February, 1879, he was admitted to practice in the State courts of Michigan. Soon after that event he was elected Circuit Court Commissioner of Clinton County and held the position one term. His election was most flattering, as he received a majority of 460 votes, the highest on the ticket. He was appointed Census Enumerator of St. John's the same year. He became a resident of Ithaca, Feb. 20, 1883, and opened an office under the firm name of H. & E. L. Walbridge, his father being senior partner, and well-known in the courts of Gratiot County. Their practice has already assumed substantial proportions and presents most flattering prospects of future success.

Mr. Walbridge was married Feb. 11, 1880, in De Witt, Clinton Co., Mich., to Mary, daughter of Dr. George W. and Lucinda (Hurd) Topping. She was

born in De Witt, Aug. 9, 1861. Dr. Topping is a physician of prominence in his profession and a member of the National Medical Society. In 1882 he was the President of the State Medical Society of Michigan.

**W**illiam Anderson, farmer on section 10, Summer Township, was born in Kent Co., Ontario, May 19, 1832, and is the son of Samuel H. and Chloe (Merritt) Anderson, natives of New York and Nova Scotia, and of Scotch extraction. Samuel H. Anderson was earlier in life a ship carpenter. He was a Captain in the army during the "McKenzie rebellion." He is now living in Carson City, Montcalm Co., Mich., aged 77. His wife died March 3, 1850.

When William was nine years old, his parents moved from Kent County to Charlotteville Township, Norfolk County, and four years later they moved to another part of that county. After six years there, they lived eight years in Elgin County. The subject of this notice then came to this State and county, and purchasing 61 acres of timbered land, he built upon it a log house and began to pioneer it. Slowly but surely has he supplanted a densely timbered tract with a fertile and rich farm, and he has now 50 acres of productive land, with large barns, and a beautiful brick cottage, octagonal in shape, built a few years since at a cost of \$4,000. This is among the best residences in the township.

His first marriage occurred March 12, 1854, to Miss Catharine Emery, who was born in Canada April 29, 1836. She died at her home in Summer Township Dec. 13, 1865, leaving a family of four: Sophronia, born Jan. 19, 1855; Ambrose C., July 24, 1856; Loren A., Feb. 3, 1858; Alonzo L., Oct. 8, 1860. Mr. A. was again married, in this county, Oct. 2, 1867, to Celistia, daughter of Albert and Aconeth (Brown) Gavit, natives of Connecticut, and of New England ancestry. Mr. Gavit is a resident of Canada, aged 75, and has been a farmer all his life. His wife died July 18, 1867. Celistia was born in Townsend Township, Norfolk Co., Canada, March 22, 1838, and came in 1860 to this State, living first in Kent County, and coming later to Gratiot County.

Mr. and Mrs. A. are members of the Christian Church. He is a member of Pioneer Grange, No. 431,

Patrons of Husbandry, and at different times in the last few years has been elected to the various school offices. Politically, he is an ardent Republican. By his second marriage, he has one daughter, Eula L., born Aug. 8, 1872.

Mr. Anderson has served his country in a military capacity as well as in that of a civil officer. In October, 1864, he enlisted in Co. D, 4th Mich. Vol. Inf., and he fought under Gen. Thomas in the Army of the Cumberland. He fought at Decatur and Murfreesboro, and many lesser engagements, and was discharged in June, 1865.

The portrait of Mr. Anderson appears on a preceding page.

**H**erbert N. Hayes, farmer, section 22, Pine River Township, was born Feb. 16, 1860, in North Plains, Ionia County, Mich. He is the youngest son of William and Tirzah J. (Kent) Hayes. (See sketch of William Hayes.)

Mr. Hayes obtained his education at the common schools of his native county, and, for a time, was a student at the High School at St. Louis. He was bred under the care and guidance of his father to the vocation of farmer, and now is the owner and proprietor of 40 acres of land which is partly improved. He is a Republican in political principle.

He was married Dec. 6, 1883, to Adella F., daughter of Jacob and Mary (Grill) Bauer. She was born Aug. 6, 1860, in Summit Co., Ohio, and her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes are members of the Disciples' Church.

**O**xi G. Hall, at Ithaca, was born Feb. 22, 1853, in Homer, Calhoun Co., Mich. His father, Dr. Oscar S. Hall, is now residing at Rumney, Grafton Co., N. H., and is descended from English and Welsh ancestors.

His mother, Kate M. (Merchant) Hall, was born in the State of New York. Dr. Hall practiced his profession at Bellevue, Eaton Co., Mich., some years and went thence to Marshalltown, Iowa. He returned to Charlotte, Eaton County, where he re-

sided until 1867, when he located at Ithaca and established himself as a druggist and physician; there he operated until 1875, when he returned to New Hampshire.

Mr. Hall was six years old when his parents went to Iowa and there attended school, as at Charlotte, whither they removed at a later date. At the age of 16, he entered the drug-store of his father at Ithaca as assistant, and remained thus occupied until the establishment was sold, in 1875. He bought 60 acres of land on section 28, in the township of North Star, on which he resided three years. At the expiration of that time he entered Church's abstract office, where he was employed until 1881, when he purchased a stock of drugs and groceries of George Richardson at the stand the latter now occupies. In the following fall he bought the jewelry stock of A. B. Scattergood and prosecuted the sale of both lines of goods. In June, 1883, he was appointed agent of the American Express Company at Ithaca, and is still attending to the business of the position. He sold his farm in the spring of 1883, and Jan. 11, 1884, he sold his drug business to its former proprietor, George Richardson.

Mr. Hall was married at Ithaca, Feb. 10, 1873, to Sue V., daughter of Lafayette and Sophronia (Benjamin) Church. She is a native of Ithaca. The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Hall are, Lafayette C., Harlan and Ruth.

**C**harles E. Barnhart, farmer on section 31, Fulton Township, is a son of Jacob and Lydia (Arnold) Barnhart, natives of the State of New York. They first settled, after marriage, at Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., where he followed farming, and where they lived until the completion of their lives. She died Dec. 30, 1878, and he followed her in March, 1881.

Their family comprised five sons and three daughters. Charles E., the oldest son, was born in Seneca Co., N. Y., Aug. 13, 1830, and obtained his education in the district schools of Michigan, whither his parents removed when he was one year old. He remained at home in his father's employ until 23 years old, and then for four years worked out by the

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*Joseph Greer*



month. Next, he rented a farm in Washtenaw County for one year. He then worked out a year, and afterwards rented in succession several farms. In June, 1868, he came to Gratiot County and bought 300 acres of wild land on section 32, Fulton. There he lived until February, 1882. He built good barns and residence, and improved 130 acres of land. In December, 1881, he bought 340 acres of improved land on sections 31 and 30, being the farm formerly owned by Roswell Jones.

Mr. Barnhart has the nucleus of a very fine stock farm, having dealt in blooded stock for four years. The first year he invested \$450, which doubled itself in a twelvemonth. Among his present stock are five blooded cattle and eight graded, and 150 sheep. He has also four Poland-China hogs.

March 14, 1860, in Avon, Oakland Co., Mich., he married Miss Helen Graham, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Postle) Graham, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York State. Mr. and Mrs. Graham lived during their married life in Oakland County, she dying Jan. 18, 1844, and he Oct. 13, 1864. Their family comprised five children. Helen, the second daughter, was born in Oakland County July 25, 1836.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnhart are the parents of three children: William G., born Sept. 9, 1862; Nettie G., April 5, 1864; and Newton I., June 29, 1880. William G. died June 29, 1866. Mr. B. has held the offices of School Director and Pathmaster, and supports the Democratic party. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., and, with his wife, are members of the Christian Church.

**J**ohn Kline, farmer, section 26, Pine River Township, was born Aug. 13, 1834, in Ohio. His parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Briner) Kline, were respectively of German and English descent. Mr. Kline passed the earlier years of his life at school and afterwards worked with his father on the farm. At 20 he became his own man and learned the trade of a carpenter, which occupation he followed for four years. In 1858 he engaged in farming and after a little in the sale of agricultural implements; has pursued his twofold calling ever since. In April, 1879, he came

to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres of land, on which he has since resided and labored until he has placed 65 acres under cultivation. Mr. Kline adheres to the Republican party in political belief. He belongs to the A. O. U. W.

He was married April 12, 1853, in Seneca Co., Ohio, to Jane, daughter of John and Margaret Culbertson. Mrs. Kline was born in Pennsylvania, May 8, 1828, and her parents are natives of the same State. Jacob A., Winfield S., Joseph A., Robert E. and John are the names of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Kline. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**J**oseph Greer, farmer, section 23, Newark Township, was born May 30, 1826, in Columbiana Co., Ohio. He is a son of Thomas W. and Catherine (Rhodes) Greer, the former a native of Pennsylvania, the latter of Virginia. Their family included nine children, four sons and five daughters, of whom Mr. Greer is the third son.

He was engaged in farming with his father after he had passed the period of his early boyhood, until he was 25 years old. In November, 1854, he came to Michigan and bought 160 acres of wild land on the section of the township where he now resides. He is a "dyed-in-the-wool" Republican, and in the civil war indicated his claims as a friend of his country by responding to the summons of her rulers in her time of need. He enlisted in July, 1862, in the 26th Regt. Mich. Vol. Inf., and continued in the service until Feb. 16, 1864. He lost his right arm in the first battle in which he engaged, receiving the injury Nov. 23, 1863, in the fight at Mine Run, Va., and was discharged from service when sufficiently recovered to return home. As one worthy to be remembered by a mighty and grateful nation, whose integrity he gave so much to preserve, he is now receiving a pension.

He has held the various school offices of his district and has been Township Treasurer four years.

Mr. Greer was married Oct. 23, 1851, in Wyandot Co., Ohio, to Lydia, daughter of John and Eliza Hawkins. The father was born in Rhode Island, the mother in New York. Mrs. Greer is the only daughter

ter, and was born July 7, 1832, in Knox Co., Ohio. Of her marriage with Mr. Greer, nine children have been born, of whom one, Thomas W., is deceased. He died Jan. 7, 1876. The living are: Eliza C., James W., Maria A., Mary J., Carrie S., Clara S., George W. and Bertha E.

As one of the pioneers of the county and a man in every sense worthy to be remembered along with scores of others of Gratiot's honored citizens, we place the portrait of Mr. Greer in this volume.

**J**oseph W. O'Hara, M. D., eclectic physician and surgeon, resident at Summerton, was born Feb. 1, 1844, in the city of Philadelphia. He belongs to the sturdy race born in the North of Ireland, his parents, Joseph and Elizabeth (McHenry) O'Hara, having had their origin respectively in the counties of Tyrone and Antrim. His father was born in 1812 and became a resident of the United States in 1828. The mother was born in 1816 and came to America in 1837. Their marriage took place in Philadelphia in 1840.

Dr. O'Hara was a pupil in the excellent public schools of his native city until he was 13 years of age, when he was sent to a Quaker school, located on a street situated off 12th and Market Streets, where he was a student during the years 1857-8. At the end of that time he entered the employ of Messrs. Bremer, Reichart & Co., dry-goods merchants. The house had a heavy Southern trade and failed on the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861. In 1862, Dr. O'Hara entered Crittenden's Commercial College, where he was graduated within the year, and immediately thereafter he began his preparatory medical course in the office of Dr. H. T. Hutchins, of Philadelphia. A few months later he attended lectures in the School of Anatomy in that city. He continued his course of study in the Eclectic Medical College of Philadelphia, and was graduated there April 27, 1865. He commenced his career as a practitioner in the city of his birth, where he operated ten years. In 1867 he took a course of allopathic study at Jefferson College, and during the succeeding years he availed himself of the facilities afforded by the medical schools of all varieties in

Philadelphia and, obtained the benefits of the hospitals and clinics.

In the spring of 1877, Dr. O'Hara came to Michigan and established his practice at St. Louis, Gratiot County, where he became physician in charge of the Magnetic Springs, then owned by H. L. Holcomb. In the fall of 1879 he went to Summerton, where he has since resided. His dwelling is situated in Coe Township, Isabella County, as the hamlet of Summerton is so located that it includes the adjacent corners of Pine River and Seville Townships of Gratiot County, and Coe and Lincoln Townships of Isabella County. Dr. O'Hara has built up a lucrative country practice, and manages in connection therewith a drug and general store. He is also present Postmaster, having received his appointment in October, 1882, from Timothy O. Howe, late Postmaster General. He is a member of the Orders of Masonry and Odd Fellows.

His first marriage occurred July 8, 1866, in Jones Co., Iowa. His wife was Esther L., daughter of Silas Fay. She was born Feb. 5, 1843, in North Java, Wyoming Co., N. Y., and died Dec. 24, 1879, at St. Louis, leaving one child, Warren, who was born in Philadelphia, Sept. 13, 1867. She is buried in Seville Township. Dr. O'Hara was married a second time Dec. 25, 1881, to Jennie F., daughter of Marcus and Zilpha Ring, of Pine River Township (see sketch of Marcus Ring). The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Gates, of the Disciples' Church. She was born March 20, 1860, and is a lady of exceptional educational attainments. She graduated from the High School at Alma and taught 12 terms of school, with much success.

**G**liphalet Leckenby, of the firm of Leckenby & Reed, wagon manufacturers at St. Louis, was born Dec. 8, 1840, at Baker's Corners, Lenawee Co., Mich. He is the son of William and Charity (Shaw) Leckenby. His father was a native of England, a blacksmith by trade, and died in Virginia City, Texas. His mother is a native of New York, and is still living at Lansing. The parents came to Du Plain, Clinton Co., Mich., in 1845, where the father carried on the business of a blacksmith until 1858, when he went





*R A Willis*

West, and, on the breaking out of the war, enlisted and followed his trade while in the army.

Mr. Leckenby received a common-school education, and until he was 18 years old was trained by his father in the business of a blacksmith. On the removal of his father to the West, he went to Saginaw City, and was there three years as assistant with his brother-in-law, George Spangler, when they formed a partnership, which existed a year. At its termination, he returned to Du Plain and bought 65 acres of land. He made agriculture his business for 16 years and had a blacksmith shop on his farm. In 1881, he came to St. Louis and formed a partnership with C. W. Smith, firm styled Smith & Leckenby, which relation continued two and a half years, when Mr. Leckenby purchased his partner's interest and sold one half the business to R. R. Reed. (See sketch.) Their works are situated on Saginaw Street and include three buildings, with shops and store rooms. Their business comprises the branches of manufacture of carriages, platform wagons, sleighs, cutters, blacksmithing and repairing.

Mr. Leckenby owns 20 acres in the east part of St. Louis, and a farm of 80 acres in Jasper Township, Midland County, which is partly improved. His marriage occurred April 5, 1865, at St. John's, Clinton Co., Mich., to Emmeline, daughter of Oliver and Rhoda Hammond. She was born May 22, 1843, in township of Bradford, Allegheny Co., Pa., and her parents live at St. Louis. Her father is a retired farmer.

**R**onald Alexander Gillis, architect, contractor and builder, at St. Louis, was born Aug. 3, 1848, in Marguerite, Inverness County, in the Island of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He is the youngest son of Alexander and Nancy Margaret (McDonald) Gillis, and both parents were natives of the Highlands of Scotland, born in the county of Inverness, respectively in 1797 and in 1807. Their marriage took place in 1825, and in 1837 they emigrated to the Island of Cape Breton, where the father bought 800 acres of land from the Government. The family were among the earliest settlers at that point, and the homestead is still all retained in the possession of the original owners. The children born to them were 13 in num-

ber. An infant died unnamed. Eight sons and four daughters grew to maturity, and are still living, with one exception. Six of the sons are of magnificent physical proportions, stalwart in figure and development, in vigorous health, and doing credit to the hardy stock in which they had their origin, and the wholesome location in which most of them had their birth and growth, and of which it is very near the truth to say that in these days there are giants there. The sons and daughters of the Gillis household were named John, Mary, Allen, Donald, Andrew, Catherine, Simon, Margaret, Angus, Alexander, Ronald A. and Nancy. Simon is deceased, and Mr. Gillis, of this sketch, is the only member of the family not resident on his native soil.

Mr. Gillis passed the years of his boyhood attending the district schools, and at 16 went to Sidney, the capital of Cape Breton, to learn the trade of a builder. He spent three years there, and went thence to St. John's, New Brunswick, where he worked at his trade upwards of three years. In 1873 he went to Monckton, New Brunswick, where he was similarly employed several years. He there entered upon the most important and satisfactory event of his life. He was married May 10, 1875, to Mary Margaret Gaskin, who was born, in 1858, in Coverdale, Albert Co., New Brunswick. She is the only daughter and sole surviving child of Alfred and Amanda (Gunning) Gaskin, both of whom were of English birth, and died in early life, the father at the age of 27, the mother when she was 26 years old. Mrs. Gillis was reared by her maternal grandmother. One other child was born to her parents, a boy, who died when he was three years old. After his marriage Mr. Gillis went to Boston, where he was employed as a builder nearly two years. In December, 1877, he came to St. Louis, where he has since held the leading position as a contractor and builder, the most important of the buildings in the enterprising embryo city standing as testimonials to his skill. Among them are the Holcomb Opera-house Block, the Park House, Hart's Block, Wessells' Block, Fauth & Schlichtig's Block, the Episcopal Church, Martin & Goff's Block, and a number of dwellings. In December, 1882, he became the proprietor by purchase of the sash and blind factory and planing mill of C. H. Hill at St. Louis, which he operated satisfactorily until it was destroyed by fire in June, 1883. The

loss was heavy, as it was but partly covered by insurance. Mr. Gillis is Chief Marshal of the Fire Department of St. Louis.

The portrait of Mr. Gillis is presented on page 680 in connection with this sketch. He is a superb specimen of manly vigor and physical development, six feet six inches in height, and is, without doubt, the largest man in Gratiot County.

**G**eorge S. Bell, lumberman and farmer, Estella, Sumner Township, is a son of John C. and Anna (Stewart) Bell, natives of Massachusetts, and of Irish and Scotch descent. John C. Bell was by calling a farmer, and moved to Ohio in 1821, settling in Russell Township, Geauga County. He was the second settler in the township.

The subject of this biography was born in Chester Mass., July 30, 1812, and when nine years old his parents moved to Ohio. They drove oxen, and the trip of 700 miles took 28 days. Young George found himself in a new and sparsely settled country, and the educational facilities were very limited. He was persevering and ambitious enough to conquer difficulties, however, and walked to and from school three miles away. He was fortunate in his home surroundings and parental influences, and the principles early inculcated into his youthful mind had their effect on his after life. His father died April 18, 1842, aged 59. His mother died in her 93d year; and before leaving recalled with circumstance and particularity a moral example she had set for her son when he was but four years old.

George left the parental roof at the age of 22, and for five years worked on his own account in Geauga County. He then farmed for a time in Cuyahoga County, abandoning that occupation on account of poor health. For the next 12 years he followed selling stone and wood ware and cast work (principally stoves). In the fall of 1854, he came to this county and located 400 acres of wild land in Sumner Township. He was one of the three first settlers in the township, and not a stick of timber was cut for 10 miles around. He had to go 18 miles, to Matherton, to mill, and to Ionia City for his household supplies. Indians and wild animals were very numerous. The roads, when

made, were so soft, owing to the swampy condition of country, that they would often mire. They would then be obliged to unload and carry their goods on their back. Mr. Bell has improved 160 acres since coming to Gratiot County.

He was first married in 1833 to Miss Triphena Barker. She was born in 1818, and died in Sumner Township, April 18, 1859, aged 41. She was the mother of six children, five of whom were living at her death. Nov. 10, 1859, he was again married, choosing for his life companion Mrs. Louisa Peters, *nee* Worthing, born in Waitsfield, Vt., Aug. 31, 1818. She is the mother of four children, one of whom died in the service of his country. Mr. Bell has one son living,—Phares. The deceased children are Aaron, Irene, Mary, Medora and John. The latter died in infancy. Mr. Bell is an intelligent man, and though advanced in years, of retentive memory. In politics he has always been a Republican. He has uniformly refused all offices tendered him.

**B**enjamin W. Ellison, merchant at Alma, was born in Jackson Co., Mich., Oct. 18, 1841. He is the fourth son of Owen W. and Mary A. (Bloomingdale) Ellison. His parents were natives of the State of New York, where they were married and settled. They subsequently removed to Ohio and after a residence there of three years, they came to Michigan and located in Jackson County, where they are still resident. Six children were born to them: Jacob B., George W., Owen W., Benjamin W., Charles and Francis M.

Mr. Ellison obtained a good elementary education before he was 19 years old, and at that age he entered the Wesleyan College at Leoni, Jackson County, where he studied four years. He was engaged in farming from the time he left school until 1868, operating as a farm assistant. In that year he bought 135 acres of land in his native county, which he continued to manage four years. In 1872 he came to Gratiot County and settled at Alma. He at once embarked in the business in which he is at present engaged.

He was first married in Summit, Jackson County, in March 1868, to Josephine, daughter of James E.

and Lydia (Vandercook) Ferguson. The parents were born in the State of New York. Mr. Ellison is a native of the same State and was born in Steuben County. One child, Myrtie, was born of this marriage, who died at the age of eight months. Mrs. Ellison dying, Mr. Ellison was married the second time, at St. Louis, May 22, 1873, to Ella F., daughter of James and Deborah (Cornell) Wood. She was born at Ithaca, N. Y., May 22, 1850. Of the three children born of this marriage, one survives: Loyd O., born Dec. 20, 1874. Myrtie died in infancy, and Mabel died when nearly a year old.

Mr. Ellison is a member of the Masonic Order and in politics is a Republican.



**L**evi Lincoln Smith, farmer on section 28, Fulton Township, is a son of Ashley and Miriam (Russell) Smith. They were married in their native State, Massachusetts, and afterward removed to Monroe Co., N. Y., where they died. The husband breathed his last Feb. 14, 1854, and the wife died Nov. 21, 1852. Their family comprised eight sons and one daughter, Levi being the third son.

He was born in Whately, Franklin Co., Mass., Jan. 12, 1826, and was only two years old when his parents removed to New York. He received an elementary education in the common schools, and at the age of 14 went to live with an uncle, Abel Perry, in Cortland Co., N. Y. He lived with him three years, then at home one year. Next, he was for two years apprenticed to the tanner and currier's trade, after which he went to Rochester, N. Y., and followed that trade for eight years, seven of which he was foreman in his shop. He was then similarly engaged for four years in Spencerport, N. Y. Purchasing next a farm in Hamlin, Monroe Co., N. Y., he operated the same for three years; and then, selling out, he bought a larger farm in the same county, on which he lived three years more. Selling out again, in the summer of 1866, he came to Gratiot County and bought 80 acres, 60 of which was wild land, on section 28, Fulton Township, where he now resides. He first occupied a small log house which had been built on the place. In the spring of 1875, he built a good barn,

and in the fall of 1880 he completed a neat dwelling house. He is a progressive farmer, as the condition of his farm testifies. He has about 63 acres in an advanced state of cultivation.

Mr. S. was first married in Ogden, Monroe Co., N. Y., Oct. 9, 1856, to Miss Mary J., daughter of George P. and Mary A. (Day) Hodges, natives of Vermont. She was born in the State of New York. Mr. Smith had by this marriage one child, Albert L., born Sept. 11, 1857. Losing his wife by death, Oct. 6, 1864, he was again married, in Gaines, Orleans Co., N. Y., Oct. 11, 1866, to Miss Emma L., daughter of Isaac and Phebe (Rall) Odell, natives of the Empire State. They were born in Rockland County, and lived afterward in Monroe and Orleans Counties. In 1863, they came to Clinton Co., Mich., where he died, in July, 1871. The mother then came to live with her daughter, Mrs. Smith. She is now 82 years old. Mrs. Smith was born in the State of New Jersey, March 14, 1837, and has borne to Mr. Smith two children: J. D., April 18, 1868, and Gracie M., March 15, 1870.

Mr. S. was the first Drain Commissioner of Fulton Township, being elected under the State law, for one year. He has also been Highway Commissioner one year. He is a member of the Knights Militant, of the P. of H., the I. O. O. F. and the A. O. U. W. In the A. O. U. W., he has passed all the chairs, and has been Representative to the Grand Lodge. Politically, he is a supporter of the Democratic party. Mrs. Smith is a member of the Christian Church.



**L**ias Shaw, farmer, section 19, Bethany Township, is a son of Alanson and Mary (Stafford) Shaw, and was born in Troy, Geauga Co., Ohio, Sept. 14, 1834. His father, a farmer and dairyman, was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., and now resides in Troy. His mother, also a native of New York, is still living in Troy. He was brought up on the farm, attending the winter terms of school, and also seven months at Hiram College, with which President Garfield was at one time connected.

On attaining the age of 21, Mr. Shaw went to Lawrence Co., Pa., where he was employed in a nail factory about 18 months; was at various places until

1856, when he arrived in Grand Rapids, Mich., and six months later, namely, in the spring of 1857, he bought the 60 acres where he now lives. He resided in Grand Rapids a year longer, and then, in 1858, he built a log cabin on his place and made a small clearing. He next worked three months in Saginaw, and finally returned to his homestead. To this place he had to cut out the first road, one and a half miles. In 1862 he went on the Indian Mission farm in Bethany Township, and worked 120 acres of the farm three years. He now has about 50 acres of his farm under cultivation, and the place furnished with good buildings, etc. He and five of his neighbors contemplate building a cheese factory near the Indian town bridge. He has bought cattle for several parties, and is now buying for James Jenne, of Fulton Township.

Mr. Shaw has held the office of Constable, Highway Commissioner seven years, Township Drain Commissioner seven years, etc.

He was married in Fulton Township, this county, Aug. 14, 1859, to Miss Mary Smith, daughter of Levi and Annie Smith, who was born in Fairfield, Lenawee Co., Mich., Aug. 1, 1842. Their four children are: Levi L., Annie, Addie B. and James E. Mrs. Shaw's parents were also very early settlers in this county, being the seventh family in the county. They came from Seneca Township, Lenawee Co., Mich., when she was but eight years old; and there were but six residences in St. Louis when Mr. S. located here.

**W**illiam B. Scattergood, cashier in the banking house of Church, Bills & Co., at Ithaca, was born Aug. 20, 1844, in Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich. He is a son of Joshua and Caroline E. (Barker) Scattergood (see sketch of Joshua Scattergood). He became a clerk in his father's store at the age of 18 years. He had been a diligent and faithful student at school and was well prepared to enter upon the duties of the position. In 1862 he went to Detroit, where he was employed successively in the United States Pension Office, in the Postoffice and in the statistical office of the Michigan Central Railroad Company. He remained in that city 18 months and returned to Plymouth.

Shortly after he went to Fort Wayne, Ind., and engaged as a book-keeper with the hardware firm of Coombs & Co., where he remained eight months, and again returned to Plymouth to take charge of his father's affairs, while the latter went South on business. In June, 1866, he went to St. John's, Clinton County, where his father had established a grocery and provision trade, in which he took an interest. The partnership continued until the fall of 1870 and proved a profitable venture. In the spring of 1871 he removed to Minnesota, he and his brother-in-law, Robert Smith, engaging soon after this in the hardware business at Taylor's Falls, in that State. Both continued in that business there for about 15 months, when they sold out, Mr. Scattergood going to Mankato, Minn. In the fall of 1872 he returned to Ithaca and became Deputy County Clerk with Nathan Church, serving in that position until Jan. 1, 1875. At the fall election of 1874 he was elected County Clerk and held the position through three successive terms. He entered the duties of the situation he is at present holding in April, 1880, leaving James W. Howd as Deputy in the Clerk's office. He is also doing a considerable business in insurance, and represents several leading companies. He is prominent in the Masonic fraternity and is a member of the blue lodge, Royal Arch Chapter and Council, of Ithaca, and Commandery No. 24, at St. John's. He is a member of the Village Council.

Mr. Scattergood was married May 31, 1876, to Julia E., daughter of Lafayette and Sophronia Church. She was born Sept. 7, 1856, in Arcada Township. The three children born of this union are: William B., born May 1, 1878; Bessie, Jan. 4, 1880; Walter N., May 6, 1882.

**G**ilbert E. Hall, farmer, Bethany Township, occupies 40 acres of section 29, being the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter, and is an early settler of this county. He was born in Litchfield Township, Medina Co., Ohio, Oct. 7, 1834. His father, Frederick Hall, was a farmer of Genesee Co., N. Y., and his mother was Eliza, *nee* Beedle.

When 20 years of age, Mr. Hall left his home in



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Ohio, came to Fulton Township, this county, and engaged in hard and steady work for two years at lumbering and clearing land. Thus he accumulated sufficient means to buy 80 acres of land at 50 cents an acre, on section 26, Fulton Township, then covered with timber. He cleared a little space in the woods, erected a log cabin and proceeded to clear up a farm. After reducing about 14 acres he exchanged for 80 acres on the same section, all timber, and when he had cleared about 30 acres here and made some other improvements, the war aroused his patriotic spirit and carried him away to the field of carnage. Jan. 3, 1864, he enlisted in Co. I, 27th Mich. Vol. Inf., under Capt. Wood, and served until the close of the war, participating in the engagements of the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania and Cold Harbor, at which latter place, June 5, 1864, a finger was shot off from his right hand. The wound was severe, as he came near losing his hand, and he was laid up until the following November, when he volunteered for guard duty, and returned to his regiment in June, 1865. He was discharged at Detroit, Mich., Aug. 26, 1865.

He then returned to Fulton Township. In March, 1868, he exchanged his land there for his present farm of 40 acres, on which he has cleared about 32 acres and erected a nice house, barns, etc., and planted an orchard. He is now Highway Commissioner.

Mr. Hall was married in Fulton Township, Sept. 13, 1857, to Miss Lucy A., daughter of Palmer and Betsey Smith. She was born in Erie Co., N. Y., Aug. 29, 1832. They have one daughter, Ella A., who is now the wife of John J. Miller, of Bethany Township, and they also have one child, Maud A.

**I**saac Gee, farmer and stock-raiser, section 15, Sumner Township, was born in Lyons Township, Wayne Co., N. Y., April 23, 1837, and is the son of Joseph and Eleanor (Seaton) Gee, natives of New England, and of Dutch descent. Joseph Gee was a farmer, and died in Wayne Co., N. Y., in 1839, when the subject of this biography was two years old. His wife died at the home of her daughter, Catherine Gargett, in Sumner Township, in February, 1883.

After the death of his father, Isaac lived with his mother until 12½ years old, she having married again. He then went to Ohio, and for seven years lived with his brother-in-law, James Gargett. He worked on farms and in saw-mills, and afterwards in a commission store at Cleveland. Here his fidelity and good behavior won for him a good salary, and after thus getting some start in the world, he came West to look for a suitable place to establish a home in company with his brother, George, who had been a farmer in New York. They first went to Ionia County, and at North Plains secured the services of an old and experienced land-looker at \$5 per day. This was in the fall of 1854. They came by compass through the unbroken forest, not so much as a bush being cut for 20 miles. They located 960 acres of land, all in a body, to be divided as follows between the three brothers: George, 400 acres; Isaac, 320 acres; and Joseph, 240 acres. Returning to Ionia, they purchased the land, under the "Graduation Act." Spending the ensuing winter in Cleveland, Isaac and George then came out to make a permanent settlement; and being single men they secured Michael McNamara and wife as assistants—the latter to do the housework, and the former to work in the woods. They arrived in the woods April 1, 1855, at a time when the snow was two and a half feet deep, with a crust thick enough to sustain a man. On the seventh of the same month, they purchased a yoke of cattle of Mr. Ransom, on Pine River, the ice being strong enough on that stream to enable them to cross. Their first house consisted of one big log, and a small one on top, for one side, and several logs for the other side, with a covering of "shakes," poled down to keep out bears, and with a puncheon floor. It was in this shanty that James McNamara, the first white child in the township of Sumner, was born. To-day is seen, in vivid contrast, a mansion fit for a governor, and barns and other farm buildings to correspond. It is when we see such changes made under our own observation that we realize the rapid advancement of Michigan's pioneers from poverty to affluence. "The cabin and the palace, standing side by side, tell their own story of this people's progress. They are a history and prophecy in one."

Mr. Gee was married to Orpha R. Gargett, of Richfield, Summit Co., Ohio, in 1858, and has two

children: Burton, born Sept. 11, 1863; and Zua, born April 10, 1869. He was chosen Supervisor in 1859, and has held the offices of Justice of the Peace and Highway Commissioner. Politically, he is a firm Republican. The portrait of Mr. Gee, which is presented on the opposite page, is in all senses that of a representative citizen of Gratiot County.

**J**onathan W. Salisbury, salesman with E. A. Sheffield, hardware merchant at St. Louis, was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., April 1, 1833, and is a son of Stephen and Nancy (Stockwell) Salisbury. His father was born in Vermont in 1790, passed his life in the pursuit of agriculture, and died in January, 1861, in Orleans Co., N. Y. His father was engaged in the war of 1812, at Sackett's Harbor. His mother was born in 1798, in Vermont, and died a month later than her husband, in the same county.

Mr. Salisbury grew to man's estate on his father's farm, attending school winters, until he was 21 years of age. He continued farming as a business until 1863, when he yielded to the pressure of convictions of duty and, Aug. 28th of that year, enlisted at Rochester, N. Y., in Co. B, 14th N. Y. Heavy Artillery. He was in the service two years and was under fire at Cold Harbor and the siege of Petersburg, where he remained until the surrender. He was in a number of other engagements of greater or less importance, and received his discharge at Rochester. He returned to the farm, and in the fall of the same year—1865—came to Lenawee Co., Mich., and was employed as a clerk in a store at Rome Center, near the city of Adrian, where he operated about two years. In the winter of 1867, he came to St. Louis and spent the first two years in the nursery business; he next engaged in the interests of Henry Smith & Co., of Grand Rapids, as traveling agent, selling agricultural tools, and remained with them three years, continuously through every season. He acted for them during the winters of three years following, and in the summer of 1881 he engaged with A. H. Hart, grocer, at St. Louis, as salesman, with whom he continued two years. He next entered the store in which he is at present engaged. He is a

member of the Royal Arcanum and owns a small farm in Bethany Township.

Mr. Salisbury was married May 17, 1854, to Sarah Ann, daughter of Asa Himes, of Orleans Co., N. Y. She was born in Shelby, that county, Feb. 3, 1832. Following are the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury: Frank, born June 5, 1857, in Orleans Co., N. Y.; Nettie L., born July 30, 1866, in Lenawee Co., Mich.; Nellie J., born July 28, 1868, at St. Louis. Hattie, eldest child, was born in Orleans County, in November, 1855, and died in the summer of 1867, at Battle Creek, Calhoun County. Frank Salisbury is accountant in the banking house of A. B. Darragh, at St. Louis.

**J**ames Kress, retired agriculturist, resident at Alma was born Feb. 25, 1804, in Yates Co., N. Y. He is a son of Samuel and Catherine (Slaughter) Kress, who were natives of New Jersey. They located on a farm in Yates Co., N. Y., where they resided until they died.

Mr. Kress was the fourth son of eight children born to his parents. He acquired a common-school education and assisted on the farm of his father until he was 24 years old. In 1834 he bought 80 acres of land in Jackson Co., Mich., on which he settled and resided until 1855. In that year he sold his property and bought 320 acres of land in Pine River Township. After managing his estate nine years he sold 160 acres and fixed his residence at Alma. He has since disposed of nearly all his farm and lives in comfortable retirement after a long and active period of years.

Mr. Kress was married Nov. 4, 1829, in Yates Co., N. Y., to Mary, third daughter of Hugh and Rachel (Smith) Hulse. The parents were natives of the Empire State and subsequent to their marriage settled in Orange County, in that State. They afterwards went to Ovid, N. Y., and after a residence of nearly 20 years went to Yates County. Later on they again changed their residence to Poultney and still later went to Illinois, where the mother died. The father died in Yates County. They had nine children. Mrs. Kress was born Oct. 9, 1809, in Ovid. Of her marriage to Mr. Kress, eight children

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A. M. Martin

have been born, six of whom are living. Samuel and James died in infancy. Those yet living are,—Thompson H., Mary J., Garword E., Theron T., Richard A. and Rachel A. Mr. Kress is a Democrat in political faith.

At the date of the location of Mr. Kress in Gratiot County this section of the Peninsular State was a vast wilderness. He cut his way 20 miles into the heart of the forest and wrought out success from the original, natural condition of things. His experiences differ in no wise from those whose combined energies and well-directed efforts have made this county bud and bloom in beauty and prosperity.

**H**enry M. Martin, resident at St. Louis, was born Oct 24, 1843, in La Grange, Lorain Co., Ohio, and is the eldest child of Philo B. and Orilla (Smith) Martin. His father was born March 27, 1821, in Jefferson Co., N. Y., and went in early life to Lorain Co., Ohio, where he was married Oct. 14, 1842. His wife was born Feb. 27, 1823. Three children were born to them: Henry M., as stated, Mary Jane, Nov. 2, 1846, and Andrew N., Sept. 30, 1854. The family came to Batavia, Branch Co., Mich., in 1846, where the father bought a farm and resided eight years. The younger son, now resident at St. Louis, was born there. In 1856, the senior Martin transferred his family and interests to Sigourney, Keokuk Co., Iowa, removing thither with two two-horse teams, driving the entire route. He established a grocery and provision store and a large livery at Sigourney, and also ran a line of mail coaches, one year, between that place and Iowa City. In 1859, he went to Wise Co., Texas, for the purpose of starting a stock ranch, and his family returned to Lorain Co., Ohio. The husband announced his safe arrival and was heard from with regularity until the outbreak of the Rebellion, when all traces of him were lost and his fate is wholly unknown.

Two years after leaving Iowa, the family went to Freeport, Wood Co., Ohio, where Mr. Martin, of this sketch, interested himself in agriculture, in which he was occupied until 1864, when he entered the military service of the United States. He enlisted March 18, under Capt. A. J. Snyder, in Co. C, 72d Ohio Vol.

Inf., Col. Eaton. His regiment was attached to the command of Gen. Sturgis and was in the Western Army. He was under fire in the engagement at Paducah, Ky., and went thence to Memphis, whence the regiment was ordered in pursuit of Gen. Forrest. After the battle of Gunntown, Miss., his command made a retreat of 150 miles, and when within 22 miles of the Union lines was captured by the rebels. The hasty, disorderly flight was one of the severest experiences of army life Mr. Martin had at that time encountered, and was a period of intense hardships and privation. All the food he was able to obtain for four days was a handful of plums. But worse was to follow in the horrors of Andersonville, whose atrocities outstripped the infamous record of the destruction of the Sepoys in India, and rival those of the Black Hole of Calcutta. The food at the outset seemed intolerable, and some attempt at cookery was made previous to its distribution, but the latter was soon abandoned, and toward the *finale* the rations consisted of a half a pint of cob-meal for each 24 hours. The captives were obliged to cook it themselves, which feat was accomplished by moistening, placing in a half canteen and holding it over a flame until slightly warmed. They burrowed in the earth for shelter and built over them sloping roofs of sticks and mud, which were most effective when least needed. In fair weather, they could be preserved in good order, but wind and rain soon demolished the insecure protections. Thousands of pens have tried to fairly delineate and adequately anathematize the stockade prison at Andersonville, but all the combined efforts and concentrated opinions and expressions in the range of human thought and feeling utterly fail. Some went insane; large proportions died from disease and privation; some sought death at the hands of the monsters, who stood at every point, at all hours waiting for the chance to glut their savage appetites for blood, by shooting without mercy all who crossed the "dead line;" some nerved themselves to endure to the end all that Southern ingenuity could inflict, and a portion of them surmounted their hardships solely by force of will, determining, as they expressed it, to outlive the whole Southern Confederacy. Mr. Martin was one of the latter, but the privations and indignities to which he was subjected, broke the vigor of his manhood and undermined his hardy constitution. He was captured June 13, 1864, and, in September following, was sent with a large number of

comrades to Rough and Ready, near Atlanta, Ga., for special exchange, which had been stipulated between Hood and Sherman; but the detachment was rejected and sent to Savannah. A few weeks later they were transferred to Milan, where they remained until December. Sherman was then on his historic "march to the sea" and designed their release, but the rebels sent their captives to Blackshire, literally into the woods, in order to secure greater secrecy and security. They remained there some weeks, enduring all manner of suffering, which was greatly increased by the exposure to which they were subjected in addition to other privations.

When Sherman and his army were well on the way to Savannah, and no chance of relief probable or possible, the Union prisoners were marched 60 miles to Albany, "carred" like cattle, and once more sent to Andersonville, where they again encountered a series of horrors second to none in the historical annals of the world. As Mr. Martin does not wish to do the rebels any injustice, he feels constrained to mention that a few times the luxury of fresh meat was furnished the prisoners. Slaughtered cattle were sent for the benefit of the guards, who generously contributed the hides and heads for the special treat of the captives, and the famished men seized with eagerness the abominable refuse. The hides were boiled and the hair pulled out, and among other pieces which fell to Mr. Martin's share at various times were chunks of the heads, with the eyes of the creatures still in the sockets. It was no time to be squeamish, and nothing in the shape of food was rejected. On the 9th of April, 1865, came the utter collapse of the whole scheme of the infuriated and misguided South, and, on the 29th of the month, the prison authorities played their last card in human diabolism. The Unionists who had survived their sufferings and preserved sufficient strength to maintain an upright posture were hurried to a point 20 miles from Jacksonville, Fla., the remotest Southern point available, and turned loose to make their way homeward as best they could. Mr. Martin walked to Jacksonville, and was sent thence to Columbus, Ohio, where he was discharged June 19, 1865. His feelings can be imagined when he saw the sleek, well-dressed rebels furnished with transportation home, and a crisp, new two-dollar greenback, and compared them with himself in the garb a beggar

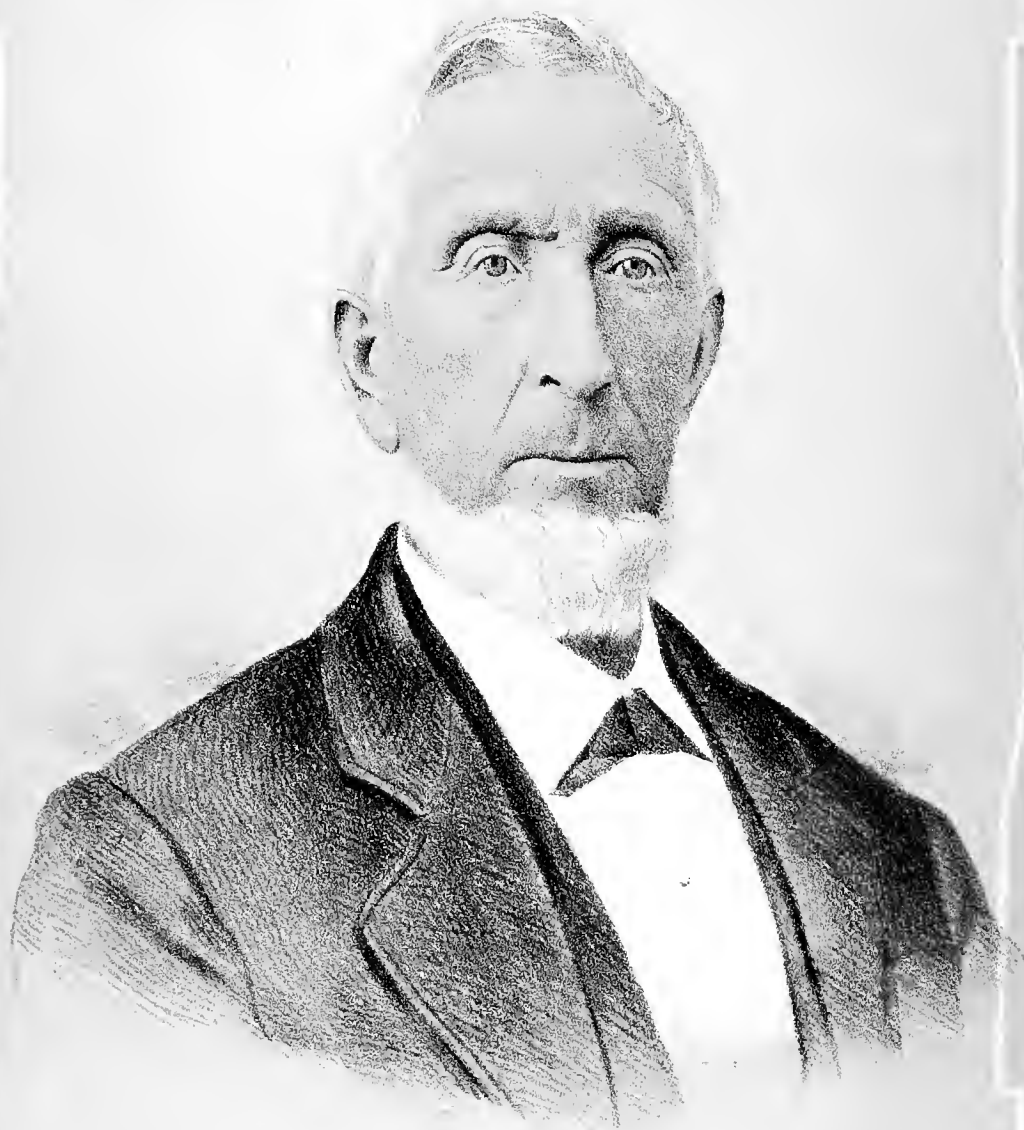
would scorn, his pantaloons tattered and frayed and worn away nearly to his knees, and the sleeves of his coat in the same disintegrated condition, his entire outfit being in rags, which were held together with wooden pins. He had been hatless for months, but had the good fortune to discover a hat lying over the dead line just previous to his release, and, by the aid of a stick, succeeded in securing it, together with the head which it afterward protected. It was a bitter trial to contemplate the difference, but he was thankful to belong to a race which, though it was the aggrieved party, had in it no elements of cruelty or malicious revenge.

He returned to Freeport, Ohio, after receiving his discharge, and within the same year, 1865, came to Michigan. He bought 40 acres of land in the township of Newark, Gratiot County, and by hard labor succeeded in clearing six acres during the following fall and winter. In the spring of 1866 he came to St. Louis, where, in company with Levi Algyre, his brother-in-law, he established a livery stable. Their business was prosperous, and included the heavy freighting from St. John's to St. Louis, incident to the condition of the country, then without railroads, and with a large population with pressing needs. The relation of Messrs. Martin & Algyre continued a year, when the former became sole proprietor by purchase. He was variously connected with different persons until Sept. 5, 1883, when he disposed of his stable and fixtures to George Deveraux. In company with John Goff, he is now engaged in building a double brick block of three stories at St. Louis. He also owns three stores south of the site of the new building. They are erected on a plat of ground 82 feet and 10 inches on Mill Street, and 165 feet on Washington Avenue. The remainder of his property includes his residence on Center Street, and a half interest in Block 33, less three lots which have been sold. Mr. Martin was Marshal of the village of St. Louis during the years 1879-80.

He was married Oct. 21, 1869, at St. Louis, to Lizzie A., daughter of Sylvanus and Mary A. (Loomis) Ewell. She was born Oct. 27, 1850, in Shiawassee Co., Mich. Mrs. Martin is a member of the Ewell family, whose genealogy has been traced to 1734, when John Ewell, the earliest known ancestor, was born in Scotland, from whom she is fifth in line of direct descent. John Ewell became the father of



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*Francis Nelson*

nine children, and his eldest son, James, was the grandfather of Sylvanus Ewell, father of Mrs. Martin. The neat, well-arranged volume, is the work of her uncle, Ervin H. Ewell, and is of incalculable value to the later generations of the family. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin as follows: George E., Dec. 2, 1871; Helen May, June 10, 1875; Fred. H., Sept. 15, 1877; Mabel A., July 16, 1880. The mother of Mr. Martin died at St. Louis May 28, 1876. His sister, Mrs. Algyre, died Jan. 18, 1877, and left three children: Nora, Carrie and Minnie. Cora and Philo, eldest and youngest, died before her. The brother of Mr. Martin, Andrew N., is the present Marshal of St. Louis.

The portrait of Mr. Martin is presented on another page of the Gratiot County Album. He is essentially a self-made man. The traits of character which enabled him to surmount the hardships of Andersonville have characterized his career since the loss of his father entailed upon him the responsibilities of the family, so painfully deprived of its head and support. He began with only his remarkable physical hardihood and his indomitable perseverance and energy, incited by his strong regard for ties of home and kindred. Men do nobly to carve out fortunes in their single strength when burdened only with their own maintenance. Mr. Martin has accomplished much more than ordinary self-made men, as he has discharged meanwhile every known filial and fraternal duty, and won a position for his family which does him credit, and will be the best heritage he will leave to his children, for whose sakes he puts on permanent record the unembellished account of his course of life and the imprint of his features.

region at that period. Again, in 1826, they moved to Lockport, N. Y., and settled in an almost unbroken wilderness on the verge of civilization. In 1833, he married Deborah Cotton, daughter of Lake Cotton, by whom he has had six children, four of whom are living. Deborah Cotton Nelson was born in Batavia, N. Y., Feb. 18, 1815, and died in Arcada, Mich., Aug. 15, 1874. She was a woman of very superior qualities of mind and heart—delicately organized, sensitive and spiritual. Her life was expended in good offices to the suffering, in tenderness to the afflicted, and in patient self-sacrifice for those she loved.

The subject of this sketch, with his family, emigrated to Michigan in the fall of 1835, taking a steamer up Lake Erie from Buffalo to Monroe. For a time he resided in the village of Palmyra, where was buried their first-born child, a little boy of 18 months. Afterward he settled on a farm in the township of Madison, Lenawee County. At an early day, he took an active part in local politics, and was elected a Justice of the Peace. Touching the politics of that period, he was a pronounced Whig. He was also a prominent member of the Methodist Protestant Church, and his house was the home of ministers of that and all other religious communions. In 1848, he removed to another farm in the township of Medina, where he resided until 1854. To relieve himself from a burden of debt, and to provide for the necessities of a growing family of boys, he determined to sell his farm in Lenawee County, and to take Government lands recently brought into market in Gratiot County, then a wild and uninhabited part of the State. He accordingly located 160 acres in what is now the township of Arcada, removing his family in October, 1854. He was literally a pioneer, having to cut several miles of trail over which to convey his household goods. He was prominent in nearly all public affairs connected with the organization and early history of Gratiot County. He was chosen Supervisor at the first election in the township of Arcada. He was very active in the county-seat controversy, and it was chiefly through his exertions, whilst a member of the Board of Supervisors, that the county seat was finally located at Ithaca, Feb. 28, 1856. He was three times elected Judge of Probate, holding the office twelve consecutive years, and might have had a fourth term had he not voluntarily retired. In 1878, he was married the second time, to

**F**rancis Nelson was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., July 15, 1808. He was the fifth of a family of eleven children. His father, Josiah Nelson, was of Scotch-Irish descent, and was born in Massachusetts, Sept. 9, 1773, and died in Lockport, N. Y., Dec. 4, 1847. His mother, Lucy Rice, was born in Connecticut, Sept. 22, 1778, and died in Mexico, N. Y., June 13, 1857. In 1812, his parents moved from Otsego County to Seneca Co., N. Y., a comparatively new

Mrs. Ann Burgess, widow of the late Russell Burgess, of Arcada, since which time he has resided near his son, William, at Cedar Lake, Montcalm County.

In 1864, Mr. Nelson embraced the doctrines of that body of Christians called Adventists, amongst whom he holds a leading position. He has written and published several pamphlets in defense of their peculiar tenets. He has been a hard-working man all his life—has wrought, for the most part, on the frontiers of civilization, building well for those who should come after him. He is a man of much natural vigor of intellect and force of character. Had he enjoyed the advantages of an education, he might have succeeded eminently in some professional career. His mind was cast in the judicial mold. Few men who have read law, and have made it the occupation of their life, have a better understanding of its most essential principles. His superior judgment, his universally recognized integrity, and his blameless character in every way, have always given him a commanding influence with his neighbors. However they might differ with him as to his opinions, or his courses of conduct, none would believe that they were other than those of an honest man. He has been pre-eminently a good citizen—self-sacrificing, public-spirited and patriotic—the friend of good order, religion and common schools.

As one of the leading pioneers of Gratiot County and a man eminently worthy any honor that can be bestowed upon him, we give his portrait in connection with this sketch.

**Gen. Ralph Ely**, the founder of Alma, now deceased, was born July 10, 1820, in Marshall, Oneida Co., N. Y. He was the son of Armenius and Electa (Munger) Ely, natives of New York. On the event of their marriage they settled in Oneida County, where they remained but a few years, going thence to Chautauqua County, where the father pursued the vocation of farmer and dairyman until his death in 1863. The mother died in 1836. Three sons and one daughter lived to mature age. They were born in the following order: Lucy, Ralph, Derwin and Flavius.

Until he was 19 years old Gen. Ely passed his life

as a pupil at the common schools, and as his father's assistant on the farm. In 1839 he left his native State, and after a somewhat extended tour of observation through the Western States in search of a satisfactory location, he settled in Wabash, Ind. He "squatted" on land that was the property of the United States Government, which he intended to purchase when it came into market. He made important improvements thereon and after two years sold his claim. He returned to Chautauqua County and spent two years on his father's estate. In 1846, he came to Michigan and bought 320 acres of land in Ionia County. He engaged zealously in its improvement and resided thereon seven and a half years. He sold the place in 1854, and settled in Arcada Township, Gratiot County. That section was then in the depths of the wilderness and the General pushed his way 20 miles from the outskirts of civilization, cutting his road as he proceeded. He bought a large tract of land for himself and other parties in Pine River and Arcada Townships, retaining as his own property 160 acres, which is the present site of the village of Alma. With the energy, zeal and persistency which characterized his whole life, he built a log house and at once entered into the merits of farming, lumbering and trade. He built the first saw and grist mills at Alma, and continued to operate in various avenues, calculated to enhance the prosperity and advancement of the place, until the advent of the Southern Rebellion, when, like a true son of the Peninsular State and heir to the inheritance of fealty to the Federal Government, he withdrew for the time being his interest from personal affairs, and threw himself, heart and soul, into the work of aiding in the emergency which threatened the dismemberment of the Union. He was instrumental in raising a company of soldiers under the second call for troops, and was elected its Captain upon its organization. It was third in order and was assigned to the "Eighth Michigan" as Company C. In passing, it may be stated that the first and second lieutenants were also from Alma, a significant fact in the annals of the plucky little village, then about two years old.

The military career of Gen. Ely was one continuous record of bravery on the field. The history of his regiment is one that blazes with lustre from first to last, and the prominent annalists of the cause of the terrible internecine struggle yield their pages to

immortalize the deeds of the "Eighth Michigan." Its bravery and efficiency were early acknowledged, and its inscribed trophies include the most important and hardest-fought engagements of the war. But one fact need be mentioned: after action the dead of the Eighth Michigan always lay in close proximity to the battlements of the enemy. Gen. Ely was elected Captain Aug. 12, 1861, and on the 21st of the same month the regiment rendezvoused at Grand Rapids, and on the 23d of September was mustered into the service of the United States. On the 10th of November it went into camp with the other regiments of Sherman's brigade, to which it had been assigned. Its registered engagements comprise about 40 immortal names, and its latest record is, that on April 3, 1865, it was among the first to enter the city of Petersburg. General (then Captain) Ely, was wounded June 16, 1862, at Secessionville, N. C. The action of that day is better known to history as James Island, and the part performed by the Eighth Michigan is on record and will go down to the generations of the future as "signally distinguished."

The assault with bayonets upon the rebel works can be adequately characterized only in the full significance of the terms "most daring and gallant." Major Watson resigned his commission Sept. 10, 1862, and on the same day Captain Ely was promoted to the position. Fourteen days later he was in command of the regiment, Col. Fenton having charge of the brigade. Lieut. Col. Graves resigned his post that day. Feb. 1, 1863, Major Ely was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel, and May 1, of the same year, the former incumbent of the position became Colonel of the regiment. Col. Graves was killed May 6, 1864, at the battle of the Wilderness, and Lieut.-Col. Ely was made Brevet Colonel United States Volunteers, July 6, 1864, for "gallant and meritorious services at the battle of the Wilderness, Va." He was afterward commissioned Colonel to rank from May 7, 1864, the day following the action for which he was brevetted. On the second of April, 1865, he was made Brigadier General United States Volunteers by brevet for "conspicuous gallantry in the assault before Petersburg, Va." He remained in the service of the United States until after the close of the war and was mustered out May 19, 1866. It became a notorious fact that the Eighth Michigan was morally certain to be detailed for spe-

cially severe duty, and early in the war acquired the cognomen of the "Wandering Regiment."

An incident is related of Gen. Ely which displays his distinguishing traits in a most marked manner. While stationed at Wilmington Island, S. C., he was sent with four men on a reconnoissance to the main land. He landed in a marsh and after crossing a small bridge, pushed ahead to the discharge of his duty. After making some progress he decided that a detail of rebel cavalry had discovered his party and he therefore made a precipitate retreat toward the bridge—the sole means of escape. He had the "short cut" and he made it about ten rods in advance of the leading rebel officer at the head of 40 cavalry. Capt. Ely and his three men made a stand at the entrance to the bridge, guns in hand, and the enemy hesitated. Capt. Ely ordered his men to stand firm and ran a short distance, rapidly issuing orders in a loud voice, as if to a force lying in ambush in close proximity to the bridge. He returned to his former place and confronted nearly an entire cavalry company. He doffed his cap, stepped forward and in a short speech, full of bravado, dared them to advance. But they took the retrograde and the four conquerors of the situation speedily placed themselves in safety. They had the satisfaction of seeing the rebels ride down to the river bank, chagrined and self-disgusted on discovering that they had been out-generaled by Yankee shrewdness, and their mortification was in no degree lessened by the echo of "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching," and "John Brown," sung lustily by the five Union soldiers beyond the reach of their vengeance.

On leaving the service General Ely received an appointment as Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau in South Carolina. He was also engaged for a time in settling freedmen on Government lands in Florida. The alluring attractions of the "land of flowers" tempted General Ely to purchase a plantation in Jacksonville and he devoted nearly two years to the work of setting out an orange grove. The investment proved unprofitable, and in 1869 he returned to Gratiot County, where he engaged in farming and lumbering. But he was not allowed to relegate himself to the retirement of private life. His public spirit and philanthropic character made him valuable as a citizen and his co-operation in general affairs was felt as a necessity. In 1873 he was elected

Senator from the Twenty-sixth District and served the biennial term. In the fall of 1874 he was elected Auditor General of Michigan and was re-elected in 1876, serving four years. In the fall of 1879 he went to Emmett County, where he interested himself in lumbering quite extensively, and remained there actively operating in that line of business until his death, which occurred April 4, 1883. He was buried at Cross Village, but in February, 1884, his remains were exhumed and re-interred at Alma.

General Ely was married Sept. 22, 1842, in Brookville, Franklin Co., Ind., to Mary E., fifth daughter of Elisha O. and Phebe M. (Woodworth) Halstead. She was born in Waterloo, Seneca Co., N. Y., Feb. 16, 1823. Mr. Halstead was born in New Jersey; his wife was a native of Vermont. They were married in Seneca County and settled in Waterloo, afterwards removing to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he died Dec. 24, 1876. Mrs. Halstead died July 16, 1875, while on a visit to her children in Gratiot County. General and Mrs. Ely became the parents of one son and five daughters—Townsend A., Louise A., Phebe E., Mary J., Lucy L. and Kate F. Of these, five are now residents of Alma.

**P**hilip W. Creaser, farmer, section 16, Fulton Township, is a son of William and Emily (Leerett) Creaser, natives respectively of England and Canada. They settled after marriage in the latter country, and in the spring of 1868 came to Michigan. The following year they came to Gratiot County and settled in Fulton Township, where the father died, Sept. 17, 1873. The mother died March 11, 1881.

Their family included 13 children, of whom Philip was the fourth. He was born in Canada, March 31, 1832, and his time was spent mostly in farming until he was 21 years of age. After attaining his majority his time was largely employed in carpenter work until 1872. He came in 1862 to Saginaw, and for seven years made that city his home. He then lived for one year at St. John's, after which he came to Fulton Township, this county, and purchased 120 acres of wild land on section 16. He now owns 80 acres of good land, of which 60 are in a creditable

state of cultivation. In the summer of 1883 he built a fine residence, of modern design, which will compare favorably with any in the county.

Nov. 25, 1874, in Clinton Co., N. Y., he united his earthly lot with Miss Caroline A., daughter of Joseph and Nancy Hutchins, natives of New Hampshire. Mrs. Creaser was born March 4, 1838, in the county in which she was reared and married. Mr. Creaser is a popular man in his township, and was chosen Justice of the Peace in the spring of 1883. Politically, he is an earnest supporter of the Democratic party.

**F**red Holmes, a former resident on section 4, Pine River Township, now deceased, was a native of Pennsylvania. His parents were born in Virginia. Mr. Holmes was a pioneer of Gratiot County and settled in Pine River Township in 1855. He bought 320 acres of land, on which he resided and continued to improve until his death, which occurred Jan. 9, 1876. He was married in Ohio, to Catherine Beery. Mrs. Holmes is a native of the Buckeye State. Of six children born of her marriage to Mr. Holmes, four are living, Jacob,—Nancy Naomi and Ellen.

**G**eorge E. Walker, farmer, section 31, North Shade Township, is a son of Edward and Charity (Rathbone) Walker. The father was a native of Massachusetts and followed the occupation of a clothier in Livingston Co., State of New York. The mother was born in that State, and they both died there, the former in 1828 and the latter in 1848.

George E. was born in Livingston Co., State of New York, July 16, 1822. He remained at home with his parents until his father's death, which took place when he was six years of age, whereupon he was cared for by relatives for two years, when he came to Macomb County, this State, with a gentle-

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*Chas H Howd*





When he reached his majority Mr. Howd, Sept. 26, 1860, went to Wheeler Township and located 320 acres of land on sections 29 and 30, of which 240 acres on section 30 are yet in his possession.

In the spring of 1861, he went to Ithaca and embarked in the grocery trade. He continued to operate in that village until the spring of 1870, when he removed to the township of Wheeler. Not long after his return, he opened a general store, where he has since been occupied in mercantile affairs until the fall of 1882, when he relinquished his business to give his attention to real-estate business and the duties of the office of Postmaster to which he had been appointed, and the office established, on May 19, 1873. Mr. Howd has been a prominent, leading factor in the growth and prosperity of Breckenridge and has lavished time and money on its advancement. It was through his efforts that the postoffice was established. Mr. Howd is a member of the Masonic Order, and belongs to the Royal Arch Chapter. He has held the office of Township Treasurer, Clerk and Road Commissioner, and also Notary Public for Gratiot County. He is a Republican. His portrait, which appears on another page, will be warmly received by his numerous friends as a representative and public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Howd's marriage to Cynthia R. Putnam occurred in May, 1868. She was born June 6, 1847, and was a daughter of Seth R. and Jane M. (Barber) Putnam, natives respectively of New York and Vermont. The father died while *en route* to California. The mother, now Mrs. Smith, resides with Mr. Howd. The wife and daughter died July 25, 1883, leaving one child—Darwin P., born Feb. 1, 1871. Mrs. Howd was a Christian woman and possessed a character of womanly worth which endeared her to a large circle of friends, and by whom her memory is faithfully cherished.

**G**eorge S. Franks, farmer on section 19, Fulton Township, is a son of Conrad and Mary (Smith) Franks, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia. They first settled in Pennsylvania, and afterwards removed to Wayne Co., Ohio, where they lived until their death.

Their family comprised five sons and six daughters.

George S., the eldest son, was born in Fayette Co., Pa., April 21, 1813, and was six years old when his parents removed to Ohio. He was educated in the common schools, and remained at home until 22 years of age. With the exception of 18 months in Iowa his home was in Wayne Co., Ohio, until June, 1866. At that date he came to Gratiot County and bought 160 acres of partly wild land on section 19, Fulton, on which he has erected comfortable farm buildings. He has now under cultivation about 100 acres.

Dec. 8, 1833, in Wayne Co., Ohio, he married Miss Barbara A., daughter of Andrew and Catherine (Kibler) Miller, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania. She was born in Wayne Co., Ohio, May 6, 1817. Mr. and Mrs. Franks are the parents of three children: Cornelius A., Sylvanus and Mary B. Sylvanus died when three years old. Mr. Franks has held the different school offices in his district, and is politically a Democrat. Mrs. F. is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

**F**ecil E. Decker, farmer, section 4, Seville Township, was born June 26, 1852, in the State of New York. He is the son of John J. and Henrietta A. (Bell) Decker, both of whom were natives of the Empire State. The father was a farmer and wagon-maker and in 1852, removed his family and interests to Lake Co., Ohio. In 1866 they came to Michigan and located in Ionia County, where the father died in 1873, aged 45 years. The mother is still living, in Portland, Ionia County.

Mr. Decker was in his infancy when his parents went to Ohio, and he accompanied them to Ionia County, where he remained until 1882. He received a good education and attended school in Portland nearly two years. In 1882 he came to Gratiot County and located on section 10, Seville Township, where he owns 120 acres of land. Later on he removed to his present location, where he resides on a farm comprising 160 acres of land. He also owns 80 acres in Lincoln Township, Isabella County. He is a member of the National Greenback party.

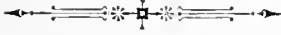
Mr. Decker was married in 1873, to Irena, daughter of Joseph and Rachel (Mann) Lyon. Her parents

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*Wilbur Nelson*

were born in Genesee Co., N. Y. They removed to Ingham Co., Mich., where the mother died in 1851, and the father in March, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Decker are the parents of four children,—Arthur Jay, John Edwin, Ada May and Alva Newton.



**W**ilbur Nelson, senior member of the mercantile firm of Nelson & Barber, at Ithaca, was born Jan. 15, 1839, in Madison, Lenawee Co., Mich. His father, Francis Nelson, was a native of the State of New York, born in 1808. He became a citizen of the Peninsular State (then Territory of Michigan) in 1835, when he stayed briefly at Palmyra, Lenawee County, going thence to Madison, in the same county. He settled upon a tract of Government land, where he resided until 1848. He removed in that year to Medina, in Lenawee County, purchased a farm and there resided until his removal to Gratiot County in 1854. He bought 160 acres of land in the township of Arcada, and entered vigorously into the work of rendering his property creditable to its proprietor, and an addition to the general condition of progress in the vicinity. He was a man of ability, clear judgment and upright character, and his value as a citizen was soon understood and appreciated by his fellow-townsmen. He became Supervisor of the township, and in 1856 was elected Judge of Probate; in 1860 he was again elected to the same position. He removed to Ithaca, where he at once became identified with the element of progress and lent countenance and aid to all enterprises that seemed to forward the substantial and permanent prosperity of the community. He formed an association with John Jeffrey and Lafayette Church, and built the third saw and grist mill established in Gratiot County. Ithaca had then about 100 inhabitants, and boasted one store and a log court-house. The mill was situated in the northeast part of the village and was managed nearly three years by its joint proprietors, when Messrs. Nelson & Church sold their interests to Mr. Jeffrey, and the former returned to his agricultural pursuits. In 1877 he went to Cedar Lake, Montcalm County, where he is now engaged in farming. The mother of Mr. Nelson, of this sketch, was, before marriage,

Deborah Cotton. She was born in New York, of New England parentage, and died in August, 1874, in Arcada Township.

Mr. Nelson supplemented his elementary education with a course of study at Gregory's Business College at Kalamazoo. He returned to Ithaca in August, 1861, and enlisted under the second call for troops after the disaster at Bull Run. The part of Michigan in the war is one that is seldom equaled in the annals of the world. The decade previous to the advent of civil war had been one of prosperity. The financial crisis of 1857 probably affected the real stability of the State as little as that of any other commonwealth under the Federal flag; her educational interests had within that time been securely established, and through them the noble Peninsula State had stepped forward to a dignity and position not inferior to Massachusetts.

On the firing on Fort Sumter, no words are adequate to describe the spirit aroused by the emergency. Michigan men had too much at stake and loved too dearly their heritage of Federal Union, to regard with indifference a blow aimed by a misguided people at the Nation's life. Mr. Nelson enlisted in Co. C, 8th Mich. Vol. Inf., under Capt. Ely. He was in the United States service more than four years, and participated in the brilliant actions in which that regiment attained distinction. He was promoted Sergeant of his company before he left the State. He was in the engagement at Coosaw Ferry, S. C., and in the action at James Island received a wound in the left side from a musket-ball. He was disabled two months, and on rejoining his command was promoted to First Sergeant. He was under fire at the second battle of Bull Run, Chantilly and Fredericksburg, after which he was promoted 2d Lieut. The regiment after the last battle moved to Kentucky and went thence to Vicksburg, and on to Jackson, Miss. It was attached to Burnside's command, and in the engagement at Campbell's Station, Tenn., Mr. Nelson was again wounded in the right knee by a minie ball. He resigned his commission and came home Jan. 1, 1864. He re-entered the military service of the United States, March 20, 1864, with a Captain's commission, in command of Co. I, 102d U. S. Colored Inf. (1st Mich. Colored Inf.), organized at Detroit. The regiment was in the service in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and was en-

gaged in many important raids and skirmishes, in which the fighting qualities of colored troops were fully tested and proved most reliable and efficient.

Mr. Nelson returned to Ithaca in November, 1865, where, soon after, he entered into a partnership with Gen. Nathan Church in mercantile business, and they opened a general store at that place, which they continued to conduct with satisfactory results until July, 1872, when Gen. Church sold his interest in the business to G. C. Smith. Two years later, Mr. Nelson became sole proprietor by purchase, and for one year continued the management of the house singly. In August, 1875, he formed an association with his present partner, A. S. Barber, under the firm style of Nelson & Barber. The building in which they are managing their business was erected by Messrs. Nelson & Church in 1879. It is constructed of brick, is 34 x 100 feet in dimensions, and contains an opera hall in the upper story. The surplus apartments are devoted to office purposes. The business interests of Messrs. Nelson & Barber are extensive, and their yearly transactions in all branches cover an amount estimated at \$200,000. In addition to their traffic in general merchandise, they buy and ship all kinds of produce, including grain, wool and pork. They have a fine elevator on Pine River Street by the Saginaw Valley railroad, having a storage capacity of 15,000 bushels.

Mr. Nelson has been extensively engaged in lumbering interests in Cedar Lake, Montcalm County, where he manufactured about 80,000,000 shingles annually and several million feet of lumber. He owned four mills in the county in company with William S. Nelson, his brother, to whom he sold in 1882. He is also interested in the private banking house of Church, Bills & Co., at Ithaca, and owns considerable real estate in that village in connection with Mr. Barber, and also with Gen. Church.

Mr. Nelson has been an important factor in all the general interests of Gratiot County and Ithaca since he has been resident. Besides his heavy business transactions, which have been of inestimable advantage to the community, he has successfully discharged the duties of public positions. He was appointed Assistant Assessor of Internal Revenue in 1867, and served four years in his district, which included Gratiot and Isabella Counties. His office was terminated by the re-districting of the State in 1871. He has served one year as President of the village of Ithaca,

and in the fall of 1880 was elected on the Republican ticket to represent his district in the Legislature of Michigan. He made a successful run against James K. Wright, of St. Louis, on the Democratic ticket, and Horace S. Taylor, of Arcada, candidate of the National Greenback party. In the Legislature, Mr. Nelson was made a member of the Committees on the State Public School at Coldwater and on Drainage; was Chairman of the Committee on Manufactures. He served his constituency in a most acceptable manner. He introduced and secured the passage of a bill to organize the township of Ithaca, which comprises four square miles, and is the smallest township in the State. It is located in the geographical center of Gratiot County, absorbing a corner section of the townships of Arcada, Emerson, Newark and North Star. Mr. Nelson was also instrumental in the passage of several local bills. He was tendered a renomination for the same position, but peremptorily declined to permit the presentation of his name.

The marriage of Mr. Nelson to Cornelia, daughter of Rev. Lafayette and Sophronia Church, was solemnized Nov. 22, 1865, in Arcada Township. She was born Aug. 3, 1842, in Ionia County, and died March 23, 1878, at Ithaca, leaving two little daughters: Mary, born May 8, 1870, and Nellie, born June 29, 1873. Mr. Nelson was a second time married in Ithaca June 13, 1882, to Mary, daughter of Rev. D. D. Hamilton. A son, Arthur, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Aug. 11, 1883.

The portrait of Mr. Nelson appears on page 704 of this volume. It will be appreciated as the likeness of a man whose influence has largely molded the affairs of the county in which he lives; whose well directed abilities have secured for him a competence; whose personal qualities have gained him many devoted friends, and whose unsuspected integrity and uprightness, in all the relations of life, command for him universal confidence and esteem.

**Simeon A. Howe**, farmer on section 15, Fulton Township, is a son of James and Cynthia (Jackson) Howe, natives of the State of Maine. They came from Maine to Lake Co., Ohio, and thence removed to Fulton, Co., Ohio, where he died, Aug. 11, 1852. His wife died in Montcalm Co., Mich., in August, 1867.

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*Martha A. Smith*





*E. W. Smith*

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Their family comprised two sons and ten daughters. Simeon A., the younger son, was born in Maine, March 8, 1830, and was but five years of age when his parents removed to Ohio.

He received a common-school education and lived at home until the death of his father, when he was employed in a saw-mill for six months. He then came to Gratiot County and purchased 40 acres of Government land on section 15, Fulton Township. He now owns 225 acres on sections 15 and 16, nearly all of which is in a state of scientific cultivation.

Oct. 2, 1852, in Lenawee Co., Mich., he married Miss Cindonia E., daughter of Daniel and Sarah Pratt, natives of Vermont and New York. She was born in Eaton, Seneca Co., Ohio, June 13, 1831. Mr. and Mrs. Howe have had six children, three of whom survive: Arden N., Iva C. and John U. Simeon A., Owen C. and Eva E. are deceased. Mr. H. has been Township Clerk three years. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. In politics he and wife are Nationals, but his family are loyal to the Republican party.



**Lias W. Smith**, deceased, was one of the earliest settlers of Gratiot County. He was born Aug. 23, 1831, in Sandystone, Sussex Co., N. J. He acquired the rudiments of an English education in his native place and in 1851 accompanied his parents, John and Catherine (Seaman) Smith, to Fremont, Sandusky Co., Ohio, where they arrived in the month of September. That portion of the Buckeye State was already in a comparatively well settled condition, and presented small capabilities in the way of advancement to the young and ambitious men of that generation. The lumber districts of Northern Michigan were beginning to attract notice, and in July, 1853, Joseph Clapp and Sylvanus Groom, two young men of that section of Ohio, came to Gratiot County. Mr. Clapp located between 600 and 700 acres of land contiguous to Pine River and including the present site of St. Louis. He returned to Ohio and married Matilda Smith, sister of E. W. Smith. He at once returned to his chosen location with his wife and her elder brother, Seaman Smith. Mr. Clapp

and Mr. Groom built two log houses, the first erected within the village of St. Louis.

Mr. Smith made his first entrance into Gratiot County on the 14th day of April, 1854, and entered the employ of Mr. Clapp. He continued to work for him fourteen months and received, in lieu of wages, 115 acres of unimproved land situated on the north bank of Pine River. He located his home on one of the finest sites in the neighborhood of St. Louis, and resided there until his death.

The marriage of Mr. Smith with Martha Ann Woodin occurred in August, 1857. He worked for years at his trade of carpenter and labored at intervals in the improvement of his farm until it became one of the most valuable in the vicinity. Later he platted 40 acres included within the corporation of St. Louis, and it was recorded as Smith's Addition. During his whole life at St. Louis he was identified with its interests, growth and prosperity. The building which he used as a shop has been removed from its original position opposite the bath house to a location near the old bath-house buildings. In 1858, he raised his first crop of wheat, about eight bushels, which he thrashed and cleaned with the assistance of G. W. McHenry, of St. Louis. The same year he received the appointment of Postmaster and he discharged the duties of the situation seven years. His entire course of life was marked by untiring industry, economy and good judgment. His energy and perseverance were the natural outgrowth of his robust and hardy constitution; and, although he was honored and esteemed to an unusual degree, he could seldom be induced to lend his name as a candidate for a public office. He received an injury in 1871, from a falling limb, which incapacitated him for outdoor labor for some time. He resided continuously upon his farm from 1856 to his death, which occurred on Friday, Dec. 29, 1882. He was in the woods at work in the forenoon of that day and, not returning to dinner, a search was instituted, which resulted in the finding of his dead body. Appearances indicated that he had made a sudden spring to escape injury from a falling tree, which caused the rupture of a blood-vessel at the base of the brain. Respiration must have ceased instantly and his death have been painless and without struggle, as his face was in perfect repose, and the position of his hands indicated that they had grasped his axe but the instant previ-

ous to dissolution. The funeral ceremonies, conducted by the Rev. Theodore Nelson, were attended by one of the largest assemblages ever convened upon a similar occasion at St. Louis. The county press honored his memory with spontaneous expressions of regret and appreciation, fitly appropriate to his useful life and blameless record.

The pioneer history of Mr. Smith would fill a volume. He was among the first in the place to set out fruit trees, which are now standing in their maturity near the homestead on the hill. The place contains 125 acres in the finest possible agricultural condition. Among other business interests which he managed was an establishment for the sale of agricultural implements, which he instituted in 1880, and was conducting at the time of his death. He owned nine blooded horses of Kentucky stock, chief among which was the celebrated stallion, Probability, noted for speed.

Mrs. Smith is the daughter of Abraham and Anna M. (Bassett) Woodin, born in Harmony, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., June 23, 1834. (See sketch of E. W. Burgess.) Her parents were both natives of Ontario Co., N. Y., and after their marriage resided in Harmony, Chautauqua Co., N. Y. In 1847, they removed to Spring Creek, Warren Co., Pa., where Mr. Woodin was extensively interested in lumbering and in mercantile pursuits. His business was prosperous and he had placed his family in a luxurious home, with the surroundings of wealth and position, and his children were entering upon life with glowing prospects, when the whole bright outlook vanished in an hour through the practice of assuming other men's liabilities, then so common, and the foundation of more financial disaster than any other traceable cause. The energy and courage of Mr. Woodin were undaunted, and, as he saw the accumulations of years of honest and praiseworthy endeavor vanish like a dream, he resolved on further effort to place his children where his aspirations dictated. The resources of this section of Michigan were well-known to him, and in 1854 he came alone to Gratiot County and located a homestead of 40 acres of land, lying now on the Alma and St. Louis thoroughfare, one mile east of the former place, and owned by Jay Woodin, the brother of Mrs. Smith. In the spring of 1855, the family of Mr. Woodin came to Michigan. He met his wife and seven children at Maple Rapids, with an

ox team and wagon and carrying an axe to chop away obstructions from the the road. The family, hitherto accustomed to all the comforts of wealth and advanced civilization, made their way to their new home by the rude means named, and the emotions of those old enough to contrast the one situation with the other can be imagined. The party made but slow progress, staying nights in shanties in the woods, excepting the last one out, when they remained with the Nelsons, and in the morning they proceeded to their home. It was a log house and Mr. Woodin had utilized the place for a store as well as a residence, and the domestic and mercantile appurtenances were arranged somewhat indiscriminately, groceries and dry goods alternating with household utensils, and all in the most accessible situation without regard to assortment. Mrs. Smith thinks this the first mercantile institution in the county. She was a young lady of 21, and had reached that period of her life with all the hopes and dreams common to girls of that age under the circumstances under which she had been reared. The new home and its surroundings were tolerable only because they were shared by father, mother, brothers and sisters, and she interested herself in the efforts for a better state of things, which were being put forth by all about her. A log school-house had just been finished, of which she was installed mistress, and in June, 1855, she opened the first school taught in Gratiot County. The furniture of the school-room consisted of desks extending along the whole length of the sides, with benches in front, serving for seats and recitations, the pupils turning around to write on the desks. The situation was too primitive for the manipulations of publishers of school books, and susceptible School Boards, and the range of text books was varied. No two were alike and the curriculum of study was arranged accordingly. Classes were countless or arranged only by the number of pupils in a geometrical ratio; but, notwithstanding all the perplexities, the progress was satisfactory, and foundations for solid educations were laid in more than one instance. The teacher received 12 shillings per week and boarded around. The daily bill of fare included bread, butter, onions and lettuce, and the successive meals were the changes rung on the four articles named. One enterprising woman made an extra effort on the schoolma'am's behalf and treated her to sorrel pie. The term continued three months,

and Mrs. Smith taught two subsequent terms of school in that vicinity. During that summer the first Fourth of July celebration in Gratiot County was held. It consisted of a picnic and a flag-raising. The "extras" for the former included a roast pig, and the other refreshments were such as the settlers used in every-day life, neither abundant nor varied. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Gen. Ralph Ely, of Alma, made the flag which is still in possession of the last named lady, who furnished the red and white. Mrs. Smith cut the blue lining from the skirt of a brocade silk dress to supply the rest of the needed material, and the chief ceremonial of the day was the raising of the pole which lifted heavenward the standard of the United States Government, floating for the first time over her loyal children in Gratiot County. Mr. Woodin owned a hand-mill in which he ground corn for the bread, on which his family subsisted, and other settlers accomplished the necessary crushing of the grain by shaving it from the cob with a jack plane,—a common method at that period; and the first breadstuff prepared in the town was manufactured after that process. Mr. Woodin died in 1869, on the homestead. The widow resides there with her son, and is 73 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married Aug. 29, 1857. Their children, seven in number, were born as follows, at St. Louis: Iola E. B., July 19, 1858; John, Dec. 4, 1860 (died March 20, 1867); Idella M., May 31, 1862 (died Oct. 9 following); Kate M., Dec. 5, 1863; Holcomb, April 25, 1866 (died Jan. 11, 1868); Willard E., July 21, 1868 (died July 13, 1870); Seaman W., Aug. 28, 1870.

No more fitting portraits than those of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, which appear on other pages, could be added to the pioneer list to be found in the Album of Gratiot County. At the time of his death, Mr. Smith was the oldest resident at St. Louis, and he and his wife bore a part of all the vicissitudes experienced by the early settlers of the county, which eclipse all known records in severity and privation, and are related in detail elsewhere. (See sketch of S. S. Hastings.) But Gratiot County has risen literally from her ashes to a rank which far outstrips that of many localities where foundations were laid in comparative ease and comfort, and all her conditions exhibit her perpetuity and future progress in an unmistakable manner.

**J**ohn P. Wilbur, farmer on section 30, Fulton Township, is a son of German and Eliza (Blair) Wilbur, natives of New York State. They first settled in Plymouth, Chenango Co., N. Y., and came to Livingston Co., Mich., in 1845. There Mrs. Wilbur died, Jan. 28, 1851. Soon after that event, Mr. Wilbur came to this county to live with his son John.

Their family comprised three sons and five daughters, John P. being the eldest. He was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., April 5, 1828, and received a common-school education. At the age of 17, he came with his parents to Michigan; and five years later commenced to make his own way in life. For six years he followed various occupations. In 1852, he came to Gratiot County and located 80 acres of wild land on section 30, Fulton. Here he settled in 1856; and he has lived there ever since, with the exception of two years when he was at Maple Rapids. He has added 60 acres, and has 115 acres under cultivation. He has erected a residence and necessary farm buildings; that are a credit to the owner and an ornament to the neighborhood.

Aug. 17, 1856, in North Shade, he married Nancy M., daughter of William and Salinda (Reed) Steadman, and widow of William A. Smith, a native of Pennsylvania. She was born in Palmyra, N. Y., Dec. 26, 1830. She has by her first marriage a son, William A., and by her second has had seven children, three of whom survive. The living are, Silvia J., Nora J. and Ally B.; and the dead, Sylvanus G., J. T., George C. and Cora. Mr. Wilbur is a member of the F. & A. M. and the I. O. O. F., and is politically a Democrat. He and wife are adherents of the doctrines of the Christian Church.

**B**enjamin F. Myers, resident at Ithaca, was a son of John W. and Philena (Baker) Myers, natives of New York, and who both died in this county. The subject of this biography, Benjamin F. Myers, was born in the State of New York, Nov. 20, 1830. He was reared to the vocation of a farmer, which occupation

he has followed thus far along life's journey. He commenced the struggle of life with little means, yet, possessing indomitable energy and determination, backed by good judgment, he toiled along the weary road and succeeded.

Mr. Myers was first united in marriage, May 15, 1861, in the State of Pennsylvania, to Miss Fanny P. Coss. She was born in that State, May 14, 1839. For 19 years she shared the toils and trials, the pleasures and joys of life with her husband, and then passed to "the home not made with hands." Her demise occurred Dec. 11, 1880. By their union they had two children: Fred A., born April 13, 1862, and died Oct. 20, 1863; John W., born May 26, 1877.

The second marriage of Mr. Myers took place at Saginaw, this State, at which place he was united to Mrs. Elizabeth A. Miller, widow of Samuel Miller, of that place. She was the mother, by her first marriage, of two children, namely: Frank B., born Sept. 24, 1861, and Fred F., born Oct. 12, 1865. The mother is a daughter of Bernard and Dorinda (Kennedy) Fox, residents of this county since 1858, and among the first settlers in the county. She was born in the Empire State, June 1, 1837.

Politically, Mr. Myers is a Republican. He is living a retired life, satisfied with his prosperity, and is characterized for the interests he manifests in the welfare of the county.

**C**harles Griffith, farmer on section 20, Fulton Township, is a son of Lewis and Hannah (Boyer) Griffith, natives of New York. They settled after marriage in Chemung Co., N. Y., where she died. Mr. G. afterwards came to Lenawee Co., Mich., where he still resides. Charles, the eldest of the family, was born in Chemung Co., N. Y., Jan. 18, 1835.

Receiving a common-school education, he remained at home till about 20 years old, and was then employed by the month for six years. In the fall of 1860, he came to Gratiot County and built a log house on section 20, Fulton, where he had bought 120 acres of wild land two years previous. He had bought 160 acres in Elba Township as early as 1855, but he disposed of this two or three years later.

After building his pioneer "castle," he went back to Lenawee County, and in January, 1861, returned with his wife to their new home in the forest. He now has 120 acres, 80 of which are under the plow, and modern farm buildings.

He was first married in Lenawee Co., Mich., Dec. 25, 1860, to Miss Marietta Bryant, a native of Lenawee County. This marriage was blessed with four children: Wallace M., Cora D., Viola D. and Hannah J. Losing his wife Oct. 13, 1872, he was again married, March 5, 1874, in Maple Rapids, Clinton County, to Mrs. Harriet Randall, daughter of John and Tamer (Boner) Lyon, and widow of James Randall, who died in the Federal army in 1862. She was born in Morrow Co., Ohio, Feb. 3, 1838, and had by her first marriage three children: John F., Roy L. and James (died when one year old). Mr. and Mrs. G. have one child of their own, Tamer E. Mr. G. is in political views a Democrat. Mrs. Griffith is a member of the Baptist Church.

**C**harles R. Holliday, resident at St. Louis, is a son of Hiram and Laura (Hendee) Holliday. The father was a native of the State of New York, the mother of Vermont, and both were of genuine English extraction. The father was a physician by profession, and was, until he graduated at his profession, occupied in mercantile trade. He and wife both died in York State.

Charles R. Holliday, the subject of this biographical notice, was born in the State of New York June 6, 1833. He remained in his native State, assisting his father in the maintenance of the family, and attending the common schools and Alfred School until he attained the age of 36 years.

On arriving at the age stated, he came, in 1869, to this county, and the following year made a permanent location on 80 acres of land he had previously purchased. He has, since that date, varied his occupation between farming and the real-estate and mercantile business. Politically, Mr. H. is a believer in and supporter of the principles of the Democratic party. He has been honored with numerous offices of responsibility and trust in the gift of the people. In 1882, he was elected Supervisor of Pine River

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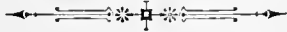


*Yours truly,  
Theo. Nelson*



Township, and is at present a member of the Village Council, which latter office he has held since 1870. Prior to moving here, he held the office of Justice of the Peace four years, and Township Treasurer two years, in the Empire State. Socially, Mr. H. is a member of the Masonic Order and of the Knights Templar, and is characterized for the interest he constantly manifests for the welfare and prosperity of the county.

Mr. Holliday was united in marriage in the State of New York, in 1852, to Miss Angeline M., daughter of Alexander and Sarah (Moser) Kelly. She was born in the Empire State Dec. 18, 1834, and has borne to her husband one child, Isabel L.



**R**ev. Theodore Nelson, Acting President of Kalamazoo College, is the youngest of three sons yet living, of Francis and Deborah Cotton Nelson, and was born in Madison, Lenawee Co., Mich., Feb. 11, 1841. His father is still living, at the ripe old age of 75 and was Judge of Probate for Gratiot County from 1856 to 1868.

On his mother's side, he descended from a long line of eminent clergymen, the first of whom, Rev. John Cotton, was rector of St. Botolph's, Boston, England, at the time of Archbishop Laud's persecution in the reign of Charles I. Having embraced Puritan sentiments, this celebrated scholar and divine was compelled to leave England or hazard his life. He emigrated to America, and took charge of a congregation of his fellow exiles in the colony of Massachusetts Bay. This new settlement took the name Boston, Mass., out of compliment to their pastor, who had come to them from Boston, Lincolnshire, England. Rev. John Cotton had an eminent share in giving a civil as well as religious polity to the new State. He was a Puritan of the strictest sect, and through his influence the laws of Moses were adopted as the civil code of the theocracy in America. The celebrated Cotton Mather was his grandson. He was also the friend of Oliver Cromwell, and letters which passed between them are still extant. He died in 1652. From his mother the subject of this sketch inherited many of his mental characteristics, yet a physical constitution far from robust.

When he was in his 14th year, his father moved into Gratiot County, then a dense wilderness. Necessarily very inadequate were his early advantages for obtaining an education, but these slender opportunities were well improved. In his 17th year, he taught one term in a district school at \$2.50 per week. From this time until the breaking out of the Rebellion, he either taught or attended school, almost continuously. Twice he walked from Ithaca to Hillsdale and back again, whilst a student at the college in the last named place.

He was at Hillsdale College when Sumter fell, and joined a company of college students who offered their services to the Governor; but, through the influence of President Fairfield, were rejected. Shortly after, he returned home, proposing to enlist with his brother Wilbur in Capt. Ely's company, which entered the service in August, 1861; but was dissuaded by the importunities of his mother and other relatives. However, in July, 1862, he enlisted in the company that was raised in Gratiot County by Capt. Lafayette Church, that is, Co. D, 26th Mich. Inf. At the organization of the command, he was appointed Orderly Sergeant. April 15, 1863, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant of said company. In May, 1864, he was promoted to the First-Lieutenancy, and transferred to Co. E, same regiment. Shortly afterward he was made Captain. For several months he was Acting Adjutant of the 26th Mich. Inf. As a military officer, he always had the confidence of his superiors, and, in a remarkable degree, the affections of the men who served under him. He acquitted himself honorably in several hard-fought battles, notably at Mine Run, North Anna, Petersburg, Deep Bottom, Charles City Road, Reams' Station, and in all the battles of the campaign which resulted in the surrender of Gen. Lee.

Returning home at the close of the war, Mr. Nelson had purposed to study law, having strong natural leanings toward that profession. But a great domestic affliction brought him to reconsider his plans, and to devote himself to the Christian ministry. At an early age, he had acquired a considerable reputation as a public speaker. Before he was a voter, he made several speeches in the Presidential canvass of 1860. He had made a great number of war speeches, also, and had occasionally addressed congregations on religious topics.

Jan. 1, 1866, he entered the Freshman class of Kalamazoo College, where he remained till the close of the college year. In the fall of 1866, he was elected Register of Deeds for Gratiot County, an office he held for two terms, declining a re-election to a third term. Meanwhile he pursued his studies under the private instruction of J. Wilson Caldwell, a most able and finished scholar, who had been his teacher at Kalamazoo. At the close of his official life, he spent two years in Michigan University. The Corporation of Kalamazoo College tendered him the bachelor's degree, and at the commencement in June, 1872, he made his graduating oration.

In the spring of that same year he was regularly settled as pastor of the Baptist Churches in Ithaca, St. Louis and Abna, having his residence at the former place. Literally his parish embraced nearly the whole of Gratiot County, and the demand upon him for funerals and other special occasions was very great. In October, 1873, he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church in East Saginaw, where he remained until March 1, 1882. The history of this pastorate is in many respects remarkable. The Church to which he was called was a weak, struggling society, heavily encumbered with debt. Under his ministry the congregation grew to be one of the largest and most influential in the city or State. Leading men of all religious opinions were deeply interested in sustaining it. Scholars and professional and business men, before indifferent to Church-going, became regular attendants. The feeling became very general in the city, and was more and more cherished to the end that his ministry belonged to the whole community rather than to any other one denomination or church.

By the generosity of wealthy friends in East Saginaw he was sent to Europe in 1878, making the tour of Scotland, England, France and Italy. Discouraged by continued ill health, he presented his resignation in the spring of 1882. Efforts were made to have him recall it, and, instead, take a year's leave of absence, and then return to his old field. Feeling that recovery was uncertain, he declined to do this. Again he was given the means for making the second tour of Europe, one man in East Saginaw, not a member of his congregation, contributing \$500. In the summer and autumn of 1882, he visited

Ireland, Scotland, England, Belgium, Germany and France.

Returning from abroad, he resided in St. Louis one year, but in November, 1883, President Brooks, of Kalamazoo College, having been granted a year's leave of absence, the trustees of the institution made unanimous choice of Mr. Nelson as Acting President for the college year. As to how he has acquitted himself in this most responsible office, there is but one opinion, and that most favorable. The College *Index*, published by the students, bears the following testimony: "A pleasing and logical speaker, his power is by no means confined to the pulpit, but is manifested in every word and deed of his life. In taking charge of the college, he has shown great executive ability. By his liberal and trustful management, he has not only won the respect, but the hearty obedience and co-operation of every student. His scholarship has benefited all who have come in contact with him, and his Christian character as manifested to us is worthy of emulation."

The subject of this sketch has been twice married. His first wife was Frances A. Church, daughter of Rev. L. Church, of Arcada, who died Sept. 15, 1865. His second was Laura A. Cheesman, daughter of Dr. John R. Cheesman, of St. Louis, to whom he was married May 25, 1867. Of the seven children born of this union, five daughters have died, and two sons are yet living.

As a man eminently worthy a place with the best citizens of Gratiot County, we place Mr. Nelson's portrait in this Album.

**H**enry H. Bailey, farmer on section 19, Fulton Township, is a son of John and Helen (Wilson) Bailey, natives of Vermont. They were married in the Green Mountain State, and there lived until the father's death. Mrs. B. afterwards married again, and went to Ohio, and later to Iowa, where she died.

Their eldest son was Henry H. He was born in Vermont, Aug. 28, 1824, and was about eight years old when his grandmother (with whom he was living) came to Ohio. He remained with her until 21 years old, and then bought 40 acres of wild land in Cuya-

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*A. W. Wright*

hoga Co., Ohio. On this place he settled and lived about ten years, when he sold out. He was for the ensuing six years employed in a machine shop at Chagrin Falls, in the same county. He came to Michigan in the fall of 1869, and was engaged in farming in Ionia and Saginaw Counties until January, 1879. In this month he came to Gratiot and settled on 80 acres of land on section 19, Fulton Township. He has now 60 acres under cultivation.

Oct. 14, 1850, in the State of Ohio, he married Miss Charlotte A. Fish, a native of New York State. She bore him one child, Sarah R., who died when three years old. She herself died Sept. 12, 1870.

Oct. 25, 1871, at Lansing, he married for his second wife Sarah J., daughter of Simon and Lydia (Kirby) Jones, and widow of Hugh Naldrett. Mr. Naldrett settled in Newark Township in an early day, and after a time sold his farm and moved to Alma, where he lived seven years. In 1861, he went to Washtenaw County, and three years later he removed to Ionia County. There he died, April 13, 1871. He had been the father of three sons, Thomas H. (died when 19 months old), William T. and Job. Mrs. Bailey was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Oct. 16, 1840. Mr. B. is an energetic man, and has made many friends during his few years' residence in the county. Politically, he supports the Democratic party.

**B**rammi Willard Wright, capitalist at Alma, Gratiot Co., Mich., was born July 5, 1822, in Grafton, Windham Co., Vt. His parents, Nathan and Mary (Lamson) Wright, were also natives of the Green Mountain State, where the son passed the years of his life previous to 1850. He obtained a good education in the common schools of his native State, and was engaged in farming some years before he left the Eastern section of the United States to establish his fortune in the great West. He spent a year at Detroit, meanwhile examining the respective merits of different localities in the Peninsular State. He was prevented from carrying out his original intention in regard to business by the death of his brother, with whom he expected to associate himself. He came to Saginaw in 1851, where he en-

gaged in the lumber business and has continued its prosecution until the firm, of which he is the prime factor, is known as one of the heaviest in Northern Michigan. For the last 30 years the relations and business of Mr. Wright have been increasing in magnitude and popularity. His partnership connections commenced with Miller and Paine, under the firm style of Miller, Paine & Wright, which relation extended about six years. Soon after its dissolution, he formed a partnership with J. H. Pearson, of Chicago, and they began business operations in the name of A. W. Wright & Co. This association existed almost continuously until Jan. 1, 1883, when the style became the A. W. Wright Lumber Company. Their yearly aggregate of lumber products amounts to an average of from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 feet, and they are the proprietors of about 300,000,000 feet of pine timber at various points. The associate business connections of Mr. Wright are multifarious, and present one feature of his business principles, which render him a most valuable accession to any business community. He has ever held himself in readiness to recognize and foster genuine, unmistakable claims to honest industry and tact, and stands pre-eminent in his character as representative of the elements necessary to the foundation and perpetuity of the business world. The firm of Wright & Davis own and operate a lumber-mill on the Mackinaw Division of the Michigan Central railroad, and cut about 8,000,000 feet of lumber annually. Wright & Ketchum own a railroad, which is utilized in getting out logs for themselves and others, and is known as the Tittabawassee & Hope road. It is 20 miles in extent and is three-foot gauge. Mr. Wright is a partner of Wells, Stone & Co, dealers in lumbermen's supplies, at Saginaw City, and he is also interested in the Saginaw Manufacturing Company; which is engaged in almost unlimited extent in its various avenues of business. It is an incorporated company, with a paid up capital of \$150,000, and Mr. Wright is its chief officer. He is also President of the First National Bank at Saginaw.

Mr. Wright has been identified with the growth and progress of Alma. In January, 1882, he began the erection of the now famous Wright House, justly ranking as the finest in Northern Michigan, and of a grade second to none in the State. The hotel is described in detail in another part of this work. He is senior partner in the mercantile house of Wright,

Schneider & Stutz, a firm engaged in the transaction of a yearly business represented, approximately, at an aggregate of \$100,000. The milling firm of Tucker & Wright are producing 100 barrels of flour daily, on an average. Their mill is supplied with the most approved modern fixtures, among which are 11 sets of Stevens' Rollers. Mr. Wright is a member of the lumber firm of George D. Barton & Co., at Alma, and is largely interested in the banking house of W. S. Turck & Co., of that place. He owns extensive tracts of real estate in other parts of Gratiot County, among which are 300 acres of land in Arcada Township, 100 acres of which is under cultivation. He is also the owner of a brickyard located a short distance from Alma, where brick of excellent quality are manufactured. A fine piece of land containing ten acres lies contiguous to the Wright House, which the proprietor projects converting into a park of a style and character calculated to increase materially the value and attractions of the place.

Mr. Wright was married March 6, 1848, in Rockingham, Vt., to Miss Harriet Barton. She is a native of Vermont and was born Sept. 24, 1824. Her parents, Jeremiah and Sarah (Willoughby) Barton, were also natives of Vermont. Of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wright, two survive: Sarah H. and George N.; Annie B., Caroline S. and Arthur P. are deceased.

The portrait of Mr. Wright appears on another page. It will be received with unusual satisfaction, for reasons which are apparent. His well-known character has made him a most valuable acquisition to Alma and to Gratiot County. He will be remembered by future generations as the patron of the village for which he has done so much, and in his efforts to advance the welfare of the place he has stimulated emulation in many directions and in many avenues of business in the county. He is literally a large-hearted man, gifted with a genius for accumulating money; he is devoid of a talent for hoarding, and realizes his greatest satisfaction in its possession in the uses and purposes which his generosity and public spirit prompt. His nature is affable and he possesses a power of assimilation with other men which develops the warmest social ties among those who know him. He is a Republican in political sentiment and action.

**S**amuel Story, farmer on section 19, Sumner Township, is a son of Henry and Sarah (Scuffham) Story, natives of England, where they followed farming. He was born in Cambridgeshire, England, Feb. 23, 1829, and was engaged at home until nearly 21 years of age.

In the fall of 1849, he left his native country and came to the United States, first locating in Russell Township, Geauga Co., Ohio. Six years later, in 1855, he came to Michigan and located 120 acres of wild land on sections 19 and 20, Sumner Township, moving in over the Indian trails and cutting his own road from Carson, a distance of 11 miles. After he got within a short distance of his cabin's location, he had to carry all his household goods, including his cooking stove, on his back the rest of the distance, it being so swampy that his horses could not pull the load further. All their provisions had to be brought from Matherton, a distance of 21 miles, and principally on his back. By energy and perseverance, he has converted the primitive forest into a fertile and productive farm. He has 60 acres in a good state of cultivation, and substantial farm buildings in place of his first log hut and slab stable. Feb. 21, 1883, he had the great financial misfortune to lose his fine residence by fire, including all its contents. Mr. Story is not a man to yield to misfortune, and he is fast recovering from this loss.

March 13, 1849, in England, he was united in marriage to Joan Giddings, a native of England. She died at her home in this county, May 20, 1867, having been the mother of eight children, seven of whom survive: Henrietta A., Henry L., Ruby M. (died Oct. 6, 1883), Edna O. and Ellen I. Sept. 6, 1867, he married for his second wife Mrs. Mary Bradish (*nee* McCumber), born in Eaton Co., N. Y., May 29, 1836. When three months old, she was taken by her parents to Ohio, where she was educated. She taught school two terms in that State, and then came to Michigan, where also she taught two terms.

Mr. and Mrs. Story are active members of the Christian Church at Estella, and Mr. Story has held the office of Elder in his Church for 20 years, besides being Superintendent of the Sunday-school for six years. He is a charter member of Elm Hall Lodge

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*Giles T. Brown*





*Sara D. Brown*

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No. 257, F. & A. M., and has held nearly all the offices of the lodge. He is also a member of the A. O. U. W. He has held the position of Highway Commissioner for nine years, and other offices. He is now a Trustee of his school district. Politically, he is a staunch Republican. He and wife are earnest supporters of temperance and other good causes.

**B**iles T. Brown, attorney at Ithaca, was born Jan. 28, 1837, in Green Oak, Livingston Co., Mich., and is the oldest son of James M. and Betsey (Borden) Brown, who in 1836 were among the first settlers of Livingston County. The parents were both natives of Steuben Co., N. Y. The father was the son of James and Mary (Daily) Brown, who in the early part of the present century were residents of the township of Poultney in Steuben County.

The Browns were from and of Puritanic descent, and the Dailys were Scotch-Irish, emigrating from the north of Ireland shortly after the close of the Revolutionary war. James Daily, a great-grandfather of Mr. Brown, was a pioneer in Western New York, and in 1787 erected and operated the first saw-mill west of Crooked Lake in Steuben County.

Mr. Brown's ancestors on his mother's side are all of Puritanic descent. She (the mother, who is now living with her sons in Ithaca) is a daughter of Ezeriah and Sarah (Tyler) Borden. Ezeriah Borden was born at Whitestown, N. Y., about 1786, and was the son of Ezeriah and Hannah (Calkins) Borden, both of whom were born in Connecticut in Colonial times, and whose families are traced back in Connecticut history to its earliest settlement. Sarah (Tyler) Borden (maternal grandmother) was a daughter of Peter and Sarah (Palmer) Tyler, both of whom were born in Connecticut. Peter Tyler served his country faithfully during the entire war for American independence, soon after its close locating in Steuben County, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Mr. Brown's early educational advantages were similar to those of most children in the pioneer days of Michigan. In 1841, upon the formation of a school district in that part of the township where they lived, his father took the contract for building the first school-house. It was a rude log structure, with furniture and fixtures of a primitive character to

correspond with the surroundings incident to a new country. In this house the boy received some slight rudiments of an education, attending the schools (such as they were) regularly for several years.

On the death of his father, which occurred in 1851, before the boy was 15 years of age, he, being the eldest son, assumed charge of the homestead, a farm of 80 acres, on which the family resided and continued to conduct its affairs for about three years. About this time he set out to improve his education, attending school the greater portion of the next four years, most of the time at the seminary at Ypsilanti, and the State Normal School at the same place. After teaching two terms in this State, he taught during the year 1859 in Franklin Co., Mo. He then returned to Michigan and spent his time alternately studying, teaching and working on a farm.

Mr. Brown was married March 17, 1861, to Miss E. Jennie Hewitt, of Highland, Oakland Co., Mich. She was born in Windham, Conn., and was a daughter of Benjamin and Annie (Perry) Hewitt.

Mr. Brown enlisted Aug. 1, 1862, at Green Oak, as a private in Co. G, 22d Mich. Vol. Inf., Capt. Henry S. Dean. His health failing, he was discharged for disability, at Lexington, Ky., the following winter, and on his return home, after partially recovering health, he resumed his work as a teacher.

Previous to his enlistment he had read law, at intervals, with R. G. Depuy, Esq., of Ann Arbor, and in 1863 he entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, at that place, where he was graduated in the spring of 1865. During that year he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court, in session at Detroit. Mr. Brown entered upon his career as a practitioner at Ithaca, in the spring of 1866, and almost simultaneously commenced his public life. In the fall ensuing he was elected Superintendent of the Poor, and was the incumbent of the office several years. In November of the same year, he was elected Circuit Court Commissioner, and discharged the obligations of the position two years. He has since been re-elected twice to the same office. In the spring of 1867 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools, and officiated four years. Two years later he was again elected to that position and served two years. He was the second President of the village of Ithaca, which post he has held three terms, and has been Justice of the Peace several

years. In the fall of 1876 he was elected Probate Judge and officiated four years.

At the Republican convention held at Mount Pleasant in the fall of 1880 for the nomination of Senator from this district, the name of Mr. Brown was placed upon the ticket. The honor was unsought, and the action of the convention only became known to him on the return of the delegates. He made a triumphant run against T. A. Johnson, candidate of the National element, and M. H. Stanford, Democratic nominee. He received a flattering support in Gratiot County, running considerably ahead of his ticket. Mr. Brown is now serving as Justice of the Peace and Secretary of the County Board of School Examiners. In addition to the business of his law office, which is considerable, he is operating to some extent as a collection and insurance agent. His residence is situated a short distance from the village of Ithaca, where he owns a fine farm of 160 acres.

The first wife of Mr. Brown died in November, 1871, leaving four children, all of whom are yet living: Bayard T., Annie M., Theodore N. and Bessie J. The second marriage of Mr. Brown occurred Aug. 17, 1873, to Sara L. Watson, daughter of John T. and Harriet L. (Wilcox) Watson, of Ithaca. She was born in Marion, Livingston Co., Mich. Of this marriage four children have been born: James B., Laura V., Alanson W. and Beatrice B.

Mr. Brown is a prominent Mason and belongs to blue lodge and Ithaca Chapter, No. 70. He is a

member of the fraternity of Odd Fellows, and is the Commander of Moses Wisner Post, No. 101, G. A. R. On the organization of that body at Ithaca he was chosen first Commander. Mr. and Mrs. Brown and daughter Annie are members of the Baptist Church.

Mr. Brown has been a diligent student and has quite a taste for literature, which has, however, only been indulged and cultivated to that limited extent which the opportunities of a busy life permit. He has on different occasions written a few poems.

Our space only permits the insertion, as a specimen, of the following brief selection, which was written in 1882, on the death of his favorite poet:

*LONGFELLOW.*

The poet lived, and wrought, and sang, and died;  
And though his day had reached its afternoon,  
And had with fruitful toil been occupied,  
Yet men were grieved that he had died so soon;  
Then turned they and perused his tuneful song,  
And all rejoiced that he had lived so long.

No sweeter muse than his hath ever graced  
Our young Columbia's fair, far-reaching shore;  
And none, so free from fault, and pure in taste,  
Hath e'er essayed such lofty flights to soar;  
And ages yet unborn shall bless the pen  
Of him whose songs have cheered the hearts of men.

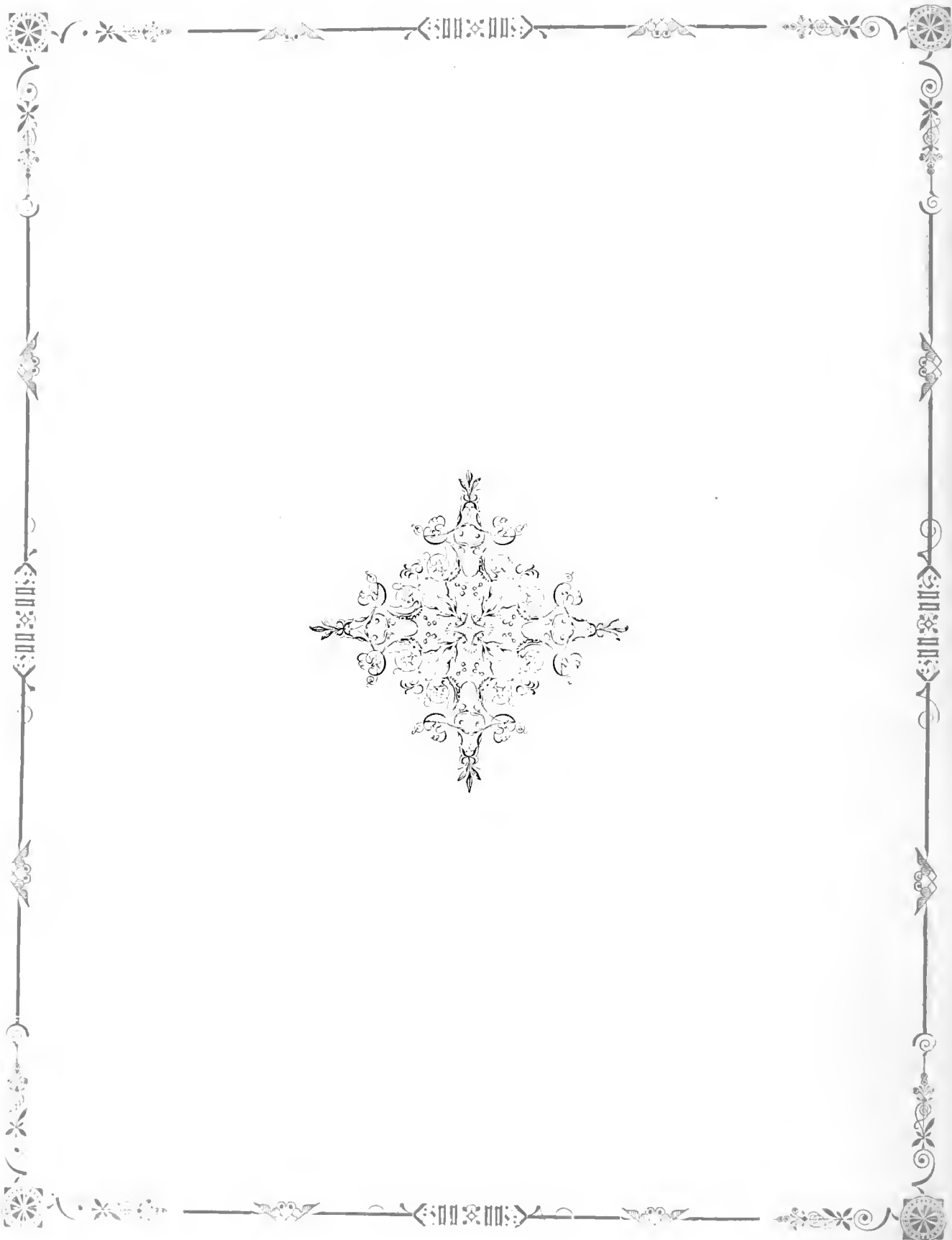
Among the many valuable portraits of prominent citizens of Gratiot County included in this volume, that of Mr. Brown will give general satisfaction as that of a man whose merits and abilities have secured the respect and recognition of his fellow-townsmen. It may be found on the page opposite this sketch.





HISTORICAL





# INTRODUCTORY.

**O**NLY a score and a half of years have passed since the unbroken forests of Northern Michigan were thought of as a possible home for civilized man. The Government surveyors reported that it was an irreclaimable waste and not fit for cultivation in any quarter, the soil being of that character which precluded the propagation of cereals. The rapidity of settlement and enormous crops of everything in the line of cereals demonstrated conclusively their mistake, for no acreage surpasses Northern Michigan in productiveness. Notwithstanding the oft repeated tales of want and hardships told by their sires, men of energy, with their families and all their earthly possessions loaded upon a wagon drawn by oxen, pushed their way step by step, through the unbroken forests of Gratiot, until they found suitable locations. With a spirit of heroism have they toiled until the forests were laid low, and their herculean labor is manifest in the broad acres of highly cultivated land, upon which stand palatial residences and outbuildings of the most expensive character. Over the grounds where the red man chased the bounding deer, and the wildcat and wolves held their nightly vigils, may be seen the husbandman gathering the golden harvests; where the Indian's wild war-whoop was heard,

stands the stately house of worship. Transportation of goods by ox-teams has given way to the power of steam, and a commerce has been opened up with all parts of the civilized world. Prosperity in a high degree has smiled upon her people, who are fortunate in living in the most healthful, beautiful and productive State in the Union, taking age into consideration.

The history of this county is possessed of no small degree of interest. While other counties were connected with the frontier by large bodies of excellent lands, this seemed shut off from the gaze of shrewd speculators by reason of its heavy growth of timber. They were destined to become the heritage of an honest, industrious people, and the income derived from the timber and products of the soil has given many of the first comers a handsome competency.

This was the dark forest primeval:

But the pioneer came in his might,  
And down through the vast leafy temple  
Spread gleaming the pioneer's light.  
With his ax on his shoulder, he came  
From the hills and valleys away:  
Where the sun in his splendor uprising  
Lights Bunker Hill's columns to-day.

No marble-paved cities here shone,  
No costly built palace here stood;  
But above and around, the dark forest rose,  
With majestic, huge pillars of wood.  
No highway that led through the grove  
Had bright little flowers scattered there,  
But narrow paths, skirted with thorns,  
Their naked feet ready to tear.

—♦—♦—♦—♦—♦—♦—♦—♦—♦—

### Value of Local History.

**B**UT few of the present generation realize the great value of local history, living as they do in an age of industry and thrift. The opportunities for speculation, and the haste to become wealthy takes precedence of everything else, and the fact is not taken into consideration that the pioneers are rapidly passing from the scene of their labors, leaving but little time for the compilation of biographical sketches which constitute the heretofore unwritten history of Gratiot County. Their children have heard from the lips of their aged sires, the story of privation and toil of those who were first at the front in the settlement of the county, but their children will lose sight of the facts unless they be recorded in such manner as to become intelligible and kept fresh in the minds of succeeding generations.

Surrounded, as we are, with everything which wealth and taste can suggest, the fact is almost lost sight of that here were the best years of the lives of our ancestry devoted to the development of one of the best agricultural counties in the State. As the expo-

sure, privations, toil and hardships, the pioneers have undergone, are well worthy of a more fitting memorial than can be secured by a granite monument, the design of the publishers is to record a history of inestimable value to every citizen of the county.

The facts mentioned have been carefully culled from every source; neither pains nor expense has been spared in the compilation of this work, which, although not without error, is as correct as can be made, taking into consideration that much of it was gathered from the pioneers themselves, and men are very apt to be mistaken in data.

Upon local history depends the perpetuation of facts heretofore unwritten, as well as the biographical sketches of every worthy pioneer in the county that could be procured. Each sketch speaks volumes; and a history of one man's life, perhaps of an entire family, is now recorded where naught can efface or destroy it. From this will all future volumes of like import take their data. Those who have volunteered the information from which this work is compiled, will live in the history of this county as long as time lasts. No manlier hand e'er drew a sword than those who faced privation and danger while engaged in the subjugation of the dense wilderness which once covered this now beautiful land, and to them is this volume dedicated.







# First Things.



**F**ROM the most reliable information to be obtained, the following items are substantially correct regarding the first settlements and other events in Gratiot County:

William McOmer, now a resident of St. Louis, came to this county in 1832, and was engaged in buying furs from the Indians until their removal to the reservation in Isabella County. Excepting the German missionary at the Lutheran mission, he is probably the first white

man that settled permanently in the county. His cabin was built near Pine River, about one and a half miles from the site of St. Louis.

The first locations of land were made in 1836, but no permanent settlements were made until 1846, when Arnold Payne settled on section 31, in Fulton Township; N. Sturgis, William Avery and George E. Walker settled on sections 31 and 32, in North Shade Township, in 1850.

The first road through the county was known as the "Old Indian Trail," which extended from Maple Rapids to the Lutheran mission above St. Louis.

The first wedding known to have occurred in the county was that of Martin Cramer and Dorinda Sias, both of Pine River Township. This event oc-

curred in 1855,—Sylvanus Groom, J. P., officiating.

The first funeral sermon was preached by Rev Lafayette Church, upon the demise of the four-year-old daughter of Sylvanus and Mrs. Groom. This event also belongs to the history of Pine River.

The above was the first death among the white settlers in the county.

The first postoffice was established at St. Louis, in 1855.

The first convention was held at the residence of L. C. Knapp, on the farm now owned by Mr. Burton, Esq., one and a half miles north of Ithaca, in 1855, and the following named gentlemen were nominated and afterward elected as first officials of Gratiot County:

Sheriff—George E. Walker;  
 County Clerk—Orville M. Wood;  
 Treasurer—Ralph Ely;  
 Judge of Probate—Dr. John R. Cheesman;  
 Prosecuting Attorney—Frank Miller;  
 Register of Deeds—Henry S. Lane;  
 Circuit Court Commissioner—Stevens E. Longyear;  
 County Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings.

They qualified and entered upon the discharge of their official duties the first Monday in January, 1856.

Seven townships were organized in 1855, by action of the State Legislature, and the following named Supervisors were elected in the spring of that year. They enjoyed the distinction of being the first township officers elected in Gratiot County:

North Shade, Henry S. Lane;  
 Fulton, William Norton;  
 North Star, Benjamin Crawford;  
 New Haven, Joseph H. Bennett;  
 Arcada, Francis Nelson;  
 Emerson, Melancthon Pettit;  
 Pine River, George Spicer.

Mr. Spicer moved away soon after his election, and Hiram Burgess was appointed by the authorities of Saginaw County to fill the vacancy.

The first special session of the Board of Supervisors was held at the residence of Ralph Ely, Jan. 7, 1856, at which meeting Gratiot County was organized. Henry S. Lane was Chairman of the Board.

The county seat was located as near the center of the county as practicable by this Board, Feb. 11, 1856; but the particular site was not designated, on account of the absence of several land-owners at or near the center. After considerable discussion, it was located March 5, 1856, on lands belonging to John Jeffry, who named it Ithaca, that being the name of the village in which he was reared, in New York.

The village plat of Ithaca was surveyed by Sidney S. Hastings, Feb. 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1856. The Supervisors met March 5, of that year and selected grounds for public buildings.

The permanent location of the county seat had caused considerable hard feeling between the residents of Pine River and Arcada Townships, each in turn protesting that their respective towns—viz., St. Louis and Alma—were preferable, and by reason of numerous natural resources the proper place for establishing the county seat. This dissatisfaction has ceased to exist, and the reason is obvious to every unprejudiced mind. The driving of the stake which officially effected the location was made the occasion of much hilarity. The Supervisors took turns in driving it down, and the enthusiastic shouts of those who witnessed the performance woke the echoes far and wide.

The first court-house was a two-story log cabin, built by John Jeffry in 1856. This was done at his expense, being a part of the consideration for having the county seat located on his land. The county officials took possession of it in the fall of that year.

The first frame school-house built in the county was erected at St. Louis in 1858, Richard G. Hillier, contractor. This was considered a rapid advance in

civilization, and scholars attending the same considered themselves the "aristocracy" of the county.

The first Fourth-of-July celebration was held at Ithaca in 1856. This was a gala day for Gratiot, and fully 400 were in attendance. What was lacking in numbers was amply compensated for by the enthusiasm evinced, as the grand military parade headed by an amateur band filed adown the principal streets. Thirty rough and ready volunteers who had done duty with "corn-stalk" weapons on training days, in the Eastern States, went through the "manual of arms," to the great delight of the persons witnessing the performance. E. C. Farrington, one of the first settlers in Emerson, was quite conspicuous upon this occasion, being arrayed in what had formerly been a swallow-tailed coat, which was minus one tail; but his erect carriage and precise drill made amends for all shortage in costume. Most of the men were clad in raiment much the worse for wear, which resembled "Joseph's coat of many colors," from the multiplicity of patches of varied hue that adorned them. The drum was made by stretching a green deer's hide over a nail keg, but it furnished music enough to inspire those honest-hearted people as much as would the latest productions from our most celebrated orchestras to-day. William Preston and Sam Graham kindly donated the drum which now becomes of historic interest, being the first one known to have been manufactured in the county. Hiram Burgess went on foot to De Witt, *via* Maple Rapids, to have handbills printed. This necessitated a journey of 80 miles, but the committee were bound to have a big time, and well did they succeed.

The officers of the day were: President, Francis Nelson; Vice-Presidents, all the Supervisors of Gratiot county; Rev. Lafayette Church, Chaplain; Reader of Declaration of Independence, Orville M. Wood; Orator of the Day, Frank Miller; Marshall, Abram M. Crawford.

The ladies made a fine flag, material for which was donated by Messrs. Wood & Miller. John Knight gave a grand ball in the evening, at his house one mile north of Ithaca, which concluded the exercises of the first and one of the most enthusiastic celebrations ever held in the county. L. C. Knapp furnished the dinner for most of the people, at 25 cents each. A whole beef was roasted, and the bill of fare included potatoes, rice, hominy and pudding.

with squash pie and lemonade as dessert. W. W. Comstock was a regular boarder at Knapp's, paying for his johnnycakes and bacon the ordinary compensation of one shilling per day. Seeing the over-worked waiters straining every nerve in their endeavors to supply the hungry guests, Mr. Comstock rolled up his sleeves and went to work with a will, helping to wait upon the table and carving nearly all the meats. When all wishing dinner had been served, there was nothing but minute scraps left for the waiters, of whom Mr. Comstock was one.

He made a meager meal of the remnants, and when settling his bill the following Saturday he was somewhat surprised to learn that for the dinner on the Fourth he was charged *two* shillings, Mr. Knapp telling him that as an extra dinner was given he could not afford to feed his boarders on such an expensive bill of fare at the regular price. Knapp made no allowance for the arduous day's work put in by Mr. Comstock, for which he was charged nothing, as he said; if Comstock wanted to do it, all right, but he was not asked to assist.

No political, theological or personal differences then existed to mar the friendship of the participants, but all strove to enhance the pleasure and welfare of their neighbor.

The organization of the Republican and Democratic parties were effected in 1856. The first vote gave a relative strength of nearly two-thirds in favor of the Republican party, which has maintained a majority to this date.

The first saw-mill was built by Joseph Clapp in 1855. The first sawing was done in April, 1856. Men, women and children, together with a number of Indians, kindly lent their aid in raising the heavy timbers; neither could the work at that early day have been accomplished without their assistance. From that date began the erection of frame houses and substantial buildings of every character, thus showing the great good resulting from even one saw-mill in a new country.

The first regular term of the Gratiot County Circuit Court, according to the official record, was held at Alma Jan. 18, 1859, Judge Wilbur F. Woodworth presiding. The "grand jury" were: Messrs. Henry and Samuel Boyer, Briggs J. Bently, Lorenzo Badgely, George W. Brooks, James B. Curtis, Wilbur Coon, Elijah Curtis, Sether Dean, John Franklin, Roman

Fyler, Orange Hopkins, Thomas J. Huntington, Erastus Kidder, Michael Nichols, Samuel T. Roe, Joseph B. Stafford, William Wooley and Abraham Wooden.

The first white girl born in Gratiot County is supposed to be Rhoda Smith, the daughter of William H. Smith. She is the wife of Jacob Martin, of Newark Township. Dates are difficult to obtain regarding such matters.

The first white male child born in the county was James B. Fulton, son of Nicholas B. and Abigail (Payne) Fulton. He was born July 24, 1847.

Arnold Payne built the first frame barn in Gratiot County. There were not men enough then residents to raise the heavy timbers. The women came to the rescue, and when the massive timbers were placed in position many cheers long and loud echoed through the wild wood.

Mr. Payne claims that the first Fourth-of-July celebration north of Maple River was in 1845. The persons present were: Mr. and Mrs. James Gordon, Nicholas and Mrs. Abigail Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Johnson, and a few from the south side of the river. They hoisted a Union flag, and had a grand time, numbers being taken into consideration. Only three persons who attended that celebration were alive to enjoy the pleasures of the celebration of our natal day in 1883.

A triple murder occurred in the village of Ithaca in March, 1861, which was as cowardly as it was brutal, and deserves a place in this history, it being the first murder committed in the county.

Thaddeus Green, a cooper, who left the county during the hard times of 1859, returned in the spring of 1860, bringing with him his daughter, Josephine, a comely miss of 16. He rented a small house near the present residence of William C. Beckwith, where he worked at his trade during the winter. Among those of their neighbors who frequently visited them was Miss Sally Taylor, a daughter of Benson Taylor, of Newark Township. Sally was about the same age as Josephine, and they were school-mates and friends from early childhood. On Friday, March 9, 1861, Thaddeus and his daughter went to Mr. Taylor's, where Green was doing some repairing on barrels, and they remained until Sunday, when Sally Taylor accompanied them home, intending to remain a few days. On Monday morning, the blinds were

down at Green's house, creating the impression that they were away from home. Nothing was thought of the matter until Friday, when Mr. Stephen Cunningham, a neighbor of Mr. Taylor, called at the house, as her father wished Sally to return home. Receiving no answer to his knock at the door, Mr. Cunningham inquired of Mr. L. C. Smith concerning their whereabouts. Suspicion that all was not right led them to pry open a window, when the dead bodies of Green, his daughter and Miss Taylor were discovered lying on the bed in a pool of congealed blood, a stream of which had run down upon and across the floor! The fiend had killed the girls with a hatchet, which lay on the floor covered with their life's blood, his daughter receiving six and Sally two blows from the murderous instrument. Green had then lain down upon a bed opposite the one upon which the lifeless bodies of the girls were stretched, and ended his life by stabbing himself in the neck with a knife, which was found sticking in the floor. The murder was a most diabolical one, but nothing was left for the avenger to do.

Papers found, upon searching the house, proved conclusively that Green had been for some time committing incest with his daughter, and it is supposed that the matter so preyed upon her mind that the secret was imparted to her friend Sally Taylor, which was overheard by Green, who, to prevent the fact coming to the ears of the public, committed the crime

of murder and suicide. This terrible crime has scarcely been equaled, and the sickening scene can never be effaced from the memory of those who witnessed the sight.

Benjamin Crawford drove the first team from Maple Rapids to Pine River. He also helped build the "Indian Mission," and broke the first sod done with a plow north of Pine River, having been employed by the Indian Agent to plow the lands on the reservation on Pine and Chippewa Rivers.

The first house built in Ithaca, that was lathed and plastered, was erected by Mr. Crawford. It occupied Lot 2, Block 10. Moving to this county in 1854, he was among the first settlers, but had been through Gratiot many times before, having driven stock frequently through the county from the southern part of the State to winter them upon the reeds which grew plentifully along the Chippewa and Pine Rivers. His last venture in that line was not successful, as he had taken several hundred head to winter, giving a guarantee for the lot at \$5 per head. A violent snow-storm came on, and nearly all the cattle perished, which almost made Mr. C. a bankrupt. He was quite an able lawyer, although he was not admitted to the bar. His widow still resides in Ithaca. Mrs. Crawford helped make the first flag ever hoisted in Gratiot County, and has lent her aid scores of times in caring for those who were less fortunately situated during the early settlement of the land.



## INDIAN HISTORY.

**T**HE history of the aborigines in this county is very limited. Although these were their lands, and amongst the best hunting grounds, they were all removed to a reservation in Isabella County, which had been ceded them by the Government in 1856, which lands are yet possessed by the remnants of the tribes, now nearly extinct. Nearly all the Indians living in this portion of the State belonged to the Chippewa tribe, although the Pottawatomies and Ottawas were so mixed with them by intermarriage that comparatively few full-blooded specimens could be found of either tribe. They were for the most part in Fulton Township, south of the Maple River, which stream was one of their favorites, its waters abounding with fish, and the bottoms on either side furnishing abundant pasturage for

their ponies, and also being a splendid hunting ground. William McOmber, a representative of the Northwestern Fur Company, traded with the Indians at this place, and at the old Indian mission near St. Louis, from 1832 until their departure in 1858. He acquired their language, and speaks it yet quite flu-

ently. There was always a kindly feeling existing between the Indians and the whites of this county, and no disturbance of importance was noted during the early history of this section. Their time was spent in hunting, fishing and trading, having only a few acres of cleared land, which was cultivated very poorly. These lands are now owned by Messrs. Parmer Phillips and Alanson Matthews. Mr. Phillips came in 1849 and selected the lands which were then occupied by the Indians, and moved his family in 1851. The acknowledged leader of the Chippewas at that time was Acean Lemeronger, a half-breed Frenchman who had been educated at the Mackinaw Island mission. He was a man of good morals and exerted a great influence over the Indians. Mache-toquet, the chief, died in 1849, leaving his son Wau-ga-ba lack, to succeed him; but his propensity for drunkenness disgraced him even in the eyes of the tribe, and they refused to recognize him as chief.

Part of the tribe went to Washington Township, and were under the control of Patrick Bey, until their final removal in 1858.

Parmer Phillips relates a story which illustrates well the Indian's love for whisky. It was the early springtime and preparations were being made for their "sugar dance." One Indian had been sent to Maple Rapids for a jug of whisky, with orders not to tarry on the way. Mr. Phillips having gone to a neighboring shop to get some repairs done upon agricultural implements, was returning, and passed an Indian ly-

ing by the road-side in a drunken stupor, while near him stood a jug of whisky. Caring nothing for a drunken Indian, Mr. Phillips passed on; but had proceeded only a short distance when he met an Indian who inquired if he had passed "Injun squibby" (drunk). Receiving an affirmative answer, the fellow loped off seemingly in a hurry, to meet the "committee" who had gone for a jug of rum. Hardly was this one out of sight before there came another and another, and Mr. Phillips states that twenty or more Indians met him before he left the trail from whom came the same question, "seen Injun squibby?" There was enough whisky left to make them all howling drunk, and they had a wild night of it.

Their dances were the occasion of much hilarity, and every one that desired was made welcome as lookers on. The "sugar dance," the "green-corn dance," "harvest dance," and "war dance" were the only recreations indulged in, unless it were an occasional "horse race," and these were tame affairs, the ponies following each other along a trail in single file.

Before this county was organized, there was a large tribe, with headquarters on Maple River in Fulton Township; but the small-pox made its appearance and the ravages of this terrible scourge nearly depopulated the land. The "medicine men" tried to exorcise the evil spirit by "incantations" and beating "tom-toms," while dances were held around the sick patient; but the plague was not stayed. They resorted to the "steam bath," "plunge bath," etc., but death invariably followed all efforts.

They would dig a small hole in the ground, heat a large stone in the fire, place it in the hole and pour water upon it, thus creating a steam, or vapor bath, over which the sick man was placed until bathed in perspiration, when he was carried to the river and chucked into the water. Of course this treatment was wondrously fatal.

Believing that the "Great Spirit" had sent a plague upon them, the remnant of the once powerful tribe abandoned all those who were sick, leaving them lying on the ground near the river to starve or die, surrounded by wild beasts, with no helping hand near to offer aid or defend them in their helpless condition. None that were left recovered, and their bleaching bones for many years strewed the grounds.

Their manner of burial was peculiar. The corpse was wrapped with bark and deposited in a shallow

grave, which when filled with earth was covered with bark. A pipe, tobacco, and hatchet were put at the head of the grave; and quarterly, during the first year, a squirrel or other small animal was buried, that the warrior might have sustenance for support until he reached the happy hunting grounds.

The Indians could marry for "a moon" or for life, just as they liked. The marriage ceremony consisted only in presenting the bride a necklace, blanket, or any trinket, which if accepted constituted marriage. They were not limited in number, some having three or more wives. Acean Lemeronger had three wives, and children by all of them. The first son of his first wife was called "Dixie," and Acean sent him to school one year at Grand Rapids. Dixie could not stand the confinement, and returned home. Taking a rifle, he started into the forest and returned at the close of the first week laden with the hides of 17 deer. This seemed to please his father, who remarked, "Dixie too much Injun: must buy him blanket."

The tribe, after leaving their sick on Maple River, went to the Lutheran mission near St. Louis. Here they remained until their final departure for the reservation in Isabella County.

Pay-mas-ega, the aged Chippewa chief, died at Indiantown, and his body was kept "lying in state" or several days; plenty of whisky was furnished the Indians from some quarter, and riot and revelry prevailed. During the carnival of drunkenness three squaws were murdered and burned.

Me-gon-ge-wan, a daughter of the chief mentioned, afterward married Henry Ashman, who represented the people in the State Legislature at a later date. Two of his sons live in Isabella County and are both intelligent and worthy men. Mrs. Mary Gruett, wife of James Gruett, who acted as interpreter at the Indian mission, still lives near St. Louis and is possessed of quite a fund of information regarding Indian life.

The inter-marriage of the race has so reduced them physically that a few more years will find but a mere handful of the "noble" red men who were formerly owners of this beautiful land. When they are gone who will mourn? Who will drop a tear in memory of their former greatness? They have been dispossessed slowly but surely until a mere spot of land includes their possessions. Their end is near; their race is nearly run. Like Napoleon, shorn of

his power, the noble warriors were forced to retire before the onward march of civilization. No more is seen the smoke curling from their wigwams; no more is heard the "tom-tom," as its monotonous sound marshaled the braves for the "war dance," at which the young men were initiated and afterward allowed

to participate as warriors in the chase, or to give battle to their foe. Their camp fires have gone out; their hunting grounds are transformed into luxuriant meadows and highly cultivated fields. Nothing is left save this humble memorial to indicate that the aborigines ever inhabited this country.

## TOWNSHIPS.

**A**N interesting feature of this work is an historical review of the several townships. They were settled by men most of whom have representatives now living in the county, and many of them yet reside in the townships, in which they were born. The southern tier of townships was first settled, being nearest to and adjoining Clinton County, which was settled somewhat before its organization in 1839. The townships of North Shade, Fulton, Washington, Elba, Hamilton, North Star, Newark and New Haven, were

previous to the organization of Gratiot County attached to that of Clinton for judicial purposes, and the two northern tiers of townships to Saginaw County, for similar reasons.

A careful perusal of the incidents relating to the early settlement of the several townships will repay the reader, as each one contains the names of the first settlers, and many other items which are required to make the history complete. Almost every township claims the honor of having the first settler in the county located in her borders; but with the most

careful reference to dates, Fulton is awarded the palm. Be that as it may, each has furnished many men who for integrity and worth cannot be excelled in any country, and they reflect great credit upon the county they represent, politically or socially.

### Fulton Township.

**T**HE best agricultural body of land in Gratiot County is Fulton Township. Being the first settled portion of the county and near Maple Rapids, where supplies were easily procured during the hard times of 1857-8-9, her people were more fortunate than many of their neighbors, who lived at a remote distance from a trading point.

The first settlement in Fulton was made by Robert Fulton, Arnold Payne and James Fulton, who came in 1846. Nick Fulton and Nelson Johnson came in 1847, and took claims, but afterward deserted them. They returned in 1849 and were then among the earliest settlers in the county.

Parmer Phillips located his lands in 1849, and came with his wife in 1851. He lived on the south side of Maple River and was in easy circumstances,

being provided with teams, etc. Benjamin Cole and wife came in August, 1853, and located where Gillette now lives. At that time they were the second family north of Maple River. Lehman Johnson and his brother, Nelson, were then living in the township. Nelson was known as "everybody's Johnson," being always ready to leave his own work to assist a neighbor in raising a cabin, rolling logs, or doing anything which was asked of him.

Ben Cole and his wife selected a place for their cabin, and he went to work felling trees. Their bed was made under a huge oak whose foliage was their only shelter for some time. Mrs. Cole relates that she kept the mosquitoes from molesting her husband until two o'clock in the morning, when he performed a similar service for her. Their first visitors were 15 Indian women, who brought presents of venison and other meats. In fact, during the first year, Mr. and Mrs. Cole depended upon the Indians for their meat supply.

The first wedding known to have occurred in the county, was that of James Carpenter, who married a daughter of Arnold Payne in the winter of 1852. James Martin soon afterward married another one of Mr. Payne's daughters. Leroy Sutherland came in 1854 and soon afterward wedded Angelina Moss.

Nearly every early resident of Gratiot County first came to Fulton Township, the only road in the county being the one leading from Maple Rapids to St. Louis. Arnold Payne's place was known for many years as affording the best hotel accommodations in the county, and no man was more widely known.

The first "log-rolling bee" was on the land owned by Nick Fulton. Twenty-two of the hardy pioneers lent a helping hand, of whom a half dozen at least are yet living. These affairs always terminated with a grand supper and dance, to which everybody in the neighborhood were invited. The first township meeting and the first election held were at the cabin of Ben Cole, one of the best known and most eccentric men of Gratiot. Ben is now 84 years of age, and to date has never missed a town meeting or an election in the county. He is one of the best story tellers extant, and his presence was always considered necessary to complete any social gathering. His golden wedding was the first one celebrated in Fulton Township. That pleasant event occurred July 4, 1881. His wife Louisa is also quite sprightly, and

enjoys the reminiscences of early days in Gratiot as well as anybody living. Their shanty was only 12 x 16 when completed, yet Mr. Cole says 21 grown persons have stayed all night with them, and all had room enough.

To make mention of half the pleasant stories Ben was possessor of, would make a large, interesting volume. Perhaps no one in Gratiot County is possessed of a larger fund of general knowledge than he. In mentioning the hard times, Ben says they lived principally upon "knick-knacks;" if they had anything to eat, it was a "knick," had they nothing, it was a "knack." At all events they were happy, and Ben Cole and his aged wife are among the happiest people on earth to-day. His epitaph was composed by himself years ago, and we give it a place here, to commemorate the characteristics of a man who is respected by every one as being a kind neighbor and full of virtuous deeds. Any one who has ever heard Ben Cole talk will recognize his sentiment in the following, which will be engraved upon his tomb-stone after his demise:

"Beneath these cold sods lies old Cole,  
Oh God! have mercy on his soul,  
As I would on yours,  
If you was old Cole  
And I was God."

The best farm buildings in the county are located in Fulton Township, and the wealth of her farmers exceeds that of any township in the county. The taxation is almost as great as Pine River, which includes a part of the prosperous villages of St. Louis and Alma.

Fulton is well watered by Maple River and its tributaries. It is bounded on the north by Newark Township, on the east by Washington Township, on the south by Clinton County and on the west by North Shade Township.

Most of the Indians who lived in Gratiot at the time of its organization, were residents of Fulton, and their farming grounds are now the property of Farmer Phillips.

Mr. Charles E. Webster has been Supervisor of the township long enough to familiarize him with every detail of the county's business. We give the list of Supervisors to date:

## SUPERVISORS.

William Norton.....	1855
Whipple Martin.....	1856
Henry P. Howd.....	1857



L. T. Cassada.....	1858-62
Roswold Danley.....	1863
L. T. Cassada.....	1864-5
Charles E. Webster.....	1866-9
Roswold Danley.....	1870
Charles E. Webster.....	1871-7
Nathaniel Walker.....	1878
Charles E. Webster.....	1879-82
Henry. Stitt.....	1883.

Fulton deserves a front rank in an agricultural way. Every thing in the line of cereals which are adapted to this climate grows luxuriantly in her soil. Thrift prevails everywhere, and many of the most wealthy citizens of Gratiot County are now, or have been, residents of Fulton Township.

#### North Star.

**H**IS township is numbered 10 north and 2 west, and is bounded on the north by Emerson, on the east by Hamilton, on the south by Washington, and the west by Newark. North Star was organized in April, 1855, and the first officers elect were:

Supervisor—Benjamin Crawford  
 Clerk—H. T. Barnaby;  
 Treasurer—William W. Palmer;  
 Justices—William Hurd, John Franklin, Luther C. Smith, T. H. Rodgers.  
 Commissioners of Highways—Peter Hoffman, J. W. Chaffin, George Criner.

The first township meeting was held at the residence of Peter Hoffman in April, 1855. Addison Hayden and Mr. Hoffman are accredited the honor of naming this township. Mr. H. was an energetic and excellent man, and exerted a great deal of influence in the community.

The first settler in the township was Rowland Smith, who built a shanty upon section 30 in April, 1854. Rev. H. T. Barnaby and Peter Hoffman, with their families, arrived in May of the same year. Rev. Barnaby was the first preacher in this neighborhood, and the time selected for delivering the first sermon, which was unavoidably postponed, serves as the basis for a brief anecdote. Services were to be held at the house of John Franklin, in August, 1854, and the minister had taken his position, as well as those who had assembled to hear a rendition of the divine law,

when word came that an old lady, a Mrs. Hawkins, was lost in the woods of Newark Township. Knowing the dangers which might ensue from wild beasts, hunger and fright, the congregation was hurriedly dismissed, and the male portion, headed by Rev. Barnaby (who, to prevent being lost from the party, had a cow-bell suspended from his neck), started for Newark. Search was continued during that and the next day, when word came that she had found the "Old Indian Trail," and safely arrived at a settlement in the neighborhood.

Game was very plentiful that year, and the best hunting record of the season was made by Rev. Barnaby, who amply demonstrated that he could fire a rifle as well as clear a farm or preach a sermon. During the hunting season of that year he killed 45 deer, one bear and a wolf.

The first birth in the township was a daughter to Joel T. and Mrs. Smith, and the first death was that of an infant daughter of H. T. and Mrs. Barnaby.

North Star is an excellent agricultural township, and the numerous farms which are so highly improved, with the large list of taxable property, affords indisputable evidence of its rapid development.

This township is well watered by Bad River and its tributaries, and represents some of the finest agricultural lands in the county. The improvements also are up, and perhaps superior, to those of some of her sister townships. Among the earliest ministers, and perhaps the first minister, who settled in the county, was Rev. Elias Sower, who settled in this township in 1854. He was an active and indefatigable worker, and is beloved by every one who knows him.

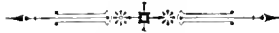
Having previously related the "sporting record" of Rev. H. T. Barnaby, the historian feels like giving another incident in the same line, although accomplished by a woman, with a "woman's weapon."

Mrs. Hiram Brady went toward the barn, and was surprised to see a large buck feeding complacently at the corn-crib. She seized a stick of stove-wood, and struck the deer over the head, stunning it completely, after which a few more well-directed blows dispatched it. This is well authenticated, and occurred Dec. 2, 1875. It might be proper to add that a number of bears have recently been killed in this township; but as this story would apply to every township in the county, the space may be better used in speaking of matters more important.

Below will be found the names of those who have represented this township as Supervisors from its organization until the present time:

## SUPERVISORS.

Benjamin Crawford.....	1855
Addison Hayden.....	1856-8
H. T. Barnaby.....	1859-60
Wm. M. Barstow.....	1861
Franklin Squire.....	1862-3
H. T. Barnaby.....	1864
Elias Sower.....	1865-6
Wm. M. Barstow.....	1867-8
H. T. Barnaby.....	1869
W. J. Marshall.....	1870
H. T. Barnaby.....	1871-2
Lorenzo Squire.....	1873
W. J. Marshall.....	1874-5
Sidney Thompson.....	1876-7
W. J. Marshall.....	1878-80
Sidney Thompson.....	1881-2
W. J. Marshall.....	1883



## Hamilton Township.

**H**IS township derived its name from Frank Hamilton, a relative of Elijah Curtis. He has for many years been a conductor on the Detroit & Milwaukee railway. Elijah Curtis, William Barton, Dr. John R. Cheesman, Charles Brant, Timothy Eckels, and a number of others came in 1854. Dr. Elias Sower, who was also a minister, medicated the people and preached when desired, as well as assisting in erecting their cabins, although being located in North Star. He officiated at the first wedding celebrated in Hamilton, which was that of Daniel Huston to Elmira Curtis. The first child born in the township was Henry, a son of Elijah and Mrs. Curtis. William Barton was elected a Justice of the Peace, and relates how one of his first cases was disposed of by the jury without giving him an opportunity to render a decision.

Hamilton Township was noted for legal squabbles. Once a couple of neighbors were dissatisfied about some minor affair. They concluded to have a jury, who, after hearing the evidence, decided that there was "no cause of action" and that "each party" pay his own costs.

During the war, there were left in the township

but six men, and they were aged and infirm. This speaks in highest terms of their patriotism, of which no higher testimonial could be given. The 57th marriage anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Barton, was celebrated at the home of his son-in-law Del. Barstow, at Ithaca, Jan. 17, 1884. Together they have braved the battle of life with its hardships and trials for more than a half century, and when their journey is finished will leave an honorable record behind. Mr. Barton was a soldier under the Duke of Wellington, and participated at the disastrous battle of Waterloo, where Napoleon's forces were defeated, and he made prisoner.

Dr. Cheesman hauled the first load of pine lumber from St. Charles that was brought into the township. Hailing from the city of Chicago, of course he felt somewhat aristocratic, and wished to convert his cabin into a modern-looking structure, to do which, clap-boards could not be utilized.

He relates an experience of the first "famine" in 1857, in which the demand for bread was imperative. Being fortunately situated himself, a stock of provisions were laid in sufficient to maintain his family for a year, but the necessities of the people were such that they were divided until the larder was bare as mother Hubbard's cupboard, and his family were also in need of food. Some friend in Chicago had sent \$50, to help him along, and a man was dispatched to Maple Rapids to purchase flour, with the entire amount. It was in the early spring-time, and the ice was not frozen hard enough to bear the team. After trying vainly to make their way through the woods, and water a foot in depth, the team was taken home and Dr. C. started on foot with a bag to see neighbor Newell, who lived six miles distant and had fortunately secured a sack of flour. Arriving at his destination, Dr. Cheesman made known his errand, and stated that he could get along with 12 pounds and offered to pay any price asked. Mr. Newell refused to sell but stated that he would lend the amount, to be returned when the doctor's load could be procured. This was cheerfully accepted, and, with 12 pounds of the coveted merchandise swinging over his shoulder, Dr. C. started homeward, breaking through the ice at almost every step the entire distance. To obtain only this small amount of flour, necessitated a journey of 12 miles through the forest, which was almost completely submerged with water

nearly a foot in depth, covered with a thin ice which allowed the traveler to break through at every step. The wonder is, that such hardships were survived by so many, yet sickness was comparatively rare.

John Muffly, and his son Jacob, were early settlers in Hamilton; and a winter's hunt for Jacob, although a mere lad, is not without significance, as it shows what kind of game a boy could hunt with profit. His trophies, together with the amounts received for them, are here given:

128 coon skins.....	\$160 00
48 mink ".....	240 00
8 wildcat ".....	4 00
4 fox ".....	1 60
3 bear ".....	17 00
3 bear cubs, alive.....	30 00
<hr/>	
Total.....	452 60

All the flour used they carried upon their backs for several years, from a mill in Clinton County, 28 miles distant.

The first school in Hamilton was taught in 1860 by Carrie Barton, at what is yet known as Barton's School-house.

SICKELS.

The village of Sickels was platted by the proprietors, William Sickels and Sheldon L. Wight, Feb. 20, 1882, consisting of seven blocks and eight streets. It was surveyed by Thomas H. Harrod, and is situated on section 8 of the township of Hamilton, about eight miles east and a little south of Ithaca, the county seat. It has a postoffice, which is situated on the tri-weekly mail stage route from Ithaca to Edgewood. There are a general store, a flouring-mill, a saw-mill, a planing-mill, a wagon shop, a blacksmith shop, a hotel, two church edifices commenced, one by the Methodist Episcopal and one by the Free Methodist societies. It also has a tri-weekly mail from Elsie, Clinton County, and has a population of over one hundred.

For Hamilton Township, since its organization, the following is a list of

SUPERVISORS.

Elijah Curtis.....	1856
Orville M. Wood.....	1857
William Barton.....	1858-60
John Deeter.....	1861
Thomas B. Lamb.....	1862-3
William Barton.....	1864-5

H. A. Joiner.....	1866-7
J. H. Seaver.....	1868-70
J. B. Curtis.....	1871
J. H. Seaver.....	1873-4
Joseph Haight?.....	1875
J. H. Seaver.....	1876
Silas Hill.....	1877-9
Joseph Wright.....	1880
W. R. Wright.....	1881
William Sickels.....	1882
C. A. Tann.....	1883



Bethany Township.



ROMINENT among the first settlers in Bethany Township, was the Gruett family, several of whom are yet residents. James

Gruett was for ten years the interpreter at the Indian mission. He was married in 1833, at Saginaw, and came to the mission in 1846. The family consisted of several children, the eldest of which was a daughter named Sophia, of whom Mrs. Mary Gruett relates quite a laughable story.

After Joseph Clapp built the first house in St. Louis, he cleared a few rods and planted a garden. This was the first garden in the place, and the vegetables grew luxuriantly. Among the latter was a fine squash which assumed majestic proportions, being larger than a flour barrel and weighed over 80 pounds. Mr. Clapp frequently called attention to his treasure and felt very proud of his first venture in gardening. One day Sophia Gruett, then 16 years of age, was passing, and stopped to see the wonderful squash. It was fairly ripe and looked good enough to eat. Mr. Clapp came out, and in a bantering tone told Sophia that "she might have the squash if she would carry it home," not thinking it possible, as she lived three miles away. She went into the woods and cut a stick about four feet in length, sharpened the end and pushed it through the mammoth squash. Having procured some long strips of bark, she made a sort of harness by tying the ends to the stick, and having one band crossing her forehead and the other across her breast, she started with the heavy load upon her back and actually carried it the entire distance! Mrs. Gruett coming in next day, Mr. Clapp asked how Sophia was feeling. She replied, "Good 'nuff; heap sick back."

The parents were both half-breed Indians, and were born in the upper Lake Superior country.

Mrs. Gruett is now 76 years of age, and quite a good talker, although one needs an interpreter unless well acquainted. Her son, William, who carried the mail for a long time from St. Louis to Maple Rapids, lives with her. He was quite unfortunate in May, 1883, having both legs fractured in five places while logging. However, he hobbles about quite well, and is cheerful and full of "olden-time" anecdotes. Mrs. Gruett was for a number of years, in the early history of the county, quite a "doctor," and kept her pony within reach that she might attend all calls. She prepared her own medicine from the roots and barks, the medicinal virtues of which were well-known to the Indians. Added to all this, was the gift of "prophecy," or fortune-telling, and her advice was much sought for.

When the Indians left Gratiot County for their reservation in Isabella, James Gruett and family went with them, as his knowledge of both the Indian and the American languages was indispensable. After his death, which occurred a few years later, the family returned to their old home in Bethany Township, where those who are yet living reside.

Mrs. Harriet Lake has furnished some very interesting reminiscences of olden times, for which our thanks are tendered. She was one of the early pioneers, and no lady is better known or more highly respected in Bethany Township.

Bethany Township derived its name from the Indian mission which bore that name.

W. J. Partello, was the pioneer of Bethany and by reason of many sterling qualities endeared himself to the people of this town, who have known him long and well.

Bethany has been ably represented by the following named

## SUPERVISORS:

W. J. Partello.....	1858
F. D. Weller.....	1859-60
Bernard Fox.....	1861
William B. Harris.....	1862
A. Clark.....	1863-4
E. S. Drake.....	1865
A. Clark.....	1866
J. C. Giddings.....	1867-74
Floyd E. Martin.....	1875

S. D. Hicks.....	1876-8
J. G. Thompson.....	1879
Willard D. Tucker.....	1880-2
Mortimer Sharpsteen.....	1883

## Seville Township.

SEVILLE is the northwestern township of Gratiot County, and is bounded on the north by Isabella County, on the east by the township of Pine River, on the south by Sumner Township, and on the west by Montcalm County. Seville is quite fortunate in the way of railroad facilities, the Detroit, Lansing & Northern passing through the southern part of the township. The Marshall & Coldwater railroad is already surveyed across the western part of the town, and all the grading is done through Sumner Township.

In Seville Township are three railroad stations, on the line of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railway, the most prominent one being Riverdale. A second, bearing the name of the township, is a small hamlet where trains stop only on signal. The third, Elwell, is a more important station.

In agricultural products this township ranks fourth in the county, and has a large lumber trade.

John D. Mallory settled on section 24, in 1855. Henry Boyer came the same year and settled in his neighborhood.

The latter tells a story on one of his neighbors, to illustrate how thin a man can get on a "mixed" diet. The family, consisting of six persons, subsisted on a pint of milk with maple sugar and leeks, and a soup made from basswood buds. The husband and father was working as hard as he was able, to clear up a little farm, but often complained to Mr. Boyer that his "liver" knocked against his ribs so hard that he could scarcely split rails!

The impassable roads of an early day impeded the immigration which came later. It is related that some parties, while out hunting, came to a very deep mud-hole which extended across the road. A man with a long ox-gad was threshing around in the mire as they came in sight. Upon being questioned, he declared that he had driven into the marsh his team of oxen, and they were then buried in the mud.

That pre-historic race, the "Mound-Builders," have lived in this township, and Messrs. R. F. Kedzie, C. B. F. Bangs and F. W. Hastings, of the State Agricultural College, have made excavations in several of the mounds. One was explored on section 13, in which a number of relics were found. On section 14, they found two skeletons, in a bad state of preservation. The last mound examined was on section 31. This was situated on a level plain. It was a perfect cone, 10 feet high and 40 feet in diameter at the base. This was thoroughly examined, and some excellent specimens found, consisting of stone vessels and implements, besides pieces of skeletons, etc. We gaze with reverential awe upon the evidence presented of those peculiar people, who, hundreds of years ago, inhabited our country, and of whom no trace remains save these historic mounds, which alone mark their last resting-place. Their history died with them: let them rest.

The people of Seville Township have been served by the following nine

SUPERVISORS:

Carlisle Weeks.....	1856
Henry Boyer.....	1857-9
Henry Shults.....	1860-1
Henry Boyer.....	1862
Ira Amsbury.....	1863
Henry Boyer.....	1864-5
Henry Shults.....	1866
Ira Amsbury.....	1867
James L. Shults.....	1868-71
Ira Amsbury.....	1872
Wm. J. Moffatt.....	1873
James L. Shults.....	1874
James R. Errett.....	1875-6
P. D. Egan.....	1877-8
James R. Errett.....	1879-80
James L. Shults.....	1881
William Pitt.....	1882-3

Seville is numbered 12 north and 4 west. It has an intelligent population, good schools and churches, with an enterprising people to maintain them.

This township was named by Mr. S. S. Hastings, in honor of the town in which he resided in Medina Co., Ohio.

Arcada Township.

**A**MONG the first settlers, we mention Rev. Lafayette Church, Rev. Francis Nelson, Edward Lake and Ralph Ely, with their families. The entire country was in a state of nature, but these energetic men went to work with a will, and the accessions to their ranks by new-comers soon formed quite a settlement in that township. The timber was of excellent quality, and Pine River furnished a means of transportation for groceries and provisions, as well as other commodities, from Saginaw, which, with the exception of Maple Rapids, was the chief trading point for Gratiot County.

Ralph Ely and Abraham Woodin built the first boat that carried supplies on Pine River. Mr. Woodin erected a small log cabin near Alma in 1856. Francis Way put in a small stock of dry goods, which was kept in boxes under the bed. A few articles of general merchandise was added later, which, for economy's sake, was also disposed of in like manner. When a customer came in, the goods were dragged out and selections made. In addition to Mr. Woodin's family, consisting of themselves and seven children, Francis Way, wife and child, lived with them, and persons traveling through the county in search of lands also made the cabin headquarters. When taken into consideration that the only room was 16 feet square, but little was left for the entertainment of company.

John Jeffrey was really the pioneer of Arcada, and located on section 1. Mr. Jeffrey came for the purpose of heading off a railroad which he had learned was to be built through his land. If such a thing had been done, it would have been of immense advantage to this new country, but Jeffrey was seemingly unconcerned about its future. He was a very close man in his dealings, but strictly honest; and during the early settlement of Gratiot, he befriended many a poor fellow who otherwise would have suffered. Jeffrey had some peculiar ideas, and once a resolution formed, no argument could convince him that he was in error. The second Fourth of July that was celebrated at Ithaca demonstrated his perverseness, and gave rise to quite a war of words at last. Ar-

rangements had been made by committees previously appointed to secure speakers, but Mr. Jeffrey disliked one of them, and declared that another man should speak instead. A disagreement was thus brought about, by which two celebrations were held the same day a quarter of a mile apart, Jeffrey's party holding theirs in the grove near town, the other being held on the square donated by Jeffrey for county purposes. There was a good attendance at both places, and the greatest harmony prevailed, there being several good speakers in attendance.

The next afternoon, John Jeffrey swore out warrants before a justice for several of the men who were foremost in getting up the celebration in the court-house yard, among whom was Frank Miller, the Postmaster. The officer went to arrest him, but the mail being expected to arrive every moment, he refused to come out of the office until it had been distributed. Jeffrey and a number of others were loud in their denunciations of the men who were his opponents on the previous day, and declared he would have revenge for their trespass upon his grounds, the deed not yet being made to Gratiot County. Several men offered to go upon Miller's bond for appearance the next day, but were refused. The Jeffrey squad becoming more noisy, and seemingly intent upon obtaining Miller's body at all hazards, threatened to break down the door. W. W. Comstock appeared upon the scene, and planting himself against the door, declared that they should first pass over his dead body. This step put a quietus upon the movement, and the officer, in company with Jeffrey, left the building. The suit was dismissed. Jeffrey, finding the sentiment of the people strongly against him, was glad to pay costs in the case and let the matter drop.

Judge P. H. Estee, now of Isabella County, had quite an experience when coming into the county with his family in 1855. He had engaged Capt. Ralph Ely to bring his family and their trunks from Saginaw to Alma, on his boat. It required several days for the trip, and the last day, as the boat was passing "Bovec's Riffle," below St. Louis, it was overturned and the entire contents dumped into the river. None of the party were in the boat except the crew, as it had to be towed against the rapid current at this point, in which all took a hand. Three of their trunks were thrown into the water, one of

them remaining six weeks before being recovered. The party made their way to Mr. Woodin's, near Alma, and were made quite comfortable, although the room contained not only the stock of goods, but household and kitchen furniture besides.

Supper was prepared and sleeping accommodations furnished for 17 persons. This was not an exceptional case at Mr. Woodin's, but frequently by many of the pioneers in Gratiot County. Judge Estee and family are now residents of Isabella County, and his introduction to the inhabitants of this neighborhood has furnished the basis for many a hearty laugh.

Two railroads now pass through Arcada, and before the close of the present year one more will be completed. A part of the thriving village of Alma and a part of Ithaca are in this township, which is a splendid tract of agricultural land. It is bounded on the north by Pine River, the east by Emerson, south by Newark, and the west by Sumner Townships. The number is 11 north, and 3 west.

Edward Lake and Paul Averill came to Arcada in March, 1855. Mrs. Lake arrived in June of the same year. Mr. Lake had built a little shanty on the southeast quarter of section 25. This cabin was a novelty in the way, being built entirely of hickory bark. They remained in this until September, when a log house was completed, one and a half stories in height. The nearest neighbor, Simon Knott, a bachelor, settled the same year in the corner of Arcada, which is now a portion of Ithaca. As none of the neighbors had a wagon he made a wooden cart, the only bit of iron about it being one wrought nail. Knott and Mr. Lake used this cart to carry potatoes and groceries from Maple Rapids, pushing it the entire distance.

Reuben Finch soon afterward became one of Mr. Lake's neighbors. They were great friends, and spent much time in hunting. One day Mr. Lake killed three deer at two shots with a rifle, and Finch killed a bear. The latter's experience was rather unpleasant, as he only wounded the bear in one fore leg, when it showed fight. Finch climbed a small sapling, which stood conveniently near, but in his hurry dropped the gun. The bear tried to climb the same sapling and was prevented only by the wounded leg. It finally left, and Finch came down, loaded the gun, and soon dispatched it.

Bounties were paid in different townships for wolf scalps, and it is related that Mr. Finch trapped one in Arcada, and drove it over to Newark Township before it was killed, in order to obtain a larger bounty. The older settlers also had an eye for business, it seems, by this maneuver.


Mr. Hastings relates an incident which occurred while he was surveying in this township. Mr. Finch had emptied the contents of a bed-tick in the road, which was being surveyed. Judge Nelson and William Todd were carrying the chain whose track lay directly across this pile of material. Judge Nelson pushed it aside with his foot and exposed a large rattlesnake (dead), which had been pressed as flat as a board. Calling the attention of Mr. Finch to it, he explained that, having no straw to fill the bed, he had cut some rushes in the marsh, and, leaving them during the day to dry, had carried them home in the evening and filled the tick at night. Using the bed afterward, the reptile had been crushed and none were the wiser until it was found in the straw.

The lumber interests will continue to be the principal industry in Arcada for a few years; but the splendid farms, taking the place of the majestic woods, will bring back larger returns.

Arcada Township has been served by the following

## SUPERVISORS:

Francis Nelson.....	1855-6
Anson R. Arnold.....	1857
Ralph Ely.....	1858-9
L. C. Smith.....	1860
George W. Jennings.....	1861
Alonzo E. Kingsley.....	1862
Wm. Moyer.....	1863
T. A. Johnson.....	1864-5
Wm. S. Turck.....	1866
Wm. Moyer.....	1867
George Chandler.....	1868
Ralph Ely.....	1869-70
James T. Hall.....	1871-2
Wm. S. Turck.....	1873
James T. Hall.....	1874
Wm. S. Turck.....	1875-6
James T. Hall.....	1877
E. R. Spink.....	1878
Wm. S. Turck.....	1879-80
Darius Reed.....	1881
George G. Holliday.....	1882
Darius Reed.....	1883



### New Haven Township.

**J**OHAN A. and Richard Crispel are presumably the first settlers in New Haven. Their location was made on section 4, in the year 1854. Uncle Joseph Wiles, Henry Clark and Moses White came in 1855 and settled on section 33. Rev. Charles Chick, a Methodist minister, was the first preacher to hold divine services in the township. Rev. W. S. Everest was the first Baptist minister presiding, and he yet has frequent appointments.

Richard Houck, Tom Haynes, Alex. Chapman, Jacob Snyder, Jos. H. Bennett, Proctor Campbell, Peter Pendell and Franz Manache, all came in 1855 and '56, with their families, and the township rapidly assumed a prosperous outlook.

The first school-house was built on section 33, and Arad Lindsay taught the first school in the fall of 1855. All the religious denominations who desired, used the school-house for services. The early settlers were essentially a church-going people, and are yet noted for their strictly orthodox principles.

The first election in the township was held at the residence of Henry Clark.

The march of improvement has been rapid in New Haven, and the township ranks sixth in agricultural products. Not one of the original log cabins is now standing; their places are occupied by commodious residences and naught remains to remind us of its early history, save a few pioneers whose heads are thickly sprinkled with gray hairs. They are taking their ease and enjoying a handsome competency, after many years of arduous toil. The pioneers fared badly, as every one knows. There were not a half dozen teams in the county in 1854, and all the provisions had to be carried on the shoulders of men. Alex. Chapman, one of the first settlers of New Haven, frequently carried a hundred pounds of flour upon his back, from Matherton to the neighborhood in which he resided, a distance of 14 miles.

New Haven Township had a Fourth-of-July celebration of her own in 1862. Everybody who was left in the town after the husbands, fathers and sons had gone to the war, came out to have a good time.

Emery Crosby was the Orator of the Day and gave the people a very good address. Tom Haines made all the music necessary, with one violin, there being no brass bands in the county. Guns were fired, and the woods resounded with the shouts of old and young. A table was spread under the trees, and an elegant dinner was served to the entire party.

New Haven was for many years without roads, and the highway commissioners issued bonds to the amount of \$5,000, which were negotiated with St. John's and other parties. The amount allowed by law being only \$1,000, the bonds were afterwards repudiated, and John Hicks and others lost quite a large sum of money. This is a stain upon New Haven, from which she will never recover.

New Haven is bounded on the north by Sumner, on the east by Newark, and on the south by North Shade Townships. The western boundary is Montcalm County. The number is 10 north and 4 west. Most of her best lands were purchased by speculators, which retarded for a long time the settlement of the township. The parts now under cultivation are very fertile.

Mr. Charles H. Morse has served the township longer as Supervisor than any other representative elected in that capacity, and is one of her most enterprising and wealthy men. Read the list of the

## SUPERVISORS:

Joseph N. Bennett,	1855
Henry P. Clark,	1856
Joseph N. Bennett,	1857
Henry P. Clark,	1858
J. A. Crispel,	1859-60
A. H. Mack,	1861
Addison Helback,	1862
M. H. White,	1863-7
P. Bullingame,	1868-9
Charles H. Morse,	1870-2
W. S. Everest,	1873
Charles H. Morse,	1874-6
D. W. Gardner,	1877
S. C. Robinson,	1878-80
Charles H. Morse,	1881
A. J. Chambers,	1882-3

## Pine River Township.

THIS township was organized during the winter of 1855, and originally embraced the township of Bethany. It is numbered 12 north, and 3 west of the 3d principal meridian, and is bounded on the north by Isabella County, on the east by Bethany Township, on the south by Arcada Township and by Seville on the west. Pine River Township is a most excellent body of land and was from the first one of the most enterprising in the county.

George L. Spicer was elected first Supervisor. He settled on what was afterward known as the "Smith Farm," half way between Alma and St. Louis.

Joseph Clapp and Sylvanus Groom came in the spring of 1853, and soon after moved the family of Mr. Groom into a shanty built by William McOmber, which was used by him as headquarters in making purchases of furs from the Indians. The coming of Mr. McOmber at a much earlier date is mentioned elsewhere.

To Joseph Clapp belongs the credit for the early settlement of this township, who, being a very enterprising man, brought help and at once commenced getting out timbers for a saw-mill, which was put into successful operation at a later date. At his own expense he employed men and opened a road along the "Old Indian Trail" from Maple Rapids to the point where St. Louis is now located, thus paving the way for ingress to the locality; to him belongs the credit of the first great "pioneer work" done for Gratiot County.

The timber in this township was of the best quality. Towering pines, majestic oaks, maples and hickories grew closely together, presenting an unbroken front to the woodman's ax. A dam was constructed across Pine River at a point opposite the mill site, in 1854, but Ralph Ely, the proprietor of Alma, came with a force of men and tore it out on the 22d of September. This act on the part of Mr. Ely caused great indignation among the settlers who were quite anxious that the mill be put in running order, that lumber might be procured with which to build themselves homes. Mr. Ely had previously succeeded in navigating Pine River with a flat-boat as far as Saginaw,



and claimed in justification of his act that Mr. Clapp had no right to place such an obstruction across the river, thereby impeding navigation.

The first sawing was done at the new mill in April, 1856.

Four or five log houses were built on the bank of Pine River before the present village of St. Louis was platted.

Dr. Abram Crawford came from Lansing in 1854, having already some landed interests near Pine River. He conceived the idea of a village, to be called "Pine River," and the plan was subsequently carried out. The doctor was noted for his eccentricities and skill in manipulating those who could best serve him in business. The strife for the location of the county-seat was at its height—Gratiot Center, Alma and Pine River, all claiming their eligibility; but while the people wrangled with the project the doctor went to Lansing, and through the intervention of political friends succeeded in having an act passed by the Legislature locating the county seat at "Pine River." He brought a surveyor, Mr. L. D. Preston, from Lansing, who surveyed 150 acres into village lots, which were lithographed and placed on sale.

The doctor and his friends in the vicinity of "Pine River" thought he had done a nice piece of strategy in thus securing, as they thought, the county seat; but subsequent developments showed their mistake. However, it was understood that the action of the Board of Supervisors in "staking down" the county seat was both illegal and void, and quite a sectional feeling was exhibited. The first session of Circuit Court was held at Alma, but in the township of "Pine River," Alma being situated partly in Arcada and partly in "Pine River." The Board of Supervisors finally located the county seat permanently at Ithaca, in January, 1860, and the township of Pine River submitted with becoming grace.

A postoffice was established here in 1855, with Dr. Crawford as Postmaster. He carried the first mail from Maple Rapids to Pine River in his pockets.

Frank Clapp, son of Joseph and Mrs. Clapp, was the first white child born in this township.

Mr. Sidney S. Hastings and family came in June, 1855. His earthly goods, family, etc., were brought from Saginaw on a "dug-out," with an Indian as pilot, there being no roads, and this the only means of reaching Pine River except *via* Maple Rapids.

Dr. Crawford erected a hotel in St. Louis, in 1856, upon land given for that purpose by Mr. Clapp. This hotel was not only well patronized, but was used as a postoffice, and the first session of circuit court was held in it. Jacob Wilden, a German, put in the first stock of groceries. They were all shipped to Saginaw excepting one wagon-load, which he brought direct from Williams Co., Ohio, his former location. There being no road to Saginaw, Wilden constructed a boat which was used in carrying his stock from that place to St. Louis. This boat was made from a pine tree which grew in front of Col. Elwell's house, and was seven feet in diameter. It was known as the largest pine tree in the county. The boat, when completed, was painted a dark red color, and was christened "Red Susan," in honor of Mr. Wilden's daughter.

Dr. John R. Cheesman came in 1857 from Hamilton Township, and Ed. Cheesman and Gilbert Pratt purchased a tract of land adjoining Pine River. A part of this, to which was given the name of St. Louis, was surveyed and platted, into which Pine River was subsequently merged, and the name of the postoffice changed in accordance therewith. The doctor put in a stock of groceries, hardware, etc., and also dispensed pills and potions to the afflicted during the first few years of the county's history, but afterward sold his stock of goods and attended wholly to medical practice.

Pine River is perhaps the wealthiest and one of the best townships in Gratiot, having within its boundary the beautiful and thrifty city of St. Louis, as well as some of the wealthiest farmers in the county. It also embraces the northern half of the village of Alma, another highly prosperous town. Pine River Township is, by reason of many natural resources, adapted for both agricultural and mechanical pursuits, having a splendid water power, the beautiful stream, Pine River, passing through the southeastern portion of the township.

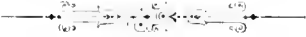
The Saginaw Valley & St. Louis railroad, and the Detroit, Lansing & Northern, pass through the southern portion of the township, giving every town in the county direct communication with all points north, south, east and west. The inhabitants have ever been noted for enterprise, and the evidences of wealth and refinement on every hand demonstrate the fact.

The following gentlemen have served as Super-

visors of this township. George Spicer was the first Supervisor elect, but he either resigned or failed to qualify, and Hiram Burgess was appointed in his stead. Pine River, for several years, swayed the county in a political way, it being well settled with men who took a deep interest in such matters. Her rank in this respect is still first, but the former war-cry of the inhabitants of, "As goes Pine River, so goes the election," is numbered among the things that were. Among these representatives will be seen the names of men who would do honor to any township.

## SUPERVISORS.

Hiram Burgess.....	1855
Sylvanus Groom.....	1856
Sidney S. Hastings.....	1857
Amasa Packard.....	1858
Cornelius Holliday.....	1859-63
L. Smith.....	1864
James Gargett.....	1865
L. Smith.....	1866-8
James K. Wright.....	1869
John Vanderbeck.....	1870-2
Edson Packard.....	1873-4
H. P. Clark.....	1875
D. R. Sullivan.....	1876
D. O. Cuff.....	1877-82
Charles R. Holliday.....	1883



### North Shade.

**T**HIS township is numbered 9 north and 4 west. The northern boundary is New Haven Township; the eastern, Fulton; the southern, Clinton; and the western, Montcalm County. It is well watered by Otter and Pine Creeks, with their tributaries, all of which flow in an easterly direction.

North Shade was organized in 1854, with Henry Lane as Supervisor. It also furnished the first sheriff for Gratiot County, Mr. George E. Walker. It was the first township organized in the county.

The first permanent settler was William Avery, who, with his wife, located on section 31 in 1847. The following spring, his father-in-law, John Sturgiss, came and occupied, with his family, a part of the house built by Avery. Roman Fyler and wife came in March, 1852. Mr. Fyler had previously erected a

cabin on the southeast quarter of section 24. He was the first settler on the east two-thirds of the township, and still owns his original purchase.

He tells an amusing incident of the "starvation period" which illustrates well how those pioneers fared who were too proud to accept provisions sent in for the destitute and needy. They had taken a little girl four years of age to raise, and the first evening, for supper, they were making a meal upon potatoes which had been carefully saved for seed. The little maiden, evidently used to a more generous diet, surveyed her potato with its "jacket" burst partly open, and the glass of water by her side, with anything but satisfaction. Nerving herself for the effort, she asked, "Please, Mama, can I have some gravy?" "My dear," replied Mrs. Fyler, "we have no gravy this evening." "Will you please give me some butter, then?" asked the little innocent. Butter also being one of the things not procurable, this request was not complied with. Thinking that anything was preferable to nothing for "potato seasoning," baby again asked, "Have you got any salt?" The supplicating tone of the child as the last question was asked and answered in the negative, brought both smiles and tears to the face of kind Mrs. Fyler, who pacified her *protégée* by saying that soon they would have gravy, butter and milk in abundance. The larder of these good people was as well supplied as many of their neighbors.

George E. Walker came to the township in 1847 or 8, and his was the first wedding celebrated, which event occurred Jan. 1, 1850. Truman Wilson and family came in 1851; L. B. Loomis and Joseph Roberts, in 1853. There were scores of bears and deer in the woods, and Mr. Fyler relates the story that a hunter shot three bears from trees near his premises without moving his position.

The first school-house was built on the southeast quarter of section 31, and Miss Mary Webster taught the first school. There was a postoffice established in 1854 on section 6, but the postmaster, Joseph Comstock, moved to Montcalm County a year later and "took the office with him." Another was established in 1882, named for the present Supervisor, William Brice.

The farmers receive a weekly mail at this office and discuss the weather, crops, and the general outlook, political and otherwise. Mrs. Lane, mother of

Henry S. Lane, the first Supervisor, proposed the name "North Shade," which was afterward adopted as the name for that township. The dear old lady passed from earth long ago, her death being the first occurring in the township. This is not considered one of the best towns in the county for agricultural purposes, being rather flat and low. It is well adapted to the rearing of stock and also has some excellent farming lands within its boundaries.

Among those who were pioneers in the township, and yet reside upon and own the lands entered by them, are Messrs. John Dobson, John H. Salisbury, Charles Chick, Peter Shong, Charles Proctor, Peter Duffalo, L. B. Loomis, Roman Fyler, James Harlow, William Towner, Mrs. John Wright, George E. Walker, William Brice and John Kipp. All these gentlemen are substantial citizens and well-to-do in a financial way, thus showing conclusively that pluck and enterprise will always succeed.

The first vote given in this township numbered 21, of which 19 were Whig and 2 Democratic.

William Brice, the present Supervisor, came with his wife in 1854. They settled on section 21, and for a long while a quilt did duty in lieu of a door. The nearest mill was at Matherton, nine miles away, and the settlers had neither teams nor wagons, the only wagon in the neighborhood being a rickety old thing owned by William Hall, a Baptist minister. This was used generally by all who had any teaming to do. The virgin forests were so dense that a few rods traveled shut off all trace of a settlement. Mr. and Mrs. Brice, accompanied by their neighbors, John and Mrs. Carr, started out one afternoon to look over their lands. After walking for a time the truth flashed upon them that they were lost. They were sure that home could be only a short distance away, but in what direction could only be guessed. Darkness came on and the dismal howl of many wolves broke the stillness of the summer night. After deliberating, it was concluded best to remain where they were until morning, as the ladies had already suffered severely by reason of the long tramp and having their dresses nearly torn off by briars. The tinkle of a cow-bell was heard in the distance, which was delightful music to our weary pilgrims, as it denoted at least the presence of some living animal besides bears and wolves. They determined to follow the sound of the bell at any rate, but had not

proceeded far when it ceased entirely, the animal wearing it having lain down.

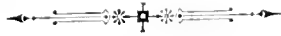
The party concluded to try what effect a yell would have, not having thought of this before. A chorus of voices woke the echoes as they shouted lustily the oft heard "Hello!" This effort was a success, and the shrill notes of a dinner horn were heard in answer, but at some distance away. After considerable trouble they reached a cabin which Stephen Collett and wife had nearly completed, they being new comers in the neighborhood and as yet unknown to the parties that were lost. They were welcomed with hospitality for which the pioneers were so famed, and a supper was hastily prepared for the party. Only a short distance intervened between the lands of Mr. Brice and Collett, yet this was their first meeting. Many a hearty laugh has since been taken while discussing events of pioneer life by these neighbors, who lived for years on the most intimate terms of acquaintanceship. After the death of Mr. Collett, his widow became the wife of Theodore Everest, and yet resides in the township of New Haven.

During the earlier years Lyons was the nearest trading point, and goods were almost entirely carried on the backs of the settlers, owing to the impassable swamps and lack of teams. It was not accounted a great feat to carry a hundred pounds of flour 20 miles.

In the subjoined list of Supervisors, the name of William Brice appears for 13 consecutive years, and this fact shows the appreciation of his services by the voters of his township. Mr. Brice is recognized as being one of the ablest and best Supervisors this county has ever had; during his long term of service no measure has failed that he has advocated. North Shade is most fortunate in having such a representative, as he has few equals and no superiors.

## SUPERVISORS.

Henry Lane	1855-6
Erastus Perry	1857
Emery Crosby	1858-62
Erastus Perry	1863
George E. Walker	1864-7
A. P. Smith	1868
George E. Walker	1869
J. B. Luther	1870-1
Wm. Brice	1872-84



### Washington Township.

**THIS** township is bounded on the north by North Star, on the east by Elba Township, on the south by Clinton County, and the west by Fulton Township. It was organized in 1856, and is numbered 9 north and 2 west. The first election was held at the house of Edwin Tripp, with J. B. Smith, Alonzo A. Squire and Edwin Tripp, as Judges. W. W. Comstock was the first Supervisor. He figured quite largely as a local politician for many years, and was one of the movers in establishing the first newspaper in Gratiot County.

Washington Township is well adapted for agricultural purposes. The southern part of it being traversed by Maple River, makes it an available region for rearing stock, a never-failing supply of water being obtained at all seasons of the year.

Philetus Whitford was one of the earliest settlers, and located on section 10. Cornelius Campbell came soon afterward and purchased a tract on section 8. His son, O. J. Campbell, was the first child born in the township and still resides there.

The lumbering interest for many years took precedence of any other branch of industry, but a part of Washington is now under a high state of cultivation.

Every locality is favored with incidents peculiar to itself, and two or three are appended here which were of actual occurrence and quite amusing illustrations of frontier style.

A local justice was called upon to marry a couple in the neighborhood, but being somewhat poverty-stricken and almost barefoot withal, consented only on condition of his being fortunate enough to "borrow" a pair of boots. This he succeeded in doing, although they were a "couple of sizes" too large for him. The ceremony was just as binding, however, and the parties as well pleased, as if he had worn a "French calf."

At another time a message was left for him to go to Newark Township to perform a marriage service. Upon arrival he found four or five men sitting on the wood-pile in front of the house, among whom was a burly fellow six and a half feet tall, with an avoirdupois of more than 200. Not recognizing the bride-

groom, arrayed as he was in shirt-sleeves and pantaloons, considerably dilapidated by long associations with pioneer life, our worthy 'Squire went in the house to see the parties desiring to wed. Meeting a woman, who with the aid of a little girl 14 years of age was engaged in preparing a very frugal meal, he asked who the parties were that expected to be married. The mother of the girl said that it was her daughter and that big fellow out on the wood-pile. Completely astonished, the Justice said, "Sissy, do you want to get married?" The reply came "that she didn't know." "Do you want to marry that fellow out there?" asked the Justice. "I don't know," said the girl. "Then I am sure that I shall perform no ceremony here," said our worthy functionary, and he bowed himself out of the door. Going to the would-be bridegroom, he read him a lecture as he deserved and demanded his fee, of \$2, which he received although he wouldn't perform the marriage ceremony. This couple were married two years later.

At another time he returned from a neighbor's where he had been engaged in drawing up a will. The hour was 2 A. M., but a couple were waiting to be married even at that early hour. The groom was 60, and the bride 20 years of age, but they were determined not to put off until to-morrow what should be done to-day. After telling them to get ready, the woman took off her shoes, opened a little box which she had brought along, took out a pair of slippers and put them on. She also donned a wig of majestic proportions which, after being tied with a bright ribbon, made her look like a "daisy" by the side of the groom, who was dressed in a very rusty suit. Style in this case was everything, although there was but one room in which to make the preparation for spreading it on.

Many instances might be related of similar happenings, but this will suffice. Perhaps no harder times were experienced in the county during its early settlement than were those by the inhabitants of Washington and Elba Townships. Yet her people have done well latterly, and many splendid farms grace the lands which are a credit to their owners as well as the county.


Her people are mostly composed of enterprising men, and a few years more will make a great change in the topographical outlook of Washington. Their

schools are well attended, and the rising generation will excel their ancestry in an educational way.

The gentlemen who have served with fidelity and honor as Supervisors are mentioned below, and some of them have no superiors as financiers in the county:

## SUPERVISORS.

W. W. Comstock,	1856
James M. Foote,	1857
Joseph B. Smith,	1858-61
Napoleon B. Fraker,	1862
Edwin Clark,	1863-4
Alex. Pulfrey,	1865
Napoleon B. Fraker,	1866
Wm. Long,	1867-8
Edwin Clark,	1869
Solomon Wyman,	1870
Napoleon B. Fraker,	1871
Wm. Long,	1872-3
Napoleon B. Fraker,	1874
J. C. Heslin,	1875-7
Wm. Long,	1878
J. C. Heslin,	1879-80
B. A. Hicks,	1881
O. J. Sprague,	1882
Wm. Long,	1883

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 Wheeler Township.

**W**HE last, with the exception of Ithaca, to be organized, was Wheeler Township. It is the northeastern town of Gratiot County, and the boundaries are as follows: On the north by Midland County, the east by Saginaw County, the south by Hamilton, and west by Bethany Township. It is numbered 12 north and 4 west, and rates fourth in quality and productiveness of lands. The town is sparsely settled, but here, as elsewhere, are found some splendid farms and enterprising men.

The first comers in the frontier township were John Yager, Thomas Burgess, James B. Wheeler, George Cady, Hamilton and John Allen, all of whom came in 1859. They selected lands and returned to Jackson County. In the spring of 1860, accompanied by others, they came back and built several cabins, from which date Wheeler Township has a history.

The first house erected was built in December, 1859, on section 18, which was located by John

Yager. James Burgess, Barney Swope, George Armstrong, Samuel Cooper, with their families, arrived the next spring. Daniel Milligan, Edson Packard and J. Stevens were also among the first settlers in the township and have aided largely in its development.


Wheeler Township derived its name from James Wheeler, the first Supervisor. Breckenridge, quite an important village, is located on sections 19 and 30, in the western part of the township, upon the line of the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis railroad, which traverses the entire township from east to west. Beaver Creek makes a detour through sections 35 and 36. There are several sections belonging to non-residents, in the northeastern part of the town, which are unsettled.

The lumber interest has been the chief source of revenue until lately. The unsettled lands belong to the railroad companies and are reckoned of good quality.

Wheeler Township has been represented upon the County Board by the following

## SUPERVISORS:

James B. Wheeler,	1862-3
Stephen Wood,	1864
Barney Swope,	1865-73
Milo A. Pomeroy,	1874
James B. Wheeler,	1875
Newell Smith,	1876-7
Milo A. Pomeroy,	1878-9
Newell Smith,	1880
Barney Swope,	1881
Newell Smith,	1882-3

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 Newark Township.

**N**EWARK Township was organized in 1855, and Jacob L. Beechler was the first Supervisor. Newark ranks second in grade as regards agriculture, although most of her lands are fertile and well adapted to the same.

There were quite extensive growths of pine, as well as the usual complement of hard woods, in this township, but the valuable pine has entirely disappeared.

Newark is bounded on the north by Arcada, on

the east by North Star, on the south by Fulton, and the west by New Haven Township.

Pine Creek and its tributaries afford plenty of water during all seasons, and the farmers are prosperous in a high degree.

Nelson D. Johnson and family came in January, 1854, and settled on a part of section 36, which farm was afterward purchased by Lemam A. Johnson, who served many years as Supervisor. It is related that Nelson Johnson said that he had moved during his married life 110 times! The habit of pushing away from civilization was a mania with him, although he claimed that one more move would satisfy. The poor fellow died very suddenly with heart disease, while hunting, and his life's dream was never fully realized.

Ebenezer W. Kellogg and wife came to Newark in 1854, and settled on section 17. He was and ever has been an enterprising gentleman, and has done much to develop this township. From the date of his coming the town was rapidly settled, and farms were opened up on every hand.

Most of the lands were purchased under the "Graduation Act," the settlers experiencing the same hardships during the "starvation period" as was felt by the inhabitants of other townships, though in a more limited degree.

James Wood and family located on section 30, in January, 1854, and the first wedding in this township was that of his daughter, Sarah, and Mr. John H. Shaffer. Hiram Burgess, a pioneer Justice of the Peace, performed the ceremony.

Large quantities of maple sugar are manufactured in Newark, for which a ready sale is found at Detroit and elsewhere. Ebenezer W. Kellogg is the principal manufacturer of this article.

For Newark Township, the following is a list of the

SUPERVISORS:

Jacob L. Beechler,	1856
Ebenezer W. Kellogg,	1857
A. J. Allen,	1858-60
Benj. Crawford,	1861
Lemam A. Johnson,	1862-9
Ebenezer W. Kellogg,	1870-1
Chester Howland,	1872
Ebenezer W. Kellogg,	1873-81
L. N. Cowdry,	1882
Ebenezer W. Kellogg,	1883

Sumner Township.

**T**HIS township was named in honor of Chas. Sumner. Its first vote, in 1856, was a straight Republican ticket without a scratch. It is numbered 11 north and 4 west, and is bounded on the north by Seville Township, on the east by Arcada, on the south by New Haven, and on the west by Montcalm County. The east, south and west parts of the township are well watered by Pine River, which passes through the entire township in a semi-circle, making this one of the most desirable parts of the county for rearing stock. In 1863, a village plat was surveyed at the intersection of the lines of section 6 and 7, to which was given the name of Elm Hall. The first settler in this township was Rev. Daniel Strayer. He settled near where that village is now located. Soon after the platting of Elm Hall, another village was laid out four miles south, on sections 29 and 32, which was finally named "Estella," but had been called "Stovertown" and "Belltown." Neither of them has accomplished much in a business way. Mr. George S. Bell was the first settler in that neighborhood, and from him the name "Belltown" was derived.

Barlow Worthing settled on section 10. Hamilton Pritchard and Samuel Story came in 1854, and made settlements near each other. Michael McNamara and George and Isaac Gee settled on section 10, George S. Bell on section 31, I. B. Ward on section 20, Samuel Story on section 19, and Homer Townsend on section 11. Timothy Bardwell was also an early settler in this township.

A postoffice was established in 1857, upon the petition of 25 citizens, although to get that number all the men, women and children in the township had to sign it. It is related that it was held for a week or two with only 24 names attached, awaiting the arrival of a new-comer to complete the list. Finally another heir made an appearance in one of the families, and a "christening" was hurriedly had that the "citizen" might sign the petition.

William Strayer took the contract for carrying the mails for 40 per cent. of the proceeds. His commission amounted to 10½ cents *per diem*, and it required two days to make one trip. B. Blanchard

was Postmaster, but had very little mail to handle.

The first building erected at Elm Hall was a pine log store, built by Charles Merrill. The first school-house was built of logs, and was used for church purposes as well for many years. Miss Lydia Walker taught the first school. The first frame building was the Exchange Hotel, built in 1862 by George J. Butcher.

The lumber trade of Sumner Township averages perhaps 80,000,000 feet per year, besides the amount of cereals produced.

In 1854, there were only two acres of cleared land in the township; now there are thousands of fertile acres, from which immense harvests are annually reaped.

Instead of the 17 votes of 1855, there are now 400 enthusiastic men, most of whom have grown wealthy in consequence of their enterprise and zeal in the development of their broad acres, which rank second to none in Northern Michigan. Later, there is no doubt that this township will have a railroad, as the Marshall, Coldwater & Mackinaw road-bed is graded through the entire town.

Many things might be said about the pioneers in this township, but the biographical sketches of most of them appear elsewhere, to which the reader is referred.

The following gentlemen have represented Sumner as

## SUPERVISORS:

Barlow Worthing,	1856-7
David Ward,	1858
Isaac Gee,	1859
Joseph Rockafellow,	1860
Barlow Worthing,	1861
George Stratton,	1862-3
Barlow Worthing,	1864
George Stratton,	1865
Jabez Hawkins,	1866-7
Barlow Worthing,	1868
Wm. H. Pratt,	1869-70
C. Cleverden,	1871-4
Ralph Quick,	1875-6
H. R. Bentley,	1877
J. N. Wilson,	1878
I. B. Ward,	1879
Henry Weiss,	1880-3

Charles E. Gilmore, of Elm Hall, is the proprietor of the *Corner Local*, a neat and newsy journal that enjoys a splendid circulation. For a paper published

in so small a village as Elm Hall, we know of none more ably edited, or meriting the patronage of the public in a higher degree, than the *Corner Local*.

### Lafayette Township.

LAFAYETTE is bounded on the north by Wheeler Township, on the east by Saginaw County, the south by Hamilton, and the west by Emerson Township. It is well watered by Beaver and Whortleberry Creeks and the north branch of Bad River. It is numbered 11 north and 1 west, and is considered a fair agricultural township. Among the earliest settlers—men whose toil has developed the land—are Messrs. Wm. D. H. Hammil, who located on section 36 in 1855; E. W. Mead on section 35, "Elder" Fay on section 27, Samuel Wheeler on section 18, Theodore Deveraux on section 19, and E. H. Burgin, David Thomas, Jeff England and L. H. Randall on lands in adjacent sections.

Its organization was effected in 1856, with E. W. Mead representing it as Supervisor.

There is room in Lafayette for hundreds more of good, industrious men, and lands can be purchased at a fair valuation.

Game abounds in the woods, and good authority states that in 1882 Dr. Gulick killed 11 bears, besides other game, within its boundaries. When taken into consideration that this is within nine miles of the county seat, and in a country settled nearly 30 years, the story is surprising.

Some of the pioneers were single men, and the story is related that one of them had built a cabin, but, finding it rather lonesome without the society of woman to help while away the long evenings, came to the conclusion that he would marry. One of his neighbors had a rosy-cheeked daughter that our Adonis had worshiped in secret for some time, but never had the courage to speak to her upon the subject. In fact, he was not even on speaking acquaintance, although a near neighbor. Matters at last resolved themselves into such shape that he felt as if he must have her or die in the attempt. Going to a neighboring justice of the peace, he told him that he had "taken a notion to get married" and that he

might hold himself in readiness to perform the ceremony at an early date.

Happening to mention before leaving that he had said nothing to the girl about this affair in which he was so deeply interested, the justice suggested that he had better first speak to the girl to ascertain her feelings upon the subject. William had never thought of a refusal, and that idea just entered his mind.

"How would you get around her, 'Squire?" asked Will.

"Oh, that is the easiest thing in the world," quoth the justice. "Just buy her a few presents, and step in some nice afternoon and have a pleasant chat; everything will come around all right. In the meantime, I will be getting ready and will perform the ceremony at any desired time."

The suggestion struck William with great force, and he lost no time in going to town and purchasing a cheap calico dress, and some other inexpensive trinkets. Having purchased what seemed to him enough to delight the eyes of any female on earth, he started for her father's cabin, feeling very much like the milkmaid who carried the pail on her head. He imagined himself the head of a family and the father of five or more children, together with all other luxuries that a married life is expected to produce; nor was his reverie interrupted until he stopped at her door. Everything seemed propitious. The old man had gone hunting, and the mother and young children were visiting a neighbor. On a rustic bench near the door sat the object of his affections, engaged so busily in sewing that she failed to notice his approach. Stealthily creeping up on tip-toe, he tossed the bundle into her lap, and stepped back to await developments.

The girl looked up in great astonishment, but recognizing her neighbor, asked him what he meant by such actions. Poor William was so confused that he could scarcely speak, but finally managed to ejaculate, "Business!" The girl, not yet catching his meaning, began questioning him and soon learned that the dress was intended as her wedding garment, and that the 'Squire was "ready and a-waitin' to jine 'em." Not feeling in the mood just then for getting married, she declined his offer and handed back the calico, but the mortified youth would not accept it. He told her to "keep it as a reminder that William Jones had wasted his youthful affections upon her unworthy self." William afterward became a benedict, and

reared a family of children, thus realizing his early dream of domestic bliss.

Lafayette has had a greater number of Supervisors than any township in the county, the voters being determined to give every man a chance to fill an official position. This is right, and shows a true democratic spirit. Read the names and be convinced of its truth.

## SUPERVISORS.

L. W. Mead,	1856
E. M. Munroe,	1857
Wm. Schadd,	1858
Wm. D. H. Hammil,	1859
Samuel T. Roe,	1860
A. Horwood,	1861
Jesse Willis,	1862
E. Avery,	1863
Samuel Wheeler,	1864-9
Charles C. Foote,	1870
J. N. Federspiel,	1871
H. R. Wilcox,	1872-4
J. M. Becker,	1875
W. A. Nodding, ?	1876
J. M. Federspiel,	1877
Charles C. Foote,	1878
J. N. Federspiel,	1879
Wm. A. Moore,	1880
K. P. Peet,	1881-2
Jas. H. McNall,	1883

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 Elba Township.

**E**LBA is the southeastern township of this county, and is yet rather sparsely settled. Some heavily timbered lands lie within its limits, and the woodman's ax is yet ringing merrily out as the monarchs of the forest come crashing down like grass before the sharpened sickle.

Two of the first settlers were William and Daniel Call, who still reside in the township.

The township of Elba was surveyed by R. Thomas in April, 1831. He left nine sections in the north-west corner of the town where the village of Ashley is now located that he did not survey. The following is copied from his field notes:

"The remainder of this town it was impossible to survey on account of the depth of the water on Maple River bottoms, which are one and a half or per-



haps two miles wide in running to the north between sections 29 and 30. We set the corner of 19, 20, 29 and 30 in three feet of water. We then attempted to run to the west. After proceeding 50 chains, we were obliged to return, and gave up all hopes of surveying the remainder, which is nothing more than a chain of alder and tamarack swamp. The marsh, which has been noted several times, runs in a north-east and southwest course, and about one and three-quarters of a mile from the west boundary, and runs up to the river; consequently the whole of the west and northwest part of the town is under water. On the morning of the 27th inst., myself and one of the men shipped in a canoe, and proceeded in a north-west direction one and a half miles, and could see no dry land, and then took an east course, and in an hour or two we arrived at the meridian in safety, in the northeast corner of the town."

There is now many fine farms and some good school-houses in this section that he reported under water.

These Government surveyors endured many hardships in surveying this county. The township lines were run by R. Clark in 1831. May 13, that year, camping at the northwest corner of Pine River Township, he made the following note: "This night but two men out of six able to do anything. One man, left back six miles, is unable even to ride. All have sore feet. To-morrow we lie still. We are only able to work three days in four, and then in extreme pain."

This township ranks fourth in improvements and less than that in wealth.

We mention here the several Supervisors of this township, most of whom are old residents and all now living, and are men of enterprise. The present Supervisor is one of the most influential young men in the township, and is well posted in the needs of his community.

SUPERVISORS.

Hanson Sinclair,	1856
R. G. Finch,	1857-8
C. Dodge,	1859-60
Wm. Call,	1861
Daniel Call,	1862-5
Ira J. Andrews,	1866-8
Wm. H. Morrison,	1869
Hanson Sinclair,	1870
J. B. Kneeland,	1871-6

A. F. Rice,	1877-80
Edwin Meacham,	1881
A. F. Rice,	1882
Edwin Meacham,	1883

The southern and western portions of Elba is watered by Maple River; the bottom lands are low, and quite a large portion of this township is not under good cultivation. There are some excellent farms, however, in this section, and the people are as thrifty and energetic as in other portions of the State. The Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Michigan railroad passes through Elba from southeast to northwest, which aids much in the development of the country, giving them a better market for productions of all kinds. The name of "Ashley" is given to the new station located on section 6, and this will undoubtedly become a good trading point.

A good story is told of a couple who wished to be married in this township at an early day. They were poor in purse, but rich in their affection for each other, as proved by the woman's perseverance. A justice was called upon to perform the marriage ceremony for the couple, who had walked a distance of ten miles that morning. The would-be bridegroom carried a bag upon his shoulder, which was left at the gate. He inquired the amount of ready cash necessary to liquidate the 'Squire's fee, and stated that they had no money, but if a trade could be made and the Justice take his pay in "beeswax" it would afford them great pleasure. The price per pound was agreed upon, and the fellow brought in the bag, while the Justice hunted up his steelyards. Upon weighing, the wax was found a couple pounds short, and the 'Squire hesitated about proceeding with the ceremony. The man turned toward his intended bride and said, "Well, Hanner, we kin wait awhile, and I'll hunt up another bee-tree."

"Hanner" was not made of that kind of material, and she had walked ten miles to be married and was in no mood for fooling. Stepping up to the 'Squire and laying her hand on his shoulder, she said, "Now, 'Squire, jist go on with the performance, and marry us as fur as the beeswax will go. We kin come back next week and have the balance done when we bring the rest of the wax."

The 'Squire couldn't stand that kind of logic, and, having "felt the tender passion" himself, tied the knot and the newly married pair started through the woods full of hope and joy. It is not recorded wheth-

er they were successful in finding another "bee-tree," but the bill was paid in full at a later date.

Elba was organized in 1856. Hanson Sinclair was the first Supervisor, and to him is accredited the naming of the township. It is numbered 9 north, and 1 west, and is bounded on the north by Hamilton Township, on the east by Saginaw County, on the south by Clinton County and the west by Washington Township.



### Emerson Township.

**N**O particular history is attached to Emerson, its settlement being made about the same time as those in North Star, Arcada and Pine River. The first child born was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Haight, the event occurring in the spring of 1855. The first death was that of Mrs. Mary Reed, a daughter of David Thoipe.

The settlements were rapidly made in Emerson after 1855, Messrs. Isaiah Allen and five sons, John Knight, Alanson Bailey, Erastus Hunt and Melancthon Pettit, all coming in that year.

Mr. Phillip R. Allen thus relates the manner in which he ground his corn during the hard times of 1857. The nearest mill being on Fish Creek, 30 miles distant, and the roads almost impassable, it required nearly a week to make the trip, and then only a few bushels of grain could be carried. His plan was an original one, and served his purpose, although somewhat tedious. Taking a maple log, two feet in diameter, he bored a number of holes in the end, then built a fire upon it, burning a concave hole ten inches deep, after which the burned part was nicely scraped off. The pestle was made of a long, smooth stone, to which was attached a lever four feet long, the stone fitting in a mortise in the center. Pouring in the corn, in small quantities, with two men at the lever, enough meal could be ground in a few hours to last them for two weeks. The "johnnycakes" made from the meal thus prepared were considered finer than can now be baked from our best meal; but perhaps the exercise necessary to its manufacture contributed no little to the appetites of those who "by the sweat of their face earned their bread."

A part of the village plat of Ithaca embraces the southwestern corner of Emerson, and the Toledo Ann Arbor & North Michigan railroad passes through its limits.

Emerson also furnishes its share of "bear stories," five large bears being killed there during 1883, and, many others in previous years. The waters of Beaver Creek and its tributaries make it an excellent location for farmers who are engaged in stock-raising. Most of the lands in this township are cleared of the former wealth of heavy timber, but the soil is found very productive, and the inhabitants are rapidly growing wealthy.

Emerson is bounded on the north by Bethany, the east by Lafayette, the south by North Star, and the west by Arcada Townships. Its number is 11 north, 9 west.

Good schools abound, and her people are intelligent, moral and industrious.

The location of Emerson, so near the center of the county, together with other natural advantages, are sufficient to ensure it at no distant day a rank second to none in the county.

Emerson Township derived its name, by an accidental corruption, from William Imisson, an Englishman who first settled within its limits.

The Supervisors from this town have always labored to promote its best interests, and their names are attached with much pleasure as an *addendum* to the history of this township. Melancthon Pettit, the first one, has long since been "gathered to his fathers," but his record will ever remain, according him a place in the front rank of Gratiot's pioneers.

#### SUPERVISORS.

Melancthon Pettit,	1855-6
Oscar A. Everden,	1857
Reuben Coffin,	1858
M. Pettit,	1859-60
Oscar A. Everden,	1861
Louis Hetzman,	1862-5
Lewis S. Brooke,	1866
Daniel F. Muscott,	1867-8
Lewis S. Brooke,	1869
Louis Hetzman,	1870-1
I. N. Coleman,	1872-6
John M. Everden,	1877-8
Jeremiah Shaver,	1879
Jesse Pepple,	1880-1
John M. Everden,	1882
Jesse Pepple,	1883



# PIONEER LIFE,

**HOSE** who are reared in the midst of luxury and rocked in the cradle of affluence, know comparatively nothing of the hardships and pleasures attendant upon pioneer life.

The attractiveness of our beautiful farms and picturesque landscapes, dotted here and there with neat and substantial residences, present a pleasing picture in strong contrast with the humble log cabin of 1854, whose walls sheltered a few articles of rude furniture, and the stumps in the doorway were repositories for cross-cut saws, the beetle and the ax. Many of the children who were born beneath these humble roofs, whose infantile cries were hushed by a tender mother's soft lullaby as she carefully rocked them to sleep in a cradle improvised from a basswood sugar-trough, are the men who now

fill official positions, and conduct the business affairs of this county.

The log cabin yet remains; silent and unpretentious it stands, reminding us of former days and associations. Who can look at one of these relics of

pioneer life and not call to mind the toil and privations of early days? She whose willing hands and warm heart helped you fight life's battles, plied the busy needle, or prepared the frugal meal around the huge fireplace, whose crumbling remains are yet visible, is perhaps sleeping the sleep of death, while another enjoys the fruits of her toil and care. Silently you gazed on the features of that wan little one in that old cabin as its spirit winged its flight, and now the bodies of them both are resting side by side in the City of the Dead. Such memories cluster about the old log cabin that you can hardly lay rude hands upon the decayed material, even to remove it. Every log and chink has a history, and could they speak, would relate a story worth listening to. But these relics must give place to the more substantial and modern improvements, and ere another decade has passed, scarcely a trace will remain of pioneer life.

Previous to the year 1850 there was only one road, or trail, in the county. It led from Maple Rapids to the Lutheran mission on Pine River, and was made by the Indians. The woods were full of game, and large quantities of furs were purchased by William McOmber, even at that early date, for the Northwestern Fur Company. He is yet a hale and cordial gentleman, and is engaged in active business at St. Louis. Much difficulty was experienced by the early settlers in getting their goods through the almost im-

penetrable forests and across the marshy lowlands to the site selected for their homes. One mile was considered a fair day's journey through the dense forests, as the road had to be cut every foot of the way. Arnold Payne, with his family, came to what is now Fulton Township, in 1846, and his house was the most ample of all in the neighborhood. For several years it was headquarters for all new comers, and the cheerful old fireplace, with blazing logs piled high, and a well-spread table, made it a most desirable place for all to rest and refresh themselves, whether going or coming, in search of lands.

Arnold Payne's house was not the only one where strangers could be accommodated. In fact, every cabin was a hostelry where the tired stranger was made welcome and treated to the best the larder contained, which was very often nothing but wild meats and corn bread; game furnished the basis of the meat supply, and "jerked venison," "bear," and other savory meats graced the table of every early settler.

A brief narration of the difficulties experienced in moving a family into such a wilderness as Gratiot, will be of interest to every one, and a brief article from the pen of Rev. H. T. Barnaby, who came with his family, in company with that of Peter Hoffman, in May, 1854, presents an experience similar to that of every new comer. These gentlemen had previously selected lands on section 28, in what is now North Star Township, and had cut a road from what was then known as the "New Pine River Trail," to their new home.

Their families were left at the house of Levi Smith, who was living on section 11, in Fulton Township. Their goods were brought thus far with hired teams, which were dismissed at that place and the goods unloaded. Messrs. Barnaby & Hoffman proceeded on foot to their claim and cleared away the brush and logs from the place where they proposed to erect their cabin. To quote his exact language:

"After cutting the necessary number of logs, and splitting some 'shakes' for covering, we procured seven men, some of whom came over a distance of nine miles, by whose aid our house was raised, which was 32 feet long and 16 wide, with a partition of logs in the middle, thus making two rooms 16 feet square, — one for each family.

"The next day, while Mr. Hoffman chopped a hole for convenient egress and ingress into each room,

I undertook to move two loads of the goods with our families. We made a success with one load, but when within two miles of home with the second,—our families being on this load,—the 'leeks' upon which our cattle had been living for a few days 'played out,' and the oxen refused to go further. I sent the women and children forward on foot, and the oxen were turned loose to make another supper on 'leeks.' When it became dark the oxen were again hitched up, but after going a few rods refused to proceed further on such short rations. They were unyoked and turned loose, and I proceeded to the cabin, where a large fire was made in front of the house and beds were spread on the ground, inside. After a bountiful supper, spread upon the top of an inverted dry-goods box, we retired to rest for the first time in our new home. Such was the experience of the early pioneers of this country. Yet severe as was the toil, and great the inconveniences, most, if not all, look back to those days as the happiest of their lives."

What was known as the "Graduation Act," took effect in August, 1854, and hundreds of men with families came flocking into the county,—many of them with barely money enough to purchase 40 acres of land at 50 cents per acre, after which purchase nothing was left for subsistence, and the whole country being a dense wilderness, without any prospects for raising a crop, the outlook was most discouraging. These poor people never took into consideration that food and shelter was necessary to afford subsistence; but on they came, many of them settling at a remote distance from where provisions of any kind could be obtained, and the consequences were that many cases of real destitution occurred and much suffering ensued.

This "Graduation Act" would have been a god-send to this county; but three months after its passage a proclamation was issued that all who had purchased land under this act, should settle upon it within one year from date of their purchase or forfeit it. Could they have been allowed more time to make preparations, or had the county been settled more gradually, the surrounding country could have yielded supplies and much suffering would have been prevented; neither would the name of "Starving Gratiot," as unjust as it is offensive to the hardy pioneers, have been applied to this, one of the most

fertile and healthful counties in the State. The enterprise and integrity of her people elicited the admiration of the inhabitants of neighboring counties who cheerfully furnished aid. By this means were many of the new comers enabled to hold their lands, and some of them are yet living who owe their all to the aid which came so providentially.

During the summer and fall of 1855, the population rapidly increased, and the woodman's ax had cleared large fields, and many improvements were seen on every hand. School-houses were erected,—rude ones, it is true,—yet many substantial educations were gained in the log school-houses of that day, as attested by some of the foremost business men of the county.

Religious meetings were held in the school-houses and at private residences in different parts of the county, which were attended by an earnest and intelligent class of people. Rev. Elias Sower, Elder Israel Fay, Rev. Daniel Strayer, Rev. Elijah Beard and Rev. H. T. Barnaby were the first ministers to settle in the county, all of whom came in 1854.

The fall and winter of 1856 was a very eventful one in the history of this county. Many of the settlers had no teams, and knew but little of agriculture, thinking that all the labor necessary to raise a crop was to deposit seed in the ground. With a spade or hoe they planted corn among the logs and brush, and were surprised that their crops amounted to comparatively nothing. Squirrels and mice being very destructive, and the season cold, the harvest that fall was light. Provisions of all kinds became very scarce and high. The nearest mill where settlers could get their corn ground was at Matherton, in Ionia County, making a journey of from 30 to 40 miles for many of the inhabitants. Many a bag of corn was carried on foot from 10 to 15 miles in consequence of impassable roads. In fact, there were but four horses in the county, oxen furnishing about the only means of locomotion. Much of the corn-meal was ground in a coffee-mill, or grated upon a sheet-iron grater.

The forests abounded with bear, and many limbs were broken from the oak trees that they ascended in search of acorns. Scores of them were killed during the season, and Bruin contributed his share toward feeding and otherwise keeping comfortable the needy settler. Mr. Sidney S. Hastings' diary furnishes the

information that Dr. Crawford's ox team was two weeks on the road from Lansing with 500 pounds of flour, and that two-thirds of the inhabitants of the county had neither flour nor meat. The same entry states that the hoofs came off the oxen which made the trip, being frozen while on the way. The roads were so bad that a new trail had to be cut most of the way.

Dr. John R. Cheesman relates with great gusto an adventure which befel him in 1856. We dislike to tell "bear stories," but the reliability of the Doctor is unquestioned, and the story carries with it quite a history, inasmuch as from the circumstance originated the figure which adorns the seal of Judge of Probate.

The good Doctor was returning from the woods where he had some men working, and while walking along discovered a huge bear ambling listlessly about. Knowing them to be comparatively harmless unless wounded, the Doctor concluded to give Bruin a "bit of a scare;" but the sequel proved somewhat embarrassing to him, to say the least. The bear was searching for stray acorns, and Dr. Cheesman concluded to slip quietly up, shy his hat at him, and see the beast put in his best licks in getting away. The first act in the farce was a success; but the second took an unexpected turn; for the bear, instead of running away, took after the Doctor, who made good time until he espied a sapling, which had evidently grown conveniently near for his especial protection. Into this he climbed, but was scarcely out of Bruin's reach, who further vented his ill-pleasure at being disturbed in his search for a meal, by growling and gnawing at the sapling. The Doctor had faced with cheerful heart the malarious breezes of Michigan upon a diet of leeks and surface water, but this was his first experience in climbing a tree that bore no fruit, just for the fun of it. He yelled lustily for help, which soon came, and the bear was driven away.

Dr. Cheesman had ample time to ponder upon the frailties of life while taking in the scene from his elevated position, and mentally vowed to be moderate in his charges to those who were unfortunate enough to be "very poor," where there was no hope of making collections. From this circumstance, and to commemorate the miraculous escape of the Doctor, who was regarded by all as a personage that could ill afford to be spared, the figure of a bear was adopted

as the seal of Judge of Probate, an office which Dr. Cheesman filled with credit to himself and his constituents.

The fall of 1856 was a noted season in the history of this county. The summer had been very dry and hot, and the woods, which were clothed with luxuriant foliage, became filled with a smoke so dense that objects could scarcely be seen two rods away. Fires raged throughout this portion of the State, and much property was destroyed, as well as thousands of acres of the finest timber. We have it from indisputable authority that in October of that year business of any kind indoors had to be transacted by the light of a tallow dip, even at noonday. There were numerous instances of men running against deer and other wild animals while walking in the woods, and many persons suffered greatly. Cattle would not leave the houses to feed, and numbers of them died, as well as many wild animals. The ashes covered the ground in low places a depth of four or five inches, and the extremities of animals that were obliged to walk through it in search of food were blistered and burned almost to their knees. Much of the fire continued long after winter set in, and the hunter found many opportunities to warm his hands by a blazing stump when the snow lay on the ground.

Children cried for something, they knew not what. Women looked sad and discouraged; even the men conversed in subdued tones; a general quiet reigned among all living things. When a rain came and the breeze lifted the clouds of smoke away, the desolation which prevailed was enough to make even the stoutest heart feel despondent. Wagon loads of dead fish floated in Pine River, and the entire country was a blackened, cheerless waste.

To all things, however, an end comes, and the spring of 1857 opened up splendidly. Large quantities of maple sugar were manufactured, but it brought a small price, and provisions were very high. There was no regular market price for flour, and dealers put up prices to suit themselves. Flour was sold for \$10 per barrel when the highest market quotations for wheat in this State was \$1 per bushel. By the first of May, every bushel of wheat and corn in the whole country was disposed of, except what the farmers required for their own use, and nothing could be found in the way of breadstuffs this side of Lansing or Ionia.

The roads were almost impassable, and the few

teams in the county were oxen; and it took a week or more to make a trip for provisions. They had no money, and it seemed as if destitution, and not prosperity, would be their lot in life; yet they struggled bravely on.

The news of want in this and adjoining counties reached the ears of kind-hearted people in other portions of the State, and donations of food and provisions were cheerfully made which gave them renewed courage. Many of the less courageous left as soon as they could get away, but those who remained have the satisfaction of seeing their labors crowned with success; and, although "tried by fire," want and suffering, their reward is great. Gratiot County surely experienced more disaster and hardships than any other county in the State during its early settlement, and not until 1860 did anything like a satisfactory degree of prosperity greet those who had toiled early and late to provide for their families. The only thing in common which prevailed except extreme poverty was good health, without which they would have been miserable indeed. In May, 1859, the Board of Supervisors appropriated \$8,000 to be used, if necessary, in purchasing supplies for the people, which supplies were to be sold them on credit, if necessary, in order that their immediate wants be relieved. Mr. Ralph Ely, Supervisor from Arcada, was appointed an agent to negotiate these orders in Detroit and other places, and succeeded in doing so to the amount of \$4,000.

Corn meal, rice, beans, pork, fish, etc., were sent from Detroit to various distributing points, and the supervisors of the different townships appointed as sub-agents in their distribution. Even this relief hardly kept them until harvest time, and many families lived for weeks on what they could find in the woods. Those days gave rise to the expression we have often heard, "Sawdust pudding and slippery-elm gravy." The crops of that year were very fine, with the exception of corn, which was badly injured by an early frost.

The report of Mr. Ely at the October meeting of the Board of Supervisors regarding the purchase, shipment, etc., of supplies, was satisfactory, and his vouchers, according to custom were burned, and he was discharged from further responsibility.

Mr. Lafayette Church was not so fortunate; and from the unreliability of persons who had access to

the goods and the persons to whom they were consigned, he was short \$130 in footing up accounts, which amount he paid out of his own pocket. The action of the Board in thus compelling Mr. Church to pay that amount was severely censured by some, others claiming that he should have been more careful in the distribution and ought to pay it. The Board of Supervisors afterward refunded the money, as they were convinced that Mr. Church accounted with exactness for everything passing through his hands.

The oath administered before provisions could be obtained which were sent for distribution, was "iron-clad" in its meaning, but some even then took advantage of the opportunity to procure that to which they were not justly entitled. Printed blanks were furnished which were filled out with the names of different articles needed, the number in family, and amount of provision then on hand and of what kind. The applicant then subscribed the following oath:

"I, John Doe, do solemnly swear that I am the head of the family above mentioned, and have only provisions enough to last \_\_\_\_\_ days, neither have I the means of procuring any except in this manner: so help me God."

In 1857, a flouring mill was built at Alma, which was a great convenience to the settlers in this county, as the wheat crop was an excellent one, and those who had known only corn bread and potatoes for so long could indulge in the luxury of wheat bread at every meal.

In the winter of 1857, Robert Sutton, a printer, came to Ithaca; a meeting was held at the old courthouse by a number of the citizens, and it was determined to have a paper, Messrs. W. W. Comstock, Franklin Miller and others taking quite an active part in making arrangements for establishing the same at an early date. In the spring of 1858, Messrs. Sutton & S. M. Miller purchased a printing press and office at Owosso, and moved it to Ithaca in May. The paper was called the *Gratiot News*, and was edited by Franklin Miller, the first Prosecuting Attorney of this county, for six months, when the material was purchased by W. W. Comstock, and changed from a neutral to a Republican paper.

The Supervisors must have been a rather noisy set of men during the year 1856, for the official record shows that L. C. Knapp presented a bill to that august body in which he demanded compensation "for broken

bedsteads and unnecessary confusion." The bill was referred to the Committee on Claims and was paid, perhaps out of their own pockets.

The question that demanded first consideration was the opening of the thoroughfares through the dense forests. Hardly a ray of sunshine could reach the ground, and the clay soil was never dry. There was a bridge across Maple River at the place called Maple Rapids, from which an Indian trail extended to the Lutheran mission, on Pine River, and this afforded the only route for transit between the two places. This was afterward widened by Joseph Clapp, of Pine River, until teams could pass over it. This was known as the "Old Trail," over which most of the pioneer families came. Ralph Ely, soon after his arrival in the county, opened up a road from Alma to Maple Rapids. The third was a branch of the "Old Trail," diverging from it on section 32 in Fulton Township, passing through that, North Star and Hamilton Townships. For many years these were the only roads leading out of the county, and they were in many places almost impassable.

The Legislature by special act in 1866 and 1867, provided aid for the construction of State roads to Saginaw and St. John's, and roads in other localities were nicely graded and well bridged. Gratiot County has within her boundaries as many miles of excellent roads as can be found in the same area any where in which gravel cannot be obtained.

While most of the pioneers were men of brawn and muscle, among them was occasionally found one who was an inveterate coward. Rev. Barnaby relates an incident where a fellow by the name of Shively figured, which is ludicrous, to say the least. Shively was afraid, not only of getting lost, but of being attacked by bears while working in the woods. The ground was covered with a light snow, and Shively had gone to the woods to chop, taking, as was his custom, his gun for protection in case a bear should be unwary enough to come within sight. Mr. Barnaby lived near where Shively was working, and the family were, on the day in question, somewhat alarmed to see Shively coming across the clearing at the top of his speed, without hat or gun and his long hair streaming in the wind. Bursting into the house, he told in spasmodic utterances that he had shot at a very large bear, which had then attacked him, when he threw down his gun and climbed a tree, that the

bear passed, and he had come for help to dispatch him.

Starting for the scene of encounter, they found the bear (a small cub) lying dead near the tree that Shively had tried to climb, but which in reality was only a small sapling, around which he had thrown his arms and legs and taken a seat in the snow instead of climbing at all. Fear in this instance made him feel as if he had climbed a tree, although his would have been an unpleasant position had a bear actually attacked him.

William McOmber relates the story of killing the largest wildcat ever seen in the county, and gives it as his first remembrance of fear at sight of any wild beast. Himself and Nau-ge-sic, a son of the chief, were going from the Indian mission to Maple Rapids in 1849, and had stopped for the night at a bark shanty half way between the two places, the trip being a two-days' journey. This shanty had been built for occupancy during these journeys, and frying-pans, etc., were left there to save transportation. A large tree had blown over, lodging in the fork of another one standing in front of the shanty, which tree forms an important part of the story.

After eating supper, Nau-ge-sic crawled (as was the custom of Indians) to the further corner of the shanty, and, rolling himself up in a blanket, went to sleep. Mr. McOmber hung up a piece of a blanket at the door, or end of the shanty, although it lacked considerable of covering the aperture. He had to sleep near the opening, and awakened during the night, but was horrified to see a huge wild-cat perched upon the tree which leaned across the space in front of the wigwam. Its eyes looked like two stars as they twinkled in evident satisfaction at the prospect of a savory meal, and its tail moved nervously from side to side as it surveyed the sleeping men. The moon shone brightly and its body, outlined against the leafy background, made it an excellent mark for the sportsman's rifle. Stealthily reaching for his gun, Mr. McOmber took deliberate aim and fired. With a wild yell, the beast fell from the tree pierced through the heart. It was a thrilling experience, to say the least; for the wild-cat lay within ten feet of Mr. McOmber and was evidently preparing to spring upon him. These animals were quite savage, and would attack either man or beast when hungry.

"Surprise parties" were very frequent at an early

day. It was no uncommon thing for a number of young folks (and older people, too) to walk five or six miles on a winter night to attend a dance, or enjoy an evening at a "candy pulling." The invariable rule was to take an ox team along to carry those who were too tired to walk home. More happiness was enjoyed in those days than can be imagined in this age of æstheticism. Refreshments were always provided by the ladies when attending a dancing party or other social affair, consisting mainly of hulled corn, johnnycakes and dried apples, or pumpkin and warm sugar. Mrs. Ben. Crawford related her experience at a dance which she, with many others, attended near this village at an early day, in which the above mentioned articles constituted the bill of fare. The party was given at Simeon Taylor's, and Henry Feaster was the musician. Dressed in their calico, the ladies felt as aristocratic as do the belles of the ball-room to-day, decked in their most expensive toilets.

The pioneers were minus the luxurious sandals now considered indispensable in "pirouetting" on a waxed floor, but their heavy brogans kept good time to the "Arkansaw Traveler" and "Fisher's Hornpipe," as the rough puncheon floors vibrated with the rhythmic motion of their supple limbs, while the manly voice of the prompter rang out "Balance all," "Swing your partner," "Pound sand," etc.

Mrs. Elijah Curtis, one of the pioneers of Hamilton Township, gives a graphic account how she and her family came into Gratiot County. The picture will call up many familiar scenes to those who erected the first log cabins in the forest:

"We arrived on a Saturday night at Allen Curtis' place, and enjoyed a night's rest among friends and relatives. We were using a hired team, and were anxious to get to our claim; so we ventured to break the Sabbath, and started bright and early for our place, seven miles distant. For the whole distance, the men had to go ahead of the team and break a road through the ice and snow. Darkness came on as we came in sight of our destination. Taking some joints of stove-pipe on our backs, my daughter and I picked our way to the log cabin, which had apparently been used for shelter by cattle and other animals for several years. But we made the best disposition of ourselves we could for the night. During



the evening it commenced to rain, and my husband asked, 'What will we do with the horses?' 'Oh, bring them right into the house,' I said; 'we can keep them here.' So they were brought in, and the first night in our new home was thus spent, with seven or eight people scattered around on one side of the fire-place and two horses on the other."

One of the first couples married by Benjamin Crawford, after his election as Justice of the Peace, paid their fee in dried corn, dried pumpkin and turnips. Money was "the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen." Coon, deer and bear skins, as well as shaved shingles, were legal tender for everything except taxes.

Mrs. Henry Simmon and husband were among the first settlers in Hamilton Township, and she relates a number of incidents, among which might be mentioned what beds were filled with, in the absence of straw. Fine shavings were prepared of birch and hickory, which made not only a nice, healthful cot, but a very pleasant one. For weeks they lived in a tent made of blankets, and when their cabin was erected, they had no floor except "mother earth" for some time, yet they prospered and are now quite wealthy.

The first school-house erected in the county was built on section 14, in Arcada Township. This was an individual enterprise, in which Francis Nelson, Rev. Lafayette Church, John Nevins, John Glover, John Keefer and Jacob Rush were proprietors. The lumber for the same was sawed with a whip-saw. Gen. Nathan Church, Rev. Theodore Nelson and his brothers, William and Wilbur, were the only boys in attendance. C. C. Cole, a pompous individual, was the pedagogue who first instilled Websterian ideas into the minds of the above named gentlemen, all of whom now fill places of importance, and are numbered among the foremost business men of the county. Of Mr. Cole, more is said in this work elsewhere.

During the agitation regarding the permanent location of the county seat, the officers elect were on the lookout for voters favorable to keeping the same at Ithaca, and scoured the county quite thoroughly in the canvass. There being but few residents in Ithaca at the time, and they mostly officials who were largely interested in the matter of securing votes, they were all away for several days, as but little county business was to be transacted. A man came from Detroit to attend to some legal matters and

found the court-house locked. Going to the post-office he inquired of Nathan Church (who was officiating as Postmaster, *pro tem*) their whereabouts. Nathan explained the matter, but added, that perhaps *he* could attend to the business. Locking the postoffice, they went to the court-house and transacted all necessary details in the different offices, which greatly pleased the gentleman, who was anxious to return home. He wrote upon his arrival at Detroit, a lengthy article, which appeared in the *Free Press*, of the manner in which all the offices were filled in Gratiot by a boy only 16 years old, including the office of Postmaster.

At this time there was not a horse in the county, and only a few Indian ponies. Israel Coats was the fortunate possessor of one of the latter, which was utilized in carrying the records to and from the court-house in Ithaca to Alma, where court was in session. Mr. Church states that he purchased for his father the first span of horses ever owned in Gratiot.

As an illustration of what can be done upon small capital, the instance is cited of Mr. William Franklin, who came with his family to North Shade Township in 1856, without any means whatever. His outfit consisted of a few articles of household furniture and a dozen new grain bags. Of the latter, clothes were made, and during the first 18 months of his residence in Gratiot he received only 50 cents in money, although working every day; the remainder being taken in "trade." To-day he is one of the most prosperous farmers in his township, owning 220 acres of valuable land, upon which is a handsome and costly residence. All this has been accumulated by honest toil and industry in a few years, and his example is worthy of emulation by the young men of to-day.

There was an avowed infidel by the name of Kibby, living near St. Louis, at an early day in her history, who was a noted hunter and trapper. His cabin was a small two-story log building, which inside presented the appearance of an arsenal. Guns, revolvers, traps, axes, tomahawks and other paraphernalia peculiar to the hunter's vocation hung from the ceiling, and the walls were covered with skins of deer, mink, otter, muskrat, wolf and bear. Kibby had a family consisting of wife and several children.

One morning, a child about four years old was found dead in bed. There had been no previous

illness and the occurrence was a severe shock, to the mother, especially. The few neighbors living near were sent for, and Mr. Elias Smith made a rough coffin out of a cupboard in his house, in which the body of the child was laid, and placed upon a rough table close to the wall. Everything which could conveniently be carried up stairs had been so disposed of, to make room for the friends coming to attend the burial. A grave was dug near the house, and everything was in readiness to consign the body to its last resting place, when the mother from the upper room asked that a song might be sung and a prayer offered, as it seemed heathenish to bury her child without some kind of services. None of the friends being professing Christians, they felt unequal to the emergency, and the father also objected, saying that "he wanted no praying around his house."

Another man also objected and said prayer was a mere form and could not possibly do any good; so the sooner the child was buried the better off all parties would be. He had hardly ceased speaking, when the upper floor, to which hung loaded guns, knives, etc., parted in the middle and down came the occupants of the room above, with beds, bedsteads, corn, old boots, flour and bacon, which had been carried there to put them out of sight on this occasion. Strange to relate, no one was seriously injured, although the room below was full of people, and the mother up stairs came tumbling headlong with her babe clasped in her arms. The children were entirely uninjured and the escape seemed almost miraculous. The corpse, which lay near the wall, was left undisturbed, not even being knocked from the table. After the excitement was over and the *debris* cleared away, Mr. Elias Smith asked Kibby, who was very much excited at the turn affairs had taken, what he now thought of an overruling power, the whole party having escaped so providentially. Mr. Kibby acknowledged that it seemed almost miraculous, and there *must* be something which averted danger to life and limb. This circumstance completely changed the life of the man, and he was thereafter one of the foremost in good works and deeds.

James Kress was the second man settling north of Pine River. He came in the spring of 1854, and made his location of lands three miles west of Alma. Three years later he moved to that village, and has ever since been identified with its growth and busi-

ness interests. His daughter, Rachel, was married to George Gee, April 17, 1855, by Rev. Slappee. Hettie Hart and Louis Baker were wedded the same day; but the marriage of Rachel and Mr. Gee occurring at an earlier hour makes them the first wedded couple in Arcada Township, if not in the county. A grand "charivari" occurred in the evening, all the people for miles around being armed with horns, or something with which more noise than melody could be produced. Refreshments were served, and the entire party and the joyous event is well remembered by a number of the older folks yet living in Alma.

Lorton Holliday, known in the early history of the county as "Black Hawk," was another of the early comers. He was a great hunter, and opened a kind of arsenal, in which was stored guns, ammunition, shoes, pork and whisky, which he sold to the Indians for furs. It is said that people generally feared him, although no violence was ever committed to their knowledge. A few years later, he bought a wife from a man by the name of Slocum, paying for her with a brass watch. Slocum afterward came back and wanted his wife, but Holliday took him by the collar and kicked the unwary husband as long as he had strength to lift his foot. When Slocum was let loose, he made great haste to get out of Holliday's sight, who warned him never to come back; which advice was well heeded.

Cornelius Scott came to Arcada at an early day, and settled three miles west of Alma, on Pine River. He was a widower, and had several children, Lavina being the eldest daughter. One peculiarity of Scott was his dislike for work and failure to provide for his family; yet he lived in a country where plenty could be obtained had he chosen to exert himself. One evening, a lank fellow drove up to his cabin, and asked for accommodations for himself and wife, stating that on account of the cold weather they could not camp out and be comfortable. At every house strangers were made welcome, and received an equal share of the scanty provisions, and the Scott family proved no exception. The susceptible widower gazed on the wife of his guest with covetous eyes, and proposed a trade, in which he would exchange his daughter, Lavina, for Mr. Gillette's wife. Strangely enough, when approached, Gillette met the proposal with favor, and a bargain was at once consummated, in which the stranger was to receive a "cross-cut

saw and a set of beetle-rings" to boot, as his wife was well-broken to matrimonial harness. As after events proved, Scott seemed to fear that some of the parties might "back out," and insisted that a "bill of separation" or transfer of title be made before a justice, which was agreed to the next morning; and they walked over to the house of L. C. Cole, who has been previously mentioned as the first teacher of Nathan Church and the Nelson boys. We give the full purport of the bill as nearly as possible, procured from those familiar with the document, which is of itself a curiosity.

Justice Cole was a very pompous individual, and often remarked that "he resembled Gen. Cass very much," and that "at one time he was the reader of the Declaration of Independence in Massachusetts when Horace Greeley was present; and that gentleman had made the remark to friends that he (Greeley) would give \$500 if he could read the Declaration as fluently."

Mr. Cole heard the story regarding the trade in women, and gave it very profound consideration for a few moments. Walking up and down the cabin floor, he asked that it be repeated very carefully, as he thought the case was one in which he could satisfy all parties, although it appeared to be a very grave matter. Taking down a copy of the statute laws of the State, he opened the book and glanced hurriedly through it, remarking as it was carefully closed, "that there was no question of his jurisdiction in the matter," and that the law plainly provided in all cases of "*a Vinculo Matrimonii*," that each party should have a bill of divorce, and swear that no collusion had existed regarding the transfer; and that he should grant a "bill of separation" upon the ground of extreme cruelty, as the wife had refused to have anything to do with the trade! The article read as follows:

ARCADA TP., GRATIOT CO., MICH.

I, L. C. Cole, Justice of the Peace in and for said county, do hereby give, grant, and decree a bill of absolute divorcement between — Gillette and his wife, and do record a transfer of the personal property, to wit: One cross-cut saw and one pair of beetle rings, the aforesaid property being in lawful possession of Cornelius Scott, of Arcada Township, party of the first part, who transfers the same to — Gillette, party of the second part, as the balance due upon a trade in which Mrs. — Gillette, party of the third part, becomes the wife of Cornelius Scott,

party of the first part, and Lavina Scott, party of the fourth part, becomes the lawful wife of — Gillette, party of the second part.

The above constitutes all the necessary legal instruments requisite in making transfers of this character, and I pronounce all the parties duly married as they do so sincerely desire the consummation of the exchange.

Given under my hand and seal, this day —.

L. C. COLE,

J. P. in and for this township and county.

After Gillette harnessed his oxen and was ready to start, Lavina refused to go and no amount of persuasion could induce her to change her mind. Gillette then wanted his wife back, but Scott refused to give her up, stating that he had traded fair, and if Lavina wouldn't go that he (Gillette) had his "saw and beetle rings anyway."

To illustrate how such things end, Lavina afterward married the brother of her "*quasi* step-mother," who was shiftless and improvident. Becoming ill, and having no one to care for her, she was taken to the county poor-house, where she afterward died. Scott's wife left him after putting up with his abuse for two years, and is now living near Alma. She enjoys the distinction of having four living husbands in Gratiot County, as well as being the heroine of this story.

Bears are yet quite plentiful in parts of Gratiot County, although a large number of them have been killed. In November, 1877, Dan Kostenbader killed one in Emerson Township, which weighed, when dressed, 494 pounds, the hide, 52½ pounds, besides yielding sixteen gallons of oil.

The migratory habits of these animals make them quite easy game to capture during the autumn, as they are in search of nuts and winter quarters.

During the destitution which prevailed, Dr. Cheesman, accompanied by Daniel Curtis and Charles Holliday, left Saginaw with a canoe loaded with provisions for people living in Hamilton Township, St. Charles being their destination. The afternoon was very cold, and ice was so rapidly forming that it became almost impossible to propel the boat. Darkness came on and the coldness increased until the boat was frozen fast in the middle of the river. Daniel Curtis became benumbed with cold, and only by great exertions was he kept from freezing. In this case, it seemed as if providence had specially interfered, for within reach was a pine raft upon which a

fire was kindled. Only by this means were the lives of the entire party saved, the river being too deep and wide to permit them to gain the shore in safety.

Accommodations have been previously mentioned as limited, but for genuine hospitality none could exceed Mr. and Mrs. David Courter, a well known couple yet living in the county. Mr. Hastings is authority for the item that he, with his surveying party, came to Mr. Courter's late one evening, and were kindly cared for and given a place to sleep, although the cabin was only 10 x 12 feet. Five of them were comfortably housed for the night, although the stove had to be carried outside. Beds were made on the bark floor and the men retired, Mrs. C. waiting outside until the light was extinguished. True hospitality consists in entertaining a guest with the best you have, without making excuse for inability to provide more liberally, and this instance proves it. Notwithstanding the hard times, the young folks enjoyed themselves and were as merry as if there was plenty to eat and satins to wear.

Mrs. Elias Smith relates a story of a number of young folks, she being one of the party, who started on New Year's afternoon in 1858, in a sled drawn by oxen for "Cable" Smith's, where a dance was to be held in the evening. About one mile east of Alma lived a fellow by the name of Moon, who had rather a comfortable log cabin, near which was displayed a board sign upon which the words "Moon In" were roughly drawn. By accident the oxen ran against a stump and broke the sled so badly that they could proceed no further without repairing it. The party were unloaded and supper was ordered at this famous hostelry. The young folks had appetites unexcelled by any, and were somewhat chagrined to learn that the bill of fare would be "rather light," there being but "one partridge" in the larder and only meal enough to make "a few johnycakes." The bird was stewed in salt water, and they all took soup, which with the palatable corn bread, mixed up with water previous to being baked, made a very good supper. It would seem by this story as if the needs of man could be supplied very easily by "quality" and not "quantity," as the eight persons were regaled with one partridge and a few corncakes.

Dr. Cheesman relates some amusing experiences which are well worth preserving, as they show what ills an amateur in "pioneering" is likely to undergo.

In 1854, the Doctor came with his family to Hamilton Township, bringing a few household goods and some furniture. Of course there was no house ready for occupancy, and they had to "camp out" for a few weeks. The goods were piled under a large tree, near which was the site selected for the proposed cabin. An election was held at Greenbush soon after their arrival, and the neighbors who were engaged to help in the erection of the cabin had gone to that place to vote. Dr. Cheesman concluded that he would fell the "first tree" during their absence, and selected the one above mentioned upon which to try his skill. Without paying any attention to the direction in which it would fall, he went at the work in earnest, and hacked away until it came crashing through the dense underbrush; but his knowledge of "cause and effect" had been forgotten, as the chopping was done in such manner that the tree necessarily fell across the pile of furniture, making it a total wreck. While at that time it was an expensive experience the knowledge of "woodcraft" was largely enhanced.

At another time he was unfortunate enough to lose one of his oxen. Hearing of one near Maple Rapids that was for sale, he went down to make a purchase, but the owner could not deliver it. The ox was very wild and had never been yoked, and all efforts to capture him were fruitless. The man was then hired to drive his cows (among which the ox was reared) over to the Doctor's place, where there was a small lot enclosed by a strong brush fence. Into this lot the herd was driven and a lariat thrown around the horns of his recent purchase. Tying the ox to a tree, he was yoked alongside the well-broken one, and the pair were turned loose in the enclosure. To familiarize them with each other and get the new one used to the yoke, the Doctor concluded to let them wear it until next morning, as he feared the unruly quadruped would be hard to manage without more help than was at his command.

His surprise at finding the yoke turned the next morning can hardly be expressed in words, and he hastened over to his neighbor, Lafayette Sweatland, for assistance, telling him that some one had either played a trick upon him or "the wild ox had jumped over the old one!"

Many a hearty laugh has been since enjoyed at the Doctor's expense when this story was related. His

experiences were limited as a hunter, yet the Doctor has bagged "game" with a fowling-piece as effectually as ever malaria was subjugated by the use of his pills. He had a fine patch of turnips near his house, and a large buck came every day to browse on the tender leaves. One afternoon his daughter espied the deer coming, and told her father to get his gun. Dr. Cheesman knew as little about shooting as he did about felling trees; but, sticking the muzzle of the gun through the window, he pointed it in the direction of the deer, shut his eyes and pulled the trigger, trusting that one of the eighteen bullets with which it was loaded would hit the mark. An accidental ball broke the animal's back, and the overjoyed sportsman ran out intending to dispatch it with a knife; but the deer showed fight and kept the Doctor at bay until an ax was procured, with which it was easily killed.

His next and last exploit in this line gave him what is known among hunters as the "buck ague." A number of deer came every afternoon to browse upon the tree-tops where a clearing was being made, and the doctor concluded to have some more venison. Taking a position at the root of a large tree which had been felled, he waited a short time until five or six fat deer came walking up to the tree-top and began their repast upon the succulent buds. Their heads were all together, but our Nimrod was so nervous that he couldn't tell whether his gun was pointed in the right direction and was afraid to fire. Waiting

until one of them turned a broadside toward him, he blazed away, and, strange to relate, brought down a fine one. The success recently met with induced him to take several hunts, but this was his last game.

Judge Winton relates the story of a wedding in Fulton Township which illustrates the generosity of a newly wedded husband toward the author of his happiness. The justice had completed the ceremony excepting the salutation of the bride in regular orthodox style, when the bridegroom asked how much cash would pay the bill. "The law allows one \$2.50," said the justice. "All right, 'Squire," said the fellow; "if the law allows you to collect \$2.50, here is an extra half dollar for your trouble, which will make it even: you ought to have something for doing the job."

Mr. S. S. Hastings relates a remarkable escape from injury of a family who were moving through Gratiot to their home in Isabella County. They were driving through the woods with a team of oxen hitched to the wagon, which contained all their earthly possessions, as well as a family of children. A pork barrel stood in the back part of the wagon, and the family were ranged along both sides of the bed, facing each other. A long pine snag, which had become rotten at the base, toppled over and fell upon the pork barrel, crushing it completely, and lodged lengthwise with the wagon, with the top resting upon the yoke between the heads of the cattle. It had to be cut twice in two before a removal could be effected. The escape was indeed miraculous, not one of the persons in the wagon being injured.





# POLITICAL.

**F**ROM the organization of the county, Gratiot has been strictly Republican. The two last elections have developed quite a large following among the Liberal people of all parties, and several candidates were elected on the Liberal ticket. The elections until 1856 were non-partisan in character, men being selected for quality, not political faith. In 1856, however, both the Democratic and Republican parties were organized, the Republican being largely in the majority, and

most of the offices were filled with nominees of their conventions. But little electioneering was done and elections usually passed off very quietly. The county offices were mostly held at Ithaca, except that of Sheriff, who stayed at Alma. The first session of Circuit Court was held at that place. The whole expenses for the county for the year 1856 were \$1,953.53,—quite a contrast to that of 1883.

Following we give a complete list of all the men running for the different county offices, for Governor and President, since the first election in 1855, together with the number of votes each received and the party to which he belonged:

## ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 13, 1855.

Sheriff—George E. Walker, 159; Isaac H. Jones, 123.

County Clerk—Orville M. Wood, 284.

County Treasurer—Ralph Ely, 148; Abram M. Crawford, 120; Joseph B. Smith, 7.

Register of Deeds—Henry Lane, 183.

Prosecuting Attorney—Frank Miller, 108, maj. 12; Benjamin Crawford, 96; Marcus Service, 65.

Judge of Probate—John R. Cheesman, 284.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Henry Lane, 155, maj. 26; Stevens E. Longyear, 129.

County Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, 284.

Coroner—Lewis B. Loomis, 279; Levi Smith, 150.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER 4, 1856.

Governor—Kinsley S. Bingham, Rep., 387, maj. 249; Alpheus Felch, Dem., 138.

State Senator—Stephen H. Warren, 380, maj. 276; Wilbur Fisher, 104.

State Representative—James Kipp, Rep., 387, maj. 247; James W. Ransom, Dem., 140.

Sheriff—Homer L. Townsend, 317, maj. 153; Hiram Burgess, 164.

County Clerk—Henry H. Smith, 256, maj. 58; Orville M. Wood, 198.

County Treasurer—Lafayette Church, 374, maj. 225; Joseph B. Smith, 149.

Register of Deeds—Elijah Peck, Rep., 356, maj. 200; Henry Lane, Dem., 156.

Prosecuting Attorney—Sylvanus Groom, Rep., 353, maj. 185; Frank Miller, Dem., 168.

Judge of Probate—Francis Nelson, Rep., 362, 198; William L. Sutherland, Dem., 164.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Moses Tompkins, 519.

County Surveyor—Addison Hayden, Dem., 263, maj. 10; Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 253.

Coroners—Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 364, maj. 201; Joseph A. Guthrie, Rep., 363, maj. 200; Barlow Worthing, Dem., 163; John Knight, Dem., 163.

#### ELECTION, APRIL 5, 1858.

Circuit Judge—Wilbur F. Woodworth, Rep., 468, maj. 206; John W. Longyear, Dem., 262.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER 2, 1858.

Governor—Moses Wisner, Rep., 360, maj. 168; Charles E. Stuart, Dem., 192.

State Senator—Osmand Jones, Rep., 357, maj. 150; Alexander F. Bell, Dem., 207.

Representative—David J. Daniels, Rep., 319, maj. 101; Sylvester Hoyt, Dem., 218.

Sheriff—Homer L. Townsend, Rep., 280, maj. 9; Joseph B. Smith, Dem., 271.

County Clerk—Emery Crosby, Rep., 361, maj. 146; Benjamin E. Sawtelle, Dem., 215.

County Treasurer—Lafayette Church, Rep., 394, maj. 290; John W. Howd, Dem., 104.

Register of Deeds—Elijah Peck, Rep., 389, maj. 205; Henry P. Clark, Dem., 184.

Prosecuting Attorney—Israel B. Coats, Rep., 372, maj. 198; Isaac Powers, Dem., 176.

County Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 347, maj. 131; Addison Hayden, Dem., 216.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Israel B. Coats, Rep., 355, maj. 182; Isaac Powers, Dem., 173.

Coroners—Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 450, maj. 86; Thomas T. Tann, Dem., 364.

#### ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 6, 1860.

President—Abraham Lincoln, Rep., 496, maj. 182; Stephen A. Douglas, Dem., 314.

Governor—Austin Blair, Rep., 496, maj. 179; John Barry, Dem., 317.

State Senator—Osmond Tower, Rep., 492, maj. 179; Frederick Hall, Dem., 313.

Representative—Gilbert E. Pratt, Rep., 439, maj. 81; Hiram C. Hodge, Dem., 358.

Sheriff—Frederick D. Weller, Rep., 436, maj. 65; Joseph B. Smith, 371.

County Treasurer—Ralph Ely, Rep., 472, maj. 101; Lyman T. Cassada, Dem., 371.

County Clerk—Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 513, maj. 229; Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 284.

Register of Deeds—Elijah Peck, Rep., 426, maj. 179; Luther J. Dean, Rep., 247; George W. McHenry, Dem., 144.

Judge of Probate—Francis Nelson, Rep., 407, maj. 28; John R. Cheesman, Dem., 379.

Prosecuting Attorney—Israel B. Coats, Rep., 318, elected; Charles B. Holliday, Dem., 318.

Circuit Court Commissioner—William E. Winton, Rep., 605; no opp.

Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 524, maj. 290; Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 274.

Coroner—Thomas J. Tann, Rep., 433; Hiram Burgess, Rep., 412; Robert G. Hutchinson, Dem., 293; George B. Gifford, Dem., 294.

#### ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 1862.

Governor—Austin Blair, Rep., 524, maj. 204; Byron G. Stout, Dem., 320.

State Senator—Westbrook Divine, Rep., 381, maj. 142; John Tann, Dem., 239.

Representative—John R. Cheesman, Dem., 440, maj. 75; James Gargett, Rep., 365.

Sheriff—Francis D. Weller, Rep., 450, maj. 73; Cornelius Holliday, Dem., 377.

County Treasurer—Elijah Peck, Rep., 462, maj. 104; Lyman T. Cassada, Dem., 358.

County Clerk—William C. Beckwith, Rep., 437, maj. 70; Horace T. Barnaby, Dem., 367.

Register of Deeds—Henry P. Howd, Rep., 417, maj. 4; William Long, Dem., 413.

Prosecuting Attorney—Moses Tompkins, Rep., 415, maj. 26; William E. Winton, Dem., 389.

Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 431, maj. 29; James B. Wheeler, Dem., 402.

Coroners—William C. Newcomb, Rep., 424, maj. 12; Thomas Blumb, Dem., 412, maj. 3; Addison H. Mack, Rep., 409, maj. 17; Erastus Perry, Dem., 382.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Elijah McCall, Dem., 417; no opp.

## ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 8, 1864.

President—Abraham Lincoln, Rep., 571, maj. 203; George B. McClellan, Dem., 368.

Governor—Henry H. Crapo, Rep., 572, maj. 208; William M. Fenton, Dem., 364.

Senator—Westbrook Divine, Rep., 571, maj. 198; John B. Hutchins, Dem., 373.

State Representative—Luther Smith, Rep., 547, maj. 158; John R. Cheesman, Dem., 389.

Sheriff—David Bailey, Rep., 74, maj. 64; John Baker, Dem., 10.

Judge of Probate—Francis Nelson, Rep., 70, maj. 54; Benjamin Crawford, Dem., 16.

County Clerk—William C. Beckwith, Rep., 71, maj. 55; Edson Packard, Dem., 16.

Register of Deeds—Henry P. Howd, Rep., 67, maj. 48; William Long, Dem., 19.

County Treasurer—Elijah Peck, Rep., 68, maj. 50; Russell Danley, Dem., 18.

Prosecuting Attorney—William E. Winton, Rep., 68, maj. 49; Elisha McCall, Dem., 19.

County Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 67, maj. 50; Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 17.

Circuit Court Commissioner—William E. Winton, Rep., 68, maj. 50; Elisha McCall, Dem., 18.

Coroners—Hiram Burgess, Rep., 63, maj. 44; Elbridge Franklin, Rep., 63, maj. 44; Cornelius Campbell, Dem., 19; William Stebbins, Dem., 19.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER 13, 1866.

Governor—Alpheus S. Williams, Dem., 482; Henry H. Crapo, Rep., 888, maj. 406.

County Clerk—Samuel N. Miller, Dem., 512; William C. Beckwith, Rep., 858, maj. 346.

Treasurer—Leman A. Johnson, Dem., 465; William S. Trask, Rep., 898, maj. 433.

Register of Deeds—Hubbard Biggs, Dem., 460; Theodore Nelson, Rep., 906, maj. 446.

Prosecuting Attorney—Elisha McCall, Dem., 479; William E. Winton, 890, maj. 411.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 893, maj. 405; Elisha McCall, Dem., 478.

Surveyor—Charles B. Fraker, Rep., 894, maj. 416; Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 478.

State Senator—David H. Jerome, Rep., 868, maj. 373; John R. Cheesman, Dem., 495.

Sheriff—David Bailey, Rep., 881, maj. 492; Charles E. Webster, Dem., 489.

Coroners—Barnard Cressenger, Rep., 890, maj. 411; William C. B. Sherwood, Rep., 885, maj. 406; Joseph B. Smith, Dem., 479; Lyman T. Burrada, Dem., 479.

## ELECTION, 1867.

County Superintendent of Schools—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 905, maj. 548; Andrew J. McKee, Dem., 357.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 1868.

President—Ulysses S. Grant, Rep., 1240, maj. 491; Horatio Seymour, Dem., 749.

Governor—Henry P. Baldwin, Rep., 1236, maj. 473; John Moore, Dem., 763.

State Senator—Alfred B. Wood, Rep., 1232, maj. 470; James L. Ketchum, Dem., 762.

Representative to State Legislature—Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 1147, maj. 315; Leman A. Johnson, Dem., 832.

Sheriff—Elisha C. Clark, Rep., 1215, maj. 432; Charles E. Webster, Dem., 783.

County Clerk—William C. Beckwith, Rep., 1121, maj. 276; John R. Cheesman, Dem., 845.

Register of Deeds—Theodore Nelson, Rep., 1268, maj. 541; Thomas Barnborough, Dem., 727.

County Treasurer—William S. Turck, Rep., 1272, maj. 554; William Long, Dem., 718.

Prosecuting Attorney—Andrew J. Utley, Rep., 1112, maj. 245; James K. Wright, Dem., 867.

Circuit Court Commissioner—William E. Winton, Rep., 1199, maj. 429; James K. Wright, Dem., 770.

Judge of Probate—Elijah Peck, Rep., 1031, maj. 93; Benjamin Crawford, Dem., 938.

County Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, 1217, maj. 470; Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 747.

Coroners—Napoleon B. Fraker, Rep., 1232; William Yorrington, Rep., 1232; John Jeffery, Dem., 763; George W. Clark, Dem., 763.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1869.

County Superintendent of Schools—Giles T. Brown, 1408, no opp.

Circuit Judge—Jabez G. Sutherland, 1488, no opp.

## ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8, 1870.

Governor—Henry P. Baldwin, Rep., 1080, maj. 216; Charles C. Comstock, Dem., 764.

State Senator—Alfred B. Wood, Rep., 1040, maj. 233; John Jeffrey, Dem., 807.



Representative—Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 1054, maj. 261; John R. Cheesman, Dem., 793.

Sheriff—Elisha Cook, Rep., 1051, maj. 259; Charles E. Webster, Dem., 792.

County Clerk—Nathan Church, Rep., 1005, maj. 245; Charles W. Tann, Dem., 760.

County Treasurer—William S. Turck, Rep., 1065, maj. 329; Hiram Harrington, Dem., 736.

Register of Deeds—Dewitt C. Chapin, Rep., 938, maj. 129; Dwight Stitt, Dem., 809.

Prosecuting Attorney—Charles E. Williams, Rep., 868; James K. Wright, Dem., 870, maj. 2.

Circuit Court Commissioner—William E. Winton, Rep., 770; James K. Wright, Dem., 900, maj. 130.

Surveyor—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 1002, maj. 255; Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 747.

Coroners—George W. Jennings, Rep., 1071; David Bailey, Rep., 906; James L. Shults, Dem., 904; Calvin R. Race, Dem., 768.

#### ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 1872.

President—U. S. Grant, Rep., 1482, maj. 905; Horace Greeley, Lib. Rep., 577.

Governor—John J. Bagley, Rep., 1479, maj. 829; Austin Blair, Lib. Rep., 650.

State Senator—Ralph Ely, Rep., 1395; John L. Evans, Lib. Dem., 747.

Representative—Charles H. Morse, Rep., 1497; William Long, Lib. Dem., 749.

Sheriff—William H. Pratt, Rep., 1311; Chas. W. Tann, Lib. Dem., 804.

County Clerk—Nathan Church, Rep., 1383; James Howd, Lib. Dem., 784.

Treasurer—A. B. Darragh, Rep., 1192; C. E. Webster, Lib. Dem., 925.

Judge of Probate—William E. Winton, Rep., 1265; Samuel J. Scott, Lib. Dem., 839.

Register of Deeds—Dewitt C. Chapin, Rep., 1419; Daniel Taylor, Lib. Dem., 718.

Prosecuting Attorney—Chas. E. Williams, Rep., 1467; Elisha McCall, Lib. Dem., 675.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 1418; James K. Wright, Lib. Dem., 781.

Surveyor—Daniel Altenburg, Rep., 1486; Addison Hayden, Lib. Dem., 671.

Coroners—Edwin Z. Kelley, Rep., 1468; J. A. Guthrie, Rep., 1457; John Jeffry, Lib. Dem., 692; Lawrence A. Ferris, Lib. Dem., 691.

#### ELECTION NOVEMBER, 1874.

Governor—John J. Bagley, Rep., 1140; Henry Chamberlain, Dem., 969.

State Senator—Isaac A. Fancher, Rep., 1156; Edson Packard, Dem., 936.

Representative—Charles H. Morse, Rep., 1187; Dwight Stitt, Dem., 910.

Sheriff—William H. Pratt, Rep., 1125; George W. Newcomb, Dem., 972.

County Clerk—William B. Scattergood, Rep., 1128; Daniel C. Johnson, Dem., 972.

Treasurer—Schuyler W. Ambler, Rep., 1180; Geo. W. Clark, Dem., 916.

Register of Deeds—Joseph H. Seaver, Rep., 995; James T. Hall, Dem., 1104.

Prosecuting Attorney—J. Wilson Caldwell, Rep., 973; James K. Wright, Dem., 1122.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Francis Palmer, Rep., 1167; Elisha McCall, Dem., 923.

Surveyor—Daniel W. Altenburg, 1170. No opp.

Coroners—Edwin Clark, Rep., 1182; Joseph A. Guthrie, Rep., 1150; Edward Wilson, Dem., 938; James Cassada, Dem., 923.

#### ELECTION APRIL 4, 1875.

Circuit Judge—Henry Hart, Rep., 1222; A. J. Utley, Dem., 1044.

#### ELECTION NOVEMBER 6, 1876.

President—R. B. Hayes, Rep., 2144, maj. 835; S. J. Tilden, Dem., 1309.

Governor—C. M. Crowell, Rep., 2143, maj. 769; Wm. L. Webber, Dem., 1374.

State Senator—C. H. Morse, Rep., 2143, maj. 652; Cornelius Bennett, Dem., 1491.

State Representative—W. S. Turck, Rep., 2224, maj. 978; William Long, Dem., 1426.

Judge of Probate—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 2072, maj. 519; James K. Wright, Dem., 1553.

Sheriff—Geo. L. Patch, Rep., 2686, maj. 1147; Daniel R. Sullivan, Dem., 1533.

County Clerk—W. B. Scattergood, Rep., 2173, maj. 728; James A. Cassada, Dem., 1444.

County Treasurer—S. W. Ambler, Rep., 2156, maj. 692; Dwight Stitt, Dem., 1464.

Register of Deeds—Joseph H. Seaver, Rep., 1961, maj. 296; James T. Hall, Dem., 1665.

Prosecuting Attorney—T. W. Whitney, Rep., 2070, maj. 633; Samuel J. Scott, Dem., 1437.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Francis W. Palmer, Rep., 2121, maj. 611; E. C. Cummins, Dem., 1510.

Surveyor—Ranson J. Fraker, Rep., 2078, maj. 538; Oscar Hayden, Dem., 1540.

Coroners—Joseph A. Guthrie, Rep., 2143, maj. 645; W. D. Scott, Dem., 1498; John Vanderbeck, Rep., 2145, maj. 650; — Wilson, M. D., Dem., 1495.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1878.

Governor—Charles M. Crowell, Rep., 1650; O. M. Barnes, Dem., 787; H. S. Smith, Greenback, 1162.

State Senator—John W. Cochrane, Rep., 1578; J. K. Wright, Dem., 921; — Smalley, Greenbacker, 1128.

State Representative—William S. Turck, Rep., 1758; — Graves, Dem., 748; E. P. Spink, Greenbacker, 1080.

Sheriff—George L. Patch, Rep., 1537; Charles E. Webster, Dem., 954; George W. Newcomb, Greenback, 1085.

County Clerk—William B. Scattergood, Rep., 1667; Stiles Kennedy, Dem., 796; A. P. Beam, Greenback, 1108.

County Treasurer—William M. Barstow, Rep., 1,626; F. C. Seymour, Dem., 713; Geo. W. Clark, Greenback, 1,184.

Register of Deeds—Joseph H. Seaver, Rep., 1,457; John L. Sinclair, Dem., 1,060; Chas. H. Crandall, Greenback, 1,094.

Prosecuting Attorney—Thurman W. Whiting, Rep., 1,551; Elisha McCall, Dem., 861; C. J. Willett, Greenback, 1,199.

Circuit Court Commissioner—Charles W. Giddings, Rep., 1,717; M. L. Anderson, Greenback, 1,199.

County Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 1,716; Geo. W. Belding, Greenback, 1,241.

Coroners—Charles W. Howland, Rep., 1,649; T. J. Gulick, Dem., 760; A. Sabring, Rep., 1,648; Dr. W. D. Scott, Dem., 776; Benj. Cole, Greenback, 1,163; — Heron, Greenback, 1,162.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1880.

President—James A. Garfield, Rep., 2,498; Winfield S. Hancock, Dem., 1,435; James B. Weaver, Greenback, 868.

Governor—David H. Jerome, Rep., 2,380; Frederick M. Holloway, Dem., 1,445; David Woodman, Greenback, 878.

State Senator—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 2,601; M. H. Stanford, Dem., 1,422; T. A. Johnson, Greenback, 965.

State Representative—Wilbur Nelson, Rep., 2,634; James K. Wright, Dem., 1,552; Horace S. Taylor, Greenback, 874.

Judge of Probate—James Paddock, Rep., 2,608; Willard D. Tucker, Greenback, 2,331.

Sheriff—Alfred A. Wood, Rep., 2,346; C. E. Webster, Dem., 1,548; S. D. Hicks, Greenback, 1,095.

Clerk—John M. Trask, Rep., 2,286; O. F. Jackson, Dem., 1,510; K. P. Peet, Greenback, 1,201.

Treasurer—Wm. M. Barstow, Rep., 2,562; D. R. Sullivan, Dem., 1,486; Gaylord Helms, Greenback, 936.

Register of Deeds—G. S. Van Buskirk, Rep., 2,744; James T. Hall, Dem., 2,206.

Prosecuting Attorney—C. J. Willett, Greenback, 2,644; Charles W. Giddings, Rep., 2,388.

Circuit Court Commissioner—James L. Clark, Rep., 2,547; B. H. Sawyer, Rep., 2,528; L. T. Wright, Dem., 1,645; S. J. Scott, Greenback, 665.

Surveyor—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 2,465; T. H. Harrod, Greenback, 957.

Coroners—N. B. Fraker, Rep., 2,629; J. A. Guthrie, Rep., 2,468; W. D. Scott, M. D., Dem., 1,429; Elisha McCall, Dem., 1,425; A. H. Mack, Greenback, 960; C. L. Downie, M. D., Greenback, 685.

#### ELECTION, NOVEMBER, 1882.

Governor—Josiah W. Begole, Fusion, 2,615; David H. Jerome, Rep., 2,260; Daniel P. Sagendorph, Prohibition, 110.

State Senator—John W. Hance, Rep., 2,415; F. S. Burton, Fusion, 2,460.

State Representative—Archibald B. Darragh, Rep., 2,464; D. O. Cuff, Fusion, 2,402.

Sheriff—Alfred A. Wood, Rep., 2,371; K. P. Peet, Fusion, 2,665.

County Clerk—J. M. Trask, Rep., 2,410; John Swigart, Fusion, 2,448.

County Treasurer—T. A. Ely, Rep., 2,304; H. B. Heverloe, Fusion, 2,566.

Register of Deeds—George S. Van Buskirk, Rep., 2,259; John L. Sinclair, Fusion, 2,623.

Prosecuting Attorney—Truman W. Whiting, Rep., 2,293; James K. Wright, Fusion, 2,552.

Circuit Court Commissioners—Byron H. Sawyer, Rep., 2,432; James L. Clark, Rep., 2,471; E. H. Ashley, Fusion, 2,401; Newell Leonard, Fusion, 2,376.

Surveyor—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 2,505; T. H. Harrod, Fusion, 2,324.

Coroners—N. L. Highby, M. D., Rep., 2,414; L. H. Dayton, M. D., Rep., 2,412; M. D. Scott, M. D., Fusion, 2,461; C. L. Downie, M. D., Fusion, 2,465.

### County Officers.

Following is a systematic and chronological list of the county officers from organization to date:

#### SHERIFF.

Geo. E. Walker 1855	Elisha Cook 1870
H. L. Townsend 1856-8	Wm. H. Pratt 1872-4
F. D. Weller 1860-2	Geo. L. Patch 1876-8
David Bayley 1864-6	Alfred A. Wood 1880
Elisha C. Clark 1868	H. P. Peet 1882

#### COUNTY CLERK.

O. M. Wood 1855	Nathan Church 1870-2
Henry H. Smith 1856	W. B. Scattergood 1874-8
Emery Crosby 1858	John W. Trask 1880
H. T. Barnaby 1860	John Swigart 1882
Wm. C. Beckwith 1862-8	

#### COUNTY TREASURER.

Ralph Ely 1855	A. B. Darragh 1872
L. Church 1856-8	S. W. Ambler 1874-6
Lalph Ely 1860	Wm. M. Barstow 1878-80
Elijah Peck 1862-4	H. B. Heverloe 1882
Wm. S. Trask 1866-70	

#### REGISTER OF DEEDS.

Henry Lane 1855	James T. Hall 1874
Elijah Peck 1856-60	Joseph W. Seaver 1876-8
Henry P. Howd 1862-4	G. S. Vanbuskirk 1880
Theodore Nelson 1866-8	J. L. Sinclair 1882
D. C. Chapin 1870-2	

#### PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

Franklin Miller 1855	C. E. Williams 1870-2
Sylvanus Groom 1856	James K. Wright 1874
Israel B. Coats 1848-60	T. W. Whitney 1876-8
Moses Tompkins 1862	C. J. Willett 1880
Wm. E. Winton 1864-6	James K. Wright 1882
A. J. Utley 1868	

#### JUDGE OF PROBATE.

J. R. Cheesman 1855	Wm. E. Winton 1872
Francis Nelson 1856-64	Giles T. Brown 1876
Elijah Peck 1868	James Paddock 1880

#### CIRCUIT COURT COMMISSIONER.

Henry Lane 1855	Giles T. Brown 1866
Moses Tompkins 1856	Wm. E. Winton 1868-70
Israel B. Coats 1858	Francis Palmer 1874-6
Wm. E. Winton 1860	C. W. Giddings 1878
Elisha McCall 1862	James L. Clark 1880
Wm. E. Winton 1864	Byron W. Sawyer 1882

#### COUNTY SURVEYOR.

S. S. Hastings 1855	D. W. Altenburg 1870-4
Addison Hapden 1856	R. J. Fraker 1876
S. S. Hastings 1858-64	S. S. Hastings 1878
C. B. Fraker 1866	D. W. Altenburg 1880-2
S. S. Hastings 1868	

#### CORONERS.

Lewis B. Loomis 1855	N. B. Fraker 1868
Levi B. Smith 1855	Wm. Yerington 1868
H. T. Barnaby 1856	G. W. Jennings 1870
J. A. Guthrie 1856	David Bailey 1870
H. T. Barnaby 1858	Edwin Clark 1874
T. I. Tann 1858-60	J. A. Guthrie 1874
Hiram Burgess 1860	C. W. Howland 1878
Wm. C. Newcomb 1862	A. Sabring 1878
Thomas Blumb 1862	N. B. Fraker 1880
Hiram Burgess 1864	J. A. Guthrie 1880
Elbridge Franklin 1864	W. D. Scott 1882
B. Cressenger 1866	C. L. Downie 1882
W. C. B. Sherwood 1866	

#### SUPFRINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

G. T. Brown 1869	G. T. Brown 1872
D. D. Hamilton 1870	

# Pioneer Society



**I**n order to perpetuate old-time remembrances, and keep alive the kindly feelings which characterized the early settlers, a society was permanently organized in September, 1878, and the first meeting was held in the grove near Ithaca, Oct. 18, 1879. The exercises were appropriate, consisting of speeches and narrations relating to the trials and hardships of the early settlers by those present. This was one of the most notable gatherings ever held in the county, and was largely attended. Many of the older ones, living at a remote distance from the county-seat, who had

not seen each other for years, had an opportunity of taking each other by the hand and comparing notes. It was a grand "gala-day" for these old people whose heads are now thickly sprinkled with gray hairs; and as the old-time memories were revived with each recital of personal experience, many eyes filled with tears as the picture of hardship and care were vividly portrayed.

Col. O. F. Wisner, of Ithaca, read an original poem, which was received with great applause, and a vote of thanks was tendered the author.

All the persons residing in the county prior to 1870 were admitted to membership, and we take great

pleasure in affixing their names, together with the date of their location in the county.

Nathan Church,	1854	Mrs. Rebecca Carr,	1859
Mrs. M. A. Church,	1866	Wm. J. Carr,	1860
N. B. Fraker,	1861	A. T. Rice,	1866
Mrs. R. Fraker,	1861	Mrs. C. J. Rice,	1866
W. W. Comstock,	1854	Frank Miller,	1855
Mrs. M. Comstock,	1854	Mrs. Juliet Miller,	1855
Robert Carothers,	1853	Dr. J. R. Cheesman,	1854
Mrs. H. Carothers,	1853	E. W. Kellogg,	1855
Henry Swift,	1855	Mrs. A. L. Kellogg,	1857
Mrs. L. E. Swift,	1855	Francis Kellogg,	1855
Frederick Strouse,	1854	Isaac B. Ward,	1856
Mrs. Sarah Strouse,	1854	John G. Thompson,	1865
James Vance,	1855	A. W. Russell,	1865
Mrs. Logisa Vance,	1855	Willis A. Russell,	1865
Erastus Hunt,	1853	John M. Everden,	1855
Samuel Lepley,	1855	Perry L. Beechler,	1855
Lafayette Swetland,	1854	Wilbur Nelson,	1854
Lydia Swetland,	1854	G. W. Cutter,	1854
Jerry Shaver,	1825	Mrs. Mary Cutter,	1854
Mrs. H. Shaver,	1855	H. B. Fox,	1866
David F. Hawkins,	1854	W. D. Scott,	1863
Mrs. C. Hawkins,	1854	John W. Howd,	1854
Wm. S. Hall,	1856	James W. Howd,	1854
Wm. Culy,	1854	Wm. J. Marshal,	1856
Mrs. Eliza Culy,	1854	Miss E. Fulton,	1865
Frederick S. Kelly,	1854	Mrs. A. Dubois,	1856
James B. Curtis,	1854	Samuel Saunders,	1869
James Wood,	1853	Mrs. A. Saunders,	1869
David Mellinger,	1854	Nelson P. Roe,	1860
Inman Cowdry,	1855	Wm. Long,	1860
E. A. Chase,	1857	Mrs. Mary E. Long,	1860
Mr. Susan Chase,	1857	Thos. Cunningham,	1854
C. E. McBride,	1856	Mrs. H. Cunningham,	1854
Mrs. H. M. McBride,	1856	William Preston,	1854

David Bell, 1854	Mrs. Harriet Preston, 1856	Mrs. A. P. Van Dine, 1861	Milo Pomeroy, 1865
Dan'l D. H. Curtis, 1854	George Dubois, 1856	Mrs. Rhoda Dodge, 1861	S. J. Thoenen, 1859
J. C. Kinney, 1856	Mrs. Mag. Dubois, 1856	Mrs. Benj. Crawford, 1853	John Zass, 1863
E. W. Smith, 1854	Roman Fyler, 1853	Mrs. E. M. Russell, 1865	Wm. Strouse, 1864
Geo. Richardson, 1865	Mrs. E. M. Fyler, 1853	Mrs. E. Beckwith, 1859	Emery Crosby, 1856
Mrs. J.A. Richardson, 1865	Wm. Barton, 1854	Mrs. Hattie J. Helt, 1859	G. W. Maynard, 1867
Chas. M. Chaffin, 1861	Mrs. Cath. Barton, 1854	Chas. Beckwith, 1869	Benj. H. Parker, 1854
Elijah Beard, 1854	Myron Wood, 1853	Miss G. Beckwith, —	Daniel Helms, 1852
A. J. Hatfield, 1862	Sylvester Wheeler 1854	Mrs. E. Miller, 1856	
John H. Jessup, 1850	Parks Allen, 1854		
Edward Dubois, 1856	Geo. Wonnacott, 1855		
P. R. Phillips, 1851	N. G. Sutliff, 1856		
Ransom Allen, 1854	Geo. W. Rice, 1861		
Wm. Marlow, 1860	Robert Reed, 1854		
L. L. B. Hunt, 1856	Mrs. Jennette Reed, 1854		
W. H. Pratt, 1859	John L. Sinclair, 1865		
J. H. Lewis, 1855	Mrs. L. Merrifield, 1854		
W. S. Turck, 1861	Wm. C. Beckwith, 1861		
Milton Lewis, 1855	Chas. E. Webster, 1862		
E. E. Farrington, 1854	Daniel O. Cuff, 1863		
I. N. Coleman, 1855	Wm. Brice, 1854		
Wallace Comstock, 1860	John C. Heslin, 1856		
Mrs. D.W.C. Chapin, 1865	Silas Hill, 1863		

The officers first selected on permanent organization were:

President, Dr. John R. Cheesman.  
 Secretary, E. W. Kellogg.  
 Corresponding Secretary, Frank Miller.  
 Treasurer, P. R. Phillips.

The meetings have not been held annually, owing to different causes; but the organization yet remains complete, and more interest should be taken in this pioneer "love-feast," which is calculated to acquaint the rising generation fully with the doings of their sires.

## For The Union.

**JUSTLY** be it said that no county in Michigan has been more noted for patriotism, than Gratiot County, and during the war it was of that character to which every citizen may point with pride. When the news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter reached the county seat, the excitement became intense. A meeting was held in the evening at the old log court-house, which was crowded with enthusiastic men, and stirring speeches were made by a number.

A document was drafted and is now on file at the office of the county clerk, which

is given entire, together with the names of the patriotic men signing it. Here it is:

The undersigned, citizens of Gratiot County, actuated by a patriotic desire to aid in vindicating the honor of our country and maintaining inviolate the supremacy of the Constitution and the laws, do most solemnly promise that we will, when called upon by the Governor, or by any other proper authority, go and assist the general Government in sustaining the Constitution and laws of our country, and earnestly ask that our services may be accepted.

CHARLES B. HOLLIDAY, ALONZO CHENEY,  
 HENRY H. TRIPP, JONATHAN GEORGE,  
 GEORGE COLBY, F. F. MOREHOUSE,  
 NATHAN CHURCH, JAMES W. HOWD,  
 WM. E. McCUNE, GEORGE RANDALL,  
 ORSON E. PERRY, JOHN BARNES, M. D.,  
 ELBRIDGE E. FRANKLIN, M. MOREHOUSE.

These intrepid men had faced suffering, privation

and danger during the hard times of 1857-8-9, and they were first to offer themselves as volunteers to uphold their country's honor. Too great honor cannot be ascribed to those noble patriots, who, full of that enthusiasm which carried victory wherever they went, battled with every advantage against them; on a strange soil; against the flower of the enemy; fighting all day and marching at night; never depressed by defeat, hunger or thirst; on to certain death; up the Maryland Heights on those terrible days at Fredericksburg; falling like grass before the sickle at Chancellorsville and at Gettysburg, where for three long days they fought; and won at last the victory which turned the tide of war and saved the North from desolation.

Mr. Ralph Ely received a commission from Gov. Blair, in July, 1861, and a company was organized in the county in less than three weeks. They were styled "The Gratiot Rangers." Most of them were pioneers, inured to hardships and privations; and, averaging nearly six feet in height, they were a noble-looking company and were as brave as they were manly. The numerous battles in which they afterward engaged, gave ample proof of this. The citizens of Ithaca gave them a public dinner before they were mustered into the service, which was done Aug. 23, 1861.

It was hard, indeed, to part with loved ones, father, brother, and husband; yet our patriotic women bade them God-speed and through their tears cheered them on. So lonely did it appear after the two first companies left the county, that it seemed as if one vast pestilence had swept away the youth and vigor of our land. Hardly any were left except women, decrepit men, and lads and misses fourteen years of age and under.

The officers of Company C, which was composed of our gallant boys, were:

Captain—	Ralph Ely;
1st Lieutenant—	George S. Gordon;
2d "	Charles B. Holliday;
1st Sergeant—	F. M. Badger;
2d "	Henry Waymire;
3d "	Nathan Church;
4th "	Wilbur Nelson;
5th "	Jacob D. Ellison.

Of these, the brave F. M. Badger was mortally wounded at the engagement of Wilmington Island,

April 16, 1862, and died three days later in the hospital at Beaufort.

As time wore on, improvements of every character were in a great measure suspended. The news from the army was the chief topic of conversation. Labor, which before had been so plentiful, was now very scarce and wages rapidly advanced. This scarcity of labor, with the advance in the price of lumber and other material, prevented the erection of buildings which otherwise would have been erected in all parts of the county. In many instances owners of large farms enlisted, leaving their wives and daughters sole managers, and sometimes sole laborers as well. They accepted the situation with remarkable zeal and bent to the task before them with astonishing cheerfulness, thus winning for themselves at home what their husbands did on the battle-field,—imperishable laurels. Ladies whose accomplishments eminently fitted them for the drawing-room might have been seen wielding the spade, ax or hoe, or driving a team of oxen as the rich loam was prepared for the reception of seed. An abundance of crops was raised for consumption, and those left at home fared quite well.

Enlistments continued during the summer of 1862, and scarcely any men remained to manage the business interests of the county. In the township of Sumner, only two able-bodied men were left. This deserves especial mention, on account of the fact that it was an unheard-of occurrence, and demonstrated the loyalty of her citizens in a remarkable manner.

In the summer of 1862, Rev. Lafayette Church organized Company D, of the 26th Mich. Inf., and was elected Captain. His company was filled in a few weeks and were ready for marching orders. His son Nathan was elected 1st Lieutenant and William S. Turck, Esq., 2d Lieutenant. Company D was presented with a handsome silk flag by the ladies while in camp at Jackson, Mich.; it was carried through many sanguinary battle-fields, and the remnants are still preserved in the archives of the State. Rev. Theodore Nelson, F. Kelly, J. Greer, whose empty sleeve testifies of actual service, William Barstow, C. E. McBride, L. Sweatland, Rev. William Towner and two sons of Sether Dean were members of this company, the three last being numbered with the honored dead.

The first draft was made in Gratiot County Oct.

27, 1863. Many of those subject to military duty had enlisted in regiments organized in other counties, and the quota, although more than filled by her gallant sons, was not accredited to Gratiot.

The second draft was made during the fall of 1864, calling for 60 more, to complete the number. There were not that number of able-bodied men subject to military duty in the county; but those who were drawn put in an appearance at Flint, for examination. Among them were cripples, dyspeptics and gray-haired men, not one in ten of whom was accepted after reporting and undergoing an examination. Some few who were drafted managed to have "urgent business in Canada" and escaped a brief term of service in that way.

Gratiot County has every reason to be proud of her soldiers who were acknowledged in the records of the war as being among the best in the service. To mention the numerous engagements and hard-fought battles in which they participated would occupy too much space. Suffice it to say, that they were a band of heroes, and their names will live forever in the history of the nation.

The 26th regiment from 1864 attracted much enviable notice by its gallant fighting at Deep Bottom, when it drove in great confusion double its own number into their earth-works, after pressing them for a full half mile. For this gallant and dashing affair they were specially complimented by Gen. Hancock in general orders.

The regiment in command of Maj. N. Church, occupied a position in the entrenchments in front of Petersburg, and were daily engaged from Oct. 31 until March 25 following. From the 1st to the 6th of April, while in command of Maj. Ives, who had been promoted Major, to rank from March 7 preceding, *vice* Church, the latter being commissioned Lieutenant Colonel and then serving as Assistant Inspector General on Gen. Miles' staff, the regiment was engaged in pursuing the retreating army, fighting every day. On the 6th the regiment took a very active part in the capture of a train of 260 wagons, containing baggage, provisions and ammunition, and was the first regiment to attack the train.

From March 28 until April 9, the regiment participated in ten engagements, and are accredited with the capture of over 400 prisoners. It was often complimented as the best "skirmish regiment" in

the Ninth Corps. After Lee's surrender the regiment was detailed with its brigade, to guard the trains employed in bringing off the captured arms and ammunition. Gen. Barlow, in letters to Col. Church, says:

"I have the strongest regard and admiration for the 26th Michigan. It is a difficult thing to pick out one regiment from all those I served with as the very best; but I can say this: that I never saw one *superior* in the whole army. \* \* \* I believe that an army of such regiments as that would be superior to any army in the world."

Gen. Hancock writes:

"I have great respect and esteem for the officers and men of a regiment so distinguished in the field as the 26th Michigan Infantry, being bound to them in ties of friendship derived from a common service."

If then these distinguished generals give the 26th, to which many of our Gratiot volunteers belonged, such praise, no higher mark of intrinsic merit need be mentioned. No greater glory attaches to these men than is due the gallant privates who made up the rank and file of the regiments and so manfully bore the burden and heat of the day. Honor is due to every soldier from Gratiot County and "The History of Michigan in the War" does them great credit.

With the surrender of Lee, the Commander-in-Chief of the rebel forces, and the planting of the National banner upon the walls of Fort Sumter, from which it was ruthlessly torn by the hands of rebels four years before, our people breathed a universal prayer of gladness, for their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers would soon return, and life would be the happier for the sacrifices endured in the preservation of the country and the Union they devotedly loved. Shouts of rejoicing were heard when the tears were hardly gone from the eyes of those whose loved ones had breathed their last upon the Southern battle-fields.

With the return of the soldiers, came an impetus to the growth and prosperity of the whole country; new enterprises were set on foot; the clatter of tools and hum of machinery were heard on every hand, and the opening of stores and other places of business showed that the boys had lost none of their enterprise by long absence. The pulpits, whose former occupants had been long clad in the livery furnished by "Uncle Sam," were again made to resound with the glad tidings, "Peace on earth, good will to man."

# RAILROADS.

**T**HE subject of transportation has been and is now one of the vital questions in the growth and development of a county, be it new or old. Gratiot County was for years almost shut off from civilization for lack of wagon roads, and until recently had no markets for grain or other productions, except for home consumption, solely because the same could not be carried out of the county.

There were several lines of railroads projected through this county, but until the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis road was built from Saginaw to St. Louis, there was no nearer point to be reached by rail than St. John's, in Clinton County. The Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw railroad was originally intended to pass through Gratiot, but the directors were so adroitly manipulated by Saginaw and Owosso parties that the route was changed.

## The Lansing, St. John's & Mackinaw Railroad Company.

**T**HIS road was the first line proposed to pass through Gratiot County. The company was organized, and five per cent. of stock paid in, April 26, 1869. All the representative men of St. Louis, Ithaca and St. John's met on that day, and committees were appointed who were to canvass along the proposed line for local

subscriptions. Judge William E. Winton, of Ithaca, and Judge Bourland spent two months in stumping Gratiot County. Aid was secured from every township on both sides of the line, and bonds were all ready for negotiation, when the Supreme Court of Michigan decided the law to be unconstitutional which allows aid to be voted in the manner theretofore done. Although the line was surveyed to Ithaca, they were obliged to abandon the project.

## The Chicago, Saginaw & Canada Railroad.

**T**HERE is no limit to the inventive faculties of man, nor the schemes which can be employed to accomplish certain ends. Capt. E. L. Craw was an impecunious individual, but his zeal and desire to attain notoriety resulted in the building of the road mentioned, which he not only undertook but virtually accomplished without having a dollar of money invested. He was of the "Col. Sellers" order and his wealth was all prospective or on paper, which consisted of blank railroad bonds. His first venture in this State was to organize a joint-stock company in Chicago, who purchased several thousand acres of pine lands near Lake Michigan, where a fine hotel was built, costing \$100,000, in a village platted by the company, bearing the name of "Fruitport."

This was intended to be a fashionable summer resort, but the burning of the hotel put a quietus upon the scheme from which it never recovered.

This venture gave rise to the plan afterward carried



into execution by Capt. Craw, for building a railroad to connect with Detroit on the east and touching "Fruitport" on the west. He had a lot of bonds printed, came to St. Louis, and by representations made, an agreement was entered into with the managers of the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis railroad to merge their line into the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada railroad, he to commence at St. Louis and build westward. He tried first to obtain local aid at St. Louis, but failed to get a dollar. His efforts at Alma were successful, \$21,000 being subscribed by the citizens. Grading was commenced in 1874, the engineers having located the line through to Lake View. He issued bonds of \$20,000 per mile and sent Prof. McChesney to Europe to negotiate the same. This he failed to do, but succeeded in pawning them for \$10,000. In the meantime Capt. Craw was not idle. He issued still more bonds, went to Philadelphia, and, getting together a number of capitalists, represented that he had secured aid along the line, showed up the advantages of his road, it being by 60 miles the shortest route to Chicago, the immense resources to be obtained by the transportation of pine lumber from the lands of the aforementioned company, estimated to furnish shipments for several years. From the cleverness of his argument he procured \$150,000, putting up bonds of \$20,000 to the mile and agreeing to pay 10 per cent. and refund the money after the first 20 miles was graded. As Prof. McChesney was then in Europe trying to negotiate the bonds, this part of the scheme was the more easily accomplished.

He then borrowed \$100,000 of Gen. Sickles, with the same securities, and expended what was left after his famous champaigne suppers were paid for, in grading and putting down ties.

This money was soon exhausted and the Captain made a journey to New York, with another lot of bonds, where, forming the acquaintance of Capt. Benj. Richardson, he succeeded in borrowing \$100,000 for 90 days, agreeing to pay a bonus of \$15,000 for the favor. He put up \$200,000 in bonds to secure this loan, expecting to have returns from Europe before payment was due.

The money procured from Richardson purchased the iron for laying 20 miles of track, but it was all exhausted before the same reached St. Louis. Richardson had to advance more money to pay the freight

from Saginaw to St. Louis, and pay for laying the iron. Later, he bought the rolling stock, consisting of 20 flat cars, two engines, a second-class passenger coach and one box car. These were branded, "Property of Benj. Richardson," as he felt like having some representation. He was then made managing director, and operations commenced between St. Louis and Cedar Lake in the fall of 1875.

Previous to all this, Craw had induced his son-in-law to invest \$60,000 in the scheme, all of which was lost, the young man never realizing a dollar. It was operated under Richardson's management until November, 1876, when it was declared bankrupt and passed into the hands of D. D. Irwin, of Muskegon, as receiver. He leased it to Col. J. A. Elwell, who operated it until June 1, 1883, when the line was sold to the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company. The chief engineer, B. H. Bryant, was assistant superintendent under the lessee until his resignation in July, 1879, when James T. Hall was promoted from a conductorship to the position of superintendent, which he retained until the road was sold. Col. Elwell made this line a successful one, extending it, at his own expense, from Cedar Lake to Edmore, there making connections with the Detroit, Lansing & Northern. In September, 1878, he extended it to Lake View, the present terminus. When he leased the road the total earnings amounted to less than \$10,000 per year. He increased this 1,200 per cent. the first year, which was largely due to his enterprise in establishing a postal and telegraph service, express and other facilities, as well as the erection of suitable depots along the line.

All these were supplied by Mr. Elwell at his own expense, but he was subsequently reimbursed by order of the court.

This is, in brief, the history of one of the most remarkable schemes in railroad building ever recorded.

As operated now, by the Detroit, Lansing & Northern, the line is a paying investment, and some time will surely be extended, making Detroit a terminus.

Lowell Hall originated a scheme in the line of railroad enterprises which came to an untimely end in 1873. His plan was to build a line from Grand Rapids to Saginaw, and the route was surveyed and some grading done in the townships of Fulton and Washington. This line was known and is yet spoken

of as the "Lowell Hall" route, but all hope of its being completed has been long since abandoned, the project never having been a feasible one.

A line known as the Marshall, Coldwater & Mackinaw railroad was surveyed, and considerable grading done in 1873. The entire line is graded through Sumner Township, except across section 6, in which the hamlets of Elm Hall and Estella are very much interested. The former name of Coldwater and Mackinaw was changed to the present title in 1874. Strong probabilities exist that this road will be completed in the near future.

#### Owosso and Northwestern Railroad.

**A** railroad by the above name was projected and surveyed through this county. The line was graded and ties furnished at many points along the route, but the "panic" of 1873 stopped the work until the fall of 1883. The name has been changed to the Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Michigan railroad. It passes through a fertile section of country, and will be of great advantage in developing not only this but also the other counties through which it passes. J. M. Ashley, Sen., is President, and his son, J. M. Ashley, Jr., Secretary.

#### The Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad.

**P**ERHAPS it would not be saying too much did we mention that out of the wild scheme projected by Lowell Hall grew the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis railroad; consequently this proves that indirect means may accomplish important ends. The first line of railroad, and the first train of cars coming into the county, was over the above named road. For a long while the people of St. Louis were forced to obtain supplies from Saginaw and St. John's by teams, and not until 1870 was any direct effort made to establish a route, there being but few men of sufficient means and energy to undertake it. We are glad to place on record the names of the parties most interested and who aided

and pushed forward the project until it was finally completed. To these men St. Louis owe all, or much, of the prosperity which so enlivens her to-day. Thomas Holcomb, John L. Evans, Luther Smith, Aaron Wessells, James F. Newton and S. S. Hastings, together with A. B. Darragh, deserve more credit for their labors in this enterprise than they will ever receive.

In the spring of 1870, a few men, among whom were Luther Smith, John L. Evans and A. B. Darragh, were discussing the matter of railroads, and it was suggested that a meeting of the citizens be called at St. Louis to have some expression in the matter, as they were sadly in need of a road. There being no printing press in the village, Mr. Darragh wrote out several notices, stating that a meeting would be held on a certain date to discuss the matter of having a railroad, and everybody was invited to attend. These were posted, and when the day for meeting came the town was full of enthusiastic people, all of whom wanted a railroad. The meeting was held in a hall over Schiffer's hardware store, and a committee appointed to visit points along the proposed route, which was, as conceived by Lowell Hall, to have Grand Rapids for the western, and the Saginaws the eastern terminus, the same to be called the "Grand Rapids & Saginaw Railroad Company." This committee were to appoint local committees along the proposed route, to attend a meeting soon to be held in Saginaw to effect a permanent organization.

A close canvass was made between this place and Grand Rapids prior to the meeting at Saginaw, and outside of Grand Rapids very little was done. An apathy prevailing throughout the country, St. Louis was anxious to have the road terminate at this point, and came to the front with a handsome donation.

At the meeting for permanent organization at Saginaw, L. H. Eastman was chosen President, David H. Jerome, Secretary, and A. W. Wright, Treasurer. Luther Smith offered a resolution, which was adopted by vote, that a committee be appointed to report all subscriptions along the line, including Grand Rapids, and report result, together with a recommendation as to the western terminus of the road. As chairman of said meeting, Mr. Smith reported \$30,000 from each of the Saginaws and the same amount from both St. Louis & Grand Rapids, together with a few small

subscriptions along the line. After a conference, the present name was given, the eastern terminus being Saginaw; the western, St. Louis. At this meeting, five per cent of the stock was paid in, and everything went well. Contracts were let, and work commenced at both ends, being rapidly pushed with all the force requisite. More money was needed and another assessment levied, which the East Saginaw stock-holders refused to pay, claiming they had been unjustly dealt with, by virtue of a contract made between the executive committee and the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw, which practically made Saginaw City the terminus. They insisted that the original contract be complied with, making their city the terminus.

Sufficient means were realized in St. Louis and Saginaw to carry on the work, and the road was completed in the winter of 1871. Amasa Stone, of the Cleveland Iron Works, furnished the iron, taking pay in bonds of the road drawing 8 per cent semi-annually, these bonds being considered worth only 80 cents on the dollar. In addition to this, the Cleveland Rolling Mill Company were given as a bonus \$100,000 stock in the road, which was afterward paid in full. There were thirteen directors, of whom John L. Evans, John F. Newton, Charles B. Kress, Luther Smith and James McHenry were residents of St. Louis.

The directors gave their personal obligation for rolling stock, which cost \$150,000, and was afterward paid by the earnings of the road. There was at times some disagreement among the officials, but all these were smoothed over and the best of feeling prevailed when the first train made its appearance at St. Louis, in December, 1871. A large number of people came from Saginaw and other points to attend the grand dinner given by the people in honor of the occasion, and five long tables, loaded with everything palatable, were spread in Kress' Hall. Speeches were made by many distinguished guests from abroad, toasts drank and responded to in a happy manner by many of our present citizens. S. W. Ambler, the President of the village, made some appropriate remarks. It was a grand gala-day. John Evans killed his old bear "Jo," whose savory steaks graced the banquet board. Artillery was fired, and glad huzzas were heard on every side.

The construction of this road opened up a country which had been comparatively worthless, being cov-

ered with hard woods which had no market value, but were now eagerly sought after. Much of the fine square timbers were sent to Europe, while staves made from the same were largely exported to the West India Islands.

The population of St. Louis, which was only 800 in 1870, has increased until it now numbers 2,700, the result of enterprise brought about by the opening of this road. It is now under the contract of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad Company, although the name is unchanged.

The extension of the line from St. Louis to Ithaca, was mainly due to that energetic gentleman, Gen. Nathan Church, who spent not only a great deal of time, but also many dollars, to accomplish the work. For several years efforts had been made to induce the company to extend the line to Ithaca, but no plan proposed met with favor. The benefits Ithaca would derive from having railroad communication with the outside world was apparent to her business men, and a local company was organized, their money paid in and work has commenced in earnest between Alma and Ithaca. The officers of this company were composed of the following gentlemen:

President—Nathan Church.

Secretary—Robert Smith.

Treasurer—W. S. Turck.

Directors—A. W. Wright, of Saginaw; D. R. Sullivan and W. S. Turck, of Alma; and Nathan Church, Wilbur Nelson, J. H. Seaver and Robert Smith, of Ithaca.

These gentlemen organized the company April 1, 1882, and work was commenced at once. The right of way was secured, the road graded, tied and iron laid by December 15th of that year. After mature deliberation, the officers of the company decided to transfer all their right, title and interest in the road to the Detroit, Lansing & Northern, which road had agreed to equip and run the new line in connection with their time schedule. The first freight received over the new road, was two cars of machinery for Mr. Thompson's Butter-Tub factory, Dec. 28, 1882. Nelson & Barber shipped the first freight from Ithaca (one car of wheat), on Jan. 2, 1883.

Regular passenger trains were put on June 25 of the same year, and the trade in both the passenger and the freight departments has been entirely satisfactory to the company managing the line.

To Gen. Nathan Church, Robert Smith, Wilbur

Nelson and Joseph H. Seaver, are the people of Ithaca indebted for the prosperity which came with the completion of this line of road.

#### The Lansing, Alma, Mt. Pleasant & Northern Railroad.

**T**HIS road is being rapidly pushed to completion. It passes through a fertile section of country, and has for its present termini, Lansing on the south and Mt. Pleasant on the north. Engineers were put upon the proposed route in January, and the work is now well under way, grading is being pushed rapidly, and before

the close of 1884 cars will be running between the points named. The shops of the company will probably be located at Alma, which will add largely to the business industries of that village.

The officers of this company are composed of the following well-known gentlemen, whose names guarantee a successful completion of the line, all being quite wealthy and determined that their scheme shall not fail.

President—A. W. Wright, of Alma.

Directors—A. W. Wright, Wm. S. Turck, James Gargett and Geo. D. Barton, of Alma; J. N. Shepherd, of Salt River; John A. Harris and Wm. M. Brown, of Mt. Pleasant.



**W**E know nothing that bespeaks the wealth of a country in more unmistakable language than the growth and prosperity of her villages and cities. The gradual development of Gratiot County has caused a growth and business enterprise of her three most important towns that are indeed surprising. Of these we mention first the county seat, which is beatifully located at the geographical center of the county, and in the midst of an agricultural district equaled by few in the Peninsular State. "Gratiot Center" was thus named, being the center of the county; but the name was changed to Ithaca, that being the name of the postoffice which was located here in February, 1856. The town was surveyed by Sidney S. Hastings, Feb. 11, 12 and 13 of that year, and

the first residents were Frank Miller, Postmaster, and Orville M. Wood. John Jeffrey was owner of the land, and had it platted and offered lots for sale in the spring of 1856.

Only two buildings were erected until March, one being a small frame structure of two rooms, the front one being used as a store by Mr. Jeffrey, the other for a dwelling and hotel, which was occupied by Lucius Knapp and family. The other was a rude log building, in which the postoffice was kept, also a stock of groceries by John Knight & Frank Miller. Knight afterward removed part of the stock into another log building, where John Howd's house now stands, that had been erected for the purpose by Ben., Dan. and William Crawford. The firm was known as Knight & Van Ripper.

W. W. Comstock purchased two lots of John Jeffrey in June of this year and erected a log hotel, the first public house in the village. The "Retan House" occupies the site, and the cook-room of that hostelry

is a part of Comstock's hotel. Many are the stories told of the days when everybody was "hard-up," and lodging could scarcely be obtained anywhere; in fact, there were no houses except little cabins that were already filled to overflowing. The entire floor of Comstock's hotel was frequently covered with tired men, who for lack of better accommodations were forced to lie upon the bare floor with only a coverlet. The man who was unfortunate enough to snore and awaken his fellow lodgers was obliged by the law of custom to sit up and keep a fire burning until another unfortunate was in like manner compelled to take his place.

There are many men now living in the vicinity of Ithaca who have assisted largely in building up the village, none of whom perhaps deserves greater credit than W. W. Comstock. Always ready to aid any enterprise, he disbursed his means with a liberal hand, and nearly all the early business ventures were undertaken and carried to completion by his financial aid. He resides upon a farm near the village, happy in the thought that his efforts were the means of accomplishing great good for the town of his choice.



#### Village Incorporated.

**T**HE village of Ithaca was incorporated and its first officers elected Nov. 16, 1869. The territory is enclosed by the following boundary: "All the territory in the county of Gratiot, and State of Michigan, commencing at the quarter-post on the south side of section thirty-one (31), in Emerson Township, thence running north one-half mile, thence west one mile, thence south one-half mile, thence east one mile, to the place of beginning, comprising portions of the townships of Emerson, Arcada, Newark and North Star, in said county and State.

William E. Winton was elected first President of the Board of Trustees.

Trustees—Nathan Church, William W. Comstock, A. W. Russell, D. Taylor, Andrew J. Utley, C. E. Williams.

Clerk—James W. Howd.

Treasurer—W. D. Scott.

Assessor—E. C. Cummings.

Marshal—E. N. Du Bois.

Street Commissioners—C. N. Howd, Henry Kinkerter, B. F. Shepard.



#### Business Interests.

**O**nly for a few years past has the village assumed a healthy growth. The more fortunate towns on either side had railroads, which gave them facilities not possessed by Ithaca for the purchase and shipment of grain and lumber. As the result, what rightfully belonged to her was given for years to her neighbors, thus building up in a substantial manner the mercantile and other business of the towns of the county. The growth of Ithaca was retarded in the same proportion as her trade was taken away, and for many years few improvements were made. The growth was healthy, however; but with the new railroad came a boom and the town received an impetus which places her on an equal plane with St. Louis, Alma and St. John's. A market for all the productions of the country is found here, and prices rate the same as elsewhere. New life is apparent, and the business industries of the place are springing up on every hand. During the next ten years, Ithaca will surprise even the most sanguine in the extent of her improvements and substantial growth. Where the massive oak stood in its grandeur a few years ago, are now beautiful lawns upon which stand tasteful cottages, surrounded by all that wealth can procure or the comfort of man require. In place of the primitive log huts in which a few groceries were packed, are magnificent brick blocks, which would do credit to cities of great pretensions, and the attractively arranged display of merchandise indicate the cultured tastes of her people.

*William C. Beckwith* has been continuously engaged in the furniture business since 1861, which makes him the pioneer dealer in the county. His factory is well equipped with machinery for the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds. Irving Wright owns an interest in the furniture manufactory.

The extensive saw-mill and butter-tub factory owned and operated by Mr. W. F. Thompson, is a source of much revenue to the farmers in the vicinity of Ithaca. This enterprise was put into operation in

the fall of 1883, and has a capacity of 20,000 feet per day in the lumber, and 600 tubs per diem in the manufacturing department. Mr. Thompson gives employment to 30 men, and has orders for more goods than he can manufacture. Thousands of dollars' worth of logs fill his ample yards, and he estimates that Gratiot County can supply the material to keep his mill in active operation for the next five years.

*The Slave Factory* of Messrs. Richards & Althouse is also quite an addition to the manufacturing interests of Ithaca, and a large amount of timber is used by the firm. They employ a large number of men, and expend thousands of dollars annually for material in this village, aside from their extensive mill at St. Louis, which has a larger capacity than this.

*The Postoffice* is not yet a "salaried" one, but the commissions have lately been overrunning the amount required to constitute one. Robert Smith, the editor and proprietor of the *Gratiot Journal*, is Postmaster, and has recently removed the office to a neat and commodious building at the corner of Center and Pine Streets.

*William Pullen* is largely engaged in the manufacture and sale of furniture, and carries a splendid line of goods. In addition to the saw-mills and planing factories there are several wagon and buggy manufactories, a number of blacksmith and harness shops, a foundry, a splendid grist-mill, and three excellent livery barns.

*Livery*.—Messrs. Peet & Johnson, J. P. Whitman & Sons, and L. M. Lyons represent this business.

*Wilbur Nelson*, of the firm of Nelson & Barber, is the oldest merchant in the city. Their stock is the largest carried by any firm in the county; it consists of general merchandise suited to the trade in this neighborhood. Their business in the line of merchandise alone amounted to more than \$100,000 in 1882.

*Messrs. Seaver & Lewis* also have an extensive line of merchandise, and occupy elegant quarters.

*George Richardson* is proprietor of the finest drug-store in the village, making his purchase of Dixi Hall, Jan. 1, 1884. There are three other places where drugs may be obtained, but all handle some other line of goods.

*Elevator*.—The large elevator belongs to Nelson

Barber, the senior member of which gave not only Ithaca but also St. Louis its trade in wheat.

*Hotels*.—Are two in number, the "Retan House" and "Commercial Hotel." The former hotel is under the management of Messrs. Retan & Covert, the other under the supervision of Mr. Charles Vaughn. Both hostelrys are crowded to their utmost capacity and the guests are well pleased with the accommodations.

*Banks*.—Two banks are necessary to transact the business of the village and country adjacent. The first to commence a legitimate business in this line were Church, Bills & Co., on July 1, 1877. They are pioneers in the banking and collection business, and have a good building, centrally located, a burglar and fire proof safe, and all the capital necessary to carry on the enterprise in a successful manner. W. B. Scattergood is cashier. The firm is composed of N. Church, W. B. Scattergood, M. H. Church, O. P. Bills, Wilbur Nelson and Mrs. C. Bills.

Steel, Turck & Co. opened their doors in 1879, and do a general banking business. They have excellent quarters in the Jeffrey building, and the firm is composed of wealthy gentlemen who report the business in a prosperous condition. Mr. John W. Lewis is Cashier, with R. M. Steel, J. Hicks, J. W. Lewis, J. M. Thurber, J. H. Seaver, W. E. Winton, J. Scriven, Mrs. Louisa Seaver and Josiah Upton as stockholders.

*Millinery*.—Is well represented by three prosperous stores. The ladies of Gratiot are well dressed, and present to the best advantage everything which can be gained from the dressmaker's and milliner's art.

*Real Estate*.—Mr. S. W. Ambler does an exclusive real-estate business, and is one of the most reliable and best known men in the county. Mr. Nathan Church carries on a real-estate and abstract office in the rear of the bank. His loans have been so securely placed that, in making the same to the extent of one and one-fourth millions of dollars, not one was ever lost, nor was the land mortgaged taken to pay the loan.

*The Legal Profession*.—Is represented by a number of able lawyers. Judge William E. Winton, and Mr. Elisha McCall are the two oldest members of the Bar in the county. These two men have been pitted against each other for more than a quarter of a century and many a hotly contested case has been gained

by their eloquence and knowledge of law. Hon. Giles T. Brown, B. H. Sawyer, John Winton and E. H. Ashley complete the members of the Bar residing in this village. All are talented men and enjoy excellent reputations as expounders of Blackstone.

*Michigan State Mutual Relief Association* is located here and is doing a nice and rapidly increasing business. T. S. Barnes is the Secretary of the society.

*Medical Profession*—Is well represented by several physicians, of whom Dr. Charles W. Marvin and Dr. W. D. Scott are the oldest; Dr. Marvin came in 1860, Dr. Scott four years later.

Dr. J. H. DeMay is a very popular physician, and, although a young man, enjoys a large and lucrative practice. Although the village of Ithaca and the surrounding country is considered remarkably healthy, the large population and the diseases peculiar to the northern climate make the services of good physicians necessary.

*Ithaca Brass Band*.—The Ithaca Brass Band was organized in May, 1883, and numbers 21 pieces. As an amateur band they have few equals, and have received universal praise in every town in which they have appeared.

It is under the efficient leadership of Mr. William Pullen, who is without a peer as an instructor. The names of the members are, Ellis Fuller, Charles Brown, George Fink, Rolla Peet, Ed. Crawford, Dr. J. H. DeMay, George Lewis, Dewitt Johnson, Archibald McCall, Fred Fox, Frank Sutliff, John Beller, Will Moye, Charles Baker, Frank Keys, Arthur Sturgis, Charles Wilson, Ambrose Brooks, M. J. Criss and Wm. J. Paine.

Ithaca has reason to feel proud of her band, and should encourage the boys with financial aid in procuring such uniforms as they deserve. The reputation of any village or city is enhanced by culture, and music forms one of the chief factors.

*Fire Department*.—This is well equipped, having a splendid force pump, worked by horse power, of the celebrated Howe's patent, which has a capacity of throwing 18 barrels of water per minute. With this effective apparatus is 700 feet of three-inch hose. There is also a hook and ladder outfit, supplied with four Babcock extinguishers. Mr. J. W. Lewis is Fire Marshall, O. F. Jackson, Fire Warden, and the company number 45 active men. The force pump

cost \$1,200, and works to perfection. Water is procured from the city water works, which empties into several large underground reservoirs at convenient places in the village. There are few villages the size of Ithaca that are better prepared to protect property from loss by fire, and none have a more complete outfit.

*Opera-House Block*.—With all the conveniences of churches, schools etc., the need of a substantial opera house was anticipated by Messrs. Wilber Nelson and Nathan Church, who erected a neat and imposing building for this purpose. The lower story is occupied by Nelson & Barber, with a large stock of merchandise. The opera house is well arranged and seats comfortably 400 persons. The stage is a model of convenience, and the appurtenances were furnished by artists of merit. The citizens of Ithaca have reason to be proud of this building which is so necessary to their enjoyment, and Messrs. Nelson & Church have erected not only a monument which will always be a reminder of their business enterprise, but their investment has enhanced the beauty and worth of the business center fully 100 per cent. The Opera-House Block was completed in 1878, at a cost of \$12,000.

*Bank Block*.—The best evidence of prosperity of the business men in any village is the erection of substantial business buildings. Of these the handsome brick block erected by the heirs of John Jeffrey is one of the finest and most imposing structures in the county. It is built of brick, artistically trimmed with stone, and is three stories in height, with a large, airy basement. The building was completed in 1880, at a cost of \$20,000. It is an ornament to the business portion of the village.

### Educational.

**I**N educational matters the public schools of the county form an important part. Ithaca leads with the finest school building, it having cost when completed in 1884, together with the site, \$23,500. The two former school buildings were located at the corner of Centre and Maple streets, but were both destroyed by fire. The corner stone of the new building was laid with

appropriate ceremonies, on Friday, June 15, 1883, and the same was ready for occupancy Jan. 1, 1884. It is a handsome brick structure, trimmed with stone, two stories high, with a large, airy basement, built upon the latest improved plans as regards ventilation and utility. The entire structure is heated by two large furnaces and the rooms are furnished with all the recent improvements in furniture and equipments.

There are 300 pupils enrolled, although the last school census gave a total of 410. The seating capacity of the school building accommodates 600 pupils. The gymnasium, in the third story, and the nice play rooms in the basement form important features in the athletic training of the youth of both sexes. There is also a nice library belonging to the school district which comprises over 400 volumes, and fifty dollars is annually expended in the purchase of new books.

The schools of Ithaca are a credit not only to the village, but the county as well, and this will induce many substantial men to locate here for the purpose of educating their children. The school site is situated on a beautiful elevation containing three acres, at the head of main street.

### County Buildings.

**F**IRST, it may be observed, that the county buildings are ample and well constructed. The court-house is a neat two-story frame building, with rooms for county officers in the lower story. It was erected in 1870, on the site donated by John Jeffrey. The entire cost of building, furniture, etc., was \$10,000.

The Sheriff's residence and jail was completed in 1878, which together with the site cost the county \$12,000. This building is a handsome and substantial brick structure, built in modern style, and is not only an elegant but a very secure building. Sheriff K. P. Peet keeps the premises in fine condition, and the jail, in a sanitary point of view, cannot be much improved.

Ithaca is destined to become an important city. Situated as it is, in the midst of an excellent agricultural district, with railroads tapping all the important commercial centers, her future is assured.

### Cemetery.

**T**HE cemetery is beautifully located, and adjoins the corporation on the northwestern boundary. It comprises five acres of land, which gently slopes away from the village, and the neatness in which it is kept under the management of the Cemetery Association is creditable to the officials in charge.

The original association was composed of 13 members, and was organized in 1863, with W. W. Comstock as President, Emery Crosby, Clerk, and Judge Elijah Peck, Treasurer.

The grounds are nicely underdrained and are at all times accessible. The first body interred was that of Mary Nelson, a daughter of Rev. Francis Nelson in September, 1864.

### Ithaca Township.

**I**THACA Township was organized by a special act of the Legislature in 1881, which was rendered necessary from the inconvenience in voting, the village plat comprising a section of each of the townships of Arcada, Newark, Emerson and North Star. This also caused a reorganization of the school district, which has resulted beneficially to the village in many respects. Abraham Russell has represented the township since its organization as Supervisor. The territory, although small, demands considerable attention on his part, and he has given general satisfaction on the Board.

### Church History.

**A**MONG the numerous evidences of the intellectuality and morals of any community, the churches stand pre-eminent as the basis in measuring the standard. Gratiot County, in this respect, equals and even excels some of her sister counties whose advantages have been meas-



urably greater. The advent of several ministers during its early settlement tended largely to promote the cause of religion, and through their efforts was the interest in theological matters maintained. The names of these reverend gentlemen are mentioned elsewhere, and their zeal and untiring devotion to the cause has met with a fitting reward.

*Baptist Church.*—This is the pioneer organization of the religious denominations in this village, a society being formed by a number of persons July 18, 1857.

The meeting was held in Ithaca, Rev. Israel Fay being Chairman, and J. A. Guthrie, Secretary. The following persons were present and became members of the society, which is known as the First Baptist Church of Ithaca. At this meeting Lafayette Church received sanction from the society to preach, and for a number of years he ministered to their spiritual wants. Elder Fay was an ardent worker, and did much in an early day to promote the cause of religion in the neighborhood.

The Deacons chosen at this meeting were: Lafayette Church, N. Thomas, Sether Dean, S. S. Hastings. J. A. Guthrie, Secretary.

The organization being thus completed, the names of those present were enrolled, consisting of: Nathan Thomas, E. W. Mead, William Allen, George Luce, Lafayette Church, Jacob E. Bullock, Sether Dean, Sidney S. Hastings. J. A. Guthrie, Christopher Dingman, Hiram Burgess, John Jeffrey, Rexonia Fay, Lydia Thomas, Rachel Mead, Mary Allen, Nancy Luce, Amanda Church, Hannah M. Bullock, Miranda Dean, Julia D. Hastings, Emma M. Guthrie, Mother Ray and Mary Bradshaw.

Meetings were held in the school-house until the completion of their church in 1867. The membership has always been a large one, the records now having eighty names enrolled on its pages. Rev. D. M. Christie, an able divine, is pastor, whose efforts are meeting with a fitting reward.

The society suffered a great loss on March 13, 1884, by the burning of the church edifice. As there was no insurance, and the church being already burdened with a debt of over \$400, the building having been sold under mortgage in 1883, the loss will be keenly felt. A larger and finer church will, however, take the place of the former, as the enterprising people of Ithaca have gladly contributed to the building fund.

*Congregational Church.*—In the pleasant month of June, 1866, a few persons met at the residence of Judge William E. Winton, to discuss the question of organizing a Congregational society in this village. After a conference they decided to meet at the same place next day and complete the organization. Satisfactory preparations were made and the meeting adjourned until the evening of June 7, when the following named persons met at the school-house and formally organized the society: Judge William E. Winton and wife Marietta, Dr. Charles W. Marvin and wife Martha, Elijah and Sally Peck, Zachariah Hoag, Mrs. Mary A. and Miss Helen C. Hoag.

Rev. Samuel Sessions was engaged as pastor, and commenced his labors Dec. 7, 1866.

The first communion service was held the first Sabbath in May, 1867, at the Advent Church, and their Sabbath-school was organized in the same month.

Rev. Edwin Shaw was called to this pastorate in February, 1869, in consequence of the resignation of Rev. Sessions, and took charge of the congregation until August, 1871, when Rev. Edward Cleveland was called, and preached one year. The membership had grown until there was a real necessity for building a church, which was completed in 1868, and dedicated July 29 of that year. The Chapel was clear of debt and the members active workers, thus making it a thriving organization from the beginning.

Dr. Charles W. Marvin was elected Deacon at the annual meeting in July, 1872. He still retains the office of Clerk, which position he has held for many years. The membership has maintained a healthy, although moderate, growth, and the congregation is composed of the best class of people in the village and vicinity.

An addition was built to the chapel several years ago, but need of more room will necessitate the erection of a new building in the near future.

The Trustees first elected were: Chas. W. Marvin, Zachariah Hoag and Wm. E. Winton. Deacon, Elijah Peck.

The attendance at their Sabbath-school equals if not excels that of any other denomination in the village. In this branch of theological education the Congregational people take great pride, and the demeanor of the youth of Ithaca is in a great manner due to their excellent training at the Sunday-schools in the village.

Rev. F. L. Bristol, the present pastor, is a learned and gifted gentleman, whose sermons are the means of attracting large and intelligent audiences. His salary is adequate to his needs, and is promptly paid by his parishioners.

*Seventh-Day Adventists.*—The following brief sketch of the origin and progress of the Seventh-Day Adventists was furnished us by Rev. Franklin Squire :

Our field of inquiry leads us back only to the great Advent movement of 1840-4. Respecting that movement it is presumed that the public are more or less informed; but they may not be so well aware of the causes which have led since that time to the rise of a class of people calling themselves Seventh-Day Adventists.

Adventists looked for the end of the world in 1844, because it is said in Dan. 8 : 14, that at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days the sanctuary should be cleansed. They believed those days would end in that year. They held that the earth was the sanctuary then to be cleansed, and that its cleansing was to be accomplished with fire, which would accompany the manifestation of the Lord from heaven. Hence they supposed the Lord would then come. There were, of course, many other facts and arguments in support of the view that the second coming of Christ was near; but what we have stated was the principal argument for fixing upon that particular time for the occurrence of this great and important event.

The time passed, and the coming of Christ did not take place as was expected. It then became apparent that a mistake had been made in one or both of the following points: either the period of 2300 days did not end at that time, or the cleansing of the sanctuary was not to be the burning of the earth by fire at the second coming of Christ. While there was a possibility of their being mistaken on both these points, a mistake on either one would be sufficient to account for the fact that the Lord did not then appear.

A movement which had enlisted the whole interest of thousands upon thousands, would not, of course, be abandoned without reflection. The ground was looked over, and two methods adopted for explaining the disappointment. One class jumped to the conclusion at once that they were wrong on time, and the prophetic periods had not ended. Another class, on a careful survey of the whole field, impressed with the strength and harmony of the argument on chronology, saw no ground to change their views upon that point, but became satisfied that the mistake lay in the subject of the sanctuary and its cleansing. This class are the ones now known as

Seventh-Day Adventists. This brings us to note

#### THE DIFFERENCE

Between Seventh-Day Adventists and First-Day or No-day Adventists, as respects chronology. The latter, believing that the prophetic periods were given to make known the time of Christ's coming, and that they have not yet ended, are held to one of two conclusions: either that all that is said in the Bible about these periods is so much of revelation unrevealed, or else that the time of Christ's coming is to be known. The first conclusion, as consistent believers in the Bible, they cannot adopt, and hence their continual efforts to re-adjust the prophetic periods and fix upon the time for Christ to come. From this has arisen, in these latter years, all the fantastic time-setting which has very properly disgusted the world, and worse than this, has brought reproach on prophetic study. On the other hand,

#### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS SET NO TIME.

They do not believe that any prophetic period given in the Bible reaches to the coming of Christ, or was designed to mark the day or year of that event. As already noticed, they believe that the chronological argument of the great Advent movement of 1844 was all right, locating the termination of the longest prophetic period, the 2300 days, in the autumn of that year. The prophecy said that then the sanctuary should be cleansed. That sanctuary they found to be, not the earth, which is never so called, but the sanctuary of which Paul so fully and definitely treats in his epistle to the Hebrews, "the sanctuary" and "true tabernacle" in heaven, "which the Lord pitched and not man," of which Christ, our great High Priest, is minister while "on the throne of the Majesty of the heavens,"—Heb. 8 : 1, 2. The tabernacle erected by Moses in the wilderness of Sinai about 1500 years before Christ (Ex. 25 and onward), which was the sanctuary of the first covenant (Heb. 9 : 1), from that time till the first advent, was a type, figure, or pattern of this heavenly sanctuary of the new covenant. Heb. 9 : 9, 23, 24. The ministration of the sanctuary consisted of two grand divisions, which were accomplished every year: the daily ministration, and a brief service in the most holy place, or second apartment of the sanctuary, which completed the yearly round of service. This latter work was called the cleansing of the sanctuary, and was performed by the priest. So, likewise, the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary (Heb. 9 : 23) must be performed by Christ while yet a priest, before he takes his kingdom and appears in his glory.

The view we take of the prophecy, consequently, is that the termination of the 2300 days in 1844 brought us to the commencement of this last portion of Christ's work as priest in the true tabernacle above,

called the cleansing of the sanctuary; not a cleansing from physical impurities, but from the presence of our sins, imparted to it through the blood of Christ there ministered in our behalf. This explains at once the mistake in 1844, and shows our present position. We are now in the time of the cleansing of the sanctuary,—a period of brief but indefinite duration, reaching to Christ's coming.

While, therefore, we do not throw away the prophetic periods, but believe they are to be understood, we believe also that they have been correctly interpreted, and have all terminated; so that now we have no data from which to reason respecting a definite time for the Lord to come.

#### THE SEVENTH DAY.

Two causes have operated to introduce the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath among Adventists, and thus to develop that class known as Seventh-Day Adventists.

First, a Seventh-Day Baptist sister, Mrs. Rachel D. Preston, from the State of New York, moved to Washington, N. H., where there was a Church of Adventists. From them she received the doctrine of the soon-coming of Christ, and in return instructed them in reference to the claims of the fourth commandment of the decalogue. This was in 1844. Nearly that whole Church immediately commenced the observance of the seventh day, and thus have the honor of being the first Seventh-Day Adventist Church in America. The ravages of death, and removals from the place, have considerably diminished their numbers; but the Church there still lives to bear witness to the truth thus introduced among them.

The Sabbath question began immediately to be agitated among Adventists, and within a few months many from their ranks commenced its observance. Among the earliest permanent converts to this doctrine, three deserve especial mention: 1. Eld. Joseph Bates, who with great zeal, devotion, and self-sacrifice gave himself to its advocacy, and brought many to its observance. He fell asleep March 19, 1872, in the 80th year of his age. 2. Eld. James White, the founder, and manager to his decease, of the S. D. Adventist publishing work. He was for many years President of their five leading organizations; namely, The General Conference, The Publishing Association, The Health Reform Institute, The General Tract and Missionary Society, and the Educational Society. He died in Battle Creek, Mich., Aug. 6, 1881, aged 60 years. 3. Eld. J. N. Andrews, author of the "History of the Sabbath," the "Sanctuary," the "Three Messages," and other important works, and for many years a missionary to Switzerland in Europe. He died Oct. 21, 1883, in his 55th year.

Secondly, another cause which has tended to strengthen them in the observance of the seventh-

day Sabbath, is the subject of the sanctuary, to which we have already alluded. It was seen at once that the central object in the sanctuary, in whichever dispensation we view it, is the ark of God, which is enshrined in the most holy place of that heavenly building. This ark was prepared expressly as a receptacle for the tables of stone on which were written the great moral precepts of God's government, the ten commandments. Thus, attention was called to the law of God. It was also seen that if the law in the ark of the heavenly sanctuary (Rev. 11:19) is the great original, and that deposited in the typical sanctuary was only a copy, or transcript, that law must read the same now as it read then, and the idea of any change is placed beyond the range of possibilities; that heaven and earth, as Christ in his first sermon declared, would sooner pass than one jot or tittle would pass from the law; and that the fourth commandment requires of the second house of Israel (spiritual Israel, or Christians) what it required of the first house (the literal descendants of Abraham), and has required from Eden down, the observance of the seventh day of the week as the grand and glorious memorial of our creation at the hands of God.

#### THEIR PUBLISHING WORK.

This, as already stated, originated through the instrumentality of Eld. James White. Eld. W. was born in Palmyra, Me., in 1821. Commencing at the age of 20, he labored with much success as a public speaker in the great Advent movement of 1840-44; and when the claims of the Sabbath were brought to his notice, he entered as heartily into the work of its defense and promulgation. He began the work of publishing in 1849. In November, 1850, he commenced the publication of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, the organ of the S. D. Adventists.

To accommodate his publishing work to the field of his operations as a traveling evangelist, the paper was issued first at Paris, Me., till June, 1851, then at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., till March, 1852. It was then removed to Rochester, N. Y., where it continued nearly four years. Then, the cause of Sabbath reform rapidly advancing westward, its present location, Battle Creek, Mich., was selected as a more central position, and the paper was moved to this place in November, 1855. Up to this time, Eld. White was publisher and sole editor. Some of the time after this, others were associated with him on the editorial board.

The wants of the cause demanding an enlargement of operations, and the employment of more capital in the publishing business, an Act of the Legislature of Michigan for the Incorporation of Associations for Publishing Purposes, was secured and approved March 7, 1861. Under this act, a legally incorporated association, under the name of The Seventh-Day Adventist Publishing Association, was

organized in Battle Creek, May 3, 1861. They immediately erected a two-story brick building in the form of a Greek cross, the main portion 26 x 66, the transverse section 26 x 44, for the publishing work. In 1871 a second building of the same size and form was erected to meet the necessities of the increasing business. And in 1873 a third building of the same kind was built for the same purpose. In 1878 the first and third buildings were united by a four-story central structure, filling the whole space between them, making a large four-story building, with two three-story wings. In 1881 a large press-room, 46 x 66, was added to the right and rear. In these buildings we have an aggregate of thirty thousand square feet of floor space, which is occupied in the various branches of editing, printing, folding, book-binding, electrotyping, stereotyping, mailing, shipping, etc., furnished with the most modern machinery in all branches. Including all departments, it is the best equipped printing office in the State of Michigan.

The different periodicals issued by the Association, the titles of which follow, have an aggregate monthly circulation of about 160,000 copies.

*The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, 16 pages, weekly.

*Signs of the Times*, 16 pages, weekly.

*Youth's Instructor*, an illustrated weekly.

*Sabbath Sentinel*, monthly.

*Bible Reading Gazette*, monthly.

*Sandhedens Tidende*, Danish-Norwegian, semi-monthly.

*Sanningens Harold*, Swedish, monthly.

*Stimme der Wahrheit*, German, monthly.

Books on the prophecies and other Bible subjects have been issued largely from the beginning, and have now reached an aggregate of two hundred and fifty millions of pages.

Nearly one hundred hands are regularly employed in the work, and the capital invested is over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

These results, wrought out in so short a time, are the only compliment that need be paid to him under whose management this degree of prosperity has been attained. Those acquainted with the business career of the late Eld. White, observed in him two strongly developed traits of character,—zeal to push forward in the formation and execution of plans for the advancement of the work, and caution to avoid injudicious and reckless ventures. The union of these two qualities made him master of the situation in the publishing line, and gave to the enterprise, though moving forward rapidly, a healthy and permanent growth.

#### THEIR ORGANIZATION.

This is exceedingly simple. A body of believers associate together, taking the name of Seventh-Day Adventists, and attaching their names to a covenant

simply to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The Bible is their only creed. A clerk is chosen to keep the records of the Church, and an elder, elected by vote of the Church, is ordained to look after its spiritual interests. If the Church is large, its temporal affairs are assigned to one or more deacons, chosen by vote of the Church for this purpose. They hold that the terms, elder, bishop and pastor (Greek, *presbuteros*, *episcopos* and *poimen*), signifying the same officer, which is a local officer, confined to a particular Church. These need not be ordained ministers. Evangelists (*euangelistai*) are ordained ministers, who travel from place to place to preach the gospel, and are the only ones competent to ordain local elders and deacons.

#### NUMBERS.

They now number 680 Churches, with an enrollment of 17,436 members, according to the returns made to the General Conference of Nov. 8, 1883. But, owing to the scattered condition of this people, a large proportion of them are not situated as to belong to any of the Church organizations, single families being scattered all the way from Maine to California and Oregon, in all the Northern States, and in many of the Southern. The whole number is estimated at from twenty to twenty-five thousand. The number of ordained ministers is 165; licentiates, 135. None of the churches have pastors stationed with them. They maintain their worship without the aid of a preacher, only as one may occasionally visit them, leaving the ministers free to devote almost their whole time to carrying these views to those who have never before heard them. During the summer months, they carry forward their work by means of large tents 40 to 60 feet in diameter. About eighty of these were in use during the summer of 1883.

#### CONFERENCES.

The next advance in organization from single Churches, is the State Conference. The Churches in a State combine to form a State Conference, adopting a constitution to regulate their action. All the ministers in the State are, by virtue of their office, members of the State Conference, and each Church is entitled to delegates according to its membership. At each annual meeting an executive committee of three is elected by vote of the delegates, of whom the president of the Conference is chairman. The committee have supervision of all the ministerial and religious work of the Conference between the yearly meetings, and appoint the delegates to the General Conference.

S. D. Adventists now have 28 State Conferences, as follows: Maine, New England (including in this division only New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut), Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Dakota, Missouri,

Kentucky, Tennessee, Kansas, Colorado, Texas, California, Oregon, Virginia, Upper Columbia, Province of Quebec, Denmark, Suisse and Sweden.

The next outward sweep from the State Conference is the General Conference. This is composed of delegates, ministers or laymen, from all the State Conferences. This Conference also annually elects its executive committee of five, to have charge of the doings of the denomination in all parts of the field. The president of the General Conference is the highest officer in the body. The object of the General Conference is to unify the work in all localities, equalize labor, and supply destitute fields with help. The meeting of the General Conference held in Battle Creek, Mich., Nov. 8-20, 1883, was its 22d annual session.

#### FUNDS.

Means to sustain the work is raised by a plan denominated the tithing system, founded on the instructions of Paul in 1 Cor. 16: 2. By this system it is designed that every one shall, upon each first day of the week, lay by a sum equal, as near as may be, to one-tenth of his income from whatever source. There is nothing compulsory in this matter, yet all this people, with few exceptions, have adopted, and are acting upon, this plan. According to this system, contributions being proportioned to the amount of property one possesses, or the strength and ability with which he is blessed for acquiring, none are burdened. It treats the rich and poor alike, in proportion to their ability, while a steady stream is thus poured into the treasury. For the year 1883, the amount raised in this manner in all the Conferences was over \$96,000.

Each church, appoints its collector and treasurer, who once a month, or in rural districts once a quarter, gather up these contributions. With the exception of a small percentage retained by some of the Churches for their own use, these funds are sent by the Church treasurers to the State Conference Treasurer. At each yearly meeting of the Conference, an auditing committee is appointed, which examines the accounts of the ministers in the employ of the Conference, and settles with each one according to the amount of labor performed. One-tenth of all the funds coming into the State Treasury is voted to the General Conference, which is then put into the hands of the General Conference Treasurer, to be expended under the direction of the General Conference Committee.

It is also the plan that all the different institutions connected with this cause pay a tenth of their income into the General Conference Treasury.

#### THE HEALTH AND TEMPERANCE REFORM.

The attention of S. D. Adventists was called to the subject of Christian temperance chiefly through the labors of Eld. and Mrs. White. At the outset of their public labors they took a strong stand against the

common use of tobacco and other narcotics, as well as against the use of alcoholic liquors. Eld. Joseph Bates, who was one of the earliest temperance reformers in the country, having assisted in the organization of the first temperance society in America, was associated with them in this work.

In 1862, chiefly through the writings of Eld. and Mrs. White, a more thoroughgoing reform was inaugurated. It was urged that a person's moral nature is largely affected by his physical condition. It was therefore that success in appealing to man's higher and spiritual nature is much more certain if he can be turned from wrong habits of life, which undermine the physical and benumb the moral powers.

At the present time the whole body of S. D. Adventists are abstainers from the use of alcoholic drinks of all kinds. Tobacco, in all its forms, is also discarded, none addicted to its use being received into the Churches except upon the promise and expectation of its immediate abandonment. The result is, that, as a denomination, the sight and scent of tobacco are not found among this people. Pork, tea and coffee are also discarded. Rich and highly seasoned food is little used. Grease and spices are seldom employed in cookery. Flesh food is used much less freely than by the people generally. Two meals only a day are considered preferable for most people, and those to be composed chiefly of grains, fruits and vegetables, served, however, in a great variety of palatable and wholesome forms.

These reformatory ideas, with the exception of those respecting alcohol and tobacco, are not made tests of fellowship, but a strong effort is made to impress them upon the people in such a manner as to secure attention to them. For the purpose of keeping them constantly before the members of the denomination, a society was organized Jan. 1, 1880, known as the "American Health and Temperance Association," which requires its members to sign one of the following pledges:

**TEETOTAL PLEDGE.**—I do hereby solemnly affirm that with the help of God I will wholly abstain from the voluntary use, as a beverage or in any equivalent manner, of alcohol, tea and coffee, and from the use of tobacco, opium, and all other narcotics and stimulants.

**ANTI-RUM AND TOBACCO PLEDGE.**—I do hereby solemnly affirm that with the help of God I will wholly abstain from the voluntary use of alcohol in any form, as a beverage or in any equivalent manner, and from smoking, chewing or snuffing tobacco, or using it in any other form, and from in any way encouraging the use of these poisons.

**ANTI-WHISKY PLEDGE.**—I do hereby solemnly affirm that with the help of God I will totally abstain from the voluntary use, as a beverage or in any equivalent manner, of all liquids or substances containing alcohol.

It is expected that every member of the denomination will sign the teetotal pledge. Those who do not at first, are soon willing to do so. The Association has subsidiary State societies and local clubs in nearly all parts of the United States, with a total membership of about 20,000.

This reform ends not with diet alone, but extends to all other habits of life; and as the health of the

body is affected, to a great extent, by the manner in which it is clothed, that subject occupies a prominent place in this reform. The fashionable female attire of the present day is held to be chargeable with at least three leading evils as related to health: First, hanging burdens upon the body in an unnatural manner; secondly, hindering the full play of the vital organs; thirdly, insufficiently protecting the extremities. It is therefore recommended to shorten the skirt till it fully clears the filth and obstructions of the street, fit the garments loosely around the waist, suspend them from the shoulders, and thoroughly protect the limbs. Special attention is paid to personal cleanliness, the sanitary condition of dwellings, and to all matters relating to health.

#### CAMP-MEETINGS.

The first camp-meeting of S. D. Adventists was held, under the management of Elds. White and Andrews, in the town of Wright, Mich., Sept. 1-7, 1868. The results of this meeting were so encouraging that the plan of holding meetings of this kind during the summer months was soon generally adopted among this people.

The past season (1883), five camp-meetings were held in Michigan, four in Kansas, three in Iowa, two in Wisconsin, two in Indiana, one in Alabama, and one each in nineteen other conferences, making thirty-six in all.

These meetings, as conducted by S. D. Adventists, are designed to be occasions of great spiritual profit to all who attend, promoting a revival spirit, and deep and vital piety. Complete order is maintained, proper hours for rest are secured, and everything passes off with as much order and decorum as would be observed in a house of worship.

At Ithaca, the above denomination has quite a pleasant church edifice; although the membership is not large in the village, yet the organization remains intact and numbers within its ranks some very influential people, principally from the surrounding country. Rev. Francis Nelson, formerly of Ithaca, Franklin Squire, Mrs. A. M. Stevens, Mrs. Sidney Pipheny, Francis H. Howes and wife, Willett Reynolds and Mrs. Henry Crawford, are all active members of this Church, and from its organization, Jan. 1, 1865, have been foremost in the ranks. Their first church was erected in 1865, but was burned in 1867. Being well insured, the society suffered but small loss, and a better house than the former structure occupies the site. The Adventists have no regular minister, but continue their meetings with reasonable regularity, being ministered to by itinerant missionaries who are earnest workers in the cause they advocate. Frank-

lin Squire is still acting Elder, and has done more to forward the work than any other member of the Church.

The tenets of the Adventists are to follow the teachings of the Bible exclusively; consequently they require no salaried minister, some one of the members always officiating at divine service. Those who were first members are mentioned in this connection: Rev. Francis Nelson, Franklin Squire, Whitman Hall, William Barnes, Philip P. Allen, Zenas Andrews, Wesley Greenlee, William S. Hall, Knowles Gibbs, W. S. Lane, Eliza A. Squire, Deborah Nelson, Elizabeth Hall, Susannah Barnes, Finneta Jeffrey, Lorinda M. Ogden, Elzina Lake, Nancy Lake, Almira M. Potter, Elizabeth L. Mellinger, Mary Harp- ham, Rosine M. Phipeny, Julia A. Burgess, Mary A. Allen, Esther M. Hall, Sarah Gibbs, Elizabeth Gibbs, Sarah Greenlee, Elizabeth Barnes, Mary Mellinger, Charlotte Webster, Sybil A. Nelson, Mary A. March- ouse, Sarah A. Lake.

*Methodist Church.*—This Church in Ithaca was organized in March, 1865, the credit of which is mainly due to the efforts of Mrs. E. M. Russell, a worthy lady, who still lives to bless the day that prompted her early in life to devote a part of her time, at least, to the welfare of her friends and acquaintances in a theological way. There had been preaching occasionally in Ithaca and elsewhere in the neighborhood, by Methodist ministers, but no organized Class. The Rev. Larman Furgeson came to Mrs. Russell's one evening in March, 1865, and Mrs. Russell prevailed upon him to hold a pro- tracted meeting. At first he demurred, but agreed afterward to do so, providing Mrs. Russell would make announcements for the same. The meetings were continued for four weeks, and a number of con- verts made, among whom were Dr. Chas. W. Marvin and wife, Judge Wm. E. Winton and wife and Judge Elijah Peck and wife, all of whom afterward became members of the Congregational Church, they prefer- ring the Church Government of that denomination.

At the close of these meetings several united with the Church, and a Class was organized, consisting of Abraham and E. M. Russell, David and Amelia Stackhouse, John Kinkerter and his wife, Rachel (grandma) Lane, Rev. Zerostas and Rhoda Moss, and their children—Mary and Berdsey, Eli Heffner and Richard Humphry.

Meetings were held in the school-house until the Baptist Church was completed, after which the audience room was obtained for preaching, and the basement was used for Sunday-school and other purposes.

Mrs. Russell proposed a plan for building a church, which was adopted, and the result is a good, substantial building. For some time the Church was heavily burdened with debt, but this is almost paid, and another year will probably find the society on a substantial footing and the Church free from incumbrance.

The building was completed and dedicated in 1870; Revs. Bangs, the Presiding Elder of the Circuit, and President Perrine, of Albion College, officiating.

Rev. Stephen Nelson, the present pastor, is an earnest worker and fluent speaker.

*Presbyterian Church.*—The success of any enterprise depends upon the earnestness of those who move in the work. Ithaca owes much to Judge William E. Winton for his liberality, in many respects; but the Presbyterian people are under greater obligations to him than any other gentleman in the community, for his efforts to erect and complete the pleasant building they now occupy. The Church cost \$3,800, of which the Judge donated fully one-half. The society was organized with seven members, consisting of Judge William E. Winton, his wife Marietta, and his son John H. Winton, Prof. J. W. Caldwell, Mrs. Harriet Watson, Mrs. Mary Church and Mrs. Kate Williams.

Their meeting for organization was held Feb. 16, 1870, and the Rev. J. T. Willett officiated thereat. Rev. D. D. Hamilton occupied the pulpit from March, 1871, until February, 1876, after which Rev. Willett was pastor for two years. Since April, 1880, Rev. John E. Long, the present pastor, has officiated.

The Church officials are: Deacon, Wm. E. Winton; Ruling Elders, A. S. Barber, G. L. Lignian, Wm. E. Winton.

This Church is also in a prosperous condition, being out of debt, with a live membership of 50 and a large congregation comprising many of the oldest and wealthiest citizens.

The church edifice was dedicated June 4, 1882, by Rev. H. H. Northrop, of Flint, Mich. The furniture is very handsome, being made of white oak and black ash, with walnut trimmings.

The elegant chandelier, in the audience room, was donated by Gen. Nathan Church. The handsome and costly Bible was presented by Mr. Oscar Bills, and the magnificent solid-silver communion service by Mrs. Francis McNeil Potter, widow of Gen. Potter. The utmost harmony prevails in the Presbyterian society, and its future is bright. What greater tribute can be offered than the familiar quotation: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

### Societies.

*A. F. & A. M.*, Ithaca Lodge, No. 123, was organized in January, 1866. The charter was obtained January 1, of that year, and W. W. Comstock installed W. M.; Nathan Church, S. W.; David Bailey, J. W. W. W. Comstock, at his own expense, fitted up a lodge room, and donated the rent for two years, thus proving his sincerity and zeal in the cause. For nine consecutive years he held the office of W. M., the highest mark of esteem possible for the brethren to bestow.

The early records of both the "blue lodge" and "chapter" were destroyed by fire, and it is impossible to give but a meagre account of them. At present, the society have a neat lodge room over the *Journal* office, with a membership of fully 100. Ithaca Lodge is the first one organized in Gratiot County, and all the members organizing the lodges at St. Louis and Alma were demitted from this society. The present officers are J. M. McKee, W. M.; R. H. Cadwell, S. W.; James Gillingham, J. W.; J. F. Henry, Treas.; W. A. Russell, Sec'y.; K. P. Peet, S. D.; D. Ingalsbe, J. D.; E. C. Farrington, Tyler.

The names of the charter members so far as can be learned are, with the names of the master and wardens first mentioned, Messrs. Solomon Lyman, Roswell Danley, Parmer R. Phillips, I. J. Johnson and Fred Miller.

This lodge has a regular meeting every Wednesday evening on or before the full moon in each month, to which all brethren are cordially invited. Several of the oldest members are yet regular attendants, among whom might be mentioned Parmer Phillips, Gen. Nathan Church and W. W. Comstock.

*Ithaca Chapter, No. 70, R. A. M.*—The officers named on the charter, which was granted Jan. 10, 1871, were Andrew J. Utley, H. P.; Elijah Peck, K.; J. A. Seaver, S. As mentioned before, the early records were destroyed, but the chapter has always been prosperous, and numbers at least 70 members at this time.

The officers elect are, J. W. Lewis, H. P.; J. M. McKee, K.; J. F. Henry, S.; J. M. Trask, Secy.; A. W. Russell, Treas.; E. Lewis, C. H.; George Cole, R. A. C.; J. B. Willoughby, M. 1st V.; K. P. Peet, M. 2d V.; C. E. Fink, M. 3d V.; D. Ingalsbe, Tyler.

The chapter meets in Masonic Hall, and numbers many of the most prominent and wealthy men of the county among its members.

*Royal & Select Masters, Ithaca Council, No. 33,* was organized, Oct. 10, 1870. There are no records showing the first members. The officers elect at this time are: J. F. Henry, T. 1.; J. L. Sinclair, D. T. 1.; W. C. Beckwith, P. C. of W.; J. M. McKee, Treas.; J. M. Trask, Sec.; A. W. Russell, C. of G.; George Cole, C. of C.; G. B. Whitney, Sentinel.

*I. O. O. F., Rising Star Lodge, No. 151,* was instituted at Ithaca Jan. 25, 1871, the officer conducting the ceremonies being L. Z. Monger, of St. John's Lodge, No. 81.

The charter members were Emery Crosby, George W. Mead, N. G. Sutliff, David Stackhouse, L. R. Heffner and John Kinkerter. The following officers were elected: N. G., L. R. Heffner; V. G., N. G. Sutliff; R. S., L. M. Crosby; Treas., George W. Mead. Of the original charter members, Mr. N. G. Sutliff is the only one now a member of the order in good standing living in its jurisdiction, he having been an active worker for the past 29 years.

The present officers are, N. G., A. S. Loomis; V. G., F. L. Bristol; R. S., A. H. Lincoln; Treas., N. B. Fraker. The lodge is in good condition financially and has a membership of 83, with constant accessions to the ranks.

They own a good building, but have arranged it for other uses and have removed to the new hall in Church's Block, which was especially fitted for their occupancy. Regular meetings, Saturday evening of each week, to which all brethren in good standing are cordially invited to attend.

*A Daughters of Rebecca Lodge* of Odd Fellows was organized September 26, 1875, known as "Crescent Lodge, No. 68."

The following named persons were elected first officers: N. G., George Randall; V. G., Mrs. E. M. Russell; Sec., Mrs. Dr. Scott; Treas., Mrs. G. M. Churchill; Warden, A. W. Russell; O. G., N. G. Sutliff; I. G., W. D. Scott.

This lodge was discontinued in 1880, and re-organized in November, 1883. It is now known as Crescent Lodge, No. 75, D. of R., with the following officers: N. G., Mrs. George Randall; V. G., Mrs. E. Pierce; Sec., Miss Lou Lincoln; Treas. Mrs. A. H. Lincoln.

It is now in a flourishing condition, with a membership of 30. This society meet the 2d and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

*Ithaca Lodge, No. 1140, K. of H.*—This order was instituted July 15, 1878, and is in fine working order. Only one policy, of \$2,000, has been paid since their organization, that being their only loss.

The first officers of this order were Messrs. Robert Smith, Past Dictator; Giles T. Brown, Dictator; William B. Scattergood, Vice Dictator; Wm. C. Beckwith, Reporter; A. S. Barber, Financial Reporter; Wilbur Nelson, Treasurer; George A. Kinson, Chaplain; N. G. Sutliff, Guide.

No special effort has been made to increase the membership, but the order may be considered as a permanent institution, it consisting of a number of the most wealthy and influential men of this village and vicinity.

The present officers are Robert Smith, sitting, Past Dictator; A. W. Russell, Dictator; W. G. Sutliff, Vice Dictator; George Lawrence, Asst. Dictator; Wm. C. Beckwith, Reporter; James W. Howd, Financial Reporter; A. S. Barber, Treasurer; D. S. Parker, Chaplain; Wm. B. Scattergood, Guide; George Randall, Guardian; George M. Dubois, Sentinel. The Past Dictators are Giles T. Brown, Wm. B. Scattergood, H. B. Wells and A. W. Russell. The order meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Odd Fellows Hall, in Ithaca.

#### Ladies' Library Association.

THE Ladies' Library Association of Ithaca was incorporated April 14, 1876, with a membership of 13, viz: Mrs. N. Church, Mrs. G. S. Van Buskirk, Mrs. G. G. Smith, Mrs. J. T. Hall, Mrs. M. R. Pettit, Mrs. W. E. Winton, Mrs. G. T. Brown, Mrs. H. M. Otis, Mrs. A. S. Barber, Mrs. D. C. Johnson, Miss F. R.

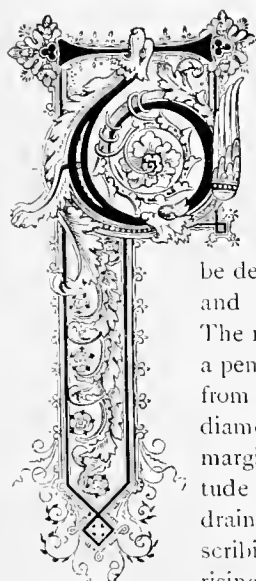


Seger, Miss J. E. Church and Miss S. L. Winton.

The Association started with a capital of \$75, which was at once expended in the purchase of books. The members have kept up their organization by a strict observance of the articles of incorporation and the code of by-laws first adopted. In

1880 the Library contained 200 volumes of choice productions. Since that year 100 volumes have been added. The amount expended for books and furniture since the organization of the Association in 1875 is, \$356.63. Money on hand Feb. 13, 1884, \$31.54. Total receipts, \$388.17.

## Saint Louis.



**S**HIS is the largest and most important town in Gratiot county. It is situated at a point where the river crosses the line between Bethany and Pine River Townships. The location is all that could

be desired so far as health, beauty and convenience are concerned. The river makes a detour, leaving a peninsula nearly circular in shape, from three-fourths to one mile in diameter, which rises from the margin to the center, to an altitude of 35 feet, giving it a natural drainage equaled by few. Circumscribing all this, is a chain of bluffs rising from 40 to 50 feet in height,

making this a grand place for suburban residences. St. Louis is eight miles from the geographical center

of the county, and perhaps nearer the center of the lower peninsula. In October, 1859, Edward Cheesman surveyed and platted a part of his farm adjoining the village of "Pine River" (a name previously borne by this place), and called it St. Louis. Pine River had existed for several years prior to this, but it was deemed expedient to change the name to St. Louis, which was done March 18, 1865, by a special act of the Legislature, and both places were made one incorporation.

The first settler at this place was Joseph Clapp, who built a log cabin near the south end of Pine River bridge, into which Sylvanus Groom and family moved, with whom Mr. Clapp boarded. Mr. Groom was an employe of Joseph Clapp, and had previously lived in a shanty, near the Indian mission, which had been erected by William McOmber.

Mr. Clapp cut a road along the "Old Indian Trail" from Maple Rapids to St. Louis, in 1853, and employed a number of men to get out timbers for a

saw-mill, which was the first one built in the county, and did its first sawing in April, 1850.

Several log houses were erected in 1855, as some of Mr. Clapp's men were married, and quite a village was formed in the woods near the river. During this year quite a large store was started by J. G. Wilden, who shipped all the goods from Saginaw by water, except one load, which he brought on a wagon drawn by oxen, from his former home in Ohio.

Mr. Clapp went to Ohio in the summer of 1854, and returned with a wife. Their son, Frank Clapp, was born in July, 1855, and was the first child born in St. Louis.

In the spring of this year, Dr. A. M. Crawford came to this neighborhood, and in conjunction with Mr. Clapp, surveyed 160 acres of land, which was given the name of "Pine River," which name was subsequently changed, as mentioned previously. Numerous additions to the settlement were made during this and the next year, prominent among whom were Elias Smith and Sidney S. Hastings with their families.

All the houses were built of logs, but cabins arose as if by magic. In 1855, a postoffice was established here, taking the name of "Pine River," with Dr. Abram Crawford as Postmaster. This was a great convenience, and furnished mail facilities for the whole of Isabella and the north half of Gratiot County. William Gruett, a half-breed Indian, carried the mail once a week from Maple Rapids upon an Indian pony, and was for a long time paid for the same by citizens. Messrs. Clark, Hillyer and Davis purchased Mr. Clapp's mill in 1856, and the store of Mr. Wilden the same year.

The first blacksmith shop was built where the foundry now stands, and — Totten can claim the distinction of being the first smith. Edward Cheesman was proprietor of the first drug store; Theodore Folland opened the first harness shop. The first school-house occupied the site upon which the present commodious building stands; Betsey Clark taught the first term of school.

As usual with all new villages, a saloon was put into operation soon after the village of Pine River was platted. A fellow from Saginaw opened a small stock of liquors, and customers were plenty, considering the accommodations and quality of goods.

Fred. Babcock was then engaged in lumbering near

the Indian mission and had in his employ about 30 men, most of whom were in the habit of spending their evenings at the saloon. Some of them invariably returned in a state of intoxication, which displeased Mr. Babcock very much, and he determined to put an end to it. One evening, after his plans were matured, he called up his men after supper and told them that he intended going over to "Pine River," and asked them to accompany him.

This being something new, so far as Mr. B. was concerned, they all assented. Arriving at the village, all adjourned to the saloon, and Mr. Babcock treated a couple of times and then said: "Boys, carry out the store." No sooner mentioned than out it went. "Now come outside," said Mr. Babcock. "I want every one of you to give me a lift." The building was a very narrow board shanty, and ranging his men along one side he gave the order to "hoist away." The men lifted with a will, and over went the saloon with the entire stock of goods. "Now smash the whisky kegs," said Mr. B. They were soon demolished and Mr. Babcock, walking up to the proprietor, asked what the "damage amounted to."

The sum of \$50 was named, which Mr. Babcock paid on the spot, and gave the lank Saginawian the advice "to travel," which he deemed expedient to follow and left the next morning.

It was a long while before another saloon was started in the village, and Mr. Babcock deserves credit for the summary manner in which the first was disposed of.

Dr. Crawford built a hotel, which was opened to the public in the fall of 1855. It was also used as a postoffice, and might also claim distinction by reason of the first commissioners' court being held inside its walls. Stephen E. Longyear, presiding.

Game was so plentiful during the early settlement of St. Louis that frequently deer, and sometimes bears, were seen in the streets. Mr. Hastings relates the story of having killed a deer at the corner of Washington Avenue and Mill Street, shooting the same from his door-step only a few rods away. Hon. Luther Smith killed one near the house in which Mr. McHenry now resides; a company of hunters came along soon after and claimed it, stating that they were chasing it for some distance and a part of the carcass, at least, belonged to them. It was divided satisfactorily, that being customary in cases of like character.

Pine River was formerly well stocked with fish, and this commodity furnished the chief "meat supply" during the hard times of 1857-8-9. The dam across the river at this place was headquarters for fishermen from all parts of the country, and frequently there would be a hundred men in one day after fish, which were mostly caught in nets.

Mr. G. W. McHenry, one of the best known and most reliable men in the county, is authority for the following statement, which is attested by Mr. S. S. Hastings, that a gentleman living at this time near St. Louis, by the name of William Reeves, caught in one night, "with his hands," a wagon-box full of fish, the box measuring 23 bushels; besides this, all the neighbors who would, carried away as many as desired. Next to the tale of Jonah and the whale, this beats any "fish story" ever told in Gratiot County.

Dr. Cheesman came to Pine River Township in October, 1859. A firm known as Pratt & Cheesman started a grocery and hardware store in 1859, in front of the residence now occupied by Dr. Cheesman.

A fellow named Punderson came in one morning, and, greeting the Doctor, informed him that he liked the country quite well and had determined to make a home at St. Louis. Taking a half dollar out of his pocket (all the money he possessed), he called for nails, representing the amount. Espying a sack of beans with a longing look, he ejaculated: "If I had money enough to buy one peck of beans, they, with leeks, would last me and the old woman until harvest."

Think of this, ye who are well housed and fed! A man who had energy enough to commence the erection of a house with only 50 cents in his pocket and nothing but "wild onions" to live upon until harvest!

Soon after Wm. McHenry came to St. Louis, he purchased a small stock of boots and shoes. One day a bare-footed, seedy-looking fellow came into the shop and asked to see a pair of boots. As most of the citizens looked pretty hard, Mr. McHenry was not surprised at his garb; but when he asked for credit for a pair of boots he was completely astonished, having never seen him before. He declined selling on time for that reason, but the stranger persevered in the endeavor to make the trade. At last he said, "I am J. Q. A. Johnson, a Justice of the Peace in

Isabella County, and haven't but two dollars in the world, which I received this morning for marrying a couple; and I have walked all the way here to buy a pair of boots. I will pay two dollars, and the next money I get, will come over and square the account." Mr. McHenry concluded, under the circumstances, to let him have the boots, which he did, but it was several years before the balance was liquidated, and it was taken in trade, the crop of marriages either being very light in the Esquire's neighborhood, or the pry being taken in produce, which never reached our accommodating friend.

The first Indian couple to be married on the "European plan" came to St. Louis one morning very early, both riding one pony. Stopping at Esquire Mc. Henry's gate, they called to him to come out and marry them like "white man." They had come all the way from Mount Pleasant to have the nuptial ceremony performed, which the Esquire did in his usual happy manner, pocketing his fee, and went back to digging his potatoes. The woman stated that her other husband had "been killed in war," when questioned as to their being persons whom the Justice might legally wed. It seems that such barriers as husband or wife stood very little in the way of an enamored Indian's courtship, "war" being easy to declare.

The village was incorporated Nov. 16, 1868—the first officers being:

President—John L. Evans.

Clerk—James K. Wright.

Trustees—Charles B. Kress, Ervin H. Ewell, James W. Wessels, George L. Patch, Jonathan Salisbury, Randal Farout.

Marshall—Fred D. Weller.

Treasurer—Justin Hill.

Street Commissioners—Hiram Harrington, Ira G. Dillon, Willard D. Tucker.

Assessors—Sidney S. Hastings, James H. Foster.

#### Hotels.

NO village in the State is better supplied with hotels and boarding houses than St. Louis. During the summer months they are filled with guests from abroad, who come to test the virtues of the famous Magnetic Springs, and this is quite a fashionable summer resort even for many who are not invalids.

*Harrington.*—This hotel is the largest and most aristocratic, being a handsome brick, three stories in height, fronting on Mill and Saginaw Streets. This was erected in 1881, by H. Harrington, at a cost of \$20,000. It is handsomely fitted up with all modern conveniences and has been from its opening under the efficient management of Mr. S. M. Congdon, a gentleman of large experience in the hotel business.

*Park Hotel.*—This is another fine brick, three-story hotel, near which is located the Magnetic Springs. This is headquarters for invalids upon arrival in the city in quest of relief from suffering, and the cures obtained under the supervision of the resident physicians, Combs and Andrews, proprietors of the springs and hotel, are truly marvelous. Of the Magnetic Springs, more will be said in another place.

*Eastman House.*—This hotel contains over 100 rooms, but is unoccupied save by a couple of families. It was formerly the hotel of the village, but being located far from the business center has lost its prestige.

*Commercial.*—This is the oldest, and a very popular, hotel. The building is owned by Messrs. P. Cornell and Jo. Barden. The former gentleman has entire charge of it, and it is well patronized.

*Wessels House.*—This hotel does a large business and is well kept, being under the management of Mr. F. D. Lane.

*Leonard House.*—This is another of the "landmarks," which still has a nice trade. D. H. McLaughlin is sole proprietor. This hotel was built in 1866.

*St. Louis Lodge, No. 188, A. F. & A. M.*—The first regular meeting of this lodge was held Aug. 31, 1865, in a hall owned by Dr. John Cheesman. The society occupied this hall for three years, then moved up town to Harrington & Wessels' building where they remained until the same was destroyed by fire, Jan., 1870. The lodge occupied a room in the "Kress" building. The first officers under the charter were:

Oscar A. Everden, W. M.; Frederick D. Weller, S. W.; John R. Cheesman, J. W.; Hiram Burgess, Treas.; Henry Smith, Sec'y.; Edson Packard, S. D.; Samuel Stevens, J. D.; Hubbard Biggs, Tiler.

With these the other charter members were Amasa Packard, Daniel Milligan, James P. Dodge, Stephen Dodge, Joel Rowley, A. V. Packer and Elias Sias.

The first members initiated were Elias Smith and John Broadhead.

The Masonic fraternity have a neat and commodious hall at this time, with a lease for the same for 99 years. The membership is the largest in the county, and the organization in fine working order. The present officers are:

A. J. Harrington, W. M.; S. R. Dewey, S. W.; W. W. Fee, J. W.; M. H. Tuttle, Treas.; H. P. Barbour, Sec'y.; J. V. Johnson, S. D.; A. H. Lowry, J. D.; M. H. Tuttle, Tiler.

*St. Louis Chapter, No. 87, R. A. M.*—This chapter was organized Feb. 28, 1873. The first officers were:

A. J. Utley, H. P.; J. H. Foster, K.; Richard Hoy, S.; W. S. Finch, C. H.; W. W. Comstock, P. S.; John Tackabery, R. A. C.; M. A. McHenry, G. M. 3d V.; A. A. Wood, G. M. 2d V.; I. N. Shepherd, G. M. 1st V.; Thomas Bamborough, Sec'y.; H. A. Harrington, Tiler.

This chapter has an excellent membership, although many of its members were demitted for the purpose of instituting chapters at other villages.

The present officers are:

A. J. Harrington, H. P.; S. R. Dewey, K.; N. Leonard, S.; J. V. Johnson, C. of H.; C. R. Holliday, P. S.; E. R. Allen, R. A. C.; A. H. Lowry, G. M. 3d V.; A. K. Smith, G. M. 2d V.; H. P. Barbour, G. M. 1st V.; M. H. Tuttle, Treas.; H. T. LaBar, Sec'y.

*A. O. U. W., St. Louis Lodge, No. 86,* was instituted at this village Jan. 12, 1881, having 21 charter members. From the beginning it has been a flourishing organization: the number of members now approximates 100. The first officers were:

Wm. H. Ostrum, M. W.; Wenzo R. Havens, Foreman; Frank Hastings, Overseer; Byron S. Nelson, Recorder; James T. Hall, Receiver; Frank Seymour, Financier; Clark Searles, Guide; E. A. Stebbins, J. W.; Squire Fitten, O. W.

Their hall is over the Postoffice, in Holcomb's Block, and their regular meetings are held every Friday evening.

*Royal Arcanum, No. 39.*—This is quite a flourishing organization, with a membership of fifty. The society was instituted Dec. 7, 1877, with 24 charter members. The first officers were:

Andrew J. Utley, Regent; Dr. G. S. Case, Vice Regent; James K. Wright, Past Regent; Dr. Stiles

Kennedy, Orator; O. F. Jackson, Sec'y; Aaron Wessels, Collector; A. B. Darragh, Treasurer; Rev. D. R. Shoop, Chaplain.

The present officers are:

Allen Warren, Regent; E. Sutphin, Vice Regent; E. A. Sheffield, Past Regent; Rev. R. J. L. Matthews, Orator; C. W. Hicks, Sec'y; H. B. Giddings, Collector; J. A. Weller, Treas.; Rev. N. W. F. Smith, Chaplain.

*Library.*—The ladies of St. Louis have a very nice library, which association was organized in 1873. The same is quite well patronized and has a membership of 35. The reading room and library is located in the Opera-House Block and is open every Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. C. H. Crandall is President; Mrs. L. Saviers, Sec'y; Mrs. Budd, Treas.; Mrs. Clark Searles, Librarian, and Mrs. C. R. Holliday, Ass't Lib.

Additions to the library are made from time to time, there being now about 500 volumes.

*Attorneys.*—The members of the Gratiot County Bar who are residents of this city are Messrs. James K. Wright, James Paddock, T. W. Whitney, S. J. Scott, N. Leonard, C. W. Giddings, J. A. Crandall, and R. N. Scoville. All these are talented gentlemen, who would do honor to any city or county, and their reputation both at home and abroad as lawyers is equaled by few.

*Salt Wells.*—There is in the village limits one of the best salt wells in the State. This was sunk by H. L. Holcomb to a depth of 1,280 feet and a fine flow of water obtained. Large quantities of bromine are manufactured also, and the facilities will soon be increased. There is no reason why St. Louis should not equal Saginaw in salt production in a few years.

*Flouring Mill.*—The fine merchant flouring mill is the property of James Henry. It is admirably located on Pine River, and has five run of stone. This mill does custom work also, and is one of the best in Gratiot County.

*Druggists.*—While St. Louis is noted for a health resort, yet there are six splendid drug stores in the village, all of which contain a nice line of goods. Messrs. W. H. Rennels, Geo. L. Charles, C. K. Sampson, N. White, W. E. Fiero and E. S. McIntyre do business in drugs, paints and oils in this village.

*Millinery.*—Mrs. Gillis & Schaffer, Mrs. C. M. Scoville, Mrs. H. Darcey, Mrs. L. M. Stinchcomb and

Mrs. Goodings have vied with each other in displaying their goods. All are having a nice trade and are making money.

*Wholesale Grocer.*—Mr. A. Hart is the only wholesale grocer and tobacconist in the village, and therefore claims justly the honor of being a "pioneer." He carries an \$8,000 stock continually, and is well satisfied with the growth of his trade.

*Business Blocks.*—Opera-House Block is the largest and costliest building in St. Louis. It has a frontage of 180 ft., by 90 in depth and three-stories high. The Opera House seats comfortably 1,000 persons, and is furnished with very nice and attractive scenery. It was erected by H. L. Holcomb in 1881, and is estimated to have cost, with recent additions, \$40,000. There are four store rooms, the postoffice and the bank of A. B. Darragh & Co., on the ground floor, with offices in the second story.

The A. Wessel's Block is an addition to the business center, and adds much to its beauty. This was erected in 1881, and cost \$20,000. It is a handsome two-story brick, fronting on Mill Street.

*Miscellaneous.*—Jo. Barden and C. M. Deveraux are both owners of fine livery barns and have all the business they can attend to. Both are princely fellows, and their livery would do credit to any city. There are several hardware stores, of which E. H. Sriver carries the largest stock. All branches of trade are well represented in the mercantile line, which contrasts favorably with any village in Northern Michigan.

*St. Louis Cornet Band* was permanently organized in 1875. The boys are good musicians and are rapidly improving in execution. The members of the Band are Messrs. W. W. Robertson, Leader; M. Nichols, 1st Cornet; Dr. C. H. Crandall, 1st Alto; N. Snyder, 2d Alto; David Allen, 1st Tenor; Chas. Spencer, 2d Tenor; Frank Harrington, Baritone; Wm. Faulth, Tuba; Albert Earl, Bass Drum; Archie Weller, Snare Drum.

Only three of the above musicians were members of the original organization, Messrs. Nichols, Crandall and Snyder.

*The Magnetic Spring.*—This wonderful spring has justly attracted the attention of thousands of people both here and elsewhere, being not only the first mineral spring discovered in Michigan, but wonderfully curative in various diseases to which mankind are

subject. Many persons of note have tested its virtues, among whom might be mentioned Gen. Jo. Hooker, Chief Justice Chase, Gen. Dan. Sickles and other equally prominent persons. The spring was accidentally discovered in 1869 by Messrs. Holcomb and Evans, of this village, while engaged in boring for salt. The depth of 200 feet had been reached, when the life-giving water gushed out, as did the crystal fluid at "Providence Spring" on the hillside at Andersonville, giving life and strength to the perishing soldiers of that pestilential prison.

The boring was suspended and a pipe put in, thinking to utilize the flow for other purposes, but its strong mineral taste led the proprietors to have it analyzed by one of the most distinguished authorities, who pronounced it peculiarly adapted to treatment of certain diseases. Its "magnetic" properties were discovered by immersing a knife blade in the water for a few hours, when bits of steel strongly adhered to the knife. No particular efforts were made to advertise the spring, only brief paragraphs appearing at times in the papers regarding some of the cures resulting from the use of its waters.

St. Louis was then only a small hamlet of a few hundred inhabitants, with inadequate hotel facilities, without rail or wagon roads; yet those who suffered from bodily ailments came flocking in, having to make the trips from St. John's or Saginaw by stage, wagon or other conveyance, a distance of 32 miles.

The benefit received by invalids was remarkable, and every one that went away would send a score to take their place.

Business of every description improved; additions were made to hotels, boarding houses were erected, livery barns built, stores and barber shops and restaurants opened up like magic, and before the springs had been a year in existence the population had more than doubled.

Messrs. Holcomb & Evans erected a commodious bath house, containing 50 rooms, in 1870, and a plank road was completed to Saginaw, upon which a daily, and part of the time two daily coaches was run. Dr. Stiles Kennedy was resident physician, and did a large business in diagnosing diseases.

The rush of people continued during the next two years, until it was evident that other means would have to be employed in their conveyance to and from Saginaw. The Saginaw Valley & St. Louis rail-

road was projected and completed, which afforded unlimited access to the place. Meanwhile the growth and development of the village had wonderfully increased by the addition of several fine hotels, stores and other buildings, and she was putting on many city airs, all directly traceable to the finding of this valuable spring. With a proper management this might be made a wonderfully fine paying investment as well as being the means of restoring many invalids to perfect health.

### Churches.

*Baptist Church.*—The Baptist Church of this village was organized in 1856, and is without doubt the "pioneer" denomination which first met for divine worship in Pine River. A meeting was called at the home of Mrs. Anna Woodin, who lived a few miles west of St. Louis, on section 11, in Arcada Township, at which place a society was organized consisting of S. S. Hastings and wife, George Luce and wife, Rev. Lafayette Church and wife, Peter Pruden, Mrs. Annie Woodin, Francis Way and Mrs. Julia Porter.

Rev. Lafayette Church was the first pastor, and meetings were held in the school-house at this village until their church edifice was completed and dedicated, August 18, 1872.

Elder Mather, of Detroit, delivered a powerful discourse upon this occasion, to an immense audience. The first communion service in the new church edifice was held Sept. 1st, that year. Mrs. Mary Griffith was the first person to receive baptism in the county, the ceremonies of which were conducted by Elder Fay, a pioneer not only in theological experience but one of the first ministers coming to Gratiot County.

The Church is a very commodious one and the members at present number 90. Rev. L. G. Clark, the pastor, is a popular and talented gentleman, and their affairs both spiritually and in a temporal way are highly developed.

*Presbyterian Church.*—The meeting at which this society was organized, was held at Alma, Jan. 17, 1866. The Revs. Calvin Clark and Jonas Denton were in attendance. Rev. Clark acted as "Moderator," G. W. McHenry, Clerk. The following persons presented letters of dismission and recommendation from other Churches:

Ira Smith, his wife Zada Smith, John R. Cheesman, Samuel Gordon, Mrs. M. J. Gordon, Charles M. Fleming, Jesse Fleming, Luther Fleming, Mrs. Elvira J. Fleming, Daniel C. Fleming, Robert F. Fleming, Mrs. Eliza Fleming, Alexander Chisholm, Collin Chisholm (by examination), Andrew Mitchell (by examination), John Mitchell (by examination), G. W. McHenry, Mrs. McHenry.

The society was then named the First Presbyterian Church of Pine River. Dr. J. R. Cheesman, Ira Smith, C. Fleming and Samuel Gordon were elected elders. They were ordained, and first communion service administered Jan. 21st of the same month at St. Louis. Rev. J. T. Willett was the first minister engaged by the society, and the result of his labors were numerous accessions to that body. The meetings were held for some time in the school-house, but the growth of the society and prosperity of its members were incentives to have a more commodious place of worship. Their present church was completed, and dedicated Jan. 27, 1870, by Rev. J. A. Wright, of Bay City, assisted by Revs. J. T. Willett, acting Pastor, D. D. Hamilton, Henry Belknap, Francis Nelson, of the Baptist, and T. J. Hill, of the Methodist Church.

From this society have been dismissed members enough to form three other societies of like denomination, and yet their numbers are sufficient to maintain with ease a pastor, Rev. R. J. L. Matthews, who is considered one of the finest speakers and most logical reasoners in the city.

*Methodist Church.*—This Church dates back to the early settlement of the county, the first class being ministered unto by Rev. Theodore J. Hill, a Methodist missionary, who became the regular pastor after the completion of the organization now known as the Methodist Church of St. Louis. The society was formally organized at Woodin's school-house, near Alma, in November, 1857, the members composing it being, Lewis M. Clark and wife, Isaac and Mrs. Clymer, Simeon and Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Dr. Sherwood, Mrs. Sybil Groom and Mrs. Susan A. Weller. The society thus formed was transferred from that place to St. Louis, and the Methodist Conference sent Rev. Calvin Holbrook to this circuit, which embraced several appointments at different places in the neighborhood.

Until the completion of the Baptist church, the

Methodist society held their meetings in Drury's Hall. The growth of St. Louis and the rapid increase of their membership were inducements strong enough to warrant them in building a new church, which was completed in 1872. Rev. F. B. Bangs and President Perrine of Albion College officiated at the dedicatory services in June of that year. The first Presiding Elder for this charge was Rev. Hiram Law.

The membership at this time is about 100, and the society is in good condition financially. Rev. M. W. F. Smith is the Pastor in charge.

*First Congregational Church.*—One of the most prosperous Church organizations in St. Louis is the Congregational Society. The same was instituted in this village Aug. 9, 1882, under the direction of Rev. Leroy Warren, State Superintendent of the A. H. M. S. The first members were 34 in number. Rev. W. C. Calland, the present pastor, has officiated from the date of organization. Services were held in Good Templars' Hall until the completion of the basement of the new church edifice, Oct. 18, 1883. The same was completed and dedicated Dec. 16, of that year, Rev. Leroy Warren, of Lansing, preaching the dedicatory sermon. The handsome pulpit chairs were donated by Mr. Wm. Palmer, of New York; the silver communion service, of rare and unique design, by Mrs. H. M. Tyler, of New Hampshire; the chandeliers in the audience room were presented by the members of the Congregational Sabbath-school; the splendid Bible which graces the minister's desk, was the gift of the Oberlin, Ohio, Congregational Sabbath-school, through Mrs. Georgia Franks. Messrs. Cook & Arnold presented the society with a neat communion table, and the ladies of the society donated the handsome carpet in the audience room. The church is one of the most convenient and attractive buildings in the village, and is admirably arranged for comfort, being heated by furnaces, and well supplied with cold-air chambers, which insure complete ventilation. The plans and specifications were drawn and completed by the pastor, Rev. W. C. Calland, who superintended all the work in person. The furniture is native oak, trimmed with cherry. The basement is used for Sunday-school and other purposes, and is not only a pleasant, but extremely useful room, having attached a kitchen, with ranges and other culinary arrangements, which

make it very convenient in case festivals are given.

The church, site, etc., cost the society \$4,575, and the same is almost paid, the balance being already provided for. The Deacons first elected were: Dr. John R. Cheesman, Samuel Gordon, R. D. Perrine. Clerk, W. C. Garbutt.

Trustees—A. B. Darragh, Don Cameron, J. W. Barnard, J. C. Richards, M. H. Tuttle, Alex. Johnson, G. G. Clark.

Treasurer—W. C. Garbutt.

The Sunday-school is the most largely attended of all in the village, the average attendance being 111. It is presided over by Hon. C. J. Willett, one of the most popular instructors and experienced Sabbath-school superintendents of the county.

Rev. W. C. Calland is justly esteemed for his ardent labors in the work of building such a magnificent church, and his brilliancy of thought and rhetorical ability fill the audience room at each service with an appreciative congregation.

*Episcopal Church.*—Emmanuel Church was organized in this village, April 27, 1872, having as its first members: Thomas Holcomb, Bessie H. Holcomb, Samuel Garrigues, Adelia Garrigues, R. G. Hillyer and W. H. Crow. At the same date the parish was admitted to the convention of the Diocese.

The first church building was commenced in 1872, but was not completed until 1877. The edifice cost about \$2,500, including furniture. Services were held in the church, although incomplete, in 1876, the consecration of the same being Aug. 13, 1878, by Rt. Rev. Geo. D. Gillespie, assisted by Rev. L. S. Stevens, Pastor in charge. Rev. H. J. Brown was the first pastor. Rev. R. D. Stearns, one of the most fluent speakers in the village, is now officiating. The church first erected was sold to the Catholic people July 12, 1883, and a splendid brick edifice will be completed this year at a cost of \$9,000. The lot (11, block 29) upon which the church is built was donated by Col. John A. Elwell. The corner-stone was laid Sept. 27, 1883, with appropriate ceremonies by Rev. R. D. Stearns.

*Catholic Church.*—This organization will be completed during 1884. There being no resident priest at present, Rev. Father McCarthy, of Mount Pleasant, has officiated thus far, and there are now 40 members. The First Episcopal Church building was purchased by them, May 12, 1883, for \$1,500, which will make

a very commodious place of worship for several years. The Trustees are: Theodore Hagers, Nathaniel White, R. A. Gillis, George Hofstetter.

*Advent Church.*—The membership of this Church is mostly confined to country residents. The Class was formed in 1880, the only names obtainable being: Samuel Wilson, Harriet L. Flaherty, Mrs. Olive Farleman, Mrs. Mary Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Holliday, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. — Bartlett, Mrs. Mary Clymer and John Turner. There were a number of others, but having no Church record makes it impossible to give names. Their church is a plain frame building, situated in the northwestern part of the village, and is estimated to have cost \$800. It was erected in 1881, and the same is clear of all debt. Their services are held on the seventh day of the week, and their membership is not larger than when first organized.



#### Fire Department.

THE St. Louis fire department is composed of a hand engine and hose, and hook and ladder company. It is now under the efficient management of J. V. Johnson, Chief of Fire Department; A. F. Wright, First Assistant; Eugene King, Second Assistant. The latter gentleman is also Superintendent of the water works. The first company was organized in August, 1873; re-organized in 1882. The Holly system of water works were completed in 1881, and mains are laid in the principal streets, as well as being connected with several large reservoirs at convenient places in the village.

The water supply is obtained from Pine River, near which is a stationary engine owned by the village, that puts adequate pressure upon the mains in case of a protracted fire. A water wheel owned by the village keeps the mains supplied with water.

The St. Louis firemen now carry the "State Banner," which was awarded them at the last State tournament. This proves them an efficient organization, having competed upon that occasion with several companies for the same. J. V. Johnson, the Fire Marshal, was instrumental in having a "fire



ordinance" passed by the village board in which the duties of firemen are clearly defined. The officials of the Executive Board are, J. O. Hilton, President; Albert Earl, Secretary; A. K. Smith, Treasurer.

### St. Louis Public Schools.

THE rapid progress in the arts and sciences are met with wherever we go, and the educational facilities afforded the children of St. Louis are of the best. The first frame school-house in the county occupied the site, or a part of it, where the handsome brick school building is located. This is an imposing structure, handsomely trimmed with stone, two stories in height, with a large basement.

Two large furnaces supply heat to the entire building, which cost, together with the site, \$22,000. It was erected in 1879, and the same was occupied in January of the next year.

The furniture is of the best and most improved kind, and a very good library forms an important feature of the advantages to be derived by pupils of this school. There are six class-rooms with cloak-rooms to each, a recitation room and Superintendent's office. The seating capacity accommodates 400 pupils with ease. W. R. Ransom was the first Superintendent having charge of the new building; the present Superintendent being N. A. Richards, a capable instructor and pleasant gentleman.

### Banks.

MR. A. B. DARRAGH opened the first bank or broker's office in the village of St. Louis. For some time he occupied the office now the headquarters of Col. Elwell, but his business increased until he was obliged to seek more commodious quarters.

*Darragh & Co.*—The Gratiot County Bank was organized in the year 1870, the stockholders at that time being, Messrs. A. B. Darragh, Charles Kipp, Robert M. Steele, Samuel S. Walker, Josiah Upton, John Hicks, Henry Mayhew. The style of

this corporation was changed in 1875 to the firm name of Darragh & Co. There had also been a change in stockholders, the new firm consisting at this time of Messrs. John Hicks, Josiah Upton, Robert M. Steele and A. B. Darragh.

This firm do a general banking business, and have commodious quarters in the Opera-House Block, a splendid safety vault with fire and burglar proof safe, time lock, etc. Mr. A. B. Darragh is cashier.

*Harrington, Saviers & Co.* are nicely located in the Harrington Hotel Block, with a well arranged vault, fire and burglar proof safe, and time lock. This was formerly known as the Merchants & Farmers' Bank, but was changed in 1875 to the above name. The gentlemen composing this firm are all well known and trusted business men of this city, Mr. H. Harrington being the owner of the building, and Messrs. F. G. Kneeland and L. Saviers men of ample capital and large experience.

### Miscellaneous.

THE medical fraternity of St. Louis is represented by Dr. Cheesman, who, although not engaged in actual practice, is the leading physician, having lived here from the birth of St. Louis, and, during this time has been closely associated with its business interests. Other physicians enjoying a live and active practice are, Drs. Stiles Kennedy, James R. Baldwin, Heman Branch, C. A. and G. S. Case, L. A. Proper, Aaron Wheeler and Dis. France, Combs & Andrews, besides Dr. Kate Harrington and Mother Gartie.

*Richards & Althouse.*—The largest manufacturing interests in the stave and heading business, is conducted by Messrs. Richards & Althouse. The junior member of the firm purchased an interest Jan. 1, 1884, Mr. Richards being an old citizen of the county and for several years engaged in the same line of trade.

Their mill is located near the depot, and has a capacity of 30,000 staves and 3,000 sets of heads per diem. The firm employ 50 men and six teams, and have in stock over 3,000 cords of bolts. Their facilities for manufacturing are first-class, and the money expended for material averages \$5,000 per month, exclusive of wages paid to employes.

Coopers' Supplies.—E. W. Traver & Co. are doing an extensive business in the manufacture of the above merchandise, and employ when running on full time 80 men. The capacity of their mills is 20,000 coiled hoops and 8,000 staves per day. They purchased the mill and fixtures in 1883, and are largely increasing the business. There is now 800,000 feet of logs in their yards, which will be sawed and manufactured into the above products during the summer.

In addition to the other business industries of the village, we note the extensive saw-mill of Mr. Glasby and the saw-mill of H. L. Holcomb, both of which do quite a large amount of work, and, were they run to their full capacity, would turn out several millions of feet per annum.

Both the elevators belong to Hilton & Gordon, who do an exclusive grain business, and purchase most of the products raised by farmers in this vicinity. There are numerous blacksmith and wagon shops, contractors and builders, meat-markets and other business enterprises which are found in every enterprising village. Dr. Crandall is a resident dentist, and apparently has a monopoly in that department of science. To illustrate the transformation from lethargy to the briskness which is now so largely seen in St. Louis, nothing better can be used than the relation of Mr. A. B. Darragh's first visit to the place. He started overland from St. John's in the spring of 1869 for a look at the young villages of Ithaca, Alma and St. Louis, having been informed by friends of the fine country and excellent prospects in a business way, which might be secured by a location at either of these villages.

Ithaca was reached at noon, where dinner was taken. He then drove to Alma, which presented quite a business air, a number of farmers being in town, and several good stores all seemingly doing a fair trade. Michael Pollasky showed him through his store, having at that time the largest one in the village. Feeling quite well pleased at the hospitality shown him while at Alma, he drove to St. Louis, expecting to find it a bustling business town from former stories regarding it; but such was not his experience. Passing entirely through the village, he drove around the principal streets until he came to the hotel now known as the "Commercial." To use his own expression, "The only evidence I had of life in driving

through the town, was one hungry-looking dog wandering on the street. Not a team, not a man or woman was to be seen. Getting out of the buggy and entering the hotel, I looked about but saw no one. Finally a boy came sauntering into the bar-room, and I asked him if the landlord was in." "Don't know," was the answer. "Can I get some water here for my horse?" "Don't know," said the urchin.

Espying a store across the street with the door partly ajar, he inquired whose store that was. "Don't know," was the reply. Mr. Darragh concluded that there must have been a funeral somewhere in the neighborhood, and every one except the youth was in attendance, but thought it best not to question him further. Leading his horse across the street, he hitched it in front of the store and walked in. The clerk was stretched at full length on the counter, with his head on a pile of cottonade, fast asleep. Shaking him by the shoulder, the fellow roused up and asked what was wanted. Mr. Darragh begged the loan of a bucket, which was granted, and the tired horse given a draught of fresh water. After conversing a few moments about the village and its prospects, he inquired the way to Salt River, as he was intending to drive over that evening, the outlook for business being, as Mr. D. expressed it, "somewhat discouraging."

With the finding of the Magnetic Spring, however, came thrift and enterprise. Mr. Darragh returned, opened up a broker's office, and has succeeded in establishing one of the best banks in the county. Through the varying fortunes of this village he has been one of the foremost in promoting her welfare and advancing her business and commercial interests; the outlook to-day, and the first time he viewed the scene, forming quite a different picture: thrift and energy prevail. Prosperity is the rule and not the exception. Everything moves, and residents of St. Louis feel a just pride in her rapid advancement.

A history of St. Louis, without more than a mere mention of "Uncle Dick" Hillyer, would scarcely be tolerated. He was one of the most generous men that ever lived and this trait in his character proved his financial ruin.

During the hard times which prevailed in 1857, Mr. Hillyer went to New York, and made purchases of goods to the amount of six thousand dollars, agree-

ing to pay for them in flour. He also made a purchase of material for building a grist-mill, expecting to manufacture the flour previously guaranteed to New York parties.

The goods came and were sold on credit to all who wished to buy. The mill was built, although there was not at the time fifty bushels of wheat in the county; neither was any raised for two years. Creditors came on and "Uncle Dick" mortgaged all his property to satisfy the parties, but times were so hard that the mortgages were foreclosed and he lost everything but his reputation for generosity. Mr. H. L. Holcomb assumed most of the liabilities, and deeds were made to him for all the real estate, consisting of 1,600 acres, formerly owned by Mr. Hillyer.

To illustrate his generosity, two anecdotes are related: Frank Miller, so well remembered as the first Prosecuting Attorney of Gratiot County, was noted for his bibulous habits, and left no means untried whereby his love for the "ardent" might be satisfied. Coming to St. Louis in hopes of raising money enough in some way to have a little spree, he walked into Mr. Hillyer's store and engaged in conversation. Some one mentioned the recent purchase of an overcoat by Mr. Hillyer, and Miller at once made up his mind to borrow the coat, as Mr. Hillyer never refused to grant a favor to any one who asked it.

When he came in, Miller said that he had a lawsuit in progress at Alma and would like to borrow the garment until evening, when it should be returned. Uncle Dick started for his boarding house to get it, and upon his return met Mr. Holcomb, who asked where he was going. "Nowhere," replied he. "Frank Miller wants my coat to wear to Alma." "Don't let him have it," said Mr. Holcomb; "for it will be pawned for drink and you will never see it again." Uncle Dick thought such a thing impossible, and carried the coat to Miller, who soon left for Alma. That day passed, the next, and the next, yet neither overcoat nor Miller was heard from. Two weeks later, word was sent Mr. Hillyer that his coat had been pawned for whisky at one of the saloons in Alma.

Going down to see about getting possession of his property, he learned that the coat was pawned for every cent it was worth, and declined to redeem it. Returning to St. Louis, Mr. Holcomb asked him "why he had not replevined the coat, it being his own

property." "Who then would have paid the liquor bill?" said Uncle Dick. "Rather than to see the saloon man lose his money, I would prefer letting my overcoat go; ' which he did.

At another time, while he was in charge of Mr. Holcomb's mill, a lank, hungry-looking fellow came in and wanted a sack of flour on credit. It being one of Mr. Holcomb's rules not to sell except for cash, Mr. Hillyer so informed the man; but he pleaded earnestly for the flour, and told such a pitiful story of want and destitution that Uncle Dick's generous heart could not resist his pleadings. "Will you promise to pay me during the summer?" said Uncle Dick. "Of course I will, and with good interest, too," quoth the rustic. "Take it then, but don't tell any of your neighbors that it was purchased on credit," was the parting salutation of Mr. Hillyer. One day during the summer, Mr. Holcomb was in charge of the mill, Mr. Hillyer being absent, when a man with a large yellow dog by his side walked into the mill and inquired for Uncle Dick. "He has gone out," said Mr. Holcomb; but I may perhaps attend to your business," said he; "what is the nature of it?"

"I bought a sack of flour a few weeks ago," said the stranger, "but find myself unable to pay for it as agreed, and have brought Mr. Hillyer my dog for security."

Mr. Holcomb, looking over his books, could find no account of the sale, but told him to return in an hour, when Mr. Hillyer would probably be in.

When Uncle Dick arrived, Mr. Holcomb told him that "a man had just brought him a fine dog, and would soon return."

Mr. Hillyer wondered who intended making him a present, as he was not a hunter, neither was he fond of pets. The stranger came in soon, and, espying Mr. Hillyer conversing with Mr. Holcomb, walked up to Mr. Hillyer, made him a profound bow, and tendered the dog as payment for the sack of flour, as times were so hard that a cash payment was impossible.

The smile which came to Mr. Holcomb's face as Hillyer surveyed the trio, was too much for even a saint to stand, and Uncle Dick's anger rapidly rose. "Get out of here with your d--d dog; clear out of the town with the miserable whelp," shouted he, as with rapid strides he made for the stranger and would no doubt have given him a chastisement had not the

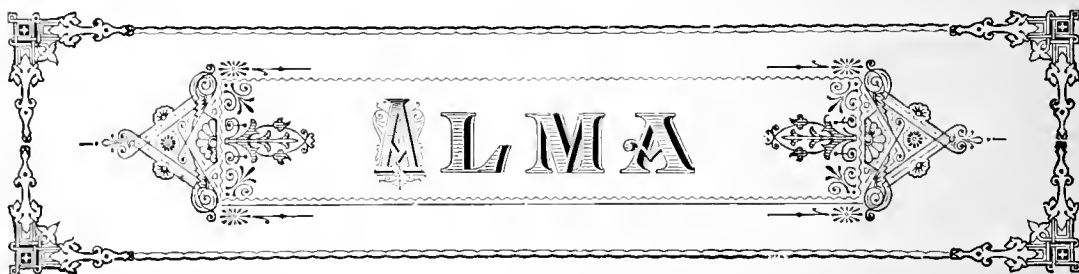
fellows been fleet of foot. To sell flour on credit and then be asked to take pay in yellow dogs, was more than Mr. Hillyer could stand, especially as he had to foot the bill. His large fortune melted away like frost before the autumn sun, being dispensed here and there with a lavish hand. Surely the many recipients of "Uncle Dick" Hillyer's bounty in Gratiot County should revere his name.

The finest private residence in Gratiot County was completed in 1884, by Col. John A. Elwell, of this village. It fronts on Washington Avenue and Delaware Street, and the beautiful site upon which it stand gives from the balcony a splendid view of the entire town. It is a frame building, three stories in height with a basement, the whole being complete as

skill and wealth can make it. The entire finish inside is of native hard woods elegantly carved and highly finished. The carving alone is estimated to have cost between seven and eight thousand dollars. The house, barn and site are considered worth \$45,000.

St. Louis has an agricultural society and grounds of her own, which were enclosed in 1883, with a new fence; and a commodious amphitheatre, floral hall, and many new stalls for the better accommodation of stock, were erected.

The grounds are conveniently located near the city limits on the west, and the society is reported in quite a flourishing condition.



**R**EMARKABLE, indeed, is the growth and development of many of Michigan's beautiful villages; few, however, in this respect excel the one of which we now write. Even those who have lived as residents

from the time this village was platted can scarcely realize that this was a part of a wild and unbroken forest only a few years ago. The history of its growth seems more like a fairy tale than absolute reality, yet the splendid business blocks, hotels, banks and churches, with all other

indications of civilization, tell us plainly that the aborigines have gone, never to return, and peace and prosperity smile upon our land. Ralph Ely came to Alma in 1853, and permanently located April 26,

1854. He was the first man settling north of Pine River, and being possessed of much enterprise he determined to build a town on the banks of the beautiful river, of which he would be proprietor. Mr. S. S. Hastings surveyed the land Feb. 9, 10 and 11, 1856.

For a long while the place was known as Elyton, or Ely's Mills, Mr. Ely having erected a saw-mill the same year. James Gargett, Esq., platted and named the village of Alma in 1858; this was really an addition to Elyton, although that name has been absorbed by the growth of Alma.

Among the first enterprises of Elyton, may be mentioned the stock of general merchandise kept by Ralph Ely. The goods were of such quality as the needs of a new country demanded, and they were given in exchange for any kind of products the woodman or hunter could procure. Furs, pelts, venison, coon, or anything which could be disposed of by Mr. Ely, were legal tender at their market value for goods. He fur-

nished a large amount of provisions and other supplies to the suffering poor during the starvation period at his own expense, and it is a standing aphorism among the residents of Alma, that the man who will say aught against the liberality of Mr Ely owes him yet for goods furnished at that time.

Jan. 1, 1858, at 4 P. M., James Gargett, Esq., arrived at Elyton. He made a purchase of Mr. Ely's entire stock, the goods were invoiced that night and the next morning Mr. Gargett was selling goods over his own counter. He has, from that until the present day, been actively engaged in business and has a name which for integrity and honor cannot be excelled. His losses by fire reach far into the thousands and would have discouraged most men; yet he struggled on, never disheartened, and now has the pleasure of looking over the result of his energy. His wife opened the first millinery store and had a nice trade for a new community. Mr. Gargett also owned the first boot and shoe store, of which Wm. E. Moyer was foreman.

Wm. C. Rodgers was the first blacksmith, and lives near Alma at this time. The first ball ever given in the village was in the hall over his shop. This Mrs. Kress says was a "grand affair," and was patronized by all the leading persons in the county. A magnificent supper was given and the neighborhood scoured to obtain dishes. Everything was served that the country afforded, wild meats and fish being plentiful.

Rev. Todd, a Universalist minister, did the first preaching at this place. Services were held at the old school-house west of town. During the stay of Mr. Kress and family in the country, Rev. — Slappee, a United Brethren minister, held services regularly at their house.

Miss Martha Woodin, now the widow of Elias Smith, taught the first school in Alma, and tells of the bill of fare that she enjoyed for weeks as she "boarded 'round" with the scholars. It was corn bread, venison, garnished with leeks, "sorrel" or "vinegar" pie, and corn coffee.

Miss Martha Cole taught the first school in the township west of Alma. She was the daughter of L. C. Cole, who drew up the famous bill of separation, mentioned elsewhere.

The first hotel in Alma was known as the "Pine River House." It was quite a popular hostelry, and was kept by a man named — Mosier. The build-

ing is still standing, and is the property of James Gargett, Esq.

In 1855 a literary society known as the "Little Pine" was commenced, and the exercises furnished the chief entertainment during the year. Recitations, compositions, etc., of merit drew large audiences. When its first anniversary was reached, a dinner was given, and the public were invited. Baked fish and maple sugar in every style were the chief articles of diet upon that occasion. This was the first literary society in the county.

The honors of having the first Fourth of July celebration are divided between Ithaca and Alma, Mr. and Mrs. Kress, Mrs. Elias Smith and others insisting that Alma celebrated in 1856, and that Rev. — Todd delivered the oration. Both Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Kress say that they made a flag for the occasion, for which part of the material was taken from the lining of Mrs. Smith's dress. A number of guns were used in firing a salute.

While the county-seat question was being agitated the inhabitants of each village were clamoring for it. The first court being held at Alma made her citizens hopeful, but some miscreant entered Mr. Ely's house and purloined the books at or near the close of the session. Every one was speculating as to who the party could be that would do such a thing. Groups of men discussed it in the woods, at the stores and elsewhere, until the women caught the infection. One lady, well-known in Alma, was so anxious to hear the particulars that she donned male attire and went into the store one evening to hear the gossip. It was not long until some of the party noticed the disguise, and she fled, pursued by a number of the younger men, all intent upon ascertaining who she was; but her fleetness proved more than a match for them. Crossing the route she had taken was quite a wide and rapid brook, which she cleared at a bound, none of the boys daring to make the attempt. Upon measuring the place next day it was found to be 15 feet across.

James Kress drove an express from Alma to St. John's twice each week for three years after he came to the village. This was the only means of communication with the outside world, and the condition of the roads part of the time is graphically portrayed by Mr. James Gargett, who told the writer that himself and wife started with Mr. Kress for St. John's,

and was three days in reaching it. The first night was spent at Ithaca, the second at McMasters', and St. John's was made the evening of the third day. Mr. Gargett, then being *en route* to attend a meeting of the State Legislature, decided that Gratiot County needed roads more than anything else. He drafted and presented a bill or petition to open up public highways, which provided that commissioners be appointed to buy and distribute provisions (it being in 1859, a part of the starvation period), and let the work be done by the inhabitants, who were to take their pay as earned, in provisions. Although the bill was not passed, an appropriation was made of \$50,000 to relieve their wants. Out of this petition grew the "Swamp Land Act," which was the first effort made toward opening up the country by means of public highways. Mr. Gargett has been to Alma what Gen. Church has been to the village of Ithaca. Too much cannot be said in their praise.

The ponies driven by Mr. Kress in 1861-2-3 are still in his possession and are as sleek, and drive as well, as ever, although they are 32 years old. This is a remarkable circumstance, when their yearly drive was estimated at 8,880 miles.

The first physician in the town was Dr. J. W. Barnes. Judge Isaac Marston, of Detroit, was the first attorney, and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Gargett. They charged him only \$1 per week, thus helping start in life a man who has made a mark in the world. His meager library was destroyed when the new store erected by Mr. Gargett was burned.

Alma was incorporated under the general law Jan. 6, 1872, by a committee of the Board of Supervisors, consisting of James T. Hall, Barney Swope and E. W. Kellogg. The arrangement was only temporary, the officers first elected holding their positions until March 5, 1872, when the village was re-incorporated by a special act of the Legislature. The temporary officials were:

President—Ralph Ely.

Trustees—Derwin Ely, Wm. Hannah, O. Ellison, John Montigel, George Bahlke and Wm. Carpenter.  
Clerk—George G. Holliday.

Assessors—James T. Hall, Samuel Brewbaker.

The regular election was held March 5, 1872, and resulted in a change of some of the officers:

President—Ralph Ely.

Trustees—Isaac Pierce, M. Pollasky, G. W. Tann,

George W. Helt, Dr. Frank Webb, Ralph Ely.

Clerk—George G. Holliday.

Treasurer—Daniel Leach.

Assessors—James T. Hall, Charles Narcong.

Marshal—Townsend A. Ely.

The Board of 1883 were composed of the following gentlemen:

President—W. S. Turck.

Trustees—M. Pollasky, Charles L. Delevan, John F. Schwartz, A. C. Barrow, K. M. Ely, J. F. Sarter. Clerk, A. Yerington. Treasurer—G. S. Ward. Assessor—James Gargett. Marshal—Chas. H. Coates. Street Commissioner—M. C. Dallas. Pound Master—A. C. Rodgers. Board of Special Assessors—Messrs. George W. Jennings, B. W. Ellison, George Pumphry.

There are many pretty residences in Alma, some of which were quite expensive for a village of its age and population. Among those we mention, that of Mr. W. S. Turck, on Woodworth Avenue, cost \$4,000; H. A. Delevan, a handsome brick on State Street, cost \$3,500; M. Pollasky, frame cottage, cost \$3,500; H. F. P. Schneider, frame cottage, \$3,500; J. F. Schwartz, \$3,500. A large number of destructive fires have visited Alma, which have destroyed some fine residences and mills. Among them might be mentioned the costly residence of Mr. James Gargett, which was the finest villa in the place.

The Holly system of water-works is well operated in this village, there being a number of mains laid in the place, affording at all times an ample supply of water.

Some fine flowing wells are located in Alma. The flow is governed very much by location here, as elsewhere. One of the best is that of Mr. M. Pollasky, which flows 15 feet from the surface. One of the grandest things to boast of is a never-failing water supply.

Pine River also runs through the corporation and furnishes all the power necessary for the manufacturers who wish to locate. The streets are wide and nicely graded, and large numbers of beautiful shade trees have been planted.

*Wright House.*—This elegant and extensive hotel, erected in 1883, was formally opened to the public October 17th of the same year. As the Wright House is the best equipped hotel in the State of Michigan, it is but just to give it more than a mere mention. In

point of convenience and elegance in finish, it has no peer in the West. An addition of 40 rooms will be made this year, and magnetic, Russian and Turkish baths added to its already large list of attractions. The mineral springs of Alma are fully equal to those of Mt. Clemens or Eaton Rapids, and there is no question of its becoming a popular summer resort. The furnishings are elaborate in every particular, and of the best material.

The hotel proper is located at the corner of State and Superior Streets, the two principal thoroughfares in the village, having a frontage of 63 feet and a depth of 85 feet, with a wing on the west side 24 by 40 feet. The building is three-stories high, built of brick from Mr. Wright's own yard, and the foundation is Kelly Island limestone. The brick work has been painted a dark red, which with the stone trimmings makes a very attractive exterior. At the front entrance there is a vestibule of five feet, from which plate glass doors open into the office.

The basement is thoroughly finished throughout, great care having been taken to avoid dampness. In the basement there are located the barber shop and bath room, two sample rooms, a wine and a billiard room. Adjoining the billiard room is a small and well appointed bar and fixtures, gents' closets, etc. The basement is finished in black ash, with maple floors, oiled. In rear of the apartments referred to are the store-rooms, refrigerator, bakery, gas pump, which furnishes gas for lighting the entire building, and a low-pressure water pump, capable, with six pounds of steam, of elevating water 60 feet, into the reservoirs in the attic. The basement is reached by an entrance from the street on the east side, and by stairs from the office. Under the wing portion there is located the boiler room, containing two boilers, each 14 feet long and 4-foot shell, and of 80-horse indicated power. These boilers are worked either singly or in battery, and not only furnish the heat for the hotel but for the barn, a furniture store in rear, and the large Wright's Opera-House Block across the street.

The first floor is finished throughout in black ash, with oiled maple floors and Italian marble mantels and grates in each of the principal rooms, in addition to the steam-heating and gas appointments. The windows are plate glass, with unique cathedral top-lights. In the southeast corner is the reading room, a handsome apartment, neatly furnished, with mantel,

grate, gas, etc., and connecting with the office through an open arch. The office is furnished with mantel and grate fixtures, a fine safe, an elegant black ash counter and desk, and coat room in connection.

The ladies' hall opens from the east side, and divides the office and reading room from the dining hall. It also furnishes a passage to the stairs leading to the upper floors, to the gents' wash room and into the basement. The gents' wash room is elegantly fitted up with marble fixtures, and finished as are the apartments, in black ash.

The dining hall is a gem in its way,—spacious, well lighted and cheerful. It is finished in black ash, maple floors, sideboards and furniture to match the finish, gas and steam heat, marble mantel and grate.

West of the dining hall, entrances lead into the carving room, fitted up with steam, carving table, tea and coffee urns, etc., and a china closet complete in its appointments and arrangement.

The kitchen is supplied with Bramhall, Dean & Co.'s ranges. In the wing portion on this floor are located the dish room, pastry, help hall, laundry, dry room and kitchen help room. All of the appointments in these apartments are admirable and the best that money and a discriminating taste could supply.

The second floor is also finished in black ash, with maple floors. It is reached by elaborately carved black ash stairs, newel posts and landings, the work having been done by hand, by experienced artists in Eastlake design, and alone representing an outlay of over \$1,000.

In the southeast corner is the ladies' parlor, supplied with maroon plush furniture, Brussels carpet, Italian marble mantel and grate, and an elegant piano. There are also spacious and airy corridors, from which entrances lead into fifteen sleeping apartments, all supplied with gas and steam heat, marble mantels and grate, marble-top dressers and commodes and black-walnut furniture, with Brussels carpets. On this floor are also ladies' toilet and bath rooms. In the wing there are eight chambers and linen room, furnished in the same style, the furniture being of ash.

There is a neat balcony on the second-floor front. All of the rooms are supplied with transoms, and the apartments omit nothing that the most fastidious taste could suggest.

Upon the third floor there are 19 sleeping apartments, furnished in the same style as those described.

Above the third floor is the attic, eight feet in the clear, in which are the reservoirs, which furnish city water and soft water for the hotel and bath purposes, and water from two flowing wells on the premises. The finishing of the third floor is white pine, and the furniture is of ash.

Two other hotels besides the Wright House furnish ample accommodations for the traveling and boarding fraternity.



### Business Interests.

**T**HE largest mercantile establishment in the village, and, in fact, in the county, is that of Wright, Schneider & Stutz, wholesale and retail dealers in general merchandise, occupying four brick stores in Wright's Opera-House Block, a building 113 feet front and 86 feet deep, and three stories, the opera house being located over the two corner stores, and over the balance the stores of the firm and offices. The firm also handle large quantities of wheat, and the past season 40,000 pounds of wool.

The village is supplied with a fine grist-mill three stories high, with roller process, and having a capacity for manufacturing 100 barrels of flour daily. It is owned and operated by Wright & Furck.

In the grist-mill, which is operated by water power, there is a Holly pump, with pipes extending through the village, furnishing an ample supply of water for fire and village purposes. South of the village Mr. Wright owns an 80-acre farm, on which is located a brick-yard, having a capacity of 1,000,000 during the season, and from which the brick used in the village is procured.

One of the finest improvements is the park, the property of Mr. A. W. Wright. It is located just north of the business portion of the village, contains eleven acres, with native trees, and was laid out into walks and drives by an artist from Saratoga. It contains a neat fish pond, and will prove a source of pleasure and pride to the generous proprietor as well as to the people of the village.

G. D. Barton & Co. operate a saw-mill and lumber yard. The mill contains a circular saw, and has a capacity for 40,000 feet of pine daily. It also cuts a

large quantity of ash and other hard woods annually; a planer and molder being attached, the lumber is dressed and is ready for market. There is a ready sale for all the lumber this mill can manufacture.

Mr. W. B. Hulbert is also operating a woolen mill having 360 spindles, a fine industry, and manufacturing the product raised in Gratiot County. There is also a stock company operating a knitting-works establishment, employing about 20 hands and turning out about 100 dozen hosiery per week.

H. A. Delevan & Co. are also general dealers in merchandise and grain, and Pollasky Bros., clothing and dry goods.

W. H. Hill & Co. are large dealers in furniture and manufacture any kind of goods to order. Theirs is a complete store.

G. B. Porter is a representative man in the jewelry business. Everything which delights the eye or pleases the æsthetic tastes of woman or mankind can be purchased there.

Of the medical profession we may mention Drs. L. C. Downey, Frank Suydam, Mrs. Wesley Nelson and Stephen Yerington, all talented and highly respected practitioners.

The foundry of J. M. Montigel & Co. gives employment to twenty skilled workmen. The Alma Knitting Works has a capacity for making 350 dozen pairs of socks per week. This factory is owned by a stock company, in which \$25,000, is represented. The president of the company is James Gargett, W. S. Turck, Treasurer, and C. H. Coates, Secretary.

John Y. Chapman operates a hoop factory, in which sixteen men are given employment. This has a capacity of 300,000 patent hoops per year.

A handsome new brick block is now (March, 1884) in process of erection, fronting on Superior Street, which will be three stories in height, 60 x 110 feet, the lower story to be fitted for store rooms, the upper for a grand opera house. This building is being erected by a stock company consisting of six capitalists of Gratiot County, who see in Alma a bright future.

The new planing-mill of Messrs. Bradley & Stevens, now completed, will employ fifteen men; the hoop factory of F. H. Hamlin & Co. employ twenty more. This factory has a capacity of 20,000 hoops per diem.



G. C. Beebe leads in the drug line, carrying a very large stock, as well as notions, etc.

The Salisbury Co. also have a fine trade in the same goods. Both of these are representative firms and splendid gentlemen.

In millinery, Mrs. J. L. Miller and Mrs. H. B. Hulbert keep a fine line of goods. It is a real pleasure to note the taste displayed in these model stores.

Mr. E. Linis deals exclusively in clothing and gents' furnishing goods, and has recently added a merchant tailoring department to his business interests, and has an immense trade.

J. L. Miller deals exclusively in dry goods and fancy articles.

J. D. Mandeville and Kelso Bros. represent the hardware interests of Alma.

There are two good livery barns, of which the one belonging to the Wright House is one of the best arranged barns in the State. It is finished with maple, lighted by gas and heated by steam.

In addition to the business above mentioned there are numerous blacksmith and wagon shops, harness and shoe making establishments, restaurants and news depots sufficient to supply the demand.

W. S. Turck & Co.—The room in the southwest corner of the Wright House was fitted up especially for banking purposes. Like all else connected with Wright's enterprise, it is complete in every detail. The handsome and impenetrable steel safe is encased in a fire and burglar proof vault, upon which are two time locks. The bank is largely patronized and is reckoned a secure institution. The style of the firm is W. S. Turck & Co., of whom W. S. Turck, G. S. Ward, of Alma; C. E. Webster, Pompei; J. H. Seaver, Ithaca; A. W. Wright, of Saratoga, N. Y., are stockholders. Mr. G. S. Ward is Cashier.



### Fire Department.

TWO volunteer fire companies have been organized in this village. The Hose Company consists of 26 men, with Alex. Neil, Foreman; Ferd. Montigel, 1st Asst.; Albert Bahlke, 2d Asst.; Ferd. Montigel, Treas., and Chas. L. Delevan, Sec'y. They have 500 feet of hose, and were organized Aug. 11, 1882.

The Hook and Ladder Company was organized a year later, and have a membership of 18. They have a full complement of ladders, buckets, etc., and for the high buildings this company is a very available safeguard. Marcus Pollasky is Foreman, M. D. Fuller, 1st Asst., M. Montigel, 2d Asst., Ben. C. Butler, Treas., Ed. R. Schneider, Sec'y.

### Churches.

*Congregationalists.*—August 11, 1872, thirteen persons organized themselves into a society to be known as the First Congregational Church of Alma. This number was composed of the following named persons: Geo. W. Jennings, Mrs. Utensia Howe, Mrs. Mary Clark, Mrs. Anna M. Pierce, Mrs. Louisa Hall, Mrs. — Truesdel, Mrs. Mary E. Scott, Miss Anna Crane, Deacon J. I. Robinson and wife, Rev. H. M. Holliday and wife.

This society has about 40 active members, and services have been regularly conducted, together with Sunday-school meetings, since their organization. The first Deacons were J. I. Robinson and C. M. Scott. Rev. H. Holliday, Clerk.

The Congregationalists will have the finest church edifice in Alma. The foundation is already laid, and will be completed before the close of 1884. The plans are entirely modern, and the building when complete will cost \$4,000.

Rev. C. H. Stevens is the present Pastor.

*Alma Methodist Church.*—Previous to the permanent organization of the present society, there had been a class of Methodists at this place, but by reason of parties moving away and otherwise, affairs did not assume a degree of permanency until the spring of 1871. Wm. Bamborough and wife, Jesse Tompkins and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tann were members of the first class. In 1871, a series of revival meetings were conducted by Revs. Wells and Theo. J. Hill, which resulted in a large number of conversions, and many persons at the close of the meeting united with the Methodist Church. Conference sent Rev. J. K. Stark, to preach to them, and movements were set on foot for the building of a church.

Rev. Noah Fassett, the Pastor, laid the corner-stone in June, 1873, in which year the church was completed and dedicated. Rev. F. B. Bangs presided on this occasion. The Methodist church is a very pretty and commodious edifice, the congregation is out of

debt, and the membership is quite large. Rev. Jonas N. Staly has ministerial charge of the society and is stationed at Alma. The Methodist Sunday-school is a source of pride to the society, the attendance averaging 107 scholars, although there are three other schools in session at the same hour.

*Seventh-Day Advents.*—In the fall of 1864, this society was organized, Mr. James Gargett and wife, John M. Glover and wife, Cornelius Holliday and wife, B. P. Chase and wife, Mrs. Mary Ely, Mrs. C. C. Clark and others becoming members of the same. Mr. Gargett had built a room for the private education of his children, in which place their meetings were held for several years.

After the Baptist church was built, they occupied it until the completion of the Advent church in the year 1880. This is a frame edifice, costing \$2,200, and the society is out of debt and in a flourishing condition. The members are mostly country people, but social meetings and Sunday-school are held every Sabbath.

The faith of the Advents has been productive of much good in the community, having rather a missionary than strictly orthodox manner of inculcating their views. Some of the leading men of the county are members of this Church, and their precepts and example prove fully their sincerity and true christianity.

They believe with the greatest confidence that the general Government will, in the near future, enact laws which will force the people to revere and keep the seventh day in a becoming and devout manner.

*Baptist Church.*—Among the pioneer Baptist families in Gratiot County, were Wm. Yerington and his wife Amanda, who with their children became members of the First Baptist Church of Alma. A meeting was called by a number who were interested in organizing a society of this denomination, July 7, 1866, at which meeting Rev. W. Everest acted as Moderator, and S. S. Hastings, Clerk.

The society was formally organized, the following persons uniting by letter and otherwise: Wm. Yerington, Amanda Yerington, Stephen D. Yerington, Gertrude Yerington, Otis Bartlett, Mrs. Charity Wheeler and Thomas H. Fitchel.

Wm. Yerington was the first Deacon; his son, Stephen D. Yerington, Clerk. Rev. Lafayette Church was the first minister to preside at their meetings.

Their church was a neat frame building, erected in 1873, at a cost of \$1,800. Rev. C. Beals preached the dedicatory sermon July 13, assisted by Rev. Theodore Nelson, acting Pastor.

The church is practically free from debt, and has a talented minister, Rev. W. H. Beteys.

#### Secret Societies.

*Alma Lodge, No. 244, A. F. & A. M.*—The dispensation for Alma Lodge was granted Jan. 10, 1868, by Grand Master S. C. Coffinbury, who appointed T. Bamborough, W. M.; H. E. Kingsley, S. W.; N. P. Watts, J. W.

The ceremony of installing the officers, *pro tem.*, took place on the evening of Jan. 10, 1868, Dept. G. M., A. J. Utley officiating. The officers were: Thomas Bamborough, W. M.; C. C. Clark, S. W.; D. R. Sullivan, J. W.; C. W. Tann, Treas.; J. C. Brown, Sec'y; G. S. Ward, S. D.; L. A. George, J. D.; Daniel Boyer, Tiler.

Following this was the regular installation of the officers elect, respectively:

Thomas Bamborough, W. M.; Henry E. Kingsley, S. W.; N. P. Watts, J. W.; D. R. Sullivan, Treas.; J. C. Bowen, Sec'y; G. S. Ward, S. D.; C. C. Clark, J. D.; L. A. George, Tiler.

This lodge is in a very flourishing condition, with several hundred dollars in the treasury. They will erect in the near future a fine hall, as their present quarters are too small for convenience and comfort.

The officers for 1884 are all well-known gentlemen of Alma and vicinity. Their names are as follows: W. S. Turck, W. M.; M. Pollasky, S. W.; Wm. Adams, J. W.; F. Montigel, Treas.; C. H. Coates, Sec'y; A. Yerington, S. D.; Geo. D. Barton, J. D.; Fred. Price, Tiler.

There are at present 70 active members, and their number is made up of the best men in the village and surrounding country.

*William Moyer Post, G. A. R.*—This post was organized in July, 1883, with a membership of 22. The first and present officers are: Wm. H. Hall, Commander; Wm. S. Turck, Sen. Vice-Commander; J. N. Clow, Jun. Vice-Commander; A. Yerington, Adjutant; E. F. Moyer, Quartermaster; Samuel Brewbaker, O. G.; C. H. Axtel, O. D.

The old soldiers composing this post are well-trying veterans of the late war, and their annual re-unions are productive of much pleasure. Their banquet at

the Wright House, last year, was a grand affair, and many distinguished soldiers from abroad attended.

#### Miscellaneous.

*Brass Band.*—Alma has a very creditable Brass Band, numbering 12 pieces, which was organized in 1883, under the leadership of A. Yerington, Esq., one of the best musicians in the county.

*Library.*—The Ladies' Library is on quite a sub-

stantial basis, having on its books 37 yearly members who each pay \$1 for its support, besides contributions of books, etc. They have 250 volumes now, and will increase the number during the year. Mrs. Dr. C. L. Downey has been an ardent worker in this movement.

*Literary Society.*—The Literary Society has furnished a great deal of pleasure and profit as an educator, during the year.

## THE PRESS.



As mentioned elsewhere, the *Gratiot News* was established in this county in 1858. The material was brought from Owosso by Cornelius Campbell, having been purchased for S. N. Miller and Robert Sutton, by Frank Miller, who was editor-in-chief until its purchase by W. W. Comstock, in the autumn of the same year. The paper was neutral in politics under the first management, but was changed to a radical Republican sheet by Mr. Comstock, who continued its publication for a year and then leased it to Moses Tompkins, Jr., and his

brother, George. D. P. Cornell afterward became the purchaser, and finally the paper, after varying fortune and little prosperity, was discontinued, in 1865.

Nathan Church, with that enterprise for which he is noted, purchased the material, most of which was worn out, and, together with Daniel Taylor, made purchases of new type, etc. Mr. Taylor was a practical printer, and Mr. Church an accomplished

writer, so the partnership was a mutually agreeable, if not a profitable one, Mr. Church assuming the editorial and business management, while Mr. Taylor attended to the composition, etc.

The name of the paper was changed to *The Gratiot Journal*, which name it retains to the present day. Mr. Taylor afterward purchased Mr. Church's interest and continued it under his own management until he sold to the present proprietor, Mr. Robert Smith, in September, 1872. The *Journal* is a six-column quarto, and at the present time is the recognized official paper of the county. Mr. Smith has an excellent power press and a splendid office, which gives evidence of the healthfulness of the *Journal*. The tone and influence of this paper has contributed in no small degree to the growth, improvement, intelligence and wealth of the county in which it is published, being ably edited and one of the newsiest local papers in the State.

Mr. Smith is to be congratulated upon his success in so firmly establishing this paper upon a permanent financial basis, and the encouragement given it by men of all political opinions prove the power it exerts in Gratiot County.

In the early days of journalism in this county, it was considered the proper thing for everybody in

even moderate circumstances to patronize it. Before postoffices were plenty, as they are now, many who lived at remote distances called at the printing office for their paper. One day a fellow from one of the frontier townships, who affected a great deal more than he knew, called for his paper and was informed that it was not yet printed.

Not really knowing what that meant, he remarked that he "had as lieves have it then as at any time."

That era of intelligence has passed away, and the *Journal*, as an educator, has done a great work in its accomplishment.



#### Gratiot County Democrat.

**L.** HILBOURNE established this paper in Ithaca in 1878 and continued its publication three years. In the fall of 1881, Mr. J. V. Johnson, a man of large experience in journalism, assumed the name and took the subscription list of the above paper, put in new office material, and commenced the publication of the *Democrat* in St. Louis. The first edition was issued Sept. 15, 1881, and has continued until this time increasing in popularity and circulation. A fire on the 4th of January, 1884, destroyed part of the material, but Mr. Johnson, with characteristic enterprise, issued the paper and has not missed a number since it was established. As a Democratic organ, its success is assured in Gratiot County.



#### The Ithaca Times.

**T**HE *Times* is a wide-awake paper, occupying an independent position politically. It was established in 1883, and the first issue dated February 2, with F. M. Vandercook editor and proprietor. Messrs. W. L. Hilbourne and R. G. Harpham purchased his stock and good will Jan. 3, 1884, and are making the *Times* a splendid local paper. The large circulation it already has, is proof of their ability and its merit. These young men have enlarged and otherwise im-

proved it, and the *Times* looks as if it had come "to stay." The office is located in the Jeffrey building, corner of Center and Main Streets, and Messrs. Hilbourne & Harpham have the energy and ability to make it a success.



#### St. Louis Leader.

**A**UGUST 13, 1879, the *St. Louis Leader* was established by Myer & Vandercook. After two months the firm changed to Vandercook & Pettit. September, 1881, it again changed to Hoskins & Vandercook, and in November, 1882, Hoskins bought Vandercook out, since which time Edwin S. Hoskins has been sole editor and proprietor. The *Leader* now has a steady and satisfactory growth, and ranks high among the enterprising papers of Michigan. It has ever been soundly Republican and under its present management bids fair to become a power in influencing the political opinions of Gratiot County; in developing and encouraging the growth and prosperity of a live town and thrifty community; and in building up the best interests of Michigan generally. The *Leader* is one of the necessities in Gratiot County.



#### The St. Louis Herald.

**I**N the winter of 1868-9, the *St. Louis Gazette* was founded by Messrs. Holcomb, Evans & Smith. The organization and management of the above paper was intrusted to W. H. H. Bartram, of Bay City. The first men engaged were James Paddock, now Judge of the Probate Court, and Dr. J. R. Baldwin, then and now a practicing physician of St. Louis. At the end of six months Bartram withdrew, and the proprietors engaged A. L. Blood of California to conduct the paper. Five months later Blood retired from the noble work in disgust, and his valedictory will long be remembered by old settlers, for the pathetic passage, "Dear, damned, delightful town, farewell!" A Mr. Bowen, from Owosso, next tried his hand at operating the paper, but gave it up at the end of three months.

Afterward, J. W. Bailey, foreman in the Lansing *Republican* office, was imported to take charge. His stewardship covered the space of an entire year, when the paper and its business was sold to Hattie E. Church, whose husband, E. Church, conducted it as editor and manager till the autumn of 1870, when it was sold to Aaron Wessels, who engaged Leonard and Scott as editors and managers. This practically ended the *Gazette*. Before Wessels got things in working order, the material was taken possession of by Holcomb & Evans, on a writ of replevin. In the suit that followed they were sustained in their claim, and soon after they sold out to W. M. Cook, a practical printer from Jackson. On the 17th of March, 1871, the first number of the St. Louis *Herald* was issued by W. W. Cook, editor and proprietor, with the material and on the ruins of the old *Gazette*. The paper had always been Republican in politics and Cook clung to the same faith. In September, 1874, he sold the *Herald* to J. B. Graham, who proclaimed it from that date an independent paper, politically. Three years later Graham sold to Henry Smalley, who continued it as an independent journal till July, 1878, when a change of heart made it an advocate of Greenbackism. November 26, 1880, James H. Shultz purchased it, and at the end of three months sold to Willard D. Tucker, the present editor and proprietor. The paper, under the able management of Mr. Tucker, is in a prosperous condition. The circulation is large and rapidly increasing. It is an eight-column folio. Office is located in Wessel's Block.

#### Alma Record.

**A**PRIL 1, 1879, M. L. Hart started a six-column folio paper, called The *Alma Weekly Index*. He sold to A. D. Pettit, who enlarged the paper to a seven-column folio, and changed the name to *Gratiot County Record*. Mr. Pettit kept the paper a year and sold to J. H. Phillips, who edited it for something more than twelve months, and turned it over to N. G. Davidson, who changed the name to *Alma Record*, and in November, 1883, sold to K. W. Ely, the present proprietor. Since its purchase by Mr. Ely

the circulation of the paper has steadily increased. Mr. Davidson remains in the employment of Mr. Ely as foreman, and at no distant day the paper will be enlarged and the entire sheet printed in Alma.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

##### Lumbering Interests.

**U**NTIL the last ten years, the lumbering interests have taken precedence of all other branches of trade. The whole county was densely covered with a magnificent growth of maple, beech, oak, ash, basswood and elm, with some butternut, hickory and hemlock. The northern part of the county, and the townships of Hamilton and Elba in the southeast part, and the townships of Newark and New Haven in the west part, abound with valuable pine forests. Most of this timber has been removed, as well as a great deal of hard wood, which is now equally valuable as, if not more so than, the pine. Occasional tamarack and cedar swamps are found, in which these woods grow luxuriantly. There are several large mills in this county, in which 31,300,000 feet were cut in 1874-5. None of the mills ran at more than half their capacity, and two of them sawed only part of one season. Computing the cut for fifteen years at the low rate of 30,000,000 feet per annum, we have a total of 450,000,000 feet from 1865 to 1880. Several mills had been in active operation for years before this, and it would be safe to estimate their cut from 1857 to 1865 at 18,000,000 feet per annum, making a yield of 162,000,000 feet, or a grand total of 612,000,000 feet from 1857 to 1880. Immense forests yet stand untouched in the county and many millions of feet will yet be marketed.

Stave timber is now quite profitable, and immense quantities have been delivered to the different mills this year. When crops are light the farmers have an assurance of a fair income from their wood land, at the same time getting the soil ready for cultivation.

The resources of Michigan are unlimited, yet for years to come the lumber interest will play an important part.

### Valuation of Property.

TO prove the phenomenal growth of Gratiot County, a glance at the following valuation of real estate and personal property for the past 27 years is sufficient to convince any one that her future is bright. Lands which were purchased in 1856 for 50 cents per acre, are worth to-day from \$50 to \$75 per acre, and only a few of these tracts are changing hands, the owners realizing the worth of them for agricultural and other purposes.

The county is rapidly settling with men of wealth and enterprise, and business of every kind is pushed with an energy peculiar to Western people.

The whole number of acres assessed in 1856 was 10,020, and the assessed valuation amounted to \$36,274.01. The personal property was listed at \$860.

In 1883, the number of acres assessed was 356,443, with a valuation of \$6,586,854, and a personal valuation of \$852,611, making a difference in 27 years of \$7,403,190.99. Taking into consideration that assessments are very low, and that a fair cash valuation would double the amount above stated, Gratiot may be considered one of the most prosperous counties in the State. The valuation of the several townships in 1883 was as follows:

Ithaca.....	\$262,250	Bethany.....	433,200
Pine River.....	922,700	Fulton.....	477,520
Elba.....	209,100	Newark.....	582,860
Hamilton.....	170,665	Arcada.....	628,800
Lafayette.....	181,944	North Shade....	482,300
Wheeler.....	248,190	New Haven....	313,900
Washington....	364,330	Sumner.....	393,910
North Star.....	337,365	Seville.....	306,570
Emerson.....	296,800		

This list includes only real estate.

### Educational.

PREVIOUS to 1867 the examination of teachers and the supervision of schools had been done by township school inspectors. The Legislature of that year passed an act to provide for county superintendents of schools. The first official elected under this act was

Judge Giles T. Brown, Republican, whose opponent was J. McKee, Democrat. This election was in April, 1867, from which date he served until 1869, when he was re-elected by an almost unanimous vote. In April, 1871, Lillis L. Hamilton, Republican, was elected by a small plurality over Elisha McCall, Democrat, and Randall Faurot, Independent. Judge Brown was again elected in 1873, and in 1875 the Legislature abolished the office and provided for the election of township superintendents of schools, with duties similar to those of county superintendents. In 1881 the Legislature passed an act revising the entire school law, and provided for a county board of school examiners, who are not elected by the popular vote, but by the chairmen of the several boards of school inspectors of the townships in the county. At the first meeting under this act, F. L. Bristol, of Ithaca; N. A. Richard, of St. Louis, and I. W. Cowdry, of Pompei, were elected. The first served one year.

### The Agricultural Society.

THOSE who were present at the first fair held in Gratiot County remember well the crude arrangements made for the display of goods of every description. W. W. Comstock furnished at his own expense the lumber to build a temporary Floral Hall, which was erected on the west side of the public square. A rail fence enclosed the grounds, to which no entrance fee was charged. Those who visited the Floral Hall had to pay an admission fee, and it was well patronized. The stock exhibited was tethered to the rail fence, or tied to some convenient forest tree. A temporary race-track was constructed around the two blocks west of and including the square, and some excellent racing by Gratiot County horses was done. The fair was a decided success, and has continued to this date the best patronized and most successful agricultural association in Northern Michigan.

Gen. Nathan Church was President of the society the first year, and Emery Crosby, Secretary. It is impossible to give the names of the original stockholders, the records having been destroyed.

The society has a splendid location near the vil-

lage of Ithaca, with good and commodious buildings, and 100 cents has always been paid for every dollar offered in premiums. The business men of Ithaca have devoted much time and money to this society and their successful efforts thus far have done a great work in the agricultural, horticultural and stock-breeding interests of this county. The display of farm products and stock equals that of any county in Northern Michigan, and the resident farmers are now fully alive to the importance of producing only the best of everything. Their grounds have been enlarged by securing a number of acres, by a long lease, from the Jeffrey estate, and the buildings, track and grounds will be still further improved until no interior county can boast of better facilities than will the Agricultural Society of Gratiot.

The first fair was held inside the village limits in 1866.

Among the gentlemen who have contributed most largely in making this association a success, we might mention: Gen. Nathan Church, Wilbur Nelson, Judge Wm. E. Winton, Hon. Chas. E. Webster, Geo. W. Clark, Silas Moody, W. W. Comstock. Many others might be named, but these were the men who put their time and money into the work, and they deserve a substantial recognition by the public.

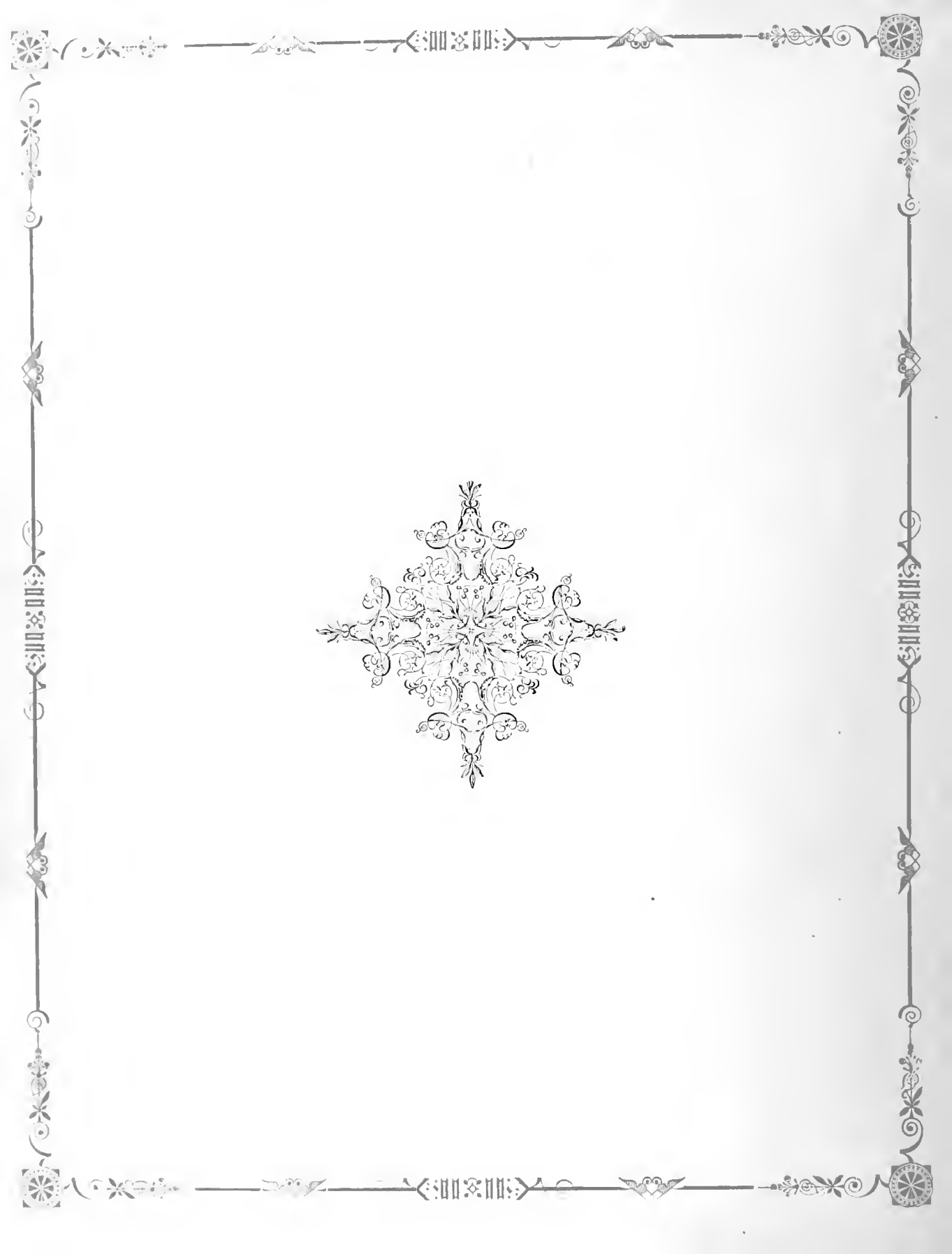
The Gratiot County poor-farm is valued at \$7,000.

The poor-house is located in the township of Newark, one and one-fourth miles from Ithaca. It consists of a main building 22 x 50 feet, two stories high, containing 16 rooms, — 11 bed-rooms, two sitting-rooms, one dining-room, one bath-room and one room for the insane. There is also a wing, 28 x 30

feet, containing two sitting-rooms, one kitchen, one pantry, and six bed-rooms, used for the females. The barns and out-houses are all in good condition. For bathing purposes there is one small room, where tubs are used. The building is warmed by stoves, and ventilated by doors and windows. The paupers are well treated. Food consists of bread, butter, meat and vegetables, with coffee or tea twice a day. Meals are served three times a day except on Sundays. The clothing is very good and warm, mostly woolen. The sick have good medical attendance, which is furnished by the superintendents. The nursing is done by the keeper. Have no accommodation for the insane and idiotic, except one room for the violently insane. All are sent to the asylum that they will receive. Have no children to educate. All that are old enough are sent to the State Public School. They let the keeping of the paupers to the lowest responsible bidder. In 1883, \$900 was paid for keeping ten paupers, the keeper having the paupers' labor and the use of the farm, and furnishing all help, food, clothing, and nursing for the sick. When the number exceeds ten, the keeper is to receive \$1.50 per week for each and every such excess, and to deduct from said \$900, \$1.50 per week for all under the stated number. The medical attendance is furnished by the superintendents.

The average number of paupers is 20½ persons, although the present number exceeds that amount. Gratiot takes good care of her poor, and the reports of the Superintendents of the Poor for 1883 show the expenditure of \$5,791.10 for their relief, of which \$2,166.06 was paid for temporary relief of persons not inmates of the county poor house. Wm. Marlow, Parmer R. Phillips, M. W. Martin, Superintendents.







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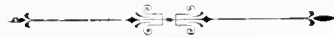
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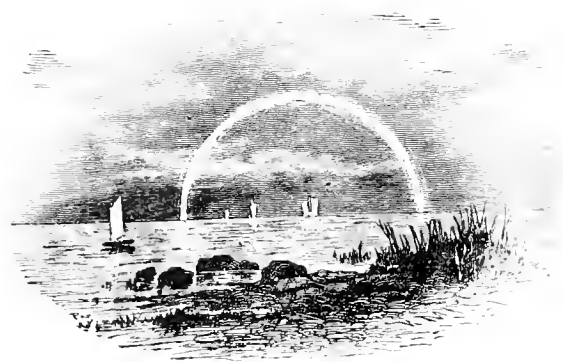
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