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PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL

ALBUM  
MECOSTA 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.

CHICAGO:

CHAPMAN BROTHERS

1883.

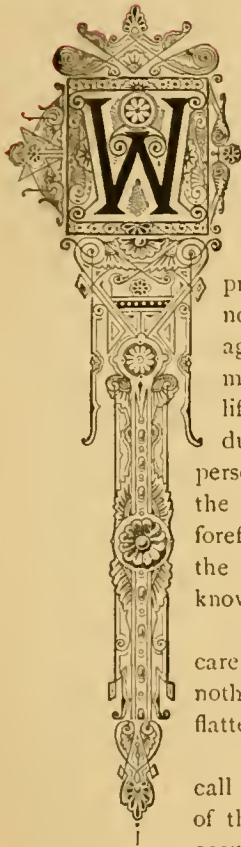


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# PREFACE



WISHING to adhere to the time-honored but often unnecessary custom of introducing books with a preface, we now proceed to thus formally present the PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM OF MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN. We promise, however, that the introduction shall be brief. In reference to the value and importance of biography, of which this work is largely composed, we wish to say a word. It is conceded, not only by the best philosophical writers, but by intelligent practical men the world over, that there is nothing which creates an aspiration so noble and laudable within the heart and mind of the young man who is struggling against adversity, poverty, and an humble position in society, as to read how other men have risen to eminent and honored positions from the self-same lowly walks of life he now occupies. It is a source of great encouragement to them. It is also a duty that each generation owes to the succeeding ones, to record and preserve the personal history of its leading and active men. There is no better way to preserve the history of a nation than in the lives of the men who make such history. Our forefathers were very largely negligent of this duty to posterity. We now only know the names of our ancestors, and often not even so much has been preserved. We know nothing of their lives, long and useful though they were.

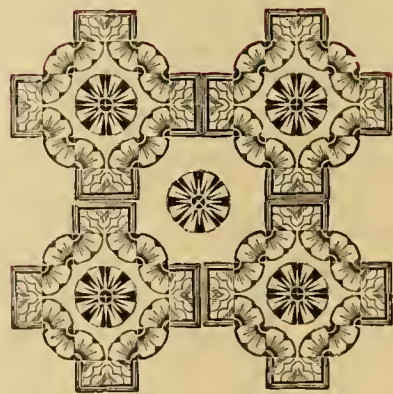
In the preparation of the personal sketches contained in this volume, unusual care and pains were taken to have them accurate, even in the smallest detail. Indeed, nothing was passed lightly over or treated indifferently in the entire book, and we flatter ourselves that it is one of the most accurate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

In reference to the history of the county, which is very fully treated, we wish to call the attention of the reader to the extraordinarily rapid growth and development of the county since its first settlement. But a few years ago the primeval forest was occupied only by the wild beasts and the Red Man. To-day prosperous cities, busy factories and mills, fine farms, school-houses and churches are to be seen everywhere throughout its borders. Nowhere has the busy activities of our days, the march of progress, the wonderful advance of science and art, contributed more to the rapid and remarkable development of any portion of the Northwest than in the County of Mecosta.

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.

CHAPMAN BROTHERS.

CHICAGO, December, 1883.



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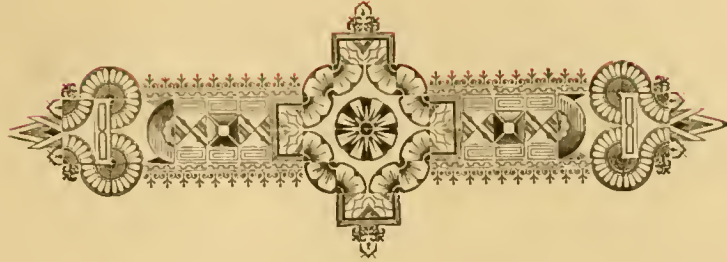
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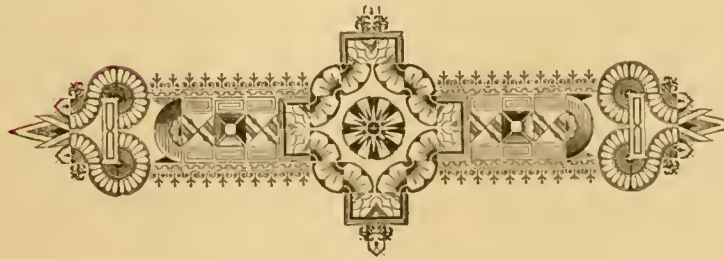
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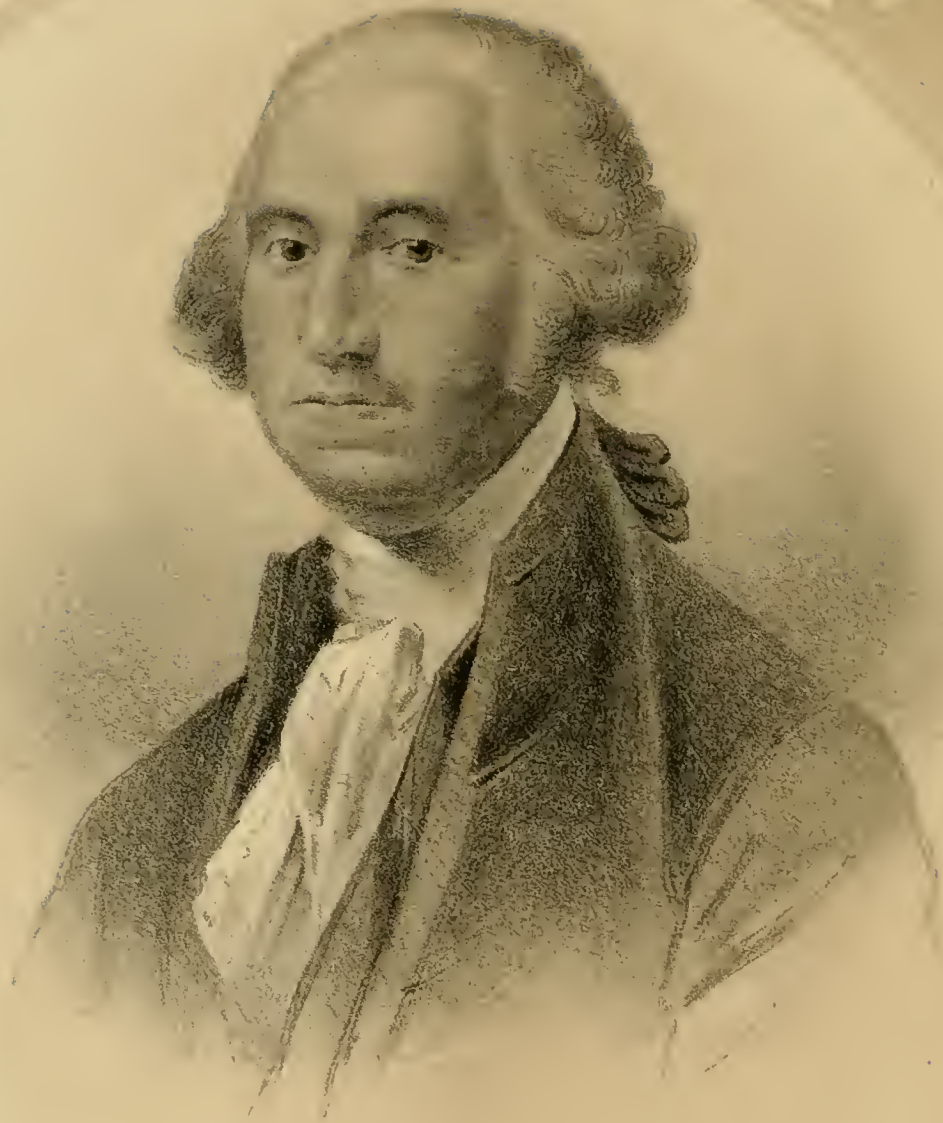


# PRESIDENTS.









*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.

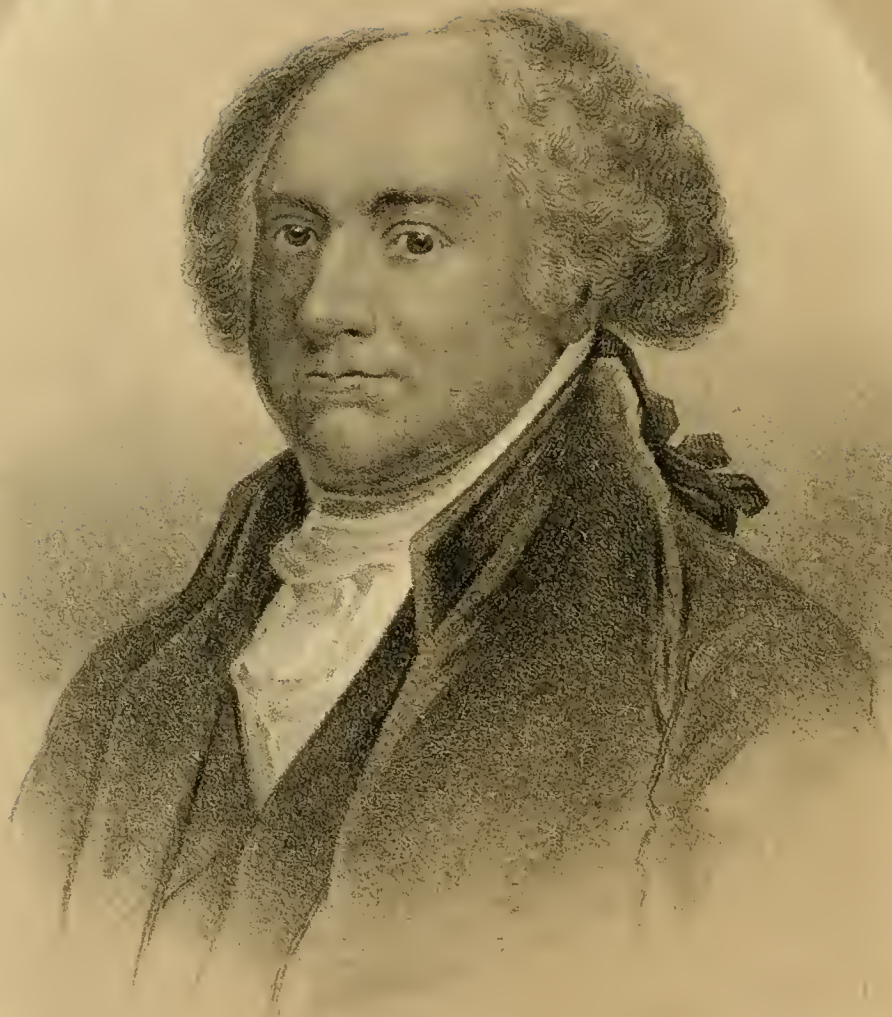
In February, 1789, Washington was unanimously elected President. In his presidential career he was subject to the peculiar trials incidental to a new government; trials from lack of confidence on the part of other governments; trials from want of harmony between the different sections of our own country; 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.





*John Adams*





## JOHN ADAMS.



**J**OHN 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

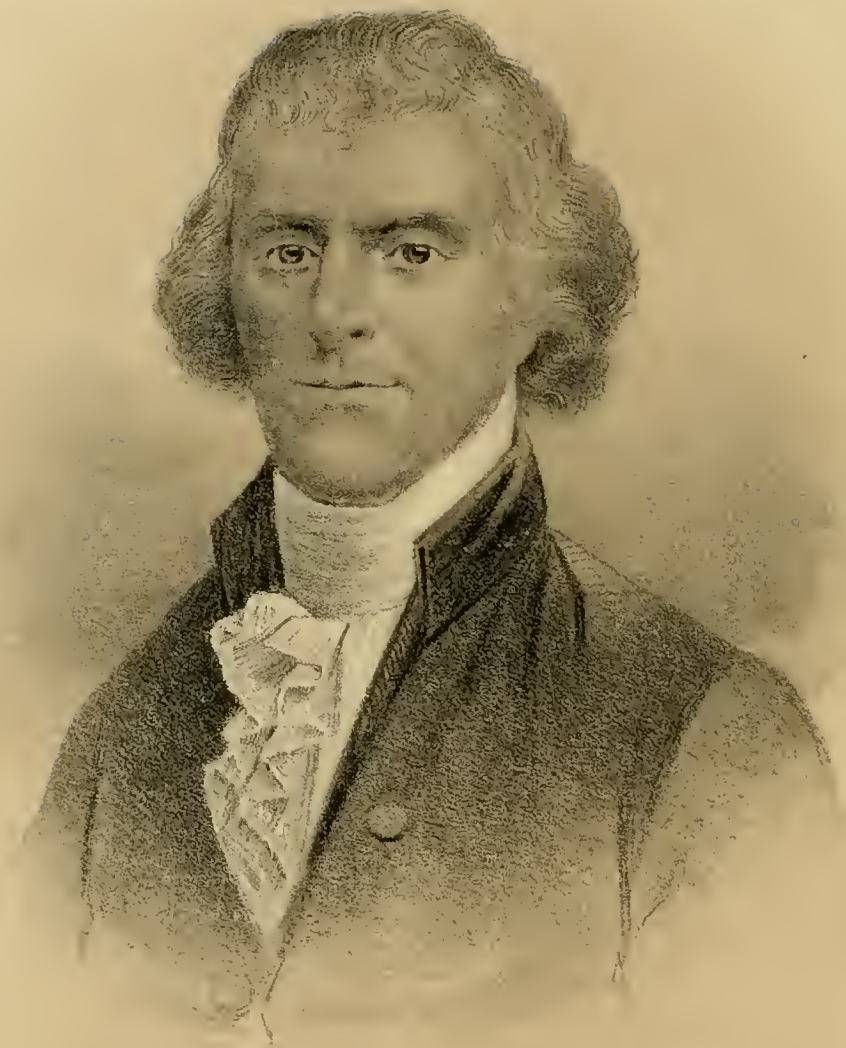
French Revolution shook the continent of Europe, and it was upon this point which he was at issue with the majority of his countrymen led by Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Adams felt no sympathy with the French people in their struggle, for he had no confidence in their power of self-government, and he utterly abhorred 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.






*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 difficult 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 accuteness 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

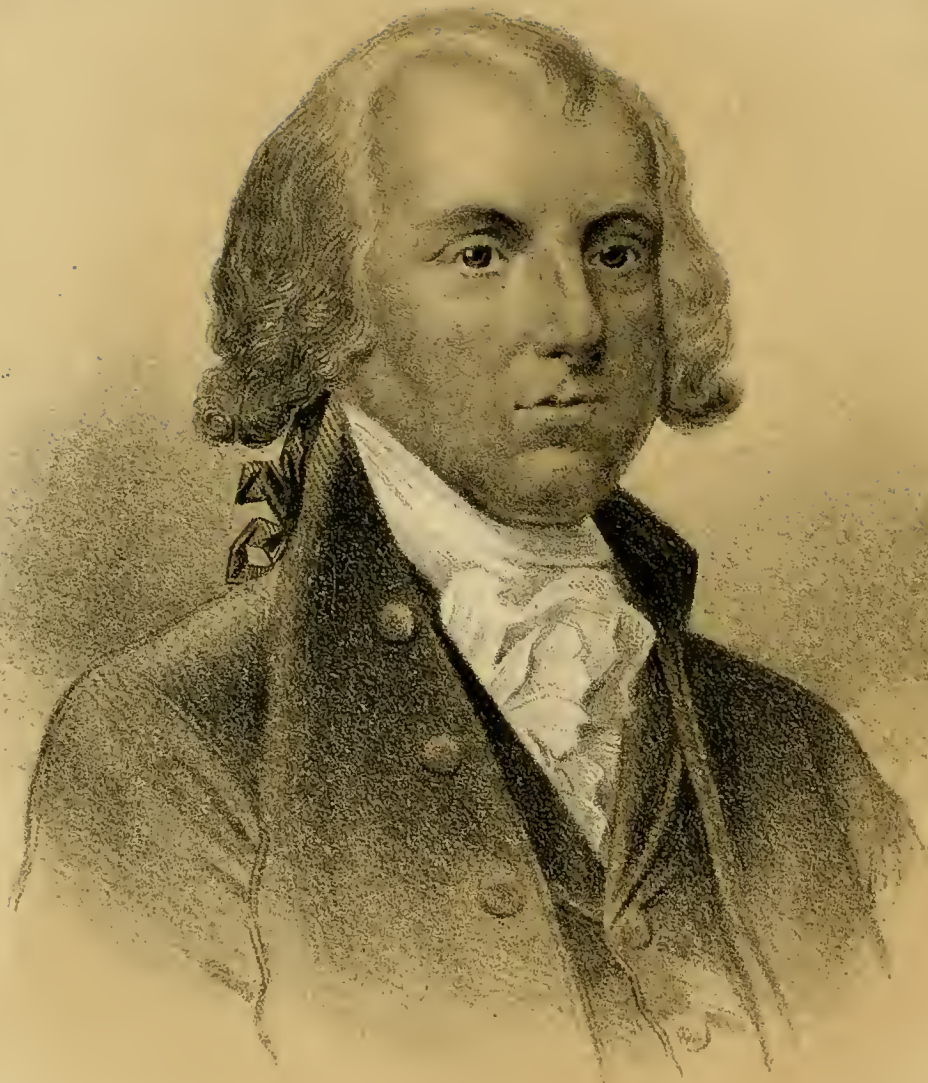
of the Declaration of American Independence, great preparations were made in every part of the Union for its celebration, as the nation's jubilee, and the citizens of Washington, to add to the solemnity of the occasion, invited Mr. Jefferson, as the framer, and one of the few surviving signers of the 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 discernible the care with which he formed his style upon the best models of antiquity.





*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 im-

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 1771, 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 Leautiful 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.





*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.

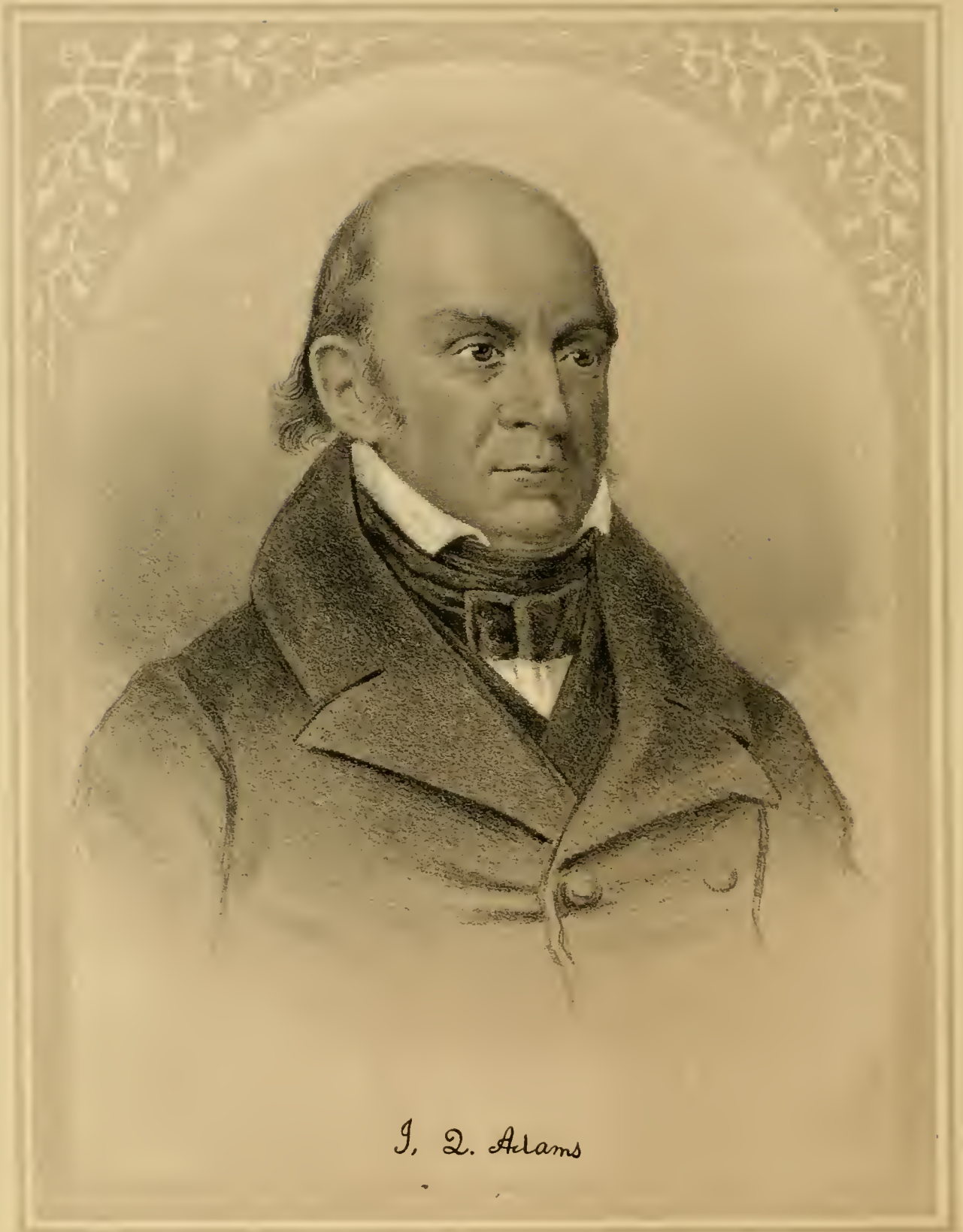
From France Mr. Monroe went to England to obtain from that country some recognition of our rights as neutrals, and to remonstrate against those odious impressments of our seamen. But England was unrelenting. He again returned to England on the same mission, but could receive no redress. He returned to 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.





*J. Q. 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 accomplishment 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.

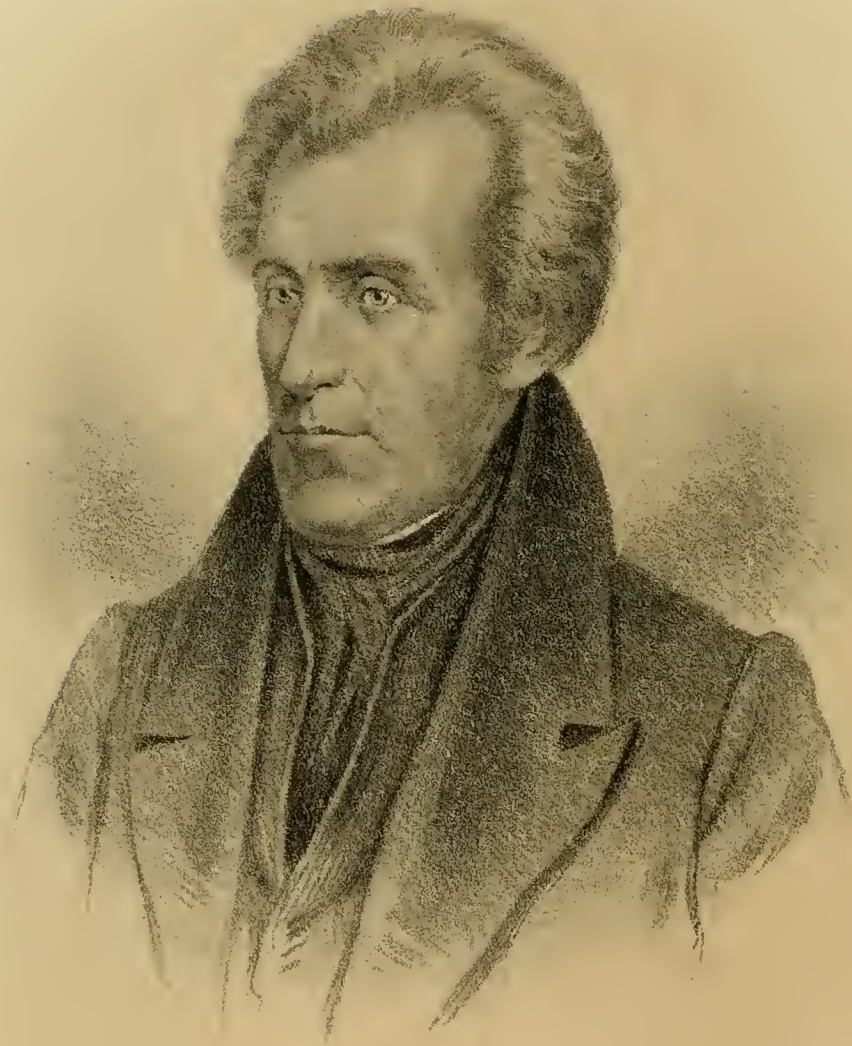
Mr. Adams was, to a very remarkable degree, abstemious and temperate in his habits; always rising early, and taking much exercise. When at his home in Quincy, he has been known to walk, before breakfast, seven miles to Boston. In Washington, it was said that he was the first man up in the city, lighting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





*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 much 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 Dickenson, 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. Mounting his horse he rode to 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 Fayetteville, 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 unerring 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.





*Arvan Bueus*



## 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 indefatigable 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.

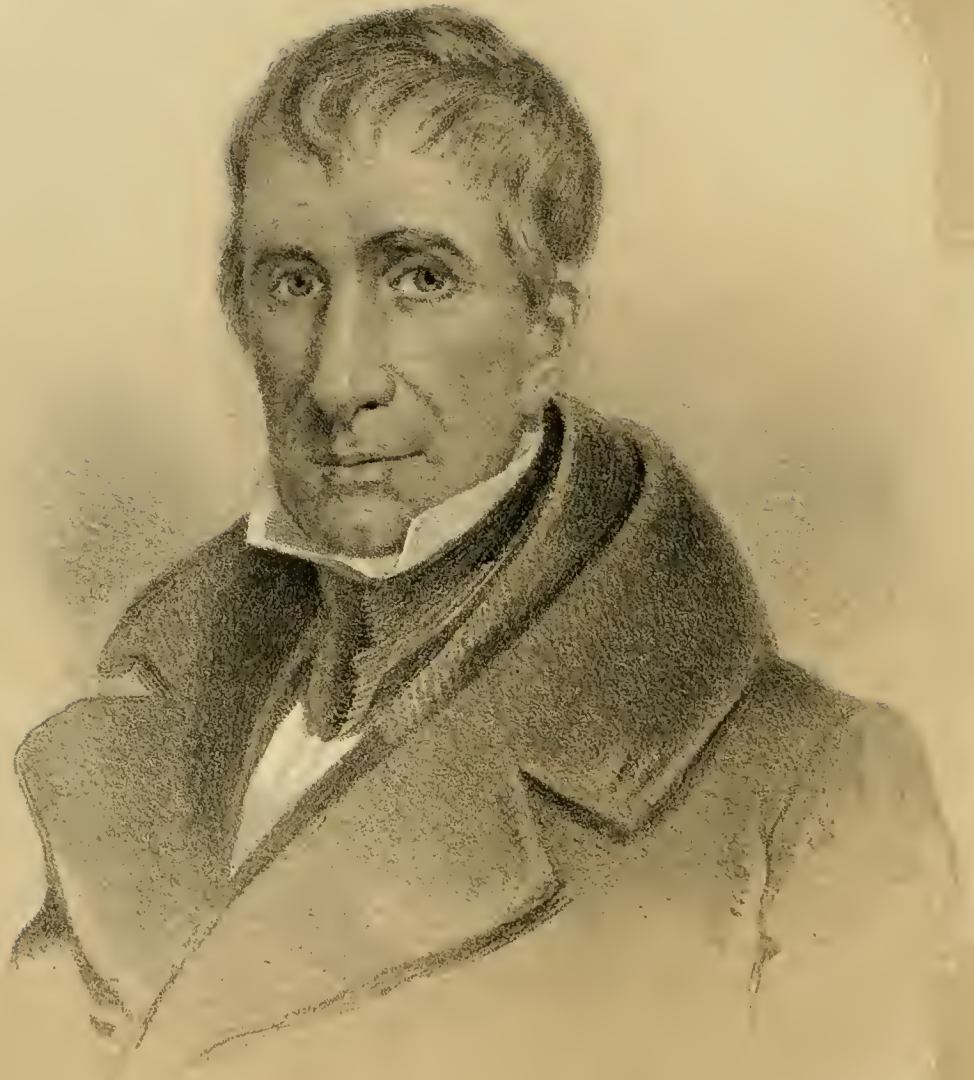
His rejection by the Senate roused all the zeal of President Jackson in behalf of his repudiated favorite; and this, probably more than any other cause, secured his elevation to the chair of the Chief Executive. On the 20th of May, 1836, Mr. Van Buren received the Democratic nomination to succeed Gen. 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.





*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.

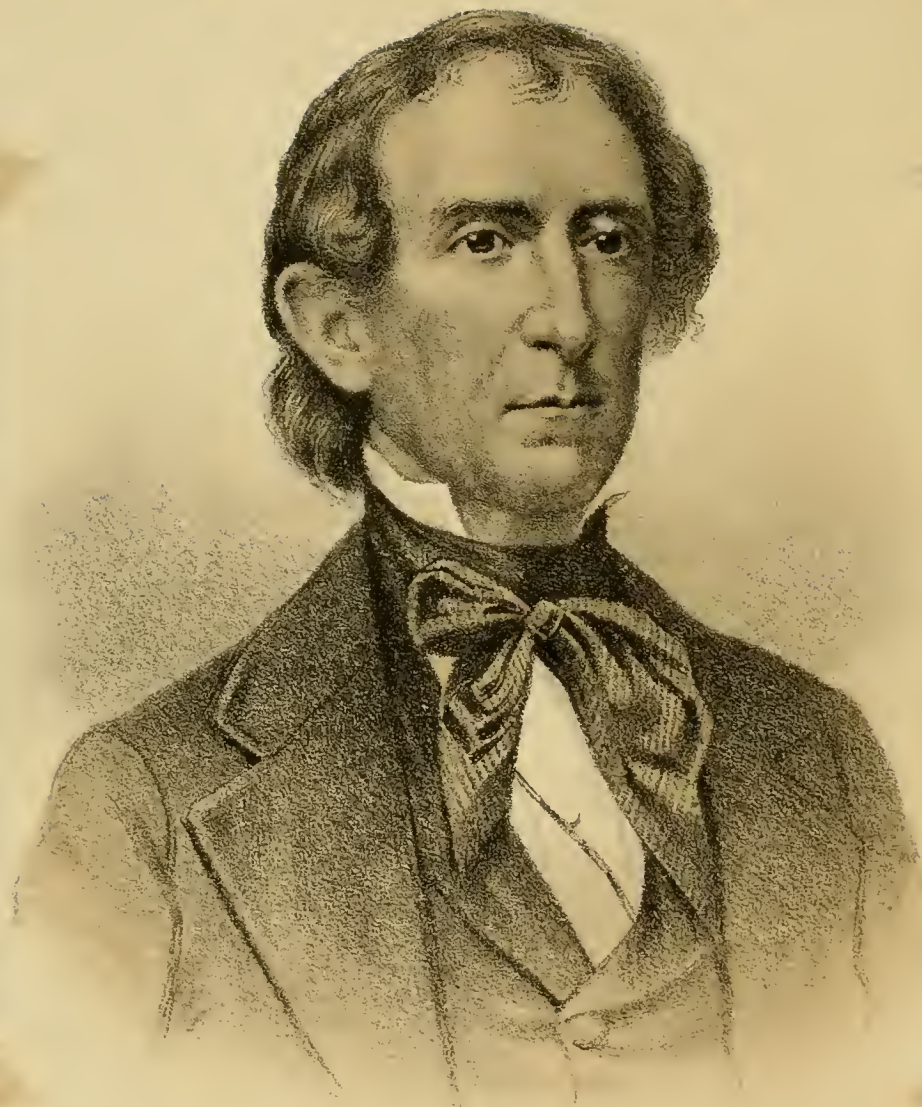
In 1816, Gen. Harrison was chosen a member of the National House of Representatives, to represent the District of Ohio. In Congress he proved an active member; and whenever he spoke, it was with force of reason and power of eloquence, which arrested the attention of all the members.

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.






John Tyler.





## JOHN TYLER.



JOHN 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 split in 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. Botts, 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.





James A. Cook



## 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 morals, genial 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 Matamoras, 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.





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-

lectual 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 uncongenial 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."





*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 wilks of Livingston County, to learn the trade of a clothier. Near the mill there was a small villiage, 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 university halls 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.





*Franklin Pierce*





## FRANKLIN PIERCE.



FRANKLIN PIERCE, the fourteenth President of the United States, was born in Hillsborough, N. H., Nov. 23, 1804. His father was a Revolutionary soldier, who, with his own strong arm, hewed out a home in the wilderness. He was a man of inflexible integrity; of strong, though uncultivated mind, and an uncompromising Democrat. The mother of Franklin Pierce was all that a son could desire,—an intelligent, prudent, affectionate, Christian woman.

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 Miss Jane Means 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.





*James Buchanan*



# JAMES BUCHANAN.



JAMES 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 a 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 1833, he was elected to a seat in the United States Senate. He there met, as his associates, Webster, Clay, Wright and Calhoun. He advocated the measures proposed by President Jackson, of making retri-

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 co-operation 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.





*A. Lincoln.*



ABRAHAM

LINCOLN.



**A**BRAM 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 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 angel-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 uneducated 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 ruin 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 Springfield, where he was employed in building a large flat-boat. In this he took a herd of swine, floated 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 adven-

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.





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 abil-

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.






*G. A. Grant*





## ULYSSES S. GRANT.



ULYSSES 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 sturdy, 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 lieutenantcy, 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 those 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 stars 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.





Sincerely  
R. B. Mayo



## RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

**R**UTHERFORD 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 farmer, 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 father 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 opened-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 arrived 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 sore bereavement, found the support she so much needed in 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 1849 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.



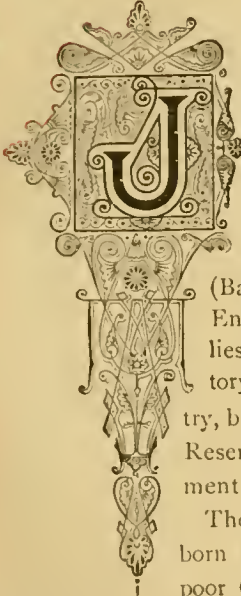


*J. A. Garfield*





## JAMES A. GARFIELD.



JAMES 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 further 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 Elberon, 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.





*C. J. 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.









*Stevens J. Mason.*

## STEPHEN T. MASON.

**S**TEPHEN 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 assignation 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 northern line of Ohio, west of Lake Erie. The line claimed by Michigan was known as the "Fulton 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.






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. Lauman, 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

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, Juleanna, daughter of John Trumbell, 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, 19, 1860.

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 a declaration and resolutions, which passed the two houses unanimously

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.





Prof. Barry



# JOHN S. BARRY

**J**OHN 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 Faruham, 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.





Alpheus Pelch





## ALPHEUS FELCH.

**A**LPHEUS 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 Exter 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 frauds at every point, which were fearlessly 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.






Wm L Greenly.



## WILLIAM L. GREENLY.



WILLIAM 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.








*Epaphroditus Ransom.*





## EPAPHRODITUS RANSOM.



THE 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

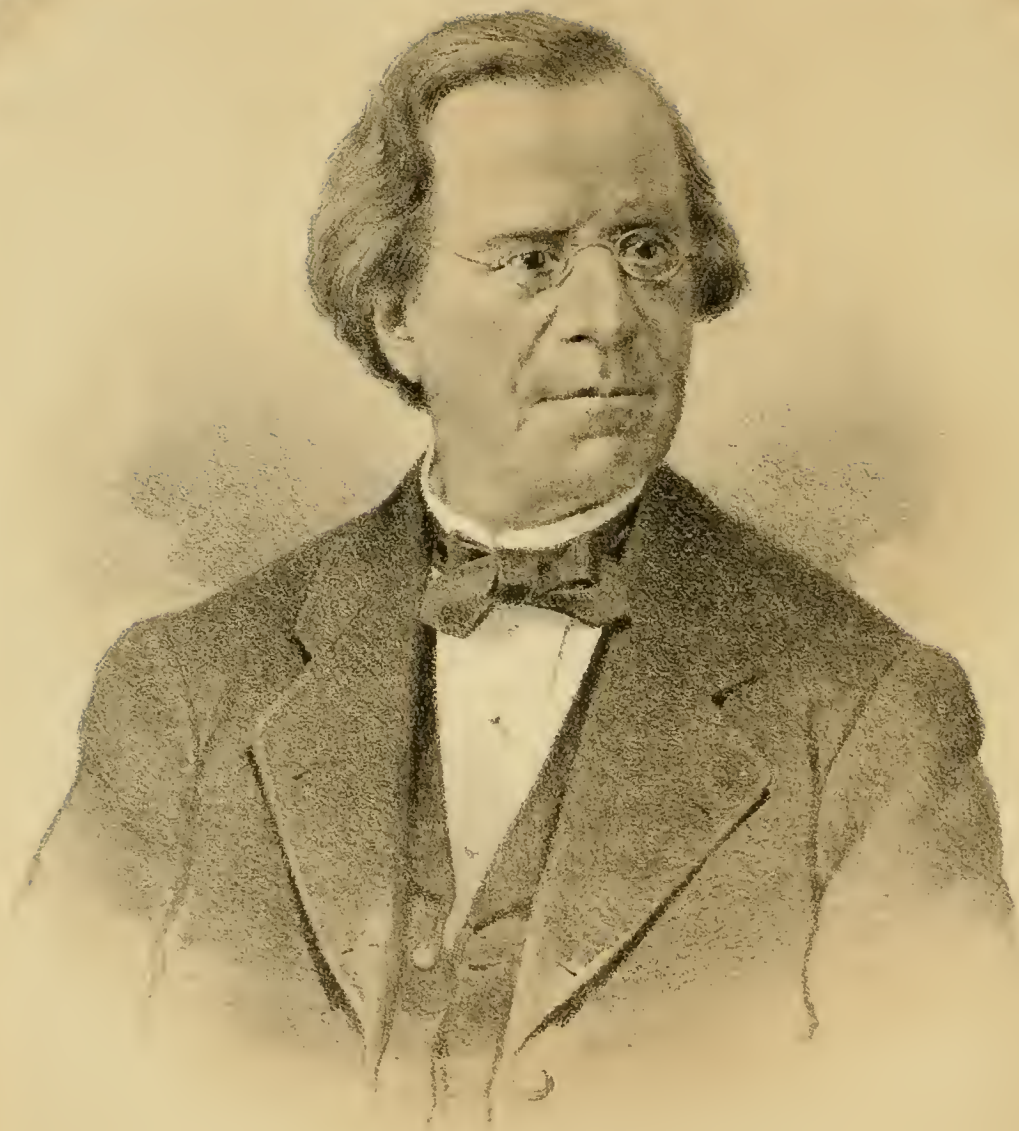
shone forth so prominently in his acts as Governor. He held the office of Regent of the Michigan University several times, and ever advocated a liberal policy in its management.

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 1,437,460 acres; of wheat there were produced 4,749,300 bushels; other grains, 8,197,767 bushels; wool, 1,645,756 pounds; maple sugar, 1,774,369 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 \$12,450.







*Wm. J. Feltman*


 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 Monroe, in

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 regain a lost 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 as 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.





*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 Ballial College, Oxford, and was a noted writer and defender of the Romish faith. He established an English College at Rome and another at Valladolid. Frances 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 descedants 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 Ann 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 courageous hearts and strong and willing hands. They gloriously conquered, however, and to them is due all honor for the labors so nobly performed, for the solid and sure foundation which they laid of a great Commonwealth.

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.





*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 appoplexy and died suddenly at his residence, in Green Oak, Oct. 5, 1861.

The most noticable 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.

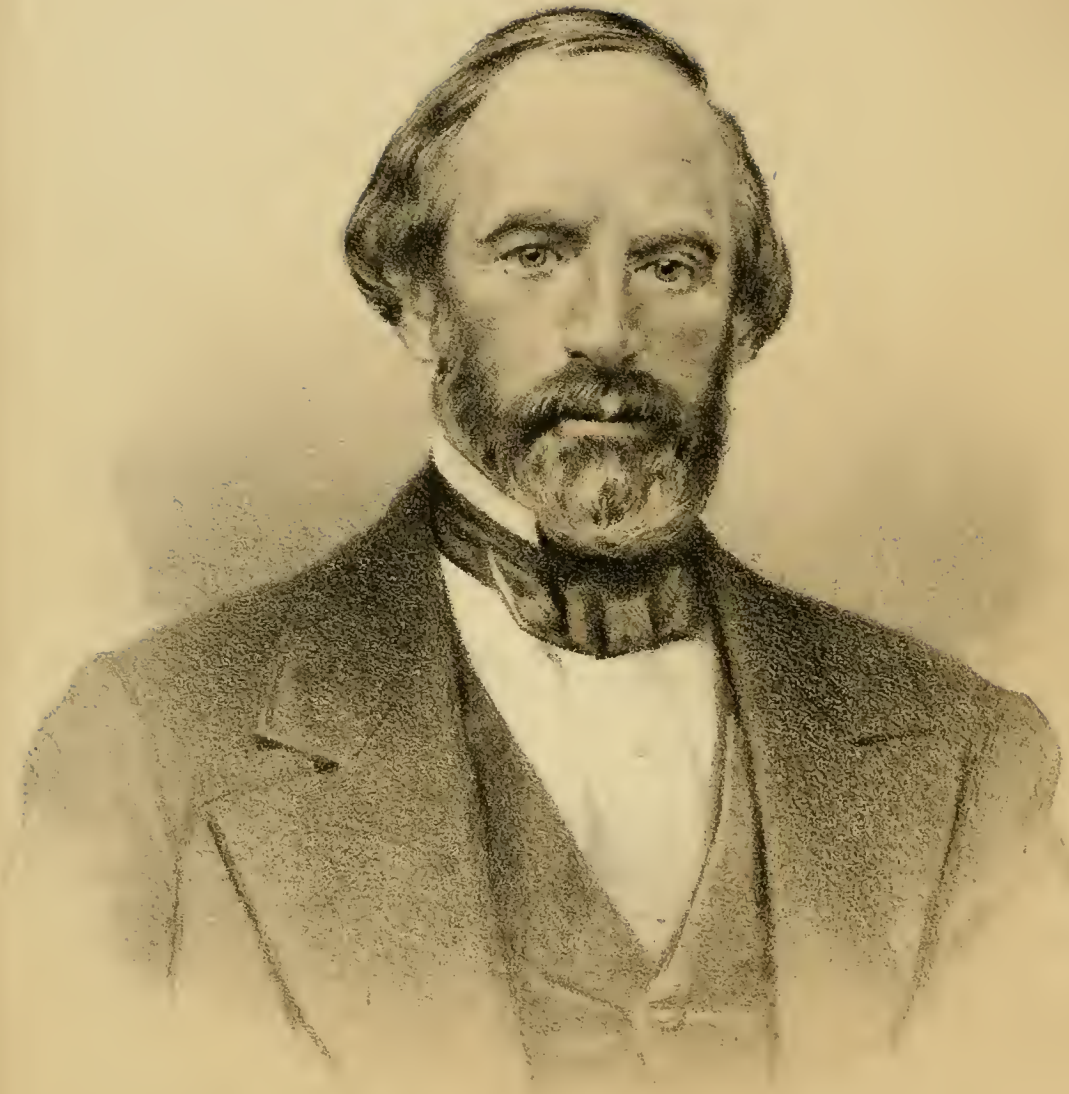
The Agricultural College is three miles east of Lansing, comprising several fine buildings; and there are also very beautiful, substantial residences for the professors. There are also an extensive, well-filled green-house, a very large and well-equipped chemical laboratory, one of the most scientific 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 \$137,000.

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.

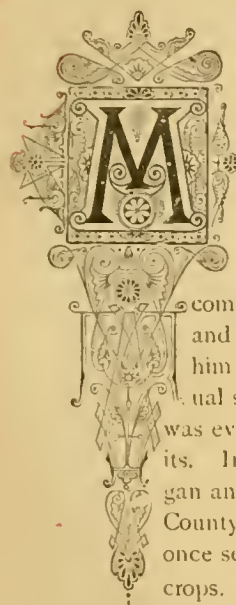




Moses Wisner.



## MOSES WISNER.



MOSES 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, in 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.

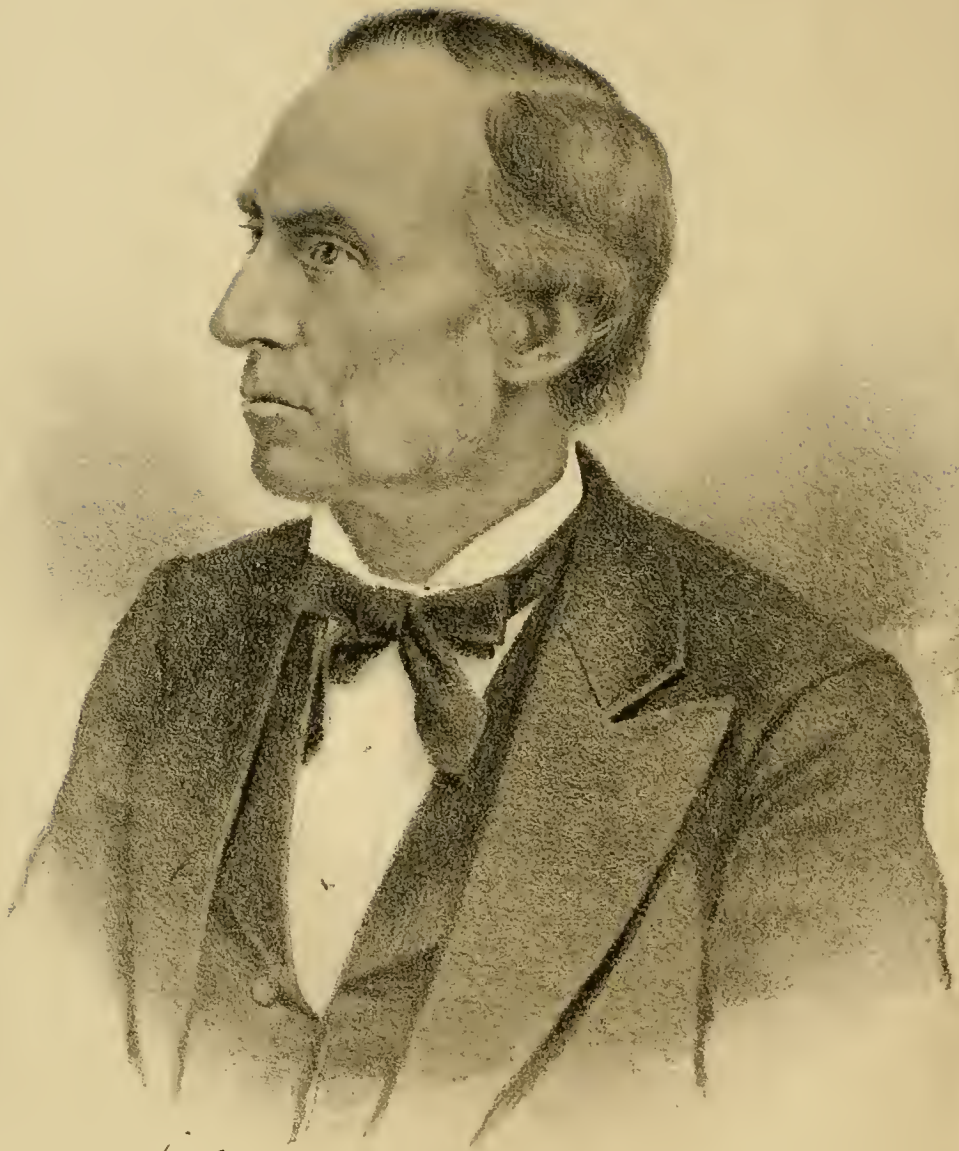
In 1858, he was nominated for Governor of the State by the Republican convention that met at Detroit, and at the subsequent November election was chosen by a very large majority. Before the day of the election he had addressed the people of almost every county and his majority was greater even than that 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.

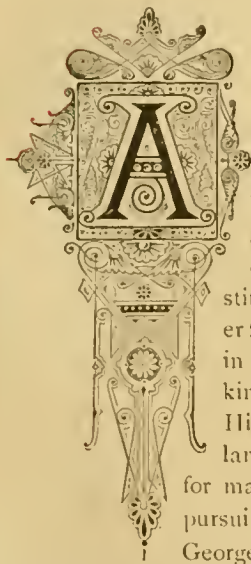




James P. Ruby  
Austin, Texas



## AUSTIN BLAIR.



AUSTIN BLAIR, Governor of Michigan from Jan. 2, 1861, to Jan. 4, 1865, and known as the War Governor, is an 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. Noit, 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.





Henry H. Crapo.



## 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 Phœbe (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 definition, 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 rigid examination in various subjects, which necessitated days and nights of study. One evening, after concluding his day's labor of teaching, he traveled on foot to New Bedford, some seven or eight miles, called upon the preceptor of Friend'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 its 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.





*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 1639. 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 Parma, 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 1796, 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 40 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 1860, 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 Sault St. Marie Ship Canal. He was first elected Governor in 1868 and was re-elected in 1870, serving from 1869 to 1872, inclusive. It is no undeserved eulogy to say that Governor B.'s happy faculty 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 Caribbean 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."





*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. 16, 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 its 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."





Yours Very Truly  
Charles W. Crockett

## 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) Croswell. 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 Croswell family may be found connected with prominent events, in New York and Connecticut, in the early existence of the Republic. Harry Croswell, 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 Croswell, the famous editor of the *Albany Argus*; also, Rev. William Croswell, noted as a divine and poet.

When Charles M. Croswell 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 Adrain, 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. Croswell 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 unfailing 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.





David H. Grove




 A decorative horizontal banner with ornate scrollwork and floral patterns framing the name 'DAVID H. JEROME' in a stylized, serif font.
 

## 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 Marcus 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 1880. 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 "Tiff" 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 Port 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.

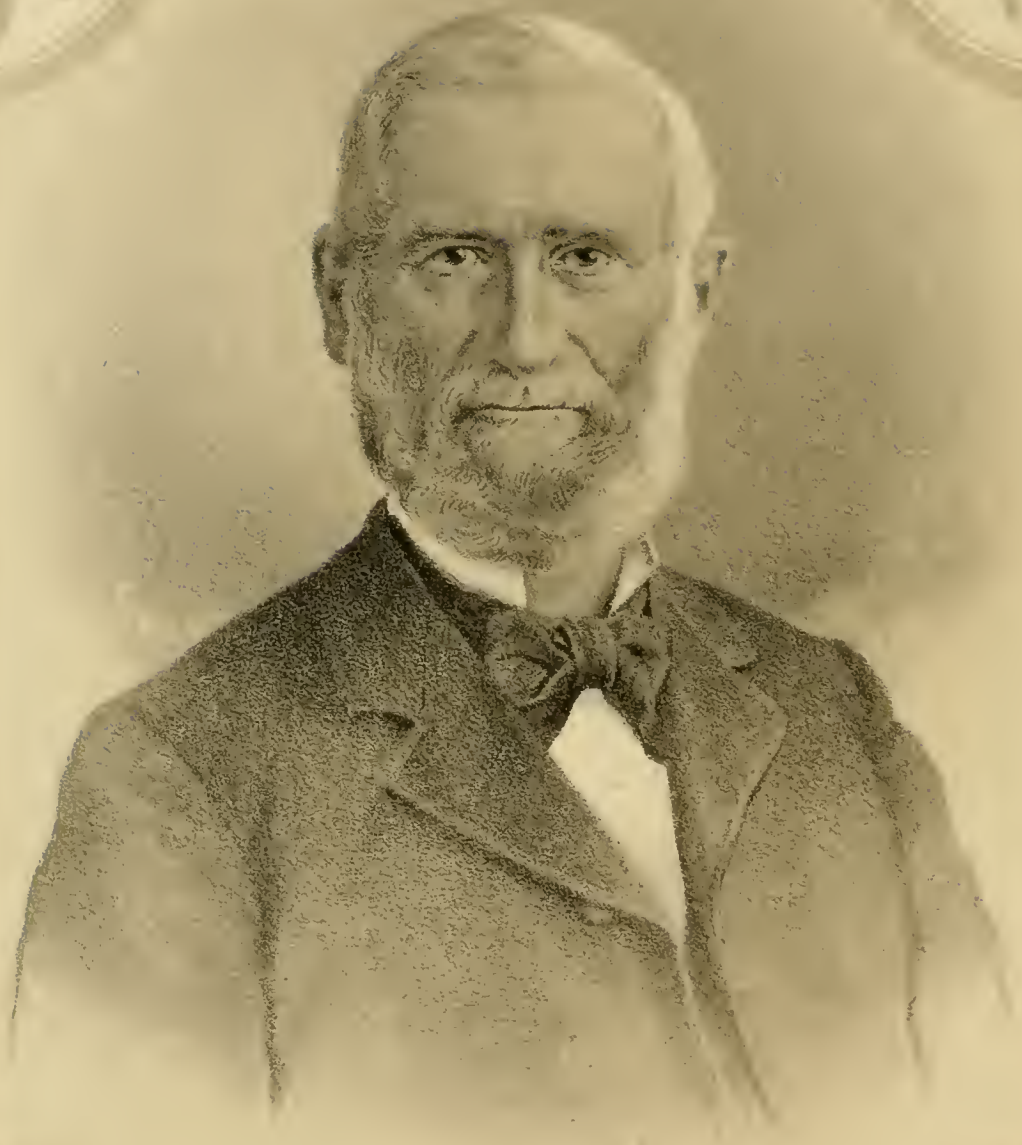
In the fall of 1862, Mr. Jerome was nominated by the Republican party for State Senator from the 26th district, Appleton Stevens, of Bay City, being his opponent. The contest was very exciting, and resulted in the triumphant election of Mr. Jerome. He was twice renominated and elected both times by increased 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.






*Josiah W Begole*



## JOSIAH W. BEGOLE.



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 in 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.

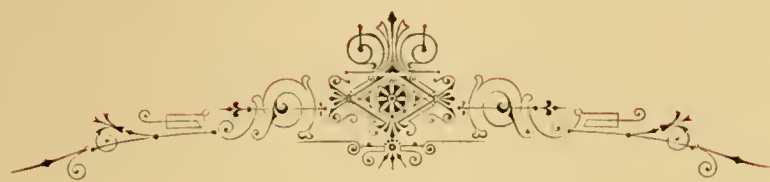


Mecosta County,  
Michigan.

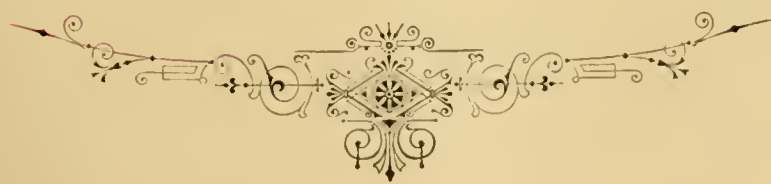


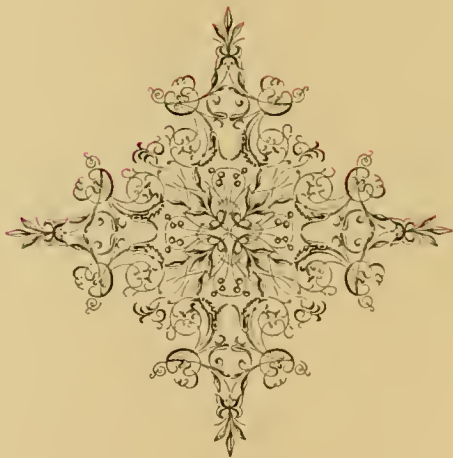






BIOGRAPHICAL.









*C. C. Fuller*



## BIOGRAPHICAL.

**N**ON. CEYLON C. FULLER, Judge of the 27th Judicial Circuit of Michigan, was born at Chardon, Geauga Co., O., June 25, 1832. Aside from his official eminence, his connection with the history of Big Rapids and Mecosta County places him pre-eminent among the citizens of both. Moreover, his stainless record, both in public and in private life, his allegiance to the obligations of his manhood, his solicitous interests in whatever could permanently affect the section where he has established his home and founded all that must be dearest to him in life, justly entitle him to a respect commensurate with the position he occupies.

It is a striking feature of our American institutions that what one man accomplishes reflects a luster on the career of others who serve their generation in other capacities. So it chances that a man may be reviewed in all his relations without detracting from the worth of other men, or reflecting upon their achievements, no less meritorious because less prominent in the same avenue. Representative men are the bulwarks of our

local as well as national structure, and in according to Judge Fuller the first place in the present work, its publishers but harmonize with the sentiment of the community which he so honors and which so honors him.

He comes of sturdy yeoman ancestry in both lines of descent. He is the type of the element which underlies the true greatness of the British people; no atrophy of aristocracy enfeebles, no taint of superstition or ignorance poisons the stock of his origin, and in him are combined the best traits of his progenitors, fostered under our institutions and developed under the privileges of our country's dower to the humblest of her sons—American citizenship.

Judge Fuller is the second son of Edson and Celia (Canfield) Fuller. The father was born at Cazenovia, N. Y., in 1809, and died at Des Moines, Ia., April 4, 1879. His ancestors were among the early English emigrants to this country, bringing here a name illustrious because unblemished, and which has been handed down to successive generations untarnished. The record of Edson Fuller is inseparable from that of Big Rapids and Mecosta County, whither he brought his family in 1859, when the now thriving and beautiful Forest City showed only a nucleus of three houses and one small saw-mill. He grew to youth in his native State, and in the dawn of his

earliest manhood went to Ohio. He was married there and remained until 1845. In that year he came to Grand Rapids, Mich., then but the hope and promise of its present splendid estate. The journey was accomplished in the manner common to that period, in a prairie schooner, drawn by an ox team, the days passing in slow but sure progress toward the point of destination, the nights in the restful solitude of the camp. Ten years of untiring energy and activity at Grand Rapids brought substantial reward, and in 1855 Mr. Fuller transferred his interests to Mishawaka, Ind., where, in 1857, the accumulations of years were swept away in the financial convulsion which wrecked the hopes and the resources of the business element of this land. From its foundations was the structure of fortune once more to be reared, and Mr. Fuller came to Big Rapids to begin again in a field that seemed to promise a reasonable degree of success. He opened the first store in the county. A description of the miscellaneous character of the merchandise he offered for sale would be as interesting as any other possible detail of the pioneer history of Big Rapids. The stock was drawn from Grand Rapids over roads which the record declares "neither tongue nor pen can describe." The store was located at the corner of Elm Street and Michigan Avenue.

At the close of his commercial affairs, Mr. Fuller moved to a farm in the township of Green, where his family resided until 1877. In that year they returned to Big Rapids. In April, 1879, while visiting his eldest son at Des Moines, Mr. Fuller died, ripe in years, leaving a wife and five children, who, individually, without exception, have sustained his name among men and glorified his memory in their lives of honor and usefulness.

The record of Celira (Canfield) Fuller is one that verifies the law of natural heritage and in the careers of her four sons and surviving daughter, her womanly worth and super-eminent intellectual qualities are perpetuated. Her earliest recorded ancestors were Huguenots, a fact which largely accounts for much of her personal annals. Her family name had its origin in the events which characterized the commingled history of England and France in the 14th century. A Huguenot family of Normandy, named Dephilo, received from the British crown a grant of land lying contiguous to the river Cam in England. The bestowal was for meritorious services, and such

was the appreciation of the honor bestowed with it that the event was made memorable by abnegation of the old family cognomen, and the compounding of a new one which should perpetuate the memory of the act of the English Government to the remotest generation. Cam and Dephilo became Camphield, and the orthography remained unchanged until the death of Thomas Camphield, in the 16th century, when the name was spelled Camfield, remaining thus until 1720, when it became Canfield. Matthew Camfield came from England to New Haven, Ct., in 1639. When that province made haste to secure the favor of the British Government in the early days of the restored monarchy, the charter which the "scholarly young Winslow, the best and truest man" in all her borders, carried to King Charles, bore the name of "Matthew Camfield" as one of the petitioners for a royal patent. Winthrop's tact and sagacity secured for the colony "the most liberal and ample" charter ever granted by an English monarch, and upon the people of Connecticut was conferred power to govern themselves and this without qualification or restriction. Under the provisions of this charter "Gold, Sherman and Camfield" were appointed judges and vested with power to hold court at Fairfield, opening April 1, 1669. Mr. Camfield afterward went with part of his family to Newark, N. J., where he died and where his name is perpetuated by numerous descendants. The distinction of his name and position is also marked by the fact that his son Samuel (1st) was a member of the General Assembly of Connecticut in 1669. Samuel Camfield (2d) was born at Norwalk, Ct., in 1672, and married Abigail Austin, of Stamford, Ct., Aug. 1, 1709. Samuel Camfield (3d) was born June 4, 1710, at New Marlborough, Mass. His estate is yet in the possession of his descendants. Thomas Canfield, son of the last named, was born at New Marlborough, and married a lady named Burr. Oliver Canfield, son of Thomas, married Sally Sherman in 1782, and of this marriage was born at Tyringham, Mass., July 7, 1810, Celira, the mother of Judge Fuller.

Her father died when she was in infancy, and her mother remarried and went to Chardon, Geauga Co., O., where she grew to womanhood. She married Edson Fuller, Feb. 4, 1830. Her home in Ohio was with that of the pioneer element, and she had but little technical education, as she had the advantage of but ten weeks of school in her life. But she was ever a

student. The profession of medicine afforded deep interest to her alert mental organization and within her scope she pursued its practice both in Indiana and at Big Rapids, being signally successful in her efforts to alleviate suffering and baffle disease. She was ever prominent in educational, moral and religious movements. In 1850, '51 and '52 she was in charge of the primary department of the union school at Grand Rapids, Mich. She organized the first Sunday-school at Big Rapids, whose sessions were held in the old red school-house. In moral avenues her influence was sensibly felt among the pioneers of the village and vicinity and extended through the later years of her life, when Big Rapids had become a city incorporate, and her population had increased to thousands.

In 1873-4 she experienced a severe attack of erysipelas and vacillated for weeks between life and death. On her recovery she reviewed her situation while suffering under her terrible affliction, expressing her views in metrical language with vivid power and beauty. It is as follows:

"Heavy, and heavier still life's burden grew,  
Until at last my weary feet refused  
To bear me, and I laid me down in pain,  
So near the brink of the dark mystic tide  
That, as the surging waves rushed madly by,  
They dashed their icy spray full in my face;  
And my swollen features, soon so loathsome grew  
That even the eye of love must turn away.  
Earth's light went out, and midnight darkness reigned  
While liquid fire seemed coursing through my veins.  
A death-like chillness tortured all my bones,  
Fire and ice, contending for the victory,  
Filled my whole frame with mortal agony.  
I prayed for patience to endure, and soon  
I thought I heard beyond the roaring flood  
A voice say, "Come and enter into rest."  
A momentary fear came over me,  
And tremblingly I asked, Is this the way?  
This awful door of torture must I pass,  
To reach my home upon the other shore?  
I had for years felt sure that I could meet  
The last great Enemy, with trusting faith  
In Him, who met the tyrant of the race,  
And all his hosts, in his own dark domain.  
He seemed a captive,

All the powers of Hell  
Reveled in one mad carnival, until the hour  
Appointed for the victory. Then behold!  
The gates of adamant, the bolted doors  
Of Death's dread prison open, and a king!  
A conqueror! Gloriously triumphant  
O'er the vanquished hosts of death and hell,  
The Christian's Lord, the chosen Son of God,  
Comes forth in majesty from the dark tomb,  
Welcomed by all the retinue of Heaven.  
With living faith in his victorious power,  
I would serenely bid my friends adieu,  
And leave my precious children in his care:

And while I clasped their loving hands in mine  
I'd bid them meet me in my father's house;  
But to go out in such sharp agony,  
That all my words were broken into groans  
Caused heart and flesh for one brief hour to fail.  
Then I remembered how this mighty prince,  
Though now by angels crowned, once prayed alone,  
In such deep sorrow that great crimson drops  
Fell on the garden sod. His friends asleep!  
Three times that pleading voice went up to heaven  
"If it be possible, let this cup pass."  
Then meekly said, "Thy will, not mine, be done."  
All fear was gone, and my glad heart set up  
The full response, "Thy will, not mine, be done."  
Faith triumphed, and my soul was filled with peace.  
The deep, dark flood that filled me with such dread  
Was quiet now, and seemed so narrow, too,  
That I could almost reach the hands of those  
Who beckoned to me from the other shore.  
While waiting, thus willing to cross the stream,  
A ray of earthly light came to my eyes  
Faint as the starlight at the morning dawn,  
But still enough to show what seemed to me  
In the uncertain light, a guard of men  
Standing beside my bed. I heard the names  
Of baby boys, who long, long years ago  
Had lain upon my breast, and heard these men  
Give answer to these names; and then I knew  
They were my boys, now wearing manhood's crown.  
A whisper breathed on the electric cord  
Reached the far west where dwelt my eldest son,  
And he, too, stood beside his brothers here,  
All hand in hand, guarding their mother's life;  
And girls,—well, call them women if you will,  
Who walk life's toil-some journey with my boys,  
Were there with loving hearts, faithful and true,  
When the fierce fever burned, soft hands were laid  
Upon my forehead; fingers, soft and cool  
As rose leaves sprinkled with the dew of June,  
Were on my throbbing temples gently pressed,  
And to my weary senses brought relief;  
And one whose earliest life was drawn from mine,  
Whose veins were filled with the same purple tide  
That warms my own, stayed by me during days  
Of lingering, painful, convalescence,  
And by her watchful care, cheered the dark way  
Through which my feeble and unrestful feet  
Must walk a little while,—God knows how long.  
He also knows that with a grateful heart  
I bless His holy name for the rich gift,  
The priceless treasure of my children's love.

And so I take again the burden of my life,  
With stronger faith in Him who knows my heart  
Faith that can trust, in darkness as in light,  
Faith that can claim the promises He made  
To his disciples,

And when the thick darkness  
Gathers round my way, I will remember  
That He said to all the heavy laden,  
"Come unto me and I will give you rest."

Her religious ideas were in keeping with the simplicity and majesty of the Center of the New Testament, and she fashioned them into articles for the press, which were fraught with her own ardor and strength. After the death of her husband she resided with her children. In November, 1882, she went to Des Moines to pass the remainder of her

life, and during its closing months her intellectual activity seemed to culminate. She commenced the preparation of a series of lay sermons for the *Newaygo Tribune*, the first of which reached its publishers July 9, 1883, and appeared July 25, in the same issue which contained the notice of her death. That event occurred July 12, three days after her communication reached its destination. Her five surviving children watched the closing hours of her life and placed her in her pale sleep by the husband at whose side she walked in wifely dignity, in maternal beauty, in Christian consistency, for nearly half a century. In her children her earthly record yet lives; her sons are all in honorable walks of life, and her daughter, Mrs. Elma L. Hutchinson, of Des Moines, is a physician in regular practice and standing, representing the one idiosyncrasy of the mother, as the sons typify the race from which she sprung in sterling merit, honorable record and inflexible courage. Corydon E. Fuller, eldest son, resides at Des Moines, Ia., and has held his present responsible incumbency of Treasurer of the Iowa Loan & Trust Company 12 years. William D. Fuller, resident at Newaygo, editor and proprietor of the *Newaygo Tribune*, is State Swamp Land Commissioner and Chairman of the Greenback State Committee. Orrin T. Fuller, resident at Des Moines, Ia., is the Interest Clerk in the office of the Iowa Loan & Trust Company. Ellen J. M. Fuller died at Grand Rapids in 1850, aged sixteen. In her memory, parents, brothers and sister kept youth alive, and the oldest and youngest await the restoration of the household band in its entirety in the realms of perpetual morning.

Judge Fuller was in his thirteenth year when his parents went to Grand Rapids, and he attended the union school there until he was 18 years old, when he was sent to Hiram College, where James A. Garfield was then a student. Between the two boys of 18 and 19 years, a warm regard ensued which never abated. They were room-mates at Hiram, and when the chief honor in the Nation's gift was laid at the feet of him whose tragic fate and heroic endurance challenged the awe and admiration of the world, Judge Fuller hastened to offer his congratulations, and, true to the instincts which molded his matchless manhood, General Garfield found time, in the midst of the haste and clamor of the opening campaign, to write a letter to his boyhood's friend, characteristic

in its kindly and grateful remembrance of him.

Judge Fuller left Hiram and returned to Grand Rapids. He established himself in mercantile interests with Daniel McConnell, A. G. Smith and Wm. H. McConnell, under the firm style of C. C. Fuller & Co. This connection was of brief duration, Judge Fuller selling out his claim. In the fall of 1856 he went to McGregor, Ia., organized a company and embarked in the business of tanning leather, operating with the Daniels patent process. Of this concern Judge Fuller was treasurer and manager, but he closed his relations with it not long after its establishment and purchased a half interest in the *North Iowa Times*, a sheet of rank Democratic tendencies; but, notwithstanding the variance between the principles of its proprietors, the journal was conducted with marked harmony and success. In 1858 he returned to Grand Rapids and in the winter of 1858-9 once more cast his hopes upon the tide of commercial life, forming a partnership with O. R. Wilmarth. In the fall of 1859 he decided in a change in his purposes, and sold his business interests to enter upon his preparation for the profession of law. He read under the supervision of Messrs. Ashley & Miller, of Grand Rapids, and in June, 1860, was admitted to the bar.

In May, 1860, he established his home at Big Rapids, where his personal experience forms a link in the pioneer history of the place, which contained then five houses, scattered among the trees of the forest. Judge Fuller bought a tract of land containing four lots lying (now) on the corner of Linden Street and Michigan Avenue, and covered with timber. With his own hands he cleared the land and laid the foundation walls of his residence, the first stone work laid in mortar in the village, said mortar being made from the first lime burned in the county, and which was bought from the producer, John Snyder, of Green Tp. He assisted personally in the erection of the building until its completion.

Judge Fuller's public life commenced in the fall of the same year. He was elected Court Commissioner and held the office until 1868. He was also appointed Postmaster, in which capacity he acted until his removal in 1866, which was effected by Andrew Johnson for political purposes. In the fall of 1862, he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Mecosta County and officiated two years. He was elected Judge of Probate in 1864 and acted in that capacity



four years. In 1868 he was elected to the State Legislature, and was a member of the Committees on Railroads and Engrossing and Enrolling. He introduced several important local bills, also a bill to provide for registration of electors in new townships.

While the county was yet new, Judge Fuller bought 240 acres of land in the south part of the Fourth Ward of the city of Big Rapids, 40 acres of which was platted as Fuller's Addition. He is still the owner of three acres, besides a number of city lots and a splendid residence. In 1873, associated with L. H. Green, he built the Opera block. The monetary crisis and shrinkage of values of that year overwhelmed the business interests of Big Rapids, the individual loss of Judge Fuller being about \$40,000.

Judge Fuller is a Republican of no uncertain tendency, but his character and record have preserved his popularity with all classes regardless of party issues. His position before the people is evinced by the fact of his being successively elected to the best official positions. He was elected to his present position as Judge of the Twenty-seventh Judicial Circuit in 1882, running against George Luton, of Newaygo, and receiving a majority of 651 votes. He is the first incumbent of the position after the formation of the Circuit by the Legislature of Michigan.

Judge Fuller was married at Davenport, Iowa, Nov. 9, 1858, to Frank A., daughter of John Morrison, an early settler of that city. She was born Aug. 31, 1838, at Gallipolis, Ohio. Of this marriage were born, at Big Rapids, seven children, six sons and a daughter. Louis M. was born April 24, 1861, and is telegraph operator and ticket agent in the Big Rapids office of the G. R. & I. R. R. Herbert C. is a telegraph operator, and was born Jan. 24, 1863. Percy H. was born Feb. 17, 1866, and died Aug. 12, 1868; John E. was born Jan. 2, 1868; Ben H., Feb. 27, 1870; Frank M., Jan. 3, 1872; Daisy A., born Nov. 12, 1872. For the life given a life was taken, the mother passing to the spirit world Nov. 12, 1872. The lonely little one soon sought the maternal presence, winging her flight to heaven Aug. 4, 1873.

Judge Fuller was a second time married, at Ypsilanti, Mich., Jan. 5, 1876, to Sarah E., daughter of Isaac H. and Eliza E. Voorhies. She was born at Trumansburg, Tompkins Co., N. Y., Aug. 2, 1849. Two sons, Charles E., born April 26, 1877, and Leslie L., April 14, 1879, have been born of this marriage

**G**eorge Risbridger, farmer, sec 1, Deerfield Tp., P. O. Altona, was born in England May 19, 1823. His parents, Isaac and Ann (Ridley) Risbridger, were natives of England and lived and died in their native country.

Mr. Risbridger had his contest to make in the world single-handed and alone, and his early life in his native land was passed as a farmer. He came to America in 1850 when 27 years of age, reaching New York in the month of May. He went thence to Portage Co., Ohio, and was there engaged during three years in the manufacture of potash and pearl-ash. He next came to Kalamazoo Co., Mich., removing a year later to Barry County. There he bought 80 acres of unimproved land, built a house and cleared 70 acres, setting out an orchard of 150 trees. After a residence of 15 years he sold his place and bought 200 acres of well improved land in Bedford, Calhoun County, where he resided 13 years. Again disposing of his place, he came to Mecosta County and bought 40 acres of partially improved land, where he has since resided.

Mr. Risbridger was married March 2, 1850, in England, to Sabina, daughter of George and Hannah Eager, also natives of England. She was born Dec 30, 1832, and died in Deerfield, July 12, 1883, leaving seven of ten children born of her marriage to Mr. Risbridger. Following is a record of their births: George I., Dec. 30, 1854; Hannah M., Oct. 24, 1857; Byron P., Aug. 29, 1859; Ida O., Dec. 4, 1863; Francis H., Oct. 23, 1865; Charles J., Dec. 2, 1867; Mary S., Feb. 2, 1869. Fanny, born March 19, 1851, died Sept. 4, 1853; Henry, born Nov. 23, 1852, died Sept. 10, 1853; Wm. W., born Aug. 1, 1861, died Oct. 27, 1863.

Mr. Risbridger has been actively interested in educational matters for many years. He is a voracious reader; conversant with the affairs of the day and, mindful of all the circumstances which surrounded and baffled his ambitions in his native land, has ever been ready to lend his aid and influence to all reformatory measures which promised to correct popular evils and improve social grades. In politics he acts independently; is a prohibitionist in principle and believes in the education of the masses as a safe-

guard of the best interests of the future. He early identified himself with the Grange movement, and himself and wife, who co-operated with him in his views and efforts, were charter members of Bedford Grange, No. 65, P of H., located in Calhoun County. They were also charter members of Pomona Grange, P. of H., in Calhoun County, and Mr. R. is still active in its interests. He was one of the founders of a co-operative store at Battle Creek and is one of its stockholders. Both himself and wife were zealous members of the M. E. Church, in which he has been a Class-leader eight years.

**M**yrton H. Boyd, farmer, sec. 33, Deerfield Tp., was born in Allegheny Co., Pa., April 28, 1835. He is a third child of John and Caroline (Bathah) Boyd, both natives of New York. His father was a lumberman and farmer, and in 1849 went to Tioga Co., Penn., where he followed the same pursuits. He died in Andover, Allegheny Co.; the mother died July 13, 1855, in Pennsylvania.

Mr Boyd was 14 years of age when he went to the Keystone State with his parents, and with whom he remained until he was 22 years old. His first labor on his own account was as a day hand in a saw-mill, and again at Williamsport in the same capacity. In 1865 he was engaged in reconstructing bridges in the town which were washed out by the flood of that year. In 1866 he came to Deerfield and bought 80 acres of land on sec. 33, where he proceeded to clear the forest preparatory to establishing a home. He obtained the land for \$3.00 per acre, the best timber being reserved. Mr. Boyd has added to his original tract by purchase until he now owns 160 acres on the same section, 80 acres (about 37 of which is swamp land) on sec. 29 and 240 on sec. 22. The swamp land is well stocked with hemlock, cedar and black ash timber.

Mr. Boyd was married July 13, 1855, to Hannah A. Dickens, daughter of Alva and Lucy Minerva (Campbell) Dickens, born Dec. 29, 1836, in Tioga Co., Penn. The father of Mrs. Boyd was born in Rhode Island, the mother in Pennsylvania. The former

died in April, 1863; the latter May 18, 1883. Seven of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd are living: James C., Robert P., Addie V., Fred C., Alma M., Emma J. and Francis H. Anna Belle is deceased.

Mr. Boyd is active in the interests of the Republican party and was a member of the State Republican Convention in 1881. He has held all the important township offices. In religion he is a liberalist.

**A**ndrew Breakley, farmer, on sec. 11, Hinton Tp., P. O., Altona, was born at Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 23, 1844. His parents, Andrew and Catharine (Crass) Breakley, were natives respectively of Ireland and Canada and removed to New York prior to their marriage, which took place in that city. Three years after, Andrew Breakley, Sr., moved with his family to the city of Rochester, N. Y., where he was employed by the contractors of the Erie Canal as a stone mason. Mr. Breakley, Sr., was employed in his native country in peddling dry goods and linens and early in his life was a companion of A. T. Stewart. Himself and wife died at Rochester.

Until he was 16 years of age, the subject of this sketch attended the public schools of Rochester. He began to prepare for the business of a boat-calker and was so employed three years. The work was so severe and the manager so exacting that the proprietor himself remarked that "that fellow would not stay a week;" but he persisted and managed to accomplish his business to the entire satisfaction of the parties interested. In 1861 he went to Canada on a visit, but concluded to remain there and was in the employ of his brother-in-law for nearly four years. He visited the city of New York and his old home at Rochester, and in the summer of 1866 came to Mecosta, Mich., and bought 40 acres of unimproved land in Hinton Tp., where he built a log house and began his career as a pioneer. Later on he added 40 acres to his original purchase and now owns a fine farm of 80 acres, with 50 acres under first-class improvements. He also owns 40 acres in Millbrook Tp.

Mr. Breakley has been Constable of Hinton Tp.

for nine years, School Inspector two years, Highway Commissioner two years, Town Treasurer two years, and in the spring of 1880 was elected Justice of the Peace, and Supervisor in the spring of 1883, of which positions he is the present incumbent. He has been School Director six years, and is identified with the issues and interests of the Democratic party; himself and wife were formerly communicants of the English Church.

Mr. Breakley was married in Canada, July 19, 1864, to Mailda, fourth daughter of James N. and Catherine (Flannagan) Decker. The father was a native of the State of New York, the mother of Canada, and are now residents of Hinton Tp. Mr. and Mrs. Breakley have had six children—James G. born Nov. 28, 1867; Andrew N., July 15, 1872; Edward and Edwin (twins), July 15, 1874; Nellie, Jan. 5, 1880. Ella was born Aug. 9, 1869, and died Oct. 11, 1870.

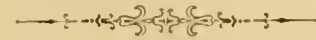


**J**ohn E. Kirvan, farmer, sec. 34, Morton Tp., P. O., Sylvester, was born in Gray Co., Province of Ontario, Can., Aug. 3, 1862. He is a son of Elias and Jane Ann (Breakey) Kirvan. His paternal grandfather was a pioneer of the Dominion, and settled 80 miles from the nearest point of supplies, having to travel that distance in an Indian canoe for necessaries for the family use. The father of Mr. Kirvan was one of 11 children, five boys and six girls. He came to Michigan in 1870, bought 160 acres of land and engaged in the duties of farming. He sold 80 acres and cleared 60 acres of the remainder. He died Feb. 18, 1879, all his responsibilities devolving on the son. Since the father's death the latter has built a new house and put all the buildings on the place in thorough repair. The farm lies three miles from Sylvester, which, when the family came here, was the nearest point of neighbors and civilization. The mother is still living in firm health and with unimpaired intellectual powers.

Mr. Kirvan is still a young man, but the energy and good judgment he displays in the management of his

affairs promises extended success in the avenues he has already made prosperous.

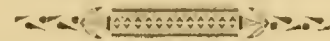
He was married Dec. 24, 1882, to Minnie Adams, of Hinton Tp. Her father is a man of good standing, and has served his people in several official capacities.



**J**ohn O'Neil, farmer on section 35, Deerfield Tp., was born in Ireland, June 10, 1828. His parents, Patrick and Jane (Garner) O'Neil, were natives of Wicklow Co., Ireland, and emigrated to Canada, where they are still living, in advanced age.

Mr. O'Neil was 18 years of age when he accompanied his parents to Canada. He was a resident of the Dominion about 15 years and came to Shiawassee Co., Mich., buying 40 acres of land, which he afterwards sold, and after a year's labor as a farm hand he again bought another farm, of which he disposed and came to Mecosta Co., and bought 80 acres of unimproved land in Deerfield Tp., where he now resides; he has 50 acres under the plow. Mr. O'Neil is independent in political action and, with his family belongs to the Catholic Church.

He was married in 1851 to Mary, daughter of James and Mary Martin. They have had nine children, five of whom are now living: Patrick, James, John, Michael and Jane; those deceased were Mary, William, Margaret and Ambrose.



**D**avid Quigley is a farmer in sec. 4, Deerfield Tp.; P. O. Motley. His parents, George and Jane Quigley, were natives respectively of New York and Wales. They were married in the Dominion of Canada and removed thence to Newaygo Co., Mich., in 1854. After a brief residence there they came to Mecosta Co., and located on sec. 4 of Deerfield Tp. They were the first white settlers of town 13 north, of range

9 west, now Deerfield, and there took up their residence in 1859. James Quigley, brother of David, was born in 1859, and was the first white child whose birth occurred in Deerfield. George Quigley was acting Justice of the Peace and performed the first marriage ceremony in the township in December, 1862. The contracting parties were Isaac Sedore and Elizabeth Smith. Mr. Quigley afterwards went to Montcalm County, where he now lives.

David Quigley was born in Canada, Feb. 22, 1850, and came to Michigan with his parents when four years of age. His early life was passed amid the pioneer scenes of this section of the Peninsular State. He has spent all his life on a farm. At the age of 23 he bought, in Deerfield Twp., 58 acres of land, with some improvements, but took possession in 1876 and was there resident until 1883, when he rented a farm containing 60 acres.

He was married in Montcalm Co., in the winter of 1875, to Lavina, daughter of Robert and Jane Pixley. They have two children: Bertie, born July 31, 1877, and Earl R., Sept. 18, 1882. The parents of Mrs. Quigley were both born in New York. Mr. Quigley is a Republican; himself and wife are members of the Methodist Church.



**J**ohn G. Martz, Jr., president of the Big Rapids Manufacturing Company, was born at Newville, Adams Co., Ind., June 26, 1848. His father was a native of Baden, Germany, and his mother, Mary (Sauer) Martz, was born in Switzerland. They accompanied their parents from the "fatherland" to America and settled with a German colony in Adams County, at a date so early that the primeval forests, with their concomitants of wild game, were in their original state.

Mr. Martz is one of a family of eleven children, ten of whom yet survive; the brothers and sisters are Annie, Benjamin, David, Christian, Mary, Daniel, Katie E., Susan and Sarah. Edward G. is deceased.

John G. is second child and eldest son. When about three years of age his father removed with his family to Fairfield Center, DeKalb Co., Ind., and purchased a farm containing about 600 acres of land, in an uncultivated state, and in heavy timber. It has been converted into one of the finest places in that section of country.

Mr. Martz obtained his elementary education at the common schools of DeKalb County, and at the age of 14 was sent for a year of study to the graded school of Fort Wayne. After a year at home he went back to Fort Wayne and became a clerk in a grocery and provision store, where he remained a twelve-month and returned to the farm. In 1870 he came to Big Rapids and entered the establishment of Thos. D. Stinson as clerk, and the following summer assisted his brother-in-law, F. E. Ahrens, (since deceased) in erecting the Big Rapids Furniture building. In 1872 a stock company was organized, under the title and style of the Big Rapids Furniture Manufacturing Company, which purchased the factory. The same year Mr. Martz bought a lot on Michigan Avenue and aided in putting up a building, which was rented to A. Levi. The latter opened a gentleman's furnishing store, and three days later the structure was blown down by the wind, entailing a loss of \$1,000. It was immediately reconstructed and has since been occupied by its primal lessee, Mr. Levi.

In 1873 Mr. Martz commenced business as a retail furniture dealer on Michigan Avenue, where he operated until the fall of 1874, when he bought his present place of business. At the same time he formed a co-partnership with H. M. Averill and added upholstery. Soon after he became sole owner by purchase and later sold his entire stock. He made a considerable investment in the stock of the Big Rapids Furniture Manufacturing Company, and in the spring of 1876 opened a bakery, which is the leading institution of the kind in the city. In 1880, Mr. Martz became a Director of the Furniture Company, was elected Vice President in 1882, and in the spring of 1882 was chosen to his present position as chief official. He is also a Director of the Big Rapids National Bank. Prosperity has attended every business venture of Mr. Martz. The various periods of stringency in general financial affairs have affected him to some degree, but by shrewd tact and careful





*Stephen Bronson.*

management through times of peril, he has been enabled to conduct his affairs safely.

He was married in Ottawa Co., Mich., May 10, 1876, to Mary Faling; she died in October, 1878. Mr. Martz was again married, at Auburn, Ind., Sept. 1, 1880, to Elizabeth Mader. Their two sons are named J. W., Theodore, and John Arthur.



**G**eneral Stephen Bronson, Mayor of Big Rapids, (1883) is the son of Stephen and Polly (Page) Bronson, and was born in Broome Co., N. Y., Aug. 3, 1817. He was an ambitious, active boy, eager to join in the world's pursuits, and seek advancement through his own efforts. He was reared as a farmer's son and gave some attention to carpentry. At the age of sixteen he was sent to the Oxford Academy, near his home, and after two years study went to Montrose, Susquehanna Co., Penn., and taught a term of school, and the following winter was similarly engaged at home. In 1840 the family removed to DuPage Co., Ill., (Naperville), where both father and son bought farms, that of the latter including 150 acres of land. The next ten years he passed in the varied pursuits of farming, teaching and working as a builder. He sold his farm and went to Chicago, engaging in mercantile affairs, banking and real estate for a period of twelve years and was rewarded for his efforts by a satisfactory degree of profit.

He next went to St. Paul, Minn., where he was interested in the lumber trade. At the end of a year he sold his mill there and in 1859, in company with several others, he crossed the plains of Colorado and took up a mining claim at (now) Central City; he also staked a claim in the "Gregory" and sold two weeks later for \$10,000. He then went to Golden City, where he engaged one summer in lumbering. He returned to Illinois for the winter and went back to Denver in the spring with Joseph Chadwick. They erected a large store building during the summer, and returned to Illinois in the fall. The following spring they sold their store located at Denver and also some

mining claims, when they took a final leave of Colorado.

In the fall of 1861, when the tide of war and disunion swept the country, Mr. Bronson enlisted as a private in Company C, 12th Illinois Cavalry, serving in that capacity until Feb. 28, 1862, when he was commissioned Captain and went into active service at the front. He was promoted to the rank of Major, holding his post until the mustering out of the regiment in the winter of 1863. He at once proceeded to raise another company and was elected Captain of Company F, 141st Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The regiment rendezvoused at Elgin, Ill., and Captain Bronson was appointed Colonel by Gov. Yates. After a service of 100 days he returned to Chicago and was mustered out. He proceeded to organize the 153rd Ill. Vol. Inf., and was soon after appointed Brevet Brigadier General by President Lincoln. His appointment was confirmed by the Senate and he was assigned to the command of the First Brigade of the Division of Western Tennessee, with headquarters at Memphis, and was in active service until the close of the war. He was mustered out Oct. 1, 1865, at Springfield, Ill., after about four and a half years of service. He was in action at Harper's Ferry, Antietam, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Dumfries and a large number of other engagements. During this period of service he received five commissions.

On leaving the United States service he was the recipient of many flattering proofs of appreciation from the Department and his fellow officers. General Oglesby, of Illinois, made a personal appeal to the President for a lucrative and responsible position for meritorious service, but General Bronson made no personal exertion to secure any place at the hands of the already overburdened and struggling Government.

After the war closed he went to Texas and bought a large herd of beef cattle, which were driven to the Chicago market and it proved a profitable venture. In the spring of 1867 he came to Big Rapids, and, in partnership with Sumner Stickney, established extensive business interests, including trade in lumber and real estate and banking operations. Their investments were profitable and their affairs in promising condition when the financial disturbance of 1873 overwhelmed them and their property sunk to a minimum value. About the same time their sawmill was destroyed by fire and Mr. Bronson proceeded

to begin at the foundation once more. His early experience as a carpenter became his best working capital, and with the assistance of a boy he rebuilt the mill of Bronson & Stickney, and they proceeded with their lumber business. About one and a half years after they lost their dam by a "wash out," sold their site and built where they are now operating, putting in steam power.

Gen. Bronson, in addition to his other public relations, has been active in political life. In Colorado, in 1859, he was elected Representative from Golden City District, and officiated as Speaker of the House during a part of the session. In 1868 he was elected Treasurer of Mecosta County, and held the post two years. He has been Supervisor several years and Chairman of the Board; has been a member of the School Board 12 years, member of the Common Council four years, and, at the municipal election of Big Rapids in the spring of 1882, failed as candidate for its chief office by only three votes. In the fall of that year his name was used by the Fusion element as candidate for Congress. The District was Republican by 5,000 votes, and Gen. Bronson was defeated by only about 2,600 in the general count; he carried the city by a majority of 46 votes. In the spring of 1883, he was elected Mayor of Big Rapids on the Union ticket by a majority of 45 votes, running against M. P. Gale, ex-Representative.

Gen. Bronson was married at Naperville, DuPage Co., Ill., Nov. 7, 1841, to Amelia Barker. Of their eight children but four survive. Following are their names: Amasa (dec.); Charles D., of Big Rapids, (clerk for A. S. Hobart); Sarah (dec.); Lucy (Mrs. H. M. Hobart, of Big Rapids); Stephen (dec.); Allie (wife of A. A. S. Hobart); Carrie (wife of Frank Beard, merchant at Morley); Jessie (dec.) During the absence of General Bronson in Colorado his family resided in Wheaton, Ill., with the exception of his son Charles, who spent two and a half years with his father at Denver. Mrs. Bronson died Sept. 5, 1864, while her husband was in the Union army. He contracted marriage a second time at Wheaton, Ill., Feb. 14, 1867, with Kate M. Brown, a native of Vermont, born Nov. 23, 1830. Their children are Mollie, Kate and Harry. The last died March 25, 1878.

It is but just to General Bronson to add that in the community of which he is a member his character is thoroughly appreciated. He is conscientious and

discerning in his opinions, trusted by all parties and believes with all his might in the strength and supremacy of the Government he so zealously defended in the time of her peril. Big Rapids is honored by his splendid military career, and his connection with the politics of the city has been of the same type. His first candidacy for Mayor, notwithstanding his defeat, was one of the most marked triumphs on the records of local elections, his nomination taking place in special caucus Saturday night preceding Monday's election.

The testimonials above referred to comprise a letter, signed by several individuals of acknowledged position, addressed to Governor Yates, and the letter of Richard J. Oglesby, the War Governor of Illinois, and now on file in the Department at Washington, D. C.; also a private letter from Governor Oglesby accompanying his Commission as Brigadier General, United States Volunteers by Brevet. The latter in closing says: "It is a suitable recognition of your valuable services in the late war against Treason and Rebellion and in favor of Liberty and Union." The recommendations in the letters referred to were based on the desire of General Bronson to remain connected with the military service of the United States and urged his claims on the grounds of his meritorious conduct in behalf of the integrity of the Union.



**H**enry M. Clark, farmer, sec. 26, Deerfield Tp., P. O. Morley, was born in "York" State, June 13, 1843. His parents, Henry M. and Susan A. (Wilcox) Clark, were born in the Empire State and removed thence to Montcalm Co., Mich., in 1854. The father died June 13, 1861; the mother is living in Greenville, Mich.

Mr. Clark grew to manhood on his father's farm and at 18 went to work for his uncle, where he spent one year. At 19 years of age, inspired by the enthusiasm to which the entire North was aroused by the outbreak of the Southern Rebellion, he enlisted in the One Hundred Thirty-sixth Reg. N. Y. Vol. Inf., for three years, receiving honorable discharge June 13, 1865, at Washington, D. C. His war record exhibits



the deathless names of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. His regiment was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland where Mr. Clark was under fire at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, and was in the historic "March to the Sea" with Sherman. Throughout the extent of his service Mr. Clark was constantly on duty, excepting 10 days, when he was on "sick leave" with ague.

On being mustered out he came to Montcalm County, and, in company with his brother, bought the old family homestead, containing 120 acres of land. About the year 1868 he sold out to his brother and bought another farm in the same county, where he stayed three years. On selling the last named property he went to Greenville and until 1879 was interested in the lumber trade. In that year he came to Mecosta County and bought 40 acres of unimproved land, and now has 16 acres under the plow. Mr. Clark is a Democrat.

He was married in Greenville, Mich., May 1, 1868, to Letitia, daughter of James and Rhoda (Reynolds) Swarthout. Mrs. Clark was born in the State of New York Aug. 27, 1843. Mr. Clark's family includes three children, born as follows: H. M., July 6, 1875; George, June 11, 1878, and Maud, May 27, 1880. Two children have gone to the land of the unknown: Frank was born March 23, 1870, and died Aug. 27, 1870; Lewis, born March 9, 1872, died Aug. 25, 1872.



**T**homas Lazell, Police Magistrate of Big Rapids, and resident of that city since 1860, was born Dec. 30, 1821, in the village of Cliff, Kent Co., England. His parents were Thomas and Lydia (Drake) Lazell, the latter a lineal descendant of Sir Francis Drake, Admiral of the British Navy in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The family history on the mother's side is peculiarly significant and valuable, from the connection of Admiral Drake with the earliest history of this continent. He was the first British explorer of the Eastern Pacific, and bestowed the first English name, New Albion, on the western coasts of North and South America. This was about the year 1578; and the ambitious and successful navigation of

the high seas a few years later touching the Atlantic seaboard, while returning from his career in the West, ruined the initiatory colonization scheme of Sir Walter Raleigh, by carrying the disheartened and desponding colonists back to England. This act retarded the settlement of this continent for more than a quarter of a century, and it is impossible to estimate the extent of the changes made thereby on the Colonial period of the history of the United States.

Mr. Lazell's father was a mason and builder by profession, and supervised the training of his son in the details of the craft, until the latter was sixteen years old, when he was sent to Gravesend to acquire the qualifications of an architect. After two years he became assistant architect of the House of Lords (Parliament buildings) and served in that capacity about one year, when he connected himself with the English navy. During the contest waged by the British Government with China, Mr. Lazell went out with the Nankin expedition in 1842 and tarried in the Celestial kingdom until 1844, when he was transferred to the squadron of the Mediterranean, where he was on duty nearly four years, first being engaged in the suppression of the rebellion in Portugal, at Lisbon, in the year of 1847, afterwards being detailed for coast service on the west of Africa; and here Mr. Lazell underwent the unique experience of a genuine shipwreck. At the expiration of ten months he proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope, where the flotilla was stationed about five years, and on the outbreak of the Caffre war he went to the coast of South-eastern Africa.

In 1853 Mr. Lazell retraced his way to England, left the naval service and at once set out for America. In June of the same year he found himself in Grand Rapids, where he remained until fall, going thence to Chicago, where he made but a brief stay and came to Grand Haven. Here he found ample scope for the pursuit of his vocation, and he operated as a builder until 1860. In that year he decided upon Big Rapids as his final destination, and he proceeded hither, *via* Ionia, walking from that point to Big Rapids. He was among the pioneer mechanics of this city, and on his arrival built the house he still occupies on Michigan Avenue. In the spring of 1865 he erected a steam saw-mill north of State Street, the first steam power in the county, and imported a planing machine from Massachusetts. He sold this property

and built a store on Michigan Avenue, and embarked in the grocery and provision trade.

Mr. Lazell, in addition to his other business ventures, has operated in real estate to some extent, and is now in possession of 30 acres of land in the third ward of Big Rapids, and several small tracts of land in various parts of the county. He was appointed Postmaster during the administration of President Grant, for a period of six years, and in April, 1882, was elected Police Magistrate, a post to which he was re-elected in 1883. He is deservedly popular for the able and impartial method in which he discharges the duties of his incumbency.

Mr. Lazell was married in London, England, March 19, 1853, to Mary Ann Styles, a native of Chatham, Kent Co. She joined her husband in this county in 1862. Their son and only child, Harvey G. Lazell, mail agent on the G. R. & I. R. R., was born at Grand Haven, and was the first male child baptized in the Presbyterian Church in that city; he married Emma McNutt, and they have one child, George.

**J**ohn Q. A. Clark, farmer, resident on sec. 25, Morton Tp., was born March 5, 1829, in Allegany Co., N. Y. He is the son of Elijah and Sabra (Philips) Clark. At the age of 13 he left the paternal roof to enter upon his work in life. He found employment on farms, which he pursued in the laboring seasons and "worked for his board" while securing the benefits of several terms of winter school. On reaching manhood he learned the trade of carpenter, at which he worked diligently 12 years.

Mr. Clark came to Michigan and settled in Tuscola County, where he entered a claim of 160 acres of Government land, and there he lived and prospered fairly until the memorable fall of 1871, when that section of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan was devastated by fire, following so closely upon that of Chicago, that both are inseparably connected in the memories of men. The devouring flames swept away everything in and about the place, and as soon

as practicable Mr. Clark removed himself from all associations with that period of horror and loss. He came to Mecosta County and bought 80 acres of timbered land. The situation of his farm is fine; it is level and lies somewhat higher than the adjacent country, and is proportionately dry and tillable. He has 15 acres cleared and under cultivation.

Mr. Clark was married Sept. 4, 1862, to Betsy Moore. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have two children, the elder a daughter, Florella M., now wife of John E. Bristol, and living at Lake View. The younger, Homer, a boy of 13, resides with his parents.

**E**ndall I. Pike, retired farmer, residing at Morley, was born in Concord, N. Y., April 3, 1817. His parents, James and Sarah (Day) Pike, were natives of New Hampshire and settled in Erie County, N. Y. The father left his wife and children in Concord and pushed forward to Michigan, then known as "way out West." He located in Fentonville, Oakland Co., built a grist-mill and was influential in organizing and building up the town. He contracted yellow fever, from which he died. His wife was an invalid from lameness 15 years. The family remained in the State of New York, where the mother died.

Mr. Pike, of this sketch, was apprenticed at the age of 12 years to spend the remainder of his minority in learning the trade of cloth manufacturer, which he pursued as a journeyman three years after he became of age, and then went to Canada, following his business about 20 years at Pickering, Ontario Co., where he built a woolen mill and had a prosperous trade. He was also engaged some years in the manufacture of bells at London, Can., in which he also met with success. Finally he encountered disaster in his transactions and his fine estate was swept away.

In the fall of 1855 he came to Michigan and rented a farm in Ionia County, which he managed five years, and then bought 80 acres of unimproved land in sec. 28 of the Township of Deerfield, Me-

costa Co. He cleared it and erected buildings, putting the place in first-class rank among the farms of the county. He lost his barn by fire in the fall of 1880. He has now placed the farm in charge of a tenant and is passing the sunset time of life in retirement.

Mr. Pike was married to Mary, daughter of Asher and Susan (Stotts) Wilson, a native of Pickering, Ontario Co., Can. They have had seven children,—James H., Sophia, Sarah S., Charles H., Lina and Anna E.; Margaret is deceased. The children are all married with one exception. The family are members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Pike is an ardent supporter of the principles of the Republican party.



**S**amuel S. Chipman, farmer on sec. 25, Deerfield Tp., was born in Genesee Co., N. Y., July 21, 1814. His parents, Fitch and Sarah (Spafford) Chipman, were natives of Vermont. His father was a farmer and resided in Genesee Co. until 1836, when he came to Michigan and remained in Livingston Co. until 1844. He then went back to the State of New York and in 1854 again located in Livingston Co., Mich., where he resided until his death, Jan. 15, 1864. The mother died in Unadilla, Livingston Co., Dec. 26 1859

Mr. Chipman obtained a good education at the public school and at Wyoming Academy, remaining with his father until his twenty-second year, when he began farming on his own account in Livingston Co. He operated there about 20 years and in 1853 went to California, where he remained one year, and he returned to his farm. In 1854 he located in Everett, Newaygo Co.; March 14, 1860, he came to Mecosta County, and settled on the river near where Morley now stands, removing a year and a half later to the farm where he now resides, consisting of 240 acres, 125 of which is finely improved. He was elected Supervisor of Deerfield Tp. in 1861, serving nine successive years; later he was again elected and held the position three years; has also officiated as Treasurer two years. Politically he adheres to the principles promulgated by the Republican party.

Mr. Chipman was married Feb. 28, 1836, to Alta H. Sutherland. She was born in Columbia Co., N. Y., Aug. 5, 1816, and died July 15, 1856, leaving four children,—Henry C., Lemuel F., Ann Eliza and Francis J. The second marriage of Mr. Chipman occurred May 28, 1864, to Mary Eckert, a native of Germany, and born April 2, 1844. Three children of this union are living and three are deceased; the latter were named Maud, May and Eddie. The former are Frank L., Samuel S. and Oscar M.



**E**. Gruber, M. D., physician and surgeon at Altona, was born in Clarion Co., Penn., Jan. 25, 1844. He is a son of Peter and Lydia (Mohny) Gruber, both natives of Pennsylvania, where the mother died March 7, 1853. The father came to Michigan in the fall of 1866 and located in Isabella County, engaging in mercantile business and farming, and where he is yet resident.

Dr. Gruber was a pupil at the common schools until he was 15 years of age, when he entered Rimersburg Academy, Clarion Co., Penn. He was there one year and then entered Glade Run Academy, Armstrong Co., Penn., and studied two and one-half years.

When he was between the ages of 18 and 19 the war broke out, and, yielding to the patriotic influences which swayed the entire North, he enlisted in Company B, 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and remained in the service one year. After his enrollment he was detailed from the regiment and sent West under General Custer as a scout. On the expiration of his period of enlistment he was honorably discharged and went home, where he remained two years and then set out on a somewhat extended tour of travel going through Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee and Arkansas. At Little Rock he entered the service of the Government as a scout, and was stationed at Fort Arbuckle, Indian Territory. He had headquarters there for about one year, when he left the employ of the United States, and came North through Kansas, Missouri and Iowa to Michigan, where he was a partner with his father in mercantile

business, located at Salt River, Isabella Co. This relation existed about three years and closed by sale.

Dr. Gruber then went to Clare, Clare Co., Mich., and continued to prosecute his medical studies, which he had done as opportunity offered for a long period. On the 1st of July, 1874, he went to Estrella, Gratiot Co., and began the practice of his profession with his brother-in-law, Dr. F. S. Marvin. He operated there until the following April. At that date he carried out a long settled plan to make a permanent location, which he did by fixing upon Altona as a field for future operations, and there began his career as a local practitioner, June 1, 1875. In 1880 he went to Chicago and entered the Rush Medical College and attended lectures with the class of '80 and '81. In October of that year he went to Fort Wayne, Ind., and there attended the Medical College, receiving his diploma, March 2, 1882. Dr. Gruber has an enviable reputation as a practitioner, and enjoys the confidence of a large circle of patrons and friends. His skill and attention to business has secured for him a satisfactory and increasing practice, and his devotion to his duties is such that he is sure to rise in his profession.

Dr. Gruber was married at Salt River, Isabella Co., Mich., June 2, 1870, to Sarah M., only daughter of David K. and Elizabeth (Fordyce) Frey. Their four children were born as follows: Edgar E., Jan. 26, 1872; Lillian M., June 24, 1875; Gertrude, March 22, 1878, and John F., Dec. 25, 1880. Dr. Gruber has held the office of Town Clerk two years. He was Postmaster under Grant, Hayes and Garfield, and resigned the post in the fall of 1882. He was Democratic candidate for the office of Probate Judge in 1875, but was defeated by a small majority.

In connection with his practice, Dr. Gruber owns and manages a drug store.

**F. C. Wilson**, of the firm of Batson & Wilson, marble dealers, Big Rapids, was born in Sullivan Co., Mo., Aug. 27, 1855. He is the son of Benjamin and Mary (Manley) Wilson. His parents came to Michigan in the year 1861 and settled at Grand Rapids, where they remained till 1866, when they went to Ionia. At

this place his father engaged in the marble business.

At 15 he went into the shop and there continued under his father's instructions until 18 years of age. The senior Wilson then disposed of his business interests and the son went to work for N. H. Batson in Ionia, Mich., where he operated as a journeyman until the spring of 1879. At that date he came to Big Rapids and opened marble works in company with Wm. Batson. They fixed their business at its present stand Jan. 1, 1883, and their stock includes all varieties of foreign and American marble and granite. One of the special lines of the firm is the granite from South Ryegate, Vt. They have the monopoly of their business in this city and compete with dealers at Grand Rapids, Adrian, Muskegon, Reed City and other places. Their stock is usually worth about \$4,000, and they sell about \$8,000 value of marble and granite yearly. The finest monuments in the city cemetery make a fair exhibit of the style and character of their work. Mr. Wilson is the local manager of the business interests of the house, Mr. Batson representing the firm on the road.

Mr. Wilson was married at Big Rapids, Nov. 2, 1881, to Alice M., daughter of Robert and Nancy Bate. She was born at Hudson, Mich., July 30, 1855.

**Lias S. Reed**, farmer on sec. 7, Aetna Tp., was born in Oxford Co., Ban., Nov. 24, 1828. His father, Israel Reed, was born in Massachusetts, and his mother, Fanny (Lane) Reed, was a native of New Jersey. The parents both died within the same week at their home in Canada, aged 68 and 54 years, respectively. They had 13 children, five of whom yet live.

Mr. Reed remained with his parents until their death, and spent another year on the old homestead going to school a year, after which he apprenticed himself to a Mr. Smith, a harness-maker, at St. Catharines, where he acquired the details of his business. He went to Grand Rapids in 1845, and there worked six months, going thence to Chicago, and three months later enlisted in the Second Illinois Vol. Inf., and, in 1846, went to Mexico, where he remained un-

til July 4, 1849, returning at the close of the war to Chicago. After a brief stay he proceeded to Elk Horn, and Nov. 3, 1849, he enlisted in the regular army of the United States, going to Newport (Kentucky) Barracks, and there stayed until April 5, 1850, when he was transferred to Jefferson Barracks and thence to Leavenworth, Kan., setting out four weeks later across the plains to Sante Fe, New Mexico. His next removal was to Adonana, a post on the Rio Grande, where he joined the Third Reg., United States Army. He served in this five years, and then ran a Government train six months, after which he returned to Canada and took possession of the farm left him by his father's will.

After farming two years he let the place and went to Stratford, where he entered upon the management of the Northwestern Hotel, and embarked in the livery business, keeping 22 horses. He had also a carriage shop, employing eight wagon-makers and a blacksmith. His business flourished about three years, when he found his misplaced confidence had destroyed his resources, and in 1859 he sold out his interests and came to Michigan, and was employed several years in the lumber woods. In 1879 he purchased 83 acres of land, where he now resides. The family attend the M. E. Church. Mr. Reed is independent in political views.

He was married April 11, 1856, to Elizabeth M., daughter of Thomas and Catharine Gaffney, natives of West Main, Ireland. The parents came to New York and thence to Canada, where the daughter was born, May 7, 1837, and was married when she was 19 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have had eight children—Mary J., born April 11, 1857; Kitty C., Aug. 11, 1859; Geo. W., May 7, 1861; Johnny, Feb. 29, 1863; Addie, June 30, 1865; Elizabeth, Oct. 1, 1867; Wm. J., Nov. 11, 1869. A son was born and died in 1872.

**H**anford B. Wood, liveryman at Big Rapids, was born in Greenfield, Saratoga Co., N. Y., Feb. 12, 1822, two and one-half miles from Saratoga Springs. His parents, Benj. K. and Phoebe (Hanford) Wood, removed to Hillsdale Co., Mich., when the son was 14 years of age. He spent his early youth on the farm of his

father, and at 18 bought a team and set out in life to make his way alone. He engaged in breaking land and was thus occupied two years.

He then purchased 60 acres of land in Litchfield Tp., Hillsdale Co., and proceeded to establish a home. In 1862 he moved into Litchfield to take charge of the business of a deceased brother, and in '63 opened a livery stable, which he transferred in 1870 to Big Rapids, and soon after exchanged his property for a sash, door and shingle mill, and associated with Simeon Pomeroy in business. The latter took charge of the mill which went into operation in April, 1871, and blew up in October following. It was put in full repair and Mr. Wood gave the business his personal attention until the total destruction of the property by fire, which occurred in June, 1877: loss, \$13,000, and no insurance.

In 1878 Mr. Wood again embarked in the livery business, starting with four horses and no carriages. His trade has been successful and is now established on a permanent basis, with 22 horses, carriages and all the equipments of a first-class establishment. Mr. Wood owns his stables and two lots.

He was married at Mayville, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Feb. 4, 1844, to Jane, daughter of Elijah Moore. She was born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., April 29, 1821. Mr. and Mrs. Wood have had three children, of whom two are living. Phebe, eldest daughter, is the wife of Harvey B. Eggleston, a farmer in Litchfield, Hillsdale Co., Mich.; Lucy, youngest child, married Charles B. Lovejoy, a book-keeper at Big Rapids. Marcellus, second child and only son, was killed by the kick of a horse when in his sixteenth year.

**E**lijah Cole, farmer on sec. 23, Hinton Tp., was born in New York, Feb. 18, 1832. He is son of George and Catherine (Westbrook) Cole. The parents were both natives of New York, where the mother died. The father came to Morley, Mich., in 1877.

Mr. Cole passed his early life under the paternal roof, and until 16 was sent to school. He entered the employ of his uncle and was engaged two years in lumbering; going thence to Pennsylvania, he was

there engaged in the same occupation ten years. Two years thereafter he was variously occupied, and in July, 1862, he enlisted in the 107th N. Y. Vol. Inf., serving three years lacking 16 days. At the battle of Antietam he was shot through the ankle. Eleven months after he was transferred to the Veteran Corps, there remaining until he received honorable discharge. In August, 1865, he came to Michigan and joined his family in Hinton Tp. Shortly after he went to Isabella County, and bought 249 acres of land and homesteaded 80 acres, making a farm of 329 acres. He built a log house, and cleared 20 acres of land and resided there until 1875, when he exchanged his property for a farm in Mecosta County, containing 80 acres of partly improved land, the place being known as the David Moulton Farm. This he sold in 1880 and purchased 40 acres of land styled the George Campbell Farm, now in his possession and to which he has added 80 acres.

Our subject is a Republican in political belief and action, and is a member of the Prohibition element. He has held the office of Justice of the Peace, Township Treasurer, Highway Commissioner and was Constable while resident in Isabella County.

He was married in Chemung Co., N. Y., Feb. 2, 1857, to Betsey, daughter of David and Sally (Bennett) Moulton. The father of Mrs. Cole died in Mecosta County, and the mother lives with her children. Mr. and Mrs. Cole have nine children, born as follows: Laura J., July 24, 1858; Alvina C., Jan. 18, 1861; Elijah B., Oct. 30, 1862; James H. T., Feb. 16, 1867; George E. E., June 12, 1869; Annie M., Feb. 13, 1871; Hattie B., Dec. 9, 1875; Mabel M., Aug. 14, 1877; Ernest F., April 27, 1879. The family circle is intact, and long may it be before a single earthly tie is sundered.

**B**yron B. Williamson, farmer on sec. 28, Deerfield Tp., P. O. Morley, was born in St. Joseph Co., Mich., Sept. 15, 1874. Britton Williamston, his father, was a native of Massachusetts and died in St. Joseph County; Mary (Smith) Williamson, his mother, was born in Michigan, where she died. They were pioneers of St. Joseph County.

Mr. Williamson lived in the county where he was born 28 years, and in the spring of 1875 became the possessor by purchase of 80 acres of wild land in Deerfield Tp. He has made fair progress in the process of reclamation, and has a good farm house and 55 acres of land in tillage. Responsive to his country's call for aid, he enlisted in the war of the Rebellion, enrolling in the Eleventh Mich. Inf., and served about two years, receiving honorable discharge at the end of the war. He is a zealous Republican. The family are attendants at the M. E. Church.

Mr. Williamson was married at Coldwater, Mich., March 9, 1870, to Amanda, daughter of David and Huldah (Wells) Hazzard, born in St. Joseph County, June 18, 1851. One child died in infancy. Estella was born Jan. 24, 1871.

**J**ohn E. Morton, farmer on sec. 36, Morton Tp., was born in Nova Scotia, Nov. 5, 1820. He is son of Holmes and Christian (Webster) Morton.

Mr. Morton is, *per se*, the leading citizen of the township of Morton. His interest in and unflagging efforts for its founding, growth and progress, are recognized and perpetuated by the fact of its bearing his name. He came to Mecosta County in 1869, and in 1871 bought 160 acres of land in what is now Morton Tp., then attached to Wheatland for judicial purposes and local management. Observing the rapid strides of civilization in adjoining townships and in the County, and the benefits accruing to the communities therein, he felt impelled to put forth all possible effort to secure for his own township the advantages of organization and local government. He framed and circulated a petition, securing the required number of names thereunto, and sent the same to the Board of Supervisors in the fall of 1876, suggesting that the township be named Hayes, in honor of the Presidential candidate then before the people. The Democratic voice in the Board defeated the proposition, but, in recognition of the services of Mr. Morton, the township received his name, which certainly was very appropriate and just.





*W. Brown*



The first township meeting was held in the River School-house, district No. 3, and the following officers were elected: J. E. Morton, Supervisor, Enoch Bartlett, Clerk, and Isaac Webster, Commissioner of Highways.

Mr. Morton was Supervisor of Wheatland one year previous to this. He is, and has been for eight years, Justice of the Peace. He belongs to the Order of Masonry.

Mr. Morton was reared to the calling which he has made the pursuit of his life. He was an inmate of the paternal home until August, 1843, when he went to St. Francis, N. S., to engage in lumbering and agriculture. Five years later he moved to Aroostook Co., Me., and rented a farm, and also mill property, and operated in lumber, chiefly manufacturing short siding, shingles, etc. The mill was of double utility, and the business in milling products—flour feed, etc.,—was considerable.

After a period of 19 years he came, in October, 1867, to Newaygo Co., Mich., settling in Mecosta County in 1869, and commenced operating extensively in lumbering, buying pine and putting logs into the East Branch of the Muskegon River, making his sales there. He was thus engaged four years, and in 1871 bought his farm of 160 acres on sec. 36. He has 35 acres cleared, with good house, barn and orchard, besides numerous minor improvements. The premises include 120 acres, he having disposed of 40 acres.

He was married in Aroostook Co., Maine, to Elizabeth, daughter of John and Sophia Baker, born at Bakerbrook, N. B. Her father was an old settler in the province and the stream was named for him. Of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Morton six are living: Amanda, wife of Charles Plaid, farmer in Morton Tp.; Holmes (deceased); Christina (wife of Enoch Brumley, a farmer near Arcola, Mo.); Alice (Mrs. Charles Heald, of Hinton Tp., and died in March, 1883); John E.; Clara (wife of Alfred Young, hardware merchant at Salt River, Isabella Co.); Adaline and Susannah.

The best possible tribute to offer to a man's character is to name his services to the age and generation to which he belongs. In the lapse of years Mr. Morton's influence will never diminish; the good he has accomplished is stable, and his efforts have

been exerted for the benefit of the future of Morton Tp., of which he will ever be a part.



**On. Michael Brown**, of Big Rapids, has been connected with the judiciary of Mecosta County since the year 1868, and has a long and honorable record in the municipal history of Big Rapids, and as attorney for the business concerns of whose legal interests he is guardian and manager.

His parents, Ira and Sophia (Blew) Brown, were of Dutch extraction. He was born in Indian Creek Tp., Pulaski Co., Ind., April 20, 1841. He was reared on a farm, and attended winter terms of school until 16 years of age, when he was sent to the college at Franklin, Ind., and subsequently to that at Crawfordsville, Ind. (The latter institution, in 1876, conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts.)

One month after he attained his majority he enlisted at Indianapolis in Co. B, 2d Ind. Cav., Capt., John B. Edwards. He was in the Union service three years, and was under fire at Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Siege of Knoxville, Mossy Creek, Dandridge, and May 9, 1864, was taken prisoner at Dalton, Ga., and confined at Andersonville in the stockade prison, whose unmitigated atrocities he suffered five months. He weighed 90 pounds when transferred to the prison-pens of Florence, where (and at Charleston) he spent four more dreary months under rebel surveillance. He was mustered out at the expiration of his term of enlistment at Nashville, Tenn.

In 1866 he came to Michigan, and in October entered the Law Department of the University at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated in March, 1868. He settled at Big Rapids in September of the same year and commenced practice as an attorney, establishing his desk in the office of John F. Brown & Co., lumber dealers. In the spring of 1869 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools, serving one term. In 1873 he was elected Mayor of the city of Big Rapids, holding his incumbency one year. The Common Council of the city appointed him to revise the municipal charter, which he did in 1875, and on the

submission of the instrument to the State Legislature it was passed without change.

The Hon. A. H. Giddings, Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, died Dec. 10, 1876, and ten days later, Gov. Bagley appointed Mr. Brown to fill the remainder of the term. At the regular fall election of 1878 Judge Brown was elected to the same office without dissent. He resigned the post Jan. 3, 1881, and is now attorney for the B. R. Boom Company, and has been the local legal adviser of the G. R. & I. Railroad Company since the completion of their road.

Judge Brown was married Aug. 3, 1870, to Mary A., daughter of Levi J. and Mary (Lyman) Osbourn. She was born in Speedsville, Tompkins Co., N. Y. in 1852. Of five children born to them, Maud S. and Herbert I. are deceased; the remainder are Carrie, Lillian H. and an unnamed infant.

Judge Brown is a member of the order of Masonry and Knights Templar. He owns his residence and four city lots therewith, besides several lots in other quarters of the city. We give his portrait in this Album.



**Chas. H. Ludington**, farmer, sec. 34, Deerfield Tp., P. O., Morley, was born in Dryden, Tompkins Co., N. Y., Aug. 31, 1845. His father, Stephen Ludington, died in his native State in 1861. Emily (Stathoon) Ludington, his mother, died in 1849, when her son was placed in charge of his grandparents, remaining in their care for six months, after which he was "bound out" to serve his minority. At the age of 17 he came to Allegan, Allegan Co., Mich., and engaged four years as a lumberman.

At the age of 21 he came to Mecosta County and bought 40 acres of land, built a log house, cut down the forest and improved his land for the purpose of tillage. Five years later he added as much more to his estate, and now has 70 acres in a fine state of cultivation. Mr. Ludington is a Republican in politics, and has been Assessor of his school district eight years.

Our subject was married Nov. 20, 1866, to Clara

E., eldest daughter of Horace and Clarissa Hill, *nec* Smith, natives of New York and Rhode Island, respectively, who went at an early date to Tioga Co., Penn., where they were farmers and passed the remainder of their lives; the father died June 14, 1848, the mother, May 17, '80. Mrs. Ludington was born Oct. 27, 1843, and taught school four years previous to her marriage in her native county. The only child, Sarah E., was born Dec. 22, '67. The parents belong to the M. E. Church. Mr. Ludington is Steward of the society at Morley.



**B. Hummer**, farmer, sec. 25, Morton Tp. (P. O., Mecosta), was born in New York, July 10, 1844. He is a son of George and Elizabeth (Swezey) Hummer, then resident in Chemung Co., N. Y., near Elmira. The family circumstances were such that Mr. Hummer received but a limited education. When he was but 17 years of age he enlisted at Elmira in Co. B, First Reg. N. Y. Cavalry, which was attached to the command of Gen. Phil Sheridan. Mr. Hummer was in action in 26 engagements, the last being at Cedar Creek. The father was also a soldier for the Union and was in the service one year, belonging to Co. D, 107th Reg. N. Y. Vol. Inf. He was in two battles, South Mountain and Antietam; he now resides on a farm adjoining his son's and is erecting a new frame house.

In 1874 Mr. Hummer left the state of his nativity, came to Michigan and purchased 80 acres of unbroken forest, made a small clearing and established his home. He now has 20 acres under the plow. Mr. Hummer recently sold a part of his place with the intention of buying to better advantage. He is at present sexton of Greenwood cemetery, which lies adjoining his farm on the northwest; has been School Director four years, but recently resigned.

He was married Dec. 2, 1871, to Lydia, daughter of Isaac and Mary Wood, of Bradford Co., Penn. They have had but one child—Owen, who died with diphtheria when eight years old. The pangs of their loss are still as keen as in its first freshness, and the memory of their only son will ever be cherished

in the home made bright by his short life, and which is rendered more dear because he was for a brief period its light and joy.



**Nathan Osborn**, farmer, sec. 36, Deerfield Tp., P. O. Rustford, is a son of Stephen and Rachel (Rumsey) Osborn, natives and residents of New York.

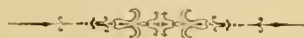
Mr. Osborn was born Dec. 19, 1844, in the State of his ancestors, and remained under the guidance of his father until about 17 years old, when he enlisted as a Union soldier in Co. B, 35th N. Y. Vol. Infantry. After serving a period of 18 months he received his discharge for disability. During this time he was in action at the battle of Rappahannock Station, Va. On his recovery he re-enlisted in the 179th N. Y. Reg. Vol. Inf, Co. B, and served until the end of the contest. He was under fire at Petersburg, Va., where he was captured by the rebels and for three months endured the oft recited horrors of the prison pens of the South. He was confined at Libby and at Danville, Va. On being taken ill he was sent to Annapolis under parole and one month later was exchanged and rejoined his regiment, then stationed in front of Petersburg. Previous to the surrender of Lee's army he was in action in several important battles. After the "Grand Review" at Washington he returned to Elmira, N. Y., with his regiment and was mustered out June 21, 1865.

He came to Michigan in the fall of that year and bought 80 acres of land in Montcalm County, which he sold, and in 1869 purchased 80 acres in Mecosta County, under partial improvements. In 1874 he sold 40 acres, went to Texas and "took up" 160 acres of land, and remained thereon three years, when he made sale of it, and was occupied in lumbering two years. He returned to Mecosta County in the fall of 1879 and settled where he now resides.

He was married in this county to Nancy A., daughter of Alanson and Esther A. (Hedges) Rickar. Her parents came to Mecosta County from the Empire State in the winter of 1865, and in the spring of 1881 moved to their present location in Missaukee County.

Mrs. Osborn was born in New York, Sept. 10, 1846. The five children born of this marriage are Ethelyn born Oct. 13, 1866; Floyd, Aug. 10, 1870; Laura, Feb. 2, 1874; Jessie M., April 17, 1878; Ralph, Sept. 26, 1882.

Mr. Osborn has been Justice of the Peace three years, and in politics is independent in thought and action.



**Matthias Kassner**, deceased, was a native of Germany, born Aug. 22, 1822. His parents were also natives of Germany and there passed their lives.

Mr. Kassner came to America in 1847 and located in Canada, where he resided 15 years. In 1862 he came hither with his family and, under the Homestead Act, made a claim of 160 acres of land, of which he cleared 30 acres. He died May 10, 1878.

Mrs. Magdalene (Neuswanger) Kassner, the wife of the subject of this sketch, was born in Germany, Dec. 1, 1817. Three of the six children of this marriage yet survive: Veronica, born Feb. 25, 1850; Amanda, Feb. 25, 1852, and John E., June 20, 1860. The deceased are Christian, David and Benjamin. The family still reside on the farm.



**Elijah F. Dewey**, attorney at law and Justice of the Peace, Big Rapids, was born at Ovid, Seneca Co., N. Y., May 1, 1837. His father was a millwright and carpenter. Mr. Dewey was brought up on a farm and attended the common schools until he was 19 years of age, when he became a student at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, his uncle being a Professor at that institution. Here he pursued a full literary and classical course of study, graduating in June, 1860. His first engagement was as Assistant Principal

of the High School at Pontiac, Oakland Co., Mich. Upon the expiration of this engagement he went to Chicago as reporter on the *Times*. A year after, in company with A. C. Wheeler, he started a literary paper in Chicago,—*The Spirit of the West*,—which he ran a few months, and subsequently accepted an engagement in the office of the Provost Marshal at Pontiac, Mich., meanwhile studying law with his brother, Judge J. S. Dewey. He was admitted to the bar in 1866 and engaged in practice.

He came to Big Rapids in the winter of 1868 and at once entered upon the practice of his profession. He served as Circuit Court Commissioner in 1870–'71. During the year 1870 he was Recorder at Big Rapids. He was first elected Justice of the Peace in 1869, and has occupied the position most of the time since. His business as attorney and magistrate is successful and steady. He also operates to some extent in real estate.

Mr. Dewey was married at Pontiac in December, 1867, to Sarah L., daughter of the late Hon. Rufus and Sarah (Chamberlain) Hosmer. Her father was a prominent politician, and was for some years the editor of the old *Detroit Advertiser*, and was afterward editor and one of the proprietors of the *Lansing Republican*. In 1861 he was appointed by President Lincoln Consul General to Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, and died while making preparations to assume the duties of the appointment. Mrs. Dewey was born in Pontiac, Mich. The family includes four children—Harry S., Josephine H., Mary L. and Rufus H.



**E**dward R. Quigley, farmer, sec. 2, Deerfield Tp., P. O., Altona, is a son of George and Jane Quigley, the former a native of New York the latter of Wales. They were married in Canada, where their son was born Dec. 19, 1845. When he was seven years of age his parents came to Newaygo Co., Mich., afterward settling in Mecosta County, where they were the first white settlers of the township of Deerfield. (See sketch of David Quigley.)

Mr. Quigley passed the years of his early life in acquiring an education, and as assistant on his father's farm. At 17 he engaged in lumbering, and pursued that branch of business until 1881, when he began to devote his attention exclusively to farming. In 1876 he bought 56 acres of forest land, built a house, and now has 25 acres under cultivation. Mr. Quigley is an adherent to the Democratic political tenets, and is zealous in the interests of the party.

He was married in Muskegon County, Sept. 3, 1863, to Fannie Barnhart. Her parents settled in Mecosta County in the year 1862. She died, leaving one child, Walter, born July 4, 1864. Harriet, daughter of Benjamin and Betsey (Monroe) Whitman, became the wife of Mr. Quigley Nov. 22, 1868. One child was born of this marriage, Oriel, whose birth occurred Oct. 15, 1869, and death Jan. 22, 1882. The father and mother of Mrs. Quigley were natives of the State of New York.



**E**vatt S. Griswold, M. D., physician and surgeon at Big Rapids (office in Roof block, Michigan avenue), was born Jan. 3, 1853, in Trumbull Co., Ohio. His parents were Jesse and Helen (McWilliams) Griswold, the father following the double occupation of farmer and stone mason.

Dr. Griswold was reared on a farm until he was 17 years old, meanwhile obtaining his elementary education. He attended the union school at Greenville five years, and began the study of medicine with Dr. Mulhern, of Greenville, going thence to the Detroit Medical College, where he was graduated in the spring of 1879. He had the benefit of several months' practice as an assistant in Harper's and St. Mary's Hospitals in Detroit, and first established his business at Sand Lake, Kent Co., Mich., but decided to make a transfer to Big Rapids, which he did in October, 1881. He has a good practice in the city and adjacent country, both in medicine and surgery, and is steadily rising in his profession.

Dr. Griswold was married at Vassar, Tuscola Co., Mich., June 12, 1879, to Mattie A., daughter of John Liston. She was born at Bowling Green, Wood Co.

Ohio. Their two children, Carl A. and Roe Oscar infant, were born in Big Rapids.

Dr. Griswold is a member of the Union Medical Society of Northern Michigan, of which, in 1882, he was Secretary; also belongs to the State Medical Society. He owns his residence at 223 West Pine Street.



**B**arnabas Bacon, farmer, sec. 26, Deerfield Tp., P. O., Rustford, is a son of Benjamin and Polly (Hone) Bacon, the father a native of New England and the mother born in the State of New York: both are deceased.

Mr. Bacon was born in the State of New York, Feb. 14, 1817. He spent the first 30 years of his life in the Empire State, in Canada and Michigan. His residence was fixed in Canada until the spring of 1871, when he came to Deerfield and bought 40 acres of forest land. He has improved 20 acres and has added 70 acres since by purchase.

He was married in 1848 to Mary, daughter of John and Jane (Moul) Leach, natives of Canada. The names of Mr. and Mrs. B's 12 children, all living, are as follows: Mary J., Gad, Reuben, Annie, Margaret, Timothy, David M., Eleanor, Barney, Henry, William and Emerald.

Mr. Bacon is independent in politics.



**J**ames O'Neil, farmer on sec. 35, Deerfield Tp., P. O. Morley, is the son of John and Mary (Martin) O'Neil, natives of Ireland, and now resident in Mecosta Co., Mich.

Mr. O'Neil was born in Camden Tp., Canada, July 30, 1855. When he was 15 he came to Shiawassee Co. with his parents and lived until the fall of 1873, which time they removed to Mecosta Co. Mr. O'Neil bought 40 acres of wild land and began the life of a pioneer, building a primitive log house and proceeding to clear up the forest. In 1877 he bought another "40" and in 1882 added 40 acres

more to his possessions. He has one of these tracts under cultivation and is erecting a fine frame house.

He was married Oct. 12, 1873, at Owosso, Shiawassee Co., to Marietta, daughter of Michael and Julia (Leveck) McKeen. They have had five children, born as follows: James B., Sept. 14, 1879; Mary E., April 31, 1881; John S., Oct. 5, 1882; Julia, born Nov. 29, 1875, died May 7, 1881; Ambrose, born June 5, 1877, died May 8, 1881. These children died of diphtheria, after eight days' illness.

Mr. O'Neil acts with the Democratic party and is an adherent of the Catholic Church.

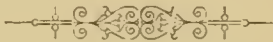


**C**harles Ostrander, miller, resident at Rustford, Deerfield Tp., was born in the county of Elgin, Province of Ontario, Oct. 15, 1838. He is the son of Andrew and Sarah (Buchner) Ostrander, who removed to Bayham, Ont., in 1822. The ancestral descent of Mr. Ostrander is German, his progenitors having come to America at the close of the last century.

He received a common-school education and was under his father's supervision until he was 21 years of age, when he spent a year in the employ of John McDonald, his first effort for himself, for which he received eleven dollars a month. He next worked a farm on shares for Ebenezer Buchner, remaining one year, when he and his brother Simeon took their father's farm to work on shares and carried it on two years. At the end of that time his father gave each a deed of one-half (75 acres) of the place. Mr. Ostrander bought 50 acres adjoining. In 1874 he disposed of his farm and located at Rustford, where he now resides.

He bought and put in operation the grist-mill at that place and entered into partnership with Ebenezer Buchner, whose interest he purchased in 1880. He now carries on the grist and saw mill and is engaged in the manufacture of shingles. In politics, Mr. Ostrander is a Republican, and is now serving his second term as Township Treasurer. His home was burned on the 22d of October, 1880, and he at once erected his present substantial residence.

He was married Jan. 13, 1861, to Margaret A. Miller, born in Canada, June 13, 1843. Their children were born in the following order: Alvonetta, Dec. 2, 1861; Carrie, Dec. 7, 1863; Sarah M., Aug. 1, 1871. Mrs. Ostrander died March 29, 1874. Mr. Ostrander was a second time married, Aug. 8, 1877, to Mary, daughter of David and Martha (Glass) Dalzell. She was born in Columbiana Co., Ohio, Aug. 4, 1841. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, but removed to Lake Co., Mich., where they now reside. Mr. and Mrs. Ostrander have two children: Henry D., born Jan. 3, 1879, and Lewis R., May 6, 1883.



**D**atrick McKeon, farmer, sec. 27, Deerfield Tp., was born in Canada, April 22, 1861. He is a son of Michael and Julia (Leveck) McKeon, the former a native of Ireland and the latter born in Canada. The father died in Shiawassee Co., Mich., in February, 1882; the mother resides with her son.

The parents located in Shiawassee County, in 1871. Our subject accompanied them and continued to reside there twelve years. In '73 he bought 40 acres of land in this county in a partly improved state. He is a believer in the faith of the Catholic Church, and in politics endorses the principles of the National party.



**S**olomon F. Frye, Postmaster at Altona, was born in Pennsylvania, July 22, 1844. His parents, David K. and Elizabeth (Fordyce) Frye, were born in the Keystone State and died in West Virginia when the son was 14 years of age.

From that time he had his own way to make in the world. He found a home with his uncle, Archibald Fordyce, the two years succeeding his parents' death. He was then 16 years old, and enlisted at Philadelphia, enrolling in the regiment under Col. Baker. He was finally assigned to the 71st Pennsylvania

Volunteers, and remained in the service 14 months, receiving honorable discharge for physical disability, the result of excessive exposure. He saw active service at Little Bethel, Munson Hill, Ball's Bluff and Malvern Hill. He was captured at Ball's Bluff, and the severe marching and hardships following his capture were the cause of his impaired health. He was without food for four days and three nights, and then only received the small quantity of four ounces of bread. The experiences of Mr. Frye at Libby prison are those whose horrors are renewed every time they are repeated, and never lose their dread character. The strong man who weighed 176 pounds on being incarcerated, on his exchange four months later weighed but 60 pounds. Upon his being sent to Washington he received a furlough and returned to Harrisburg, where, by special order of Gov. Curtin, he acted as recruiting officer. In March, 1862, he returned to his regiment, but soon after was seized with the small-pox, and sent to the small-pox hospital, near Fortress Monroe; but not long after he was ordered to Albany, N. Y., for treatment. Two months later he rejoined his regiment in time to participate in the battle of Malvern Hill. In a month he was discharged at Harrison's Landing and returned to his native State. He was so enfeebled that he could not labor for two years.

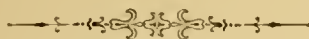
On regaining his health in a measure he was employed as watchman on the Ohio River for a year, and was afterward in the service of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., where he worked for two years. He came to St. Louis, Mich., and was first engaged in rafting to Bay City, and then was in the employ of different parties, locating lands in Northern Michigan.

In 1877 he returned to Pennsylvania and taught primary schools two years. He came back to the Peninsular State and located in Clare County. There he was occupied four years as superintendent of a shingle-mill. He formed a partnership with R. M. Shumway, in mercantile business at Farwell, Clare Co., selling out two years later, soon after coming to Hinton Tp., Mecosta Co., and engaging in the drug business with Dr. J. E. Gruber, of Altona. This relation was dissolved in May, 1882. He received his appointment as Postmaster Oct. 31, 1882, under President Arthur.

Mr. Frye was married in Isabella Co., Mich., March 3, 1867, to Lucy, daughter of David, and

Sarah Leonard. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and spent their entire lives there. Of this marriage four children have been born—Edward B. and Edwin (twins), born June 5, 1878; Archibald F., July 3, 1877, and Edith M., Aug. 13, 1882.

Mr. Frye is a Republican, and has been Township Clerk three terms, and is a member of the Republican County Committee. He and his family attend the United Brethren Church, of which Mr. Frye is a member.



**G**eorge F. Haist, farmer, sec. 8, Deerfield Tp., was born June 12, 1844, in Canada. He is a son of John and Christine (Stengel) Haist, natives of Germany, who came to Canada in '31. Mr. Haist, senior, came with his family to Newaygo County, Mich., in '53, and after a residence there of seven years removed to this county and pre-empted 80 acres of land. This property he deeded in '73 to his son, retaining a life lease for himself and wife.

The subject of this sketch has spent his life thus far with his parents, making the paternal interests his own and has proved himself a faithful and devoted son. He is a Republican and has been elected several times as Constable; he is at present School Assessor. He was married in Morley, July 4, '78, to Kate, daughter of Isaac and Catherine (Cole) Osborn. They have one child—Nelson Frederick, born Jan. 31, '81.



**C**harles D. Carpenter, merchant, Big Rapids, was born in Lawrenceville, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., Sept. 7, 1856. He is the son of John T. and Emily (Blish) Carpenter. His father was a physician of prominence and gave his son a good education, sending him to the common school until 12 years of age and to the Academy at Lawrenceville until he was 18 years old.

At that age Mr. Carpenter came to Big Rapids and

engaged with the mercantile firm of Phelps & Parker as clerk. He acted in this capacity 18 months, when he bought the interest of Mr. Phelps and the house became Parker & Carpenter. Mr. Parker died May 7, 1882, and his widow soon after sold her husband's share of the business to the remaining partner and his brother, Frank B. Carpenter, M. D. They operated together one year and May 26, 1883, Mr. Carpenter of this sketch, became sole proprietor of the establishment by purchase. He carries an average stock of about \$20,000 value in dry goods, carpets, sewing-machines, etc., and transacts annually an amount of business aggregating \$70,000.

Mr. Carpenter was married at Ewart, Newaygo Co., Oct. 19, 1881, to Nettie E., daughter of Howard and Jeannette Wiltse. She was born at Ewart, May 14, 1857, and her parents were among the earliest settlers of Newaygo County. Her father came to Mecosta County in 1860 and died at Big Rapids in 1865. Her mother died in 1857. The father of Mr. Carpenter died April 30, 1869; his mother is yet living, at Lawrenceville. Mrs. Carpenter was a teacher at Big Rapids six years.



**H**enry Seaton, farmer on sec. 17, Hinton Tp., P. O., Altona, was born in Guelph, Canada, April 7, 1843. His parents, John and Elizabeth (Smith) Seaton, were natives of England, who came to America in 1838. The mother died in November, 1877, and the father is still living, in Canada.

Mr. Seaton remained an inmate of his father's house until he was 24 years of age, when he rented the paternal farm for a period of two years. In the summer of 1866 he came to Mecosta County and bought a half interest in the saw-mill owned by his brother, W. N. Seaton and Bartley Davis, succeeding to the claim of the latter. The Seaton brothers managed the mill together six years, and sold out to Wm. Egbert. Mr. Seaton and his brother were again associated in farm interests, which they carried on nearly four years, when they dissolved, and Mr. Seaton established himself on the 80 acres which has

since been his homestead. He is a Republican.

Mr. Seaton was married in Canada, June 6, 1867, to Agnes, daughter of Richard Kenning. Her parents were natives of Ireland, and she was born in Hamilton, Canada, Nov. 12, 1846. She died Dec. 26, 1879, leaving four of six children of whom she was the mother. They were born as follows: Ida M. E., June 6, 1869; Hervey J., April 16, 1872; Albert N., Oct. 23, 1875; Gracie A., Jan. 11, 1877. Asa and Lillian died in infancy.

**C**llis Davis, farmer, sec. 6 of Deerfield Tp., was born in Ireland, Aug. 27, '27. He is a son of William and Mary (Laverty) Davis, also born in the Emerald Isle, and came to America in '51. They located in this county and continued to reside there until their death.

Our subject was an inhabitant of his native land until he attained his majority, when he came to the United States and settled in Mecosta Tp., this county, continuing to reside here nearly ten years, when he took up 240 acres of uncleared forest under the State law. He commenced operations after the most approved pioneer plan, built a log house and went vigorously to work clearing away the timber to make room for the plow and other appurtenances of civilization. The 140 acres of cultivated land which his labors have laid bare to the sun and other influences that quicken them to a marvelous life show the character of their owner. The log house disappeared in the summer of 1882 and a neat frame structure succeeded it at an expenditure of \$1,000. Mr. Davis is a Democrat in political views. He resides with his two sisters and with them belongs to the Presbyterian Church.

**R**obert Telfer, engineer of the City Water Works, Big Rapids, was born in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland, Feb. 21, 1844. He is the son of Gavin and Janet Telfer, and learned the trade of tanner and carrier in his native town. At the age of 18 he left home and went to Glasgow and worked there at his trade until July 26, 1865, or until after twenty-one.

On that day he started for the United States and 17 days later was in the city of Detroit at work. When he reached Detroit he had one English shilling in his possession, but he had pluck and energy, and the day following his arrival there had secured a paying situation. After four years of self-denying, frugal labor in Detroit, he united his savings with the small capital of his brother Gavin, and established a tannery at Chesaning, Saginaw Co., Mich., and after operating it with gratifying success two years, their building, fixtures, etc., were destroyed by fire, involving a loss of \$6,000, with no insurance. He still held a considerable amount of stock, which he brought to Big Rapids to avail himself of the facilities at the tannery of Duncan McClellan.

In 1875 he entered into an engagement as assistant engineer of the City Water Works, taking full charge two years later, and holding the position continuously ever since.

In the summer of 1881 he built the block now owned by L. S. Presburg, on Michigan ave., a brick building erected at a cost of upwards of \$6,000. He built the Telfer Block, on the corner of Michigan ave. and Pine st., in the summer of 1883. It is a two-story structure of brick, 40 x 60 feet, one store of which he stocked with boots and shoes, and confided to the management of his brother, John Telfer. He also owns a residence and lot on Pine street and Warren ave. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

He was married Dec. 30, 1869, to Mary C., daughter of William and Eliza Burleigh. She was born in Macomb Co., Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Telfer have had two children, one of whom, Gavin, is now living; Eliza, only daughter, died July 22, 1872.

**A**lfred Pierce, farmer, sec. 1, Hinton Tp., was born Dec. 31, 1841, in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. His parents, David and Polly (Day) Pierce, were also natives of St. Lawrence County. He started out alone in the warfare of life at the age of 15 years. His parents had previously removed to Walworth Co., Wis., and in the spring of 1856 he came to Michigan with the family of Wm. Egbert (now deceased) and







*Mr. N. Seaton*

located in Berrien Co., Mich., remaining with them until 21 years of age, engaged in farming and speculating. In the spring of 1863, he went to Minnesota and bought a farm, which he managed for five years, and meanwhile was one year engaged in conducting a hotel at Rochester, Minn. He sold the farm and came to Mecosta County, where he bought 80 acres of wild land, in Morton Tp., which he sold in the fall of 1881. In the spring of 1880 he bought 80 acres of forest land in Hinton Tp., where he now resides, with 20 acres under cultivation. In politics Mr. Pierce is a Republican; has held the office of Justice of the Peace four years, and was Highway Commissioner three years in Morton Tp.

Mr. Pierce was married in Berrien Co., Mich., Nov. 26, 1863, to Mary E., daughter of Israel B. and Hannah Sackett, natives of Michigan. Mrs. Pierce was born in Berrien Co., Dec. 25, 1840. Her father died when she was ten years old, and she was thrown upon her own resources for support. Of ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Pierce, eight survive, four of them being twins; Charles A. was born Nov. 10, 1864; Fred L., Aug. 16, 1866; Walter, Dec. 16, 1868; Frank, Oct. 14, 1869; Etta, July 18, 1872; Harry, May 14, 1877; Nathan, Aug. 13, 1879, and Alfred, Nov. 15, 1882; Annie, born July 18, 1872, died Dec. 26, 1880; Gertrude, born July 17, 1874, and died Dec. 30, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce are both members of the order of Good Templars, and are active and prominent members of the M. E. Church, with which they united at an early day. Mr. Pierce is an earnest advocate of the temperance cause, and is prominent in all the reforms of the day.

**Ulrich Stiffen**, farmer, sec. 35, Deerfield Tp., is a son of Michael and Elizabeth (Fischler) Stiffen. They were natives of Switzerland and came to America in 1853, locating in Wayne Co., Ohio, where they passed the remainder of their lives.

Mr. Stiffen was born Dec. 25, 1843, in Switzerland. He was 10 years old when his parents emigrated to the United States, and he worked as a farm assistant nearly 20 years. He came to Michigan in 1867 and has been the owner of various tracts of land at various times, and now owns 80 in Deerfield Tp.,

which is his homestead, with 20 acres in cultivation.

Mr. Stiffen is a Democrat in political sentiment and belongs to the Mennonite Church

**Wm. N. Seaton**, merchant, Altona, was born in Canada, Sept. 28, 1839. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Smith) Seaton, natives of England, who came to America in 1838 and located in Canada, where the father is still resident. The mother died in November, 1877.

Mr. Seaton remained in the home of his parents until the age of 25, and in the winter of 1864 came to Mecosta County and bought 120 acres of unimproved land in Hinton Tp., on which a part of the village of Altona is located. Within three years (64-'65-'66) he cleared 40 acres of his farm. In 1868, associated with Bently Davis and Harrison J. Brown, he built the Altona dam, and in the same year he and Mr. Davis erected the first saw-mill. Fifteen months after, William and Henry Seaton purchased the interest of Mr. Davis, and continued to operate the mill four years, selling out to Wm. Egbert, who, some time after, disposed of the property to H. J. Brown.

Mr. Seaton, after closing his mill interests, turned his attention to farming and rearing stock. He owns 180 acres of land, 100 of which is under a good state of cultivation and improved by a fine set of buildings. He rented his place in March, 1883, and purchased a residence in Altona. In December, 1882, he formed a partnership with R. L. Willett for the purpose of engaging in the sale of general merchandise, which was effected Jan. 1, 1883, and is now being carried on with satisfactory results.

Mr. Seaton was married in Canada, to Charlotte, daughter of Benj. Budjen. Her parents were natives of England, and about 1848 came to America and settled in Canada. One child, Charlotte L. E., was born of this marriage, Feb. 27, 1869. The mother died March 28, 1869. Mr. Seaton was again married Dec. 4, 1879, to Mary J., daughter of George and Jane Quigley, born Jan. 4, 1855. The parents of Mrs. Seaton reside in Montcalm County; the father is a native of New York, and the mother

was born in Wales; the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Seaton, George R., was born Oct. 7, 1881.

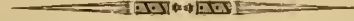
Mr. Seaton is a Republican. He has been Justice of the Peace one year, and School Director six years. He has been actively zealous for the best interests and advancement of his township, and has done all in his power to enhance the growth and prosperity of Altona, which is, so to speak, his foster-child, he having, in connection with H. J. Brown, platted the village, which was accomplished May 21, 1870. Mr. Seaton's family attend the M. E. Church. He has been for a long time Superintendent of the Sunday School, and has been Class-leader about 15 years. He is also radical in his views of temperance. Mr. Seaton's portrait is given in this work.



**W**m. Brockway, farmer, sec. 20, Hinton Tp., was born in Pennsylvania, March 27, 1826, and is a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Rossman) Brockway, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. He went to New York with his parents, and at the age of 21 came to Livingston County, and after a residence of six years came to Mecosta County (before its organization) and settled in what is now Aetna Tp., buying a farm of 200 acres. He resided on this place until the spring of 1861, when he purchased 160 acres of forest land in Hinton Tp., removed there, built a log house and barn, and commenced clearing his land. These primitive buildings have yielded to modernized structures; and the fine farm with 100 acres of cleared territory, with creditable and valuable buildings, makes a fine exhibit of what energy combined with perseverance and good judgment can accomplish. He belongs to the pioneer element of the county and township, and was the first Postmaster under Lincoln, serving about three years. He is a Democrat in political faith and action.

He was married in Livingston Co., Mich., Jan. 6, 1848, to Margaret A., daughter of Z. P. and Anna (Saxton) Mitchell. Her parents were natives of the Empire State, and Mrs. Brockway was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., Aug. 24, 1828. Mr. and Mrs. Brockway have had eight children, six surviving, Emmet L., born Nov. 5, 1848; Alice V., Feb. 12,

1853; Caroline, Aug. 27, 1857; James H., Oct. 15, 1860; Charlotte, Feb. 23, 1865; Byron A., April 9, 1870; Elizabeth A., born Oct. 31, 1850, died Nov. 12, 1882; Mary E., born Aug. 18, 1867, died Jan. 22, 1882.



**E**muel F. Chipman, farmer, sec. 36, Deerfield Tp., was born in Livingston County, Mich., Jan. 1, 1847. He is son of S. S. and Alta (Sutherland) Chipman, who are both natives of the State of New York.

In the fall of '64 Mr. Chipman, though but 17 years of age, became a soldier for the Union army, enlisting in the Third Mich. Inf. He was in the service until May 18, '65, when he received honorable discharge. After returning home he engaged in the duties of a lumberman until the age of 22, when he bought 40 acres of land in the township of Deerfield. It was then in a perfectly wild state, and he at once turned all his energies to bear upon its reclamation, and now has 20 acres under cultivation. In politics he is a Republican.

The subject of this sketch was married June 27, 1869, in Cato, Montcalm Co., to Catherine C., daughter of Austin and Harriet Butler, *nee* Malott, both natives of New York.

The deadly scourge diphtheria removed three of the children of this household within 12 days. Their record is as follows: Alta H., born March 27, 1870, died Sept. 18, '81; Daisy M., born May 7, 18—, died Sept. 14, '81; Walter, born Feb. 22, '80, died Sept. 6, '81. Two children remain, Levi D., born Sept. 27, '72, and Zilpha E., born June 20, '74.

At the organization of the township of Deerfield in '61, S. S. Chipman was elected Supervisor.



**C**harles McArthur, farmer, sec. 19, Deerfield Tp., was born in Canada, Jan. 16, 1839. His parents, Colin and Jeannette (McDonald) McArthur, were of Scotch origin and came to Canada early in their lives and there both died in the winter of '82.

The subject of this sketch was educated in Canada and grew up under the personal care of his father,

remaining at home several years after attaining his majority. In the winter of '52, at 26 years of age, he came to Detroit and there was connected with a railroad construction corps about three years. In the summer of '79 he came to the village of Morley and was engaged some months in the saloon and restaurant business, after which he bought his present property, 40 acres of land, then in an entirely uncultivated state, but now with 30 acres in an advanced state of improvement. He has held the post of Constable two terms and Police Magistrate six months, resigning his office before the expiration of his term.

He was married Aug. 7, 1866, at Charlotte, Mich., to Sarah, daughter of John and Ann Feehan, *nee* Cokely. The parents of his wife were natives of Ireland, who emigrated to Canada; the father is deceased, the mother resides in this County. Their children were born as follows: Annie J., June 6, 1869; Catherine M., Dec. 10, '72; Edith F., Jan. 29, '75; Charles J., July 17, '77; Myrtle, Jan. 21, '81. Two children died in infancy.

Our subject was a member of the Township School Board during the year of 1882. In religion, although brought up in the Presbyterian faith, he is liberal. He is also a liberal Democrat in politics.

**G**randison C. Tousey, farmer, sec. 34, Hinton Tp., is a son of Louzon and Lucy (Lymman) Tousey, who were born in Connecticut, and came to Michigan as pioneers of Wayne County. G. C. Tousey was born Nov. 19, 1832. He came with his parents, when a lad, to Kalamazoo County, and there he was occupied with farming until the spring of 1872. He then came to Mecosta County and located in Hinton Tp., where he had entered 160 acres of Government land in 1858. On this tract he has since resided, and now has 70 acres under a good degree of improvement.

Mr. Tousey is a Democrat in political faith, and has been Justice of the Peace one year. He enlisted in October, 1861, in the 13th Michigan Vol. Inf., and after an arduous service of three years was honorably discharged Jan. 16, 1865, at Savannah,

Ga. He was never off duty a single day and did not once answer the surgeon's call. He was in action at Pittsburg Landing, Stone River, Perryville, Ky., Chickamauga, Siege of Corinth, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and marched to the sea with Sherman. He had a narrow escape from capture at Stone River. A retreat was ordered and by some mischance he found himself wedged between boulders, the rebel forces being soon within alarming distance of his singular prison house. Extricating himself with a great effort, he crawled back and joined his regiment, making the transit between two fires, but coming out unharmed. He is an honored member of the G. A. R., and also belongs to the M. E. Church.

Mr. Tousey was married in Kalamazoo Co., Mich. June 28, 1867, to Elvira, daughter of Jared and Elizabeth (Holcomb) Goodrich, who was born March 19, 1828, in New York. The parents were born in New York, also. Mr. and Mrs. Tousey have one child, born June 28, 1868.

**H**enry S. Cota, farmer on section 16, Etna Tp., was born in Carroll Co., Ohio, in 1837. His parents were born in France, emigrated to the United States and settled in the Buckeye State, where his father was drowned while laboring in the river service.

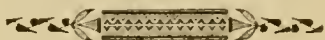
Mr. Cota was in his infancy and his mother bound him to a man named Adam Hardesty. He was so very young that he lost all trace of her and does not know that he has a relative by blood on the earth. He remained with Mr. Hardesty until he was 18 years of age, when he was released from his bonds and found employment in Paulding Co., Ohio, and was there occupied for five years.

In the fall of '61 he enlisted in the 68th Ohio Inf., serving three years, and receiving honorable discharge. Leaving the army he spent a few months in Paulding Co., Ohio, and in the spring of 1866 he came to Etna Tp. and bought 40 acres of land, which he has increased to 80 acres, with 30 under the plow.

Mr. Cota was married July 4, 1867, to Isabel, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Woodcock) Shoock, natives of New York. Mrs. Cota was born

Feb. 1, 1843. Of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Cota four are living, born as follows: Rousseau was born June 10, 1868; George W., Dec. 1, 1875; Milton E., May 12, 187-; Retta E., June 30, 1881. John, born March 13, 1870, died Nov. 4, 1882; Guy E., born Jan. 21, 1878, died Oct. 10, 1879.

The character and conduct of the life of Mr. Cota have been such as to secure for him the advantages always accruing to a man of upright and honorable dealing.



**B**oah Barnhart, farmer, sec. 11, Deerfield Tp., was born in Canada, May 3, 1844. His father, Jacob Barnhart, was a native of Vermont and died in Canada in the spring of 1853. His mother, now Mrs. Phebe McGill, came to Deerfield with her children in the spring of '60. See sketch of Wm. Barnhart.

Mr. Barnhart came to Detroit at the age of 13 and soon after the removal of his family to this county in 1860 he joined them here. He "took up" 80 acres of land under the Homestead Act, and about the same date bought 40 acres more. He sold his estate of 120 acres in '67 and bought 80 acres where he now lives.

He was married Dec. 17, 1866, to Eliza Hornby, who is of English and Irish parentage. To them have been born six children, as follows: Ellen, born Jan. 1, 1867; Caroline, Feb. 28, '70; Edward, March 28, '73; Albert, April 4, '79, and Ada, July 4, '82. Alice was born June 10, '76, and died in February, '82.



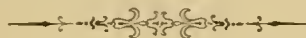
**B**ra McIntosh, farmer, sec. 3, Deerfield Tp. was born in Canada, July 10, 1834. His parents, Louis and Elizabeth (Boxstead) McIntosh, were natives of Canada, of Scotch and German lineage, and passed their entire lives in their native land.

Mr. McIntosh attended school and served as his father's assistant on the home farm until he was 18 years of age, when he responded to the long cherished desire to begin his life's work in independence.

He spent eleven years as a lumberman and farm laborer, coming to Mecosta County in the fall of 1863. Ten months later he went to Kent County and bought 40 acres of partly improved land, on which he worked two years, and then returned to Mecosta County. Not long after he purchased 105 acres of railroad land and began life as a pioneer. At this writing he has 73 acres under tillage. He has built a good barn on the farm and is on the eve of a final leave of the log house where he found shelter and home rest from his cares and labors, and where his three promising sons were born.

Mr. McIntosh was married in Canada, Oct. 31, 1863, to Emma, daughter of J. P. and Drusilla (Austin) Weaver. The parents of Mrs. McIntosh were of Canadian nativity, came to Mecosta County in 1864, and now reside in Austin Tp. The sons were born as follows: James E., born Dec. 8, 1865; John W., Sept. 15, 1867; Charlie, Nov. 12, 1877.

Mr. McIntosh is a Republican in politics and has served his township as Treasurer two years. Himself and wife belong to the M. E. Church.



**M**ichael Doyle, farmer, sec. 18, Etna Tp., was born in December, 1815, and is son of Michael and Jane (Dorsey) Doyle, natives of Ireland, where the son was also born. The latter was five years old when his parents came to America and settled at Quebec, Province of Quebec, where they lived until 1843.

On the death of his father he was left to make his way alone in the world and remained in Canada until 1868. He spent three years prospecting in the Dominion, and in the fall of 1871 came to Etna Tp., Mecosta Co., and purchased 80 acres of land, and, like earlier settlers, commenced to make improvements for the purpose of securing a livelihood. The result of their labors are shown by the condition of the farm and its fixtures.

Mr. Doyle was married in Canada, in April, 1839, to Catherine, daughter of Michael and Mary (Dunn) Carroll, who were of Irish nativity, and went to Canada, where they died, at the ages of 41 and 60 years respectively. Mrs. Doyle was born in the North of Ireland, June 1, 1816. She is at this writing 66 years

old, but retains her health and vigor, and her memory is perfect concerning all events that have passed under her observation. Following is a record of their ten children: Peter, born March 3, 1840; Michael, Dec. 25, 1845; Jane, Aug. 12, 1850; Sarah, Aug. 17, 1854; John, Feb. 1, 1847; Rose, Sept. 8, 1855; Ella, June 10, 1858. Those named are living; the deceased were: Mary, born Feb. 6, 1842, died in 1867; Emilia, born July 25, 1854, died Aug. 23, 1867; Catherine, born Jan. 6, 1851, died Sept. 23, 1867. The family are zealous members of the Catholic Church.

furniture business. The relation terminated July 9, following, by his sale of him to Charles Stillwell, when he established his present business enterprise in the basement of the Furniture Block. He holds a stock of \$1,000 in burial cases and caskets and has a very fine hearse.

Mr. Walker was married in Ottawa Co., Mich., March 25, 1865, to Marion, daughter of Loren and Mary Oviatt, born in Trumbull Co., Ohio, Dec. 11, 1842. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Walker are Allen J., Mary and Lula. The musical abilities of the father have every promise of reproduction in the children, as each gives evidence of more than ordinary capacity in that respect.

**W**illiam H. Walker, undertaker and funeral director, Big Rapids, was born in Commerce Tp., Oakland Co., Mich., and is the son of Justin and Lucinda (Wilkins) Walker.

He passed the years prior to attaining his majority on his father's farm and attending school. On reaching the age of 21 years he entered the college at Kalamazoo, and took a preparatory course of study, and after two years went to Normal, Ill., and there attended the State Normal School 18 months. Having fitted for the position of an instructor, he entered upon the duties of that calling, which he discharged four years and then became a music teacher, of which he had made a special study at Normal, under the instructions of Prof. C. M. Cady. He has spent 20 years of his life as a teacher of vocal music, operating at many places in Michigan and in several of the Western States.

After leaving school at Kalamazoo, Mr. Walker made a prospecting journey through the West and Southwest which occupied about eight months. In 1878, he located at Berlin, Ottawa Co., bought five acres of land, and a wagon and blacksmith shop, which he still owns and manages, employing three men. He has a fine residence on his miniature farm of five acres, where his family live. He has made a specialty of bee culture, his location being peculiarly adapted to the purpose. At times he has had upwards of 200 colonies in stock, and his apiary now includes about 75.

Mr. Walker came to Big Rapids in May, 1883, and formed a partnership with J. Stillwell & Son, in the

**G**eorge P. Vorce, farmer, sec. 35, Etna Tp., was born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., Feb. 29, 1824. He is a son of Benjamin and Lovina (Cook) Vorce, of German nativity; the father died in 1833. Mr. Vorce came to this State when he was nine years old, with his

step-father, Jonathan Jackson, and remained 11 years. He spent the next year in New York, and in the summer of 1844 came to Wayne County, this State, and a year later to Ingham County. During this period he was engaged in agriculture. Leaving Ingham County, Mr. Vorce went to Kalamazoo County, and thence to Iosco County, where he was engaged in farming and lumbering until 1871, the date of his settlement in this County. He purchased 40 acres of timbered land and entered upon the usual duties of a pioneer,—built a small log house and proceeded to place his farm in a suitable state for support and profit. He is an earnest Republican; has always been prominent in promoting educational projects and at present holds a school office. He and his wife are active members of the M. E. Church.

He was married in 1846, to Amelia, daughter of Zenas and Anna Walling Hor, of New England birth, and she was born in Lyons, Wayne Co., N. Y., May 15, 1829. Of their six children two are dead, Henry, born Aug. 31, 1847, died Oct. 3, 1879, and Charles L., born Sept. 19, 1855, died in 1874. Those who survive were born in the following order: Jennie, Jan. 20, 1849; Frank A., Oct. 28, 1853; Anna

A., Nov. 11, 1850; Ella G., Sept. 27, 1859. These children have received a good education. Jennie is a teacher of good standing and has a fine reputation for scholarship, and qualities peculiarly adapted to her calling. She was a student for a long time at Albion College, and taught in one position seven consecutive terms.

**G**ilbert Mero, farmer, sec. 28, Deerfield Tp., is a native of Lower Canada, and was born in 1838. His parents still reside in Canada. Mr. Mero went to Upper Canada at 19 years of age, where he was married in the fall of 1857, to Huldah, daughter of Peter and Mima (Kyle) Newkirk. They went to Ohio and remained four years, returned to Canada for a short time and moved to Deerfield. Mr. Mero bought 40 acres of uncultivated land and proceeded to do pioneer duty—build a log house and clear the forest. He has 32 acres under fair cultivation. The family religion is Catholic.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Mero now living were born as follows: Josephine, March 12, 1866; Richard, Oct. 28, 1870; Louisa, July 8, 1873; Anna, July, 4, 18 ; Gertrude, July 8, 1877; Henrietta, May 24, 1881. Jennie and Margaret died in infancy.

**J**esse Kinnee, Altona, Hinton Tp., was born in Canada, May 27, 1857. He is a son of Jesse and Harriet E. (Gent) Kinnee, natives and residents of Canada. Wm. Kinnee passed his youth and boyhood on his father's farm, and at 18 was apprenticed for three years to the firm of Mitchell & Brood, to learn the trade of blacksmithing. He left his native country and went to Moskako, Canada, and worked at his trade in the lumber camps in the woods six months. He returned to the township of Peel and entered into partnership with James Mitchell, and in company with him carried on blacksmithing six months. In July, 1878, he came to Coral, Montcalm Co., removing soon to Hinton Tp., and was

employed by W. W. Streator, at his trade, two and a half years, when he bought the interest of his employer, and is still managing the same branch of business, with the most satisfactory results.

Mr. Kinnee was married at Altona, Hinton Tp., April 16, 1881, to Ida M., eldest daughter of John W. and Catharine (Austen) Thomas. Her parents were natives of Canada, and came to Mecosta County about 1864. They are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Kinnee have had one child, Jesse H., born March 14, 1883. They are both active members of the Church of the United Brethren. Mr. Kinnee is a Republican in political sentiment and action.

**W**alter N. Hutchinson, dental surgeon at Big Rapids (office on the N. W. corner of North Michigan avenue and Maple street), was born in Westmoreland, Oneida Co., N. Y., April 8, 1823. His parents were natives of Connecticut, and were married at Hartford, June 6, 1801. Warren Hutchinson, his father, was born, Nov. 17, 1780; was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and during a considerable period of his life kept a hotel; he died Sept. 5, 1847. The mother Mary (Goddard) Hutchinson, was born Feb. 19, 1781, and died in March, 1855. The family included four children—Warren S. (deceased), Ephraim F. (dec.) and Fannie J., widow of Israel L. Adams, residing at Winona, Iowa. Dr. Hutchinson is the youngest child. He accompanied the family to Washtenaw County, this State, when 11 years old, and settled in Scio, where his father built a hotel. Both parents passed the remainder of their lives here, and their children reached adult age. Early in life, Dr. Hutchinson developed a taste and genius for the career of an artist, and he devoted the first years of his manhood to portrait-painting; but was compelled to abandon this profession because of failing eyesight. In 1845 he went to Ypsilanti, where he worked at photography about two years. In 1847 he went to Dexter, and spent about two and a half years in the office of Dr. Hollywood, reading for the practice of medicine. He went thence to Ann Arbor, and applied himself to the study of dentistry, and was under





*L. N. Hutchinson.*



the instructions of Prof. Bennett one year. After two years of practice at Ann Arbor, he went to Howell, this State, and pursued his profession two years, going thence to Sturgis, where he opened dental rooms, and operated until 1870, the date of his removal to Big Rapids.

Dr. Hutchinson was married at Scio, Jan. 2, 1843, to Ruth L. Richmond. Their son, Ernest M., is now living, and is a dentist at Cadillac, this State. Aver M. died Feb. 22, 1865. The mother died, and the Doctor contracted a second marriage, July 27, 1870, to Adda C. Foote, daughter of Jacob J. and Sarah H. (Secord) Foote, a native of Scio. Glen L., their only child, died Jan. 11, 1879. Daisy, an adopted daughter, was taken to their hearts and home when five weeks old. She was born May 9, 1881.



**J**ames Simmons, farmer, sec. 36, Deerfield Tp., was born July 11, 1830, in Middleton, Norfolk Co., Canada. His parents, David and Sicily (Ronson) Simmons, were natives of England and came to Canada about the year 1820. The mother still resides in Canada; the father died Aug. 20, 1861.

At the age of 21 years Mr. Simmons commenced his contest with the world, finding employment as a farm laborer until 1860, when he came to Mecosta county and pre-empted 80 acres of the unbroken and uncleared forest land. He built a log house, and with his own hands cut the trees and prepared the soil for tillage. He has now 40 acres under the plow and in good cultivation.

He was married at Charlotteville Center, Canada, Sept. 20, 1851, to Catherine, daughter of James and Amy (Ostrander) Buchner. Eight of the eleven children of Mr. and Mrs. Simmons are living: William H., Nancy S., Amy M., Ebenezer, Sarah J., Daniel A., John and Chris. The family includes an adopted son, Wm. H. Griffin. The names of the deceased children were James C., George and Adaline.

Mr. S. is a Democrat in politics, and himself and family belong to the United Brethren Church.

**W**ilber H. Buck, farmer, sec. 7, Aetna Tp., was born April 16, 1849, in Orange Co., N. Y., and is the eldest son of Samuel and Harriet (Walters) Buck. He remained at home laboring on his father's farm until the fall of 1868.

His father, Samuel Buck, came to Michigan in '56, and settled in Hillsdale County, where the family remained until 1865, and about that year came to Mecosta County, where they are residents of Aetna Tp., and Mr. Buck, of this sketch, is with his family living on the homestead and managing the farm.

He was married Jan. 3, 1883, to Sarah, daughter of William R. and Chloe A. (Vredenburg) Rockwell, who was born in Chemung Co., N. Y., Aug. 7, 1856. She went to Iowa when seven years old, and in 1868 came to the State of Michigan. By an earlier marriage Mr. Buck has two children—Hattie, born July 26, 1869, and Harry, June 6, 1871. They are nearly grown and well educated, and the light and blessing of the household. In religious views, Mr. Buck is a liberalist; in politics, a Prohibitionist.



**C**harles H. Wagener, druggist, Big Rapids, was born at Penn Yan, N. Y., Jan. 23, 1835; a son of David and Maria (West) Wagener. His father was a hotel-keeper, and died when he was but two years old.

He attended school until the age of 14, when he procured a situation as clerk in a drug store, and after two years returned to school. He completed his education in three years, and again became a clerk in a drug store in Penn Yan, where he remained seven years. In February, 1864, he went to Austin, Nevada, and bought a drug store of his brother, where he transacted business four years, and then returned to Penn Yan. In February, 1868, he settled in Big Rapids and founded his present business. He handles a full line of drugs and all articles common to similar establishments, patent medicines, etc. In April, 1869, his store was burned, with a total loss of \$3,500. He had secured no insurance. Mr.

Wagener is a Freemason, and a member of the Knights of Honor, and is Vice-President and Director of the Northern National Bank. He was married May 7, 1861, in Penn Yan, to Patience M. Hunt, born in Milo, Yates Co., N. Y., Jan. 25, 1838. Josephine M., their, eldest child, was born in Penn Yan, May 15, 1862, and Charles S. was born in Big Rapids, March 18, 1879.

**F**ranks P. Smith, farmer, sec. 5, Deerfield Tp., was born Dec. 9, 1853, in the State of New York. His parents, Hosea and Mary (Fenton) Smith, were both born in the Empire State. At the age of two years Mr. Smith was placed in the care of his maternal grandparents, and continued to reside with them until the age of 19 years.

He came to Michigan in the spring of 1882 and purchased 40 acres of land under cultivation in Deerfield Tp., where he now resides. He was married in New York, June 19, 1878, to Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander and Cornelia (Munson) Smith. Of two children born to them, but one survives: Albert, born May 28, 1883. Lewis, first-born child, died Sept. 9, 1880.

**J**ohn S. Campbell, farmer, sec. 25, Aetna Tp., was born in Ireland, Jan. 10, 1842. His parents Archibald and Elizabeth (Sinclair) Campbell, were born in the North of the Emerald Isle, and emigrated to America in 1847, settling at Stormont, Can.; Mr. Campbell remained a resident of the Dominion until he reached man's estate. At the age of 21 he went to California to seek his fortune in the mining districts of the Golden State, where he remained until the winter of 1865. At that time he came back to Paulding Co., Ohio, and engaged one year in farming. In the fall of 1866 he came to Michigan and settled in Mecosta County, buying 160 acres of land in Aetna Tp., in the vicinity of Motley. He went again to California in 1871, once more seeking material results in mining

operations with moderate realization of his hopes. He came back in 1877 and remained two years, when he made an expedition to Colorado, returning in 1882, reaching his home Dec. 22; he has since been engaged in the improvement of his fine farm.

Mr. Campbell was married Aug. 9, 1866, to Sybil R., daughter of Bernard B. and Hannah J. (Davis) Woodcock. The parents were natives of New England, and the daughter was born March 2, 1836, in Knox Co., Ohio.

In politics Mr. Campbell is an earnest Republican. Mrs. Campbell has been a member of the U. B. Church since she was 14 years of age.

**C**harles H. La Douceur, dealer in clothing and men's furnishing goods at Big Rapids, was born Sept. 27, 1857, at St. Eugene, East Oxbury Co., Pr. of Ontario, Can. Until he was ten years old, his parents resided on a farm, and then removed to Van Kleeck Hill, in the same county, where he was a student at school two years; becoming an assistant in a store in 1869. In 1873 he came to Big Rapids, and went to work in the lumber region, and in 1877 obtained a position in the store of F. W. Joslin, where he was a clerk three years. In June, 1880, he formed a partnership with W. A. Aylesworth, and opened his present line of business. The stock of Messrs. La Douceur & Aylesworth is estimated at \$8,000, and includes full and complete lines of ready-made clothing, furnishing goods, hats, caps, trunks, valises, etc. Their yearly business aggregates about \$30,000.

**T**imothy Edmonds, dealer in boots, shoes, rubbers and hosiery, at Big Rapids, was born in Jackson Co., Mich., May 23, 1849. His parents were Washington and Damarias (Buckston) Edmonds, and he was trained to agricultural pursuits. At the age of 15 he became a soldier in the Union Army, enlisting at Dowagiac;





John E. Thurrow.

Cass Co., this State, in March, 1863, in Company L, 9th Michigan Cavalry, under Capt. W. Miller, and was in the service until July 4, 1865. Among other arduous engagements in which he was in action was that of the pursuit of Morgan on his retrograde movement before his capture by the brigade of Gen. Shackelsford, near New Lisbon, Ohio. He was also with the command of Gen. Burnside while attempting to hold East Tennessee, and was on the force that held the foot of Cumberland Mountain until Gen. Frazier's surrender. He was among the veteran troops which under Sherman made their triumphant march to the sea. He was wounded Dec. 4, 1864, at Waynesboro, Ga., by an ounce minie ball, in the left thigh, which he still carries. He was sent to the hospital, and, on the expiration of his term of enlistment, was discharged at Jackson, Mich.

The father of Mr. Edmonds died in September, 1863, during his army life, and, on being mustered out of the United States service, he went to work on the homestead on shares, and was thus occupied three years. He spent the next two years in St. Joseph County, variously engaged, when he went to South Haven, Van Buren Co. There he bought 40 acres of land, which he sold three years later and purchased 80 acres in another location. Meanwhile he was operating as a lumberman. He sold his land again at the end of the year, and engaged in selling stump machines, afterward embarking again in lumbering until the fall of 1876. He then came to Big Rapids, and two years later bought a farm of 45 acres in the township of Big Rapids, devoting a year to gardening, and in 1881 again sold out. In the winter of that year he commenced his present business enterprise. His stock is worth about \$5,000, and he transacts an annual business in merchandise of \$10,000.

Mr. Edmonds was married near Lawton, Van Buren Co., to Clara Edwards. Of this marriage two children were born, Grace, in March, 1868, and Dora, in June, 1870. The second marriage of Mr. Edmonds took place at Big Rapids, Oct. 1, 1876, to Laura Sinkler, who died at this place, Jan. 26, 1880, leaving two children, Eugene E., born Jan. 23, 1880, and Clarence H., born June 18, 1878, and died Aug. 12, 1882. Mr. Edmonds was married a third time in Ottawa, Waukesha Co., Wis., Dec. 3, 1882, to Mrs. Eva J. Boone, daughter of Thomas H. and Elvira T. Ham-

mond, born in Delafield, Wis., April 21, 1858. Mr. Edmonds is a member of the G. A. R.

**J**ohn E. Thurkow, merchant and proprietor of the grain warehouse at Morley, was born at New Baltimore, Mich., Oct. 7, 1849. He is a son of Fred and Maggie (Kiess) Thurkow, who were natives of Germany.

Mr. Thurkow left home at the age of 15, and was engaged as clerk in a general store at Fair Haven, Mich., and there remained 15 years. He relinquished the position on account of ill health, and took a trip to Colorado, where he remained nearly five months. On his return he remained a few months at home; coming to Morley in the spring of 1881, he purchased the store of D. W. Stewart & Co., where he continues to do business. He carries a full stock of goods in lines adapted to the demands of the community where he operates. Mr. Thurkow has been the architect of his own fortunes. He is a keen business man, has managed his affairs with honest sagacity, and by close attention to business and well-directed effort has obtained a competence. In politics he is a Republican, has been twice elected Treasurer of the village, and still holds the position. He is a Master Mason, a Knight Templar and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is in sympathy with the tenets of the Congregational Church.

In September, 1881, Mr. Thurkow bought a shingle mill in Etna Tp., of Messrs. King & Lake, which he operated until June 9, 1882. At that date it was burned to the ground, entailing a loss of nearly \$3,000. He also owns the timber on 240 acres of land in the township of Etna, and a house and lot in Morley. He has recently erected a neat warehouse for the storage of grain, potatoes, etc., of which he handles a large quantity. He is also an extensive dealer in wood, bark, shingles, etc., making him one of the largest shippers in this section.

As one of the representative men of Mecosta County we give a portrait of Mr. T. in this volume.

**H**enry Mills, farmer, sec. 25, Deerfield Tp., was born in Canada, March 7, 1837. He is a son of Wm. and Rebecca Ann Mills, and his father died July 5, 1881; his mother lives in Canada.

Mr. Mills was a resident of the Dominion until the age of 24, growing up in the routine common to farmers' sons. In 1861 he "took up" 40 acres of land in Deerfield Tp., Mecosta County, and underwent the experiences of the pioneer element, building a log house in the forest which he then made haste to clear and improve for farming purposes. He now has 25 acres under tillage and as good a frame house as exists in the township.

He was married in Canada, Dec. 5, 1861, to Loamy, daughter of Ephraim and Sarah (Roszell) Burss. She was born in Canada, Feb. 11, 1838. Of seven children born of this marriage four survive,—Sarah A., born Oct. 6, 1862; Etta M., Nov. 12, 1864; Frank P., Dec. 15, 1873; Henry O., Sept. 8, 1882; William H., Nov. 28, 1866, died March 29, 1881; Albert H., Oct. 23, 1868, died April 9, 1881; Charles E., Nov. 13, 1879, died April 7, 1881. These deaths all occurred within 11 days.

Mr. Mills is a zealous Republican. The father of Mrs. Mills died in Allegan Co., Mich. The mother is living with her daughter. (See sketches of D. C. Bullock and George Losie.)

**A**lexander Quigley, farmer, sec. 4, Deerfield Tp., is the oldest living inhabitant of the township in which he resides, and was one of its earliest settlers. In 1859 he erected the first frame dwelling and has since been earnestly interested in the affairs of the township.

He was born in the State of New York, Feb. 16, 1810, and there lived until 21 years of age. His parents, Mary and Martin Quigley, were natives of the Empire State, and there passed their lives. On attaining his majority Mr. Quigley went to Canada and engaged in agriculture until 1853, then removed

to Michigan with his family, locating in Newaygo Co. He resided there six years and in Dec., 1859, came to Deerfield Tp. He "took up" 40 acres of State land and bought 80 acres, all timber land. He has placed 70 acres of his farm in a good state of cultivation.

Mr. Quigley was married in Canada, in 1833, to Mary, daughter of Godlove Most. Mr. and Mrs. Quigley have had six children, all of whom have reached adult age. Their names are Robert, Rosanna, Mary, John, Autheses and Margaret.

**R**osa C. McConnell, farmer, resident on sec. 35, Aetna Tp., was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., Feb. 26, 1832; son of Lewis and Emma (Goff) McConnell, natives of the Empire State.

The subject of this sketch left home at ten years of age, and until 12 years old found such employment as he could among the people to whom he was known. At the age named, he went to the Western Reserve, Ohio, and engaged with a man named Robert Munay to herd cattle. Two years later he went as cabin boy on the lake steamers in the summer seasons, spending the winters in the woods. He lived thus five years, then came to Hillsdale County, and thence to Ionia, Montcalm and Kent Counties, settling in the last named in the spring of 1855, and engaged in farming. Previous to this he was engaged in lumbering. He remained in Kent County five years, and during the two following years he was variously employed.

In November, 1862, he enlisted in the Mich. Cav., and was in the army of the Potomac under Gen. Pleasanton, until Aug. 19, 1865, when he received an honorable discharge. He passed through his period of enlistment unharmed except by a gunshot wound in the wrist, inflicted by a guerrilla scout. On leaving the army he went back to Kent County and worked in the woods until the fall of 1871. The following year he spent in Indiana, came thence to Mecosta County, and purchased 80 acres of land, on which he is now resident.

Mr. McConnell is a Republican in political faith, and has held the post of Assessor in his school district for some time. He was married Oct. 12, 1872,



to Jennie, daughter of Jesse and Mary (Waters) Upson, born Aug. 7, 1843. Of this marriage one child—Willie F., was born April 27, 1876.



**H**iler Loop, farmer and lumberman, sec. 19, Deerfield Tp., was born in Pennsylvania Dec. 16, 1828. His parents, R. and May A. (Dikeman) Loop, were also natives of the Keystone State, where they passed their entire lives.

At the age of 36 Mr. Loop came to Newaygo County and was engaged there two years in lumbering, and was in the employ of Nelson Higbee as a farm manager 11 years. On the termination of his service in that capacity he bought 160 acres of land, with 100 under tillage. The additional purchase of 80 acres adjoining has given him a farm of 240 acres,—a fine place and under skilled management.

Mr. Loop was married in the State of New York, July 23, 1853, to Emmeline M., daughter of James and Betsey (Loop) Drake. The parents of Mrs. Loop were natives of New York, who removed to Pennsylvania in 1857, where they have since continued to reside. Mrs. Loop was born in New York July 12, 1837, and lived with her parents until she was married. Only one of three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Loop survive,—Enoch A., born March 8, 1875; Guy A., was born Feb. 27, 1878, and died July 28, 1880. Another child died in infancy.

Mr. Loop is an adherent of the Democratic party.



**H**enry D. Hanson, blacksmith and farmer, sec. 27, Deerfield Tp., was born in Saratoga Co., N. Y., July 23, 1849. He was educated in his native place and passed the years of his minority in the home of his parents. He is a son of Jacob and Elmira (Gilman) Hanson, both natives of the State of New York. The mother died in New York April 18, 1866. The father came to Michigan with his son and still resides with him.

Mr. Hanson settled in Ionia County in the fall of

1869 and remained there until the fall of 1871. He bought a farm of 40 acres, built a log house and proceeded to improve the place, which was in a state of nature. Being a blacksmith by trade he added a shop for the convenience of the local custom, and alternates his farm labors with work in the shop.

Mr. Hanson was married April 16, 1870, to Margaret, daughter of Lendoll and Polly (Wilson) Pike. She died Oct. 26, 1875. Two children were born to them,—Osman C. was born Jan. 26, 1871, and Carrie B., born Sept. 9, 1875. Mr. Hanson was again married April 28, 1878, to Susan E., third daughter of C. O. and Eliza J. Pemberton. She was born in Pennsylvania June 8, 1857, and came to Michigan with her parents in the spring of 1863. Their two children, Orville R. and Henry, were born respectively Oct. 7, 1879, and July 7, 1882.

Mr. Hanson has been Drain Commissioner two years. The family are all members of the Methodist Church and Mr. Hanson has been a Class-leader eight years. In political sentiment he is a Republican.



**A**manuel Buck, farmer, sec. 7, Etna Tp. (P. O., Morley), was born in Washington Co., N. Y., Nov. 4, 1813. He is son of Aaton and Julia (Brown) Buck.

Mr. Buck spent the first 23 years of his life in the pursuits common to farmer's sons and then settled on a farm, where he lived 22 years, managing his farm and practicing medicine, of which he had acquired considerable knowledge. On leaving New York he came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., in the fall of 1836, where he remained a resident nine years. His next removal was to Etna Tp., where he founded and built up his present home. The family belong to the M. E. Church. Mr. Buck holds to no particular political views, but is a radical Prohibitionist.

In 1836 he was married to Harriet, daughter of John and Mary Walters, natives of New York, where the daughter was born in 1821. Five children were born of this marriage, as follows: Wilber, April 7, 1849; Wesley, April 6, 1851; Mary, Aug. 11, 1847; Estella, March 4, 1854. Josephine is deceased, but dates of birth and death are not known. Mr. Buck's

wife died, and he was married in Hillsdale County, to Jane, daughter of Elijah and Anna Selsby, who was a native of Vermont, born Nov. 4, 1811; she died in Etna Tp., and a few years after Mr. Buck married Mrs. Emma E. Bigelow, daughter of Harry and Nancy (Crofut) Monroe. One child, Jessie, was born Dec. 11, 1872. The wife died Oct. 11, 1877.



**J**oseph McGill, farmer, sec. 12, Deerfield Tp. (P. O. Altona), was born in Ireland, Nov. 17, 1812. His parents, John and Jane (McGinnis) McGill, were natives of the Emerald Isle, who emigrated to Canada about the year 1838 and there died something like ten years afterwards.

"Uncle Jo" belonged to the class which has struggled so long in the iron grip of the British aristocrats and monopolizers, and during the first 26 years of his life passed most of his time as a weaver, which trade he learned as early as his size and strength permitted. He accompanied his parents to Canada and for 20 years was a laborer.

He came to Montcalm Co., Mich., in 1858, where he remained one year, removing thence to Mecosta County, and bought 80 acres of land in Deerfield Tp. He built a good frame house and barn and put his farm in good condition, clearing 39 acres, but he has always been a member of the family of his brother's widow, Mrs. Phebe McGill, whose farm is adjoining. In the spring of '83 he sold his farm to John Perry. Mr. McGill is a Methodist in religious views and a Republican in political faith and action. He has held the post of School Treasurer ten years. Although 72 years of age, he is a general favorite from his genial and pleasant companionship.



**B**ewitt C. Mosher, attorney at law, Morley, was born in Mosherville, Hillsdale Co., Mich., Sept. 5, 1857. His parents were Ephraim E. and Henrietta (Raymond) Mosher, natives of N. Y., who came as pioneers to Michigan, settling in Hillsdale County, there residing until the death of the father in May, 1869; the mother died in Montcalm County,

Oct. 24, 1882. When 12 years old Mr. Mosher went to Kalamazoo and attended the union school at that place three years. At 15 he entered the employ of a farmer, where he was engaged nearly two years, and then went to Montcalm County, engaging in lumbering until the fall of 1878. At that date he entered the law office of S. D. Clay at Grand Rapids, and began the study of his profession. In May, 1879, he was appointed assignee of T. M. Stryker, and closed out a stock of drugs for the benefit of that gentleman's creditors. That duty ended, he went to Osceola County and began the practice of his profession. After a stay of four months he returned home to Montcalm County, and remained there until December, 1881, and then removed to Isabella County, remaining until September, 1882. He was attacked with typhoid fever, in consequence of which he discontinued his practice until January, and, on recovery, settled in Morley, where he is earnestly engaged in the practice of his profession. He joined the Odd Fellows in 1879.



**C**harles S. Moore, farmer, sec. 9, Etna Tp. was born July 21, 1836, in New York. His parents, Hiram and Mary A. (Toney) Moore, were of genuine English extraction and natives of New York, where they lived to advanced age.

Mr. Moore was born in Allegany County, and remained under the paternal roof until 24 years of age. In the spring of 1867 he went to Kenosha Co., Wis., and three years later the family came to Etna Tp. and pitched their tent on sec. 9 with the determination to fix a permanent abode. Mr. Moore purchased 80 acres of heavily timbered land, which 13 years of toil has placed in fair rank with the best farms in the township, having 50 acres tillable and in a high state of cultivation. Politically, Mr. Moore is a decided Republican. The parents have been connected with the M. E. Church several years, and are greatly interested in the cause of education and moral elevation of the young.

Mr. Moore was married in 1860 to Alida M., daughter of Asahel and Catherine (Vrooman) Moors. Her father was a native of Virginia, and her mother

of New York. Elroy B., oldest child, born June 19, 1862, is devoted to the study of mechanics, and is the object of the proud hopes of his parents. Carlton H. was born June 6, 1864; Morrell E. was born Dec. 10, 1865. Bradley T., born March 22, 1870, died Nov. 17, 1882.

**M**ichael Streeter, farmer, on sec. 14, Hinton Tp., is a son of Geo. and Susan (Isenhour) Streeter. The father was born in England, and the mother in the State of New York. After their marriage they settled in Canada, where Michael was born, June 5, 1843. At the age of 24, Mr. Streeter commenced to carve out his own fortune. He followed different callings until August, 1875, at which date he came to this county and bought 40 acres of forest land, built thereon a log house, and now has 20 acres cleared and under the plow. Mr. Streeter is independent in politics. He was married in Canada, March 4, 1868, to Harriet, eldest daughter of Alexander and Emily (Knox) Watson. The latter were natives of Canada, and the daughter was born there, Oct. 11, 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Streeter have had six children: John W. and George A. (twins), born Dec. 24, 1869; Mary A., born Jan. 1, 1872; Ella B., April 7, 1874; Alexander G., June 15, 1879; Velma, Oct. 9, 1882.

**H**eney O. Pemberton, farmer, sec. 34, Deerfield Tp., was born in Tioga Co., Pa., Nov. 10, 1831. He is the first son of Orson and Harriet (Scott) Pemberton, the former a native of Ontario Co., N. Y., the latter born in Massachusetts. The father was a farmer and himself and wife spent their lives in Tioga County.

Mr. Pemberton was educated at the common schools of his native county and attended the Union Academy at Knoxville. He lived with his parents until June 1, 1850, when he was married and immediately

after secured 120 acres of land in that county, which he owned until the spring of 1863. He then sold it and in the fall of the same year located in Mecosta Co., Mich. He entered 80 acres of land under the State law, erected a log house and made haste to clear and improve his farm. He added to his acreage by purchase until he now owns a tract of 160 acres, a large proportion of which is under cultivation.

On the outbreak of the Southern Rebellion Mr. Pemberton enlisted (in the fall of 1861) in the Forty-fifth Pa. Vol. Inf., and was in the service thirteen and a half months, receiving honorable discharge on account of disability, caused by severe service at the siege of Charleston, S. C., under Gen. Benham.

On returning home he sold his place and settled in Michigan, as stated. He married Eliza J. Boyd, who was born in Allegany Co., N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Pemberton have 12 children. Two of these, Cyrus and Joseph, are deceased. Those living are: Commodore C.; Hattie B., wife of E. J. Royce; Nellie E.; Orson C.; Susan, Mrs. Henry D. Hanson; Addie; Charles; U. S. Grant; William and Frank.

The family are active members of the M. E. Church, and Mr. Pemberton has always been identified with the Republican element.

**L**onzo C. Preston, farmer, on sec. 28, Hinton Tp., is a son of Chester A. Preston, a native of New York, and was born March 17, 1834. His parents came to Livingston Co., Mich., when he was about ten years old.

When he reached the age of 22 years he settled in Ingham Co., going eight years later to Shiawassee Co., and in the spring of 1866 he located in this township. He owns 41 acres of land, with 30 acres under the plow.

He was married Nov. 12, 1854, in Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., to Amanda A., youngest daughter of Joel and Hannah (Lyon) Newman, born June 3, 1834, in Plymouth. Her parents were born in New York, and were pioneers of Plymouth. Of nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Preston, five are living: Hannah A., born Sept. 3, 1855; Mary J., March 18, 1857; Mina A., June 20, 1861; Sarah E., Jan. 4, 1866; Orson B., March 2, 1874. The records of the

deceased are as follows: Ida J., born Dec. 23, 1858, died June 21, 1867; Cora A., born Feb. 3, 1864, and died June 25, '67; Lizzie M., born June 2, 1868, died June 27, 1869; Herbert C., born Feb. 6, 1870, died June 24, 1870. The parents are members of the Church of the United Brethren. Mr. Preston is a Republican, and has been School Director several years.



**Whitfield H. Peck**, farmer, sec. 28, Deerfield Tp., was born Sept. 11, 1848, at Newark, N. J., and, in 1852, when four years old, came with his parents, Enos and Harriet (Hurd) Peck, to Greenville, Montcalm Co., Mich., where they died. The father was a native of Connecticut, and the mother was born in New Jersey.

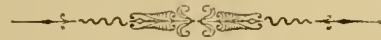
When Mr. Peck was ten years old he was sent back to the State of New York and remained with his uncle, F. B. Peck, ten years. He was then 20 years of age, and resolved upon prospecting to some extent before making a final location, and passed the next seven years at various points in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Illinois. He then came to Greenville and lived with his brother-in-law about six years. He came to Mecosta County Feb. 25, 1881.

Mr. Peck was married Jan. 28, 1880, to Alice J. daughter of George and Angeline (White) Stewart. Her father was born in New York and died June 17, 1882; her mother was born in New Hampshire and is now living with her daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Peck have one child, Enos G., born Nov. 2, 1881. Mr. Peck is independent in politics.



**Thomas Skelton**, of the firm of Skelton & Collins, proprietors of the Central Hotel at Big Rapids, was born at Guelph, Pr. of Ontario, Can., June 6, 1850. His parents became residents of Big Rapids March 7, 1868, and Thomas, then 17 years of age, entered the employ of G. F. Stearns, as store and farm assistant,

and continued in this capacity about 7 years; Jan. 1, 1875, he became proprietor of the National Hotel at Big Rapids, and in company with James McCormick, opened the house for public accommodation. The association continued until May, 1878. In November of that year he entered into a partnership with Richard Collins, and opened the Central Hotel, where they are still doing business. The house is conveniently situated; has 30 rooms, and secures a good transient patronage, besides accommodating a number of boarders, and keeps a sample room with liquors and cigars. He was elected Supervisor of the Second Ward in the spring of 1883. He was married Aug. 12, 1874, to Winnifred, daughter of Patrick and Mary Kelley, born at Hartland Center, this State, July 2, 1849. They have had four children, three of whom are living: Sarah L.; John A. (dec.); Mary W. and Arthur E.



**Edward Gensman**, farmer, sec. 33, Deerfield Tp., P. O., Morley, was born in Erie Co., N. Y., April 23, 1842. Adam Gensman, his father, was a German by birth and came to America when he was 14 years of age; married Abigail Churchill in New York, where she was born. They settled in Iowa in 1870, where they are still living.

Mr. Gensman remained under the care and guidance of his parents until the age of 18, when he went to Vermillion Co., Ill., and engaged as assistant in a cheese factory one year. His next remove was to Livingston Co., Mich., where he remained till 1870 then going to Hamilton Co., Iowa. He was there engaged in agriculture seven and one-half years, returning to Michigan in October, 1877, when he located in Deerfield Township and bought 40 acres of partly improved land, where he now resides. In politics Mr. Gensman is independent.

He was married in May, 1865, to Ann Grady, of English descent. She died, leaving one child,—Edmund, born Dec. 13, 1866. He was again married April 30, 1867, to Harriet, daughter of George and Sophia (Gage) Grady, the former a native of Eng-

land, the latter of New York. There are two children—Martha E., born May 5, 1868, and George M., Sept. 2, 1870.

**J**oseph Cahill, farmer, sec. 3, Aetna Tp., was born in Canada, Dec. 25, 1843. He is a son of James and Catherine (Lebo) Cahill, the former a native of Ireland, the latter of Canada, where they spent their lives. Mr. Cahill was reared to the pursuit of agriculture, and in 1863 came to Michigan and was employed as a farm laborer in Oakland County. A year later he went to Saginaw and was there on the river service, engaged in boating. He passed a year there, went back to Canada for a brief stay, and came to Mecosta County. He found employment in Aetna Tp., and until 1872 worked as a farm assistant and in the lumber woods. He bought 160 acres of unimproved land, paying therefor \$5.75 per acre. His first step toward improvement was the building of a frame house, and he now has 35 acres under a good degree of cultivation. Mr. Cahill has held the office of Constable one term, and is a member of the Greenback party. He was married in Grand Rapids, May 12, 1871, to Emma M., daughter of William and Mary A. (Plimpton) Mitchell. Her parents are natives of the State of New York, and reside in Michigan. Of this marriage four children have been born, viz: Mary A., June 27, 1873; Joseph W., July 13, 1877; Thomas O., May 18, 1882; Rosetta, April 1, 1879. Mr. C. and family are prominent in the Catholic Church.

**I**saac Sedore, farmer, on sec. 4, Deerfield Tp., was born in Canada, April 21, 1832. At 23 years of age he left his home and made his way westward, hoping to find an opportunity to build up his fortune with substantial profit. He came to Mecosta Co., and pre-empted 40 acres of Government land and 40 acres of swamp land, later buying an additional "40," of which he still retains possession, making a good farm of 120 acres with 60 improved.

Mr. Sedore is a pioneer of Deerfield Tp., and has been a resident of the county since 1857. He is a marked individual in the records of "first things" in his township, as his marriage was the initial event of that character to transpire after its settlement and organization. He was married in 1862, to Elizabeth, daughter of Franklin B. Smith, George Quigley, first white settler of Deerfield, performing the ceremony of marriage under his authority as Justice of the Peace. Mr. and Mrs. Sedore have six children: Susan, Wm. H., Phebe, David, Melvin and Evaline.

Mr. Sedore is a member of the Republican party. Religiously he is a liberalist.

He enlisted in the late war in 1864, in Co. A, Third Volunteer Michigan Infantry, served until the close of the war, and was honorably discharged.

**F**ranks J. Porter, proprietor of the shingle mill on sec. 27, Hinton Tp., is the son of Thomas and Sarah (Wilkinson) Porter. They were natives of New York and Vermont, first settling in Ohio, and afterward coming to Michigan and locating in Kent County. They now reside at Grand Rapids.

Mr. Porter was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Feb. 27, 1849. He was five years old when his parents came to Michigan, and he remained at home until he was 16 years of age, attending the common schools. After that, until 1876, he was chiefly employed in different shingle mills in this section of country. From 1876 to 1879 he operated the lath mill of Bernard & Stewart, at Caldwell, Montcalm Co., employing the help, etc. In 1879 he bought a shingle mill at Lakeview, which he managed one year, and in 1880 moved it to Hinton Tp., where he now resides and manages his mill, which has a capacity of 40,000 shingles daily. He bought the timber on 400 acres of land, which he is converting into shingles.

Mr. Porter was married Feb. 28, 1869, in Spencer, Kent Co., to Ella, daughter of Ephraim and Eliza (Lillie) Skinner, who died Feb. 19, 1872. Mr. Porter was again married in November, 1874, in Greenville, Montcalm Co., to Minerva Brown, a native of the State of New York. Of four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Porter, two survive—Adda V., born July 9, 1876.

and Anna A., born June 22, 1878. The deceased were Thomas E. and Frank. The latter died Sept. 23, 1882. In politics Mr. Porter is identified with the Republican party.

**William H. Squier**, jeweler at Big Rapids, was born in Vermontville, Eaton Co., Mich., July 9, 1857. He is a son of Geo. W. and Sophronia (Dickenson) Squier. His father has been a farmer most of his life; was Treasurer of Eaton County six years, and is dealer in agricultural implements at Charlotte. Wm. H. was reared on the farm of his father until the age of 16, when the latter removed with his family to Charlotte, where the son took a course of commercial instruction. He then obtained a situation with J. N. Thrift, to learn the business which he decided to make his calling in life, and remained three years, going thence to the employ of W. W. Childs, of Jackson, and a few months later returned to his former employer, where he remained but a short time. His next transfer was to Hastings, where he was in the jewelry establishment of Ike Hendershott & Co. three years. In June, 1880, he came to Big Rapids and founded his business, which he has since operated successfully, and is gradually building up a permanent and substantial trade. His stock of watches, clocks, jewelry, etc., is valued at \$8,000; annual transactions, \$20,000. Mr. S. was married at Hastings, Nov. 20, 1880, to Stella Hendershott, who was born in Irving, Barry Co., this State. They have one child, Gertrude, born Dec. 24, 1882.

**John B. Merrill**, Morley, was born Feb. 15, 1833, in the State of New York. His parents, Waite and Minerva (Whiting) Merrill, were natives of New York. Mr. Merrill remained in his native state until he was 28 years old, and in the autumn of 1863, came to Newaygo County, and soon after to Mecosta County, and bought 80 acres of land in Deerfield. This he sold in a short time, and has since been en-

gaged in real estate brokerage to a considerable extent. He owns about 50 acres of land, with some degree of improvements thereon. In company with J. W. Arnett, he has charge of the feed store, lumber interests, etc., of J. M. Carr of Grand Rapids. He has been Justice of the Peace ten years, County Superintendent four years, and been the incumbent of nearly all the local offices of his township. He has been a member of the Masonic Order for 17 years, and in the society of Odd Fellows has held all the posts of the lower order, and passed through the Camp. In politics he is a Republican.

Mr. Merrill was married in the State of New York, April 18, 1860, to Eliza Ann, daughter of Amos A. L. and Ann Tuttle, natives of Vermont, where she was born Nov. 17, 1833. Mr. and Mrs. Merrill have had three children, two of whom are living: Mahala, born Oct. 29, 1866, and Alma, July 31, 1869. Everett, was born Jan. 9, 1863, and died May 17, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Merrill are earnest and prominent members of the M. E. Church. Mr. M. has been a Class, leader for some time, and is considered a consistent and valuable member of society.

**Emuel F. Chipman**, deceased, was the son of Fitch and Sarah (Spafford) Chipman, natives of Vermont, and was born in 1811. He came to Michigan when a young man, and very shortly afterwards, in the spring of 1860, came to Mecosta County. He had no assistance in setting out in life and fortune had not been propitious. He secured 40 acres of land under the State law of Michigan, built a log house and, assisted by his wife, who lent every aid within her power, passed the career of a pioneer in every sense. The county was scarcely in an organized state, supplies were remote and the labor of clearing the land burdensome; but it was all borne with the patient heroism which always marks the sturdy pioneer element. Mr. Chipman's death occurred Jan. 24, 1863.

He was married in the State of New York in 1830, to Eliza, daughter of Solomon and Anna (Chapman) Sutherland. She lived but a few years, and he was again married, at Genoa, Livingston Co., Mich., May 1, 1849, to Cynthia E., daughter of J. M. and





Asa Brockway.



Cynthia (Fisher) Abbey, born in New York, Sept. 11, 1824. Five of six children are living. They were born as follows: Alta, April 16, 1852; Alexander M., May 5, '54; Lillian E., June 31, '56; Bertha L., March 31, '58; Lemuel F., June 20, '60. Ida Belle was born Aug. 24, '63, and died Sept. 3, '64. Mrs. Chipman resides on the place upon sec. 25 where she came with her husband and located many years ago. She received a good education in the common schools and seminary at Ann Arbor, and though not a communicant in any Church is a consistent Christian lady.

**W**m. J. Wadsworth, lumberman and farmer, sec. 32, Mecosta Tp. (P. O., Stanwood), was born in Belmont Co., Ohio, May 1 1838. His parents, Josiah and Anna G (Parker) Wadsworth, were of English and Irish descent, and natives of New York, early becoming residents of Ohio. His father abandoned the family, and his mother married again before he was 15 years old. At that age he went out into the world for himself. His first employ was as a driver on the canal, which he followed until the fall of 1854, then engaging as hotel clerk; this position affording him a little leisure, he attended school and secured a moderate amount of education. Leaving his situation, he was employed as a farm laborer in Venango Co., Penn., there operating until 1865. In the winter of that year he acted as a teamster, next embarking in lumber trade and farming.

He was married Oct. 16, 1859, to Delia A., daughter of William and Permelia (Hancock) Jay, natives of New York, and lineal descendants of the Jays and Hancocks, of Revolutionary fame. Mrs. Wadsworth was born in Lorain Co., Ohio, Oct. 6, 1843. Her uncle took her to Pennsylvania when she was a mere girl. After his marriage Mr. Wadsworth was interested in oil speculation until the civil war broke out. July 16, 1861, he enlisted in the Third Reg. U. S. Cav., under Lieut. Spaulding. Soon after enlistment he broke his arm and was discharged from the service. As soon as he was sufficiently recovered to warrant the step, he enlisted again, enrolling Aug 11, 1862, in the 142d Pennsylvania Reg. Vol. Inf., Co. I, Capt. Hasson. During the time of his service he was under fire at Fredericks-

burg, Chancellorsville and at Fredericksburg second, and Gettysburg, escaping unharmed. He received his final discharge, Aug. 30, 1865.

He returned to Oil City, and thence to Ohio, where he rejoined his wife and went back to the oil regions, where he was engaged in shipping oil until the summer of 1866. He returned again to Ohio and was engaged two years in farming, then coming to Michigan and finding a home in Mecosta Tp., in the fall of 1868. He at once entered heartily into the business of lumbering, and the next year homesteaded a tract of 90 acres of land, where he has since operated as stated.

Mr. Wadsworth is a zealous and active Republican. He has held various township and school offices. Himself and wife are members in full standing of the Free Methodist Church. They have six children, born as follows: William, June 8, 1862; Myrtle G., July 14, 1864; Edith N., April 18, 1868; Percy J., April 26, 1873; Lester V., Sept. 8, 1875, and Harley A., March 10, 1883.

**B**sa Brockway, farmer, resident on sec. 20, Hinton Tp., is the son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Rossman) Brockway, natives of Pennsylvania, where the son was born, June 16, 1830.

When Mr. Brockway was quite young his parents moved to the State of New York, and there he resided until he was 19 years old. In the summer of 1849 he came to Michigan and settled in Livingston County. Six years later he sold his farm and came to Mecosta County, where he bought 80 acres of wild land in Hinton Tp., on which he now lives. The place is in fine condition, having 75 acres under cultivation. In politics Mr. B. is a Democrat and has held offices of trust in township and school affairs.

He is a pioneer of Mecosta County, having come here in 1855, five years before the organization of the township. His father, Andrew Brockway, was for some years the oldest resident living in the township.

Mr. Brockway was married in Washtenaw County, Oct. 9, 1855, to Lydia S., daughter of Samuel and Rhoda (Vanvelzer) Eaton. Mrs. Brockway was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., Feb. 10, 1836. Four children were born of this marriage, as follows:

Eva M., Nov. 6, 1856; Emma E., April 16, 1857; Andrew S., July 21, 1861; Ida M., March 18, 1863. We give a portrait of Mr. Brockway in this work.

**W**ilas Wright, farmer, sec. 7, Deerfield Tp., was born in Pennsylvania Dec. 29, 1843. His parents, John and Sarah (Evers) Wright, were also natives of the Keystone State, and in 1863 came to Barry Co., Mich., and a short time afterwards to Allegan County, where the father died soon after, and the mother is yet living.

Our subject received a common-school education and resided with his parents until the age of 27 years. He enlisted Oct. 16, 1862, in the 169th Pennsylvania Vol. Infantry, and received his discharge in July, '63, leaving the army with health much impaired by sickness and exposure. In '70 he left Allegan County and came to Mecosta County, where he bought 80 acres of timber land and upon it built a frame house, proceeding to clear and improve his land, of which he now has 50 acres under tillage.

He was married in Canada, March 29, '71, to Sarah T., daughter of James and Amelia B. Bell, *nee* Ax-ford, the former a native of England, and the latter of New Jersey. They have three children—Frank M., Harry D. and Nora E., born respectively Feb. 23, '72, Oct., 10, '75 and July 4, '78. Mr. Wright is an adherent of the Democratic party.

**J**ohn R. Campbell, boot and shoe merchant at Big Rapids, was born in DeWitt Co., Ill., May 1, 1856. His parents, Barzillai and Rosanna (Sackett) Campbell, went to La Cygne, Kan., in 1865, where they engaged in farming, and became prominent in the social and political circles of that section, Mr. Campbell, Sr., being elected in 1877 to represent his district in the State Legislature.

The first business venture of Mr. Campbell was that of jobbing in canned goods at wholesale at Kan-

sas City, Mo.; after three months he went to New Brunswick, N. J., and officiated one year as book-keeper for the Home Valley Preserving Company. He then went to Indiana, where he engaged in the insurance business. In May, 1882, he came to Big Rapids and formed a partnership with P. Wait, in the sale of boots and shoes, which connection was dissolved Aug. 1, 1883, Mr. Campbell buying his partner's interest. His stock is valued at \$4,500, and his business transactions amount to \$1,200 monthly.

Mr. Campbell was married at South New Brunswick, N. J., Oct. 24, 1882, to Julia Van Deventer, who was born in New Jersey, Oct. 23, 1862.

**M**artin E. Wilson, farmer, sec. 25, Deerfield Tp., was born in Genesee Co., N. Y., July 21, 1836. His parents, Warren and Naomi (Smead) Wilson, were natives of Vermont, but located in Genesee County in 1836. Four years later they settled in Ingham Co., Mich., where the mother still resides on the farm which was her first home in the Peninsular State. The father died April 10, 1877.

Mr. Wilson passed his boyhood and youth on the farm under the personal care of his parents, and at 18 went to Newaygo County, where he spent the winter months in lumbering and the remainder of the years was engaged in "breaking." In the spring of 1861 he came to Mecosta County and bought 80 acres of land, where he still resides. His land was then in a state of nature and he proceeded to put it in proper and comfortable condition for a home for his advanced years. He has 70 acres cleared and under tillage.

Mr. Wilson was one of the earliest settlers of Deerfield, and, from his integrity and constant zeal for the best interests of the public, has become a valuable and trusted citizen of the township. He has been Justice of the Peace 20 years. In '64 he was drafted into the Union service and assigned to the Fourteenth Mich. Vol. Inf., and was discharged at Detroit, July 10, '65, after ten months' active duty at Savannah, Brier Creek, and Bentonville, N. C., under Sherman. His regiment was mustered out at Louisville, Ky.

He was married in 1859 to Anna Chipman, who

was born in Livingston Co., Mich., and died in '73. Two of the three children born to them are living,—Naomi A. and Adelbert E. George is deceased. Mr. Wilson again entered into the bonds of matrimony in '74. He married Eunice L. Royce, a native of Tioga Co., Pa. They have five children: Vernon R., Martin O., Alice M. and Helen. An infant child is unnamed. Mr. Wilson is a Republican.



**J**ohn G. Gill, junior member of the firm of Roben, Bennett & Gill, insurance, real-estate and loan agents, at Big Rapids, was born in Cornwall, Eng., Jan. 8, 1838. His parents, Richard and Mary (Glanville) Gill, were natives of Cornwall, born respectively in 1800 and in 1802. They came to the United States in 1842, and went to Hannibal, Mo., and two years later to Illinois. They bought a small farm near Galena, where the father also became interested to a considerable extent in lead mines. Mr. Gill there obtained his elementary education, and at 14 years of age became a clerk in a dry-goods store, where he was employed one year. At 15 he went to Madison, Wis., and commenced a course of study in the scientific department of the University, remaining three years. Returning to Illinois, he passed four successive winters in teaching. He acted as clerk on the Mississippi river steamers two summers, and finally entered a claim of Government land in Kansas, which he improved to some extent.

In 1860 he went to Colorado and commenced staking claims near the "Gregory" mines. The spring following he went to Delaware Flats, Breckenridge Co., and worked out a placer mine in the summer of 1861. He was in company with James McAllister, and continued his operations until the summer of 1862. At that date he formed a partnership with L. W. Woodruff, and went to Bannock City, Montana, where they were among the earliest comers. Here they took up a bar claim, which proved an advantageous project. They went thence to the site of Virginia City, and assisted in platting the city, of which they owned one seventh. They then went to Bevins' Gulch, where they again en-

gaged in successful claim traffic, and in addition established a freight train to and from different points across the plains, consisting of 24 teams of six yoke of oxen each. They managed this latter enterprise two years. The winters of 1863-4-5 they spent in eastern cities, negotiating mining property. Mr. Gill next went to Des Arc, Prairie Co., Ark., and in company with his brother, R. G. Gill, engaged in the cotton trade. Two years later he went to Kansas, and bought another farm near the locality of his first agricultural investment, which, on leaving Kansas for Colorado, he had transferred to Mrs. Mary Elwell, his sister. He remained in Kansas until 1875, when he sold his farm and came to Big Rapids, and, associated with C. B. Lovejoy, founded a grocery firm styled Gill & Lovejoy. In 1877 the latter sold his interest to N. H. Beebe, and the new firm continued to transact the most extensive business of the kind in the city, until May 1, 1883, doing an annual business of \$60,000. In June, 1883, he entered the house of Roben & Bennett as partner.

Mr. Gill was married in Lynn Co., Kan., Jan. 25, 1868, to Laura E., daughter of Hon. Barzillai and Rosanna Campbell, who was born in Clinton, Ill., March 19, 1850. They have three children—Cora E., Lewis C. and John G.



**L**ewis Russell, proprietor of the shingle mill on sec. 4, Hinton Tp., is a son of Morris and Calista Russell, and was born at Glens Falls, Warren Co., N. Y., March 27, 1849. His parents are natives of Canada, where they now reside. At the age of 13 Mr. Russell went to work on a farm, and was in the employ of one man three years. His next employment was in a cotton mill in Massachusetts, where he remained nearly two years, and a part of the time officiated as second foreman of the mill. He went back to the Empire State, where he passed a year working on a farm, and spent the year following on a farm in Vermont. In 1868 he went to Wisconsin, where he commenced his career as a manufacturer of shingles, which has since been his vocation. After operating four years in the Badger State, in the summer of 1872

he came to Montcalm County and there remained nine years. In the summer of 1881 he came to this county and located in the township of Martiny, where he bought and ran a shingle mill one year. He removed his works to Hinton Tp., in the fall of 1882, where he is now operating and employs 13 men. The daily product of the mill is 40,000 shingles.

Mr. Russell was married May 28, 1872, in Greenville, Montcalm Co., to Isabella, third daughter of Colin and Elizabeth (McCarthy) McIntyre. Her parents were natives of Scotland and settled in Canada, where the daughter was born Sept. 23, 1854. They came to Michigan about 1867, and have since died. Mr. and Mrs. Russell have had four children: Howard H., born March 3, 1873; Winnie L., born Aug. 12, 1875; Harry H., March 20, 1879, and Bessie L., Sept. 27, 1882. Mr. Russell is a member of the order of Masonry and in politics is a Republican.

**Ucius L. Osgood**, general merchant at Big Rapids, was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., Aug. 22, 1834. His father, Lebbeus Osgood, died when he was about 12 years old, and his mother, Philene Osgood, removed to Penn Yan, Yates Co., N. Y., and there Mr. Osgood learned the shoemaker's trade. He enlisted in the service of the United States to quell the Rebellion, in the second year of the civil war, enrolling Oct. 3, 1862, in Co. C, 44th N. Y. Vol. Inf., as a private soldier, and served until the termination of the war. He was in action at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Mine Run, Gettysburg, all the battles of the Wilderness, and at Cold Harbor, where he received a severe gunshot wound in the left hip. He was sent to Little York Hospital, Pa., where he was laid up 11 months. He obtained his discharge at Little York, May 15, 1865. He remained there, and commenced as a dealer in groceries and operated about two and one half years.

In 1867 he came to Big Rapids, and soon afterward began to sell groceries in the upper part of the city. In 1873 he relinquished his trade and bought a farm containing 60 acres near Paris, Newaygo Co. After carrying on agriculture about two and one-half

years, he sold his place and came back to Big Rapids opened a grocery, and in 1880 located on his present site, where he is doing a safe and substantial business. His stock represents a value of \$3,000, and his annual sales amount approximately to \$18,000.

He was married at Little York, Pa., Jan. 21, 1866, to Mary, daughter of Lawrence and Ricca Markley, born at Little York, Jan. 13, 1844. Mr. and Mrs. Osgood have been the parents of four children, as follows: Lucy P. (dec.), Edwin L., Mary J. and Essie I. Mr. Osgood is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He owns his residence and a city lot.

**Charles Hinman**, farmer, on sec. 14, Hinton Tp., is a son of Curtis and Almira (De Witt) Hinman, who were natives of the Empire State, and went thence to Pennsylvania, coming afterward to Michigan; they first settled in Oakland Co., but soon after moved to Clinton Co., where they died. Mr. Hinman was born in Oakland Co., Mich., Oct. 23, 1838. He attended school and worked on his father's farm until the age of 22 years, then leased the farm of his grandfather for two years. The element of war was then abroad in the land, and the patriotic blood that courses in the veins of every man who loves his country beat high to act or die for the integrity of the Union. Mr. Hinman enlisted Aug. 11, 1862, in the 23d Michigan Vol. Inf., and was in the service till the close of the war, receiving honorable discharge June 27, 1865, at Washington, D. C. Among the engagements where he was under fire, were the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania C. H., Cold Harbor, and at the siege of Petersburg. He was captured at the battle of the Wilderness, but was at once paroled. In that engagement, while storming the defenses of the enemy, he met with an accident that disabled him for several weeks. After the war he went to his home in Ionia Co. and resumed the pursuit of agriculture. After a residence of 12 years he sold his farm and went to Clare Co. He purchased 160 acres of land, which he sold four years later, came to Millbrook, Mecosta Co., and bought the hotel property known as the Rowland House, which he soon afterward exchanged for another hotel

located at Sylvester, Mich. He managed this one year, and exchanged it for 40 acres of land on sec. 26, Hinton Tp. About the same time he rented a farm near Sylvester, which he managed two years, and in the spring of 1880 purchased 40 acres of land, where he now lives. He has placed it under good cultivation, and erected convenient commodious buildings.

In political sentiment Mr. Hinman belongs to the Democratic party, and is a member of the Order of Masonry. He has been Highway Commissioner two years, and School Director three years. He was married in Clinton Co., Mich., June 24, 1860, to Eliza, eldest daughter of Wm. C. and Eliza (Bullard) Ratcliffe, who were of English nativity and came to America in 1841, settling in the State of New York, where the mother died; the father came to Michigan to live with his children, and died in Ionia Co. Mrs. Hinman was born in England, Nov. 5, 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Hinman have had six children, three survive: Stella E., born Oct. 7, 1866; Guy C., July 2, 1872; Alma A., Sept. 20, 1874. In this, as in many other families in Mecosta Co., the diphtheria made cruel ravages. Ella G., born July 23, 1861, died Oct. 20, 1881. She was married and left a son four years old. Fred I., born March 18, 1863, died Oct. 19, 1881, one day preceding the demise of his sister; Rae A., born Jan 22, 1869, died Dec. 22, 1881.

**J**ohn Hunter, farmer, sec. 30, Mecosta Tp., was born in Montreal, Dec. 13, 1852. His parents, Robert and Sarah (Curry) Hunter, were born in Ireland, of Scotch parentage, and were there married, coming shortly after the event to Canada.

Mr. Hunter began his battle of life at 16 years of age, in Essex Co., N. V., whither his parents removed. His first employ was as a lumberman, working with a contractor who was "putting in" timber on the Hudson River, and remained until the winter of 1873, when he returned to Montreal. Meanwhile his father and family had removed to Mecosta County, and he came hither to Big Rapids, and found speedy employ as a lumberman winters, and a farm hand summers, alternating these occupations three years. His father and mother, resident on sec. 30, Mecosta

Tp., died, and he succeeded to his share of the estate. In 1879 he bought 40 acres of wild land in Goodwin Tp., Newaygo Co.

He is an earnest Republican, is the present School Moderator, and in religious faith a Presbyterian.

**S**ylvester H. Gray, senior member of the firm of S. H. Gray & Co., manufacturers of lumber, lath and shingles, at Big Rapids, was born at Jersey Shore, Lycoming Co., Pa., Feb. 3, 1846. His parents were Hiram T. and Susan (Minsker) Gray. At the age of 16 he was sent to Wyer's Military Academy, Westchester, Pa. The school was under the management of Major Echendorf, a graduate from West Point, whose pupils gained unusual proficiency, and a considerable degree of public notoriety for drill exhibitions in various places. Mr. Gray was a member of Company B, with the rank of Orderly Sergeant. On completing his course of study he went to Williamsport in the employ of Slonaker, Howard & Co. as book-keeper and partner. The business of the house was heavy and prosperous, and the relation existed until 1873. In that year Mr. Gray came to Big Rapids, and the partnership of Phippen, Gray & Howard was formed. The concern operated in logs, lumber and pine lands until Nov., 1878, doing a successful business.

At the date named the present business relation of S. H. Gray & Co. was established. The house is engaged in extensive and prosperous operations. They own a saw-mill on the lower dam, east of the river, where they have a lumber yard and employ 20 hands; they also own a shingle mill on the west side of the river, above the lower bridge, where 35 men constitute the laboring force. They make 18-inch shingles which they kiln dry, being thereby enabled to facilitate shipping. They manufacture about 20,000,000 annually, and sell chiefly in Eastern markets. The shingles of their make, known to the trade as the 18-inch XXXX, are among the best products in that line. The business of the firm also includes logs, lumber and pine lands.

Mr. Gray was married at Grand Rapids, June 16, 1875, to Antha, daughter of Wm. S. and Margaretta

(Hill) Gray, born in Freeport, Ill., April 8, 1849. They have one son, Vivian, born at Big Rapids, Nov. 17, 1876.

Mr. Gray is a stockholder and director in the Northern National Bank, is Secretary and Treasurer in the Big Rapids Boom Co., and Secretary of the Big Rapids Water-Power Improvement Company.



**J**ohn G. Potter, farmer, sec. 22, Austin Tp. (P. O. Stanwood), was born in Niagara Co., N. Y., Nov. 9, 1849. His parents, Russell and Emmeline C. (Grover) Potter, were natives of New York.

Mr. Potter was reared as a farmer's son, sent to the common schools and trained as farm assistant until he was 22 years old. In 1872 he came to Mecosta County and bought the homestead property of his father-in-law, William H. Olin, about 1877, comprising 40 acres of improved land.

He was married March 9, 1872, to Susan B., daughter of William H. and Lydia (Corey) Olin, born in Chemung Co., N. Y., April 9, 1854. Her parents were natives of New England.

Mr. and Mrs. Potter have had six children, two of whom are deceased: Stella E., born Aug. 20, 1874, died May 10, 1876; and Alberta, born Aug. 3, 1879, died Oct. 13, 1879. The living children were born in the order named: Florence E., March 28, 1873; Gracie E., July 6, 1877; Claude E., July 13, 1880, and Harry J., July 28, 1882.

Mr. Potter is a Democrat in political faith and action, and is the present Supervisor of the township.



**R**semus Gross, farmer, sec. 28, Deerfield Tp., P. O. Morley, was born in New Lisbon, Otsego Co., N. Y. His parents were natives of the same State. His mother, Nancy (Patrick) Gross, died in the fall of 1843; his father, Ellis Gross, resides in Steuben Co., N. Y.

At the age of 15 Mr. Gross went to Pennsylvania,

where he engaged in farming and lumbering three years, and then obtained work on the Erie Canal. On the outbreak of the rebellion of the Southern States he enlisted in the Thirty-fourth N. Y. Vol. Inf., and served two years, the full period for which he enrolled, and received an honorable discharge. He was in the engagement at Gaines' Mills, Antietam, Fairfax Court-House and in the battle of the Wilderness. On his discharge he returned to Pennsylvania and at once proceeded to Mecosta Co., Mich., and bought 40 acres of land in Deerfield Tp. It was then in a wild condition, but he has nearly his entire acreage in a good state of cultivation, and lately improved by a new frame house. Mr. Gross adheres to the principles advocated by the Democratic party.

He was married Oct. 22, 1869, to Jeannette, daughter of Alanson and Esther A. (Hedges) Rickar. Her parents are natives of New York and came to Mecosta County in the winter of 1865. Mrs. Gross was born May 22, 1849. To Mr. and Mrs. Gross three children were born, as follows: Alphonso G., Aug. 22, 1870; Ella A., June 14, 1873; Mabel A., Dec. 24, 1878.



**I**iram H. Slawson, furniture dealer at Big Rapids, was born in Orange Co., N. Y., March 30, 1810. He was reared on a farm, and at the age of 16 learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, and afterward that of cabinet-maker, and has since been engaged alternately in their prosecution.

Mr. Slawson came to Michigan in the fall of 1848, and worked in a furniture establishment at Grand Rapids about two years, going at the end of that time to Greenville, Montcalm Co., where he was engaged in the furniture business about 20 years. He next transferred his interests to Cedar Springs, Kent Co., and in April, 1882, he came to Big Rapids and purchased the stock and fixtures of E. A. Knight, and is now operating with a fair degree of success.

Mr. Slawson was married in Seneca Co., N. Y. Jan. 1, 1835, to Eusebia, daughter of John and Mary Fleming, born in Seneca Co., Nov. 26, 1811. They have had the following named children: Henry, Charles and Morrison, farmers, near Greenville;

William, who is deceased; Newell S., an attorney at Cedar Springs several years, and who died in Marshall, Texas, in March, 1882; Mary, wife of Joseph B. Hammond, a grocer, in Ionia Co.; Will T., a reporter on the *Pioneer Magnet*, and a practical printer. Mr. Slawson owns a residence and lot on Henderson Street, two houses with lots at Cedar Springs; also five vacant lots at that place. The family are members of the Congregational Church.



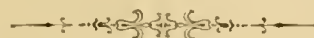
**B**enjamin F. Rathvon, senior member of the firm of Rathvon Bros., proprietors of the Mecosta Planing Mill, was born at Bertie, Welland Co., Pr. of Ont., Can., Feb. 8, 1848. He is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Rathvon. The father was a carpenter, and died when Benjamin was seven years of age. The mother removed to Springfield, Elgin Co., Ont., where she was again married, to Reuben Johnson, a magistrate of that place.

Mr. Rathvon returned to Welland County when he was 13 years of age, and was a member of the household of his uncle, a farmer, three years. He then went to Ridgeway, same county, and engaged with Eben Cutler to learn carpentering. He spent five years acquiring his trade, then went back to Springfield, where he operated as a builder three years, going thence to St. Thomas, and there followed the same occupation. In September, 1880, he came to Ionia, and connected his fortunes with those of his brother Charles, and at the end of a year they came to Mecosta village and built their planing mill, at a cost of nearly \$4,000. They usually employ ten men, and are doing a first-class business, with gratifying success. They combine building with lumbering interests. They expect to add machinery for making sash, doors, and also furniture. Mr. Rathvon is a member of the A. O. U. W.

He was married May 29, 1871, to Emma A., daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Gilbert, born June 15, 1850, in Southold Tp., Elgin Co., Can. Their two children were born as follows: Lewis E. O., at St. Thomas, Can., April 16, 1874; Ilau M., in Springfield, Elgin Co., Oct. 15, 1875.

**M**ichael Keegan, farmer, sec. 12, Hinton Tp., is a son of James and Lucy (Perent) Keegan, and was born in Van Buren, Aroostook Co., Maine, April 9, 1848. His father was a native of Ireland and his mother of Canada. They were among the earliest settlers in the section of Maine, where they located and reared their family.

At the age of 15, Mr. Keegan and his brother James came to East Saginaw, Mich., and there found employment on the river and in the pines one and a half years. He went thence to Stillwater, Minn., and there engaged in the same business 18 months. He returned to Saginaw for a brief time, and soon after came to Mecosta County, and bought 40 acres of forest land exclusively his own and, associated with another person, purchased an additional 20 acres. He operated as a lumberman until 1871, when he began to improve his land, and soon after added 40 acres, making his homestead 80 acres in all, of which 60 acres are now under tillage with suitable and commodious farm buildings. Mr. Keegan was united in marriage, in this township, Feb. 4, 1872, to Mary, daughter of William and Sarah (Whitney) Cross and widow of Joseph Moulton. The father was a native of England and the mother of Maine; they now reside with Mr. and Mrs. Keegan. In politics Mr. Keegan is a Republican.



**L**arence W. Parks, senior member of the hardware firm of Parks Bros., and member of the Council of Mecosta, Morton Tp., was born in Lyons Tp., Oakland Co., Mich., May 18, 1855. He is a son of William R. and Ann E. (Dunlap) Parks. His parents removed in March, 1864, to Easton Tp., Ionia Co., and there bought 120 acres of land, residing thereon two years; they then went to Keene Tp., Ionia Co., and became the owners of 80 acres of land. C. W. Parks rented this property in 1877, and managed it three years. He came to Mecosta in 1880, in company with C. H. Taylor, to engage in mercan-

tile pursuits; and they founded a hardware trade. Their relation continued one year, Mr. C. H. Taylor selling his interest to M. F. Strong, of Saranac, who, one year later sold in turn to Robert D. Parks. The building which they occupy was bought by the senior member of the firm, and Mr. Strong. It is 20 x 60 feet in dimensions; the main store with one adjoining, 24 x 36 feet, is utilized for a tin-shop, store-room, etc. The present firm was established Feb. 1, 1883, and are doing a prosperous business, carrying a stock of about \$8,000, including hardware, stoves, tinware, sash, doors, crockery, etc., with annual sales of about \$25,000. Mr. Parks was elected member of the Village Council in the spring of 1883; he also belongs to the A. O. U. W.

He was married in Vergennes, Kent Co., Mich., Sept. 28, 1881, at the residence of the bride's father, to Agnes E., daughter of Sidney E. and Almira Hoag, who was born May 7, 1852, and was reared on a farm until her marriage. Sidney Hoag's father was a prosperous farmer, and one of the pioneers of Vergennes.

**J**ames Davis, farmer, on sec. 29, Austin Tp., was born in Wales, July 9, 1816. He is a son of Thomas and Ann (Howell) Davis, also born in Wales, where they lived and died. At the age of 16 Mr. Davis went to work as a farm laborer, and in the fall of 1840 was married to Martha, daughter of William and Maryett (Rogers) Harries. Mr. Davis and his wife at once settled on a farm, where they lived and labored until their removal to this country, in the fall of 1857, when they went to Quebec, Canada, thence to Newaygo Co., Mich., residing there two years. In the fall of 1859 they settled on the 40 acres, now their homestead, which they purchased in the earliest days of the township, of which they were among the pioneers.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have had seven children: Anna E., born Aug. 1, 1838; Edward R., July 7, 1842; William H., Jan. 28, 1844; David D., born Oct. 28, 1846, died in February, 1851; Thomas, born April 11, 1848, died in February, 1851; (these children died of scarlet fever;) Margaret, born March 12,

1850, died in March, 1854; M. Ellisor, born Aug. 24, 1854, died June 30, 1882.

The family attend the Congregational Church. Mr. Davis is liberal in his political views, and in his actions is independent of party issues.

**G**ottlob Vogg, farmer, sec. 18, Deerfield Tp., was born in Germany in 1834. He is a son of Christian Vogg and both his parents were of German birth.

He left the "Faderland" for the United States in '54 and stopped in New York (where he landed) two years. In '56 he went to Massachusetts and there remained 12 years, removing in '68 to Kalamazoo Co., Mich., and after a stay of two and one-half years came to this county. He soon after purchased 80 acres of land, in an uncultivated condition. His industry, thrift and perseverance have ever been manifested and his present circumstances are a significant evidence of what a man may do under the free institutions of this country. Sixty-five acres of his land are in first-class condition, and he is enjoying all the rewards he has so justly earned.

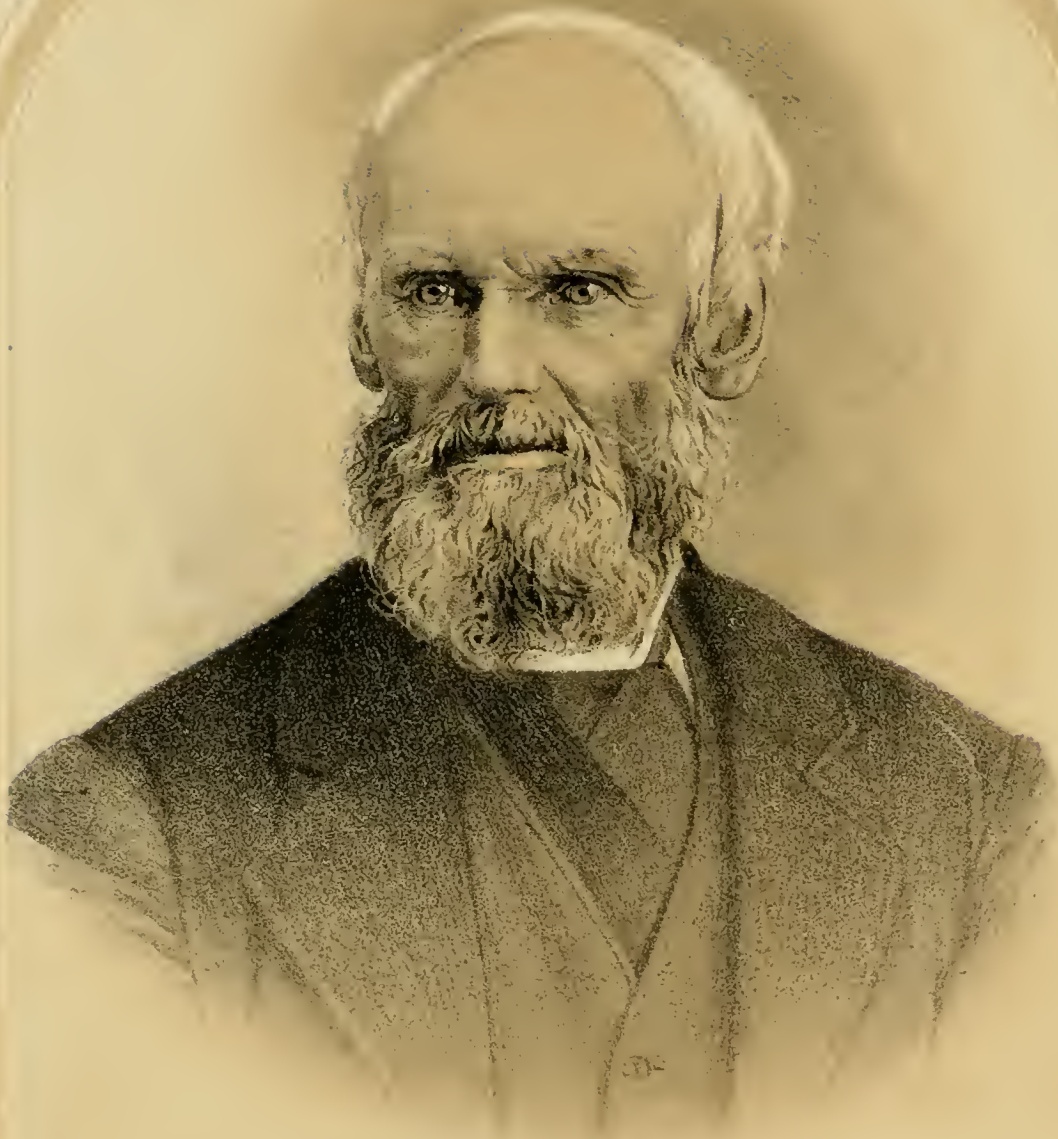
The subject of this sketch was married in '58, in the State of New York, to Friederika Krieger, a native of Germany. They have had eight children, six of whom are living: Friederika C., Geo. W., Henry C., Otto, Caroline and Flora. Lonisa and Paulina died in infancy.

Mr. Vogg is a member of the Lutheran Church and acts with the Republican party.

**W**illiam S. Gray, of the firm of S. H. Gray & Co., manufacturers of lumber, lath and shingles, at Big Rapids, was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., June 26, 1820. He is a son of Bethuel and Cornelia (Carter) Gray, and was brought up on a farm, attending school winters. He left home at 18, and attended the academies at Elmira and Corning.







*Samuel S. Mitchell.*

The first business experience of Mr. Gray was as clerk in a general store in Corning, Steuben Co., N. Y. He went two years later to Port Deposit, Cecil Co., Md., in the interests of a lumber firm, having charge of their sales and shipping, nine months. At the end of that time he went back to Corning and opened a mercantile house, operating as a lumber dealer in connection therewith, and managing a saw-mill near that place. He sold out at the expiration of two years and went to New York, where he was clerk in a store on Grand street, going thence to Ithaca, Tompkins Co., N. Y., and there attended the academy one year and taught one term of school. In 1845, he entered the office of Charles Coryell, M. D., and read medicine six months; thence he removed to Somerset, Lycoming Co., Penn., where he taught school three terms. He then went to Jersey Shore, in the same county, and studied with Dr. Hepburn two years, supplementing his office reading with one course of lectures at Philadelphia.

In 1848, Mr. Gray went to Rock Run, Stephenson Co., Ill., and was a medical practitioner there seven years, and engaged in mercantile business, wagon manufacturing and also in farming. He next went to Freeport, in the same county, and there served three terms as County Treasurer, and managed three stock farms—one of 640 acres, in Carroll County, and two others containing respectively 282 and 180 acres. He also owned a small farm near Freeport, and had a book store there which he owned about a year; he had also a store for the sale of furniture. These establishments were managed personally by parties employed for the purpose.

In 1865 he built a woolen mill, in company with Messrs. Rosenstiel & Sunderland, with which he was connected until 1874, and owned a general store and tailor shop at the same time. In 1876 he came to Big Rapids, and became a member of the firm with which he is at present connected. The company own a saw-mill on the east side of the Muskegon River, and a shingle-mill on the west side. Mr. Gray owns his residence, and is a stockholder in the National Bank, and in the Big Rapids Boom Company, and also is Director and President of the Big Rapids Water-Power Company; has served the municipality six years past as Alderman.

Mr. Gray was united in marriage, at Uniontown,

Penn., April 21, 1848, with Margaretta, the daughter of John and Margaretta Hill, born in Northumberland Co., Pa., Aug. 12, 1827. Their four children are all deceased save one. Antha, eldest daughter, born April 8, 1849, in Rock Run, Ill., is the wife of Sylvester H. Gray, senior member of the firm. (See sketch.) The others were Ida May, William B. and an infant child.

**S**amuel S. Mitchell, farmer and lumberman, resident on sec. 28, Hinton Tp., whose portrait we give in this Album, was born in Livingston Co., N. Y., June 5, 1819. He attended school winters and was engaged on his father's farm summers until 25 years of age.

At the age of 22 years he assumed entire charge of the family, which consisted of his parents, two brothers and a sister. His father and mother removed with their children to Allegany Co., N. Y., in 1829, and went thence to Steuben County. In the fall of 1844, Mr. Mitchell came to Livingston County, accompanied by his parents, and the family remained there together seven years, going thence to Newaygo County, where he left the father and mother in the personal care of his brother William; after this they resided together, Mr. Mitchell providing for their needs, until the last few years of their lives, when William Mitchell assumed entire care of them. Samuel S. remained in Newaygo County nearly 20 years, there owning a farm, which he managed in connection with lumbering until the spring of 1869. He then came to Mecosta County and bought 80 acres of wild land in Hinton Tp., with but few improvements. He now resides thereon and has about 25 acres under good improvement. Mr. Mitchell is independent in politics. He has held the office of Road Commissioner four years, and repeatedly been offered other positions of trust in his township, but has persistently declined. Himself and wife belong to the First-Day Adventists, and Mr. Mitchell belongs to the Order of Masons.

He was married in Livingston Co., Mich., Dec. 31, 1848, to Agnes, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Rossman) Brockway. Her parents were natives of

Pennsylvania, where she was born March 21, 1831. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell have had ten children, Harriet E., wife of Henry Monlter, born April 17, 1850; Helen E., wife of Luther Bemis, born Aug. 7, 1852; Robert P., born May 3, 1854; Charlotte A., wife of Alden Bailey, born Sept. 14, 1856; Kate, wife of John Right, born March 12, 1859; Clara, wife of Henry A. Mann, born Sept. 2, 1861; Annette, wife of Elbert Trall, born Nov. 4, 1863; Jessie D., born Dec. 25, 1865; Arthur, born April 10, 1868, and died April 17, 1868; Edgar D., born Aug. 17, 1869, died Oct. 31, 1871.

As a prominent and representative citizen of Mecosta County we give Mr. M's portrait in this Album.



**H**enry R. Gilmore, resident on sec. 34, Austin Tp., was born in Niagara Co., Ontario, Oct. 15, 1832, and is a son of Henry and Mary A. (Hartsell) Gilmore, who were natives respectively of New Jersey and Massachusetts, and were of German and Irish extraction.

Mr. Gilmore began at the age of 18 years to learn the carpenter's trade, devoting his leisure to study in the district school, and by dint of much exertion he managed to secure a fair education. He went into the country, where he pursued his trade some years, and was married to Elizabeth A., daughter of Alfred and Betsey (Cleveland) Butler. Her parents were natives of Maine, where Mrs. Gilmore was born in Somerset County, Feb. 17, 1831, going thence to Ontario, Can., with her parents and there resided until her marriage, May 14, 1851.

They settled in the town of Elgin, where Mr. Gilmore was busy with his trade till the spring of 1853, when they came to Newaygo County and settled on the Muskegon River, and there he followed his trade seven years. In 1860 they removed to Austin Tp., and Mr. Gilmore purchased 80 acres of land and devoted his attention to farming. The entire place is under cultivation.

Mr. Gilmore belongs to the National party and cast the first Greenback vote in the county. He has been Justice of the Peace 12 years, Highway Commissioner two years, and has been a member of the Sanitary Board some years, besides having held other offi-

ces. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore have been the parents of 12 children, six of whom are living. Following is their record: Franklin P. was born Nov. 1, 1852; James H., June 15, 1856; Angela M., May 13, 1858; Ulysses G., Oct. 17, 1864; Rosa L., Nov. 4, 1867; Marshall N., May 11, 1877; Sarah N., Dec. 1, 1862, died March 14, 1879. Five children died in early infancy. Mrs. Gilmore is a member of the M. E. Church.



**G**eorge Waldo, farmer on sec. 8, Mecosta Tp. (P. O. Big Rapids), was born in Springfield, Otsego Co., N. Y., Nov. 15, 1830. His parents, Samuel and Sally (Cowan) Waldo, were born in New York and Ireland respectively.

He accompanied his family to Ohio when five years old, and at nine years of age left home to engage as a stage driver, and pursued that calling seven years, driving continually on one route. In the fall of 1847 he came to Saginaw, Mich., and there engaged in lumbering six years, going in 1854 to Kent Co., where he was similarly occupied four years. His next remove was to Jackson, Mich., to work on a Government contract, and there operated until the wave of civil warfare swept over the land and for the time being obliterated private projects and aspirations. Mr. Waldo enlisted Oct. 19, 1861, in the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. His terms of enrollment entitled him to the position of road constructor, but he was in active service at Perryville, Ky., and Stone River, Tenn. and Shiloh. He was made Sergeant in 1862 and continued his services until he was discharged at Atlanta, Ga., in Oct., 1864.

He returned to Mecosta and has since been engaged in farming and lumbering. Soon after again settling in the township he bought 40 acres of land, on which he built the first house erected in this section. Mr. Waldo is a Democrat and has served several terms as Constable, with entire satisfaction.

He was married at Grand Rapids, April 29, 1846, to Mary J., daughter of John and Jane (Campbell) Smith. She died July 6, 1865, leaving one child, Charles W., born Jan. 10, 1861. Mr. Waldo was a

second time married Nov. 12, 1865, at Cedar Springs, Kent Co., to Mrs. Kate Wilcox, daughter of Samuel and Ruth (Acers) Skillman. She was born June 30, 1842, and was first married in 1859. Mr. and Mrs. Waldo have seven children, born in the following order: Orpha E., Feb. 6, 1867; Samuel, Aug. 26, 1868; Henry, March 9, 1871; George, March 18, 1873; Bertha, March 26, 1875; Alma, Aug. 13, 1877; Walter, May 15, 1880.



**F**dam Friedel, farmer, sec. 12, Morton Tp. (P. O., Mecosta), was born at Darmstadt, Germany, March 27, 1846. His parents left the "Faderland" when he was a lad, and located in Waterloo Co., Can., where they remained about seven years, and then came to Mecosta County in the year 1862, the first settlers in Mecosta. They made the journey hither *via* Ionia, Mich., and cut their way through the woods 15 miles. The father (Justus) entered a claim of 80 acres of land under the Homestead act. The selection of locality proved judicious, as the D., L. & N. R. R. traverses the entire width of the farm, and the enterprising village of Mecosta has been located one mile west. The primeval forest was in its original condition. The nearest inhabitants were two miles distant, located like themselves in a dense forest; their place of supply was Greenville, Montcalm Co., 40 miles away—solid woods intervening—and at Big Rapids, the civilization center of Mecosta County, the work of improvement was in its swaddling clothes. To the original 80 acres of land 40 acres have been added by purchase, and 80 acres are under the plow.

The "Vater und Mutter" are the central figures of the household. They have reached the respective ages of 73 and 72, retain their old country habits of early rising, and the wholesome hilarity that characterizes their race. "Shermany" is warmly remembered; but they rejoice in their prosperity here and the rapid strides of Mecosta County toward a fair rank with the other counties of the Peninsular State.

Mr. Friedel is now the proprietor and manager of the property described. He was married May 14,

1872, to Catherine, daughter of Sebastian and Christine Erich, a native of the same place with her husband, and was born June 20, 1852. She came to the United States in 1861. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Friedel six children have been born: Frederick W., George Adam, Louise Catherine, Maria, Adam Jacob and Ernest.

Mr. Friedel has officiated two terms as Treasurer of his township, has been Supervisor, and is now Highway Commissioner. He owns 25 head of good cattle, and five horses.



**J**ohn E. Harrington, farmer, sec. 12, Morton Tp., was born May 13, 1854, in Woodbridge Tp., Hillsdale Co., Mich., and is a son of John D. and Ellen S. (Sickler) Harrington. His mother died when he was seven years of age, and his father lived on the place in Woodbridge Tp., two years, then removed to Day Tp., Montcalm Co., Mich., where he bought a farm, and is now a resident of that township. J. C. Harrington found pioneer life somewhat distasteful, and went back to his native county, where he readily found employment, and was engaged until fall in farm labor, when he took advantage of an opportunity to work nights and mornings for his board, and go to school through the winter. This arrangement precluded the necessity of using his hard-earned wages, and he loaned his money at a fair percentage. In the spring he bought a cow, took her to Montcalm Co., and gave her to his father. In the spring of 1872 he went to Grand Traverse Co., Mich., where he bought 80 acres of land in a primeval condition, and began to clear a farm, working in true pioneer method. He built a log house 12 x 14 feet, covered it with hemlock bark, and secured a home (though it was little more than a shelter), of which he took possession with the utmost cheerfulness and courage.

He was married March 7, 1875, to Emily Stowell, daughter of Robert and Mary Stowell, who was born in Kent Co., Oct. 16, 1855; after which event he settled on a farm near Stanton, Montcalm Co., where he resided until June, 1882. At that date he purchased his present farm on sec. 12, in the village

of Mecosta, where he has made rapid progress in improvements, clearing away timber, cultivating the land, erecting farm buildings, and putting the place in the best possible state for farming. Although he has been resident but a year, the work accomplished seems incredible.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrington are the parents of five children: Cora E., born Feb. 14, 1876; Edith I., born Oct. 10, 1877; Ethel L., born June 23, 1879; Leona E., born Feb. 14, 1881; Edwin D., born Feb. 10, 1883.



**A**lvin Royce, farmer and carpenter, residing on sec. 34 of Deerfield Tp. (P. O., Morley), was born Aug. 28, 1817, in Charleston, N. H. He is a son of Lemuel and Eunice (Hoadley) Royce, natives of the "Old Granite State," where they lived all their lives. The father died at the age of 98.

Mr. Royce acquired a good education in the public schools of New Hampshire and attended the Newbury (Vt.) Seminary. He taught school winters and worked as a carpenter summers until of age. In the fall of 1845 he went to the State of Pennsylvania and labored as a carpenter and farm hand a number of years. He came to Deerfield, Mecosta Co., in the spring of 1865 and became the owner of 120 acres of land, all in an unimproved state. He erected a frame house, since his home, and at once entered upon the task of reclaiming his land. He retains but 40 acres of his original purchase, having disposed of 80 acres. His farm is all under tillage.

Mr. Royce was married to Mary J., daughter of Warren and Ruth (Hoag) Jenkins, natives of the State of New York, where her father still resides. Five of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. Royce are living—Eunice, Gertrude, Alice, Osmon C. and Elva. The name of the deceased child was Ida; she died aged one year.

Mr. Royce was a delegate to the first Republican Convention held in Tioga County for the purpose of organizing that political element within its limits, and has since been active in the interests of the

party. He has held several important positions in the affairs of his township.



**H**enry Hearn, farmer on sec. 20, Austin Tp. (P. O., Stanwood), was born in Oxfordshire, Eng., Oct. 1, 1834. He is a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Hearn) Hearn, both natives of England, where they lived and died.

Mr. Hearn remained at home only till he was seven years of age, when his boyish aspirations impelled him to go among strangers and secure what seemed to him the greatest boon on earth—personal liberty. He was variously employed until he was 20 years of age; the last year of this period he spent in the stables of English sporting men. In 1854 he came to the United States, landing at the city of New York and remaining there but a short time. He came on to the city of Detroit and found employ in the immediate vicinity as a farm laborer for 10 years. He then went to Shiawassee County, and thence to Austin Tp., in the spring of 1868, where he purchased 80 acres of land, and has since added 40 acres, making 120 acres of wild land, of which 60 acres are now under first-class improvements.

Mr. Hearn was married in England, May 15, 1855, to Mary, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Rolfe) Frost, both English by birth and inseparably wedded to their native country. The daughter was born Oct. 6, 1832. She accompanied her husband to the United States and went bravely through all the trials and privations of the pioneer days of the township. She died April 11, 1872, leaving a large family and a multitude of friends to mourn her irreparable loss. Her seven sons and daughters all survive her. Their record is as follows: Florence G. was born July 18, 1856; Mary E., Nov. 28, 1859; Sarah A., March 4, 1862; Alfred W., May 8, 1864; Edward H., June 15, 1866; Lucy E., Oct. 4, 1868; Martha T., Nov. 27, 1870.

Mr. Hearn and wife were members from youth of the Church of England, and Mr. Hearn is still an adherent to belief in its tenets. He is a Democrat and has always sustained the issues of his party.

**E**lson V. Adair, farmer and carpenter, sec. 6, Deerfield Tp., was born in the State of New York, Feb. 15, '46. He is a son of Henry and Mary (Vantyle) Adair, who was born in the State of New York, in Seneca Co., where the father died, Feb. 14, '81; the mother is still living, in the Empire State.

Mr. Adair remained an inhabitant of his native place until 1869, and in the spring of that year he came to Shiawassee Co., Mich., where during two years he followed his trade; coming thence to Mecosta Co., he bought 80 acres in the town of Deerfield. It was partly improved and has since been his homestead.

Mr. Adair was married in Seneca Falls, N. Y., Nov. 7, 1866, to Mary, daughter of Monzo and Rebecca (Woolsey) Randolph. Of this marriage one child was born—Henry R., Dec. 20, '69. The mother died in Mecosta Co., Dec. 20, '74, and Mr. Adair contracted a second marriage July 4, '77, at Big Rapids, to Emily H., daughter of Magnus and Christiana (Ashman) Ulrich. The parents of Mrs. Adair were natives of Germany. The family now includes two children,—Jennie H., born Dec. 9, '79, and Lillian M., May 18, '81. Mr. Adair is a Republican in political sentiment and has held the office of Supervisor two terms. Himself and family attend the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**E**lmer Bemis, farmer, resident on sec. 29, Hinton Tp., is a son of Aaron and Lovice (Holcomb) Bemis, the father a native of Springfield, Vt., and the mother, of the State of New York. Mr. Bemis was born in St. Clair Co., Mich., Oct. 9, 1843. He was thrown upon his own resources for support at 13 years of age, and was first employed as a carpenter's assistant; then for six years worked by the month. In December, 1861, he enlisted in Co. 1, Berdan's Sharpshooters, and after about eight months' service was discharged. On his return to private life he went to Ionia County,

and there remained about 18 months in quiet endeavor to recruit his health. He was then engaged in teaming for five years, then purchased 40 acres of land in Montcalm County, where he lived eight years. The financial stress of 1873 plunged him into misfortune, and in the winter of 1874, when he came to Mecosta County, he had scarcely a dollar. He toiled and persevered and in the fall of 1875 bought 40 acres of wild land. He has put the place in a fine state of cultivation, with good buildings. Besides the rest of his obligations, that he discharged in a becoming manner, was the support of his parents and sisters while in St. Clair County, where his father died. The mother is still living, in Montcalm County.

Mr. Bemis was married in this county, Oct. 16, 1873, to Helen E., daughter of S. S. and Agnes (Brockway) Mitchell, of Hinton Tp., who was born in Kent County, Aug. 7, 1852. Mr. Bemis is a Republican.

**S**imon G. Webster, County Treasurer, resident at Big Rapids, was born at Concord, Jackson Co., Mich., Aug. 24, 1843, and is son of Roswell and Harriet (Fownsend) Webster. He alternated farm labor summers with school duties winters until he was 16 years of age, and three years later came to Big Rapids. He found employment as a clerk and teamster, and at that period his and another team drew all the goods that were sold in Big Rapids, from Grand Rapids, *via* Newaygo, each trip consuming from a week to ten days. Mr. Webster was himself a driver for two years.

In February, 1864, he enlisted at Big Rapids, enrolling in Company M, 3d Michigan Cavalry, under Capt. Ives. The regiment was detailed for special service among the bushwhackers of the West, and proceeded thence to Texas, where he was mustered out on special order in November, 1865, at San Antonio. Mr. Webster came back to Big Rapids, and was employed in the general merchandise establishment of G. F. Stearns, who discontinued the business in the spring of 1866. He then went to Middleville, Barry Co., Mich., and again engaged as clerk. In 1868 he began mercantile business for himself, in

partnership with F. H. Degolia, continuing until 1871, operating with success. In the year named, because of the impaired health of Mr. Degolia, the firm disposed of the stock by sale. Mr. Webster returned to Big Rapids and opened a grocery and produce store, managing alone one year, then admitted J. F. Clark to an equal interest; they closed their business in 1876. In 1877 Mr. Webster received an appointment as Under-Sheriff with Col. Vincent, and held the position until January, 1881; was elected Supervisor of the Fourth Ward in 1875, and remained the incumbent of the office until 1882; served two years as Chairman of the Board. In 1882 he was Republican nominee for County Treasurer, running against C. B. Hannum, candidate of the Fusion party. The vote stood 1705 to 950, in favor of Mr. Webster. He is a member of the Order of Masonry, and is at this writing (1883) Commander of Pilgrim Commandery, No. 23; has held the place of Captain General of the same division three years. He is also an active and prominent member of the Fire Department; was Chief Engineer, and organized the Alert Hose Co., which took the second national prize at the tournament at Chicago in 1877. The prize included \$300, and the cart which was manufactured for the Centennial Exposition by the Silsby Manufacturing Co.

The marriage of Mr. Webster to Alice McDowell took place Dec. 25, 1867. She is a daughter of Addison and Lavina McDowell, of Allegan Co., Mich., and was born at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Webster have one daughter, Ethel M., born May 10, 1872, at Middleville, Barry Co., Mich.

**M. Trussell**, proprietor of the *Mecosta County Advance*, and also of the *Morley Advance*, was born in Jackson, Ohio, July 12, 1857. He is a son of Jasper S. and Sarah A. (Stout) Frussell, and until the age of 16 years was a student at school. He was early disposed to his present calling, and at the age named he went into a printing-office in Clifton, W. Va., and remained there several months, afterward becoming local editor of the Ironton (Ohio) *Commercial*. He went from Ironton to Pittsburg, where he again entered a printing-office to complete his knowledge of

the details of the business. His next advance was to the position of proof-reader, and in 1881 he became reporter for the *Daily Chronicle*, published at Pittsburg. In August, 1882, he came to Mecosta County, and September 1, following, he became proprietor by purchase of the *Mecosta County Advance*. He issued the first number of the *Morley Advance*, a popular local journal, April 13, 1883.

The *Mecosta County Advance* was founded by F. W. Harrison, the first number being issued April 7, 1881. It was an eight-page sheet, but was afterwards enlarged to a five-column quarto. Upon the failure of the proprietor's health he sold out to Mr. Trussell. The paper has always been well received and now has a circulation of 600 copies.

**Joseph B. Barto**, farmer, sec. 20, Austin Tp. (P. O. Stanwood), was born in Lower Canada, March, 1836. He is son of John and Beatrice (Covena) Barto, who were natives of France, and emigrated to this country, settling in Canada.

Mr. Barto commenced his single-handed contest with the world at the age of 15 years and worked as farm assistant until 17, when his father died, and he left the Dominion, joining his brother in New York, and there engaged winters in the lumber business, laboring summers on farms. He was married in Essex Co., N. Y., Aug. 9, 1856, to Matilda daughter of Isaac and Mary (Layno) Bennett, both of French descent. Mrs. Barto was born April 19, 1842, in Essex Co., N. Y. After their marriage they remained in the State of New York until 1872; Mr. Barto meanwhile engaged in lumbering. They removed to Michigan, where Mr. Barto was engaged in logging in Osceola County for one year, coming then to Big Rapids, where he stayed until 1874. He had purchased a farm of 80 acres in Austin Tp., of which he took possession, and now has 15 acres under improvement. Mr. Barto and his family are members of the Roman Catholic Church. He is a Republican and ardently devoted to the issues of the party. The French language is commonly spoken in the family and taught to the children, of whom seven survive, born as follows:



Lewis, Sept. 7, 1857; Mary L., Nov. 25, 1862; Ida R., April 15, 1864; Flora E., Aug. 29, 1866; Robert L., Oct. 5, 1868; Frank E., March 5, 1874; Caroline M., Nov. 6, 1876. Five children are deceased; James, born Feb., 1859, died March 2, 1859; Nelson, born Dec. 30, 1860, died in infancy; Joseph, born Dec. 18, 1871, died July 14, 1872; Francis, born Jan. 29, 1872, died Feb. 14, 1872; Frank, born Jan. 29, 1872, died Feb. 24, 1872. (The two last were twins.)

**J**ohn Davis, farmer, sec. 27, Mecosta Tp., was born May 8, 1826, at Belfast, Ireland. His parents, William and Mary (Lavery) Davis, were born in Ireland; the father died in 1852, the mother in 1851. When he was ten years old, Mr. Davis ran away to sea, shipping as a cabin boy on a sailing vessel. His career as a sailor continued 22 years, and during the time he passed several promotions; and at last, in 1844, became first mate, which post he held until 1848, when he abandoned a seafaring life. The recital of his adventures sounds like a romance. He traversed the Atlantic Ocean under all circumstances, and in every possible direction, and visited all the seaboard towns of Europe, and the countries lying on the Mediterranean, as well as the ports open to commerce on the Asiatic shores and Africa, and the islands of the East Indies. He was at Alexandria during the Turkish war, at Canton, China, while the Chinese war with England was in progress, and at Calcutta, India. While the Kaffir war of 1842 was going on in Southern Africa, his vessel was at Cape Town. One of his reminiscences is a visit to what was the home of Napoleon while an exile at St. Helena.

In 1850 Mr. Davis came to America, and passed a season on the lakes. In 1851 he came to Michigan and purchased 160 acres of land in what is now Mecosta Tp., locating on sec. 27, where he has since resided. He was one of the two white men who first came to this county and settled permanently. He built the first barn—a frame building—in the county, in 1856, and afterward erected a residence, at that time the largest in the county. He has bought considerable land since he made his original purchase, his estate now aggregating 385 acres, 225 of which

are in cultivation. The reminiscences of Mr. Davis contain a complete history of the growth of Mecosta Co. About the time of his settlement, John Parish located a mile below the point where the "Lower Bridge" at Big Rapids spans the river, and until the following year they had no other "neighbors." Mr. Parish left his first location, and to Mr. Davis belongs the credit not only of being the first settler in this county, but also of still holding his original tenure of land.

He was married at Rockford, Kent Co., Mich., Nov. 8, 1867, to Sarah Jane, daughter of John and Rosanna (Blancha) Probasco, born April 2, 1842, in Huron Co., O. The parents were natives of New Jersey, and are both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have three children: Ada M. J., born Oct. 2, 1868; John William, March 6, 1870; and Frank E. B., June 20, 1872. In politics Mr. Davis is a Democrat.

**J**ohn W. Thomas, carriage and wagon maker at Altona, Hinton Tp., was born in England, Nov. 16, 1831. His parents, John and Rebecca (Webb) Thomas, were natives of England, where the mother died. The father came to Canada and passed the remainder of his life; his death occurred in 1879. Mr. Thomas came to America with his father when he was 14 years of age. The circumstances of the elder Thomas were such that he was enabled to give his children a good education, and he sent his son John to the common schools, and afterward to an academy, until he attained the age of 16 years, when he was apprenticed for five years to learn the trade of wagon and carriage making. After fulfilling his indenture he worked as a journeyman till 1850. In 1855 he left Canada and came to Michigan, locating at Croton, Newaygo Co., where he established himself in the prosecution of his trade, and continued wagon and carriage making for 15 years. He sold his business, and went to work for his brother-in-law, Aaron Austin, as general assistant, keeping books, lumbering, etc., for six months. After a brief visit to Canada, he resumed his labors in the woods, for Mr. N. Thurston, for a short time. He was then employed by the G. R. & I. Railroad Co., and while in

their service received an injury. On recovery he was occupied with his trade for a time, and then bought 40 acres in Barry Co., Mich., where he was resident six years. He bought his place in good faith, supposing he had the right of every man to hold what he paid for; but the event proved his title poor, and he was obliged to abandon the farm, and sustained a loss of \$300. He lived a year at Stanwood, Mecosta Tp., and bought 32 acres of land in the township of Deerfield, which is still in his possession. In the spring of 1879, he came to Altona and established his present business.

Mr. Thomas has been married twice, and is the father of seven children. Those living are Ida, Adelaide and Drusilla. The deceased were William and Jane, and twin children who died in early infancy. Mr. Thomas is a Republican, and was Constable three years while a resident in Newaygo County.

**W**illiam O. Lake, Assistant Postmaster at Morley, was born at Port Rowan, Can., March 5, 1855. His parents, Robert O. and Margaret (Redker) Lake, are also natives of Canada, where they at present reside.

When Mr. Lake reached the age of 11 years, he was employed as clerk in a store by Alexander Ferguson, and there worked about 18 months. Afterwards he was variously employed until the fall of 1872, and then came to Bay City. In the spring of 1873, he came to Morley, and was employed by Nelson Pike as clerk. Six years later he formed a partnership with D. C. King in a mercantile enterprise, which relation existed until the summer of 1881, when the business was closed. In the spring of that year he made an extended trip to Colorado, returning the same fall, and engaging temporarily at Morley and Muskegon, in miscellaneous interests. While his affairs were connected with those of D. C. King in 1880, they built a shingle-mill in the western part of Aetna Tp. They managed it about 18 months and sold to J. E. Thurkow. Jan 1, 1883, Mr. Lake assumed control of the postoffice at Morley. In April of the current year, he was elected

Township Clerk, and in the same month succeeded to the editorial chair of the *Morley Advance*. In politics he is independent, and is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows.

**H**ood & Gale. This is one of the most extensive and important of the business firms of Big Rapids, and its components are Thomas Hood and Martin P. Gale. They are manufacturers of pine lumber, chiefly, shingles, etc., and ship their products throughout the East. Their interests are widespread and various, comprising saw-mills, landed property, etc. Their steam saw-mill at Remus, Mecosta Co., produces 50,000 feet of lumber daily, and they employ in the mill and woods about 100 workmen. In 1871 they bought the mill in upper Big Rapids, built by the Tioga Manufacturing Co., which they sold in May, 1883. A mill owned by them in Leroy, Osceola Co., was sold in May, 1882, and Messrs. Baker & Stearns, of Big Rapids, are under contract with them, to supply 20,000,000 feet of sawed lumber.

Messrs. Hood & Gale own 15,000 acres of land in Lewis County, N. Y.; also a two-thirds interest in 13,000 acres of farm lands in Oregon County, Mo., besides considerable tracts in different parts of this State. They hold a two-fifths interest in the Big Rapids Wagon Works, a stock company which completes half a dozen wagons a day, and of which Mr. Gale is Treasurer. They own one-fifth of the water power of the lower dam at Big rapids, and are stockholders in the Northern National Bank, of which Mr. Gale is a Director.

The office of the concern is in the Northern Hotel Block. This magnificent structure, wholly the property of Messrs. Hood & Gale, is one of the most significant exhibits of the character of the spirit which has endowed Big Rapids with its marvelous prestige. Its architecture is unique, and the *tout ensemble* challenges the admiration of every beholder. It is situated on Maple street, with a south frontage of 300 feet, and the west end running back on State street. It is 40 to 140 feet deep, built of white brick, is two-stories high, and no expense was spared in rendering it beautiful and substantial in every detail.





*A. Reinow.*

One hundred and forty feet in the center of the first floor is occupied for hotel purposes, and the remainder, both east and west, is devoted to business offices. The second floor is divided into parlors and sleeping apartments. It is lighted throughout by gas, and heated by steam. The aggregate cost was \$70,000.



**F**erdinand Fairman, senior member of the banking house of Fairman & Newton, Big Rapids, was born in the township of Lyme, Jefferson Co., N. Y., July 15, 1833. His father, Geo. W. Fairman, was born in the year 1812, near Ottawa, Canada; is a farmer by occupation and resides in Jefferson County. His mother, Mary A. (Fox) Fairman, was born in Lyme Tp.; her parents were pioneer settlers of Jefferson Co., and were originally from the northeastern part of the State of New York, on Lake Champlain.

Mr. Fairman was brought up and educated as was the custom among the agricultural communities of that locality and period. He was a boy of energy and spirit, and early in life determined to make the most of such advantages as presented themselves. By the time he was 18 years of age he had acquired a solid and available education, which he turned to account by teaching school winters, alternating with farm labors summers, until he reached the age of 26 years, when, in company with Alpheus Parker, he commenced a general mercantile business at Alexandria in his native county. The firm title and style was Parker & Fairman, and the relation existed until the winter of 1865. At that date he purchased the interest of his partner, conducting the business alone until 1871, and with a fair degree of success. Selling his stock, he removed to Adams, Jefferson Co., in order to secure better educational advantages for his children, and because of his own impaired health. He spent the two years following in traveling through the South and Southwest, prospecting for a business location.

He was afterwards impressed with the feasibility of Big Rapids as a business point, and in the summer of 1873 invested in real estate in that city. He removed his family to this place purposing to enter

largely into real estate brokerage. The financial demoralization that swept the country about that time unsettled his plans, and he accepted a proffered situation as cashier of the Exchange Bank, where he officiated one year. His health was still precarious, and in the winter of 1874-5 he went to Texas to obtain the advantages of the genial climate, and interested himself in the purchase of lands. He came back to Big Rapids in the spring, and in the autumn of 1875, in partnership with Samuel T. Potter, of Jefferson Co., N. Y.; opened a banking house under the firm name of Fairman & Potter. The partnership was dissolved in January, 1879, and Mr. Fairman conducted the banking business alone until November, 1881, when he admitted Mrs. M. J. Newton, of Jefferson Co., to an interest with himself. Mrs. Newton retired Aug. 10, 1882, her son, Samuel L. Newton (the ward of Mr. Fairman), succeeding to a one-half interest, and also to a moiety in the Fairman & Newton Block. The business of the house has since been prosperous and its relations constantly increasing. Its advantages are based upon years of experience and ample capital, together with the stability afforded by the character and record of the gentlemen who regulate its relations. The business qualifications of Mr. Fairman, as well as his methods, well-known and tested by those with whom he is connected in his financial transactions, are such as to warrant the confidence which they inspire.

In 1876 Mr. Fairman loaned a considerable sum of money to the parties controlling the Big Rapids Iron Works, securing himself by mortgage. The affairs of the concern became involved and Mr. Fairman foreclosed in 1878. He at once entered upon the duty of utilizing the power and fixtures and managed the business with entire success, and by his systematic methods and forethought built up a creditable trade. He sold the establishment in October, 1881, to Messrs. Cannon & Gottshall. In 1879, the disastrous fire of October 19, destroyed the new Mason House Block, and in 1880 Mr. Fairman purchased its site and erected what is known as the Fairman & Newton Block, naming it in honor of the young man who, in 1882, became his associate in the banking house. Mr. Fairman has been for some years, and still, is operating quite extensively in real estate, on his own behalf and in the interest of other parties.

He was married July 3, 1855, to Julia M. Waters,

daughter of Andrew and Catharine Waters, who was born at Alexandria, Jefferson Co., N. Y., July 3, 1834. Mr. and Mrs. Fairman have three children; Thyra J. is the wife of E. W. Hudnutt, of the Falcon Planing Mills; George F. is acting as cashier of in the bank of Fairman & Newton; Jessie M. is the youngest child and lives with her parents.

We place the portrait of Mr. Fairman in this Album in connection with this sketch.

**J**ohn M. Crocker, senior member of the firm of Crocker & Hudnutt, architects, contractors and builders, and proprietors of the Falcon planing mill, has been a resident of Big Rapids since 1875. He is a son of Wm. H. and Mary A. (Holloway) Crocker, and was born in the city of London, Eng., July 28, 1848. His parents came to the United States when he was two years old, and went to Milwaukee, Wis., where his father operated as an architect and builder until 1858, putting up some of the principal buildings of the "Cream City." In the year named the family removed to a farm in Manitowoc, Wis., where the parents yet reside.

Mr. Crocker naturally inclined to mechanical arts, and at 12 years of age commenced to prepare for the vocation of his father, in whose shop he was trained seven years, meanwhile obtaining an education. He first went to the union school at Milwaukee, and afterwards to the common schools at Manitowoc, and also attended the union school at Ypsilanti, Mich.

The civil war broke out when he was 13 years old; and the consequent discussion of the absorbing topic, and intense feeling which pervaded all classes at the North, aroused the boy's spirit, and in June, 1864, he enrolled at Manitowoc as a private soldier in Company G, 39th Wisconsin Vol. Inf., under Capt. Patchen. He was in the service six months and participated in several engagements. His regiment was detailed to guard Memphis, and was involved in some severe skirmishes with the rebel Gen. Forrest. He was discharged at Milwaukee. When 19 years old he went to Grand Rapids and commenced his career as a contractor; remained eight years and left a substantial record of his work there in the form of a number of fine buildings. During

the period of his residence at Grand Rapids, he fulfilled a number of contracts for stair-building in Chicago. On coming to Big Rapids in 1875 he at once entered upon the prosecution of his trade, and erected the brick school-house, and the magnificent dwelling of Thomas. D. Stinson, corner of Elm Street and Warren avenues, now owned by Wiltre Stickney. He also constructed the building for the Northern National Bank. Not long after locating here he formed a partnership with E. W. Hudnutt, bought the planing mill of C. S. Hanks, and commenced the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds, mouldings and building materials generally. Their rapidly extending business has necessitated two additions to the establishment. As evidences of the enterprise and architectural skill of the firm, Big Rapids boasts of the Smith Block, the Northern Hotel, Hood, Gale & Co's Block, Telfer, Morrissey & Stickney's Block, and Furniture Block, Fairman & Newton's Block, the Mercy Hospital, Moody and Moore's Livery Stables, and a number of fine residences. They employ at this writing 53 men, and find demand wholly for their products within the limits of the State.

Mr. Crocker was married at Coldwater, Mich., Dec. 23, 1877, to Dorą A. Stout, a native of the State of New York. He was a member of the School Board at Big Rapids two years, and belonged to the Common Council the same length of time.

**I**saac W. Pierce, member of the Council of Mecosta village, was born in Naples, Ontario Co., N. Y., Jan. 2, 1833, and is a son of Jeris and Rachel (Watkins) Pierce. His father was a farmer and carpenter, and came to Michigan about the year 1835 and settled in Leonidas, St. Joseph Co. He entered a claim of 160 acres of timbered land, and was a pioneer of that community. He made a small clearing, built his log house and labored until he cleared about 120 acres. His children were small, and at first could be of but little assistance; but as time passed on, their interest in the improvement of the homestead grew with their years, and they lent no inconsiderable aid to the development of the place.

When 19 years old Mr. Pierce turned his face westward to the golden promise of the Pacific coast. He made his first essay in placer mining in the American River, and operated similarly on the Middle Fork of Feather River, in Butler Co., Cal. He finally engaged in stock business, going at last to Long Valley, Nev., where he was associated with Abner Stimpson, William Prosser and John Ferris, and engaged in rearing and shipping stock two and one-half years; they then sold out, and all returned to California except Mr. Prosser. Shortly afterward Mr. Pierce went to Idaho City and engaged actively in mining for nine and a half years, with fair success. In the fall of 1866 he returned to Leonidas, resumed his trade, and there has operated as a builder. In March, 1881, he came to Mecosta village. In the spring of 1883 he was elected Treasurer, and member of the Village Council. He owns his residence and three lots on Franklin street, in the southwest part of the town; also 40 acres of farming land in Martiny Twp., located one mile north of the village of Mecosta.

Mr. Pierce was married in Leonidas, Jan. 3, 1867, to Carrie, daughter of Henry and Louisa Porter, born at Naples, Ontario Co., N. Y., Sept. 5, 1839. They have one child—Frank J., born in Leonidas, Oct. 30, 1867.

**R**uben N. Hall, farmer on sec. 1, Hinton Twp., is a son of Gardner and Theory (Nott) Hall, and was born March 11, 1819, in Jefferson Co., N. Y. His father was a native of Rhode Island, and the mother of Vermont; they were married in the State of New York.

Mr. Hall passed the first 20 years of his life at school and on the farm. At 21 he engaged himself to learn the trade of tanner and currier, which occupation he followed until the fall of 1863, when he came to Ionia Co., Mich. He has made agriculture the pursuit of his life, and followed it in the counties of Ionia and Montcalm, until the summer of 1881, when he purchased 40 acres of improved land on sec. 1, of Hinton Twp. In the spring of 1882, he moved his family from Montcalm County. In the winter of 1882 he bought 120 acres of land, chiefly in heavy timber, sec. 12. Having sold 40 acres to

his son, his landed estate in Hinton Twp. includes 120 acres.

Mr. Hall was married in the State of New York, July 15, 1844, to Lydia, daughter of James and Melinda (Kinney) Heald, natives of Vermont, who was born in Essex Co., N. Y., April 29, 1823. Of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall, only three survive: Ellis W., born March 7, 1849; Geneva, born Feb. 16, 1855, and Augusta C., Sept. 4, 1856.

In politics Mr. Hall is independent.

**J**ames P. Weaver, farmer and carpenter, sec. 34, Austin Twp., is a son of William and Elizabeth (Townsend) Weaver, natives of New Jersey and of German descent. They became residents of Canada in early life, and were married there. Mr. Weaver was born in the Province of Ontario, Can., March 18, 1818.

He was a pupil at school, and an assistant on the farm of his father until he reached the age of 19, when he came to Michigan and located at Kalamazoo, where he began to learn the art of carpentering, at which he worked until 1839. He then went back to Canada for a brief stay, but on solicitation determined to remain. His parents lived in the city of London, Ont., and he stayed with them, finding plenty of employment at his trade. His father died March 11, 1849, and he succeeded to the care and responsibilities of managing the farm and family affairs. This he did, meanwhile following his occupation, until the spring of 1865, when he came to this county and purchased 80 acres of land in Austin Twp., besides entering another 80 acres under the homestead law, making a most valuable farm, ranking fairly with the best locations in Austin Township.

Mr. Weaver was married in London, Ont., March 12, 1843, to Drusilla, daughter of John and Sarah (Burley) Austin. The parents were natives of New Jersey, and of German ancestry. Soon after their marriage they went to Canada and settled in Toronto, Ont., where Mrs. Weaver was born, Dec. 25, 1825. She was well brought up, and received a fair degree of education. She has been the mother of six children—two boys and four girls. One son and one daughter are deceased. The remaining son and

three daughters are settled in life, with promising families: The following are their names and dates of birth. Emmeline, Jan. 12, 1842; John, Dec. 10, 1840; Cynthia, Feb. 25, 1838; Josephine, May 10, 1858.

In his native city Mr. Weaver was a member of the Common Council, incumbent at times of several offices, and was a Lieutenant of the local militia. He has no political tendency whatever, but has been Treasurer for several years, Justice of the Peace three years, etc., and is now District Assessor.

At its organization, the township was named for the brother of Mrs. Weaver—Aaron Austin—now a resident of Mecosta village.



**J**ohn A. Rose, deceased, was a son of Andrew W. and Ormilla (Perry) Rose. His parents were pioneers of the State of New York, where they passed their lives engaged in farming. John A. was born in Ulster Co., N. Y., March 13, 1821. He was an inmate of the paternal home until 24 years of age. His circumstances were such that he was never able to attend school a single day in his life; but gathered together such education as he could, and made the most of his powers of observation, quickened into keenness by his consciousness of his lack of early opportunities. He came to Michigan in November, 1866, and purchased 120 acres of land, on which he resided until his death, which occurred Aug. 10, 1875. Since that event Mrs. Rose has sold 80 acres and with the assistance of her sons carries on the remainder.

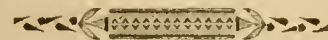
Mr. Rose was married Nov. 8, 1844, in Aurora, Erie Co., N. Y., to Emily E., daughter of Amasa and Polly (Welch) Freeman, natives respectively of New York and Connecticut. She was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., June 16, 1817. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Rose settled in Erie Co., where they were engaged in farming until their removal to Michigan. All of the seven children born of this marriage yet survive. Emily E. was born Aug. 19, 1845; John T., July 5, 1847; Levi A., March 16, 1849; Theo. L.,

June 27, 1851; Polly, Dec. 13, 1853; Rosetta, Aug 24, 1857; and Andrew J., Nov. 22, 1859.



**J**ohn E. Reiter, proprietor of steam saw-mill at Sylvester, Hinton Tp., was born in New Jersey, Aug. 18, 1851. His parents were John B. and Mary A. (Burns) Reiter. The father was born in Baden, Germany, and the mother was a native of Ireland. They were married in New Jersey, whither they emigrated from their respective countries, and later removed to Pennsylvania, where the father is still living, and where the mother died, June 11, 1834. Mr. Reiter went to Pennsylvania, with his parents, and was there engaged in farming, lumbering, and attending school, until 18 years of age. In 1876, he attended Eastman's Commercial College three months. In 1877, he came to this county, and became one-half owner by purchase of the steam saw-mill located at Sylvester, and owned and managed by Joseph Misho and Darum B. Kelley. He bought the interest of the latter. This was afterward burned, and in the summer of 1882 he erected the mill which he now operates. Its capacity is 10,000 feet of lumber daily. Mr. Reiter is a Republican in politics, and has been School Director two years. He is interested in the progress of the temperance work, and lends his influence to all reformatory measures.

Mr. Reiter was married in Reed City, Mich., Sept. 20, 1878, to Jane, daughter of James and Catherine (Flanagan) Decker. (See sketch of James Decker.)



**J**ohn A. Bell, farmer and lumberman, sec. 6, Deerfield Tp., was born March 3, 1826, in Canada. He is a son of James and Amelia B. Bell. His father was born in England and came to Canada in 1814, where he married and passed his remaining years. Mr. Bell's mother was a native of New Jersey.



Mr. Bell remained under the paternal roof until the age of 23, engaged on the farm and fitting for future usefulness. After managing his father's farm for two years, he purchased 200 acres of land with limited improvements, on which was a saw-mill. He carried on the farm and engaged in lumbering, and operated in this two-fold method five years, when he sold out and bought another farm of 100 acres, which he occupied four years, and again sold out. In the fall of 1861 he came to Michigan, and was engaged in lumbering in Mecosta County about nine years, when he bought 280 acres of land, chiefly unimproved, with the most primeval type of buildings. They have passed to the oblivion of destruction and decay, and have been replaced by others which rank with the finest in the country. An additional purchase of 160 acres adjoining his estate has increased his landed possessions to 440 acres, 340 of which are under a good state of cultivation. Mr. Bell is a Republican of no uncertain type, and though often urged to permit the use of his name in the interests of his township, has always declined.

He was married in Canada, Nov. 6 1850, to Margaret Johnson, a native of Canada. Four of six children from this union are living: Wm. A., born June 30, 1852; James P., June 14, 1855; Theodore A., Dec. 14, 1858, and Emily A., Aug. 29, 1861. Mary L., born April 24, 1857, was married Jan. 23, 1878, to Arthur Allen, of Mecosta County, and died Aug. 9, 1883. One child died in infancy. Mrs. Margaret Bell, the mother, died Feb. 22, 1866, at her home in Mecosta County. Mr. Bell again contracted marriage in Canada, Oct. 30, 1866, with Sarah, daughter of Angus and Sarah (McDougall) McCollum. Her parents were natives of Scotland who emigrated to Canada at an early period of their lives. Her father is yet living in Canada, where her mother died about 1873. Three of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Bell are living,—Sarah A., born Jan. 8, 1878; Clinton R., born Jan. 23, 1876, and Edith C., born Nov. 22, 1879. John A. was born Jan. 23, 1873, and died May 11, 1876.

The family are communicants of the Episcopal Church, and are esteemed and worthy members of society, and lend every effort to elevate its standard.

**G**iles Olin, farmer, sec. 22, Austin Tp., was born in Chemung Co., N. Y., April 13, 1837. His parents, William H. and Lydia (Corry) Olin, were natives of New England. Giles grew up under the guidance of his parents, and remained under the paternal roof until his marriage to Lydia, daughter of David and Sarah (Bennett) Moulter. This event occurred Feb. 2, 1856. Mr. Moulter was born of German parentage, and his wife was of mixed Scotch and Irish ancestry. Mrs. Olin was born in Chemung Co., N. Y., Sept. 20, 1836. After marriage Mr. Olin passed two years as a common laborer. He then purchased 25 acres of forest land, and resided thereon until the spring of 1862, when the family came to Mecosta County, and he bought 120 acres of land in Austin Tp.; to this he has added 40 acres, and now owns 160 acres of land, in one of the best located sections of the township. Fifty acres of this are under cultivation, and the owner has erected good and suitable buildings thereon.

In this family are four children living: William H., Dec. 4, 1857; Almeda E., July 22, 1860; Eliza J., Feb. 21, 1867; Sivillian, July 13, 1871; Sarah A., born Sept. 12, 1858, died March 8, 1861. Mr. Olin is a Democrat, and has served his township as Treasurer six terms. Himself and wife are active members of the M. E. Church.

**G**dwin R. Roe, farmer, residing on sec. 14, Hinton Tp., is a son of George P. and Asenath (Hamilton) Roe, former a native of England and the latter of Ohio. They first removed to Indiana, and soon after came to Berrien Co., Mich., where the father died in 1867; the mother was again married and went to Missouri, and there died. Mr. Roe was born in St. Joseph Co., Ind., April 14, 1838, and in early youth accompanied his parents to this State, where he resided until he was 28 years old, meanwhile learning the trade of carpenter and also the art of telegraphy, and working at intervals on the farm. In the fall of 1867 he came to this county, where he had previously

bought 40 acres of wild land, in Hinton Tp., on which he now resides. Mr. Roe is a Republican in politics and cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He has held the post of Highway Commissioner six years. He was married in Berrien Co., Mich., Aug. 7, 1861, to Dimmis, daughter of Nelson and Almira (Pierce) Bromley. Her parents were natives of New York, and removed thence to Cook Co., Ill., and afterwards to Wisconsin, thence to Michigan, where the father died, in 1872. The mother is still living, in Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Roe have had four children: Louie A. was born July 24, 1862; Orié M., Dec. 26, 1864; Lizzie V., March 30, 1868, and Cora D., Nov. 10, 1870.

**J**ames H. Rogers, lumberman and farmer, resident on sec. 14, Mecosta Tp., was a native of Broome Co., N. Y. His father, Abraham Rogers, was of English-Dutch descent and was born in Canada. His mother, Hannah D. (Stickney) Rogers, was of pure English descent and born in New Hampshire. Mr. Rogers remained at home until he was 21 years of age and received as good an education as possible at the common schools, and attended a term at the Alfred Academy in Allegany Co., N. Y. On arriving at his majority he left home and went into the lumber business, which he prosecuted until the fall of 1854. At that date he came to Newaygo County and purchased a tract of land, including 500 acres of heavy timber, lying on the Big Muskegon. Soon afterward he engaged in the business of locating land, which occupied him until 1856 and was a lucrative pursuit. He abandoned it after two years, and came to Mecosta Township to locate 100 acres of land. Here he hired men and their families, established lumber camps and gave a large amount of attention to the trade in lumber, which was at that date the germ of nearly all settlements made in this section of the Peninsular State. During this time the State road was in process of building, and Mr. Rogers was appointed Commissioner by Gov. Blair, and held the post three years. He has been appointed special Commissioner several times since. From 1865 to 1870 Mr. Rogers was actively engaged in the joint

pursuit of managing a country store and hotel, in which was also established the local postoffice, and in connection, a large lumber interest. The store of Mr. Rogers was opened in 1865, and was the first mercantile establishment in the township.

On the completion of the railroad to Big Rapids in 1869 Mr. Rogers closed his mercantile operations and hotel business, and as the lumber trade diminished he devoted his attention almost exclusively to farming. His homestead includes 350 acres of land, with 120 acres in fair tillable condition. He has always been active in politics and is a zealous Republican. At the organization of the township he was made Clerk, and held the post several years. He has been School Superintendent and Inspector, and has held various other official positions.

Mr. Rogers was married Feb. 14, 1867, to Sarah B., daughter of Willard and Lois (Roberts) Salisbury, natives of New York and of English descent. She was born in Broome Co., N. Y., May 9, 1842. She went to McHenry Co., Ill., where she remained until the fall of 1866, at which time she came to this county. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers have two children: Carrie E., born May 8, 1869, and Edgar R., born Sept. 25, 1873.

**J**acob Snider, farmer, sec. 26, Austin Tp. was born in Ontario, Can., Feb. 9, 1827, son of Jacob and Rachel (McReady) Snider, natives of New Brunswick, and of German and French ancestry. Soon after their marriage they went to Toronto, Can., and thence to Ontario. Mr. Snider spent his early youth in acquiring his education at a select school in the vicinity where he lived, and assisting on his father's farm. At the age of 27 years he was married to Teakles, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth (McReady) Halliday, natives of New Brunswick and of Irish descent. Mrs. Snider was born in the same province, June 6, 1829, and was educated in the common schools of her native town. Mr. and Mrs. Snider established a home on 100 acres of the homestead, where they carried on farming until their removal to Michigan, in the winter of 1864. They lived a few months at Croton, Newaygo Co., coming thence to Austin Tp., where they purchased 80 acres of



*James H. Rogers.*



timbered land, and entered upon the lives of pioneers, beginning with the usual log cabin and small clearing, which gradually assumed larger proportions until broad, fertile fields stretch out where everything was formerly hidden by intricate forests. To the original tract of land Mr. Snider has added another 80 acres, and now owns an entire quarter section of well improved land. He has recently finished a beautiful residence, at an expenditure of \$1,500. All his farm fixtures and appurtenances are of a class to increase its value and attractiveness.

Of seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Snider, six are living: Rachel, born July 13, 1863, and died May 28, 1864; Wellesley H., born Sept. 9, 1857; Adaline S., Aug. 21, 1858; Lillie A., Sept. 17, 1860; Jennie R., Jan. 11, 1861; Herbert A., Aug. 19, 1865; Gideon C., Aug. 19, 1867.

Mr. and Mrs. Snider have been members in full standing of the M. E. Church for 25 years. Mr. Snider is a radical Republican; has been Supervisor of his township two terms, Justice of the Peace four years, Treasurer, etc. His eldest son, W. H. Snider, was married Oct. 18, 1877; his wife died Sept. 1, 1878.

**C. Lincoln**, wagon and carriage builder, at Big Rapids, was born in Ticonderoga, Essex Co., N. Y., Dec. 27, 1844; son of Rufus and Samantha (Bissell) Lincoln. At the age of 17 he went to learn the trade, which he has made the business of his life. He located at Big Rapids in the fall of 1867, and a year later he opened a shop; formed a partnership with Peter Comstock, which continued 18 months, when he bought out the interest of his partner. One and a half years afterward he sold a half claim to Eli Frederick, and in the autumn of 1879 they came to the stand now occupied by Mr. Lincoln. They purchased three lots and erected their shops, four in number. The wood shop is 22x50 feet in dimensions, and the blacksmith shop 24x50 feet. There are besides, the paint shop and lumber room. A force of five blacksmiths are usually employed, Mr. Lincoln and his brother doing the wood work. Jan. 1, 1883, Mr. Frederick withdrew from the concern, selling his interest in the business to the present proprietor, who is now doing

a very prosperous and steadily growing business.

Mr. Lincoln was married in Essex Co., N. Y., March 24, 1867, to Sarah J. Hunter, a native of Montreal, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln have had three children: Frederick, born March 20, 1869 and died Oct. 6, 1880; Charles H., born Aug. 15, 1873, and died Oct. 6, 1880. George L., sole surviving child, was born Feb. 11, 1883.

**Annibal Hyde**, farmer, resident on sec. 10, Mecosta Tp., is the son of James and Eunice (Puck) Hyde, natives of Connecticut; they settled in Vermont where the son was born in Orange County, Nov. 5, 1810. On reaching his 21st year he set out to seek his fortune. His first exploit was to walk to Glens Falls, N. Y., 90 miles distant, and thence to Albany, but he soon retraced his steps and engaged in lumbering for a few months, finally finding regular employment on a farm at \$11 per month. At the expiration of his engagement he went to work in a saw-mill, where he was occupied some months. In the summer of 1835 he left Glens Falls with a vague determination to make his way westward. He set out with several companions but became dissatisfied with appearances and took his own route back to Rochester, N. Y., and returned to Detroit, *via* Buffalo. In company with seven others he chartered a team to take him to White Pigeon, Mich. Mr. Hyde with several of his fellow travelers went to Indiana, whence they shortly returned to Niles. Not yet satisfied with the outlook he continued his prospecting to St. Joseph County, and pushed on to Chicago. His own statement is that he was "disgusted with the awful windy little village" and left in a few days for Sheboygan, Wis. He was there engaged eleven months in the management of a saw-mill. His next remove was to Chicago, making the journey partly on foot and partly by sail-boat. He worked there a short time as a carpenter, then came to Muskegon Co., Mich. He arrived in this State in the summer of 1837 and went to work on the river. The winter following he came to Nawaygo County, and managed a saw-mill one year, when he decided on a visit to Vermont, where he spent some months, going thence to New York,

and thence to St. Louis, Mo., and Louisville, Ky. This rambling existence he continued until 1844, when he was married and made preparations for a permanent settlement in life. He purchased 80 acres of wild land in Newaygo County, where he lived and pursued agriculture until 1856. In that year he settled in Mecosta Tp. That section was then in its infancy. The township was unorganized and settlers were few especially permanent ones. Lumber interests invited transient comers, but for a period of ten years there were few who considered the place as having claims upon their interest, and no steps were taken toward arranging the municipal affairs of the township for five years after the settlement of Mr. Hyde. He was one of the most active in the movement for the organization of Mecosta, as he had been in that of the townships of Newaygo County. He is the oldest living inhabitant of his township, and his youngest son was the first white child born within its borders.

Mr. Hyde was married in 1844, to Sophia Russell, who was born in April, 1829, and reared in Newaygo County, in the vicinity of the Big Muskegon River. Mrs. Hyde became the mother of seven children. She was a member of the Catholic Church, and died Sept. 4, 1881. Three children who survive her were born as follows: Daniel, Oct. 4, 1845; Francis E., Jan. 19, 1850; Miranda J., March 20, 1858. The deceased children were Eunice, Amanda S., Amos H. and James. Mr. Hyde is an adherent to the principles of the Democratic party.

**T**homas Hanifan, of the mercantile firm of Hanifan & Harmon, at Big Rapids, was born at Pontiac, Oakland Co., Mich., March 4, 1847. He is a son of William and Kate (Cane) Hanifan, and was reared to the age of 15 years on his father's farm. At that period he became a clerk in a dry-goods store, and has been assistant or principal in the same line of business most of the time since. During the first three years he spent a part of the time in school. In 1870 he went to Vernon, Shiawassee Co., Mich., and entered the employ of W. D. & A. Garrison, dry-goods merchants, as clerk, and remained until 1881. In May,

1882, he came to Big Rapids and entered into partnership with Willard W. Harmon, and commenced commercial transactions in the Fairman & Newton Block, where they are carrying a fine assortment of dry goods, carpets, etc., valued at \$15,000; annual sales amount to \$35,000.

Mr. Hanifan was married in Farmington, Oakland Co., Mich., Jan. 28, 1881, to Emma, daughter of Daniel and Bridget Lapham. She was born in Farmington in 1854, and died at Big Rapids July 14, 1882.

**M**elvin A. Wells, farmer, sec. 26, Deerfield, Tp., is a son of Nelson and Jane (Austin) Wells. The parents were natives of New York and settled in Washtenaw Co., Mich. about the year 1838, afterward going to St. Joseph Co., Mich. There the senior Wells died at Centerville, May 11, 1881. The mother died May 7, 1863.

Mr. Wells was born in Freedom, Washtenaw Co., Aug. 6, 1848. He remained in the paternal home until 22 years of age, occupied in farming and acquiring his education.

He was married in Ellenburgh, Clinton Co., N. Y., Dec. 5, 1863, to Mrs. Ellen Jerome Wells, widow of Henry Wells and eldest child of Lewis and Lucy (Dragoon) Jerome. It falls to the duty of the compiler of personal records to transcribe much that bears the impress of a deathless sorrow, but it is rarely incumbent to record the loss of nine children in one household, as in this instance devolves. Mrs. Wells had laid away from her motherly arms, one after another, eight infants, a mercifully rare event. Can one believe that her terrible experience lessened the weight of sorrow when another child, the joy and hope of the household, passed away at the dawn of her early girlhood, when life and health seemed assured? Louise B. Wells, born June 14, 1868, died, of diphtheria, Aug. 16, 1881. She is not forgotten; the anniversary of her death is kept and sacredly observed by the parents and sisters to whom her memory will ever be a living presence. Mr. and Mrs. Wells have three children living: Lucy J., born Aug. 5, 1866; Idella, Aug. 25, 1870; and Cora, April 21, 1872.

Mr. Wells is an earnest Republican and was a sol-





*Yours Truly  
Lewis Toan.*



dier of the Union in the war of the Rebellion. He enlisted in the Third Mich. Vol Inf., Oct. 14, 1864, and received honorable discharge in September 1865.

**L**ewis Toan, Clerk of Mecosta County, and one of its representative citizens, resident at Big Rapids, was born in Ledyard Tp., Cayuga Co., N. Y., Nov. 25, 1835. His parents were natives of the Empire State, as were their ancestors. His father, Lewis Toan, was born Feb. 8, 1788, in Ledyard, on the same farm where his children were born, and where he lived and died. He married Betsey Welsh, April 5, 1810, and by this union became the father of four sons and six daughters. Of these, one son, Harrison Toan, and one daughter, Mrs. Sally J. Squires, survive him, the former resident at Elmira, N. Y., the latter living in Seneca Co., N. Y. The mother died Dec. 15, 1833. The father was married Feb. 26, 1835, to Mrs. Olive (St. John) Aiken. Of this marriage three children were born: Lewis, of this sketch, Mrs. Mary A. Chapin, and Mrs. Frances E. Langan, both residing at Des Moines, Iowa. Mrs. Toan was born Dec. 31, 1803, and was married at Cayuga Co., N. Y., to Ebenezer Aiken. Her children by this marriage are yet living—a son in Dakota, one daughter at Des Moines, Iowa, and one daughter, Mrs. Lewis Carman, in Millbrook, Mich. Lewis Toan, Sr., died March 29, 1842. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, with the rank of Captain; was a farmer by occupation, and held the office of Justice of the Peace 14 years, the incumbency ending with his death. This fact is mentioned as evidence of the esteem in which he was held by his fellow-townsmen. His death left all the family cares and responsibilities upon the mother and widow. The son, who feels that all he is or may be he owes to her faithful, wise and judicious management, places upon record on this page his sense of all she was in her strong, earnest life, rearing her fatherless children in all wisdom and gentleness and self-sacrifice, and how precious to him is her memory, crowned with what she achieved on earth, and glorified by her entrance into the land of the redeemed. She was married a third time in

1860, to Zimri Allen, and died at Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 24, 1882.

Mr. Toan was seven years old when his father died. His mother left the farm and he was sent to school. In 1848 he went to live with an uncle—Thomas Toan—in Wyoming Co., N. Y. A year later he rejoined his mother, and the family went to Olena, Huron Co., Ohio, where, associated with her brother, she purchased a half interest in a steam saw-mill, where the son was engaged chiefly summers, and went to school winters. In the summer of 1855 he went to Milan, Erie Co., O., and worked in a ship-yard and mill. In the spring of 1856 he went with a half-brother—E. M. Aiken—to Bowen's Prairie, Ia., to assist in the management of a steam saw mill. Returning in the fall of that year to Ohio, he bought the interest in the mill held by his mother, retaining it until he disposed of it by sale in 1859. In the winter of 1860 he rented a farm in that vicinity and managed it during the year. His next business venture was in the winter of 1861, when he formed a partnership with Otis Smith, an old school-mate, and went to Jackson Tp., Seneca Co., Ohio, built a steam saw-mill, and while engaged in its construction the intelligence of the assault upon the national flag at Fort Sumter electrified the world. Physical disability precluded Mr. Toan from going to the front to aid in bearing the burden of defense, and to take the chances of war; but the services he performed are on record, and his efforts in raising recruits and supplies for soldiers in the field, and exertions to protect their interests at home, were as meritorious and conducive to the successful prosecution of the war as those of others who brought their efforts to bear upon the issue on the field of action.

His association with Mr. Smith terminated at the end of two years, when he became sole proprietor by the purchase of his partner's claim. The mill was burned a year later, and in order to be able to rebuild, Mr. Toan formed a partnership with Daniel Cox. In 1866 he sold his half of the concern to Robert Adams. During his residence at Jackson he held the position of Postmaster three years, and was Township Clerk one year.

Mr. Toan came to Southern Michigan, in the fall of 1866, and settled near Quincy, Branch Co., where he had purchased 80 acres of land. Within the year following he sold the farm and purchased another in the vicinity of Allen's Prairie, Hillsdale

Co., Mich. In the fall of 1869 he exchanged this property for a farm near Jonesville, of which he was the possessor but a short time, as he made another transfer, and secured a farm about two miles from Allen's Prairie, of which he was owner until 1872. In that year he came with his brother-in-law, Lewis Carman, to Millbrook, Mecosta Co., and built a steam saw-mill, selling his interest therein two years later to Mr. Carman. He there engaged in mercantile affairs with Messrs. Main & Decker. The dissolution of the firm took place in the spring of 1877, and in the fall of that year Mr. Toan went to Arkansas to obtain a practical idea of the South, returning the following spring.

Mr. Toan has been a Republican from the outset of his political life, and considers himself honored in the record that his first Presidential vote was cast for the illustrious and martyred Lincoln. In the fall of 1878, after his return from the South, his public career commenced, his party nominating him for the office of County Clerk. The opposition candidates were W. O. Lake, Democrat, and George Gotshall, Greenback. Mr. Toan received 1,102 votes, Mr. Lake 452 and Mr. Gotshall 681. The general opinion of Mr. Toan's discharge of the duties of his position was clearly manifested in the circumstances attending his second nomination in the fall of 1880, when his name was put on the ticket by acclamation. He received 1,849 votes, his opponent, Gregg B. Dougall, receiving 861 votes on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Toan was again elected in 1882, receiving 1,481 votes, in opposition to C. A. Munn, Independent Republican nominee, and Richard Ladner, the popular Democratic candidate, who received 295 and 884 votes respectively. Probably the best index of a man's status among his fellows is the record of his local vote. On his first election he received 81 votes of 100 cast in the Tp. of Millbrook; on his second nomination he received 102 of 124 votes in the township, and the third time, of an aggregate of 164, he received 125 votes,—facts which attest that political opponents supported him, and which were made more significant because he had held many important town offices. He was Town Clerk in 1873-4, Supervisor in '75-6, was Township Superintendent of Schools two years, and Village School Director three years.

Mr. Toan was married in Olena, Huron Co., Ohio,

July 5, 1858, to Melissa M., eldest daughter of Nathan H. and Lousia (Barhite) Spencer, Rev. E. Jones officiating. Mrs. Toan's father is a resident of Olena. He was born in New Jersey and is a blacksmith by vocation. He is an honored citizen in the community to which he belongs, is a Presbyterian in religious faith, and has occupied a number of prominent positions in religious and political relations. Her mother died in 1859, after a useful and noble life. Mrs. Toan was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., Jan. 2, 1840. Of the children born of her marriage, eight are living: Ida L., Grace E., Frank M., Clyde L., Fred W., Ernest B., Olive F. and Bessie M. Grace E., second daughter of Mr. Toan, was married Sept. 17, 1882, to John A. Melton, and resides near her parents. Mr. T. is peculiarly fortunate in all his domestic relations, the character and influence of his wife rounding and perfecting the fabric of his life, molded and directed by the clear prevision of his mother.

In January, 1859, Mr. Toan became a member of the M. E. Church, and has since been prominently and actively interested in all that pertains to its progress and interest. He has always been connected with the work of the Sunday-school, and been several times Superintendent. He is also a zealous advocate and promoter of temperance, and is the present W. C. T. of the Big Rapids Lodge of Good Templars.

We place the portrait of Mr. Toan in this work, as a representative citizen of Mecosta County.

**M**os S. Johnson, President of Mecosta village and general merchant (G. Gilbert & Co.), is the son of Stanton and Eliza (Gilbert) Johnson. He was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Nov. 24, 1847. When he was an infant his father died, leaving a widow with seven children. He was brought up on a farm, attending schools winters. At 20 years of age he came to Michigan and engaged with Messrs. Wood & Gilbert in Stanton, where he remained two years. He then formed a partnership with his employers and established a branch business house at Sherman City, Isabella Co., of which he was head manager. At the end of two years, this business connection ceased, and Mr. Johnson became sole proprietor of the concern by purchase, conducting its affairs

singly. He owned in addition a farm of 240 acres, with good buildings, fences and promising crops, all of which were destroyed by the cyclone of Sept. 19, 1878. The farm fixtures, and the store with its contents, were swept away, and Mr. Johnson was well-nigh overwhelmed with financial ruin.

In May, 1878, he came to Mecosta as agent for the Village Company, real-estate brokers, etc., and is still representing their interests. In March, 1880, in partnership with E. L. Wood, he established a mercantile house, located at present near the depot. A year later Giles Gilbert was admitted a member of the firm. Their stock is valued at \$10,000, and includes lumbermen's supplies, shelf and heavy hardware, etc. They also handle all kinds of lumber, shingles and saw-mill products, and have a yearly trade amounting to \$75,000.

Mr. Johnson was Supervisor of the Township, and held the post since he came here until 1883; is also County Drain Commissioner; and when the village was organized in the spring of 1883 he was elected President.

He was married at Elkhart, Ind., March 10, 1871, to Stella Russell, born in Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., March 10, 1848. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Masonic Order, and of the A. O. U. W.

**E**dward A. Romig, M. D., of the firm of Woolley & Romig, Big Rapids, was born in Bristol, Elkhart Co., Ind., Sept. 23, 1852. His father, Adam Romig, was a merchant and died in 1860. His mother, Flavilla L. (Adams) Romig, is yet living, at Moberly, Mo. Dr. Romig was a student at school until he was 14 years old, after which he spent two years as a farm assistant. He passed the next four years as a teacher, and commenced to read for his profession in the office of Dr. C. Earl, of Pontiac, Oakland Co., Mich. After a year of study he went to Ann Arbor and became a private student under Prof. A. B. Palmer, completing his preparation by three terms in the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in March, 1877. He entered at once upon his practice at Clarkston, Oakland Co., and established a lucrative and popular business. He stayed there nearly four and a half years, and in the

fall of 1881 came to this city and opened an office at upper Big Rapids. Four months later he formed his present business relation with Dr. D. F. Woolley, a fortunate association, the firm occupying first rank as medical practitioners. Dr. Romig's specialties are surgery and diseases of the eye and ear. He is a member of the Union Medical Society of Northern Michigan.

Dr. Romig was married at Pontiac, Mich., October 1, 1879, to Mary W., daughter of John P. and Mary A. Wyckoff. They have had two children, Maud and Ethel. The former is deceased; the latter was born Feb. 26, 1883.

**B**lackmar, of the firm of Paul Blackmar & Co., dealers and manufacturers of lumber, shingles and lath, and pine-land dealers, at Big Rapids, was born at Detroit, Aug. 27, 1855. He is a son of Thomas S. and Mary E. (Williams) Blackmar. His father was a prominent attorney of Detroit, where he located about 1850 and opened a law office with Wm. A. Moore, now an eminent member of the Michigan bar. The senior Blackmar was Circuit Court Commissioner a long term of years, and died at Detroit in the fall of 1869. The mother was a daughter of Prof. Geo. P. Williams, of Michigan University, where he held the first chair of Mathematics and Metaphysics, which he retained a long period, and was finally retired on half-pay. Mrs. Blackmar died at Detroit, in 1864.

Mr. P. Blackmar obtained his elementary education at the public schools, chiefly at the Cass union school under Prof. Nichols. After the demise of his father, he went to Leavenworth, Kan., and there studied and taught school. He went thence to Mount Lincoln, Gray's Peak, and to the vicinity of Leadville, and was there engaged as a miner and in other occupations four years. He returned to Detroit and entered the office of T. W. Palmer, and about the year 1878 had charge of the entire business of that gentleman, representing at that time one and a half million dollars.

The manufacturing firm of McGraft & Montgomery at Muskegon dissolved July 1, 1882. Mr. Blackmar bought an interest in the concern Jan. 1, 1881

and on the dissolution named, in connection with Martin Kelly of Grand Rapids, he commenced the purchase and sale of timber on the branches of the Muskegon. T. W. Palmer, of Detroit, became interested in the enterprise in the fall of 1882, and during the ensuing winter the firm purchased and put in the river about twelve million feet of logs, a large proportion of which is being sawed at the old Tioga Mills, bought by Thomas S. Tew, of Hood, Gale & Co. In the summer of 1883 Mr. Blackmar purchased the claim of Mr. Kelly and is now managing the business alone; is also operating in the interest of Mr. Palmer. The latter has, on the Muskegon and its tributaries near this point, sixty million feet of standing timber (pine). The amount handled the current season will be twenty million feet of lumber, from ten to fifteen million feet of shingles and a large amount of lath.

Mr. Blackmar was married at Detroit, Sept. 9, 1879, to Georgia A., daughter of George and Ellen Rice, born Aug. 18, 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Blackmar have two sons,—Thomas P., born at Detroit, July 8, 1880, and William E., born at Muskegon, Jan. 12, 1882.

**M**ichael S. Collins, dealer in choice wines, liquors and cigars, at Big Rapids, was born in Hastings County, Pr. of Ont., March 16, 1841. He is a son of Richard and Bridget Collins, and at the age of 14 began life for himself as a lumberman, and spent five or six years in that employment. He then came to Grand Rapids, Mich., and was engaged until the autumn of 1865, in cutting ties for the G. R. & I. R. R., and in lumbering. He came to Big Rapids in the fall of the year named, where he carried on the lumbering business until 1876, and in that year rented the Montreal House, which he managed three years. He then purchased the building he now occupies, and the lot where it stands, from J. H. Foster. It is a brick structure, and the third of its class erected in the town. He carries a stock valued at \$3,000, and is transacting a thriving business. He owns a vacant lot on State Street, a house and two lots on the corner of Bridge and Grant Streets, and 10 acres of land in the Third Ward. Mr. Collins is a member of the Mutual Benefit Association (Catholic order).

He was married at Grand Rapids, July 8, 1868, to Mary, daughter of James and Eliza Rice, a native of Canada.

**W**illiam Barnhart, farmer, sec. 11, Deerfield Tp., is son of Jacob and Phebe Barnhart, *nee* Ledore. The father was born in Vermont, and died in Canada, in the spring of 1853. The mother was a native of the Dominion, and seven years after the death of her husband came with her children to this county, where she still resides. She married Mr. McGill and is now his widow, residing on sec. 12 of Deerfield Tp. She joined the pioneer element of the county before the organization of the township, where she has lived 23 years, and, although advanced in years, is an active, energetic woman and wins general esteem.

Our subject was born in Canada, May 14, 1846. His mother came to this county when he was 15 years of age. In '63 he took 80 acres of Government land under the homestead act, which he put under partial improvement and sold in '68, buying 80 acres where he is now located, 40 acres of which are under the plow. He was married in Mecosta County Jan. 51, '62, to Emma Smith. To them have been born nine children—John E., Mary E., deceased, Amy, Joseph, Louis, Mertie, deceased, Clara L., Addie, deceased and Georgia A.

**J**ames H. Pike, farmer, sec. 36, Deerfield Tp., was born in Pickering, Can., July 4, 1843. His parents, Lendoll and Mary Pike, *nee* Wilson, were born in New York and Canada respectively, and came to Mecosta County, where they are now resident.

Mr. Pike spent the first 18 years of his life in the Dominion and at that age went to Fredonia, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and was there engaged in fruit gardening. After four years he came to Ionia Co., Mich., and there lived ten years. In the spring of '76 he came to Mecosta County and bought 160 acres of land, with some improvements, in Deerfield Tp., where he has since lived. He acts and affiliates

with the Republican party and has held the post of Highway Commissioner one term.

Our subject was married in Ionia Co., Mich., to Rachel E., daughter of Robert Patrick. The parents of Mrs. Pike were of English birth and came to America, and soon located in Ionia Co., Mich., where the father died. The mother is still living on the homestead in Ionia County. Mr. and Mrs. Pike are the parents of four children—Geo. W., Orley D., Inez and Robert L.

**D**avid Wilson, farmer on sec. 27, Hinton Tp., is a son of Thomas and Jeannette (Steele) Wilson. They were both natives of Scotland, and came to Canada in its earliest period, where David was born, Dec. 24, 1848. He passed his time on the farm and at school until he was 22 years of age. In the fall of 1876 he came to Michigan and bought 80 acres of land, on which improvements had been begun and which is now his residence. He is a Republican in political opinion; holds the office of School Assessor, and is a member of the Good Templars. He was married in Canada, Dec. 27, 1870, to Abigail, daughter of George and Sarah Taylor, natives respectively of England and New York. Mrs. Wilson was born in Canada, July 26, 1843. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have had seven children, six of whom survive: Sarah, George, Jeannette, William A., Malcolm and Margaret S. Thomas died in Canada, aged 14 months. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the M. E. Church.

**N**orman W. Adams, farmer on sec. 11, Hinton Tp., is a son of Wm. and Lucy (Waite) Adams, who were natives of Vermont and came to New York before the war of 1812, where they passed the remainder of their lives. The father was a soldier of that war and was in the battle of Niagara, or Lundy's Lane, where Gen. Scott was wounded, Mr. Adams being one of the bearers of the litter in which he was carried 12 miles. Norman W. was born in Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., Feb. 21, 1831. He was "bound out" at an early age to an

uncle to serve until he was 21 years of age. On the expiration of his indentures he started overland for California, but was taken ill at Council Bluffs and returned to New York. Three years later he purchased a farm and engaged in butter and cheese making. In the spring of 1868 he came to this county and bought 80 acres of land in Hinton Tp., which is now his homestead. He has cleared 40 acres of land, put it into a good state of cultivation and erected suitable buildings. He is independent in politics; has held the office of Constable five years, and in 1871 was elected Notary Public, a post he still holds.

He was married in Genesee Co., New York, Sept. 15, 1853, to Nancy S., daughter of Amos and Dimmis (Riley) Bailey. She was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Aug. 26, 1833, and her parents were natives of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Adams have three children, Jason E., born March 4, 1858; Minnie D., born Sept. 26, 1864, and Harrison P., born Nov. 8, 1870.

**M**yron M. Cole, of the hardware house of Cole & Judson, Big Rapids, was born in Lysander, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Jan. 1, 1857. His father, Jonathan Cole, was born in 1813, and was engaged during his later years in the combined pursuits of farmer and lumberman. His mother was born in Bennington Co., Vt., in 1815. His father dying when Myron was about 14 years old, Mr. Cole went to live with his half brother, N. M. White, at Baldwinville, N. Y., and he remained there four years, attending school. At the age of 18 he came to Schoolcraft, Mich., where he attended school, and afterward entered Parson's Business College at Kalamazoo, completing his commercial studies in five months. He obtained a position as lumber inspector for the firm of Putnam & Barnhart, at Fife Lake, Grand Traverse Co., where he operated one summer, returning to Schoolcraft the following winter to teach school. In the spring he entered into partnership with Charles Barnhart, in the grocery and provision business. His partner died a year and a half later, and Mr. Cole bought his share of the stock and continued the business successfully about a year.

While here he was burned out, but his stock was well insured, and the loss slight. He closed his business affairs, and connected himself with the banking house of E. B. Dyckman & Co., acting in various capacities, and at the expiration of 11 months he acquired a one-third interest in the bank by purchase. The institution continued to operate nearly two years longer, but on the death of Mr. Dyckman the remaining partners sold out. In February, 1882, Mr. Cole came to Big Rapids and went into the hardware house known as Cox, Overton & Cole. Mr. Cole purchased the interest of Mr. Cox, in October, 1882, and transferred the stock to his present stand. In December, 1882, he admitted C. P. Judson as partner. The firm is considered one of the leading business houses of Big Rapids, and is having a successful and increasing trade. They carry a full line of the goods common to the hardware business and such as the local trade demands. They are agents for the Standard Oil Co., and are dealing extensively in coal.

Mr. Cole was married Oct. 9, 1879, to Libbie, daughter of Willis and Elizabeth Judson, and was born in Schoolcraft, Oct. 16, 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Cole have one child—Clarence M.—born at Big Rapids, Sept. 1, 1882.

**li Hill**, farmer, sec. 29 Deerfield Tp., was born in Williams Co., Ohio, Feb. 14, 1856. He is a son of Calvin C. and Louisa M. (Stanbrow) Hill, natives of New York, who went to Ohio and located in Steuben County, where the father died. The mother, on the occurrence of that event, came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., and afterward to Van Buren County. In the fall of 1878 she took up her residence at Morley.

Our subject acquired a good common school education in the educational institutions of Ohio and Michigan, and in 1879 came to Mecosta County and bought 80 acres of land in its primeval condition. For four years he rented and carried on a farm, but in the spring of '83 occupied his own farm, of which he had cleared 20 acres.

He was married Aug. 12, '76, in Van Buren Co., Mich., to Agnes, daughter of George and Ann (Loverington) Grant. Their three children were born in the

following order: Geo. C., Aug. 9, '78; Frederick E., March 12, '80; Alonzo L., Feb. 10, '81.

Mr. Hill is a Republican in political belief and practice.

**Edward W. Hudnutt**, of the firm of Crocker & Hudnutt, architects, contractors and builders, and proprietors of the Falcon Planing Mill at Big Rapids, was born at Louisville, Ky., Dec. 15, 1852; is a son of Joseph O. and Marcia (Webster) Hudnutt. His father was a civil engineer and was many years chief of the construction corps of various canal and railroad companies. In 1859 the family settled near Waverley, Bremer Co., Iowa, and the following year the father represented that district in the Legislature of the State, resigning on the breaking out of the civil war and returning to Waverley, where he enlisted in the 38th Iowa Vol. Inf., with the rank of Major. He was chiefly on detached duty and assigned to the staff of Major Gen. Herron. He served as engineer of fortifications, and was in severe engagements with his regiment. It was badly disrupted and finally consolidated with the 34th Iowa Vol. Inf., when he was promoted to a Colonelcy and afterward to the rank of Brigadier General. He served the Union cause three years, and on leaving the army went to Chicago and entered the University as Professor of Civil Engineering. Later he was employed by the Chicago & Illinois River Canal Co., and afterward by the Chicago & Northwestern R. R. Co.; was on the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific R. R.'s; surveyed the route of the Grand Rapids & Indiana R. R., and went to South Carolina and surveyed the Richmond & Atlanta Air Line R. R. He came to Big Rapids in 1869 and bought into the Tioga Manufacturing Co., afterward selling out and buying the Tioga Flouring Mill, where he operated for a time and then went to Leadville, Col., and became interested in mining and in mining engineering. He went thence to Montana to survey under a Government contract, where he is occupied at present.

Mr. Hudnutt, of this sketch, was at the age of 14 connected with the engineering corps of the Union Pacific R. R., and continued three years, when he became connected in the same capacity with the

G. R. & I. R. R., serving two years. He passed the winters of these years in the University at Rochester, N. Y., where he was graduated with the class of 1873. He was employed by the Rochester Water Works Co. as draughtsman two years, and in 1875 came to Big Rapids and bought the Falcon Planing Mill, with Caleb S. Hanks and Luther D. Henderson, the firm name being Hudnutt, Henderson, Hanks & Co. Mr. Henderson sold to his partners the next year, and in 1877 John M. Crocker succeeded to the position and interest of Mr. Hanks. Messrs. Crocker and Hudnutt have built the principal business blocks of Big Rapids and many of its residences. Their works are turning out a large amount of sash, doors, blinds and all builders' materials. As their business has increased they have made additions to their mills in proportion. They are located in upper Big Rapids, near the upper bridge.

Mr. Hudnutt was married at Big Rapids, to Thyra J., daughter of Ferdinand and Julia Fairman. She is a native of Adams, N. Y., and is the mother of one child, Marian Hudnutt. Mr. Hudnutt is a member of the order of Masonry and Knights of Pythias.

**L**uther O. R. Ward, farmer, sec. 34, Austin Tp., is a son of John and Catharine (Quigley) Ward, natives of New York and both now deceased. They were of mixed English, Irish and German ancestry, and before their marriage had moved to Ontario, Can., where Mr. Ward was born, in the county of Brant, April 3, 1841. He passed the years of his early life on his father's farm and at school, and when he was 20 years old he went to an adjoining county and worked as a farm and mill hand until the spring of 1863, when he settled in Austin Tp. and bought 80 acres of timbered land. He built the usual pioneer's cabin, with puncheon floor, and had no sawed lumber in the house except in the door. After a few months Mr. Ward returned to Canada and married, at St. George, Brant Co., Dec. 9, 1863, Clarissa A., daughter of David and Martha (Cornell) Davis, of English descent and natives of Canada. She was born Nov. 29, 1841, and died Feb. 8, 1873, at her home in Austin Tp., leaving four children: Laura,

born Nov. 15, 1864; Rosa, May 7, 1866; John, April 6, 1868, and George, May 31, 1871.

Mr. Ward has been actively engaged in farming since 1863, has put his place in first-class condition, and owns 40 acres of land in an adjoining township. He was again married June 8, 1874, to Mrs. Sarah McGill, widow of Wm. McGill, who was born in Ontario, Can., Aug. 1, 1845, and died Nov. 8, 1873, at Grand Rapids, leaving his wife and one child, Mary, born Feb. 12, 1871. Mrs. Ward was born in Ontario, Can., May 25, 1845, and is the daughter of John and Sarah (Bruley) Austin, natives of New England and of German descent. Of the second marriage of Mr. Ward there is one child, William, born May 12, 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Ward are members of the M. E. Church, of which Mr. Ward is Steward. He is a working Republican, and has been Supervisor of his township one year, Treasurer one term, etc.

**F**rederick Rose, harness-maker, at Big Rapids, was born in Germany, June 3, 1823. At the age of 14 he entered upon his apprenticeship, and after a service of three years enlisted in the German army, enrolling in 1843 and remaining four years and three months.

Mr. Rose came to America in 1854, and settled at Buffalo, N. Y., where he established himself in business, and remained about 18 months. He next went to Waterloo Co., Canada, and there carried on his business 15 years. In 1872 he came to Big Rapids and formed a business connection with Duncan McClellan, which existed 14 months. Since that date he has managed the same line of trade where he is now located and employs several men. His annual transactions amount to \$3,000, and includes harness-making and saddlery, carriage trimming, etc. He owns his residence on the corner of Sanford avenue and Division street, and 66 acres of land in the township of Big Rapids, southeast of the city and located on the river.

Mr. Rose was married March 18, 1854, in Germany, to Wilhelmina Augstell, and they have had two children: Matilda, wife of Cyrus Brecker, a Canadian merchant; and Margaret, wife of John Hoffman, a harness-maker in Canada. Mrs. Rose

died in Canada, in 1859, and Mr. Rose was a second time married, Aug. 16, 1860, to Rebecca Mosier, a Canadian by birth and of German descent. The parents of Mr. Rose were Christian and Elizabeth Rose.

**Henry R. Brown**, farmer, sec. 27, Deerfield Tp., P. O. Morley, was born Oct. 16, 1855, in Pennsylvania. His parents, Michael and Catherine (Moser) Brown, were natives of Germany and came to America in 1850, finding a home in the Keystone State, where they are spending their final years.

Mr. Brown passed the first 23 years of his life in Pennsylvania, in farm labor and studying at the common school. He came to Mecosta County in 1879 and bought 120 acres of timber land, and still holds 80 acres of his original tract. He has built a frame house and made other improvements on his estate.

Mr. Brown was married at Morley, April 4, 1883, to Sarah E., daughter of Wm. and Ann M. (Belles) Brink. She was born in Pennsylvania Dec. 31, 1861. They are attendants at the M. E. Church, of which Mr. Brown is an active member. He is a Democrat in political sentiment and action.

**Evi S. Menere**, farmer, sec. 1, Millbrook Tp., was born Sept. 7, 1826, in Canada, son of James and Rachel (Mayhew) Menere, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Canada. He remained at home until he was 25 years old, when he started in life for himself. His father deeded him 100 acres of land upon which he lived six years, and managed with profit. Later, he sold the place and bought another, which he rented to a tenant for two years and sold at the end of that time. In the winter of 1865 he bought 80 acres of unimproved land in Millbrook Tp. To this he has added 40 acres in this township, and also purchased 40 acres of land in Isabella County. He has placed 80 acres under first-class improvements, and has a finely located and valuable farm.

He was married in Canada, May 26, 1851, to Mary

E., daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Stanley) Decker, who was born in the Dominion April 26, 1834. Mr. and Mrs. Menere have had 14 children, 12 of whom are living: Mary A., born July 25, 1853; Rachel, April 25, 1855; Sarah J., Feb. 20, 1857; Dinah A., Dec. 1, 1858; James G., July 27, 1860; Edward S., April 26, 1862; Ellen E., June 13, 1866; Josephine, April 2, 1868; Wm. S., Aug. 1, 1870; Caroline, Oct. 11, 1872; Ruth, Sept. 11, 1877; Floyd A., Feb. 29, 1880; Eliza, born March 11, 1852, died Sept. 9, 1855; Catharine, born Feb. 16, 1864, died May 20, 1865.

Mr. Menere is independent in politics and has held several official positions. He is a member of the ancient order of Odd Fellows.

**Thomas P. Mortensen**, senior member of the grocery firm of Mortensen & Myning, at Big Rapids, was born in Denmark, Feb. 26, 1846. He came to the United States in 1873, and in 1874 established a laundry on Canal street, Grand Rapids, which he managed until 1879. Mr. M. then came to Big Rapids and embarked in the same enterprise, which he continued three years. This was the first establishment in that branch in the city. In the fall of 1882 he formed his present business relation. The house is carrying a stock worth \$2,000, and is transacting a profitable and growing business.

Mr. Mortensen was married at Grand Rapids, Nov. 25, 1873, to Matilda Anderson, a native of Norway, born April 1, 1845. The five children born of this marriage are—Clara H., Alfred (dec.), Alma, Thora and Hannah. The family attend the Lutheran Church. Mr. Mortensen belongs to the I. O. O. F. Besides his residence he owns a house and lot on the east side of the Fifth ward, and a farm of 40 acres on sec. 12, township of Big Rapids.

**m. M. McCamley**, farmer, sec. 6, Austin Tp., was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., June 8, 1828. His parents, Eleazer and Ruth (Wheeler) McCamley, were natives of Scotland, and emigrated to the United States, locating in the county where the son was born. They came with their family in 1832 to







*Nelson Higbee*



*Mrs C. A. Higbee.*



Calhoun Co., Mich., where they lived until January, 1847, when William enlisted as a soldier in the Mexican war. He enrolled in the Michigan Vol., Co. G, under Capt. Hicks, with Col. Stockson in command of the regiment, which was attached to the division of Gen. Taylor. He was in considerable active service but escaped without injury, and was honorably discharged in November, 1848. He then remained at home until 1850, when he moved upon a farm in Calhoun County, and lived there until the spring of 1852. In that year he made an overland journey to California, passing through the Mormon "City of the plains." His search for gold continued two years and he then returned to his home. In the fall of 1856 he purchased a farm in Mecosta Tp., where he was resident until November, 1864, then bought 80 acres on sec. 6, Austin Tp., to which he has since added, by purchase, 40 acres more, and is now the proprietor of a valuable farm of 120 acres of finely improved land.

Mr. McCamley was married Dec. 4, 1850, to Martha S., daughter of John and Emma (Woodward) Fish, respectively of Welsh and English descent, who was born in Allegany Co., N. Y., Sept. 1, 1832, and came to Michigan when but five years old. Of this marriage six children have been born, Delisle, Jan. 18, 1856; Alice R., June 4, 1858; Flora M., May 31, 1860; Mary J., March 30, 1862; Wm. B., July 9, 1864; Lou. A., Sept. 12, 1873. Mr. McCamley is a Democrat in politics, and has held the post of Township Treasurer two terms.

**H**elson Higbee, farmer and lumberman, resident on section 9, Deerfield Tp., was born in Broome Co., N. Y., Dec. 1, 1825. He is a son of Loring and Mary (Roberts) Higbee, the former a native of Massachusetts, the latter of Connecticut. The paternal grandfather of Mr. Higbee settled in Broome County, in 1796, when his son Loring was only a boy. The father of Mr. Higbee died in 1862; the mother is living on the homestead with a younger son, and has attained the venerable age of 91 years.

Mr. Higbee received a fair education at the public schools and finished study with a partial academic course. He passed the years of his minority in the

home of his parents, and on reaching man's estate he went to Tioga County, where he was occupied with farming and lumbering three years. In 1853 he came to Michigan and located in Croton, Newaygo Co., devoting his attention to the same pursuits. He bought there 300 acres of land and placed 200 acres of the tract under fine improvements; he also erected a number of buildings in Croton and exerted all his influence toward the substantial progress of the place.

Meanwhile, in the year 1865, he purchased of John W. Forbes, John W. Brooks and Robert S. Watson, of Boston, Mass., 1,700 acres of pine land in Deerfield Tp., for which he paid ten dollars an acre. The advance in value has swelled the estate (numerically) to a comparatively enormous amount. Without details of purchase the following statement exhibits his estate in Deerfield, aggregating 4,080 acres, sectionally located as follows:

On section 1....	120 acres.	On section 15....	600 acres.
" " 7....	40 "	" " 16....	40 "
" " 8....	80 "	" " 17....	120 "
" " 9....	640 "	" " 20....	240 "
" " 10....	440 "	" " 21....	160 "
" " 11....	120 "	" " 22....	320 "
" " 12....	240 "	" " 26....	40 "
" " 13....	200 "	" " 27....	160 "
" " 14....	320 "	" " 30....	200 "

Aside from his lands in the township of Deerfield, Mr. Higbee owns, in company with others, 15,000 acres of land. He also owns 300 acres of valuable land adjoining the city of Grand Rapids. He has owned at different periods 5,000 acres in Aetna Tp. alone. His home farm (so called), on which he located in 1878, includes 720 acres, with 500 under advanced improvement. He keeps 15 horses, 10 oxen and 15 cows to supply the wants of his estate and employecs, and even these are inadequate to the necessities of the case. He cures five tons of pork annually, raises 1,500 bushels of onions, 2,000 of corn, 1,200 of wheat, 2,000 of oats, 2,000 of potatoes cuts 150 tons of hay and has a flock of sheep.

In 1873, in company with A. B. Watson, of Grand Rapids, Mr. Higbee built a dam on his property in Deerfield. He bought the claim of Mr. Watson soon after and in company with William Hugh, Sr., built the mill they are now managing, and commenced the manufacture of lumber and lath and added planing works to the mill facilities.

Mr. Higbee was married in 1849 to Catherine A.,

daughter of Jonathan and Phebe (Hoagland) Truesdell. The latter venerable personages, aged respectively 86 and 85 years, reside with and are the special care of their son-in-law. The daughter and wife died July 7, 1883. Mr. Higbee is a Republican in political sentiment. Mr. and Mrs. Higbee's portraits are given in this work.



**G**EO. M. Gottshall, of the firm of Cannon & Gottshall, Big Rapids, was born at Canton, Ohio, June 1, 1845. His parents, Daniel and Rebecca (Martin) Gottshall, were of German lineage; the father was born in Westmoreland, Pa., June 12, 1803, and mother, in 1815, in Lancaster, Pa. Mr. Gottshall learned the printer's trade when a mere boy, but abandoned the craft temporarily to contribute his part toward his country's defense. His father was instrumental in raising a cavalry company and was put in command of Company K, 3d Ohio Cavalry, in which Mr. Gottshall enlisted, though but 16 years of age. Capt. Gottshall contracted camp diarrhea and was sent home to recuperate, but died June 18, 1862. The mother still survives and resides at Canton. Mr. Gottshall was in action at Chickamauga, Stone River, Kenesaw Mountain and at the siege of Atlanta under Sherman; was with Kilpatrick on his raid in Georgia, and at the battles of Jonesboro, Ga., Franklin and Nashville, Tenn. His period of enlistment expired in Sept., 1864, but his command was not mustered out until Dec. 30 of that year. He returned to Canton and again enlisted in Company D, 2d Ohio Cavalry, Capt. H. C. Pike. This regiment was in Custer's Brigade at Five Forks, Va., which intercepted Lee and compelled him to place himself beyond the Appomattox previous to his final surrender. At the close of the war the regiment was sent into Southwestern Missouri and the Indian Territory, and was mustered out in September, 1865, at St. Louis, Mo. Previous to the engagement at Stone River Mr. Gottshall was promoted as Corporal. At the battle of Chickamauga and also at the crossing of Elk river near Deckert Station, he received slight gunshot wounds, but throughout the entire period of his army life he was not seriously injured or ill. Daniel H. Gottshall, a brother, enlisted in Company F, 4th Ohio Vol. Inf., and Martin V. B. Gottshall,

another brother, in Company B, 43d Ohio Vol. Inf., both of whom served their time of enlistment safely.

Mr. Gottshall returned to Canton and resumed the printer's business, himself and brother, M. V. B., starting a weekly paper—*The National Democrat*. After two year's successful prosecution of this enterprise he sold to his brother and engaged with E. Ball & Co., manufactures of agricultural machinery, operating alternately in the office and shop as contractor. He continued until 1869, when he went to Fort Wayne, Ind., in the capacity of book-keeper with a furniture house. After a year he entered the employ of a lumber company—Beaver, Miller & Co.,—where he acted as accountant, general manager, salesman, etc., remaining five years. He came to Big Rapids in 1876 and in company with B. A. Webster established himself as a lumber dealer, the firm adopting the name of Gottshall & Webster. This relation was dissolved at the end of three years, when Mr. Gottshall accepted an engagement with F. Fairman as traveling salesman, selling lumber, etc. He afterward went into the office of Mr. Fairman's manufacturing establishment known as the Big Rapids Iron Works and officiated as manager and book-keeper. In Oct., 1882, Mr. Edwin Cannon and himself bought the Iron Works which they have since continued to operate, constructing all machinery necessary to the manufacture of lumber and shingles. They own the building and site (315 x 195 feet) and have all the best facilities for making light or heavy work, from simple bolts to complicated engines. Their products sell in the lumber districts of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and even Texas.

Mr. Gottshall was married at Canton, May 23, 1868., to Frances A., daughter of John E. and Maria T. (Rodgers) Whitney, who was born Dec. 9, 1849, at Cazenovia, N. Y. Edith A., their only child, was born at Fort Wayne, Ind., Dec. 7, 1870.



**G**EO A. Roof, dealer in boots and shoes, at Big Rapids, was born at Plessis, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Sept. 19, 1852. His parents, Daniel and Elizabeth (Shaver) Roof, came to Big Rapids in August, 1871. Mr. Roof received his business training under the personal supervision of his father, who was a boot and shoe

dealer and manufacturer in Jefferson County, and founded the same business at Big Rapids. He built the structure on Michigan avenue, now occupied by T. D. Mulbury. In July, 1873, Mr. Roof entered into partnership with his father, an association which proved successful, as their business included a considerable jobbing trade. Jan. 1, 1879, he became sole owner by purchasing his father's interest. The latter died Feb. 13, 1880. In June, 1883, Mr. Roof moved the building he occupied to Maple street, and then proceeded to the erection of the "Roof Block," one of the finest in the city. It is built of brick, 50 x 100 feet in size, with three stories above the basement.

Mr. Roof was married at Ottawa, Can., Jan. 12, 1874, to Laura McLaughlin, who died May 10, 1875, leaving an infant, Charlie D., born at Big Rapids, April 28, 1875. Mr. Roof entered into a second matrimonial alliance Nov. 20, 1876, with Mattie A., daughter of Jonas and Mary A. Crouse, who was born Nov. 20, 1857. They have two sons, J. Fred, born at Big Rapids, Aug. 26, 1881, and an infant not yet named. Mr. Roof is a member of the Royal Arcanum, Council, No. 174. He owns a fine residence, which he built in 1882.

**E**li W. Foglesang, farmer, sec. 13, Millbrook Tp., was born in Ohio, March 19, 1842. His parents, Eli and Mary (Shoup) Foglesang, were born respectively in Ohio and Pennsylvania. In 1861 he came to St. Joseph Co., Mich., where he worked one year on a farm. In the following year he came to Clinton County and enlisted in the war of the Rebellion, enrolling Aug. 5, 1862, in the 23d Regiment Michigan Vol. Inf., and served until July, 1865, when he received honorable discharge. Among other engagements in which he took part were the siege of Knoxville, Duck River, Columbia, Franklin, Nashville and siege of Atlanta. His regiment was for a time attached to Sherman's command, and detached to join the corps detailed to follow up the retreat of Hood's army. After being mustered out of the United States service he came to Bay City, Mich., and worked for a short time in a shingle mill, going thence to Clinton County, where he was resident about three years. In the

spring of 1869 he bought 200 acres of unimproved land in Millbrook Tp. Of this tract 160 acres have passed from his proprietorship: the remaining 40 is now his homestead and is practically all under cultivation.

He was married in Bay Co., Mich., Aug. 23, 1868, to Mary, daughter of Thomas and Mary A. (Johnson) Hested, who was born in Washtenaw Co., Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Foglesang have had two children: Cora B., born May 10, 1870, and Lewis W., May 14, 1872. In politics Mr. Foglesang is a Republican and has held several township offices at various periods.

**W**illiam A. Bell, farmer on sec. 12, Aetna Tp., is a native of Canada, and is a son of John A. and Margaret (Johnson) Bell. He remained with his parents until he was 22 years of age, acquiring his education and fitting himself for the vocation of farmer. At that age he bought 80 acres of land, under partial improvements, where he now resides and on which he has recently built a fine barn. Sixty acres of his land are cultivated. He is a Republican in principle and action, and himself and family attend the M. E. Church.

He was married at Grand Rapids, July 6, 1874, to Edna J., daughter of Edmund and Mary (House) Groom, and their children are Alverta M., born Dec. 23, 1877, and Ray B., born Sept. 8, 1879.

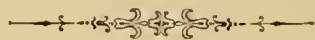
**H**el C. Osborne, proprietor of the Palace Barber Shop at Big Rapids, was born at Cazenovia, N. Y., June 3, 1841. He is a son of Thomas E. and Salome (Hanks) Osborne, and was sent to school in his native place until he was 16 years old. His first occupation of any importance was in the capacity of page to the Sergeant-at-Arms of the New York Assembly, at the State Capitol at Albany, N. Y. At the age of 18 he began to prepare for his vocation by obtaining a position in a barber shop at Oswego, N. Y. In the fall of 1863 he went to Toledo, Ohio, and

established himself in business, remaining about two years. He then went to Fulton, N. Y., where he again embarked in business and operated until 1867. In this year he made his first essay in his calling at Big Rapids, associated with George Jones. In 1869 he went back to Fulton, N. Y., and remained two years, when he returned to Big Rapids again and purchased an interest in the business owned by B. F. Brazee. They sold out to J. E. Lalone, and Mr. Osborne entered the employ of L. T. Loveless, engaging a year later with Langsworth & Van Haun. After six months he purchased the claim of the senior member of the firm, and after another six months he became sole proprietor by buying out Mr. Van Haun.

He opened the Palace shop in December, 1881, and the establishment is acknowledged to be the finest in the Peninsular State. He employs two assistants, and owns another shop in a different locality under the management of William Disley and one assistant. In connection with his shop he has a fine set of bath rooms which, with his operating tables, are fitted with the best of modern fixtures. His assistants are skilled in their business, and his establishment is deservedly famous throughout Michigan.

Mr. Osborne was married in Oswego, N. Y., June 21, 1865, to Sarah E., daughter of Stephen and Mary Hare, born April 7, 1850, in Pictou, Canada. Clayton, the eldest child, was born in Toledo, Ohio, June 6, 1866, and is now a messenger in the employ of the W. U. Telegraph Co. Minnie was born Oct. 11, 1869, at Big Rapids.

Mr. Osborne belongs to the I. O. O. F., and has held the offices of Past Grand, and of P. C. P.



**G**eorge W. Green, lumberman, resident at Big Rapids, was born at Amity, Allegany Co., N. Y., Dec. 31, 1834, son of William D. and Anna (Belden) Green. His father was a farmer and lumberman, and he was early put in training for the same occupation, upon which he entered at 17 years of age. The business career of Mr. Green represents in miniature the history of Mecosta County, whither he came in 1855. The township of Green permanently and fitly commemorates the family name, Mr. Green, with his

father and brother Andrew, being among the earliest settlers within its limits, and the founder of a considerable proportion of "first things" there, as they were the heaviest land-holders at that period. They located about 1,400 acres of land and entered zealously upon the work of clearing and prosecuting their lumber interests. Mr. Green was associated with his brother Andrew in the lumber trade and in farming about 12 years. They bought large tracts of pine land, in Clare County, principally; employed many men, and put logs in the river, which were sold afterward, as is the custom in this section. Mr. Green, of this sketch, built the first frame house and barn in the township of Green. The former was erected on sec. 9, in 1857, the latter on sec. 4, in 1859. The residence was the first frame dwelling in Mecosta County. At the time of his arrival, there was but one-half of an acre of ground cleared where Big Rapids now stands, whereon was located a small hut owned and occupied by Zerah French, the only inhabitant living there at the time they located their lands. Mr. Green and his brother were often obliged to carry some part of their provisions long distances on their backs.

In 1872, associated with his brother—Lewis H. Green—he bought a saw-mill on the river in Big Rapids, at the foot of Hemlock street. The following year they sold out, and each proceeded to build a mill on his own responsibility. Lewis H. erected a lumber mill on the north side of Mitchell Creek, and Mr. Green of this sketch built a shingle mill on the south side of the same stream, which he sold in June, 1875, to S. H. Gray & Co. He continued to put in logs up the river, and in 1877 engaged with Bailey & Hardy in the meat business at Big Rapids. This relation closed at the end of a year, and Mr. Green went to the Black Hills, where he engaged in lumbering and mining until 1881, meeting with satisfactory success.

The death of his wife recalled him to Big Rapids, and he resumed the lumber trade. In 1882 he bought a saw-mill in the village of Mecosta, which he sold in June of the following year. He still owns and manages a lumber yard there and, in company with D. F. Glidden, is engaged in the lumber business. His property at Big Rapids consists of a fine residence, and two lots on the corner of Elm and Ives avenues; a residence and lot adjoining on the north; a store on the north side of Michigan avenue.



about 5,000 acres of stump land in Clare, Missaukee and Osceola Counties; and 160 acres of farming land in Dakota.

Mr. Green was married March 27, 1862, in Green Tp., to Mary A., daughter of Thomas and Nicholas (Stott) Shaw, and a native of London, Eng. Three children were born of this union: Lola M. B., Grace G., and George W. The mother died at Big Rapids, May 11, 1881. Mr. Green was again married, Oct. 17, 1882, at East Dennis, Mass., to Ellen M., daughter of Stillman Kelley. He is a member of the City Council of Big Rapids, of which position he was the incumbent in 1877-78. He has served ten years as Deputy County Surveyor, and was Deputy under the first County Clerk, Orrin Stevens, elected at the organization of Mecosta County, which position he filled two years. While a resident of Green Tp. he was Justice of the Peace four years, was Deputy Township Clerk a number of years, and has served at Big Rapids as Deputy Sheriff under A. S. Mason. He is a member of the Blue Lodge, Masonic Order, and is a Knight Templar.

**E**lio Losie, farmer, sec. 26, Deerfield Tp., is the son of John and Eleanor (Waite) Losie. The father was a native of Canada, and the mother of New Brunswick. In 1861 the family removed to Port Huron, Mich., where the mother is still living. Her husband died in the summer of 1865.

Mr. Losie was born in Canada, June 18, 1828, and was resident there until 1863, in the winter of which year he settled in Mecosta County and "took up" 40 acres of land in Deerfield Township. His log-house home and laborious efforts in clearing the forest to make way for the support and advancement of himself and family, though the same trite experience so often recounted, is no less the strong central point in his career because it has a counterpart in so many personal histories.

Mr. Losie was married in Canada, Nov. 8, 1853, to Esther, daughter of Ephraim and Sarah (Roszell) Burs, natives of Canada. They afterward settled in Allegan Co., Mich., where the father died. Her mother resides with a daughter, Mrs. Henry Mills, of Deerfield Tp. Of this marriage seven children

have been born, recorded as follows: Asenath A., born April 15, '58; Bertha A., July 17, '60; Lizanna A., Oct. 29, '62; Elon A., March 16, '65; Earl J., May 7, '67; Sarah E., Sept. 21, '54 (died Aug. 15, '58); John E., March 3, '56 (died Aug. 21, '58). The deaths occurred but six days apart.

Mr. and Mrs. Losie are members of the Baptist Church, and in politics he is a Republican.

**E**dwin Cannon, manufacturer at Big Rapids, is a native of England, and a son of Charles and Nancy (Matthews) Cannon. He was born in Buckinghamshire, Nov. 17, 1837. His father came to the United States in 1847, accompanied by his two sons, George and Edwin, the latter a lad of ten years. They went to Lenawee Co., Mich., where, two years later, Mr. Cannon (Sr.) bought 80 acres of land in a wild state. The wife and mother joined her family in Blissfield Tp., about this time, bringing with her the remaining children, Jane and James. They experienced all the inconveniences of first settlers, but, appreciative of their privileges under a popular government, went heartily to work to secure all the benefits accruing to them from independent citizenship. Their log cabin was humble and deficient in modern appliances, but it was their own, and the privations of that period are less in their memories than its charms and freedom. Mrs. Nancy Cannon died in 1879. At 19, Mr. Cannon went to Blissfield, Lenawee Co., to learn wagon-making, where he worked two years, and then engaged in agriculture four years. In 1862, in company with Mark Cannon, a cousin, he bought a steam saw-mill, which they managed together about five years. The enterprise was prosperous and Mr. Cannon sold his moiety to his partner and proceeded to establish a new mill in the vicinity. Six months after its completion, he formed a partnership with James Tibbals and removed the mill and fixtures to Hastings, Barry Co., Mich. This was about the year 1869, and the mill was utilized in sawing ties for the Grand River Valley R. R., then in process of construction. Afterward the mill did custom work at Hastings until 1871, when a second transfer was made to Byers, of this county, and the power devoted to the same line of business. In the

winter of 1873 the firm took a contract to saw lumber for Charles Barstow, at Hungerford, and the mill was again removed. Mr. Cannon bought the interests of Mr. Tibbals in the summer of 1876, and Aug. 1, 1881, the mill was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$6,000. He came to Big Rapids soon after, and in partnership with Geo. M. Gotshall became proprietor by purchase of the manufacturing establishment of F. Fairman, and has since been engaged in constructing edgers, tram-cars, engines, and mill machinery generally. The annual transactions reach an aggregate value of \$90,000.

Mr. Cannon owns a half interest in 600 acres of land in Hungerford besides his residence, and eight city lots on S. State street at the west end of Oak street. He was married at Mattawan, Van Buren Co., Mich., April 20, 1872, to Leavana, daughter of Levi Butler, a farmer and carpenter of Mattawan, who was born Nov. 21, 1845. Mr. Cannon is a member of the Order of Masonry.

**F**ranklin C. Terrill, M. D., was born in Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., Aug. 3, 1849. He is the youngest son of Lyman and Catherine (Clark) Terrill, and was reared on a farm to the age of 18. He attended the common district school until the age of 14, when he entered the high school at Northville and two years afterward entered the union school at Ann Arbor, Mich., where he pursued the English course.

In the fall of 1869 he was chosen Principal of the union schools at Ovid, Mich., which position he held during the following year, when he went to Kansas and was elected to the same position in the schools at White Church.

Dr. Terrill followed the calling of teacher, reading *ad interim* for his profession until 1875, when, owing to ill health, he abandoned it and returned to Ovid, Mich., where he embarked in the drug business with Geo. C. Beebe; this relation and business continued until the fall of 1877, when he entered the Department of Medicine and Surgery at Ann Arbor, Mich., completed the course of study prescribed, and was graduated June 26, 1879. He formed a partnership for the practice of his profession with Dr. J. W. Pattison at Millbrook, Mecosta Co., and there practiced until September, 1881. In that month he came to

Big Rapids and established his business, which is now in a prosperous condition.

Dr. Terrill is a member of the Union Medical Society of Northern Michigan, and was elected first Vice-President on its organization. He belongs to the fraternity of Odd Fellows. In 1872, while resident at White Church, Kan., he connected himself with the Order of Masonry, joining Delaware Lodge, No. 96; he was made Senior Warden in 1872-3, and was elected Master of his Lodge Dec. 29, 1874, serving one year.

Lyman Terrill was born March 13, 1802, in Ontario Co., N. Y., and came to Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mich., where he was a prominent pioneer. He settled on a farm, which he put under first-class improvements and continued to reside there until his death, April 13, 1877. Mrs. Terrill, his wife, was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Dec. 13, 1810. Her marriage to Mr. Terrill occurred Dec. 13, 1880, at Ann Arbor, Mich. Of seven children born to them six are now living, viz: Charles C. is an architect in California; was a member of the Legislature of the Golden State for three successive terms; Nancy resides at Ovid; Martha C. is the wife of Chas. M. Morrison, a farmer at Ovid, Clinton Co., Mich.; Jared D. is Chief Clerk in the Indian Bureau at Washington, D. C., which position he has occupied for 18 years. Francis G. is a farmer on the homestead at Plymouth; Hobert H. is deceased. The mother died at Plymouth, Jan. 11, 1863.

**H**enry D. Brown, Postmaster at Millbrook, was born in New York, Aug. 23, 1829. He is a son of Elijah and Abigail (Strong) Brown, the former a native of Massachusetts, the latter of New York. They were married in the State of New York and there passed their entire lives, the father dying at the age of 82 years; the mother died in 1832. Mr. Brown was nearly 25 years of age when he took a final leave of his childhood's home. A brief visit to Wisconsin in earlier years had given him a favorable impression of that State, and on leaving home he made his way thither and remained three years, being a part of the time in the employ of his brother as clerk. In 1857 he returned to New York, and during the next two years carried on the grocery trade in his own inter-

ests. He disposed of his business, and in the fall of 1859 came to Michigan and located in Branch County, buying a farm and there operating two years. He again sold out and removed to St. Joseph County, where he rented a farm and worked a few months. The continuous calls for men to aid in crushing the Southern rebellion awakened his patriotism, and he enlisted in the 17th Michigan Vol. Inf., and served until the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge at Detroit. Among the most memorable actions in which he participated were the battles at Jackson, Miss., Knoxville, Tenn., battle of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania Court House. At the last named his regiment was nearly cut to pieces, the survivors being few. After this he was on detached service until the close of the war. After his discharge in 1865 he came to Mecosta County and settled in Wheatland Tp., where he bought a farm and operated until 1878. He sold his place in that year and came to the village of Millbrook to live. In the fall of 1879 he received his appointment as Postmaster from President Hayes, and has since occupied the position. While a resident of Wheatland he held the office of Township Clerk several times, besides other minor offices. In politics he is a Republican.

Mr. Brown was married in New York, to Mary E., daughter of Chauncey and Lorenna Brown. Their only child died in infancy. The mother died Jan. 3, 1853. Mr. Brown was married in 1865 to Cassie, only daughter of John D. and Margaret (Hopkins) Clemment, and they have two children, Charlie D. and Lottie C.

**F**redrick W. Joslin, merchant tailor, clothier and hatter, Big Rapids, is a son of William and Cynthia (Greenwood) Joslin, and was born in Hubbardston, Worcester Co., Mass., May 25, 1845. He was reared on a farm and received the education of a farmer's son until he was 17 years old, when he entered the Military Academy at Leicester, Mass., and remained one and a half years. He then came West to Fort Wayne, Ind., and entered the employ of Messrs. Woodward, Young & Co., clothiers, as clerk. In 1870 he formed a partnership with N. B. Young. This relation existed nearly two years, when it was dissolved, and Mr. Joslin came to Big Rapids in 1872. Here he

associated himself with W. C. Peters in the clothing trade, and the firm transacted a prosperous business until November, 1878, when he became sole proprietor by purchase, and has since conducted his business alone. He carries a stock of \$25,000 value, consisting of a full line of cloaking, gentlemen's furnishing goods and lumbermen's wear. In the spring of 1882 he added merchant tailoring, and is doing a good business in that department.

Mr. Joslin was married at Fort Wayne, Feb. 16, 1871, to Etta K., daughter of Isaac and Kate (Bowman) Beckley, who was born Feb. 23, 1847, near Harrisburg, Pa. They have two sons, Frederick W. and Roy G., the former born at Fort Wayne, April 3, 1873, the latter at Big Rapids, June 9, 1878.

Mr. Joslin's place of business is situated on the corner of Michigan avenue and Maple street, fronting on both. He owns his residence and two lots, on the corner of Stewart avenue and Linden street.

**D.** Moody, liveryman at Big Rapids, was born in Medina Co., Ohio, Feb. 25, 1844, and is a son of Daniel and Sophia (Rogers) Moody. He was reared on a farm and came with his parents to Grand Rapids in 1852. In 1856 his father bought 320 acres of land in Alpine Tp., Kent Co. Mr. Moody enlisted, when 18 years of age, in the army, enrolling Aug. 12, 1862, in Co. E, Second Mich. Cav., under Capt. Nicholson. He went into the service as a private, and during his period of enlistment passed the various promotions to that of Sergeant. He was in the battles of Perryville, Carter's raid in East Tennessee, Chickamauga, through the Georgia campaign under Sherman, at Franklin, Nashville, Wilson's cavalry raid, siege of Tuscaloosa, and was captured by the rebels at Taladego. As the war was practically at an end, he was held but three days, and was discharged from the service in June, 1865. His father enlisted in the same regiment, and was killed at his side by a cannon shot in a skirmish near Louisville, Ky., Oct. 1, 1862. Mr. Moody returned to Kent County at the close of the war, and engaged in farming. In 1873 he abandoned agriculture and engaged as traveling salesman for W. C. Dennison, manufacturer and dealer in agricultural implements. In December of the same year he came to Big Rap-

ids and opened a livery barn, connecting there with an omnibus line. He moved to his present location in July, 1882, where he has as fine an establishment as can be found in Northern Michigan. He keeps about 40 horses, and connects sales and board with his regular livery business. In June, 1883, he sold out his omnibus line. On opening his business at Big Rapids he was associated first with L. S. Scranton, of Grand Rapids, this relation existing until March 26, 1881, when John Moore was admitted to a partnership. Mr. Moody bought his interest April 1, 1883, and is now operating alone. He sold his farm in Kent County, in Feb., 1882. The building he occupies is situated on a lot 115 feet face, by 160 feet deep, connected with a lot in the rear, 150 x 150 feet, whereon is located a barn. The building has a fine brick front and makes a creditable appearance, at the foot of Maple avenue. Mr. Moody owns his residence and several vacant lots at various points in the city.

He was married Dec. 25, 1865, to Izora, daughter of John and Jane Coffee, a native of Alpine Tp., Kent Co., born Nov. 27, 1847. Two children were born of this marriage—Daniel B. and Geo. F., deceased. The mother died at Big Rapids, Feb. 22, 1876. Mr. Moody was again married, in Alpine, Sept. 20, 1878, to Viola Coffee, a sister of his first wife, born in Alpine and died Jan. 10, 1881, at Big Rapids. Feb. 25, 1883, Mr. Moody was married to Miss Elizabeth Currie.

**C**hristian Johnson, farmer, sec. 36, Wheatland Tp., was born in Germany, Dec. 30, 1835. He is a son of Joseph and Rachel (Miller) Johnson, natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1839, and settled in Jefferson Co., Wis. Mr. Johnson was married June 25, 1861, to Rachel, daughter of Fred and Laura (Boarland) Miller, natives of Germany, who was born in Wittenburg, Germany, March 15, 1842. She came to Wisconsin with her mother when she was 20 years of age, and there lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson remained in Jefferson County until the fall of 1875, when they came to Michigan. Mr. Johnson bought 80 acres of land in the Township of Wheatland, on which he has

made many improvements. He is in sympathy with the Republican party and acts in accordance with their principles. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had nine children, viz: Sophia, born March 15, 1864; Henry, Aug. 17, 1867; Christian, born in 1870, died in early infancy; Lewis, March 14, 1872; Ida, born Dec. 26, 1873, died June 23, 1874; Alice, Aug. 28, 1875; Otto, Jan. 30, 1876; Irwin, Sept. 25, 1879; Frankie, July 20, 1883. The family attend the Lutheran Church.

**M**ark Munn, farmer, sec. 23, Wheatland Tp., is the son of Henry and Jane (Snyder) Munn, natives of Pennsylvania and of Scotch and German descent. He was born in Bradford Co., Pa., Sept. 12, 1857; received his education chiefly in the common schools of his native county, and resided there until he was of age, when he came to Michigan. In 1878, he settled in the township of Millbrook, where he worked on different farms for two years. In 1880 he went to Isabella County, and was employed on the farm of William Broomfield. (See sketch.) He was married Dec. 23, 1881, to Ida B., daughter of William and Ellen (McLin) Broomfield. Mrs. Munn was born in Canada, March 1, 1861. Her parents came to Isabella County when she was an infant.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Munn located on a farm in Wheatland Tp., containing 160 acres belonging to Mr. Broomfield, which they are conducting with prudence and profit. They have one child—William H.—born Nov. 26, 1882. Mr. Munn is a Democrat.

**L**eonard Hyatt, farmer, sec. 26, Green Tp., was born in Allegany Co., N. Y., Aug. 28, 1829. His parents, James and Martha (Smalley) Hyatt, were natives of the State of New York, and located in 1832, near Lodi Washtenaw Co., Mich.

Mr. Hyatt grew to manhood in the manner common to the sons of farmers, being trained to honest, thrifty habits, and acquiring a fair elementary education at the district schools. He was married in

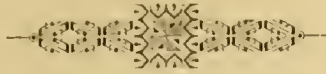




*P. A. Erikson.*

1856 to Catherine Gallady, born May 23, 1839, in Stark Co., Ohio. In 1858 he entered a claim of 80 acres of land, and proceeded vigorously with the work of cultivation and improvement.

Children: Marion M., James E., Walter L., and Martha B. Ida May and Alice are deceased.



**P**atrick Erikson, of the firm of Erikson & Hoehn, proprietors of the Big Rapids City Brewery, was born in Sweden, Feb. 14, 1848. He is a son of Christopher and Anna (Peterson) Erikson, and in his native country followed the calling of a drover. He came to America in 1872, and proceeded at once to Big Rapids, where he settled and commenced to work on the railroad; he afterward contracted to build grades. In 1873 he took a contract to lay the water pipes in the city, and in August of that year he opened a saloon near his present location. In 1875 he associated himself with Fred. Hoehn and built a brewery, where from the outset they have done a prosperous business, and contemplate an extension of their facilities. Mr. Erikson was married at Big Rapids, June 20, 1875, to Anna Shaw, a native of Sweden. They have two children, Nellie E. and Anna. Mr. Erikson was elected member of the City Council in 1877, and filled the position four years. He operates to some extent in real estate. We give Mr. Erikson's portrait upon the opposite page in this volume.



**J**ohn S. Evans, dealer in musical merchandise at Big Rapids, was born at Alexandria Center, Jefferson Co., N. Y., July 19, 1835. His parents, Columbus and Friendly (Fisher) Evans, are still living in Jefferson County, aged respectively 89 and 87 years. Both are natives of New Hampshire and of Welsh ancestry. At 15, Mr. Evans left the farm to learn the trade of carpenter, in which line of employment he was chiefly occupied for five years. At the age of 27 he enlisted as a soldier of the civil war, enrolling at his native place, Aug. 6, 1862, in Co. F, Tenth N. Y.

Artillery, under Capt. J. S. Vanderberg. He entered the service as a private, and during the period of his enlistment was in 64 engagements; among them were Winchester, Petersburg, Bermuda Hundred on the James River, and at the capture of Richmond. In the last he was, throughout the action, involved in hand to hand encounters with the rebels. His regiment suffered severely in all the battles in which it participated, necessitating frequent recruiting. Mr. Evans had charge of one of these expeditions. His command was also engaged in the battles of the Shenandoah, at Newmarket and Cedar Creek, under Sherman, and was mustered out June 25, 1865, at Petersburg, Va., after three years of almost unremitted warfare. After the engagement at Winchester, Mr. Evans was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant.

He returned to Jefferson County and entered the employ of Butler & Co., hardware merchants, of Utica, N. Y., as traveling salesman, acting in that capacity two years. In the fall of 1865 he settled at Big Rapids and commenced dealing in furniture. He conducted the business about four years, trafficking meanwhile in real estate to some extent. The crash of 1873 produced considerable stringency in his affairs, and shrinkage of values involved him in a loss of several thousand dollars. He sold his business in 1874 and began to read for the profession of law in the office of Frank Dumon. In 1877 he was admitted to practice, opened an office at Big Rapids, and, in connection with his legal operations, transacted the branch of professional business styled "Soldiers' Additional Homesteads." In 1881 he made an entire transfer of his projects and interests and opened trade in pianos, organs and all varieties of musical merchandise. He deals in the pianos of Henry F. Miller, Harper, Chase, McPhail, Decker Bros., and Mathushek, and is agent for the Ithaca, New Era, Western and Chicago Cottage Organs, etc. His business was small at first, averaging two musical instruments monthly, and at present (1883) amounts to \$30,000 annually. He has established a branch store at Muskegon, Reed City, Cadillac, Manistee and Chase, and employs eight traveling salesmen. For variety he sometimes engages in a law case, but in no sense follows the profession as a business.

Mr. Evans was married March 4, 1858, to Philinda

S., daughter of Parley and Submit Brown, of Alexandria, N. Y., a native of Orleans, Jefferson Co., same State. Her father was a Baptist clergyman and an old resident of Jefferson County. George B., oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Evans, is married and engaged in real-estate brokerage, and is a resident at St. Paul; Corielle P., also married, is employed in the counting room of J. Cummer & Son, of Cadillac, Mich.; Nora S., only daughter, is a popular teacher in Mecosta County.

**Esse Williams**, farmer, sec. 23, Green Tp., was born Sept. 9, 1836, and is a son of Lyman and Lucinda (Boyden) Williams. His father died when he was but 12 years of age, and when he was 16 his mother died. From that time until manhood, his fate was that of those who are left to the cold charities of the world. He did the best he could for himself without guidance or care. He obtained a fair education, and was compelled to work most of the time to secure himself from want. He was usually employed as a farm assistant, and worked, as he found opportunity, at the carpenter's trade.

Mr. Williams was married in 1863 to Ruth E., daughter of Joseph L. and Johanna I. Dickerson. In 1865 they became residents of Mecosta County, Mr. Williams buying a claim of 80 acres of land, of which 65 are in tillage.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have five children: Ida I., L. D., Capitola, George and Clarence. Mr. Williams is a Democrat.

**Aaron S. Clement**, farmer, sec. 26, Wheatland Tp., was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y. Dec. 6, 1817. His parents, John D. and Betsey E. (Dilch) Clement, were natives respectively of New York and New Jersey, and died when Aaron was but 14 years old.

Thrown thus early upon his own resources, his opportunities for education were limited, his energies being directed chiefly to the labor which earned for him the necessaries of his existence. He was industrious and of good habits, and readily found work in

the section where he was born until he had entered man's estate. In the autumn of 1839 he came to St Joseph Co., Mich., where he entered upon the career of a farmer. He was married July 25, 1841, to Sarah C., daughter of Isaac and Persis (Wayne) Watkins, natives of Massachusetts, and soon after their marriage went to Naples, Ontario Co., N. Y., where the daughter was born Dec. 3, 1820. Mr. Clement rented a farm in St. Joseph County for a period of 25 years, and in the fall of 1866 removed his family to Wheatland Tp., Mecosta Co. They located on 160 acres of land, one-half of which has been placed under good tillage.

Mr. Clement is a Republican, but not an aspirant for official notoriety, having always persistently declined election to any position. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity. Children: Eliza Jane, born Nov. 2, 1842, died April 11, 1843; Mary J., April 20, 1844; Amine P., July 29, 1846; Viralda M., Dec. 28, 1848; Sarah E., Jan. 5, 1852; Lyda R., July 8, 1862.

**Benjamin F. Powers**, farmer on sec. 28, Austin Tp., was born near Montreal, May 7, 1817. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Cutter) Powers, natives of Vermont, who were pioneers of Canada, removing to the Dominion soon after their marriage.

Mr. Powers received a fair common-school education, and at 20 years of age left his native county and went to London, Ont., where he was a farm laborer until 1849. In that year he came to what is now Newaygo Co., then unorganized. When its municipal condition was made self-sustaining by organization according to law, Mr. Powers was one of the organizing Board. When Mr. Powers first became a resident of Croton Co. (now Newaygo) there was no habitation nearer than 25 miles. He exerted all his energies and influence for the advantage and prosperity of the people. In 1869 he removed to Austin Tp., this county, and bought 80 acres of land, to which he has since added 40 acres, making a farm of 120 acres, with 60 under good cultivation, which places it among the foremost in the county in point of beauty and value. Mr. Powers was married Dec. 1, 1840, to Martha D., daughter of



Garrett and Vesta (Tousley) Stevens, born near London, Ont., Aug. 26, 1819. Her father was a native of Germany, and mother, of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Powers have had 12 children, six boys and six girls. Three sons and four daughters yet survive. Their births occurred in the following order: Iran C., March 22, 1845; Elizabeth, April 17, 1847; Lucy A., Jan. 20, 1849; Charlotte, Feb. 1, 1851; Benjamin F., July 19, 1853; Mary A., July 13, 1856; Charles H., Oct. 14, 1862. The following are deceased: William, born Aug. 28, 1841, died Oct. 29, 1841; an infant child was born and died Sept. 17, 1844; Caroline M., died eight days after birth; Martha, born May 25, 1859, died July 29, 1860.

The family attend the M. E. Church, and though not members are adherents to the principles of the society. Mr. Powers is a Republican, but has always declined elective positions among his townsmen.

**B**enjamin Dalziel, farmer, on sec. 34, Green Tp., was born in Ionia Co., Mich., Jan. 28, 1841. He is a son of Alexander and Jane (Marsh) Dalziel, the former a native of Scotland, and the latter of the State of New York. Mr. Dalziel was reared on a farm and trained to the pursuit of agriculture. He was educated in the common schools of Ionia County, and there resided at home until he was nine years old, at which time he moved with his father to Newaygo County. At the age of 27 he came to this county, and located on the farm he has since owned, now containing 200 acres.

He was married in Newaygo Co., Mich., in 1866, to Harriet Ellen, daughter of John and Minerva (Parsons) Miller, a native of Newaygo County. Her father was born in Vermont, and her mother in New York. They have had three children: Jane Henrietta and Minerva: the latter is deceased.

**S**eneca Horton, farmer, sec. 25, Wheatland Tp., was born in Athens Co., Ohio, Sept. 28, 1821. His parents, Daniel M. and Anna (Kimball) Horton, were born in New York, of English and German descent, and became residents of Ohio shortly after their marriage. Mr. Horton received a common school education, and at the age of 18 years went to

Tioga Co., Penn., where he bought 100 acres of land and entered actively upon the career of an agriculturist. He remained five years, and in the autumn of 1845 went to Middlebury, Tioga Co., Penn., and managed a farm in that vicinity. In April, 1848, he sought another locality, going to Steuben Co., N. Y., where he purchased 70 acres of land and lived a year. He then returned to Tioga County, sold his original farm and bought another in the same county, where he lived about 17 years. In the spring of 1866 he bought 120 acres of land in native timber in the township of Wheatland, where he has established a permanent home. His farm now contains 58 acres, with 50 acres under tillage.

Mr. Horton was married in Tioga Co., Penn., Sept. 14, 1843, to Catherine, daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Wood) Buckbee, natives of New York and of English extraction. She was born in Steuben County, May 1, 1828. Mr. and Mrs. Horton have three children: Mary, born Nov. 23, 1844; Edward T., Nov. 19, 1846, and Daniel D., July 6, 1851. The parents gave them a good education, and have the great satisfaction of knowing that all are in substantial circumstances in life. Mr. Horton is a Republican and has held responsible offices in his district nine years. Himself and wife are influential members of the M. E. Church.

**S**yman Nethway, farmer on sec. 24, Etna Tp., was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Feb. 3, 1810. His father, James Nethway, was of English parentage, and his mother, Elizabeth (Neice) Nethway, was a native of Long Island, N. Y., and was of Welsh extraction.

Mr. Nethway received a good education in early life for the purpose of becoming a teacher, and at 18 years of age taught his first term at Perry, Genesee Co., N. Y. He came thence to Michigan, and taught during the years 1833-4. He then returned to his home, and having married, himself and wife turned their faces westward and came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., where Mr. Nethway purchased a farm under the original land patent of 1835. In 1850 he went to Sauk Co., Wis., and there engaged three years in farming. Becoming dissatisfied he came back to Lenawee County, and settled at Rollin, in 1853. In 1854 he decided to try the Hawkeye State,

and bought a farm in Buchanan County, where he remained eight years. In 1856 he returned to Michigan and settled in Mecosta County. He has been engaged during eleven years in mercantile business in Morley, and upon closing his commercial affairs bought a farm, and now lives in retirement.

Mr. Nethway was married Sept. 6, 1835, to Lucretia, daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Wood) Ralph, respectively of English and Welsh origin, and residents of Woodstock, Windsor Co., Vt. Three children were born of this marriage, as follows: Marcellus T., born May 13, 1836; Cassius Maicus, born Jan. 17, 1848, died in the army from injuries received at the battle of Bull's Gap, E. Tenn., April 22, 1865; was a soldier in Co. D, Third Michigan Vol. Inf.; Florence A., born in 1849, and died March 10, 1850.

Mr. Nethway is a radical Republican, and actively engaged in all social and moral reforms. Himself and wife profess no particular creed, but hold to their innate belief that honesty and genuine morality are safe guides in their intercourse with the world.

Mr. Nethway has held offices of trust in his township for 15 years. He was Postmaster at Big Creek nearly three years, under Lincoln's administration, and was Supervisor of Deerfield Tp. several years, also Treasurer and Assessor several years.

**J**ames Dalziel, farmer, on secs. 33 and 34, Green Tp., was born in Westchester Co., N. Y., June 18, 1835. He is the eldest son of Alexander and Jeannette (Patterson) Dalziel, both of Scotch extraction. They came to the United States in 1830, and soon after settled in Oakland Co., Mich., where the mother died, and the father sold his property, removing to Detroit with his family.

Mr. Dalziel was then very young, and after remaining a year in Detroit went to Genesee County with a man named Jonas Valentine. He remained with him one year, and then became an inmate of the family of Robert Staly, a pioneer of Flint. He was in Mr. Staly's charge five years, when he returned to the protection of Mr. Valentine. Eighteen months afterward his father came and took him to Michigan. He went to Big Prairie, Newaygo County,

and there lived 12 years. His next remove was to Green Tp.

Mr. Dalziel was married in April, 1858, to Jane Currie, a native of Canada, and daughter of Peter and Catherine (Sterling) Currie. Two of their four children are living; W. H. and Catherine Jane. Mr. Dalziel is a Republican in political faith; has been Supervisor three terms, and served three years as Town Commissioner. He owns 195 acres of land in Green Tp.

**S**asard Bennett, farmer, sec. 20, Austin Tp., was born in Essex Co., N. Y., Oct. 22, 1837, son of Isaac and Mary Bennett, who were natives of France, and came early in their lives to the United States, settling in New York.

Mr. Bennett commenced life as a common laborer, and found various avenues of employment for several years, finally becoming a trapper, which pursuit he followed for some time. He then engaged in lumbering, at which he worked until Oct. 12, 1861, the date of his enlistment in the Union army. He enrolled in Company K, First Vermont Cavalry, and his first active service was under Gen. Kilpatrick, in the valley of the Shenandoah. He was in the Sharpshooters' brigade until 1863, when the regiment was transferred to the command of Gen. Custer, with whom he remained until his discharge Oct. 19, 1864. Mr. Bennett was in all the principal engagements of the Rappahannock and Shenandoah. At the second battle of Bull Run he received a saber wound through the leg, and at the time of Lee's attempted retreat across the Potomac at Hagerstown, was shot through the shoulder. He was promoted to Corporal for bravery in action.

He came to Big Rapids, Mich., in the spring of 1865, and again interested himself in the lumber business, which he pursued until 1869. In that year he purchased the place where he now lives, and took immediate possession, proceeding to clear away the timber and otherwise make improvements; has now 42 acres under the plow and in good tillable condition. He also owns a half interest in 160 acres in Mecosta Tp. He was married Sept. 30, 1866, to Elizabeth, daughter of Charles and Mary Smith, who was born in Ireland, April 10, 1849, and died Feb. 19, 1873, leaving three children, Charles H., born

March 9, 1879; Ernest J., Feb. 22, 1871; Elizabeth M., Feb. 5, 1873. Mr. Bennett contracted a second marriage April 9, 1874, with Margaret, daughter of William and Lydia (Wample) Smith, born in Michigan, July 2, 1855. They have two children: Emma M., born Nov 9, 1874, and Minard I., May 7, 187-

Mr. Bennett is a radical Republican and has held all the important township and school offices until he declines farther duties.



**A**rvey O. Williams, farmer, sec. 29, Wheatland Tp., was born in Knox Co., Ohio, Dec. 17, 1842. His parents, Louis and Olive (Owen) Williams, were of German descent and natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio. In 1844 they settled in Kosciusko Co., Ind.

Mr. Williams attained to man's estate in Indiana, and was just past his majority when the notes of civil war in the United States startled her loyal sons to activity in behalf of her threatened integrity. Mr. Williams enlisted Oct. 19, 1861, in Co. A, 12th Ind. Inf., under Capt. T. G. Morrison, and was discharged May 19, 1862. Less than two months subsequently he re-enlisted, enrolling July 10, 1862, in Co. F, in the same regiment to which he had previously belonged. Of the acknowledged prowess of the "12th Indiana," Mr. Williams was a part. His record bears the undying names of Richmond (Ky.), Vicksburg, Jackson (Miss.), Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek, the repulse of Hood at Atlanta, on July 20, 22 and 28, Jonesboro, Savannah, Griswoldsville, Columbia (S. C.), Bentonville and Raleigh. In these, as well as in the numberless minor engagements in which he was an actor, he escaped without injury, although his uniform frequently suffered from flying fragments of shell and spent shot. Mr. Williams was discharged from the service at Washington, D. C., June 8, 1865.

Meanwhile his parents had settled in St. Joseph Co., Mich., and he repaired thither, remaining an inmate of the parental home until the fall of 1867, when he came to Mecosta county, and resided about one year with his father-in-law, in Wheatland Tp. In 1868 he located on 80 acres of wild land,

where he has since resided and improved until he has 63 acres under the plow, and good farm buildings. His residence, which was in every way suitable, was destroyed by fire Aug. 13, 1883, and at this writing is in the process of rebuilding, and will cost about \$1,000.. Another considerable addition to the value of the place is an orchard, containing 160 trees in the best condition.

Mr. Williams was married Feb. 24, 1867, to Amine P., daughter of Aaron S. and Sarah C. (Watkins) Clement (see sketch). Four children have been born of this marriage; Frank A., born Feb. 13, 1868, died July 16, 1868; Lettie O. Oct. 24, 1869; Siddle S., July 30, 1872; Warren T., June 15, 1879. Mr. Williams is a Republican and is a School Director in his district. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., and holds the office of Financier.



**I**saac W. Ferris, Justice of the Peace, Township Supervisor, and member of the Council of Mecosta village, was born in Sherwood Tp., Branch Co., Michigan, Jan. 25, 1840, and is the son of John C. and Mary A. (Watkins) Ferris.

At the age of 23 years Mr. Ferris went to Placer Co., California, and was engaged one year in farming; thence he moved to Omega, Nevada Co., and became a clerk in a grocery and provision store, where he was engaged about eight months, and then returned to St. Joseph County. He was there occupied with agriculture five years, when he went to Branch County and engaged in the same pursuit two years. He went to Vergennes, Kent Co., and in September, 1873, opened a grocery, which he kept until 1878. He sold out, went back to St. Joseph Co., and took an interest in the mercantile establishment of his brother-in-law, S. J. Schutt, in Leonidas. He sold out in the fall of 1878, and in the spring of 1879 went to Butler Co., Kansas, and, after a brief stay at Eldorado, came, in August, 1879, to Mecosta village, then comprising three houses, two saloons and a grocery. He erected the building where he operates, and owns 11 lots on Main street, on the west side of the river; also 80 acres of land on sec. 14 of Morton Tp. He was elected Justice of the Peace in the spring of 1880, which post he has since

held, and was elected Member of the Village Council in the spring of 1883. In the spring of 1881 he was elected Township Treasurer. He is a charter member of the A. O. U. W.

Mr. Ferris was married at Union City, Branch Co., Dec. 10, 1868, to Carrie, daughter of Leonard and Thankful (Havens) Wilson, born in the Tp. of Naples, Ontario Co., N. Y., Aug. 20, 1842. Of this marriage two children have been born, as follows: Eva, in St. Joseph Co., Nov. 17, 1869, and Georgia, in the same place, Sept. 7, 1879.

**N**athan Denney, Postmaster and jeweler, Remus, was born in Jay Co., Ind., Nov. 25, 1849. His parents, James M. and Lois E. (Scranton) Denney, were natives of New England, the father of German and Irish lineage, the mother of Welsh and Scotch. They settled soon after their marriage, in the State of Indiana, and in 1864 removed to this county. On reaching the period of his majority Mr. Denney learned the carpenter's trade, which he pursued up to the date of his appointment to the office of Postmaster. With his official duties he combines the business of a silversmith, the details of which he learned when 16 years old.

Mr. Denney was married in Millbrook, Jan. 16, 1872, to Ella, daughter of David H. and Sarah (Albert) Humphrey, born in Knox Co., Ohio, Oct. 26, 1844. Her parents were natives respectively of Virginia and Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Denney have had three children, one daughter and two sons, all of whom died in infancy. Mr. Denney is a member of the Order of Good Templars, and himself and wife are members of the Church of Christ, in which he occupies the position of Elder.

**C**wen Shantz, farmer, sec. 26, Wheatland Tp., was born in Ontario, Can., near the city of Guelph, Jan. 27, 1850. His parents, Isaac Y. and Catherine (Clemence) Shantz, were natives of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Shantz received a fair education in the common schools of his native province, and

when 20 years old, Feb. 27, 1870, was married to Sarah, daughter of George and Nancy Shoemaker, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. The year following his marriage, Mr. Shantz resided with his father, moving upon a farm in the vicinity at the expiration of that time. Meanwhile he came to Mecosta County and bought the farm on which he now resides, and where he located in 1880. Nearly one half of this is now improved. Mr. Shantz is a progressive farmer, and is making rapid progress in putting his place into the best possible condition for agricultural purposes. Although his residence in the county has been brief, his persistent efforts to advance its place and position have made known his value to the community to which he belongs, and he is securing a firm hold upon the respect and consideration of all.

Mr. and Mrs. Shantz have five children, born as follows: Addison M., May 22, 1871; Nancy, Feb. 22, 1873; Ellen, Jan. 11, 1877; George, Nov. 2, 1879; Lizzie, Nov. 30, 1882. The parents are members of the old Mennonite Church. Mr. Shantz is a Republican in politics, and is present Assessor, an office he has held for several terms.

**C**harles W. Calkins, Clerk of Mecosta village, and dealer in all kinds of furniture, coffins, caskets and undertakers' goods, was born in Ypsilanti, Mich., May 15, 1851. His parents, Lorenzo and Lurena (Payne) Calkins, removed to Ann Arbor when he was 11 years old, and he there had the advantages of the schools of that place. They made another transfer of their interests four years later, going to London, Monroe Co. There his father was a farmer, and also worked at his trade of carpenter and joiner.

When Mr. Calkins was 20 years old, he left school and learned his father's trade, under his instructions. He followed the business several years, coming to Mecosta in the fall of 1879. He established himself as a mechanic, and after working at his trade two years, founded his present business. He keeps a stock that includes all merchandise common to his lines of trade, and is prospering. He became agent for the American Express Co. Dec. 16, 1881. On the incorporation of Mecosta village he was elected

Clerk of the Board. He served as Township Clerk a part of the year 1881, in 1882 and 1883. Mr. Calkins owns his store, fixtures, adjoining building and lots.

He was married in London Tp., Monroe Co., April 8, 1875, to Lillie E., daughter of John and Harriet Taft, a native of Adrian, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Calkins have one child—Mabel E.—born in London, Monroe Co., Mich.

**W**illiam Warren, farmer on sec. 22, Hinton Tp., was born July 18, 1825, in Carroll Co., Ohio. His father, Peter Warren, was of English descent and birth, and both his parents were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they moved to Ohio in its pioneer days. The father was a carpenter and cabinet-maker, and followed both callings most of his life. The mother's name before marriage was Ann Guthrie. The school privileges of Mr. Warren were limited, and at 17 he commenced to learn the shoemaker's trade. He worked under the instructions of his brother-in-law, and continued to follow that vocation until 1861. He opened a confectionery establishment in Augusta, Ohio, which was finally extended into a general store. This he managed nearly six years and accumulated \$3,500, which he lost in financial disaster. In April, 1867, he came with his family to Mecosta Co., Mich., and bought 80 acres of partly improved land in Hinton Tp., where he now resides. In politics Mr. Warren is independent. He has held the office of Supervisor of Hinton Tp. four years, Township Treasurer three terms, and School Director ten successive years. The years of his labor have their reward in the fine farm and convenient buildings thereon.

He was married in Augusta, Carroll Co., Ohio, Sept. 9, 1849, to Jane, daughter of John and Hannah (Shaw) Harrington. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and went to Carroll Co., Ohio, where their daughter Jane was born Nov. 14, 1827. Mr. and Mrs. Warren have had three children: John J., born in Augusta, Carroll Co., Ohio, May 8, 1853, is the only one surviving. He was married May 8, 1878, in this county, to Della A. House, daughter of Elias and Mary D. (Walrath) House, and they have

two children; Ethel M. born Nov. 20, 1880, and Alice M., born March 9, 1883. Samantha A. was born Nov. 22, 1850, and died Aug. 26, 1851; Mary E. was born Jan. 10, 1863, and died Nov. 25, 1876. Mrs. Warren belongs to the Advent Church.

**D**ominiek O'Brien, member of the Council of Mecosta village, and proprietor of the Mecosta House, was born Dec. 26, 1853, at New Castle, County Limerick, Ireland, and is the son of Dorr and Mary (Coffin) O'Brien. His father died when he was nine years old, and he was reared on the farm by his mother until he was 17 years old, when he left the Emerald Isle and came to New York, making the passage on the British steamer "Manhattan." He landed June 10, 1869, and was a resident of New York about one year, then came to Saginaw, where he engaged in lumbering for a period of four years, working a portion of the time on a section of the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada Railroad, and was also engaged firing on a locomotive for some time.

He came to Mecosta village, July 12, 1879, and built a saloon on Main street. May 1, 1881, he purchased the Mecosta House, which he still owns and manages. The building is 40 x 80 feet on the ground, three-stories high, and with accommodations for 50 guests. The saloon conducted in connection with the hotel is well fitted up, and stocked with choice articles common to similar establishments. Besides these buildings, Mr. O'Brien owns three lots in connection with them, and two lots with barns on James street. He transacts an annual business of \$12,000.

Mr. O'Brien was married to Maggie, daughter of Michael Dittell. They have one child, Johnny.

**T**homas Cahill, farmer, sec. 15, Aetna Tp., was born in Canada, July 8, 1834. His parents, James and Catherine (Lebo) Cahill, were natives respectively of Ireland and Canada; they passed the greater part of their lives in Canada and there died. Mr. Cahill spent his early life after the manner of farmers' sons, and at 16 was apprenticed to learn the business of a butcher. He devoted four years to the accomplish-

ment of his purpose, and the succeeding four years was occupied in buying stock and speculating. He then located at Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Co., Mich., and worked at his trade two years, resigning his business to enroll as a soldier in the Union cause. He enlisted in 1861, in the 24th Mich. Vol. Inf., and after six months service received honorable discharge. He went at once to Saginaw, where he found employment as a lumberman about two years, and in the fall of 1863, came to this county and passed three years in the pineries. In 1866 he purchased 80 acres of timber land and proceeded to put it in a habitable condition. He built a house and cleared 70 acres. A later purchase of 200 acres has swelled his real estate to 280, acres where he is earnestly engaged in the prosecution of agricultural pursuits.

He was married in Canada, Sept. 14, 1860, to Eliza, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Wright) Houghton. Of this marriage one child was born, —Katie, March 14, 1861. The mother died at Ypsilanti, Mich., in September, 1861, and Mr. Cahill was again married, at Detroit, Mich., Oct. 9, 1864, to Mary E., daughter of Thomas and Mary (Mitchell) Lovesy and widow of Ephraim G. Tucker, who lost his life in the war of the Rebellion. Her father is an Englishman by birth and is yet living in this county; her mother was a native of New York and died in 1870.

Mr. Cahill is a Democrat and has held the office of Supervisor four years, Town Clerk one year, and has occupied other important town and school offices.

**J**oseph A. Armstrong, farmer, sec. 20, Millbrook Tp., is a son of Isaac and Lucinda (Hiney) Armstrong, natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania. Mr. Armstrong was born in the Keystone State, July 28, 1847. His mother died when he was very young, and for two years subsequently he was cared for by a friend of his parents. In the fall of 1861, when but 14 years of age, he resolved to become a soldier, and enlisted in defense of the Union in the 51st Pa. Vol. Inf., Co. H. He served three years, and was in action at the siege of Richmond, at Fredericksburg, and in the battle of the Wilderness. He received a wound in his right arm in the

fight at Fredericksburg, and was incapacitated for duty three months. He received his discharge at Washington, D. C., and returned to Pennsylvania, where he continued to reside until the fall of 1871, when he came to Millbrook, and bought 160 acres of land. He now owns 110 acres, under partial improvement.

Mr. Armstrong was married in Millbrook, Sept. 22, 1872, to Johanna, daughter of Thomas and Mary A. (Johnson) Histed, who was born in Bay Co., Mich., June 27, 1853.

Children: Myrtle M., Nora A., Sarah J., Joseph N. and Gertrude B. In political sentiment and action Mr. Armstrong is a Republican; has served one year as Constable, and three years as School Director.

**E**dward Langworthy, farmer, sec. 25, Green Tp., was born in Saratoga Co., N. Y., March 5, 1825. His parents, Elisha and Elizabeth (Guile) Langworthy, were natives of Columbia Co., N. Y. The father was a mechanic and followed his occupation until 1843, when he came to Michigan and located 80 acres of land in Lapeer County, where he farmed until his death, which occurred April 25, 1845. The mother died March 4, 1874, in the township of Grant, Mecosta Co.

Mr. Langworthy was 17 years old when he accompanied his parents to Michigan, and until he reached man's estate, gave his father all the assistance in his power, during the "seed time and harvest" seasons, attending school winters. Soon after attaining his majority he became a farmer on his own account and owned 120 acres of land in Lapeer County, where he was a resident about 25 years. He sold his place and went to Genesee Co., Mich., and settled near Flint. Six years after, in the spring of 1875, he bought the property he now owns in Green Tp., consisting of 80 acres of land, which he has put under good improvements. He is an adherent of the Republican party; was elected Justice of the Peace in 1877, and has held the office continuously since. His position in the community is one of credit to himself as a man and citizen.

Mr. Langworthy was married Dec. 25, 1865, to Maria Perkins, a native of Canada, born Jan. 31,





*Douglas Robert.*



1828. They have six children; Willard E., Albert H., Harvey J., Minerva, Susan and Ophelia. Amanda and Charles are deceased. The parents are members of the M. E. Church, at Big Rapids.

**D**ouglas Roben, of the firm of Roben, Bennett & Gill, insurance, real-estate, and loan agents, of Big Rapids, was born May 4, 1847, near Mount Gilead, Ohio; he is a son of Matthew and Esther (Albach) Roben, a grandson of Walter Roben, Esq., of Ryegate, Vt., and a great-grandson of Matthew Roben, of Renfrew, Scotland, a gentleman of means and influence, who was one of the chief founders and early pioneers of the Scotch colony in Caledonia Co., Vt. On his father's side, Mr. Roben is descended from an excellent Scotch stock, whose line of descent is traced back several hundred years, and is allied to various Lowland families of distinction.

His maternal grandfather was John Albach (or Allpaugh, as the name was formerly and more correctly spelled), a prominent and wealthy citizen of Northumberland Co., Penn., who was of good Holland Dutch ancestry. His father, Matthew Roben, was a native of Ryegate, Caledonia Co., Vt., a teacher, and afterward a merchant by occupation. (See sketch of Matthew Roben.)

Mr. Douglas Roben, the subject of this sketch, obtained a good education in the public and high schools of Mount Gilead, and at 15 received an appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy, then located at Newport, R. I., and passing the initiatory examination, entered upon his academic course as midshipman in 1862. In 1863, his class (126 in number) was dispatched to the East Atlantic on a practice cruise, stopping at various ports of England, France, Spain, Portugal, and the Madeira Islands, sailing from the latter place to New York. Several other practice cruises were made on the coasts of the United States, during the course of studies at the Academy. Mr. Roben was distinguished while at the Naval Academy for proficiency in mathematical studies, and graduated high in his class, in 1866, at Annapolis, Md.

Soon after graduation he was ordered to join the U. S. steamer "Ossipee," then at Philadelphia, for

duty on the Pacific station. The "Ossipee" left the United States in November, 1866, crossed the Atlantic to the Madeira Isles, and after a brief visit there went south to the Cape de Verdes, thence to Rio Janeiro, and finally through the Straits of Magellan to the Pacific Ocean. After a visit to various ports in Chili, Peru, and the Isthmus of Panama, the "Ossipee" reported at San Francisco, in August, 1867. Soon after arriving on the station, the "Ossipee" was ordered to convey the U. S. and Russian Commissioners to Alaska, that territory having recently been purchased by our Government.

Mr. Roben was a participant in the ceremonies of transfer, the hauling down of the Russian flag from the Governor's palace, the hoisting of the stars and stripes, and the firing of the international salutes. His name appears as a witness on the deed of transfer of the Territory, executed and delivered at Sitka, whereby Alaska became part and parcel of the United States. The "Ossipee" returned with the State papers to San Francisco, encountering a terrific storm a short distance out from Sitka. She was then ordered to the South, to visit all ports on the Pacific coast of Mexico and Central America. This she proceeded to do, calling at each important harbor in succession, till she reached the southernmost port of Costa Rica.

Returning north to Nicaragua, the yellow fever broke out on board the "Ossipee," and a number of men and officers died of the disease, Mr. Roben fortunately escaping the contagion. The ship proceeded to Acapulco, in Mexico, on her way to San Francisco. At Acapulco, Mr. Roben received the news of his promotion to the grade of Ensign, together with orders to proceed south by mail steamer to Panama, and there to join the U. S. ship "Cyane," (originally a British vessel, and captured by the "Constitution" in the war of 1812). During Mr. Roben's service on board the "Cyane," she was the greater part of the time stationed at Panama, to observe the progress of a rebellion then existing in the United States of Colombia, and to guard the interests of our countrymen on the Isthmus.

Returning to San Francisco in the "Cyane" a few months later, Mr. Roben received his second commission as Master in the Navy, together with three months' leave of absence.

The Union and Central Pacific Roads having just been completed, he crossed the continent by rail.

At the expiration of his leave he was ordered to join the U. S. ship "Supply," at Boston, in the capacity of Navigator. The "Supply" went to Europe for the purpose of establishing a U. S. naval storehouse and depot at Spezzia, Italy; but on arrival there, diplomatic difficulties were found to be in the way, and the depot was finally placed at Nice, France, where it still remains. The expedition occupied nearly a year, including time spent in various other Mediterranean ports, and Mr. Roben received his third commission as Lieutenant while in Europe, dating March, 1870, he being then only 22 years of age.

After arriving at home he was ordered to join the U. S. steamer "Severn," flag-ship of the North Atlantic Squadron; but a serious difficulty having developed itself in Mr. Roben's eyes, during the last cruise, arising from the use of astronomical instruments in taking solar observations, he requested to be assigned to duty on shore, and was accordingly ordered to the naval station at Mound City, Ill., as executive officer, where he remained four months. He was then ordered to join the U. S. steamer "Shawmut," at New York, for a cruise in the South Atlantic. When the vessel reached the West Indies, the trouble in Mr. Roben's eyes having become much worse, he was granted "sick-leave," and brought by the "Shawmut" to Pensacola, Fla., where he landed and proceeded home to Ohio. In the month of November, 1872, he was summoned before the Retiring Board at Washington, and after an examination of his eyes by the medical officers of that Board, he was placed upon the retired list, with the rank of Lieutenant, for "disability received in the line of duty," which position upon the retired list he holds at the present time.

From Washington he went to Cassopolis, Cass Co., Mich., where he resided until May, 1873. While at Cassopolis he passed a successful examination for admission to the bar, and was admitted to practice in the State courts of Michigan. In May, 1873, he came to Big Rapids, and opened his office, practicing as an attorney, and giving his attention chiefly to real-estate cases. In 1876 he formed a partnership with E. J. Marsh, under the firm name of Roben & Marsh. This relation continued two years, and in August, 1878, he associated himself with A. W. Bennett, in insurance, real-estate, and loan business.

(See sketch of A. W. Bennett.) In June, 1883, John G. Gill was admitted to the concern, which since its inception has been transacting a successful and extending business.

Dec. 26, 1876, Mr. Roben was married to Stella, daughter of Judge William P. Bennett, of Cassopolis, and a grand-daughter of Rev. Cephas Bennett, a pioneer Baptist missionary at Rangoon, British Burmah, who has done missionary work there for the past 55 years, and has charge of the Baptist missionary press of Burmah; she is also a great-grand-daughter of Rev. Alfred Bennett, one of the early and leading Baptist ministers of New York State. She was born in Cass Co., Mich., March 31, 1859. A son, Donald B., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Roben, July 19, 1878; a daughter, named Pansie — an exceedingly sweet and beautiful child — was born May 10, 1882, and died March 26, 1883.

Mr. Roben is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

**W**heatland A Stewart, farmer, sec. 14, Wheatland Tp., is a son of Neil and Angeline (Baker) Stewart, natives of New York, and of Scotch and Irish descent. He was born in Genesee County, N. Y., Sept. 14, 1826. He commenced a life of active toil at the age of 11 years, leaving the homestead of his parents and engaging in the capacity of a farm laborer. He continued to work in various localities, until the spring of 1844, when he went to Waukesha Co., Wis., and there engaged in agriculture in a similar manner until his marriage, Nov. 5, 1851, in Waukesha County, to Angeline H., daughter of Isaac and Jerusha (Estabrooks) Wood, who was born in Genesee Co., N. Y., Dec. 5, 1832, and went to Wisconsin with her parents when she was eight years old. The latter were natives of the Empire State. Mr. Stewart took farms on shares, until the fall of 1862, when he removed with his family to Michigan, and purchased 240 acres of land on sec. 26, Wheatland Tp. He made considerable progress in improving his land, but sold it finally, and bought the homestead, consisting of 160 acres, where he has since resided. Seventy-five acres of this he has improved, and has one of the best of farms as to quality of the land, etc., in Mecosta County. It is traversed by a stream of flowing water, fed by living springs. Mr. Stewart is

making preparations to build a new house, and expects to invest about \$1,000 therein. He is a Republican in political faith; has been Township Treasurer three years, Justice of the Peace three years, and held other minor offices.

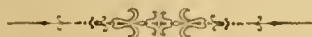
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart have been the parents of four children—Clara A., born Feb. 2, 1853; Cora E., July 31, 1855; Mary F., born July 28, 1860, died Feb. 31, 1874; Ida A., born Oct. 31, 1866, died Oct. 7, 1879; Edward H. (son by adoption) was born Aug. 2, 1869, and died Sept. 14, 1879.



**G**eorge W. Precious, Millbrook village, was born in Canada, Aug. 27, 1850. His parents, William and Eve R. (Jones) Precious, were natives respectively of England and Germany, and are both deceased.

About 1863 Mr. Precious came to this State and located in Washtenaw County, going afterward to Detroit. He came to Stanton, Montcalm Co., Mich., in 1872, where he lived until 1879. In the summer of that year he made his entry into the village of Millbrook, and embarked in the livery business, which he continued to operate until May, 1883, when he sold out and established himself in a saloon.

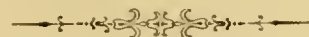
He was married April 22, 1874, to Laura A., daughter of Orin N. and A. Jane Hoisington. Her parents were natives of Michigan, and she was born Oct. 7, 1859, in Montcalm County. Of two children born of this marriage but one survives, Cora A., born Sept. 7, 1882. One child died in infancy. Mr. Precious is a Democrat.



**P**hraham La Grange, liveryman at Mecosta, Morton Tp., was born in Albany Co., N. Y., Nov. 1, 1833, and is a son of Christopher and Jane (Blessing) La Grange. About the age of 13 he began to drive stage in the State of New York, and made that his business for about 22 years. In April, 1873, he came to Stanton, Montcalm Co., and there engaged in the livery business one year, and afterward ran an omnibus line, transporting mail and express matter, and passengers. This he continued two years, and

then engaged in drawing lumber. In 1879 he came to Morton Tp., and cut the timber on the site of the village of Mecosta, and put it into the mill of George Webber. He built the Mecosta House, which he managed two years, and finally exchanged with D. O'Brien for his residence and the adjoining store building. Immediately upon his arrival here he established the livery business, and has continued it since. He added the drug trade to his store for six months, but sold the stock, and is now exclusively attending to his affairs as liveryman. He has usually eight horses in his stables, with all necessary livery adjuncts. He is Street Commissioner, and belongs to the A. O. U. W.

Mr. La Grange was married in Schoharie Co., N. Y., to Mary Townsend, a native of New York. Rufus, elder child, is now clerk in the Mecosta House. Mary L., only daughter, is the wife of Henry Waller, M. D., of Mecosta.



**H**enry C. Evarts, farmer on sec. 28, Green Tp., was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., Feb. 19, 1833. His father Shadrach Evarts, was born near Saratoga, N. Y.; was a farmer by vocation, and in 1845 came to Grand Rapids and there engaged in agriculture. He is yet living, in the care of his daughter, Mrs. C. H. Patten. The mother, Eunice (Plumb) Evarts, was a native of Connecticut, and died in November, 1879. Mr. Evarts was educated in the common and high schools of Grand Rapids, residing with the family of Porter Reed until he reached man's estate, after which he engaged in summer in the vocation of a farm laborer and taught school two winters. He came to Big Rapids in June, 1856, and entered 160 acres of land under the gradation act, and in March, 1858, began to build, and otherwise improve the land on which he has since made his home.

He enlisted as a soldier for the Union soon after the outbreak of the rebellion. He was enrolled in the Third Michigan Cavalry Oct. 12, 1861, remaining in the service four and a half years. He was in action at Corinth, Inka, New Madrid, etc. He obtained the commission of Second Lieutenant, for meritorious services, and nine months later was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, serving until the end of the

war, in the Fourth U. S. C. C. Cavalry, stationed at Port Hudson, and was mustered out at New Orleans. He came back to his farm and has since personally supervised the same. He is a Republican and has held the posts of Town Clerk and School Inspector.

Mr. Evarts was married Jan. 1, 1858, to Martha J. Boynton, a native of Jackson Co., Mich., born March 4, 1833, and died June 26, 1867, leaving one child, Mary L. Aug. 28, 1867, Mr. Evarts was married to Hannah A., daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Boynton, natives of Vermont. She was born in Grass Lake, Jackson Co., Mich., June 8, 1843; the following are their children: Edgar C., Lizzie B., George C., and Willie H.

**H**erbert P. Blanchard, of the firm of P. G. Blanchard & Son, dealers in lumber and brick, Blanchard, Isabella Co., Mich., is the son of Philip G. and Caroline M. (Touns) Blanchard, and was born in Pennsylvania, April 30, 1856. The parents are natives of Maine, and early in life settled in Michigan. Mr. Blanchard came to Michigan in the fall of 1872, and located at Grand Rapids, remaining there nearly three years. In the spring of 1876 he came to Blanchard, where he has since been a citizen. He is a Republican in politics, and has served in the capacity of Treasurer of the village three years, and Supervisor one year.

He was married in Grand Rapids, May 13, 1880, to Nora, daughter of John and Johanna Condon. Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard have two children—Belle and Edith.

**F**ranklin M. Williams, hotel proprietor, Remus, was born in Knox Co., Ohio, Nov., 27, 1843. His parents removed to Kosciusko Co., Ind., the year following his birth. He received his education there and resided with his parents until he was 18 years old, at which time he enlisted as a soldier for the Union in the 12th Ind. Vol. Inf., enrolling in Co. F. His command was attached to the Army of the Tennessee and was under fire in 28 engagements, among which were the battles of Richmond, Ky., Missionary Ridge, Jackson, Miss., and the fight at Atlanta. Throughout his entire period of service he escaped all

wounds and casualties. After three years of hard fighting he was discharged at Indianapolis, June 20, 1865. During the war his parents had removed to St. Joseph Co., Mich., where he rejoined them and resided two years. In the spring of 1866 he went to Missouri, where he passed a summer, returning at its close to his parents' home. In March, 1867, he came to Wheatland Tp., and passed two years in farming in the vicinity of Bloomfield. He purchased 80 acres of land in sec. 26, preparatory to the establishment of a home. March 4, 1869, he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of David and Mary (Smith) Ruxton, who was born in Waterloo, Can., Feb. 17, 1847. Her father was a native of Scotland and her mother of Pennsylvania, of German descent. Elizabeth was educated in the Dominion, and was for several years a teacher in the common schools of Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have two children; Ralph, born Aug. 4, 1876, and Maud M., Aug. 18, 1878. Mr. Williams is a radical Republican and has been Supervisor five years, Tp. Clerk several terms and held other minor offices.

The hotel kept by Mr. Williams at Remus is one of the best country establishments for public entertainment in Northern Michigan. Its cost was about \$3,000. The house is well furnished and has a good run of custom, which is constantly increasing. Mr. Williams took possession of the hotel in Jan., 1882.

**C**harles W. Clifton, farmer on sec. 31, Green Tp., was born at Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 10, 1838. His father, William Clifton, was an Englishman by nativity, and came to this country when about 22 years old; located at Cleveland and married Abigail Locke; resided on a farm near the city during eight years, and in October 1845, came to Kent Co., Mich., and settled on a farm. He was crushed to death April 10, 1848, by a falling building. The mother died at Clinton, Lawrence Co., Dec. 28, 1882.

Mr. Clifton obtained his education at the public and high schools of Grand Rapids. He was trained to the pursuit of agriculture, but in 1861, when the country was plunged into the abyss of war by the insane South, he became a soldier. He enlisted in the First Michigan Regiment of the Engineers and Me-

chanics, and served three years. He participated in several engagements, and was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn. On his return North he came to Mecosta Co. and spent 10 months in the employ of T. Lazell, of Big Rapids. He then became a resident at Grand Rapids, where he was married, Oct. 2, 1866, to Julia E. Sunderland, daughter of Myron and Louisa (Searles) Sunderland, a native of Kent Co. Mr. Clifton was a farmer near Grand Rapids two years, and then bought 160 acres of land in Green Tp., where he has since resided. The family includes six children: Frank S., Effie L., George M., Grace, Lois and Charles E.

**H**ilbert S. Palmer, farmer, sec. 14, Green Tp., was born Feb. 8, 1821, and is a son of Nile and Catherine (Wing) Palmer, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of Elizabethtown, Canada. Mr. Palmer was reared on a farm, and, when 16 years of age, went to Elizabethtown to learn the shoemaker's trade, which was his business in life for many years. He was a resident of the Dominion until the spring of 1867, when he became a citizen of Mecosta County, buying 80 acres of land, which he has increased to 120 acres.

He was married in 1842 to Mary, daughter of William and Lydia (Lee) Robbins, who was born in Canada and died in July, 1847, leaving one child, Anna E., wife of Walter Clow, residing in Linn, Canada. For a second wife, Mr. Palmer married Melissa, daughter of Reuben and Hannah (Graham) Moot. She and her parents are natives of the Dominion. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have six children, Mary A., Charlotte O., Hannah P., George M., William H. and Nile E.

**W**illiam Davidson, farmer on sec. 12, Aetna Tp., was born in England, July 16, 1830. His parents, Joshua and Sarah Davidson, were also natives of England, and emigrated to Canada about the year 1842, and remained there until their death. Mr. Davidson resided in the Dominion until he was 23

years of age, when he came to Newaygo County, and three years later bought 135 acres of land in Montcalm County, on which he lived 12 years. In the fall of 1871 he came to Aetna Tp. and bought 160 acres of unimproved land, where he settled and began to make improvements. He sold 40 acres, and retains 120 acres of his original purchase, with 70 acres under advanced culture, having in late years built a good frame house in which he now lives. Mr. Davidson is a Democrat and has been School Treasurer 12 years.

He was married in Canada in the fall of 1851, to Mary, daughter of Ember and Valina (Smith) Smith, natives of Vermont: the father is deceased, and the mother resides with a daughter in Deerfield Tp. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have had 10 children: Abraham, born Aug. 18, 1852; William, Sept. 1, 1854; Joshua, Aug. 18, 1853; Chauncey, Oct. 18, 1860; Henry, Dec. 9, 1863; Elmer, June 18, 1866; Mary, Sept. 8, 1868; Jehu, Aug. 8, 1870; Alonzo, born Oct. 18, 1858, died July 1, 1880. One child died in infancy. It was supposed that Alonzo died from the effects of poison.

**R**ichard Vandewater, farmer, sec. 22, Hinton Tp., is a son of Peter and Catherine (Rutan) Vandewater, natives of New Jersey and of Holland descent. They were pioneers of Washtenaw County and afterward removed to Barry County, where the mother died. The father lives in Adrian, with a daughter. Mr. Vandewater was born in New Jersey, Dec. 19, 1821, and accompanied his parents to Michigan. They were in limited circumstances and the son felt it his duty to contribute to the relief of the household. He did this many years, even after he was legally released from obligation. He was married in Hillsdale Co., Mich., Feb. 28, 1847, to Nancy Jane Fuller, who died in June, 1848, leaving one child, George W., born June 28, 1848. Mr. Vandewater was again married in 1850, to Elvira J. Heath, a native of the State of New York. Of this marriage one child was born, Catherine E., who died when about two years old. The mother died, and Mr. Vandewater was again married May 28, 1864, to Esther A., daughter

of David and Sarah Ann (Bennett) Moulter, who was born March 31, 1844, in Chemung Co., N. Y. Of this marriage were born Peter E., April 6, 1865; Sarah E., Nov. 25, 1869; Elvira J., March 2, 1877.

In August, 1863, Mr. Vandewater was drafted to serve during the war. He served nineteen and one-half months, was honorably discharged Feb. 12, 1866, at Newberry, N. C. He was assigned to the 23d Mich. Vol. Inf., and was afterward transferred to the 28th Mich. Inf. In justice to Mr. Vandewater it should be said that he was prevented from enlisting by the smallness of the number of settlers in the township and his feeling that he was needed at home. He was in the battle of Franklin, Tenn., and when Hood was captured his regiment pursued the rebel general until his surrender.

Mr. Vandewater originally purchased 40 acres of wild land, and later on, another 40. He has now 33 acres cleared and under tillage. In the spring of 1883 he sold 40 acres. Both himself and wife are members of the Second-Advent Church. Mr. V. was one of the earliest settlers and circulated the petition for the division of the four townships: Hinton, Deerfield, Millbrook and Ætna. On the organization of Hinton Tp., in January, 1860, he was elected first Supervisor. He has since held various offices, among them that of School Treasurer, to which position he has been three times elected and of which he is the present incumbent. In politics he is independent.

**J**ohn R. Snyder, farmer on sec. 32, Green Tp., was born in Barton Tp., Canada, July 27, 1836. His father, Abraham Snyder, was born in Maryland, and was of German descent. He went to Canada and followed agriculture for a livelihood. He married Mary Rammage and died in 1876. His wife died in 1861. Mr. J. R. Snyder resided in Canada until he was 19 years old, then came to Mecosta County and located the farm which he now owns—a soldier's claim of the war of 1812, owned by his father—to which he has added another 80 acres by purchase, and has 60 acres under tillage.

Mr. Snyder was married March 12, 1860, to Sarah A., daughter of William and Abigail Clifton, who was born in 1843, at Cleveland, Ohio. The children of

this marriage are ten in number: William C., Sarah A., Grant, Fred, Nellie M., Glenn W., Mary and Martha (twins), John and Dora V. Politically, Mr. Snyder is a member of the National party.

**J**ohn P. Runyan, farmer on sec. 19, Deerfield Tp., was born in Franklin Co., Ind., Aug. 18, 1822. He is a son of Thomas and Hannah (Stein) Runyan, both natives of New Jersey, where they were married. In the year 1812 they removed to Indiana and there resided 14 years, going thence to Ohio, where they remained till death. Mr. Runyan was born two years before the admission of Indiana into the Union, and accompanied his parents to Ohio. He was at home until the age of 19, attending school and working on the farm with his father. At that age he was employed on the public works, building locks three years. Afterward he followed the occupation of carpenter and joiner until 1878, with the exception of the period spent in the Union army. In May, 1861, he enlisted in the 14th Reg. Ohio Vol. Inf., Co. A, and was in the service four years, receiving honorable discharge in October, 1865. Among other engagements he was on duty in the battle of the Wilderness, siege of Richmond and before Petersburg. He received a slight saber wound by accident, which was his sole casualty.

Mr. Runyan came from Ohio to Michigan in 1878 and bought 40 acres of land, which had been partly improved, on sec. 30. This he afterwards sold and bought property in Morley, of which he retained possession but a short time. In politics he is a Republican, and is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows. He was Deputy Sheriff while in Ohio and filled several minor offices. He was married in Indiana, Oct. 5, 1844, to Lizzie, daughter of Platt and Orilla Squires. She died Sept. 18, 1881. Two children born of this marriage are both deceased. He was again married June 29, 1882, in Big Rapids, to Sarah J., daughter of John H. and Minerva (Bullock) Underwood, and widow of Erastus A. Watrous, who died Aug. 19, 1880. The parents of Mrs. Runyan were natives of New York, where the mother died, in Chautauqua County. The father died near Peters-

burg, Va. Hale S. Watrous, born May 18, 1880, was the only issue of the first marriage of Mrs. Runyan. She is prominent in the Baptist Church.

**J**ustice **W. Tenney**, deceased, was a native of Livingston Co., N. Y., born Sept. 28, 1811. His father, William Tenney, was of English extraction, and a farmer by occupation. Mr. Tenney remained at home until the age of 20, when he came to Walled Lake, Oakland Co., Mich., where he was married, in 1839, to Marilla Loomis, a native of Michigan. After their marriage they moved to Kent Co., near Grand Rapids, and lived on a farm. Mrs. Tenney died in 1853. In 1856 Mr. Tenney came to Green Tp., and settled on sec. 30, where he purchased 300 acres of land. He was again married in 1857, to Mrs. Maretta Willis, widow of George S. Willis, of Muskegon County, who died in 1853. She was born in Waterville, Lamoille Co., Vt., June 4, 1833, and is a daughter of John and Mary (Lowater) Millington, the former a native of England and of Scotch-Irish ancestry; both parents are deceased. Of her first marriage, one child was born, Lyman G. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Tenney are Herbert S., Minnie M., Frank J. and Charles H. William is deceased. Mr. Tenney died March 8, 1859. Mrs. Tenney is living with her four children on the homestead, consisting of 105 acres of land, a large proportion of which is under tillage. Mr. Tenney's children by his first wife are, Orlando L., Maynard T., Harriet M. and Ella M.; Alonzo and Frederic are deceased.

**D**aniel Horton, book-keeper and clerk in the mercantile house of T. C. Gardener at Remus, was born in Tioga Co., Penn., July 5, 1850, and is a son of Seneca and Catherine (Buckbee) Horton, the father a native of Ohio, and the mother of New York. The family came to Michigan in 1864 and settled in Wheatland Tp. Mr. Horton passed the first 20 years of his life after the method of farmers' sons generally, and was married Feb. 4, 1870, to Mary, daughter of Ezra and Jane (Brown) Mansfield, who was born Feb. 18, 1854, in

Genesee Co., N. Y., of which State her parents were natives. She accompanied them to Michigan when quite young. Mr. and Mrs. Horton settled on a farm of 40 acres on sec. 25, Wheatland Tp. On this Mr. Horton labored until he had put 20 acres in a fit condition for cultivation. He operated as an agriculturist some years, eventually leaving his farm to engage in the general store of his brother at Millbrook, where he remained until February, 1881, the date of his entering upon his present duties in the establishment of Mr. Gardener. He has the entire management of the business at Remus, and enjoys the unrestricted confidence of his principal, who is a non-resident, he having during the current year (1883) fixed his dwelling place at Big Rapids. Mr. Horton is a Republican in politics, and has been for some time Township Clerk.

Mr. and Mrs. Horton have had four children, viz.: Orville E., born June 15, 1871; Fred E., Sept. 21, 1874; Effie J., Oct. 1, 1876 (died Nov. 4, 1887); Carrie M., Oct. 15, 1882.

**S**tephen A. Gates, M. D., practicing physician, Millbrook village, was born at Albany, N. Y., Sept. 7, 1855. His parents, A. A. and Jane (Averill) Gates, were natives of Otsego Co., N. Y., where the mother died when the son was but two years of age. The father died in 1872. Mr. Gates attended the ward schools of Albany until he was 17 years of age, after which he was a student at the high school of Otsego, and was engaged in the profession of teaching nearly three years. On reaching man's estate he began the study of his profession in the office and under the direction of Dr. J. W. Still, of Morris, Otsego Co., N. Y., where he read medicine one year, going thence to Buffalo, to attend a course of medical lectures. He next went to Albany for the same purpose, and studied in the office of Dr. J. S. Mosher until the spring of 1878, when he completed his studies and received his diploma. He remained in Morris during the first year after entering upon the career of a medical practitioner, and met with flattering success; but owing to ill health, relinquished his business, with all its promise, to seek another field better adapted to the exigencies of the case. In

1879 he came to Michigan and engaged in teaching in Ionia and Montcalm Counties, where he was occupied nearly two years, when he resumed the practice of medicine in Ionia County, coming shortly after to Mecosta County, and fixing his residence at Millbrook in the fall of 1881. His business has increased satisfactorily from the outset, and he has an extending practice and a permanent place in the confidence of the community that patronizes him.

Dr. Gates was married in Ionia County, July 21, 1882, to Arminda E., daughter of John and Eliza Taft, who was born in Ionia County, whither her parents removed from New York, their native State. One child was born of the marriage of the Dr. and Mrs. Gates: Myrtie M., born July 8, 1881, and died July 16, 1883.

Dr. Gates is an adherent of the Republican party, and himself and wife are members of the M. E. Church.

**G**aleb V. Hane, druggist, Remus, was born in Williams Co., Ohio, Feb. 14, 1853. He is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Barron) Hane, natives of Pennsylvania. In 1855 the parents came to Lebanon, Clinton Co., Mich., where the son attended the common schools until he was 15 years old. He finished his education at the graded school at Maple Rapids, where he was a pupil three years. On completing his course of study he entered the drug store of Mr. McDonald at that place, where he was a clerk three years. In 1873 he returned to Lebanon and worked two years on a farm. He was married in Clinton County, March 26, 1875, to Flora, daughter of Albert and Lydia (Anersley) Cross, natives respectively of New York and Ohio, and of English and Welsh descent. Mrs. Hane was born in Madison Co., Ill., April 18, 1854. Her parents removed to Maple Rapids when she was eleven years old, where she was educated.

Mr. Hane passed the year succeeding his marriage on a farm. The next year he went to Maple Rapids and operated a few months in the grocery business, going thence to Pompei, Gratiot Co., and there embarked in the drug trade. He continued to carry on his affairs there until the fall of 1880, when he went to Fowler, Clinton Co., and a short time after founded his present business at Remus. His stock includes

all druggists' goods and is valued at \$1,500, with annual sales aggregating \$2,000, and business interests constantly increasing.

Mr. Hane is a Republican and is Clerk of the village of Remus. One child is included in the family circle, Jessie, born June 28, 1876. The property of Mr. Hane embraces 120 acres of partly improved land in Isabella County, 80 acres of timber land on sec. 21, 40 acres on sec. 16, of Wheatland Tp., Mecosta Co., and 120 acres in the township of Sheridan.

**J**oseph A. De Long, farmer, sec. 22, Wheatland Tp., is the son of Martin and Mary (Edmonds) De Long, natives of New England, and of French descent, who located in the State of New York soon after their marriage. Mr. De Long was born in Erie Co., N. Y., July 31, 1826. In 1830 his parents removed to Victoria Co., Can., where he was married May 20, 1847, to Almira, daughter of David and Anna (McKague) Brintnall, who was born Oct. 18, 1826, in Northumberland Co., Ont. Her parents were natives respectively of Vermont and Ireland. Mr. De Long was occupied in farming in various localities until the autumn of 1864, when he fixed his residence in Wheatland Tp., on 80 acres of wild land, where he has since lived and prosecuted his farming and other interests.

Mr. De Long is a Republican, and himself and wife are members of the M. E. Church. Children: Laura, born June 16, 1848; Eliza A., Nov. 1, 1850; Almeron, May 18, 1852; Clarissa, March 13, 1854 (died Jan. 2, 1858); Harrison, March 10, 1856; William, April 20, 1858; Melissa, June 29, 1860; Benjamin, Sept. 24, 1862; John, March 18, 1865, and Martin, Aug. 1, 1867.

**N**athan Swisher, farmer, sec. 21, Wheatland Tp., resident at Remus, was born in Allen Co., Ohio, Nov. 5, 1837. His parents, Michael and Salome (Stukey) Swisher, were natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Previous to their marriage they were residents of Ohio and removed thence, later in life, to Whitley







*Wm Jones.*

Co., Ind. Mr. Swisher enlisted when he was 24 years old as a soldier for the Union. He enrolled in the 17th Ind. Vol. Inf., Aug. 28, 1862. His command was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and during his period of service he participated in 42 important actions, besides taking part in numerous minor affairs. Among the principal battles were Hoover's Gap, Duck River, Columbia, Tenn., and Nashville, Farmington, Lookout Mountain, etc. He went through all without wound or capture, though his clothing was more than once riddled with bullets, and a horse was shot under him on one occasion. He was honorably discharged in August, 1865. On his return from the war he was married in Van Wert Co., Ohio, Nov. 29, 1865, to Esther, daughter of Lot and Margaret (Arnold) Meeker, natives of New York. After farming two years in Ohio, he came to Michigan and bought a farm containing 80 acres of forest in Wheatland Tp., now the site of the village of Remus. Later he bought 120 acres additional, making 200 acres, which is in good condition. Mr. Swisher is erecting a substantial residence, at an expenditure of \$1,500.

Mr. and Mrs. Swisher have had nine children: Joseph M., Roscoe P., Enos, L. G., William, A. O., Arnold, Stukey, Nathan R. and Lou. B. Arletta M. is deceased. Mr. Swisher is a Republican in politics, and has been Treasurer of Wheatland nine years. He is a member of the Order of Good Templars, and himself and wife belong to the M. E. Church.



**W**illiam T. Jones, manufacturer of lumber, shingles, etc., resident at Morley, was born at Waterdown, Wentworth Co., Upper Canada, March 10, 1847. His father, Ezekiel Jones, was a native of Ireland, and emigrated to Canada when he was 11 years of age. He reached man's estate, and married in the Dominion, where he resided until 1851, in which year he came to Michigan and settled in Croton, Newaygo County, where he interested himself in lumbering, and kept a hotel until his death in 1854. This journey to Michigan was made by Mr. and Mrs. Jones and family in a wagon, the distance from

Waterdown being 400 to 500 miles. Jane (Thompson) Jones, mother of the subject of this sketch, returned to her native province after the death of her husband, and is still living at Waterdown.

Mr. Jones obtained a fair education in the schools of his native town, and there commenced his business life, working as a salesman in a mercantile house six years, after which he established himself in business with a partner, under the firm name of Jones, Burns & Co., for the sale of general merchandise. He sold out at the end of three years and came to Michigan, locating at Morley. He at once engaged in the lumber trade, and, under the firm name of Cook, Pendleton & Jones, began the manufacture of shingles. This relation lasted one year, when Mr. Pendleton withdrew, and the business was maintained by Messrs. Cook & Jones until the death of the former in 1882. Since that event Mr. Jones has continued to conduct the business in his own interest. He is also associated in the proprietorship and management of a grist-mill at Morley, with William Hugh.

The personal history of Mr. Jones is marked by the same qualities which characterize the records of so many of the substantial citizens of Mecosta County. He inherited thrift and energy, was trained to industrious habits, and built up his business and fortune by economy and the exercise of good judgment in his operations. He enjoys the confidence of the community where he lives, and has ably discharged his obligations as the incumbent of various township offices. He has belonged to the Masonic fraternity since 1868, and is a member of the Lodge "Strict Observance," No. 27, and Royal Arch Chapter No. 2, at Hamilton, Ont.

Mr. Jones was married in Mecosta Co., Mich., Aug. 24, 1881, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late John T. and Sarah A. J. (Dow) Cook, the former a native of Connecticut, the latter born in Boston, Mass. Mrs. Jones was born in Earlville, Ill., Sept. 14, 1843.

Politically Mr. Jones has always been a member of the Republican party, and has labored for its advancement and prosperity.

As a prominent and representative citizen of Mecosta County, and a gentleman worthy the position, we place the portrait of Mr. Jones in this Album.

**J**ames Hullinger, druggist, Mecosta village, was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., March 6, 1842. His father, Dr. William Hullinger, was a practicing physician for 40 years. He was a pioneer of Hillsdale Co., Mich., and was connected with its settlement and the founding of the village known as Basswood Corners. He cut seven linden trees, from which he constructed a house—the nucleus, as it proved, of a village of respectable dimensions, which received its name from the variety of wood which entered into the construction of the first house erected on its site.

Dr. Hullinger was a man of adventurous character, and spent much time in travel. He went to California in 1849, setting out from Reading, with four yoke of oxen, traveling with them on foot from Port Sarina, at which place he left his company, and reached the land of golden promise six months in advance of the cattle. He went four times to California, once to Pike's Peak, and once to the Black Hills. He is now living in retirement, at Munica, Ottawa Co., Mich.

At the age of 17 Dr. Hullinger went to Hillsdale College, and after two years of study there enlisted in the Union army, enrolling in the Fourth Mich. Vol. Inf., under Col. Dwight A. Woodbury. He was discharged June 20, 1864. During its period of service the regiment to which he belonged was in 42 engagements. He was detailed as Hospital Steward, and passed the time of his enrollment in the discharge of the duties of that position.

On his return from the war he entered upon active preparations for the calling of a carpenter and builder, and was engaged at Stanton two years in the manufacture of shingles. He was making fair progress in that business, when a disastrous fire destroyed his mill, and he was obliged to seek employment at his trade.

He came to Mecosta, Mecosta County, reaching there the 20th day of October, 1879. He immediately set about the erection of the building in which he now prosecutes the business that he established, on his location in the village of Mecosta, sheltering his stock of merchandise in a small shanty near his store, until the latter building was in readiness for use. His stock was valued at \$600; it now

represents \$2,000, and includes all goods common to a first-class drug store, and suited to the local demand. His annual sales amount to \$8,000.

Mr. Hullinger was married to Vanchie, daughter of Z. B. and Jane A. Stillson, born in Huron Co., Ohio. Two sons—Bailey, born June 6, 1866, and Otto K., born Sept. 16, 1870—are included in the household. The eldest son is his father's assistant in the drug store.

Mr. Hullinger is a member of the A. O. U. W., and himself and wife belong to the Presbyterian Church. He has been Superintendent of the Sunday-school three years.

**A**lexander Thompson, farmer, sec. 14, Green Tp., was born in Scotland, July 28, 1814, and is a son of John and Jeannette (Twedel) Thompson, natives of "Auld Scotia," where they lived and died,—the father in 1816, when the son was but two years old. Mr.

Thompson remained at home with his mother until he was 34 years old, occupied with the business of cloth-making. He came to the American continent in 1848, landed at New York, then went to Gault, Can. He returned to the "States" at the end of the year and located in Mercer Co., Pa., where he found employment at his trade. He worked there 18 months, then went to the factories at Indianapolis, where he remained four years. In the fall of 1854 he went back to Scotland and was there employed as a weaver. In 1858 Mr. Thompson was married to Agnes, daughter of James and Margaret (Richmond) Morton, who was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, Nov. 21, 1825. Her parents were natives of that place, and there lie buried. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have had four children; John, born April 12, 1859; James M., March 21, 1861; Margaret M., Jan. 18, 1863 (now Mrs. John Lord); Jeannette, June 21, 1867, died May 19, 1882.

Early in the fall of 1861, Mr. Thompson, with his wife and two children, sailed for the United States. They landed at New York and then went to Trumbull Co., Ohio, where he followed his occupation until the spring of 1868, when he came to Mecosta County. He located at once upon a farm containing

160 acres of land. Forty acres of his original tract are now under cultivation. Mr. Thompson is a Republican of the most faithful type.

**M**atthew Dopp, farmer, sec. 25, Wheatland Tp., was born July 12, 1840, in Lorain Co., Ohio, and is a son of John and Permelia (Reynolds) Dopp, who came to Michigan in 1843. He was cared for by his parents until he was nine years old, when he went to live with a neighbor. When 11 years old he began a life of labor, finding employment on farms as best he could. He was just entering manhood when the civil war broke out, and, not long after he had passed his minority, he yielded to the influences which swayed the entire nation, and became a soldier, enlisting in the First Michigan Cavalry, Aug. 22, 1861, under Col. Broadhead. He saw much active service, being in action at Winchester and Cedar Mountain, as well as in numerous minor engagements. He was discharged Dec. 18, 1863 and re-enlisted within the same month in the same regiment, with Col. Tower commanding. He was in the Army of the Potomac, and was in much hard service, receiving his final discharge March 22, 1866. He was wounded once, and once taken prisoner, being sent to the famous "Libby" at Richmond, Va., but was exchanged after three months confinement.

After being mustered out he came to Cass Co., Mich., and July 31, 1866, was married to Hattie, daughter of Worden and Louisa (Spicer) Wells. After that event he located in Kalamazoo County, and a year later came to Mecosta County, where he has since been a resident. He is a farmer, on 40 acres of land in Wheatland Tp. Children: Laura J., born Sept 24, 1872; Mary A., May 5, 1878; John R., June 15, 1880; Hattie P., Aug 17, 1882.

**E**athaniel Mitchell, farmer on sec. 26, Aetna Tp., was born July 29, 1840, in Yates Co., N. Y. He is a son of James and Susan (Weston) Mitchell, and until he was 21 years old he remained at home occupied with agricultural matters on his father's farm. In 1861 he came to Mecosta County, and, becoming interested in the fate of the Union, he enlisted Jan 4, 1865, in the 10th

Michigan Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He was in action only twice during the period of enlistment. Previous to entering the army he was actively interested in farming projects, and on returning he again threw all his energies into the plans and purposes of his life. He owns 80 acres of land, with 20 acres under tillage. He is a Democrat and is at present serving his township as Overseer of Highways.

Mr. Mitchell was married in 1861, to Emily M., daughter of David and Electa (Woodford) Ackerman, of Newaygo County, who was born Feb. 24, 1839. Freddie O. Mitchell, adopted son, was born Feb. 15, 1876. They are Universalists.

**W**illiam H. Bump, farmer, sec. 25, Wheatland Tp., was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Oct. 7, 1832. He is a son of William and Anna (Baker) Bump, natives of New York. All the education he obtained was acquired before he was 12 years old. At that age he began life for himself as a farm assistant, working for the common compensation of the kind of labor he was able to perform—\$3 per month. This career was followed until the fall of 1849, when, in company with his parents, he emigrated to Waukesha Co., Wis. On reaching there he readily found employment, and was in various positions as a farm laborer for the six years following. He was married Oct. 7, 1855, to Marcia J., daughter of James and Marcia (Bull) Klock, natives of New York, who was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., June 29, 1836, and in her childhood accompanied her parents to the Badger State. After his marriage Mr. Bump was engaged in the lumber trade, together with other pursuits, until the period of the Southern rebellion. Before the revolt of the slavery element had attained a year's growth he became a soldier. He enlisted Jan. 18, 1861, in the three-months service, enrolling in the Fifth Wis. Reg. Vol. Inf., Co. F, Captain Bean. At the expiration of three months he returned to his former employment as a farmer and lumberman, operating until Aug. 1, 1862, when he again enlisted, in the 28th Wis., Co. F, in command of Col. Lewis. After a service of 13 months he was discharged for disability, and on rejoining his family he resolved on a transfer

to the county of Mecosta. In the spring of 1863, he bought a farm in Wheatland Tp., containing 120 acres of land, and moved here with his family. He has since purchased 60 acres additional, making a tract of 180 acres, 85 of which are under the plow. Mr. Bump is a progressive farmer, and is managing his agricultural interests to the best possible advantage. He is a liberal Democrat in political principle, and is present Constable of his township.

Children: Fannie A., born Aug. 1, 1857; Anna S., Dec. 24, 1860; William J. G., May 18, 1861; Mary E., Sept. 22, 1867; Geo. F., March 1, 1866, died March 23, 1866.

**L**ewis Swarthout, farmer, sec. 36, Deerfield Tp., was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., June 9, 1833. He is a son of James and Rhoda (Reynolds) Swarthout, natives of the Empire State. His father was a farmer and went to Erie Co., Pa., where he remained three years, then returned to Seneca Co., N. Y., where he died, in July, 1847. Mr. Swarthout was brought up in Seneca County in the manner common to farmers' sons of that day. After the death of his father, he in 1850 moved to Erie, Pa., and in 1856 came to this county and took up a homestead under the State law of Michigan. This was several years previous to the organization of the township, and the forest was in its primeval condition. Mr. Swarthout has cleared and cultivated 80 acres of land.

In March, 1861, a meeting was held for organization purposes, in which was represented the present towns of Hinton, Aetna, Millbrook and Deerfield. The delegates were George Gilmore, Samuel Rose, George Brady, Lysander Quigley, George Quigley, Lewis Swarthout, Elam Sanborn, Frederick Luther, Frank Hinton and George Hinton,—ten in number. The meeting was held at the house of Frederick Luther (Aetna Tp), and Mr. Rose was appointed clerk, and also elected Township Clerk, with George Gilmore, Supervisor. Mr. Swarthout has held various school and township offices.

He was married Sept. 16, 1854, to Charlotte E. Trowbridge, who was born in the State of New York, and their children are Charles E., Alpha T., Minnie, Frank and Bert; James M. and Jessie N. are de-

ceased. Mr. Swarthout has acted generally with the Democratic element. He now resides at Lake View, Cato Tp., Montcalm Co., Mich.

**E**dgar O. Phelps, farmer, on sec. 13, Hinton Tp., is a son of Joseph and Louisa (Hogle) Phelps, natives of Vermont, and pioneers of the State of New York. Mr. Phelps was born in Vermont, Jan. 13, 1830, and lived in the Empire State until the age of 20 years, when he went to Canada and there engaged in farming about 20 years. In the fall of 1870 he came to Michigan and settled at Grand Rapids, working nearly two years in the pineries. He came to Mecosta County in 1872 and purchased 80 acres of forest land in the township of Hinton, most of which is now under tillage. Mr. Phelps is an adherent of the Democratic party and its interests. He was married in Canada, May 10, 1852, to Sarah, daughter of John and Polly (Johnson) Burrison, natives respectively of Vermont and Canada. The mother died May 27, 1879, at the hospital at Ann Arbor, whither she went for treatment for a tumor. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Phelps are all living and were born as follows: Charles E., Oct. 12, 1853; William E., Jan. 13, 1855; James H., in March, 1857; Edgar O., Jr., in 1859; Truman N., May 21, 1863.

**A**lexander N. Tompkins, lumberman, resident at Altona, Hinton Tp., was born in Canada, Aug. 12, 1848. His father, Geo. L. Tompkins, was a native of the State of New York, and the mother of Canada; in 1867 they came to Michigan and located in Ottawa County, coming thence to Big Rapids, where the mother died, in March, 1871; the father is living in Wexford County. At 14 years of age Mr. Tompkins was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith trade, but after eight months was compelled to abandon the project on account of difficulty with his eyes, and he remained at home one summer. The next season he worked on a farm and after that was engaged in lumbering for two years. When he was 19 years old, in the fall of 1867, he came to Michigan, and in the fall

of 1868, to Mecosta County, where he has since lived, engaging in milling and lumbering. He is now operating the shingle mill owned by H. J. Brown in Altona and employs nine men. He is working under a four years' contract and the mill product is about 35,000 shingles daily. Mr. Tompkins is identified with the Republican party, and is a member of the I. O. O. F.

Mr. Tompkins was married at Cadillac, Mich., in November, 1877, to Martha E., second daughter of Levina and Velinda (Scouten) Engle. Her parents were natives of the State of New York, who came to Allegan Co., Mich., in its pioneer days and afterwards went to Wexford County, where they now reside. Mrs. Tompkins was born in Allegan County, July 24, 1854, and after she was 14 years old supported herself until her marriage. One child was born of this marriage—Carrie, July 23, 1879.



**H**orace Roach, farmer and lumberman, on sec. 19, Deerfield Tp., was born March 22, 1820, in Argyle, Washington Co., N. Y. He is a son of Edward S. and Betsey (Reed) Roach, natives of Vermont, who settled in New York in pioneer days. They afterward came to Michigan and located in Monroe County, and later, in Calhoun County, going thence to Barry County, where after a residence of 12 years the father died. His death occurred in the spring of 1871; the mother is still living, with a son in Barry County.

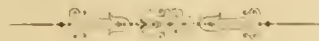
Mr. Roach remained under the care of his parents until he was 16 years of age, when he came to Michigan, and resided in Whiteford five years, then returned to the State of New York, coming back to Michigan five years later when he purchased 80 acres of land in St. Joseph County, for which he paid \$3 an acre. He built thereon a small frame house and proceeded to improve his property. He was enabled two years later to purchase an additional 80 acres adjoining, which he increased in five years to 240 acres of farming land of a high grade. This was his home nearly 13 years. In 1857 he exchanged this property for 500 acres of timber land in Cass County, on which there was a steam saw-mill, having a capacity of 12,000 feet per diem. The mill was

destroyed by fire a year later, and was without delay replaced by a more valuable structure, with a capacity of 15,000 feet daily. This mill Mr. Roach managed two years, employing 10 men. He made a second exchange of property in 1860, for 200 acres of improved land with good buildings, and situated adjacent to his old farm in St. Joseph County. This he operated six years, and sold for \$13,000. He then removed to Ionia County, and passed six years in lumbering. He made a purchase of 180 acres of land in Ionia County, under partial cultivation, and also 640 acres of pine land in Montcalm County. He combined the business of a clothier in Ionia with his other interests, hiring laborers to perform the farm duties.

In 1872 he disposed of his entire property by sale, and bought 400 acres of pine land in the township of Aetna, Mecosta Co., and also a shingle mill in Morley, which he operated until 1879. He again sold out all his interests and bought 200 acres in Deerfield Tp., with limited improvements. Of this latter purchase 120 acres are under a good state of cultivation.

Mr. Roach was married in Detroit, Oct. 20, 1845, to Caroline E., daughter of Charles and Polly (Burt) Macomber, natives of the State of New York, who came to Michigan in 1844, locating in St. Joseph County, where the father died in 1875. Her mother resides at Three Rivers, Mich.

Mr. Roach saw the first train of cars that passed from Albany to Schenectady, and was also an observer of the first train which ran in the Peninsular State, going from Toledo to Adrian. The latter was rendered a conspicuous event by the fact that hundreds of Indians were present on that occasion. Mr. R. is an outspoken, zealous Republican, has often been proffered offices of trust in the various localities where he has resided, but always declined. The family attend the M. E. Church.



**C**hristian F. Mynning, Supervisor of the Fifth ward at Big Rapids, and grocer by vocation, is a native of Denmark, and was born Jan. 21, 1850. He came to America in the fall of 1871, and located at Big Rapids, where he was variously employed until October, 1882, when he formed a partnership with Thomas

P. Mortenson, in the grocery trade, which relation still exists, and the firm is transacting a lucrative and increasing business. Their store is owned by Mr. Mynning, and the stock comprises full lines of goods common to the trade.

Mr. Mynning was married in Denmark, Sept. 19, 1871, to Johanna Sorenson. They have four children—Charles, Holker, Soren and Mary.

Mr. Mynning was elected to his present position in the spring of 1881, and re-elected in the spring of 1883. The family attend the Lutheran Church.

**F**rederick Walch, farmer, sec. 13, Wheatland Tp., is the son of Michael and Margaret (Wolf) Walch, both of whom were natives of France, and of German descent. He was born in the Province of Auvergne, France Aug. 20, 1839. He received a fair education in German, and was a laborer on the railroad and canal which were then in process of building through the section where he was born and reared. He left his native land in the spring of 1857, and came to Ontario, Can., where he was a farm laborer. He was married in Waterloo Co., Ont., in March, 1863, to Margaret, daughter of Jasper and Margaret (Horn) Otterbein, natives of Germany, where Mrs. Walch was born, Aug. 15, 1844. Her parents came to America and located in Waterloo Co. when she was ten years old. After his marriage Mr. Walch was a farmer in Waterloo County until 1865. In that year he removed to Montcalm Co., Mich., and settled at Greenville. He was there employed four years in a saw-mill. In 1869 he came to Wheatland Tp., and bought 40 acres of wild land, to which he has since added 80 acres. Of this land he has by his own exertions placed 60 acres under the best improvements.

Mr. and Mrs. Walch have buried five of their nine children. The four surviving are as follows: Philip, born Feb. 14, 1862; Margaret, Oct. 2, 1865; Fred-eric, Nov. 15, 1872; Dora, Feb. 18, 1879. John died in infancy; Angeline, born July 5, 1868, died in August, 1880; Michael, born Oct. 21, 1870, died Oct. 31, 1876; Laura, born Jan. 1, 1875, died July 25, 1879; Lillie M., born Nov., '76, died Aug. 1, 1879.

Mr. Walch has not yet procured his papers of citizenship; himself and wife are members of the German Lutheran Church.

**G**eorge Helms, farmer on sec. 23, Deerfield Tp., was born in the Keystone State, Jan. 3, 1810. His parents, Conrad and Mary (Swaggart) Helms, were born in Pennsylvania, and removed to Muskingum Co., Ohio, where they were among the first settlers. They went thence to Whitley Co., Ind., where they rounded the period of their lives. Mr. Helms passed nearly 30 years of his life in the Buckeye State. Removing thence, he came to Mecosta County and purchased 80 acres of land, with nine acres cleared, and an orchard of 50 apple-trees. He has been a thrifty and judicious farmer, and has 40 acres under the plow. He afterward purchased 120 acres more, which he has since sold. He has been an active and zealous Republican since the organization of the party.

Mr. Helm was married in 1834, in Muskingum Co., Ohio, to Sarah, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Gougar) Linton, natives of Pennsylvania. Of 11 children born to Mr. and Mrs. Helms, three died in infancy—Herry W., James H., and Wesley C. The record of those yet surviving is as follows: Geo. W., born Oct. 20, 1838; Joshua H., Dec. 11, 1840; Catherine E., April 24, 1845; Hibbard C., Sept. 6, 1846; Cassius M. C., June 23, 1849; William H., June 16, 1851; John L., Jan. 30, 1854; Charles C., April 29, 1858.

**J**ohn H. Foster, mason and builder, and dealer in masons' supplies, Big Rapids, was born Feb. 11, 1842, at Franklin, Me. He is a son of Joseph W. and Harriet (Scammons) Foster, and after he had attained the age of 17, spent four years in learning his trade under the supervision of William D. Moore, in Franklin. October 15, 1861, he enlisted in Co. M, First Maine Cavalry, Capt. P. M. Brown, and was in the service nine months, during which time he was in



one of the heaviest engagements of the war—that of the Shenandoah Valley—during the retreat of Gen. Banks. He was discharged at Williamsport, Md., and returned to his engagement with Mr. Moore. A year afterward he went to Calais, Me., spent a year there in pursuit of his trade, and worked a year successively at Richmond, Va., and Portland, Me. He went from the latter place to New York City and vicinity, and there and at Jersey City he constructed a number of fine residences.

In 1870 he settled at Big Rapids, where he has since carried on his business, and engaged in lumbering on tracts of pine land which he purchased, and put the timber on the market, and operated to a considerable extent as a contractor, employing 50 men in the busy seasons. Among the buildings of his erection at Big Rapids, are the Baptist Church, the Water Works, Northern Hotel block, two Telfer blocks, Collins block, the Union School house, Wilcox hardware store, etc., etc. He belongs to the Masonic Order, has been Alderman five successive years, Superintendent of the City Water Works, and Street Commissioner two years, and is now a member of the School Board.

Mr. Foster was married at Haverstraw, N. Y., Aug. 13, 1868, to Georgiana, daughter of Thomas and Mary Dykins, a native of Haverstraw, N. Y. Four children have been born to them—Percy J., Howard W., Charles and Bertie (deceased).

**D**avid W. Barto, farmer on sec. 29, Deerfield Tp., is a son of Orrin M. and Esther (Averill) Barto, who came from their native Vermont, to Kalamazoo Co., Mich., in 1840, and there passed the remaining years of their lives. David W. was born in Kalamazoo County, July 4, 1843. He lived there the first 22 years of his life, and spent the succeeding 18 months in Kansas and Nebraska. He returned home, and remained two and one-half years, when he again repaired to Kansas and pre-empted 160 acres of land. He sold out at the end of four and one-half years, at which time he purchased 80 acres of land in Mecosta County, now his homestead and under partial improvement.

Mr. Barto was married in Barry Co., Mich., Nov.

14, 1872, to Fannie A., daughter of J. W. and Mary A. Miles, natives of Ohio, who emigrated thence to Barry County, and later to Kansas, whence they returned to Michigan, and are now resident at Manistee. Mr. and Mrs. Barto have two children—Ella P., born March 4, 1876, and Lina B., Sept. 21, 1877. Mr. Barto is an adherent of the Republican party.

**E**lson H. Beebe, grocer at Big Rapids, was born in Newfane, Niagara Co., N. Y., Dec. 2, 1843, and is a son of Aaron and Sarah A. (Strickland) Beebe. His father was a farmer and mill-owner. Mr. Beebe was a student at school principally, until the breaking out of the civil war, and he was among the earliest to enroll as a defender of the Union flag. He enlisted at Lockport, N. Y., April 29, 1861, in Co. K, 28th N. Y. Vol. Inf., and served until the end of the war. His regiment was mustered out June 2, 1863, and he re-enlisted Sept. 3, in the Second N. Y. Mounted Rifles. He received his Lieutenant's commission Oct. 31, 1864, and was released by the close of his period of enlistment, Aug. 10, 1865. Among the engagements where he was under fire were those of the Valley of the Shenandoah, Culpepper, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Cold Harbor, Bethesda Church, siege of Petersburg, and a large number of skirmishes.

On leaving the army he went to Omaha and engaged in the insurance business in Nebraska and Iowa. He afterward engaged as traveling salesman for the crockery house of Egner, Foutts & Co., of Liverpool, Ohio, in which capacity he served two years. In February, 1872, Mr. Beebe came to Big Rapids, and purchased a half interest in the grocery of John Wiseman, and six months later purchased the entire stock. In November, 1875, he sold to C. A. Stickney & Co., and in April, 1876, bought out the business of J. H. Killburn, which he managed until Jan. 9, 1878, when he formed a co partnership with J. G. Gill, and established his stand where he has since transacted business. May 1, 1883, he purchased the interest of Mr. Gill. He carries a stock of fancy and staple groceries, flour, feed and grain, valued at \$5,000, and transacts an annual business of \$65,000.

Mr. Beebe was married at Lockport, N. Y., Jan.

25, 1870, to Amy L. Pollard, born at Wilson, Niagara Co., N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Beebe have three children—Fern, Elmer and Nellie.

**J**ames T. Hunter, farmer, sec. 30, Mecosta Tp., was born Dec. 21, 1857, in Essex Co., N. Y. His parents, Robert and Sarah (Curry) Hunter, were born in Ireland, of Scotch ancestors, and soon after their marriage came to Essex Co., N. Y. When Mr. Hunter was 15 years old he came with his parents to Big Rapids, and thence, in the fall of 1872, to the township of Mecosta. His father located a tract of land, where he proceeded to found a home for his family. He died in the winter of 1881, and Mr. Hunter of this sketch received by will 60 acres of this farm, 50 acres of which is in fine farming condition. Mrs. Mary Hall, his sister, acts as the housekeeper and manager of the domestic department.

Mr. Hunter is a young man, but is already established as a citizen and farmer. His future is promising and he seems destined to a fair rank in the community to which he belongs. He holds to the Presbyterian faith in religious views.

**W**illiam H. McPherson, farmer on sec. 1, Hinton Tp., is a son of Cyrus and Mary L. (Pamfrey) McPherson; the father a native of Maine, and the mother of New Brunswick, where they were married; they fixed their place of residence in Maine and still live there. William H. was born June 2, 1851, in New Brunswick, where he lived until he was 19 years of age, occupied winters in the lumber woods and spending the summer seasons in the slate quarries of the section where he was reared. For about six years, until he was 25 years of age, he was engaged solely in the quarries. In the spring of 1875 he came to Mecosta County and bought 40 acres of land in this township, which is now his homestead, with 32 acres now under advanced improvement. Mr. McPherson is a third-degree member of the Order of Masonry and in politics is a Republican.

He was married in Maine, March 1, 1870, to Sarah E., eldest daughter of Luke L. and Hannah H. (Daniels) Perry. They were natives of Maine, where Mrs. McPherson was born Sept. 8, 1851. The household includes four children: Mabel L., born Feb. 2, 1871; Melissa E., Aug. 4, 1873; Cyrus F., Oct. 3, 1879, and William H., July 21, 1882.

**E**dward Gilchrist, farmer on sec. 28, Mecosta Tp., was born in Canada, May 28, 1855. He is a son of Philip and Paulina (Kake) Gilchrist, natives of the Dominion. His parents came to Saint Clair Co., Mich., when he was one year old. After a few years they returned to Canada. They afterward came back to Michigan to make a permanent settlement, and located near Port Huron, going thence three years later to Sanilac County, remaining about six years. Edward Gilchrist continued to reside there, and in the summer of 1871 began to interest himself in lumbering, where he was occupied until 1876. In that year Mr. Gilchrist bought 40 acres where he now resides in Mecosta Tp. It was then a dense forest and required laborious and unremitting exertion to reduce it to a condition suitable to comfortable support. The place has 15 acres under tillage. Mr. Gilchrist is a Democrat of but moderate pretensions. He is now Director of School District No. 5; has liberal religious views.

He was married in February, 1878, to Emma, daughter of Jacob and Lydia (Wadsworth) Mong. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. The daughter was born in Venango Co., Pa., Aug. 31, 1859, and came with her parents to Michigan in 1869. The two children of Mr. and Mrs. Gilchrist were born as follows: John J., Sept. 9, 1876, and Pearl, Sept. 27, 1880.

**H**enry B. Wolcott, farmer and lumberman, sec. 15, Millbrook Tp., was born in Bradford Co., Pa., Jan. 6, 1824, and is a son of Benj. and Betsey (Merrell) Wolcott, the father a native of New York, the mother of Pennsylvania. The family went to the State of New York when Mr. Wolcott was 22 years of age, and he





Sam'l L. Newton

remained an inmate of the household four years longer. He was married at the age of 26 and continued to carry on the business of farming there until he was 31 years old, when he came to Michigan and settled in Shiawassee County. He remained there 18 months and went to De Kalb Co., Ill., and engaged in farming three years. His health becoming impaired he went back to his native State. During the six years of his residence there he held the positions of Constable and Collector, and passed the remainder of the time in farming. He came again to Michigan in 1866, and settled in Millbrook Twp., where he entered 160 acres of land under the provisions of the Homestead Act. On this land he erected the second frame house built in the township, and set about clearing the land for agricultural purposes, working three years without a team. The results of his persevering energy are manifest in the appearance of his farm, 110 acres of the original 160 acres being under excellent cultivation. Although he has bought and sold several hundred acres of land in the township, he has always held his first claim as a homestead.

Mr. Wolcott was married in Bradford Co., Pa., Nov. 8, 1849, to Ruth, second daughter of Wm. L. and Sally (Vosbinder) Taylor. The parents were natives of New York, and settled in Bradford County, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Wolcott was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., March 22, 1832. Of 14 children of Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott, eight are still living, born as follows: Sarah S., Oct. 30, 1850; Lewis E., May 7, 1852; Benjamin L., Dec. 5, 1853; Betsey E., Feb. 29, 1856; Ettie L., Dec. 4, 1863; Ruth A., June 16, 1869; Maurice D., Feb. 26, 1872; Alice M., Nov. 8, 1876. The deceased are as follows: George J., born Feb. 17, 1858, died Sept. 19, 1863; Laura L., born June 17, 1860, died Sept. 17, 1863; Emma E., born Dec. 30, 1861, died Sept. 22, 1863; Charles A., born April 9, 1868, died April 11, 1868; Mary E., born July 8, 1874, died Feb. 3, 1881; William H., born Dec. 24, 1865, died Nov. 7, 1881.

Mr. Wolcott has held the office of Justice of the Peace four years, Road Commissioner three years, School Director nine years in succession, and has been a member of the School Board nearly every year. Both himself and wife are active and prominent members of the M. E. Church. Mr. Wolcott

was four years a circuit preacher, was regularly ordained and has officiated two years as a local preacher. His impaired health compelled him to abandon circuit work, but he is still engaged in his ministerial labors and expects to be so occupied the remainder of his earthly life, believing that if he is faithful to the end a crown of eternal happiness will be his reward.



**S**amuel L. Newton, of the banking house of Fairman & Newton, Big Rapids, and whose portrait we place in this work, was born at Hagersville, Ont., Aug. 6, 1861, and is a son of Luther G. and Mary J. (Waters) Newton. In 1865 his parents went to Buffalo, N. Y., where his father associated with his uncle, J. S. Newton, embarked in the lumber trade and carried on an extensive business under the style of J. S. & L. G. Newton. Mr. Newton was a pupil at school in Buffalo from four years of age until the second removal of his family to Adams, Jefferson Co., N. Y., where he was again placed at school, and remained a student there until he was 17 years old. In 1877 he began a course of study at Hungerford Collegiate Institute, where he remained four years. At the expiration of that period he came to Big Rapids and engaged as book-keeper in the banking house of Ferdinand Fairman, his guardian. In October, 1881, Mrs. Newton purchased an interest in the bank with Mr. Fairman, which her son in turn bought from her on reaching his majority (Aug. 6, 1882), becoming owner of half its business relations. In every respect he seems fitted for the honorable and important profession which he has chosen, possessing all the essential characteristics requisite to the calling.

The house of Fairman & Newton ranks among the most solid and reliable of the banking institutions of Northern Michigan. Its affairs are conducted with a sagacity and business acumen which secures the confidence of the public and amplifies its financial relations. The Fairman & Newton block, ranking among the most substantial buildings in Big Rapids, is owned by the firm whose name it bears. The building on Michigan avenue, occupied by the Michigan Cigar Co., is the private property of Mr. Newton.

**W**illiam Corbett, farmer, sec. 22, Mecosta Tp., is a native of Scotland, where he was born Dec. 7, 1849. His parents, James and Elizabeth (Spears) Corbett, were also natives of "Auld Scotia," and came to this country with their family, settling in Canada in 1853. Six years later they came to Michigan. Mr. Corbett was but a lad when he was brought to this country, and was still in early youth when he became a resident of the Peninsular State. Until 1873 he worked at various places as a farm assistant, and in that year purchased 120 acres of land in the township where he is now a citizen, which acreage he has increased by purchase until he now owns a valuable farm containing 160 acres, with 140 acres under cultivation and in extraordinarily good condition for agricultural purposes. He has made rapid strides in the improvement of his place, and has already erected, in modern style, all buildings necessary to first-class farming, except a suitable residence, which will soon be added to the substantial attractions of the place.

Mr. Corbett was married at Hastings, Mich., May 19, 1877, to Esther J., daughter of Jonas and Rebecca A (Stanley) Hall. She was born Jan. 17, 1856. Mr. and Mrs. Corbett have three children, born as follows: George, Sept. 27, 1879; May E., May 12, 1881; Maggie M., Oct. 5, 1882.

Politically Mr. Corbett is a Democrat and has held various offices in the gift of his townsmen. The family attend the Presbyterian church.

**C**harles W. Kelley, farmer, sec. 3, Millbrook Tp., was born in Canada, Jan. 16, 1845. He had his own fortune to carve, and at the age of 13 commenced the struggle for home and the future. He was employed as a farm laborer, and during the first year received six dollars a month. He passed some years in this manner in Canada, and in the fall of 1864 came to Ionia, Mich., returning three months later to the Dominion. After spending a winter at home he returned to Ionia County, and not long after, in the autumn of 1865, came to Mecosta County and bought 160 acres of timbered land in Millbrook Tp.

He has made such good use of his energy and labor that he has put 65 acres in a good state of cultivation.

Mr. Kelley was married in Millbrook, April 17, 1870, to Mary E., third daughter of James E. and Rosanna (Purceley) Riley, who was born in New York, April 5, 1854. Her parents came from Ireland and settled in the Empire State. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley have had six children, five of whom are living: Rosa M., born Feb. 20, 1872; Myrtie I., March 10, 1874; Nora B. Sept. 24, 1876; Ada, March 19, 1877; Eva, Jan. 9, 1879. Rosanna died in infancy. Mr. Kelley belongs to the Republican party. He has held important official positions in the affairs of his township, and himself and wife are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

**H**enry Mansfield, farmer, sec. 35, Wheatland Tp., was born in Genesee Co., N. Y., Aug. 11, 1818. His parents, Josiah and Lucretia (Byam) Mansfield, were natives of Massachusetts. He passed the years preceding his majority under the care and supervision of his father, attending school and receiving the training and instruction necessary to fit him for his life's work. On leaving home he spent the next four years as a farm laborer. At 25 years of age he was married to Charlotte, daughter of Elijah and Abigail Brown, that event taking place at Byron, N. Y., Dec. 15, 1842. Mrs. Mansfield was a widow, and survived her second marriage until Dec. 6, 1847, when she died, in Genesee County. Her illness was long and involved her husband in debt to a considerable extent. He was again married May 25, 1848, in Genesee County, to Caroline M., daughter of Chauncey and Lorena (Wells) Brown, natives of New England, and respectively of Irish and English extraction. Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield lived on a farm in the county where they were married until 1867. In the spring of that year they settled on the farm where they are still resident, containing 120 acres of land, with 70 acres under advanced cultivation and supplied with necessary and suitable farm buildings. The family includes three children, as follows: Chauncey R., born July 12, 1849; Evert J., Jan. 26, 1852; Mary A., May 8, 1855.

The parents are in advanced life, but an active

life has kept them young in purpose and stimulated their ambition to keep pace with the progress of the age. Mr. Mansfield has always acted with the Republican party; has served his township as Treasurer seven years. He and his wife are zealous members of the M. E. Church.

**S** K. Wolcott, farmer, sec. 2, Millbrook Twp., is a son of Benj. and Betsey (Merrill) Wolcott, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Connecticut. In early life they settled in Bradford Co., Pa., where they lived more than 40 years. In the spring of 1856 they came to Shiawassee Co., Mich., and after a brief stay went to Illinois. Five years later they returned to the same county in Michigan and remained three and one-half years, going then to Pennsylvania, and residing there until the fall of 1868, when they came to Millbrook, and both died here in the spring of 1878.

Mr. Wolcott was born in Bradford Co., Pa., Feb. 20, 1831, and was the support of his parents as long as they lived. On coming to Millbrook he entered a claim of 120 acres of land under the homestead act, and afterward, in 1869, bought 80 acres of land adjoining. In 1878 he sold 40 acres of this land and in April, 1883, he sold 80 acres; he still holds a valuable farm containing 80 acres under good improvements. He was married in Bradford Co., Pa., Oct. 27, 1881, to Countess D., daughter of A. P. and Esther Wolcott. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, where Esther was born. Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott had one child, Viola, born May 5, 1883, and died Sept. 10, 1883. Mr. Wolcott is identified with the Democratic party, and has been School Assessor ten years.

**E**dward Harmon, landlord of the Millbrook hotel, Millbrook village, was born in Maine, Feb. 14, 1832, and is a son of John and Ann E. (Martin) Harmon, natives of Maine. The father died in California in 1867 and the mother resides at Boston, Mass. At the age of 16 Mr. Harmon engaged as a lumberman,

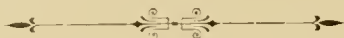
and also in the river service, which he pursued as a vocation 25 years. In 1859 he left Maine and came to Clearfield Co., Pa., and there engaged in lumbering 14 years. He left the Keystone State in the fall of 1873 and came to Mason Co., Mich., pursuing the same business at which he had spent so many years of his life, about 18 months, during which time he also kept a boarding house. At the termination of the period named, in 1875, he came to Blanchard, Isabella Co., Mich., and, forming a partnership with H. P. Blanchard, continued to prosecute the lumber trade. At the end of one year this connection closed and Mr. Harmon came to Mecosta County, and in December, 1876, located at Millbrook and established himself in the hotel business, which still monopolizes his time and energies. His house is the leading one in that section and is the only one in town.

Mr. Harmon was married in Pennsylvania, May 24, 1861. Mrs. Harmon was born in Center Co., Penn. She has one child by a former marriage, Deborah. Mr. Harmon is a Democrat. He has been connected with the Order of Odd Fellows about 20 years; has held the office of Deputy Sheriff two and a half years, and been Constable one year.

**E**lson Whitbeck, farmer, sec. 22, Mecosta Twp., was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., Jan. 26, 1834. His parents, Jasper and Mary (Ropp) Whitbeck, were natives of the State of New York. His mother died in Michigan, in the spring of 1878, aged 93 years. His father died in Oakland Co., Mich., in the fall of 1882. He was a centenarian, and distinctly remembered the first election of Washington to the Presidency of the United States by ballot. He was a soldier of 1812, and lived to see the fifth generation of his descendants grow up about him. The family removed from New York to Michigan, leaving the Empire State Nov. 4, 1838, where the boyhood, youth and early manhood of Mr. Whitbeck were passed. After reaching his majority he attended to the conduct of his father's farm, and finally the old homestead passed into his possession. In the fall of 1882 he came to Mecosta Twp. and bought 160 acres of land, with 120 acres in good condition for farming purposes. On this Mr.

Whitbeck is at present engaged in progressive farming.

He was married March 19, 1857, to Sarah, daughter of Horace and Annie (House) Atwood, of Rose, Oakland Co., where she was born June 16, 1838. Her father was born in New York and is still living. The mother was a native of New Hampshire. Ada G., born April 27, 1859, and Howard M., born Feb. 1, 1852, are the two children of Mr. and Mrs. Whitbeck.



**J**ames Stephens, farmer, resident on sec. 34, Hinton Tp. (P. O., Lakeview), is a son of Ebenezer and Sarah (Vincent) Stephens. They settled in Canada, where James was born, Jan. 25, 1836. There he resided until December, 1865, and then lived in Ottawa Co., Mich., two years. In the summer of 1867 he bought 80 acres of wild land, of which he has since sold 40 acres, with 18 of the remaining 40 under tillage and on which he lives. He is a Republican in politics.

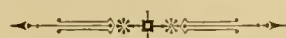
Mr. Stephens was married in Canada, Nov. 10, 1864, to Annie, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Barton. The father was born in England, and the mother is a native of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Stephens was born in Canada, May 21, 1844. The five children of whom she is the mother are all living, born in the following order: Sarah, April 7, 1867; Jesse M., Nov. 30, 1868; Abigail, Dec. 21, 1870; Ebenezer J., Nov. 16, 1873; Allen J., Dec. 21, 1881.



**C**harles Main, farmer, sec. 2, Millbrook Tp., is a son of George and Margaret Ann (Chandler) Main, and was born in Canada, May 3, 1841. He came to Michigan in the spring of 1865, when nearly 23 years of age, to prospect and locate land, and in the spring of the following year came to Montcalm County, and was there engaged two years in farming. In the spring of 1868 he came to Mecosta County and bought 100 acres of land, with some improvements, in Millbrook Tp. He conducted affairs on this place nearly two years, sold it and purchased another, containing 100 acres, which he likewise sold,

and in the spring of 1872 moved into the village of Millbrook to engage in a general mercantile business, having previously formed a partnership with E. S. Decker, under the style of Main & Decker. After conducting their business a year, another partner was admitted and the firm style became Main, Decker & Co. This connection existed five years; during a portion of this period Mr. Main was also interested in the lumber trade. Becoming embarrassed financially, the firm closed its affairs, and Mr. Main again turned his attention to farming; is also keeping a hotel at West Millbrook, which he built in 1882. He is a Republican in politics and has served three years as Supervisor of his township.

Mr. Main was married in Canada, Sept. 26, 1864, to Sarah, daughter of Henry and Rachel (Hunter) Long, all natives of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Main have had three children, but one of whom, Irving H., survives. Blanche and Richard A. died in infancy.



**M**ichael Degear, farmer on sec. 28, Deerfield Tp., was born in the Dominion of Canada Feb. 6, 1822. His parents, Michael and Charity (Cupps) Degear, were also born in Canada, where the former died, in April, 1857, and the latter Aug. 15, 1847. Mr. Degear remained at the home place until the age of 20, and was variously employed about nine years. He then bought a farm containing 47 acres, which he sold ten years later and removed to the township of Lancaster, Canada, there renting a farm which he carried on three years. At the end of that time he went with his family to Kent Co., Mich., and soon afterward selected his present location in this county. He purchased 80 acres of uncultivated land, which he has increased by the addition of 120 acres; he now has 84 acres under tillage. Mr. Degear is an active member of the Republican party and himself and family belong to the Methodist Church.

He was married in the summer of 1852 to Elizabeth, daughter of Amos and Sarah (Drake) Kitchen, natives of New Jersey and residents of Canada. She was born Jan. 10, 1822. The father died in 1824, the mother two years later. Three of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Degear are living, and were



born as follows: Berthelda, Sept. 1, 1857; Reuben J., Feb. 22, 1860; Henry K., Sept. 24, 1861. Sarah died aged 12; two children died in infancy.

**F**rederick R. Luther, farmer on sec. 30 Aetna Tp., was born in Clinton Co., N. Y., Sept. 18, 1808, and is a son of William and Eunice (Allen) Luther. He was under the paternal roof until 23 years of age, when he came to Michigan and settled in the vicinity of Detroit, and was there engaged in various kinds of farm labor three years. He then went to Washtenaw Co., Mich., but remained only a short time, and settled in Lenawee Co., where he pursued farming for five years. In 1839 he went to Ingham County, where he was the first settler in Delhi Tp. He was engaged in farming there until 1869, when he came to Mecosta County and settled in Aetna Tp. He owns 160 acres of land, with 60 acres under good improvement. In politics Mr. Luther is a Democrat, and in religious views he is a liberalist.

He was married in September, 1835, to Cornelia, daughter of Peter and Clara (Frisby) Lamoreaux, natives of New York, born June 19, 1814, and died Aug. 24, 1856. Mr. Luther was married again in Lenawee Co., April 10, 1858, to Mrs. Margaret Priest, daughter of Robert and Phebe (Denney) Shultz. By this marriage one child was born, Aug. 21, 1859. Mrs. Luther, by a former marriage, has five children.

**R**obert D. Parks, of the firm of Parks Bros., Mecosta village, Morton Tp., was born at South Lyon, Oakland Co., Mich., April 2, 1847, and is a son of William R. and Ann E. (Dunlap) Parks. He remained on his father's farm until 20 years old, when he was occupied about two years as a farm assistant, and then learned the carpenter's trade at South Lyon, which he pursued about four years. In company with Robert Dunlap he built a saw, grist and cider mill, which they managed together until 1879, when Mr. Parks sold his interest and resumed farming, buying 120 acres of land in Lyon, on which

he resided until May 21, 1883. He then sold out his agricultural interests, came to Mecosta and purchased the interest of his brother's partner, and has since been engaged in managing the business devolving upon him as half owner of an extensive trade.

Mr. Parks owns, besides his property at Mecosta, two village lots in South Lyon.

Mr. Parks was married at South Lyon Dec. 9, 1879, to Sarah A., daughter of Walter and Henrietta Bowers, born in New Hudson, Oakland Co., Mich. They have two children—Floyd, born at South Lyon, Sept. 21, 1880, and Stanley, born in Mecosta, June 3, 1883.

**D**aniel H. Ruger, farmer on sec. 32, Aetna Tp., was born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., Feb. 22, 1814. His parents were David and Elizabeth (Hagaman) Ruger, and were natives of New York. When Mr. Ruger was two years old his father died, and his mother was left with the care and responsibilities of maintaining and educating her children, which she did in the most creditable manner. When Daniel H. was 16 years old he was apprenticed to Wm. Phillips, of his native town, and remained in that service until the death of Mr. Phillips, which occurred in the winter of 1831. Soon after that he went to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he stayed but a few months, then set out to pursue his trade on the "tramp journeyman" plan. In 1848 he came to Cass Co., Mich., and purchased property in Edwardsburg, where he remained four years following his profession, and was justly considered the leader in the calling which he pursued. He next went to Elkhart, Ind., and was there settled until 1863. In that year he enlisted in the Union army, enrolling in the First Michigan Sharpshooters. He reached a Sergeant's rank and was discharged July 23, 1865, having been in six severe engagements, each time escaping unhurt. Leaving the army he went to Cassopolis, this State, resumed his trade and operated there seven years. In 1872 he came to Aetna Tp. and settled on 160 acres of land on sec. 32, where he has since operated in farming and lumbering.

Mr. Ruger was married in Ontario Co., N. Y., March 13, 1836, to Mary L., daughter of Newbery

and Mary (Smith) Lay. The parents were natives of New York, where Mrs. Ruger was born, July 6, 1818. Of 13 children born of this marriage, seven are living: Catharine, born May 21, 1838; Mary E., May 2, 1840; Arabella, Jan. 7, 1842; Alice A., Jan. 5, 1844; Edna, Jan. 30, 1852; Lillian A., Jan. 10, 1854; Clementina A., Oct. 10, 1856. Silas H., born April 1, 1837, died in infancy; Anna, born March 25, 1840, died in July, 1872; Daniel Smith, born Dec. 10, 1850, died in 1852; Dan S., born July 6, 1858, died May 1, 1859; Louis, born March 15, 1860, and Josephine A., born Feb. 2, 1848, are deceased.

**C**harles Wilkinson, farmer, sec. 25, Aetna Tp., was born June 28, 1833, in Harrison Co., Ohio, and is a son of Philander and Thankful R. (Leach) Wilkinson. On attaining his majority, Mr. Wilkinson took his final leave of the paternal home, and sought his fortune in the Peninsular State, and made his first essay in business for himself in Hillsdale County, finding employ on a farm for some months. He went thence to Barry Co., Mich., where he made another investment, and secured a wife—Harriet, daughter of Peter and Susan Mosier, who died April 8, 1882. Of this marriage three children were born: Francis L., Sept. 19, 1857; Emma R., Oct. 31, 1859, and Ella V., Aug. 23, 1860.

Mr. Wilkinson was engaged in farming in Barry County until the fall of 1860, when he went to St. Joseph Co., Mich. On the first call for troops in 1861, when the cry of an impugned nation rang like a trumpet blast over a startled world, Mr. Wilkinson enlisted in defense of that nation's integrity, enrolling in the Sixth Mich. Vol. Inf., for three months, and on the expiration of that period again recorded his name on the list of defenders of the Union. He enrolled Aug. 20, 1862, and was in the service eight months. After a brief stay at home when his period of enlistment had expired, he re-entered the army as a hired substitute, and served until the close of the war.

June 19, 1864, he was again married, to Mrs. Wealthy Day, and immediately came to Aetna Tp., since which time they have resided on a farm of 40 acres near Morley. Of the second marriage four

children have been born, as follows: Franklin H., March 10, 1865; Elmer E., Sept. 30, 1867; Willie C., born Oct. 8, 1877, and died Nov. 14, 1878; Nora died in infancy. Mr. Wilkinson is a Republican.

**T**homas R. Crocker, overseer for Crocker, Hudnutt & Co., builders at Big Rapids, was born at Milwaukee, Wis., March 18, 1854. He is a son of William H. and Mary (Holloway) Crocker. When he was four years old his parents removed to Manitowoc, Wis., where his father was engaged in the occupation of a builder, and constructed several fine buildings there and at Milwaukee, being also engaged in building steamer cabins for Goodrich, Ward & Co., at Manitowoc.

Mr. Crocker was a school-boy until 14 years of age, when he commenced learning his father's trade, which has been the calling of his life. He came to Big Rapids in 1874, and was for a time connected with his brother in building. When the firm of Crocker & Hudnutt was formed in 1877, he took charge of their outside business, and has since supervised the construction of a number of the principal buildings of the city of Big Rapids. (See sketch of John M. Crocker.)

**L**awrence Sours (German, Sauers), farmer on sec. 36, Aetna Tp., was born at Battle Creek, Mich., April 24, 1850. His parents, Mungus and Teresa (Botesheim) Sours, were of German nativity. When Mr. Sours was but a child, his parents went to the wilderness of Wisconsin, but remained only a few months, going thence to Rochester, N. Y., and residing there until 1867. In that year they came to Kent Co., Mich., where they engaged in farming and lumbering three years. They went to Montcalm County, where they lived one year, coming thence to this county, settling in the township of Aetna. They bought 200 acres of heavily timbered land on the bank of the Muskegon River, and have 70 acres improved.

The father of Mr. Sours was born Sept. 5, 1818, and was killed near Morley, Sept. 5, 1878, by

a passenger train on the G. R. & I. R. R. The mother was born April 25, 1820, and is still living with her son. The latter has thus far devoted his life to the care of his parents. He is now owner and manager of the homestead. The family belong to the Catholic Church.

**S**amuel W. Rose, farmer, sec. 22, Hinton Tp., was born in New York, March 20, 1829, and is a son of William and Sarah (Elmondorph) Rose; the former was a native of the Empire State, and died in March, 1876.

The latter was born in Holland, and died in the State of New York. Mr. Rose came to Mecosta Co., Mich., in 1853, and was married Oct. 23, 1856, to Elizabeth, daughter of John and Phebe (Ribble) Hinton. Her father was born in Wales, and her mother in Germany. Mrs. Rose was born Feb. 18, 1835, and died May 12, 1866, leaving five children, born as follows: James E., Sept. 3, 1857; Mary E., Nov. 11, 1858; John E., Feb. 26, 1860; William E., Sept. 21, 1862; Absalom E., Oct. 29, 1864. Mr. Rose contracted a second marriage in Mecosta Co., July 4, 1867, with Lydia A., daughter of Thomas and Ann (Day) Thomas, natives of England; her father is still living. She was born in Canada, Aug. 30, 1850. Mr. and Mrs. Rose have five children: Hubert E., born Aug. 29, 1868; George E., Jan. 4, 1870; Addie E., Jan. 5, 1872; Alice E., Feb. 3, 1874; Lottie E., May 18, 1877.

In 1877 Mr. Rose bought 80 acres of land, on which he resides. He has held the office of Township Clerk and Highway Commissioner.

**W**illiam Lowe, farmer on secs. 32 and 33, Green Tp., was born in Oxford Co., England, June 3, 1828. His parents, George and Elizabeth (Athaway) Lowe, lived and died in their native country, the father dying when William was a child of seven years.

He remained with his mother until the age of 15, when he went to London, and there was employed as gardener by a Mr. Anderson, where he remained three years.

He was married in London, June 3, 1851, to Sarah

Beasant, born in Wiltshire, Eng., July 26, 1829. She is a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Gay) Beasant, natives of the same county of England.

In 1852, William Lowe came to the United States, and first settled in Dunkirk, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., where he operated as a gardener. He came to Michigan in the fall of 1853, and resided in Newaygo County for 16 months, and in 1854 came to Mecosta County, where he located land in Green Tp., under the Gradation Act, buying 80 acres, for which he paid 75 cents per acre. Here he built a house and began to improve his land. He now owns 140 acres in sections 32 and 33.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Lowe are: Eliza, now Mrs. George E. Moore; Louisa, wife of Fred. S. Dickerson; Anna, William T., Alice M., Oscar L. and Chancey E. Mary A. and Emily are deceased. Mr. Lowe is a Republican.

**E**dward T. Horton, merchant, Millbrook village, is a son of Seneca and Catharine (Buckbee) Horton, the former a native of Ohio, the latter of New York. The parents came to Michigan in the spring of 1866, and settled in Wheatland Tp., where they still reside. Mr. Horton was born in Pennsylvania, Nov. 19, 1847. He accompanied his parents to this State, and was reared under their supervision to the age of twenty years. The year preceding his majority he spent in various occupations, among them, one term as teacher of a district school. The next three years he passed in the employ of W. S. Howd, general merchant at Millbrook. In 1870 he went to Eaton Co., Mich., and bought a third interest in a planing mill. He entered vigorously into the prosecution of his business venture, but at the end of two months a distressing accident resulted in the loss of his right hand, and he sold out and returned to Millbrook. He then formed a partnership with his former employer, W. S. Howd, which existed two and one-half years. In 1873, associated with A. J. Howd, he purchased the interest of W. S. Howd, and the new firm transacted business one year, when Mr. Horton became sole owner, his partner retiring, and he continued the prosecution of his mercantile interests two years; at the end of that period of time he again connected himself with a partner, Mr. T. C.

Gardner. This relation was of brief duration, the latter gentleman selling to Mr. Horton, who has since managed the business alone. His trade is in a thriving condition, necessitating a stock worth \$15,000, comprising a line of merchandise adapted to the local demand.

Mr. Horton was married in Hillsdale Co., Mich., Oct., 17, 1875, to Elizabeth, daughter of Charles and Electa Tiney, who was born in Ohio, whither her parents removed from New York, the State of their nativity. Of this marriage one child has been born, Thad S., Sept. 21, 1880.

Mr. Horton is widely known and universally esteemed for his business integrity, as well as for his personal traits, which render him a popular and valuable member of society. His industry and attention to his business interests have brought him substantial results, and though he is yet a young man he has attained an enviable and permanent place among his fellow men. Himself and wife are actively interested in religious matters and belong to the M. E. Church. Mr. Horton is a Republican and has held various offices in the township.

**J**ohn Maguire, farmer on sec. 24, Green Tp., was born near Prescott, Can., in October, 1812. His father, Bartholomew Maguire, was a native of New York, and was in the war of 1812. His grandfather was in the Revolutionary war, in which he fought five years; he settled in the State of New York and married Eleanor Bresee.

Mr. Maguire was married in the Empire State in 1855, to Mary Miller, removing soon after to Pennsylvania, where he bought a farm and resided six years. He then sold his property and returned to the State of New York. Three years later he went to Canada West and remained 12 years near Port Burwell, Elgin Co., where he was engaged in lumbering. In 1860 he located in Greenville, Montcalm Co., where he remained a year, and in the winter of 1862 came to this County, where he passed a year on the farm of A. Clark. Meanwhile he homesteaded 80 acres of land and now has 45 acres under tillage.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Maguire are these:

Hugh, Francis, Emma and Amanda E; two are deceased. Mr. Maguire was one of the early settlers and is a Democrat.

**F**loyd Palmer, farmer, sec. 22, Green Tp., was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., Jan. 24, 1830, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Lowry) Palmer, natives of New York. His father was a soldier of the war of 1812, and was stationed at Sackett's Harbor. His maternal great-grandfather was a native of Germany and was kidnaped by a press-gang in 1732, when about the age of 18, and brought to this country. He was compelled to labor during his passage, and on landing upon the American continent was sold for a pretended balance due for his transportation. He died at 100 years of age. The Palmer family can only be indefinitely traced to English origin. William Palmer came to Michigan with his family in 1835, and settled in Washtenaw County, going afterwards to Ionia County, where the son was reared and educated. When Floyd was 13 years old his mother died, and since that time he has been the architect of his own fortune. In 1858 he was married in Washtenaw County, to Eliza A., daughter of Samuel and Maria (Masten) North, born in October, 1830, in Ulster, N. Y. Her parents were born in New York, and settled in Washtenaw Co., Mich. Mr. Palmer sold his interests in 1881 and bought a fine farm of 95 acres in Green Tp., Mecosta Co. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have had six children, of whom five survive: Alice M., Arthur E., Helen O., Wilsey C. and Jennie I. Nettie S. is deceased.

**H**arrison J. Brown, miller at Altona, Hinton Tp., was born in Warren Co., Pa., Nov. 11, 1835. His parents, Peter and Mary (Libby) Brown, were natives respectively of Connecticut and New York. The father died in Pennsylvania, in 1855; the mother is still living, with her son at Altona. Mr. Brown was a lumberman in Warren County until 32 years of age; two years he was owner and operator of a steam saw-mill.





Gen. A. Tucker

When 18 years old he commenced to labor in the woods, putting in timber in the winter and rafting it down, in which business he continued for three years. In the spring of 1865 he was drafted for the Union service and procured a substitute, to whom he paid \$1,000. Nine days later Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court-House. Mr. Brown came to Michigan in the spring of 1867, and spent some months in prospecting in Flint, Chesaning and Greenville; and then came to Saginaw Co. and bought a farm of 100 acres. The summer following he built a house and labored in clearing and improving his land. This place he owned two years, when he settled in Mecosta Co., in 1868. In the summer of that year he built a flouring-mill on the Little Muskegon river, the first in the township. In later years he bought a saw-mill of Wm. Egbert, and is now operating both and employing 12 men. He has recently refitted his shingle-mill, its capacity being now 35,000 per diem. The full product of the flour mill is 20 barrels daily, besides feed grinding.

Mr. Brown was married in New York, June 9, 1865, to Maryette E., daughter of Thomas and Susannah (Stewart) Thomas. Mrs. Brown's father was born in Pennsylvania, and her mother in Canada. The daughter was born March 26, 1842, and is a member of the M. E. Church. Mr. Brown is a Republican, and comes of patriotic ancestry, his grandfather Libby having been a soldier of 1812.



**J**ames N. Decker, farmer, sec. 10, Hinton Tp., is one of the pioneer settlers of Mecosta County, and was born in Greene Co., N. Y., Sept. 8, 1819. He is the eldest son of Gilbert D. and Mary (Stanley) Decker, both natives of New York, who moved to Canada in the fall of 1833, where the mother died. The father came to Michigan to pass the closing years of his life with his children, and died at the home of his son, Edward S., in Millbrook, Sept. 20, 1869.

Mr. Decker passed his youth in the care of his parents, and while in Canada was engaged in farm-

ing. In the summer of 1865 he came to Michigan, and bought 160 acres of land, principally in an uncultivated state, paying therefor \$750. Its value and appearance have been so enhanced by cultivation and improvements, that it is held now to be worth \$10,000. The convenient and suitable buildings lately erected are a great ornament to the place. After the purchase of the land he returned to Canada, and passed the winter of 1865-6; and in the following spring he came back with his son, built a log house, and made such improvements as were possible, clearing about seven acres of land, which was sown with wheat. He brought his family in the fall of the same year, and before winter, was finally settled in the Peninsular State. Mr. Decker relates graphically his pioneer experiences, and the clearness of his remembrance, with the interesting character of the numberless incidents, entirely divest the recital of uniformity and tameness, though the tale is one oft repeated.

Mr. Decker shipped the first wheat from Mecosta County over the G. R. & I. Railroad, and in 1873, harvested the heaviest crop ever raised in the county—500 bushels from 10 acres. He has been Township Clerk two years, Highway Commissioner three years, Justice of the Peace 11 years, Township Treasurer one year, and was elected Drain Commissioner in the spring of 1883, to serve two years. In politics he is a Republican.

Our subject was married in the township of Hope, Canada, Nov. 4, 1840, to Catherine, daughter of James and Mary (Walker) Flanagan, born July 20, 1818, in Canada. Her parents were of Irish nativity, and settled in Canada in its pioneer period, and died there many years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Decker have buried three of eight children: Nelson, born Sept. 26, 1841, died Oct. 23, 1870; Elizabeth, born Sept. 2, 1843, died Nov. 20, 1870; Catherine, born Nov. 23, 1851, died Nov. 12, 1881. The loss of their children has had telling effect upon the parents. All had reached mature years, and their lives were full of promise. The living children are: Eliza, born June 2, 1845; Hester A., June 23, 1847; Matilda, April 12, 1849; Mary J., Jan. 25, 1854; Amelia R., July 9, 1858. Mr. Decker's father has about 112 living descendants, principally in this country.

As one of the leading agriculturists of this County, and a gentleman altogether worthy the position, we present the portrait of Mr. Decker in connection with this sketch.



**B**ilas Brown, farmer, sec. 15, Green Tp., was born in Knox Co., Ohio, Jan. 30, 1838, and was the fifth child of his parents. His father, Thomas D. Brown, was a native of Pennsylvania, and a farmer by occupation. His mother, Elizabeth (Adams) Brown, was also a native of the Keystone State, and she and her husband were among the first settlers of the section where they resided. She died when her son was but 18 months old. Her successor reared her little children with care, and Mr. Brown remained at home until he was 16 years old, when he went to Toledo, Ohio, and obtained employment in a dairy, remaining there two years. Coming thence to Clinton Co., Mich., he bought 80 acres of land, and after farming thereon two years, returned to Ohio.

He was married in 1859, to Emmeline, daughter of Valentine G. and Margaret (Stanley) Smith, natives of Pennsylvania, who was born Jan. 19, 1837, in Ohio. Four of their children are living: Emma E., Annie M., Maggie and Eugene. Two are deceased, Martha A. and Eddie.

In 1860, Mr. Brown returned to Clinton Co., Mich., residing there about six months. He went back to Ohio, and after a residence of five years came to Mecosta County, where he resided a year at Big Rapids, moving thence to Paris. Six months later he settled on the farm he now occupies, consisting of 60 acres of good farming land.



**I**ra A. Ford, farmer, sec. 26, Green Tp., was born in Kent Co., Mich., July 3, 1850, and is a son of Richard and Lucinda (Godfrey) Ford. The father was born in Ontario, Can., Jan. 18, 1825; the mother was a native of New York. Ira A. was reared to the pursuit of agriculture, and received the education of a farmer's

son. He was an inmate of his father's house until after his marriage, which took place Dec. 6, 1874, to Carrie, daughter of Samuel and Sarah A. (Cronk) Reed, born in Defiance Co., Ohio, June 18, 1858. Her parents were natives of Ohio, and removed to Mecosta County, where they still reside. Soon after marriage Mr. Ford located on 80 acres of land, which he has since improved and cultivated. He has placed 30 acres under fair improvement.

Mr. and Mrs. Ford have one child, Bertie J., born Aug. 10, 1877. Mr. Ford belongs to the Republican party.



**J**ohn Sweet, lumberman and farmer, secs. 14, 15, 22 and 23, Colfax Tp., was born April 8, 1835, in New Brunswick, and is a son of John and Joanna Sweet. In 1849 Mr. Sweet came to the "States" with his father and eldest sister, his mother having previously died. They settled in Milwaukee, where Mr. Sweet passed the remainder of his minority. When he reached the period of his legal freedom, he came to Michigan and embarked in the lumber business, operating alone three years. He then entered into a partnership with his brother Benjamin, and, with their combined facilities, they proceeded to construct one of the largest saw mills at Manistee. This relation existed about ten years, when it was dissolved. Mr. Sweet remained at Manistee, operating in lumber, until November, 1881, when he took up his residence at Grand Rapids, where he now lives, still retaining his lumber interests at the former place.

In January, 1883, Mr. Sweet bought 840 acres of land in the township of Colfax, of which 600 acres are under the best type of cultivation. He has a large boarding house, with accommodations for 40 workmen, a good, frame dwelling-house, a large store-house and two barns, ranking as the best in Mecosta County, capable of containing 300 tons of hay, with stone basements, where 125 head of cattle can be stabled. The farm is at present stocked with sheep and cattle, and among the latter are some exceptionally fine thoroughbred Short-Horns.

Mr. Sweet has also extensive lumber relations in Colfax, and is now engaged on a contract to "put in" the Muskegon River 150,000,000 feet of pine lumber.



To facilitate his operations he has built a narrow-gauge railroad, 11 miles long, with steel rails, and employs two locomotives in running the logs to the river. He also owns a half interest in a new shingle mill in Rodney, built at a cost of \$7,000. It is fitted with a fifty-horse-power engine, and has a capacity of 130,000 shingles daily. Mr. Sweet owns, in connection with his other property, a store of general merchandise, at Rodney, in which the postoffice is established and is managed by Benjamin W. Sweet, eldest son of the proprietor.

Mr. Sweet was married in 1857, to Almira Rogers, of Manistee, who died in 1866, leaving four children: B. W., Emma, William J. and Edwin. Mr. Sweet was married again in 1868, to Susan E. Parr, of Wisconsin. Two children have been born of this marriage: Dora and Bertie.

In political connection, Mr. Sweet is a Republican. He held the office of City Treasurer of Manistee, and is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the Order of Odd Fellows, and Knights of Honor. He is a communicant in the Episcopal Church, and Mrs. Sweet is a Baptist. Residence, No. 41 Sheldon St., Grand Rapids.

**C**harles H. Montague, farmer, sec. 27, Green Tp., was born in Vergennes, Kent Co., Mich., Dec. 13, 1848, and is a son of James and Laura L. (Hungerford) Montague. The father was born Dec. 12, 1810, in Maine, and is a son of William and Anna (Crawford) Montague, natives of England. William Montague removed with his family to New York and left them there while he participated in the war of 1812. After its close he removed to Canada, where he passed the remainder of his life. James Montague went to Lowell, Kent Co., Mich., and improved a farm of 160 acres, which he sold in the spring of 1856 and came to Mecosta County, where he entered 160 acres of land under the homestead act, on sec. 27, his present estate. He has at various times handled lands to considerable extent, and has been the proprietor of 1,000 acres; is still holding 500 acres. His wife died Dec. 5, 1875. She was the mother of 11 children: William J., Abigail, Laura E., Charles H., Mary, Joseph K., Helen M., John T., Samuel H. and George W. Mr. Montague married Mrs. Sarah Wheeler for a

second wife, and, after her death, was married to Mrs. Polly Tanner.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, receiving a fair education, and remained under the parental roof until he was married to Elizabeth McGill, May 26, 1871. She was born in Canada, March 28, 1849, and of daughter of Malcolm and Mary E. (Burt) McGill, the former of Scotch lineage and the latter a native of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Montague have four children, viz: Minnie L., born June 17, 1872; Nellie, June 2, 1874; James H., Nov. 2, 1876; George H., May 22, 1880. Mr. Montague is a Republican in politics, and is the proprietor of 140 acres of land, now his homestead, with 71 acres under cultivation.

**J**ulius R. Borst, proprietor of the shingle mill on sec. 16, Hinton Tp., was born June 29, 1838, in New York. His parents, Henry J. and Anna (Vandelogart) Borst, were natives of the State of New York, where his father owned and managed a saw-mill, and brought up his son to the same vocation. Until he attained his majority Mr. Borst alternated study at the common schools with the labors of the mill, and for the nine years that followed he was employed in a lumber mill. He then moved to Pennsylvania where he was employed at Corydon's Dane, on the Allegheny River, in a lumber and shingle mill. Five years later he went to Allegheny City and passed 18 months there in the same business. He located in Kent Co., Mich., in the spring of 1875, and pursued his occupation about two years, and bought out the mill owned by Peter Benson, located on Pine Lake, five miles west of Cedar Springs. He operated this mill five years, then removed it to Mecosta County, locating on sec. 16 in Hinton Tp., and has since resided there, still running the mill, which has a capacity of 40,000 feet daily. He has 20 men in his employ and is doing a thriving business. By undeviating attention to business, Mr. B. has earned the reputation of running his mill more continuously than any other mill-owner in the county. He owns 200 acres of timber land in Hinton Tp.

Mr. Borst is a Democrat in political faith. His earnest devotion and loyalty to his country was

proven Dec. 19, 1863, when he enlisted in Co. A, 50th N. Y. Engs' Reg., which consisted entirely of skilled mechanics. He served until the close of the war, a period of 19 months, and received honorable discharge June 28, 1865, at Fort Barney, Va. He belongs to the Masonic Order, and is a member of Cedar Springs Lodge, No. 213. He was married at Ceres, Pa., Dec. 6, 1861, to Mary, daughter of Henry and Ann (Marilla) Knight, born in Chemung Co., N. Y., Dec. 6, 1840. Her parents were natives of the State of New York, where her mother died. Her father lives with her, a hale old gentleman, aged 76 years. Mr. and Mrs. Borst have had three children: Julius T., born April 29, 1864; James H., July 13, 1866. One child died in infancy.

**Manon F. Corey**, Supervisor of Grant Tp., and farmer on sec. 12, was born in Crawford Co., O., April 7, 1841. He is a son of Enos and Eliza Corey, both natives of the Buckeye State. His father died July 17, 1860, and his mother still resides in Ohio.

Mr. Corey was reared to manhood in his native State, and was a citizen of the same until his removal to Michigan in 1866. In that year he entered and proved a claim under the homestead law, consisting of 80 acres of land, on which he has since resided, and which he has put in first-class condition, and furnished with good and suitable farm buildings. He owns an additional 40 acres on sec. 10. Mr. Corey was a soldier of the war of the Rebellion, and enlisted in September, 1861, in Company K, 23d Ohio Vol. Inf., under Capt. Sills. His first engagement was at Perryville, and afterward he participated in the fights at Resaca, Peach-Tree Creek, Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and many minor skirmishes, to the siege of Atlanta, where he was wounded. He was then in hospital at Jeffersonville, Ind., until within a few weeks of his discharge, which took place in June, 1864, at Camp Dennison, Ohio.

Mr. Corey was elected Supervisor of his township in 1867, and re-elected in 1883; he served as Township Treasurer in 1881-2; as Road Commissioner from 1867 to 1874 inclusive, and as Justice of the Peace from 1867 to 1871. He belongs to the G. A. R. He was married Nov. 17, 1863, to Margaret, daugh-

ter of Samuel and Sarah English. Her parents are natives of Pennsylvania, and are both living. Of this marriage six children have been born, namely: Naomi A., William Harvey, John Franklin, Sarah Eliza, Samuel Wesley, and Zoe Luella. Mr. and Mrs. C. are members of the United Brethren Church.

**ymon Nethaway**, farmer on sec. 24, Aetna Tp., was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Feb. 3, 1810. His father, James Nethaway, was of English parentage, and his mother—Elizabeth (Neice) Nethaway, was a native of Long Island, N. Y., and was of Welsh extraction.

Mr. Nethaway received a good education in early life for the purpose of becoming a teacher, and at 18 years of age taught his first term at Perry, Genesee Co., N. Y. He came thence to Michigan, and taught during the years 1833-4. He then returned to his home, and having married, himself and wife turned their faces westward and came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., where Mr. Nethaway purchased a farm under the original land patent of 1835. In the year 1850 he went to Sauk Co., Wis., and there engaged three years in farming. Becoming dissatisfied he came back to Lenawee County, and settled at Rollin, in 1853. In 1854 he decided to try the Hawkeye State, and bought a farm in Buchanan County, where he remained eight years. In 1856 he returned to Michigan, and settled in Mecosta County. He has been engaged during eleven years in mercantile business in Morley, and upon closing his commercial affairs bought a farm, and now lives in retirement.

Mr. Nethaway was married Sept. 6, 1835, to Lucretia, daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Wood) Ralph, respectively of English and Welsh origin, and residents of Woodstock, Windsor Co., Vt. Three children were born of this marriage, as follows: Marcellus T., born May 13, 1836; Cassius Marcus, born Jan. 17, 1848, died in the army from injuries received at the battle of Bull's Gap, E. Tenn., April 22, 1865; was a soldier in Co. D, Third Michigan Vol. Inf.; Florence A., born in 1849, and died March 10, 1850.

Mr. Nethaway is a radical Republican, and actively engaged in all social and moral reforms. Himself and wife profess no particular creed, but hold to their innate belief that honesty and genuine morality are



L. F. Conroy.



safe guides in their intercourse with the world.

Mr. Nethaway has held offices of trust in his township for 15 years. He was Postmaster at Big Creek nearly three years, under Lincoln's administration, and was Supervisor of Deerfield Tp. several years, also Treasurer and Assessor several years.

**Horace F. Richardson**, Township Clerk of Colfax, and farmer on sec. 21, was born Oct. 21, 1848, in Genesee Co., N. Y., and in 1856 came with his parents to Michigan and settled at Benton, Eaton Co.

Mr. Richardson came to Colfax Tp. in 1871, and is chiefly engaged in lumbering interests and managing shingle mills. He was married in 1871 to Mary, daughter of John and Lydia Teachout, of Grand Ledge, Eaton Co., Mich. Of this marriage one child—Clyde E.—has been born.

Politically, Mr. Richardson is a Republican. He was elected to his official position in 1883. P. O., Big Rapids.

**David H. Sanford**, dairyman at Big Rapids, was born at Vermontville, Eaton Co., Mich., Sept. 26, 1836. His father, Reuben Sanford, came to the township of Vermontville, with a colony from Vermont, in June, 1836—at so early a period that they were

obliged to cut roads through the woods for their teams, the distance of 17 miles. The mother, Susannah Sanford, was the first white woman who went to Eaton County, and she had to do the house-keeping for the settlers.

Mr. Sanford, of this sketch, was born soon after their arrival, and was the pioneer white baby of the township. On reaching their destination, a log cabin was hastily constructed, the weather was warm, and the "chinking" altogether deficient. Ventilation was perfect, and the father said the new comer could easily be thrown through the cracks in the walls of the cabin, which was reared in the woods remote from the advantages of civilization; and David H. had few privileges until 25 years of age, save the rude experiences which have so often made better men than have the comparative ease and facilities of older communities.

His hard, laborious life fostered in him a spirit of independence which found vent in a prompt response to the call of his country in her bitterest trial, and he enlisted in Marshall, Calhoun Co., Mich., Oct. 21, 1861, in Co. C, First Mich. Engs. and Mechs, and was discharged April 13, 1862, at Louisville, Ky., on account of physical disability. The first two summers thereafter he worked as a farm assistant, and went to school winters. In the spring of 1864, his father having sold out in Vermontville, settled at Lowell, Kent Co., and bought a farm, whither his son accompanied him, and was employed in the Grand River Valley nursery one season. In 1865 he went to Greenville, Montcalm Co., where he spent a year in agricultural pursuits, and then turned his attention to carpentry, which occupied his time for six years at Greenville, after which he went to Cedar Springs and followed the same calling three years. He then bought 40 acres in Algona Tp., Kent Co., and there resided three years. At that time he experienced a severe loss by fire, which consumed his barn, one horse, and his farming implements. He then gave up farming and went to Greenville, where he commenced the business of a draymaster, and continued in that vocation until September, 1877. He then came to Big Rapids and established himself in the same calling, and is now running three drays steadily, and increasing his draught facilities on occasion. Mr. Sanford has served four terms as Deputy-Marshal of Big Rapids, and one year as Constable. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., Royal Arcanum Ins. Co., and also belongs to the Encampment.

Mr. Sanford was married at Lowell, July 23, 1865, to Arthalinda Tanner, born in Ontario, April 3, 1848, and they have four children: Emerson, Mary, Susie and Mina. The parents and eldest daughter are members of the M. E. Church.

**Elson Van Alstine**, farmer, sec. 15, Grant Tp., was born June 14, 1843, in Wolcott, Wayne Co., N. Y. About the year 1857 his parents settled in Shiawassee Co., Mich., where they resided 14 years, the father dying in 1861; the mother resides in Grant Tp.

Mr. Van Alstine began his career as an agricul-

turist in Shiawassee Co., in 1864, where he lived five years, then sold his farm and made a homestead claim of 80 acres on sec. 10 in Grant Tp., on which he resided five years. In 1875 he bought 40 acres of choice land on sec. 15, where he is engaged in farming, and is still proprietor of his original tract of land. His farm is well improved and valuable.

Mr. Van Alstine was married Dec. 26, 1864, to Sarah Elizabeth Blyth, of Wolcott, N. Y., and of their marriage five children have been born: James E., William H., Nettie O., Robert Emmet and Dora Isabel. Mr. Van Alstine is a Republican in political relations, and has been Constable two years. His paternal and maternal grandsires were both soldiers of the Revolutionary war.

**Frank G. Rice**, farmer, sec. 5, Green Tp., was born in Burr Oaks, St. Joseph Co., Mich., Feb. 9, 1836, and is the son of Gershom and Sarah (Boyden) Rice. His father was a native of Massachusetts, and was a clothier in his native State. He came to Michigan in 1835 and engaged in farming, an occupation he followed until 1883, when, having reached the age of 78 years, he retired. The mother was born in Vermont, and died in 1872.

Mr. Rice remained with his father on the farm until 1862, when he enlisted in the 19th Mich. Inf., Co. E, and was in the service until the close of the war, receiving his discharge June 25, 1865, at Washington, D. C. Following are the principal battles in which he was engaged: Thompson's Station, Resaca, New Hope Church, Peach-Tree Creek, siege of Atlanta, siege of Savannah, etc., etc. He did not receive a bodily injury, but has a piece of a rebel shell that startled his peace of mind for a short time and concentrated his thoughts upon the question of his personal security. He was taken prisoner March 5, 1863, and confined at Libby for a few days, being exchanged May 30, 1863. Mr. Rice is a member of the Union Prisoners of War Association of the State of Michigan, and was a delegate to the Convention.

After his return he remained in St. Joseph County until the spring of 1867, when he came to Mecosta County, and worked for some time at the masons' trade at Big Rapids, after which he located on his present farm, containing 160 acres of land, with 70

acres under improvement. He was married at South Albion, Calhoun Co., Mich., April 19, 1866, to Almada, daughter of Samuel W. and Sarah (Parsons) Hamilton. She was born Jan. 13, 1836, in Bellevue, Mich. Her parents were natives of Massachusetts, came to Michigan in 1835 and resided in Homer, Calhoun County, until their death,—that of the father occurring in 1851, and that of the mother in July, 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Rice have four children: Boyden H., Jasper F., Frederick E. and Edward H.

**George E. Hatfield**, farmer and miller, sec. 1, Wheatland Tp., was born in Schenectady Co., N. Y., Sept. 29, 1829. He is the son of Stephen and Phebe (Priest) Hatfield, natives of New York, of English descent. Mr.

Hatfield was educated in the State Normal School at Albany, N. Y., where he was fitted for the profession of teacher, a calling upon which he entered when 20 years of age, and pursued until he was 40 years old. He was married Feb. 10, 1853, in Wayne Co., N. Y., to Lois J., daughter of Orrin and Betsey H. (Reed) Lapham, of New York. She was born in Wayne County, Sept. 28, 1832, and was educated at Elmira, N. Y., preparatory to becoming a teacher, which calling she followed but a brief period before marriage.

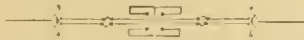
Mr. Hatfield was engaged in agriculture summers and in teaching winters, in his native State, until the spring of 1858, when he came to Allegan Co., Mich., there resuming the same alternation of employment. In 1860 he made another transfer, going to Kalamazoo County, where he remained nine years. In 1869 he returned to Allegan County and embarked in the mercantile business at Plainwell, where he continued to operate until the spring of 1878, the date of his settlement in Mecosta County. He located on 160 acres of unimproved land, where he set himself vigorously at work, and has brought the place to a comparatively improved condition; has 45 acres under the plow, and other evidences of successful effort are manifest on the farm. He has erected a saw and shingle mill, the former having a capacity of 10,000 feet per diem, the latter of 40,000 shingles daily. Mr. Hatfield is an ardent supporter of the tenets of the Republican party. The tendency and characteristics of the family are clearly proven by the status

of the nine children, five daughters and four sons all of whom are following in the footsteps of the parents. Their births occurred as follows: Mary E., Nov. 7, 1853; Carrie P., Feb. 25, 1856; Wm. B., July 12, 1858; Ellen L., Apr. 21, 1862; Ira L., Aug. 16, 1864; Justin K., Oct. 16, 1867; Cora A., May 23, 1870; Julius C., May 11, 1873; Charles E., Dec. 6, 1877. The oldest child is a graduate of Plainwell Academy, Mich.



**J**ohn Freiberg, farmer, sec. 22, Green Tp., was born in Germany, Sept. 21, 1823, and is a son of Gerhart and Dora (Frenke) Freiberg. He was taught in the lower-grade schools of his native country, and afterward learned the tailor's trade, which he pursued 36 years in Germany. In 1876 he came to America, and made his first location at Big Rapids, later on buying his farm in Green Tp., where he has since diligently pursued the business of farming.

Mr. Freiberg was married in Germany, in 1849, to Johanna, daughter of John and Christina (Mann) Bowman, born Aug. 26, 1826. Twelve children have been born of this marriage, nine of whom are living: August F., Albert J., Henry W., Hermann F., Charlie J., Bertie C., Ida F., Emma C. and Huldah A. Those deceased are Anna J., Johanna and Frank. The family are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Freiberg is a Democrat.



**C**harles O. Johnson, proprietor of the bottling Works at Big Rapids, was born in Norway, April 27, 1852. He is a son of John and Annie Johnson, and in his native country was engaged in farming and in various other occupations. In the spring of 1873 he came to this country and settled at Big Rapids, where he had friends residing. He found employment as a farm laborer, and soon after made an engagement with O. Seman to work on the farm and in lumbering, which lasted five years. He opened a bottling establishment on Hutchinson street, in Jan., 1879, and on the 16th day of July following moved to his present location opposite the Big Rapids Iron

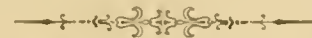
Works. He manufactures soda water and ginger ale, and puts up an average of 10,000 bottles monthly for the trade in this and adjoining counties. Mr. Johnson was married at Big Rapids, Aug. 8, 1883, to Mary Stange, who was born in Canada, April 3, 1862.



**J**oseph Smith, farmer, sec. 31, Green Tp., was born near Toronto, Can., Aug. 1, 1847, and is the tenth child of William and Esther (Caller) Smith, natives of England, who left the old country and became pioneers of York Co., Ont. The father was a farmer by occupation, and died July 13, 1881. The mother is still residing on the homestead, which has been in the possession of the family nearly 50 years.

Mr. Smith was reared on his father's farm to the age of 14 years, when he commenced to learn the wagon-making trade. After one and one-half years' labor he turned his attention to blacksmithing for about four months, when he resumed farming. In the fall of 1865 he came to Michigan and located first on the Big Prairie, in Newaygo County, where he passed ten years, going thence to Barton Tp., where he also purchased a farm. In the fall of 1879 he bought his homestead, consisting of 65 acres of land, of which he has 35 acres improved.

Mr. Smith was married April 13, 1866, to Nancy M., daughter of John and Minerva Miller, born Jan. 17, 1847, in Kent Co., Mich. Her parents were natives of Vermont. The family includes an adopted daughter, Mabel M. (Haight) Smith. Mr. Smith is one of the most esteemed citizens of the township. Himself and wife are members of the Christian Church, and he is a Republican in his political views.



**G**eorge W. Heald, farmer, sec. 2, Millbrook Tp., was born in Oswego Co., N. Y., May 27, 1853. He is a son of William and Rosetta (Fitzch) Heald, natives of New York and of English descent. The family removed to Van Buren Co., Mich., in 1858, where Mr. Heald assisted his father on a farm until the autumn of 1863, when another remove was made to Ionia County, the father and son operating there as

lumbermen two years. In the fall of 1865 they came to Millbrook, settled on sec. 2, and started the first grocery in the township, managing farming interests in connection therewith. The grocery business was finally suspended.

Mr. Heald was married May 27, 1880, in Wheatland Tp., to Maggie, daughter of David and Agnes (Smith) Ruxton, who was born in Huron Co., Can., July 2, 1863; her parents were also natives of Canada. When she was 12 years old she came to Michigan with an elder sister. Mr. and Mrs. Heald have one child, Alfred R., born Jan. 27, 1882. Mr. Heald is a Republican in politics, and owns a farm containing 40 acres of land.

**J**ames Dixon, farmer, sec. 3, Green Tp., was born in Sussex Co., N. J., Dec. 23, 1810. His father, Isaac Dixon, was born in New York, and died in 1813, when the son was but three years of age. His mother, Phebe (Clark) Dixon, was born in New Jersey, and after the death of her first husband became the wife of James Martin, with whom Mr. Dixon remained until 22 years of age, assisting in the farm labors and obtaining a common-school education.

He was married Dec. 1, 1832, to Julia, daughter of John and Phebe (Mead) Adams. Mrs. Dixon was born in Sussex Co., N. J., Nov. 22, 1811. After their marriage, herself and husband removed to Steuben Co., N. Y., and were occupied with the duties of farming about five years. Mr. Dixon then "took up" 50 acres of land, where he was occupied with agricultural pursuits until he came West to seek a home. In May, 1862, he came to Mecosta Co., Mich., bought a farm of 80 acres and proceeded to establish his family and put his place in a fair condition for the purposes of agriculture.

Mrs. Dixon died Sept. 14, 1873, leaving two children,—Harrison, born Nov. 19, 1833, and William, born June 16, 1846. Four children preceded her in their deaths: Phebe, born March 13, 1836, died Sept. 4, 1841; May E., born Jan. 14, 1839, died Sept. 7, 1841; Milton, born Dec. 9, 1842, died Oct. 9, 1870; Sarah A., born Jan. 12, 1848, died Sept. 2, 1867. Mr. Dixon was married again May 13, 1875. His second wife was Mrs. Maria M. (Adams) Austin,

sister of his first wife, and born in Sussex Co., N. J.

Mr. Dixon is a Democrat politically. He held the office of Postmaster of Crapo (Osceola Co.) from 1871 to 1882, and is considered one of the solid citizens of Mecosta County.

**G**eorge I. Hale, farmer, sec. 2, Grant Tp., was born March 19, 1843, in Niagara Co. N. Y., and is a son of Levi and Asenath Hale, both parents being natives of Vermont, where the father was born in 1813; he died in Michigan in 1883. The mother was born in 1813, and is still living in Eaton, Mich.

The parents came to this State when the son was but six months old, and he was under their supervision until he was 19 years of age, when he became a soldier in the Union army. He enlisted August 8, 1862, in Co. D, 7th Mich. Cavalry, and rendezvoused at Grand Rapids until February, 1863, when his regiment was sent to the front. Following is the list of engagements in which he took part: Thoroughfare Gap, May 21, '63; Greenwich, May 30; Hanover, May 30; Hunterstown, Gettysburg, Monterey, June 4; Covertown, Smithton, Boonesboro, Hagerstown, Williamsport, Boonesboro (2d), Falling Waters, Sinker's Gap, Kelly's Ford, Culpepper C. H., Raccoon Ford, James' City, Brandy Station, Bucklin Mills, Stevensburg, Morton's Ford, Richmond, Wilderness, Beaver Dam Station, Yellow Tavern, Meadow Bridge, Cold Harbor, Trevillian Station, Winchester, Front Royal, Leetown, Shepardston, Smithfield, Berryville, Summit, Occoquan, Port Republic, Woodstock, Cedar Creek, Madison C. H., Louisa C. H., Five Forks, Appomattox C. H., Little Laramie, Dakota. He was discharged Dec. 15, 1865, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.

On his return from the army he came to Grant Tp. and entered a homestead claim of 80 acres. Here he has since resided and put his place under good improvements. He was married July 4, 1866, to Alice, daughter of Gideon and Mary Bentley. Mrs. Hale was born in Manchester, Ontario Co., N. Y., Feb. 3, 1847, and is the mother of two children: Lawrence M., born Oct. 19, 1867, and Clarence G., Sept. 5, 1876.

Mr. Hale is a Republican in political principle, has served ten years as Road Commissioner, and is

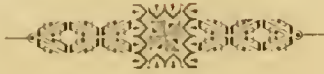






*Fitch Phelps.*

a member of the G. A. R. He is earnestly interested in the cause of education and in the schools of his township.



**On. Fitch Phelps** was born in Guilford, Chenango Co., N. Y., June 30, 1831. He traces his genealogy to the Phelps family of Tewksbury, Gloucestershire, England. William Phelps, Mayor or Bailiff of Tewksbury in 1607, was born about the middle of the 16th century. The following entry is found in the Register of Tewksbury Parish, during the season of Lent, A. D. 1599:

"I granted a license to William Phelps, being then extremlye sicke, to eate fleshe, which license to endure no longer tyme than during his sickness.

REV. CURTIES,

Curate of Tewksbury."

William Phelps, his son, was born at or near Tewksbury, about the year 1590. He emigrated with his wife and five children, and his two unmarried brothers, George and Richard, sailing from Plymouth, where the "Mayflower" with the 101 Pilgrim Fathers of 1620 waved her last farewell, on the ship "Mary and John," March 20, 1630, and landed at Hull, Massachusetts, May 30. In 1635, he went to Windsor, Conn., where he won a prominent position in the affairs of both Church and State, and where he died in 1672. The family continued to reside in Connecticut for six generations. Joel Phelps, the father of our subject, was born in Connecticut, but did not remain long in his native State. In the earlier years of his manhood, he was a lumberman on the Hudson River, near Glens Falls, New York. Later in life he removed to Chenango Co., N. Y., and engaged in farming.

He married Hulda Dean, a native of New York. His people were highly respected for that sort of integrity, strength and purity of character that constituted marked virtues among the agricultural classes in the earlier years of our country. They had a family of 14 children, the youngest son and 13th child being the subject of this sketch. He was raised on the farm, and obtained his rudimentary education by attending the district school kept a short dis-

tance from his father's house, finishing with an academic course at Richburg, Allegany Co., N. Y. Here, at the age of 21, he engaged in the milling business for two years. He then embarked in the mercantile business, which he followed four years at Friendship, Allegany Co., N. Y., and at Brockwayville, Jefferson Co., Penn. In the summer of 1862 he went to California, where he spent five years in the valley of San Mateo, in agricultural pursuits and in speculation. In 1863, he was appointed Provost Marshal for the county, enrolling it for army draft. On returning, in 1868, he located in Colfax, Mecosta Co., Mich. Here he purchased a fine tract of pine land, built a mill and engaged in lumbering. As an adjunct to the business he has cleared up a large farm, making his home on the shore of Clear Lake, five miles from Big Rapids.

Mr. Phelps has always been an ardent Republican, one who does not swerve from the views and principles which are promulgated and advocated by those acting with him in that political organization. He has never been an office-seeker. His career is that of a practical business man, intensely devoted to his private interests, and participating in public affairs only as an incident, with no effort to secure advancement. In 1876 he was the regular nominee of the Republican Convention for Member of the Lower House of the Legislature. The district comprised the counties of Mecosta, Osceola and Lake. Elected by a handsome majority, he took a prominent part in matters before the House, and did thorough and conscientious work for his constituents. Was member of the Committees on Railroads and the University. In 1878 he was re-elected to the House from Mecosta County, the State having in the meantime been re-districted. At this session he was Chairman of the Committee on the University and member of the Ways and Means Committee. His second term in the House was marked for the active interest and zeal he manifested in working for the cause of temperance. His sincerity, added to a fearlessness of temper which never shrank from the expression, on suitable occasions, of his real opinions and sentiments, gave weight to what he uttered, and left no one who heard without strong convictions of his earnestness.

In the year 1882, he was the Republican candidate for the Senate from the 27th District, comprising the counties of Mecosta, Osceola, Wexford and Manistee.

It is a fact worthy of mention that he was the unanimous choice of the Convention, there being not a dissenting voice, and his nomination was by acclamation. He was elected by a majority of more than 1,000 votes over the opposing candidate of the combined Democratic and Greenback parties.

In the Senate, Mr. Phelps was prompt, regular and constant in his attendance upon the sessions of that body and the meetings of his committees. He introduced but few bills, believing that there are too many matters of little importance brought before that body, which serve only to pass away time and lengthen the term of the session. He proposed an amendment to the State Constitution by a joint resolution giving members of the Legislature a salary instead of a *per-diem*, and forbidding the use or acceptance of free railroad passes. It was adopted by the Legislature, and will be submitted to a vote of the people in 1884. He was Chairman of the Committee on the State House of Correction at Ionia, member of the Committees on Public Health, Library, Geological Survey, Appropriations and Finance.

Mr. Phelps is favored with a superb physical constitution, and combines strictness of moral principles with energy and decision of character. He has made profitable investments, become interested in remunerative enterprises, won honorable success in business and secured a competence, as the product of personal industry and good judgment, put forth in a field wisely selected. He was married Oct. 13, 1857, to Miss Harriet Wellman, a woman well educated and accomplished, a native of Friendship, Allegany Co., N. V., and of English ancestry on the side of her father, and Scotch on that of her mother. Her father, Arba Wellman, an enterprising and prosperous merchant in Friendship, was born in Vermont; her mother, Esther Burt, was born in New York State.

Mrs. Phelps is well educated and accomplished, amiable and kind, and accordingly has rendered her home one of contentment and happiness for her husband and inviting to friends.

As one of the most honored representative citizens of Northern Michigan, we take pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Phelps in this Album.

**E**dwin J. Marsh, attorney at Big Rapids, of the firm of Glidden & Marsh, was born at Howell, Livingston Co., Mich., May 29, 1850. His father, Z. H. Marsh, by profession a physician, was born in Montague, Franklin Co., Mass., and his mother, Luthera Marsh, was born in Dana, Mass.

Edwin attended the public school at Howell until 19 years old, when he entered Cornell University, at Ithaca, N. Y. At the end of the first year he left Cornell for Michigan University, entering the Sophomore Class of the Literary Department. His health compelled him to leave the University at the end of the year, and in hopes of recovering the same he joined an engineer corps of the A., T. & S. F. R. R. Co., and remained west until 1872. Returning in the winter of 1872 to Howell, he entered the office of H. H. Harmon and studied law; attended law lectures at the University of Michigan, and was admitted to the Bar in 1874. In 1875 he removed to Big Rapids, in company with N. W. Carpenter, with whom he opened an office for the practice of law. At the end of a year he entered into a partnership with D. Roben, which existed about one year. After the dissolution of this partnership, he remained alone in the practice of his profession until 1879, when he became associated with D. F. Glidden, his present partner.

In 1876 he was married to Alma, daughter of J. W. and Alvira Burr, of Ionia Co., Mich. They have one child, Frank B., born March 4, 1880.

**J**ohn Le Duke, boot and shoe dealer at Big Rapids, was born in East Hawkesbury, Pr. of Ontario, Feb. 21, 1843. He was reared a farmer until the age of 20, when he began to acquire the details of the shoemaker's trade at East Hawkesbury. In October, 1867, he came to this city and commenced the prosecution of his trade, and in 1873 established himself at his present stand. He has a full line of all goods common to the trade, valued at \$5,000, with an annual business amounting to \$20,000. His real estate in Big Rap-

ids is considerable, consisting of two stores on Michigan avenue, one of which is his stand of business; the other is occupied by Aylsworth & Ladoucer, clothiers; four stores on the same block north of his own location, his residence on Rust avenue, and two vacant lots on Michigan avenue, near Hemlock street.

Mr. Le Duke was married at Syracuse, N. Y., Jan. 2, 1867, to Julia, daughter of Martin Harris.

**I**saac Wambold, farmer and carpenter, resident on sec. 28, Wheatland Tp., was born in Montgomery Co., Pa., Nov. 24, 1823. His parents, John and Margaret (Gangler) Wambold, were natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. They went to the State of New York when the son was 18 months old, and he remained under their personal supervision until the age of 14, when he became assistant of an elder brother, who had assumed control of the homestead farm. He worked four years as a farmer, and at 18 was apprenticed to learn the carpenter's trade. He only served a part of his time, but went into business for himself. He was married Nov. 19, 1844, to Harriet J., daughter of Alonzo and Hannah Mace, and they have one child, Cornelia A., born April 30, 1852. He went to Dodge Co., Wis., in the spring of 1854, where he followed his trade ten years. In 1864 he came to Berrien Co., Mich., and bought a small farm, which he worked in connection with his profession, and afterward went to Ionia, thence to Wheatland Tp., where he "took up" 160 acres of land under the homestead act, which had then just gone into effect. He has since resided here, and during the time has been twice married, both wives dying shortly after marriage. He was married to his present wife, Oct. 9, 1875. She was Mrs. Sarah Schiedel, daughter of James C. and Elizabeth (Bear) Smith, and was born June 29, 1832, in Waterloo Co., Ontario, Can., of which county her parents were also natives. She was an orphan at the age of seven years, and was cared for by an aunt until her marriage.

Mr. Wambold began to teach school in the winter of 1869, in Wheatland Tp., a profession he has since pursued to some extent. He is independent in politics, has been Justice of the Peace 16 years, and

served one term as County Superintendent of Schools. He has been Township Clerk, and held nearly all the minor local offices. He is now Justice of the Peace, Supervisor and School Inspector, and belongs to the Masonic Lodge at Big Rapids.

**G**ust. Zetterstedt, dealer in foreign and domestic liquors, cigars, etc., at Big Rapids, was born in Sweden, April 20, 1837, a son of Emanuel and Mary Zetterstedt. In 1852, when he was 15 years old, he was placed in a mercantile establishment to serve a regular term of years, under instructions preparatory to a commercial life, and at 21 he was at the head of an establishment for the sale of general merchandise, liquors, and the variety usually found in that class of business in the countries. This he managed until 1864, when the entire town (Ronneby), built wholly of wood, burned down, and he suffered total loss of everything. Mr. Zetterstedt came to the United States and to Big Rapids in 1871, having received while at home reports of the place which recommended it as having for him a future of promise. He was employed on a construction corps of the G. R. & I. railroad, and was connected with the repair force about three years; then went to Grand Rapids and was engaged in the freight department. In 1878 he came to Big Rapids and was employed by P. Erikson about two years. He opened his present business in the fall of 1880.

Mr. Zetterstedt was married at Big Rapids June 4, 1882, to Anna Peterson, a native of Sweden, born Sept. 12, 1855. They have one child. The family attend the Lutheran Church. Mr. Zetterstedt is a member of Kronan's Colding, a Swedish society.

**H**enry T. Albro, farmer, sec. 36, Big Rapids Tp., was born in Greenfield, Wayne Co., Mich., Jan. 5, 1841. The place of his birth is now within the limits of the city of Detroit. He is a son of Clark and Catherine (O'Neil) Albro, the former born July 5, 1819, at Cortland, N. Y., of French and English extraction. The mother was a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, born in 1821, and first came to the United States when

very young. Her father was a sea captain, and she was on the Atlantic Ocean, chiefly, until she was six years old. She died April 26, 1883, at Detroit.

Mr. Albro was married May 9, 1867, to Cynthia R., daughter of William and Rosanna Butler, of English and German descent on the paternal side, and on the mother's, of Scotch and French origin. Mrs. Albro was born in Detroit, Mich., Jan. 15, 1852.

Mr. Albro came to Mecosta County in September, 1867, and took up 33 acres of Government land on sec. 36, on which he now resides, and has a good portion under fine cultivation.

**C**harles Rathvon, of the firm of Rathvon Bros., proprietors of the Mecosta Planing Mill, was born in Welland, Ont., March 11, 1850. He is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Alward) Rathvon. The father was a carpenter and joiner, and a native of Canada; he died in 1855, in his 34th year. The mother was a native of the Dominion, and died in Elgin Co., Can., July 20, 1883, aged 54 years. Until he was 18 years old Mr. Rathvon was engaged as a farm assistant, and was after that employed with his brother in working as a builder, in which occupation his brother had extensive interests. Four years later he went to New York and found employment as a builder at Tonawanda, where he operated four years. One summer he spent in the employment of the Government, building lake shore survey stations. His next remove was to St. Thomas, Can., and two years later he went to St. Johns, Clinton Co., Mich., and was employed by the St. Johns Manufacturing Co., two years. In August, 1881, he came with his brother, Benjamin, to Mecosta village, and engaged in contracting and building. They built a planing mill in November, 1882, and are now turning out the customary products, planing, matching, siding, ceiling, moldings, etc. They generally employ about ten men and operate considerably in contracting and building.

Mr. Rathvon was married in Welland Co., Ont., June 26, 1872, to Ida A. Hershey, daughter of George and Sarah Hershey, born at Loville, Can., in October, 1850. Of this marriage three children have been born, as follows: Cora B., at Welland, April

18, 1872; Ida May, at Tonawanda, N. Y., Feb. 6, 1874, and Gracie, at St. Johns, Mich., Dec. 10, 1879. The parents attend the M. E. Church.

**S**her L. Canaan, Treasurer of Grant Tp., and farmer, sec. 21, was born March 25, 1850, in Buck Tp., Hardin Co., Ohio, son of Jehu and Sarah L. Canaan. Both parents were natives of Ohio; the mother died July 3, 1879, in Grant; and the father is still living, in Michigan. The latter was a soldier in the civil war and served two years and ten months in Co. B, 118th Ohio Vol. Inf.

Mr. Canaan began, when he had reached the age of 13 years, to grapple with the world on his own account, and worked nearly three years as blacksmith. In 1874 he bought 70 acres of timber land, where he has since resided; has the farm partially cleared and in tillage, with a comfortable home. The place is increasing in value from the fact that it is situated in one of the best belts of country in Mecosta County, and the land is of the best quality.

Mr. Canaan was married Aug. 10, 1873, to Mary E., daughter of Ira and Mary A. Hays. Her father died Feb. 27, 1881. He was a minister of the United Brethren Church four years, and died of apoplexy. She was born in Canada West Dec. 28, 1858, and is the mother of three living children, born as follows: Milton A., Nov. 19, 1874; Jessie A., March 1, 1879; Ira J., Oct. 24, 1882.

Mr. Canaan is a Republican in political sentiment and has been Constable nine successive years; was delegate to the Republican County Convention and District Convention in 1882. His maternal grandfather was a soldier of the war of 1812. He and his wife are both members of the Church of United Brethren, Grant Mission.

**B**ion H. Compton, farmer, sec. 31, Colfax was born in Lapeer Co., Mich., March 10, 1857, and is a son of L. and Mary (Burrnett) Compton. The father was born in Hunter, Green Co., N. Y., May 10, 1859, and is of German descent. The mother was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., Feb. 13, 1839.

Mr. Compton was married Dec. 24, 1882, to Flora M. McCamly, born at Big Rapids, May 31, 1859. He settled in Big Rapids Tp., April 1, 1871, where he has since been engaged in farming generally and making a specialty of fruit and gardening. He is a Republican in political sentiment.

**M**artin Luther Briggs, farmer and lumberman, residing on sec. 33, township of Deerfield, is the third son of Samuel and Clarissa (Smith) Briggs. His father was a native of New York and went to Pennsylvania about the year 1830. He settled there and improved a farm, and in 1832 married his first wife, Mary Dickens, of Tioga Co., Pa. She died in 1849, and two years later he married Mrs. Clarissa D. Hill, of the same county, and who was the mother of our subject. The elder Briggs died Aug. 9, 1867. The mother survived her husband nearly 13 years. She died May 17, 1880.

Mr. Briggs was born May 17, 1853. He acquired a common-school education in his native State, and at 17 set out to begin his single-handed struggle with the world. He spent four years in the business of a lumberman and came to Mecosta Co., where he purchased the farm he now occupies, consisting of 80 acres of wild land, which is fast reaching a good condition of improvements. Mr. Briggs passes about three-fourths of his time in the woods in his lumbering interests. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and an adherent to the principles of the Republican party. Mr. Briggs was married Sept. 23, 1883, to Miss Ida M., daughter of James and Susan Harden, of Deerfield, Mecosta Co. She is a native of Chenango Co., N. Y., and was born May 3, 1863.

**M**r. E. Overton, dealer in general hardware at Big Rapids, was born in Henderson, Jefferson Co., N. Y., June 1, 1826. His parents, Elisha and Ruth Carter, were natives of the Empire State. Mr. Overton was reared on a farm and obtained a good education at the common schools, finishing with two years study at Belleville Union Academy, in his na-

tive county. In 1846, when he was 20 years old, he went to New Bedford, Mass., and took charge of a sash and door factory owned by Wm. Wilcox and David R. Pierce. He remained in this position 12 years, returning to Henderson, where, in company with his brother Joshua Overton, he bought 700 acres of land and for a period of eight years pursued agriculture. He then went to Adams and established himself in the cabinet and undertaking business, which he continued to manage until September, 1877. He came to Big Rapids soon afterward and opened a hardware trade, firm of Overton & Grenell, in the building now styled the Canada House. In the fall of 1880 the business was moved to the stand it has since occupied. April 17, 1881, Mr. Grenell sold his part of the stock to Messrs. Cox and Cole, who removed their share in about six months. The stock of Mr. Overton represents about \$16,000, and his annual business amounts to \$55,000. He also owns an interest in the Big Rapids Water-Power Improvement Co., besides his residence and two city lots.

He was married in Henderson, to Frances Salisbury, born in Ohio. Hattie, the elder child of Mr. and Mrs. Overton, is the wife of C. D. Stimson, lumber merchant of Muskegon; Eugene, the only son, is book-keeper in the business of his father.

Mr. Overton was elected Mayor of Big Rapids in 1882, and has served two years as member of the School Board.

**J**ames E. Philley, liveryman, Millbrook village, was born April 27, 1852, in the State of New York. He is a son of Silas and Patty (Thompson) Philley, who were natives of Scotland and Ireland respectively, and were married in the Empire State; in 1863 they came to Ohio, when Mr. Philley was eleven years of age, and he remained with them six years. In the fall of 1868 he came to Michigan and was in the employ of the G. R. & I. R. Co. seven years, in different capacities. In the spring of 1875 he went to Petoskey, Mich., and there opened a saloon, selling out soon after and engaging in lumbering, in which he was occupied five years. He came to Millbrook in the spring of 1881 and commenced the prosecution of his present business, to which he has since given his energetic attention.

Mr. Philley was married in Hinton Tp., Oct. 14, 1882, to Sarah, daughter of Levi and Mary Menera, a native of Canada. She came from the Dominion to Michigan with her parents, and before her marriage was engaged as a teacher. In political faith Mr. Philley is a Republican; in 1882 he was elected Constable, and in 1883 was re-elected to the same office.

**J**acob W. Pattison, M. D., practicing physician at Millbrook, is a son of Oliver and Huldah (York) Pattison, the former a native of Ireland, and the latter of the Dominion of Canada. They were married in Canada, and resided there some years. During the war of 1812, the father was taken prisoner and conveyed to Buffalo, N. Y., where he claimed American citizenship and was released. He afterwards became a resident of Erie Co., N. Y., where himself and wife completed their lives.

Dr. Pattison was born in Erie County, Oct. 8, 1821. At the age of 11 years he began life as a laborer, and was occupied in various ways until he was 18 years old. He became assistant in a hardware store, and was in the same employ nearly two years. The deficiencies of his education pressed upon his understanding, and he accomplished much hard study nights, and at other times as opportunity presented. He wishes to record his sense of obligation to an Irish gentleman named Whalen, who took an interest in his progress and assisted him with private lessons. At the age of 23 years he began teaching, which occupation he followed three years.

Early in life he had decided upon his present calling, and devoted his leisure to preparatory reading. His circumstances prevented his attending lectures, and he turned his attention for the time being to the hardware business, forming a partnership with his brother, which relation existed two years. On its dissolution he conducted affairs alone one year, when he sold out and resumed the study of medicine. In the winter of 1856-7 he attended his first course of lectures, at Buffalo, N. Y., going afterward to the University of Victoria, Ontario, where he received his diploma and Government right to practice medicine in Canada.

In 1860 he went to Ann Arbor, where he entered

the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, and in 1862-3 he again attended lectures at Buffalo. In the spring of 1864 he came to Bay City and practiced one year, going thence to Lapeer, and operated there a twelvemonth, when he located in Montcalm County, and continued to prosecute his profession five years. In August, 1871, he came to Millbrook, where he has established an extensive practice, being spoken of far and near as an able and experienced physician. In addition to his medical practice, he is the sole representative of the drug trade at Millbrook.

Dr. Pattison has served several appointments as Health Officer, and held the position of Justice of the Peace one term. He was married in Canada, in the spring of 1845, to Mary, daughter of Ambrose Pattison. She died in the winter of 1857, leaving four children: Melissa, Ida, Ambrose and Appleton J. Dr. Pattison was again married Feb. 22, 1861, to Margaret Carpenter, of Buffalo, N. Y., and their four children are, Ida M., Jennie E., Thomas O. and James G.

**B**enjamin F. Corey, Justice of the Peace, and farmer, sec. 11, Grant Tp., was born Dec. 4, 1842, in Crawford Co., Ohio: at the age of 19 he became a soldier for the Union, and enlisted May 19, 1861, under the first call for troops. He served three months and on his discharge again enrolled for three years' service or during the war. After two years of severe service and hardship he contracted camp diarrhea and was discharged for disability. He in time recovered his health to some degree, and as soon as he could pass muster he again enlisted, Feb. 2, 1864, and was in the army to the close of the war. His final discharge bears the date of July 12, 1865. Following is the list of his engagements: Rich Mountain, Winchester, Port Republic, Wilderness (seven days' fight), Chickamauga, Resaca, Chattahoochee River, Atlanta, Nashville (repulse of Hood), Savannah (with Sherman), Columbia, Fayetteville, Raleigh and Bentonville.

Mr. Corey was married Feb. 4, 1864, to Eliza E. Peoples, of Hardin Co., Ohio. She was born May 15, 1844, and is the daughter of James and Nancy Peoples, both of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs.



Corey have had five children: Ida Jane, born Nov. 18, 1867, and died Feb. 12, 1876; Eliza A., born May 4, 1866, is now the wife of Wm. Downs; William, born May 4, 1868; James, July 4, 1870, and Otis F., July 3, 1878. Mr. Corey is a Republican, and has held his present position six years. He owns a fine farm of 80 acres, which he has placed in fair condition for farming purposes. Mrs. Corey belongs to the M. E. Church.

**A**lbert A. Vollmer, grocer, Big Rapids, is a native of Milwaukee, Wis. His father, Francis Vollmer, was born in Baden, Germany, Oct. 4, 1824. His mother, Rasina (Grass) Vollmer, was born Oct. 4, 1827, at Strasbourg, then belonging to France, but now a city of Alsace, ceded to Germany May 10, 1871. The parents came to the United States in 1830, and were married at Milwaukee, Wis., April 13, 1847, and still reside there. Five children were born to them: Joseph E., Albert A., Mary E., Isadore D. and Ivo V. Albert A. was born May 28, 1852, and grew to manhood in the Cream City. He went to Evanston, Ill., in 1877, and established himself in the grocery business, operating with satisfactory results. In February, 1882, he settled at Big Rapids and founded his present business. He carries a stock of goods worth \$5,000, and his transactions annually amount to \$35,000.

He was married at Milwaukee, April 13, 1875, to Rosa M., daughter of Herbert and Margaret Reck, of West Bend, Wis., and they have had three children: Agnes M., Francis E. and Mary J.

**A**ndrew Hanson, attorney, at Big Rapids, was born in Jutland, Denmark, Sept. 29, 1853, and is a son of Hans and Christina (Nelson) Christianson. His patronymic arose from the Danish custom of compounding the first and last names of the father. At the age of 15 he shipped for service on a merchantman and followed the sea three years and four months, becoming familiar with the principal ports of Europe. In the winter of 1870 he studied chemistry, survey-

ing, etc., at the Tampdrop High School, Jutland.

He came to the United States in August, 1872, and to Morley, Mecosta Co., where he commenced to study under L. G. Palmer, and at the same time acted as night watchman for the protection of a saw-mill. During the several succeeding years he was variously engaged, and accumulated a considerable amount of land; was in the meat business, and also pursued lumbering energetically, winters, in Colfax Tp., where he owned 580 acres of land. He was overtaken by reverses, and in the spring of 1881 lost several thousands of dollars. He engaged in teaching near Morley, where he was occupied three years. Commencing in June, 1882, he took a course of study in Swensberg Business College at Grand Rapids. On leaving there he came to Big Rapids and again became a student of law in the office of Palmer Bros., and was admitted to the Bar as an attorney April 6, 1883. In June he entered the office of Frank Dumon, Prosecuting Attorney of Mecosta County, as an assistant.

Mr. Hanson was nominated on the city ticket for Recorder, in the spring of 1883, but was unsuccessful in his candidacy. While resident in Colfax Tp. he was Treasurer, in 1879-'80, and in the latter year was Supervisor.

**F**rancis Smith, farmer, sec. 13, Morton Tp., was born in Germany, Oct. 18, 1832. He is a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Borne) Smith, with whom he remained in his native land and attended school until 1841. In that year his father came to this country and located on a farm lying near the Welland Canal, between Lake Erie and Ontario. This was retained but a short time, his father selling out and moving to Bruce Co., Ont., where he bought 100 acres of land and is still resident there. The mother of Mr. Smith died in Germany. She left nine children, five sons and four daughters. Of his brothers and sisters, Mr. Smith knows comparatively nothing.

In 1872 he came to the State of Michigan and bought 80 acres of land in Morton Tp. Nearly the entire acreage of his land is under culture and is largely devoted to stock-raising, to which it is well adapted. It is located one and a half miles from

Mecosta village, is well watered and generally is of a grade that compares favorably with other farms in the vicinity.

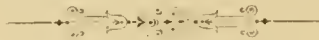
Mr. Smith was married April 16, 1860, at Formosa, Canada, to Marianna Gatz. After his marriage he rented a farm there, and in five years he came to Michigan, as stated. Mr. and Mrs. Smith's children are: Mary Ann, born Feb. 8, 1861 (died in infancy); Elizabeth, April 7, 1863; Joseph, Oct. 6, 1864; Henry, Dec. 3, 1866; Michael, Sept. 26, 1876; John, March 28, 1870; Mary, April 28, 1872; Caroline, Dec. 28, 1873; Frederick P., Oct. 18, 1875; Frank, Aug. 2, 1878 (died two years later); Magdalena, June 17, 1882.



**R**ichard Collins, of the firm of Skelton & Collins, proprietors of the Central Hotel, Big Rapids, was born in Hastings, Canada, Oct. 24, 1847, and is a son of Richard and Julia Collins. The father died in Canada, in 1864, the mother in 1849.

Mr. Collins was engaged in farming and clearing up land until 1872, when he came to Big Rapids and passed five years, driving logs on the river summers, and lumbering winters. In 1878 he formed his present partnership with Thomas Skelton, and opened the Central House, where they are keeping a good hotel, and doing a flourishing business. The bar is supplied with all goods common to similar establishments.

Mr. Collins owns a lot in the Second ward, and 40 acres of land in the Fifth ward of Big Rapids.



**D**aniel C. Bullock, farmer, contractor and builder, located on sec. 26, Deerfield Tp., was born in the Dominion of Canada, May 5, 1828. His parents, Ira and Betsey Bullock, are now residents of Canada; father a native of the State of New York, and mother of Canada.

Mr. Bullock remained a resident of his native place until 1863, the year in which he located in Deerfield Tp. He bought 40 acres of land in an en-

tirely uncultivated state, built a log house, and has so persevered in his labors that he has 31 acres under the plow, and has erected a good frame house, in which he resides. In political sentiment he is a Republican.

Mr. Bullock was married Feb. 22, 1859, in Canada, to Sarah, daughter of Ephraim and Sarah (Roszell) Barss, natives of Canada, who finally emigrated to Allegan County, and there resided until the father's death. The mother resides with her son-in-law, Henry Mills, of Deerfield. Mrs. Bullock was born in Canada, Oct. 28, 1833. Of seven children born of this marriage, three are living, born as follows: Ira E., Dec. 10, 1859; Charlie E., Aug. 19, 1867; Franklin D., March 10, 1870; Minnie L., born June 21, 1862, died July 17, 1866; Alma M., Sept. 10, 1864, died July 25, 1866; Eddie G., Sept. 18, 1869, died Nov. 23, 1869; Johnnie S., Sept. 8, 1872, died March 28, 1881. The eldest son is the owner of 40 acres of land adjoining his father's farm; was married in Deerfield Tp., Aug. 22, 1882, to Lena, daughter of William H. and Martha M. (Wilson) Kuhn, born Feb. 18, 1862, in Livingston Co., Mich.; removed to Mecosta County in the spring of 1882. P. O., Rustford.



**J**ames Shields, of Big Rapids, was born in Norfolk Co. Can., Nov. 27, 1845. He is a son of Archibald and Frances (Reed) Shields, and his father's calling was that of a wagon and carriage maker. At the age of 19 he engaged as traveling salesman for a hardware firm, where he continued three years. In 1867 he opened a hotel in Norfolk Co., which he conducted 18 months, and then, in company with Andrew Lees, he engaged in buying lumber, ties, pail, shingle, cord wood, etc., for the market, and was thus occupied three years. In 1874 he came to Grand Rapids, and was there engaged in buying and selling garden products. Three years later he went to Morley for the purpose of buying a farm; was there taken sick and continued ill about seven months. This disaster put an end to his finances and to his agricultural projects. His next removal was to Greenville, where he engaged as a farm laborer one season. He opened an eating house at Greenville, which he managed 18 months, going thence to Lakeview, in the

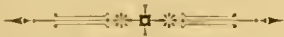




*C. M. Parrah*

same county, where he built a grocery; he ran it a few months, and exchanged the property for a farm of 80 acres in the township of Hinton. He there built another store and conducted a mercantile business with a satisfactory degree of success, selling chiefly at auction, having a particular talent for that method of disposing of goods.

Mr. Shields came to Big Rapids in the fall of 1880, purchased a store on Maple street and put in a stock of groceries. He continued to operate there ten months, when he exchanged his business and fixtures for 35 acres of land in the Fifth ward, which is still in his possession. In the fall of 1881 he embarked in another grocery enterprise on the east side, where he did business nearly a year. He bought the site now occupied by his store, erected the building, put in a stock of groceries and operated until the spring of 1883, when he again sold and began to deal in liquor and all the articles common to a first-class saloon. Mr. Shields was elected Alderman of his ward in the spring of 1883. He was married in Norfolk Co., Can., June 10, 1867, to Mary A., daughter of William and Eliza Bunnings, born at Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 3, 1848. Their children are Minnie E., Anna M., John A., Edith M., James A., William A. and an infant not named.



**C**harles M. Darrah, of the firm of Darrah Bros. & Co., proprietors of the City Flouring Mills, upper Big Rapids, and whose portrait we present on the opposite page, was born in Orange Co., N. Y., town of Beaver Brook, June 19, 1831. His parents, Robert and Sinah (Mitchell) Darrah, moved to Jefferson Co., Pa., when he was six years old. His father was a farmer and engaged to a considerable extent in lumbering. Mr. Darrah was brought up to the pursuits of his father and spent his youth in the lumber woods, early taking an active part in all the matters pertaining to the business. At 20 he took a contract to manufacture lumber by the thousand, and a year later he bought a farm of 60 acres. In May, 1856, he transferred his interests to Battle Creek, where he spent one summer in farming, coming to Big Rapids in the following fall. The intermediate country was, in 1856, chiefly in its primeval condition, and Mr.

Darrah transported hither his family and household effects with horses and wagon. The drive to Grand Rapids consumed three days. The route thence to Big Rapids was through a literally unsettled country, and though the horses were good the journey required seven days. Mr. Darrah located on what is now sec. 6 of the township of Austin, which had no organized local government until 1869, nearly 13 years later.

The first winter Mr. Darrah spent in Mecosta County he went to work for J. H. Rodgers and was in his employ one year. In 1858 he bought 40 acres on sec. 3, Mecosta Tp., and in 1859 purchased 80 acres adjoining. On this he made a clearing and built his house, into which he moved as soon as it was habitable. He worked several ensuing years in the lumber woods, taking contracts to cut timber and deliver it at the river. From his small and arduous beginning, Mr. Darrah has grown to be a landholder of no mean rank. His homestead includes 400 acres, of which he purchased 240 in 1865, and took possession in 1866. His aggregate landed estate includes 1,000 acres, situated chiefly in Missaukee and Rosecommon Counties. The home farm of Mr. Darrah is among the finest and largest in Mecosta County. His orchards and barns are a just matter of proud satisfaction to the proprietor. He has continued to pursue his lumber business and river driving, which he has engaged in extensively. In the spring of 1883 he employed 150 men in his driving operations on Clam River.

In the spring of 1882 he rented his farm and moved to the city of Big Rapids. Aug. 14 of the same year, associated with his brother, James M. Darrah, and son, Wilson E. Darrah, he purchased the City Flouring Mills, where the firm have since been engaged in manufacturing mill products. They have a large local and shipping trade, and employ half a dozen hands in their business, which aggregates about \$60,000 annually. They have now in process of erection a new iron-roller mill, adjoining the old one. It will be 37 x 50 feet on the ground, five-stories high, and be fitted with seven sets of double rollers and two run of stone. The new structure will be devoted to commercial products; the old mill will be devoted to custom work and storage.

Mr. Darrah was married May 26, 1853, in Knox Tp., Jefferson Co., Pa., to Sarah E., daughter of

James and Susan (Mason) Hall, born in Jefferson Co., Pa., May 29, 1836. Of four children born of this marriage three are living: Wilson E., Melvin E. and Charles J. James E. is deceased.

**J**acob H. Loucks, Postmaster and merchant at Sylvester, Hinton Tp., was born in Lewis Co., N. Y., May 6, 1836. He is a son of Daniel and Mary (Cook) Loucks, natives of New York, who came to Michigan in the spring of 1867, with their son. The mother died March 1, 1871; the father, July 23, 1878. In 1867 Mr. Loucks came to Michigan and settled at first in Ionia County, where he lived two years and then bought 40 acres of land in a primeval condition in Gratiot County. He built a frame house and went on with the work of putting the land under cultivation. He lived on the place 13 years, then rented it and moved to Hinton Tp. In the spring of 1882 he bought out the stock of general merchandise of Geo. W. Streeter, and has since carried on that business. In politics Mr. Loucks is independent. While a resident in Gratiot County he held the office of Justice of the Peace three years. He was married in Copenhagen, Lewis Co., N. Y., Jan. 6, 1865, to Sarah A., daughter of Justus and Cynthia C. (Leonard) Belcher. Her parents were natives of New York, where her father died, in April, 1881. The mother is still living there. Mrs. Loucks was born Sept 11, 1844. She has become the mother of three children, born as follows: Mary C., Nov. 21, 1866; Martha A., Feb. 28, 1871; Geo. J., Nov. 15, 1874.

Mr. Loucks was appointed Postmaster by President Arthur, in July, 1882.

**H**enry Main, farmer, sec. 2, Millbrook Tp., was born in Michigan, Oct. 14, 1838. His father, George Main, was born in Pennsylvania, and his mother, Margaret A. (Chandler) Main, was a native of New York. Mr. Main lived at home with his parents and assisted on the farm until he was 22 years of age, when he went from home and worked as a farm laborer four years; then rented a farm, which he conducted three years;

came to Mecosta County in the spring of 1869 and bought 100 acres of wild land in the township of Millbrook; built a board house, and proceeded to clear his land, to which he has added by purchase, and now owns 220 acres, with 120 acres under advanced improvements.

Mr. Main is a Republican in faith and act. He has been Treasurer of his township nine years, Constable two years, Road Commissioner one year, and Supervisor one year. Himself and family are attendants at the Church of United Brethren.

He was married in Canada, April 10, 1861, to Roxey L., daughter of Thomas and Sarah A. (Hartwell) Smith, natives of Canada. Mrs. Main was born in Canada, Dec. 22, 1840. She was under the paternal care until she was fifteen, after which she depended upon her own resources. Mr. and Mrs. Main have had eleven children, ten of whom yet survive: Esther C., born June 5, 1862; Aramintha J., Dec. 24, 1863; Austin C., Aug. 3, 1865; Celestia A., Oct. 27, 1867; Lorenzo A., Aug. 14, 1869; Edward H., July 17, 1871; Walter H., May 18, 1873; Lafayette J., April 7, 1876; Elsie M., June 9, 1877; Sidney O., born April 21, 1879, died Sept. 6, 1879; Loren T., born Nov. 28, 1881.

**D**avid L. Garling, miller, proprietor of the Mecosta County Mills, Big Rapids, was born at Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N. Y., Jan. 17, 1846. He is a son of John and Sarah (Hartranft) Garling. The father was born in Pennsylvania, in 1795, of Dutch parentage, and died in Cayuga, N. Y., Dec. 24, 1881. The mother was also a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1803, and died June 21, 1883, in Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., N. Y.

Mr. Garling was married Nov. 16, 1865, to Henrietta Burtnette, born in Seneca Falls, N. Y., June 25, 1846, of English and French extraction. She is a daughter of William and Rachel Burtnette. Mr. and Mrs. Garling have four children, born as follows: Anna R. B., Sept. 13, 1869; Johnny E., July 29, 1872; Emma J., Aug. 20, 1875; Burtnette, May 9, 1878.

Mr. Garling came to Michigan in June, 1878, and made his first location at Percy, Osceola Co. In

1879 he came to Mecosta County, and on the first day of April in that year purchased the mill property, to the management of which he has since given his attention. He is a Republican in political sentiment.

**G**eorge Miller, farmer, sec. 18, Colfax Tp., was born in Delaware, Middlesex Co., Ont., July 6, 1849, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Miller. The father was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1824, and in 1845, on attaining his majority, came to Canada. In the year following he married Elizabeth Chalmers, born in 1827, in Almond Bank, Perthshire, Scotland. She came to Canada with her parents at the age of 18 years, and in 1846 was married, at Quebec. They settled in Delaware, where they remained until 1868, in which year they moved to Michigan and settled on a farm in Colfax Tp., Mecosta Co., locating three miles from Big Rapids.

Mr. Miller resided with his parents until 1880, when he married Elida Hallock, the youngest daughter of Aaron E. and Harriet L. (Stevens) Hallock, of Newaygo County. Her father was born Feb. 2, 1825, in New York, and settled in Barry Co., Mich., when 18 years of age. The mother was born Sept. 9, 1835, in the State of Michigan. Their marriage occurred in 1850, and five years later they settled in Montcalm County, where they resided until 1862. They removed to Newaygo County, where Mrs. Miller was born July 29, 1862. She remained in her native county until she was nine years old and then went to Howard City, where she attended school until she was 17. The following year she came to Mecosta County, and taught school, and was married May 5, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a son, born March 29, 1883, named George Ernest Miller. The father of Mrs. Miller died April 15, 1872, leaving the mother with five children. She removed to Howard City, where she died, in November, 1872.

On his marriage, Mr. Miller settled on his own farm, lying next his father's place on the same section. They together had cleared 20 acres of the tract, entered under the homestead act by the father; and Mr. Miller has cleared a like quantity on his own property, and has charge of both places, containing 160 acres.

Mr. Miller's mother died June 9, 1881, aged 54

years. She was seized with sudden and violent illness, passing within three hours into a comatose state, from which she never rallied, and about ten hours after the attack she ceased to exist. She was dearly beloved, not only in her own family circle but also by a large number of neighbors and friends who felt her loss almost as keenly as though it were personal. "We had been so happy in believing that we should keep her a long time with us that we were stunned, by the sharpness and suddenness of the blow," said one to whom her loss is irreparable. She has a better monument than even queens have had, in the lasting memories of those whose happiness had been her chief care and hearty delight.

**J**ames S. Canaan, farmer, sec. 21, Grant Tp., was born July 12, 1844, in Hardin Co., Ohio, and is a son of Jehu and Sarah L. Canaan. (See sketch of Asher L. Canaan.)

At the age of 11 years Mr. Canaan set out to care for himself and to aid in the maintenance of his father's family. Just after he was 18 years old he enlisted (Aug. 8, 1862) in Co. B, 118th Ohio Vol. Inf., and remained in the service until the termination of the war. He was discharged at Salisbury, N. C., and paid off at Cleveland Ohio, June 24, 1865. He was in precarious health when his regiment went to the front, and was assigned to guard duty until the date of the battle of Atlanta, where he was first under fire. His corps was afterwards dispatched to intercept the march of the rebel Gen. Hood, and he was in the battle of Smithville, on the Tennessee river. Hood's forces and the Union army under Thomas kept up an incessant skirmishing, and seven days' fighting took place near Columbia, Tenn. Mr. Canaan was in the terrible fights at Franklin and at Nashville, and was then transferred to North Carolina. His first battle was at Fort Anderson, and his last at a point 10 miles below Wilmington. He returned to Ohio and in October, 1866, settled in Grant Tp. He became a landholder in 1873, buying 40 acres of choice land, which he has improved to the best advantage, and has a good frame house with all necessary farm buildings.

Mr. Canaan was married Sept. 9, 1875, to Maria, daughter of James and Beulah Stewart, of Lake-

view, Montcalm Co., Mich. She was born in Clyde, Ohio, Dec. 8, 1847. Her father died Jan. 19, 1878, and her mother is still living, in Michigan. The three living children of Mr. and Mrs. Canaan were born as follows: Stewart E., June 25, 1876; Herbert L., Sept. 4, 1878; Ernest J., May 16, 1883; Claude C., born Dec. 2, 1880, died July 6, 1881.

Politically Mr. Canaan is a Republican, and has been actively interested in local affairs. He has served his township as Supervisor, five years, Township Clerk, six years, School Director, two years, Assessor, three years, and was Deputy Sheriff under J. T. Escott, four years. He has been Delegate various times to the District and County Conventions. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

**E**dward Fitzgerald, farmer, resident on sec. 29, Mecosta Tp., was born in County Kerry, Ireland, Aug. 15, 1833. He is a son of Edward and Bridget (Rourke) Fitzgerald, natives of Ireland, where they passed their lives.

Mr. Fitzgerald came to America at the age of 15, and landed at Quebec, Can., staying there a brief time, going thence to Oswego, N. Y., where he obtained employment in an elevator for a short time.

His next remove was to Defiance Co., O., reaching there in November, 1853. He worked on the railroad for a time and then rented a farm, where he worked until the spring of 1861. On the outbreak of the late war he enlisted in Co. C, 38th O. Vol. Inf., and his regiment was attached to the command of Gen. Sherman in East Tennessee. They marched through Savannah, Ga., and were participants in the severe fight at Jonesboro, Sept. 1, '64, where the regiment suffered heavy loss, but Mr. Fitzgerald escaped unhurt. He was in the service four years and saw some of its severest work, but was never injured. He was discharged July 14, 1865, and received from his office a most satisfactory testimonial as a brave and good soldier. He returned to his rejoicing family and resumed farming. In the fall of 1877 he settled in Mecosta County and purchased a fine farm on the bank of Big Muskegon River, in Mecosta Tp.

He was married Jan. 1, 1854, to Marcella, daughter of Patrick and Marcella (West) Fox, natives of Ire-

land. Mrs. Fitzgerald was born after her parents emigrated to this country and settled in Defiance Co., O. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald, as follows: Ella M., May 13, 1859; Wm. Nov. 13, 1861; Francis E., June 22, 1867; Anna E., Sept. 1, 1869; Mary, born June 4, 1857, died February, 1874.

Mrs. Fitzgerald is a member of the M. E. Church.

**J**ohn M. Main, farmer, resident on sec. 2, Millbrook Tp., was born in Waterloo Co., Can., Feb. 25, 1843. He grew to man's estate in the manner common to the sons of farmers. When 21 years of age he rented a farm in Canada, which he conducted three years, and resolved to become a citizen of the U. S. He came to Michigan, landing at Detroit, Jan. 10, 1866. He proceeded to Lakeview, Montcalm Co., and was occupied in lumbering during that winter, and in the spring of 1867 came to Mecosta County, locating on 100 acres of land in Millbrook Tp., which had been given him by his father, to which he has added 40 acres, and now has 100 acres under improvement.

He was married in Canada, Nov. 18, 1863, to Mary M., daughter of Charles and Arabella (Morrison) Person, of English and French nativity. She was born in Canada, July 5, 1847. Children: Margaret E., born Feb. 28, 1865; Melinda J., Feb. 18, 1867; James W., Feb. 8, 1869; Ferdinand O., Nov. 18, 1870; John G., Dec. 20, 1872; Otto E., June 9, 1874; Nelson A., Aug. 28, 1876; Charlotte B., March 28, 1878; George W., Nov. 28, 1879; Charles H., May 12, 1881.

Mr. Main is a Republican, and has been the favored choice of his townsmen for responsible positions. He is a zealous member of the M. E. Church.

**G**eorge A. Haggitt, blacksmith, Millbrook village, was born in Huron Co., Can., Dec. 5, 1857. He is a son of Edward and Elizabeth (Cockerline) Haggitt, natives of England. Mr. Haggitt learned his trade in Canada, where he remained until Feb. 1, 1883, and worked four years. At the date named he came to Mecosta County and bought out the blacksmith shop







*C. R. Malone.*

of John Mitchell at the village of Millbrook, where he is managing a thriving business, and doing the custom work of a large section of country.

He was married in Huron Co., Can., Jan. 29, 1880, to Alice M., daughter of John and Leah (Tremblitt) Moss, natives of Canada, where the daughter was born June 6, 1860. They have one child, Alonzo W., born Sept. 19, 1881. Mr. H. belonged in Canada to the Ancient Order of Foresters, and was also a member of the Reform party.



**G**eorge R. Malone, junior member of the firm of Northrup & Malone, lawyers and real-estate brokers, Big Rapids, Mich., was born near Columbus, Ohio, July 27, 1851. He is the son of Joseph and Maria (McCaddin) Malone, who moved from Columbus to Wooster, Wayne Co., Ohio, when he was two years old. His father died at that place in 1854, after which his mother removed to Canal Fulton, Stark Co., near the home of her father, John J. McCaddin, who in his younger days was a pioneer, and afterwards a prominent farmer and business man in that locality.

At the age of six years the subject of this sketch went to live with his uncle, where he worked on the old homestead of his grandfather summers and went to school winters till he was 15 years of age. After this his entire time for several years was devoted to study and teaching. He commenced teaching at the age of sixteen, receiving \$16 a month for his first term in Chippewa Tp., Wayne Co., Ohio. After this he removed, with his mother and family, an older brother and sister, to near Lansing, Mich., where he continued alternately to teach and attend school till 1871. At the age of twenty he was engaged as Principal of the schools at Grand Ledge, Eaton Co., Mich., which position he also held during the years, 1875-6, having spent most of the intervening time attending the Lansing High School and the State Agricultural College.

Early in life Mr. Malone entertained a strong desire to study and practice law, and at the age of sixteen he visited John McSweeney, a leading criminal lawyer of Wooster, Ohio, and completed arrangements to study with him; but this his friends dissuaded him

from doing, preferring that he become a teacher or enter the ministry; however, as he always entertained a love for the study of law, during the last years of his teaching he found time to read the works of a number of leading law writers. After closing his second year's work in the schools of Grand Ledge he devoted a year almost exclusively to the study and practice of law at Bell Oak, Ingham Co. After this he spent two years in the mercantile business at Bell Oak; but this enterprise, not being congenial to his taste, did not prove successful.

In the spring of 1881, he came to the village of Mecosta, and recommenced the practice of law. He was soon after admitted to the Bar of Mecosta County, and in January, 1883, he came to Big Rapids, and the following summer went into partnership with Mr. C. L. Northrup, an attorney of several years' successful practice in Northern Michigan. Soon after coming to the county Mr. Malone was elected member of the County Board of School Examiners and Secretary of that Board, which position he held for two years. The untiring zeal with which he devoted himself to the duties of this office, and the consequent advancement in educational interests throughout the county, so identified him with the interests of the people that his work will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Malone, though still a young man, is everywhere known as a man of the people; he is therefore an active agent in all matters tending to advance the interests of the community and especially of the young. He is an earnest and ardent speaker, and has presented his views upon leading subjects of public interest, not only in his own county but in different parts of the State. He is an active worker in the cause of temperance and a zealous advocate of both moral suasion and prohibition. He is also a total abstainer himself, having never partaken of intoxicating liquors as a beverage in his life; neither has he ever used tobacco in any form.

Mr. Malone was married in Locke Tp., Ingham Co., June 30, 1875, to Miss Fanny E. Atkins, eldest daughter of Harman A. and Harriet V. Atkins, both of whom were pioneers of that county. Mr. Atkins is a physician, having practiced in Ingham County for more than thirty years. He is also a great reader, and a profound student of natural sciences, being the author of a work on ornithology, embodying his daily observations for more than a quarter of a cen-

tury. Mrs. Malone was born in Locke Tp., Ingham Co., March 5, 1854. She received a liberal education and taught school several terms in Ingham and Eaton Counties before her marriage; she still entertains the same love for reading and study as that of her father, and so far as possible still gives her time to literary pursuits. Bertha E., only child of Mr. and Mrs. Malone, was born Dec. 29, 1877.

In connection with this sketch we take pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Malone.



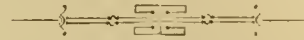
**W**m. Willett, farmer on sec. 5, Hinton Tp., was born in England, March 28, 1810. His parents were natives of England and came to Canada in the early days of its settlement, and there the mother, Martha (Skilton) Willett, finally died. The father, Richard Willett, came to Michigan with his children, and died at the home of his son George. William Willett spent the first 23 years of his life in his native land, and until 14 years of age was sent to school. He worked four years with his father, who was a carpenter, and then set out for his single-handed life struggle. In 1833 he came to Canada and entered upon a life of labor, working at carpentry and millwrighting, and was thus engaged for 33 years, coming to Michigan in 1866. He at once purchased 120 acres of land, on which he now resides and has 40 acres under a good state of cultivation. Mr. Willett was married in England, Feb. 3, 1830, to Charlotte, daughter of Benjamin and Charlotte (Mann) Rose. Her parents were natives of England, where Mrs. Willett was born Sept. 21, 1812, and there her father and mother died.



**J**ohn D. Decker, farmer, sec. 14, Millbrook Tp., was born in the State of New York, March 11, 1828. He is a son of Gilbert and Mary (Stanley) Decker, and was reared under the care of his parents, living at home until he was 22 years old, and occupied chiefly with farming. His father removed with his family to Canada when Mr. Decker was about six

years old, who remained there until he reached the age of 24 years, going thence to Illinois. After residing there seven years, engaged meanwhile in farming, he came in the autumn of 1866 to Mecosta County, and bought 80 acres of wild land in Millbrook Tp. He has since bought 40 acres more, and of the aggregate 120 acres has 40 acres under cultivation.

He was married in Canada, Feb. 10, 1851, to Harriet R., daughter of David and Lena (Mirkley) Welch, the former a native of New England, the latter of Canada. She was born in Upper Canada, Nov. 30, 1829. Mr. and Mrs. Decker have had nine children, of whom eight survive: Louisa H., born Jan. 25, 1852; Eva J., Oct. 25, 1856; Howard E., Feb. 25, 1859; Adella M., Jan. 21, 1862; William A., April 16, 1864; James E. C., March 12, 1868; Mary L., Dec. 29, 1871; Alberta E., Feb. 9, 1875; Edward H., born Feb. 7, 1854, died Jan. 17, 1856.



**B**artley Davis, deceased, was born Aug. 18, 1832. He was a son of Francis and Margaret Davis, natives of Belfast, Ireland. At the age of six years he came to Canada with his parents, and attended school at Toronto until he was 13 years old. Two years later he began to work in a saw-mill for Jonah Ugel, where he continued until he was 21 years old. In company with a son of his employer, he bought a saw-mill, and they went into business for themselves, where Mr. Davis thus operated five years. He sold his interest in the mill and went to live on a farm he had previously purchased, which he managed until 1861. He then came to Michigan, and purchased 80 acres of land in Hinton Tp., 70 acres of which were under the plow at the time of his death. Associated with William N. Seaton, Mr. Davis built and operated the first saw-mill in the township, located at Altona. He was connected with Mr. Seaton two years, and was engaged in lumbering to a greater or less extent each winter after coming to Hinton. During his life Mr. Davis was Supervisor several years. He died Feb. 13, 1879, after an illness of five years, of consumption. He was confined to his house but two weeks.

Mr. Davis was married April 10, 1858, in Canada,

to Lydia M., eldest daughter of William and Charlotte (Rose) Willett, born Jan. 17, 1832. Her parents reside in Hinton Tp. Of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis, three survive: Newton E., born April 12, 1859; Ella M., Nov. 22, 1861; Charlotte M., April 2, 1865. Two children died in infancy: Ezra W., born Oct. 7, 1860, died Feb. 18, 1881. Mrs. Davis resides on the homestead.

**S**idney Haskill, painter, resident on sec. 35, Aetna Tp., was born May 29, '29, in Yates Co., N. Y., and is son of Josiah and Chloe (Gage) Haskill. At the age of 15 he was apprenticed to Nathan Simson, a painter of that vicinity, and as he acquired the details of the trade with readiness and became a skilled workman in much less than the time required by the terms of his indenture, he was released and managed his own business engagements for three years. He then spent two years on the lakes; since 1860 he has been busy with his trade. During the time he was in the Empire State he worked on the N. Y. C. R. R.; going thence to Kansas, he worked on the Union Pacific R. R., as a bridge builder. He returned to Michigan, stopped at Port Huron, and a few months later went to Grand Rapids, where he arrived in the spring of 1863. He followed his trade 14 years in that city and then settled in Aetna Tp., on a farm near Morley. Since his location in the township he has worked with Higbee & Co.

He was married in 1850, to Catherine, daughter of Samuel and Anna Dutton, at Port Hope, Pr. of Ontario. Children: Albert, born Nov. 25, 1857; Rossanna W., August, 1859; Frank, Nov. 5, 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Haskill are adherents of the M. E. Church. Mr. H. is a Republican.

**J**ames A. Mills, farmer on sec. 20, Mecosta Tp., was born Sept. 7, 1847. He is a son of Alexander and Sarah (More) Mills, natives of Scotland and early emigrants to St. Johns, N. B., where the son was born. Mr. Mills took his fortunes into his own hands at nine years of age. He ran away to sea in the capacity of cabin boy, and was in that position two years when

he became shipmate. He was promoted to the post of second mate, and so performed his duties that he was offered the position of first mate, but declined, as he had determined to withdraw from a seafaring life. He had a desire to engage in the whale-fishing service of the Northern Ocean, and spent some months in the dangers and excitements of that life. He then engaged in cod-fishing service and followed it on the coast of Gaspe, Can. After four months he connected himself with a company of seal fishers and spent a considerable time in that region of icebergs. He then quitted ocean life and went to Upper Canada, where he remained but a brief time. His next remove was to Texas, where he was occupied some months in herding cattle. Coming North, via New York, to Canada, in 1859, he visited his native place. He came to Saginaw, Mich., and there operated as a lumberman one year, and was also engaged somewhat in river driving.

Mr. Mills came to Big Rapids in the fall of 1860, where he remained until his marriage. That event occurred July 8, 1861, to Mary, daughter of Jesse R. and Lydia (Mash) Green. Her parents were natives of Canada, where she was born Sept. 17, 1847. Mr. and Mrs. Mills have had one child, Alice May, born May 31, 1875. Mr. Mills is a Democrat.

**S**amuel J. Throp, of the firm of Fellows & Throp, druggists, at Big Rapids, was born at Fort Jefferson, Darke Co., Ohio, Oct. 28, 1845, and is a son of John A. Throp, born Oct. 24, 1822, in Monmouth Co., New Jersey, and Catharine Throp, born Dec. 3, 1825, in Warren Co., Ohio. His mother never changed her maiden name, yet there was no relationship traceable. His father was a wagon-maker, but on his removal to Three Rivers, Mich., in 1857, became associated with a partnership manufacturing company, in building the celebrated Invincible Vibrating Thresher and general agricultural implements; he sold his interest in the factory March 15, 1881, but retained his claims in the patents. In 1867 Mr. Throp went to Troy, Ill., and engaged in the merchant flouring mill of his uncle, Thomas A. Throp, as accountant. The latter died in 1873, and Mr. Throp was appointed administrator of the estate.

After an absence of seven years, and the affairs pertaining to the settlement were adjusted, he returned to Three Rivers, and in 1875 became secretary of a new incorporated company, namely, Roberts, Throp & Co., manufacturers of agricultural implements, in which his father had been actively and steadily connected for the past 25 years, being Director and Vice-President as well as General Manager and Superintendent. On account of failing health, simultaneously with his father's active withdrawal from the concern, Mr. Throp and his father sold their half interest in the capital stock, divided the notes and accounts and retained their share of the same. Their connection therewith had been very laborious and one of great responsibility, yet successful and meritorious in a financial sense. They together engaged in the collection of their outstanding accounts, until September, 1882.

During that month Mr. Throp came to Big Rapids and, in partnership with his brother-in-law, C. A. Fellows, purchased a stock of drugs of C. P. Bigelow, M. D., which they removed to their present place of business. They carry the largest stock of drugs and sundries in the city, and have the most complete and tastefully arranged business house, in their line, in Northern Michigan. Their business comprises wholesale as well as retail, and although already extensive, is steadily increasing.

Mr. Throp was married at Three Rivers, May 28, 1870, to Clara A., daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Hiles. Mrs. Throp was born in Montour Co., Pa., Aug. 27, 1848. Charles Henry, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Throp, was born at Troy, Ill., Sept. 16, '72.

**J**ohn Bellamy, farmer, sec. 8, Wheatland Tp., is a son of John and Jane (Cathart) Bellamy, the father a native of England, of mixed British and Irish blood, and the mother of Ireland; they came to America early in life and located in Ontario, Can., where they were married. Mr. Bellamy was born in Waterloo Co., Can., Sept. 5, 1855, and passed the first 23 years of his life in school and assisting his father on the farm. In the fall of 1878 he came to Mecosta County and passed one year in Wheatland Tp., with John Gingrich, his brother-in-law. Meanwhile he was married, June 14, 1879, to Leonora, daughter of

Peter and Mary (McDonald) Gingrich, who was born July 5, 1861, in Waterloo Co., Can., and when six years old accompanied her parents to Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy have two children: John H., born Dec. 25, 1879, and William A., Nov. 18, 1881. In politics Mr. Bellamy is a Democrat.

**H**arvey Harrington, proprietor of the hotel at Altona, Hinton Tp., was born in Ionia County, Mich., Aug. 2, 1848. His parents, William and Margaret (Staley) Harrington, were natives of Ohio. Their first removal thence was to Montcalm Co., Mich., and successively to Ionia, Gratiot and Calhoun Counties, and in 1869 went to Kansas, where they now reside. Mr. Harrington was 14 years of age when his parents went to Gratiot County. Their stay there lasted one year, and they then went to Calhoun County, where Mr. Harrington lived with them until he was 21 years of age. On attaining man's estate he went to Montcalm County, and there worked in a shingle-mill eight years. In 1873 he bought 40 acres of partly improved land in the township of Fairplain, in Montcalm Co. He took possession of this place as a residence in 1877, and in 1881 exchanged the property for 80 acres in Sheridan Tp., Mecosta Co., where he fixed his home in September, 1881. In February, 1883, he exchanged his farm for the hotel at Altona, which he is now managing.

Mr. Harrington was married in Montcalm County, Oct. 24, 1869, to Lois A., youngest child of Nathan and Mary A. (Rossmore) Rose. The latter were natives of New York, where Mrs. Harrington was born, Oct. 24, 1852. Her father died Feb. 4, 1862, and her mother lives with her. Mr. and Mrs. Harrington have had one child, George N., born April 3, 1871, and died Oct. 12, 1871. As to political issues, Mr. Harrington is a Republican.

**J**ohn M. Sims, farmer, sec. 2, Green Tp., was born Sept. 26, 1845, in Greene Co., Pa., and is the son of Martin and Eliza Jane (Mundy) Sims. Mr. Sims is descended from loyal ancestry, his great-grandfather having fought in the war of the Revolution, and also in that of 1812. His father was born in the





*J. W. Gardner.*



Keystone State, of English ancestry; was a farmer and millwright, and enlisted in the civil war as a soldier for the Union, finally locating in Van Buren Co., Mich., where he died, in 1876. The mother, born in County Down, Ireland, died Aug. 28, 1871.

True to the patriotic instincts of his race, Mr. Sims enlisted in the war of the Rebellion to defend the flag his ancestors had fought to establish, and is the youngest soldier recorded in this volume. He enrolled as his country's servant in the 12th Va. Infantry, Aug 9, 1869, when he was 15 years, 11 months and 13 days old. He was discharged June 16, 1865, having seen much active service in the memorable engagements of the war, among them the fight at Winchester, June 14, 1863, Harper's Ferry, in July, 1864, Battle of Winchester, and of Cedar Creek, Nov. 19, 1864, at Piedmont, Stanton, Lynchburg; and when transferred to the Army of the Potomac he fought at Hatcher's Run, near Petersburg, March 29, 30, 31, 1865, and April 1, following, at Fort Grey, near Petersburg, whence his command followed Lee on the extreme left of the Army Corps until the rebel chief surrendered to the Federal authority at Appomattox, of which event Mr. Sims was an eye witness. After Lee's capitulation the forces went from Lynchburg to Richmond, where they were discharged, and were mustered out at Wheeling. Mr. Sims sustained but one injury during the entire time, receiving a gunshot wound in the left leg in a skirmish near Harper's Ferry. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Winchester, June 14, 1863, and was held in captivity three months. At the end of that time he made his escape and rejoined his command, after passing four days and nights in the mountains almost wholly without supplies.

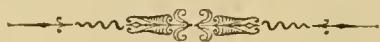
March 25, 1866, he came to Mecosta Co., Mich., and in 1868 bought 80 acres of land in Green Tp., where he has since followed farming. He was married to Ellen E. Robins in 1867; she was born in Potter Co., Pa., and is the daughter of James G. and Olive (Slade) Robins. Of this marriage one child was born, Otis Orlando. The mother died June 28, 1868. Mr. Sims was again married in 1869, to Elizabeth, daughter of John and Amy (Clark) Kitchen, a native of Canada, born Sept. 18, 1841. Her father was born in New Jersey, and is now living near Whitehall, Mich. Her mother was a native of New Brunswick and died in 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Sims' children are, Delbert, Anna B., Elsie M. and Viola.

**T**heodore C. Gardner, of Big Rapids, a portrait of whom we present upon the opposite page, was born Dec. 21, 1843, in Medina Co., Ohio, where he was reared under his father's care. He is a son of Reuben and Mary (Branch) Gardner, natives of New York, and of English descent. Mr. Gardner became a soldier when he was 18 years old, enlisting April 23, 1861, in the Eighth Ohio Infantry, Company K, Capt. W. F. Pierce. His command was attached to the Army of the Potomac, and during the period of his enlistment he was in 17 actions; among the most prominent were the battles of Bull Run, Antietam and South Mountain. From all the casualties of war Mr. Gardner fortunately escaped, and was neither wounded nor taken prisoner. He was made Sergeant soon after his first service in the war, and during the time was transferred to the Sixth U. S. Cavalry, in which he remained until he was mustered out, May 26, 1864. He returned to Ohio, and after two months entered the service of the Government, operating chiefly as a harness maker. He was thus employed about six months, and on the close of the war returned to Ohio. Soon after he came to Oceana Co., Mich., and entered 160 acres of land under the homestead act.

He returned to Medina Co., Ohio, and was married May 22, 1866, to Lydia A., daughter of Alden and Lois (Morse) Apthorp, the father a native of Massachusetts, and the mother of New York. They moved to Medina Co., Ohio, in 1840, where Mrs. Gardner was born, May 16, 1844. She was well educated in the common schools of the Buckeye State, and was a teacher some years previous to her marriage. After that event she accompanied her husband to Michigan, and they resided on his farm in Oceana County until the fall of 1870, when Mr. Gardner removed his interests to Millbrook, Mecosta County, and established a general mercantile business, with a stock of goods worth \$600. He continued to operate there until December, 1881, and during the time his business increased until it reached an aggregate of \$40,000 annually. He sold out at the time named to E. F. Horton, and moved to Remus, Wheatland Tp., where he established a mercantile business, on a basis of \$6,000. His annual sales

reach a figure of \$50,000, and he maintains one of the finest stores and best assorted lines of goods in Northern Michigan. He moved his family to Big Rapids, but continues to own and manage his extensive business interests at Remus.

In politics Mr. Gardner is a Republican, and has held positions of trust and prominence where he has resided. Cora D. Aphthorp, adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner, was born Dec. 30, 1871.



**H**anson H. Waterman, farmer on sec. 19, Deerfield Tp., was born in Massachusetts, Sept. 23, 1817. He is a son of Oliver and Miriam (Jennings) Waterman, who removed from the Bay State to New York and thence to Pennsylvania, where the mother died in 1863.

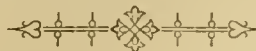
The father returned to New York soon after, and in 1868 joined his wife in the land of the hereafter.

Mr. Waterman was under the tutelage of his parents until he reached man's estate. He went with them to the State of New York, and a year later to Pennsylvania, where he pursued agriculture ten years, meanwhile arranging and preparing to enter the ministry. In 1849 he returned to New York and was installed pastor of the Southeast Stockton Baptist Church, and in 1850 received ordination. He retained his charge three years, at the end of that time accepting a call from the Baptist Church and society at Sheridan, N. Y., where he officiated two years. He resigned his post two years later and was installed pastor over the First Baptist Church at Aurora, Portage Co., Ohio. After a successful pastorate of two years, he accepted the charge at Auburn, O., where he remained two years; then went to Mecca, Trumbull Co., Ohio, and was there engaged in active ministerial work ten years. His health becoming impaired in 1869, he relinquished his connection with the ministry, resigned his charge, and came to Montcalm Co., Mich., where he bought 260 acres of unimproved land, built a log house and underwent all the experiences of the pioneer. But he made marked progress in the improvements on his property, and when he sold it in 1878, 120 acres of his farm was in an advanced state of cultivation.

In 1878 he came to Mecosta County and purchased 40 acres of partially improved land, now his

home and the place wherein he designs to pass his remaining life. He was married in Pennsylvania July 1, 1841, to Mary E., daughter of Lysander and Elizabeth (Saltsman) Mitchell, natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania. They settled in 1878 in Montcalm Co., but returned to Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Mitchell died Oct. 8, 1882, and her husband followed July 19, 1883. But three of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Waterman are living: Frances M., born June 13, 1849; Chas. B., May 2, 1857, and Elmer B., June 9, 1861. The parents gave two sons to the Union cause, and both are at rest in the soil which the lives they surrendered to save from the ruin of disunion have consecrated forever. Their honored names are Sylvester A., born Feb. 19, 1847, and died July 18, 1864; and George C., born Oct. 6, 1844, and died Feb. 23, 1866. The following is the record of three others who are in the home of everlasting peace: Mary J., born Feb. 13, 1847, died Sept. 7, 1874; Judson V., born Sept 9, 1854, died Sept. 11, 1854; Adaline C., born June 5, 1851, and died Sept. 9, 1854.

After a useful and active life of nearly 70 years, Mr. and Mrs. Waterman are passing the sunset of their life in serenity and trust. They are devoted to Christian work and are zealous in the interests of the Church of their choice. Mr. Waterman is a Republican.



**E**ster Cahill, farmer on sec. 15, Aetna Tp., was born April 8, 1841, in Canada. At the age of 15 he entered upon his single-handed contest with the world, and at 21 he came to Michigan, working as a farmer and lumberman until the fall of 1867. In 1868 he bought 40 acres of wild land, to which he added by purchase 40 acres of railroad land, whereon he built a log house and proceeded to prepare his farm for the sustenance of his family. He now has 30 acres under cultivation. In political sentiment Mr. Cahill is a Greenbacker, and the family are all adherents of the Catholic Church. Mr. Cahill has been Highway Commissioner one year and School Director two years. He was married in the township of Aetna, Aug. 5, 1867, to Sarah, daughter of William and Mary A. (Plimpton) Mitchell, natives of the

State of New York, and their children are, Vesta, born May 22, 1868; Alice, July 31, 1870; Frances W., Oct. 17, 1876; James E., July 8, 1880. Gertrude is deceased.

**Elijah Carr**, farmer on sec. 6, Hinton Tp., was born in New Jersey, Oct. 21, 1834. His parents, Samuel and Catherine (Wise) Carr, were born in New Jersey, and were pioneers in Oakland County, removing later to Greenville, Mecosta Co., where they died. Mr. Carr was but four years old when his parents became residents of Michigan. He obtained his education in the common schools, and worked on the farm until he was 22 years old. In 1856 he bought 80 acres of timber land in Greenville, Montcalm Co., and soon after purchased a similar acreage. He was a resident of the place for 22 years. He sold it in 1878, and bought 160 acres in Hinton Tp., now his residence and under his management.

Mr. Carr was married in Oakland County, Dec. 13, 1846, to Mrs. Mary H. Stewart, second daughter of John and Amanda (Jordan) Clark. Her parents were natives of Vermont, and in 1834 came to Michigan, settling in Montcalm County, where the mother died, June 5, 1849, the father dying several years later. Mrs. Carr was born in Pontiac, Oakland Co., Aug. 2, 1835. The family circle includes six children: Ellen E., John L., Alice M., Josephine B., Frances E. and Avery G. Mr. Carr is an adherent to the principles and issues of the Democratic party.

Mrs. Carr's first husband was Charles Stewart, and of that marriage one child was born—Sophia A.

**John B. Gingrich**, farmer, sec. 8, Wheatland Tp., is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Burkhardt) Gingrich, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and in early youth went to Canada, where they were married and reared their family. Mr. Gingrich was born in Waterloo Co., Can., May 2, 1847. He was married Nov. 15, 1866, to Mary J., daughter of John and Jane (Cathcart) Bellamy (see sketch), who was born in Wellington Co., Can., Aug. 17, 1846. Mr. Gingrich took his

wife to the home of his parents and lived with them one year, coming in the fall of 1867 to Michigan and locating on sec. 8, where he secured 120 acres of wooded land, with an old log hut thereon, which had been previously built and which the family occupied five years. The pioneer dwelling has given place to one more pretentious and comfortable; and 20 acres have been added to the farm, which now aggregates 140 acres, with 100 in first-class improvements and furnished with ample and suitable farm buildings.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Gingrich are as follows: Barbara J., born June 17, 1867; Rebecca, Feb. 28, 1869; William J., born Aug. 27, 1870, died Sept. 2, 1871; Joseph, born July 17, 1872, died Sept. 8, 1881; Susan, born July 1, 1874, died Sept. 17, 1881. The two last named died of diphtheria, nine days intervening between their deaths. Mr. Gingrich belongs to the Democratic party, and has held the post of Constable six years. The parents are members of the M. E. Church.

**Byron S. Davenport**, Paris, Green Tp., was born Jan. 2, 1862, in Barton, Newaygo Co., Mich., and is the youngest son of William and Jemima (Stanley) Davenport. The father was born in Wayne Co., Ind., Sept. 24, 1824, and is a son of Jesse Davenport, a native of England and a millwright by vocation. William Davenport moved to Columbia, Fayette Co., Ind., in 1845, where he engaged three years successfully in mercantile business. In 1856 he went to Barton, and has since resided there, pursuing his trade of millwright and mechanic. He purchased a half section of Government land, which his sons cleared and placed in good farming condition, leaving him to pursue his trade. Jemima Stanley was born Oct. 7, 1824, in Richmond, Ind., of English descent, and was married July 31, 1842, to William Davenport. They are the parents of one daughter and five sons.

Mr. Davenport, of this sketch, acquired his elementary education in the schools of Barton and in the high school of Big Rapids, finishing his studies at the Commercial College of Grand Rapids. In 1881, in company with his brother, he established himself in business in Paris, which connection continued nearly a year, and was brought to a close by

the unfortunate management of his brother, who involved their affairs in a hopeless intricacy and took his departure. Mr. Davenport adjusted matters as well as he was able, sold out the business and engaged, May 20, 1882, as salesman with D. Levy, of Big Rapids. A few months later he entered the employ of B. E. Hutchinson & Co., of Paris, as salesman, and remained with them until Feb. 22, 1883, when the concern failed and he was appointed by the assignee to sell out the stock. After this he engaged with W. D. Hopkinson as book-keeper and salesman, in which capacity he is still acting.



**H**enry H. Moore, farmer, sec. 20, Hinton Tp., was born March 28, 1849, in the State of New York, and is the youngest of a family of seven children. His father, Hiram Moore, was a native of New Hampshire, and went to New York when a boy, where his father was one of the first pioneers. The mother, Ann (Terrey) Moore, was born in the State of New York, where she was married in 1829. Her husband was unable to labor for 35 years before his death, having become disabled by over-exertion. He was cared for by his children during the later years of his life, and was the especial charge of his son, H. H. Moore, some years previous to his death, which occurred March 13, 1873, of cancer of the stomach. He was of a radical character, and during all his life was a consistent Christian man.

Mr. Moore of this sketch was 23 years old when his father died, and on the occurrence of that event removed to Kenosha Co., Wis., and was there occupied as a carpenter six months, moving thence to Janesville, and three months later to this county. In the spring of 1874 he bought 160 acres of unimproved land in Hinton Tp., worth at that time \$1,000. He built a frame house, and the first year cleared 20 acres; he now has 60 acres under improvement.

He was married in the State of New York, Nov. 23, 1869, to Emma L., third daughter of Asa and Louisa (Dow) Robbins, born in the Empire State, Jan. 26, 1848. Her parents were natives of Vermont, and were married in New York, where her

father died Dec. 8, 1876. Her mother is yet living, in Hinton Tp.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore are both persons of stable character. Their tastes and inclinations lead them into the best avenues of thought and action, and they are intimately associated with all popular movements and reformatory issues, whether social, moral or religious. Both were school-teachers, fond of books, and are correspondents of several local papers. They belong to two distinct temperance organizations, and are actively interested in the M. E. Church, in which Mr. Moore has been a Class-Leader most of the time since the organization of the society to which he belongs.

He is an inflexible Republican, and has officiated in several township offices, and failed of appointment to others only because of his radical temperance views.



**P**eter B. Gingrich, farmer on sec. 7, Wheatland Tp., is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Burkhart) Gingrich, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent, who went to Ontario, Can., in their childhood, where they were afterwards married. Mr. Gingrich was born in Waterloo Co., Can., Aug. 25, 1839. He had fair educational advantages, and in 1858 he apprenticed himself to F. G. Locknar, of Hawksville, to learn the art of blacksmithing. After serving his full time, three and one-half years, he became manager in the same shop where he had been instructed, and conducted the business two years. He was married Oct. 4, 1860, in Waterloo County, to Mary, daughter of James and Leonora (Newton) McDonald, natives respectively of Scotland and New York, who went early in life to the Dominion, where they were married and where the daughter was born, Sept. 3, 1841. After marriage Mr. Gingrich went into business on his own behalf in the town of Flora, Ont., where he pursued his trade until February, 1862, when he went to Winfield, Wellington Co., Ont. After operating there for a time his health became impaired and he sold out, starting in the spring of 1863, on a prospecting tour to Michigan, and worked to some extent at his trade. Prospects were not very flattering and he returned home and worked on a farm until the fall of 1867, when he again resolved on seek-





*C. H. Wernette.*

ing a home in the Peninsular State. Himself and brother exchanged 100 acres of land in Ontario for 240 acres in Wheatland Tp., Mr. Gingrich becoming the possessor of 120 acres, to which he has made an addition of 20 acres more. Of this, 75 acres are now as well improved as any in the county, and the owner has recently erected some very fine farm buildings thereon.

The family of Mr. Gingrich includes six children, born as follows: Leonora, July 5, 1861; Samuel A., Aug. 3, 1864; William A., Jan. 20, 1868; Henry W. B., Aug. 8, 1870; Franklin P., Jan. 31, 1875; Lillie G., May 25, 1878; Lavinia N., born Aug. 3, 1873, died Dec. 6, 1881.

In politics Mr. Gingrich is a staunch Democrat, and has held nearly every office of any prominence in the local government of his township. He is actively interested in the work of the society of Good Templars, to which he belongs, and in which he occupies the chair of P. W. C.

**C**hristian W. Wernette, resident at Mecosta village, Morton Tp., is a son of John and Mary (Veitheimer) Wernette, and was born June 15, 1851, in Waterloo Co., Canada. When he was 10 years of age his parents sent him to Berlin, in his native country, to college, with the view of educating him for a Romish priest; but his natural tastes were so decidedly averse to such a life that he left school at the end of the first year. In 1863 he came to Michigan and engaged several years as a farm laborer, and in 1865 went back to New York and enlisted in the State militia, but was not called into action. He was the youngest and the tallest man in the company. His regiment was mustered out of the service in the spring of 1866, when he returned to Mecosta County, and was employed about six months in the lumber woods. His next engagement was with the Chicago Lumber Co., cutting timber in the vicinity of the Manistee River. In 1875 he bought a farm of 290 acres, three miles southeast of Mecosta village, where he lived until that place was platted. Foreseeing the promising future of the rapidly growing and plucky little village, he bought a lot on Main street, and built a saloon, which he still carries on, holding a stock of about

\$3,000, embracing all articles common to his line of business, his annual sales amounting to about \$11,000. He acceded to the possession of the Wilson House, Sept. 15, 1882, which he afterward rented to R. H. Duly for three years, and in the spring of 1883 he bought the building where the *Mecosta Advance* is published, which is rented to the proprietor of that journal. July 1, 1883, he bought a half interest in a meat market adjoining his saloon, which is well patronized under the firm name of Reed & Wernette. His residence on North Franklin street was lately erected, at a cost of \$1,200; is handsomely fitted up with modern appurtenances, and is an ornament to the place. On his farm southeast of the city, he has built a large and commodious barn, which he has so planned as to have one of the finest water privileges in Northern Michigan. His place is stocked with a fine lot of blooded cattle and China pigs. He owns, besides, a 40-acre farm one mile north of Mecosta village; has also 40 acres of pine land, which he values very highly. He also owns a blacksmith shop on Main street, occupying two lots near the Town Hall.

Mr. Wernette is a Democrat in political faith. He has officiated as Supervisor of Morton Tp., and in 1880 was nominated for Representative from his district on the ticket of his party, but declined the position on account of ill health. Mr. Wernette has always been active in the interests of his township and of the community of which he is a member. To him belongs the credit of securing the establishment of mail privileges at Bingen (now Remus).

He was married July 3, 1875, at Grand Rapids, to Mary Pickette, daughter of a prosperous farmer of Kent County. Mr. and Mrs. Wernette have three children: Lillie R., Joseph W. and Jessy J.

Among the portraits of prominent citizens presented in this volume may be found that of Mr. Wernette.

**R**oland D. Reed, marketman (firm of Reed & Wernette), Mecosta, Morton Tp., was born in Hainsville, Medina Co., Ohio, Sept. 23, 1849. His parents, James and Elizabeth (Holcomb) Reed, are both deceased. His father was a native of Medina Co., Ohio, was a miller by trade, and died in Ionia, Mich., Nov. 10, 1861, aged 31 years, and his mother

died in Niles, Mich., May 1, 1873, at the age of 41 years.

In 1877 Mr. Reed engaged in the meat trade at Six Lakes, Montcalm County, and operated there with success three years, closing his business in March, 1880. In May following he opened a similar business at Mecosta village. July 1, 1883, he admitted C. W. Wernette as partner, and their business now amounts to \$1,000 per month. Mr. Reed is a member of the Maccabees' society. He owns his shop and slaughter-house grounds, comprising 18 acres and situated half a mile from town.

He was married March 24, 1876, to Millicent, daughter of Sydney and Elizabeth Edie, born at Lowell, Kent Co., Mich.

**M**rs. **Mary A. Dutcher**, residing on sec. 29, of Green Tp., was born in Liverpool, Eng., Aug. 16, 1820. She is a daughter of Edward and Elizabeth (Fowle) Hudson, natives of England. They came to America in 1823 and landed at St. John, New Brunswick, on the ninth of May. They were residents there until their death. Mrs. Dutcher was married Dec. 26, 1840, to Alexander McPhee, a native of Halifax, Nova Scotia. They went to Canada West and in 1861 moved to Michigan, locating in Mecosta County, where the husband followed farming until his death, which occurred May 21, 1864. The widow was a second time married in 1866, to Simeon S. Dutcher, a native of Greenbush, N. Y. He died June 30, 1880. Mrs. Dutcher has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 20 years.

**J**ohn **Clink**, farmer, sec. 33, Deerfield Tp., is son of John and Catherine (Brown) Clink. They were natives of New York, and after their marriage emigrated to Tuscola Co., Mich., where the mother is yet living; the father is deceased.

Mr. Clink was born in Canada, Nov. 19, 1843, and there grew to man's estate. In the autumn of 1862 he came to Deerfield township and purchased 80 acres of unbroken forest land, now the homestead of

George Helms. On selling his first landed estate, Mr. Clink bought 80 acres, where he now resides and has 20 acres under cultivation.

The marriage of Mr. Clink with Charlotte, fourth daughter of John and Anna (Nunn) Sanger, took place Feb. 23, 1862. Mrs. Clink's parents were natives of Canada, and there remained resident until their death. The seven children born of this marriage are recorded as follows: John H., born May 10, 1866; Millie, June 22, 1868; Devilo, May 24, 1870; Thomas, April 21, 1872; Clyde, March 15, 1875; Annie (dec.), June 21, 1864; Wm. (dec.), Nov. 19, 1881.

Mr. Clink has been Constable in Mecosta County nearly 10 years; was re-elected, and also chosen Drain Commissioner in the spring of 1883, but declined the positions. He is a Democrat in political principle.

**C**harles **E. Warner**, farmer, sec. 20, Etna Tp., was born in Summit Co., Ohio, Sept. 12, 1842. He is a son of Andrew and Laura (Riley) Warner, who were born in New York and recently died in Michigan. When four years old Mr. Warner was taken to the home of an uncle, where he remained until he was 19 years of age, when he returned to his childhood's home. After a brief sojourn there, he set forth with strong determination to make his way in the world, and was variously occupied for several years, when he came to Michigan and found employ in the mills at Grand Rapids for some time. Meanwhile he took advantage of a good opportunity to purchase a farm near that city, on which he located in 1878. After a few years he resolved on making another change, and went to Indiana, where he remained some years, operating summers as an engineer and spending the alternate winters in lumbering. He had, during this time, invested some money in a farm in Etna Tp., where he took up his residence in 1878. The place contains 120 acres.

Mr. Warner was married March 26, 1866, to Etta A., daughter of William and Susan J. (Reed) Hill, a native of Massachusetts, born April 26, 1859. Their children are Frank E., Dora B., Wm. E., Homer R., Harris L., Charles C. and Bertha M. Mr. and Mrs. Warner are members of the M. E. Church. Mr.



Warner has been identified with the Republican party since the beginning of his connection with politics.



**J**ames Mitchell, farmer, sec. 10, Aetna Tp., was born Feb. 7, 1815, in the State of New York, and is a son of Zephaniah P. and Annie (Sexton) Mitchell, natives of the Empire State. He remained in his native State until the fall of 1845, when he came to Wayne Co., Mich., and spent five years as a farm laborer, coming thence to Sparta, Kent Co.; and a year later he went to Nottawa, St. Joseph Co., and bought 80 acres of land, which was in his possession ten years. In the spring of 1861 he came to Mecosta County and settled in Aetna Tp., where he took 40 acres of wild land under the swamp act. He built a log house and entered upon the labor of clearing the land. In 1868 he bought 40 acres lying adjacent to his original purchase, making an aggregate of 80 acres, 60 of which are under cultivation, and on which he fixed his residence. He was married to Susan, daughter of Jonathan Western, who died in 1863, and four of their seven children survive: Nathaniel, Oliver, Asa and Adeline. In 1865 he was again married, to Kate, daughter of John and Ellen Gilluly, natives and life residents of Ireland. The family belong to the Catholic Church, and Mr. Mitchell is a Democrat.



**J**ohn McKewen, farmer, sec. 27, Deerfield Tp., was born in Canada, May 14, 1855. He is a son of Michael and Julia (Levick) McKewen, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Canada. In 1871 the parents moved to Shiawassee Co., Mich., where the father died, in February, 1882, when the son was 16 years of age. Six years later, John came to Deerfield Tp., and bought 40 acres of land on sec. 28, then in a wholly unimproved condition, and has since purchased 40 acres on sec. 27, where he is now resident. He was married Oct. 30, 1880, to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of John and Mary (Martin) O'Neil. In

the following year Mr. McKewen took a journey West on account of the health of his wife, but all efforts were unavailing, and she died Aug. 20, 1881, of liver disease, from which she was ill eight months.

In politics Mr. McKewen is independent; in religion he is a Roman Catholic.



**M**atthew Roben, retired merchant, residing at Big Rapids, was born at Ryegate, Caledonia Co., Vt., Sept. 1, 1814. He comes of a long line of Scotch ancestry, originating in Renfrewshire, Scotland, and traceable for many generations—a family of means and influence in their native country. His great-grandfather, Walter Roben, was born in 1719, at Renfrew, and died in 1784. His wife was Isabella (Gardner) Roben. His son, Matthew Roben, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, came to this country with his family in 1803. He was one of the original founders of the Scotch colony in Caledonia Co., Vt., which is perhaps the most extensive Scotch settlement in the United States. He was also a Mason of high degree, and a prominent organizer of Masonic lodges in Vermont at that early day. His wife was Jean (Harvey) Roben, born near Glasgow, Scotland, and of a family of prominence in that locality.

Walter Roben, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Renfrewshire, Scotland, near Glasgow, in 1786, and died at Ryegate, Vt., Aug. 13, 1867, at the age of 81 years. He was a farmer by occupation. His wife, Polly (Thomas) Roben, mother of Matthew, was born in New Hampshire, in 1788, and died at Ryegate, Vt., in her 85th year.

Mr. Roben was reared on his father's farm, and obtained a common-school education, which was supplemented by attendance for a considerable time at the Vermont Wesleyan University at Newbury.

He came to Ohio in 1835, where he engaged in teaching school, at first in Tuscarawas County, and afterwards in Morrow (then a part of Richland) County. After several years he purchased a farm in Morrow County, near the village of West Point, and engaged in farming. Later, he added another farm to this, and built a store in West Point, where for some time he sold a general stock of goods, and at the same time attended to the management of his

farms. In these business operations he was quite successful.

Having been elected County Recorder of Morrow County, he removed to Mount Gilead, the county seat, where he continued to reside during the remainder of the time he lived in Ohio, a period of 18 years. Mr. Roben was a resident of what is now Morrow County about 35 years in all, and was thoroughly identified with the early growth and interests of that county.

Having contracted the asthma, and his health being poor, he removed with his family in 1872 to Cassopolis, Mich., where he resided one year; but not finding his health much improved by the climate of that place, he removed to Big Rapids, in May, 1873. Soon afterward he built a store and residence on State street, and in 1874 went into mercantile business again, carrying on a general store, and doing a safe but limited business, such as his health would permit. In 1881, he retired from business.

Mr. Roben was married in Knox Co., Ohio, in 1840, to Esther Albach, who was born in Northumberland Co., Pa., in 1819, and came with her parents' family to Ohio when a young lady. Her father was John Albach, a wealthy farmer, a leading citizen, and an early pioneer of Northumberland County. Mr. and Mrs. Roben have had seven children—two sons and five daughters. Their eldest son and daughter died in childhood. Their surviving son, Douglas (see sketch), and four daughters reside in Big Rapids. Two daughters are married, and of the two remaining unmarried, one is a teacher, and the other an artist.

Mr. Roben belongs to the Order of Odd Fellows, (an Encampment member), and is a Royal Arch Mason.

**G**ottlieb Staab, farmer, on sec. 20, Green Tp., was born Aug. 3, 1816, in Wurtemberg, Germany, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Wilder) Staab. He was educated and lived in the "Faderland" until 1847, when he sailed for the New World, and landed on the shores of this continent April 20 of that year. He remained awhile in Pittsburg, Pa., going thence to Wheeling, W. Va., and from there to Ohio, where he labored as a farm hand. Later on he bought 40 acres of land in Wheatland, Ind. After pursuing

agriculture there six years, he sold and came to Barton, Newaygo Co., Mich., where he bought 160 acres of land. He lives there three years and cleared 20 acres, after which he sold out, and in the spring of 1860 settled on section 20 of Green Tp., where he now owns 82 acres of land, with about 50 under tillage.

Mr. Staab was married in 1848, in Wheeling, Va., to Sophia Colder, who was born in Germany, and died June 10, 1874. In 1878 Mr. Staab went to Germany, returning in the fall of 1879. He was married in 1880 to Christina Guge, who died June 2, 1883. Mr. Staab is a Republican in politics.

**J**ohn Wiseman, Big Rapids, dealer in pictures, picture frames, wall paper, brackets, etc., combines a news depot with his business, and makes a specialty of undertaking, being a funeral director. He was born June 29, 1830, in Columbiana Co., Ohio. His father was a farmer, and he was brought up to agricultural pursuits, and acquired a common-school education. In 1846 his parents removed to Marion County and bought a farm. There Mr. Wiseman was married, April 25, 1852, to Hannah, daughter of Jonathan and Susan Merrick. Of their two children, one—Morris—grew to maturity, and is engaged in the restaurant and boarding-house business at Stanton.

In 1854, Mr. Wiseman moved to Ottawa Co., Mich., where he bought a farm of 160 acres. His wife died in 1857, and he afterward married Jane McGinnis. Charles, Emily and John are the names of the three children born to them. The daughter is a tailoress and dressmaker in Coldwater, Mich. The youngest son is dead. The mother died Feb. 25, 1864. Mr. Wiseman was married a third time in Ottawa County, to Eliza Waters. Emmet and Linda are the names of their two children.

In the spring of 1871 Mr. Wiseman came to Big Rapids, and opened a store for the sale of general merchandise, which he transferred to a grocery business. This he sold in 1872, and established himself as an undertaker and dealer in furniture. He closed the latter and added the merchandise mentioned. His establishment is tastefully arranged, and presents all the features of a first-class art and news





Clarence L. Northrup.

depot. His stock comprises a collection valued at \$7,000, and his yearly transactions reach a figure of \$12,000. Mr. Wiseman belongs to the Order of Odd Fellows at Big Rapids.



**E**larence L. Northrup, senior member of the firm of Northrup & Malone, attorneys and real-estate dealers, was born in North Adams, Hillsdale Co., Mich., June 28, 1844, and is a son of Jabez S. and Mary A. (Monroe) Northrup.

He traces his paternal lineage to the Colonial period of this nation's history, when several brothers of his patronymic came from England to Connecticut. A descendant of these, Daniel Northrup, moved to Saratoga Co., N. Y., previous to the war of the Revolution. Lewis Northrup, son of Daniel, was born there Jan. 15, 1768, was married September 15, 1792, to Robah Smith (born in Milton, Saratoga Co., N. Y., May 20, 1772, and died Oct. 3, 1838), and died May 9, 1853, leaving four sons and one daughter. Most of their descendants yet reside in Saratoga and Fulton Counties in the Empire State. Jabez S. Northrup, third son, was born in Galway, Saratoga Co., April 20, 1803. He began teaching at the age of 18, and continued in that vocation many years. From 1821 to 1825 he belonged to the State militia, and was assigned to the Governor's staff, with the rank of Lieutenant. He was married Nov. 11, 1829, to Huldah Smith, and removed with his family seven years later to the (then) Territory of Michigan, and bought a considerable tract of land in Hillsdale County, most of which is the present site of North Adams. His wife died in 1842, leaving four daughters. May 3, 1843, he married Mary Celina, eldest daughter of Lester and Lorena (Rolfe) Monroe, born Dec. 28, 1821, and by this marriage he became the father of seven sons and one daughter. Lester Monroe, was born April 16, 1796, at Cooperstown, Albany Co., N. Y., and was the son of David and Anna (Andrus) Monroe. The former was born Sept. 26, 1768, and was cousin to James Monroe, fifth President of the United States. The Monroe stock is of Scotch origin, and its representatives are diffused through both sections of this country. David Monroe and Anna Andrus were

married Jan. 16, 1794. The latter was born Oct. 23, 1771, and died June 12, 1817. The former died July 31, 1837, leaving a large family of children. Lester Monroe served with distinction in the war of 1812, participating in the battles of Lundy's Lane, etc., and at the close of the war retired to private life. He was married Sept. 12, 1817, to Lorena Rolfe, born April 9, 1801, of parents made conspicuous by the fact that they were survivors of the Wyoming massacre. In 1836 Lester Monroe moved with his family to Pittsford, Hillsdale Co., Mich., and is now living in that county, aged 87 years.

Mr. Northrup of this sketch is the eldest son. His father removed to Jefferson, Hillsdale County, and bought a valuable farm near Osseo, where he was reared and educated with care, his father and step-sisters being experienced teachers. The underlying element governing his father in the rearing of his children was to leave them as a heritage "liberal education, good business habits and strict religious principles." Mr. Northrup was but 17 years old when civil war in all its blind fury and with all its ineffaceable disasters shook the nation throughout its wide extent. The studious, reflective boy, whose every impulse had been disciplined to revere his country, and to regard her integrity as almost of divine origin, was inspired with the same ambition that led the sons of the North to rise as one man and rescue the nation from the consequences of the infuriated folly of the South. In March, 1862, he left school and hastened home. No remonstrance of parent or friend availed aught to change his determination to dare the fate of war and die, if need be, in the cause of home and country. He enlisted in Co. E (Hillsdale Light Guard), Fourth Michigan Vol. Inf., and was soon in front of Yorktown, his regiment having been assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He saw much hard service in that severest, most disastrous campaign of the war, the Peninsular struggle under McClellan. He was in action through the Seven Days' Battles, was with Pope in his short career with the Army of Virginia, and fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness and Spottsylvania Court-House. At the last, the Fifth Army Corps, to which his regiment was attached, led the advance; and during the struggle of May 10, 1864, he sustained a dangerous gunshot wound, lying six hours on the field before he was discovered and

taken to Emory Hospital, at Washington. When sufficiently recovered he was sent to the York (Pa.) Hospital. His period of enlistment expired before he was wholly recovered, and he received his discharge March 18, 1865, after more than three years' arduous service. After the expiration of his term of service he was in the Government employ until the Rebellion was crushed and peace restored, when he again traversed the fields where he had before met only uncompromising conflict.

Mr. Northrup passed the next two years in farming and study and as telegraph operator. He was united in the holy bonds of matrimony April 6, 1867, to Katie Maud, youngest daughter of George and Lanie (Fox) Wilson, born at Kalamo, Eaton Co., Mich., Oct. 2, 1849. Her father was born in England, and her mother in Montgomery Co., N. Y., and were pioneers of Eaton County, where they located in 1837. Mrs. Northrup was educated at Marshall, Mich., and is a lady of earnest, Christian character, of retiring habits, and well known only to those who see her in her private walks of life. She belongs to the Congregational Church, and is a quiet worker in the Sunday-school.

Mr. and Mrs. Northrup have had four children, viz. Vannie P., born Dec. 25, 1868; Vernon W., April 3, 1870; Vera Maria, born May 16, 1875, died July 30, 1876; Veda Maud, March 24, 1878.

After his marriage Mr. Northrup went to Sherman, Wexford Co., Mich., where he remained but a short time, and returned to Eaton County, going back to Sherman a few months later, and there employing his time as a farmer, speculator, teacher, and salesman in a store, meanwhile reading for the profession of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1874, and soon after entered into partnership with the Hon. T. A. Ferguson. While at Sherman he served as Deputy Sheriff, acted several years as a member of the Board of Supervisors, and was the first County Superintendent of Schools. In 1875 he went to Traverse County and taught school a year, going thence to Benzie County, and in June, 1876, he located at Benzonia, the county seat. He was appointed Deputy County Clerk, and the same year was elected Circuit Court Commissioner of Benzie County, which office he held six years. He was also Village Clerk of Benzonia three years. In 1878 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of the county, and

re-elected in 1880. During the campaign preceding his second election, the opposing candidate said of him: "I consider him the most industrious, careful and painstaking lawyer in Benzie County. His standing as a citizen in the community is well evidenced by the remarkable number of offices of profit and honor he has been chosen to fill by the suffrages of his fellow-citizens."

The records make a rare exhibit concerning the private character, professional ability, manly integrity and stainless reputation of Mr. Northrup, which need no stronger testimony than the names of Judge McAlvey and Hon. A. H. Dunlap, of Manistee, Judge Hatch, of Traverse City, Judge Goodrich, of South Frankfort, Hon. D. C. Leach, M. C., Colonel Fowler, of Gov. Begole's staff, and Gen. Cutchen.

In the fall of 1882 Mr. Northrup sought a wider field of effort, and made a prospecting tour of the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin, and a few months later visited Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska; but he resolved to adhere to his first love, and in April, 1883, removed to Big Rapids and opened a law office in the Opera block. Not long afterward he formed an association with G. R. Malone, a young attorney of high character and unmistakable promise, under the style of Northrup & Malone, Lawyers and Real-Estate Brokers. The business of the concern is in a thriving condition, and the established probity and worth of the gentlemen at its head are extending its scope and giving permanency to its purposes.

We take great pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Northrup in this work.

**E**dward Haslem, farmer, sec. 16, Green Tp., was born in Queens Co., Ireland, Dec. 8, 1830, and is a son of John and Ann (O'Connor) Haslem. His father died in Ireland when he was but six years old, and his mother came to America in 1847, and located in Cayuga Co., N. Y., going thence to Noble Co., Ind., where she resided until her death, which occurred in 1870.

Mr. Haslem attended school in his native country, walking five miles to obtain the privilege. He accompanied his mother to the United States and remained with her in New York until 1852, when he

came to Michigan and settled for a time in Washtenaw County. He came to Mecosta County in the fall of 1855 and located a farm in the township of Green, where he was one of the first residents, and assisted in the organization of the township in 1858. He bought a farm of 80 acres where he now resides, 40 acres of which are well improved.

Mr. Haslem enlisted in the war for the suppression of the Southern Rebellion, in September, 1861, in the Second Mich. Cav., and was in the service three years and two months. Among the engagements where he was in action were, Island No. 10, Corinth, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Look-out Mountain, Dalton, Resaca, Big Shanty, Buzzard's Roost, Marietta, Atlanta and Chickamauga, besides numerous skirmishes. He was wounded at Spring Hill, Miss., and also received a slight wound in the left shoulder at Frankfort. He was discharged in 1864, at Nashville, Tenn., and on his return home resumed his farming.

Mr. Haslem was married in the fall of 1864, to Mary, daughter of Patrick and Mary (McNally) Montague, born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1837. Her parents brought her to the United States when she was three months old. After a stay of considerable time in New York they came to Washtenaw Co., Mich., and resided there until death. Mr. and Mrs. Haslem belong to the Roman Catholic Church, and have seven children: Mary, James H., Margaret, Frank Edward, John W., Catherine Agnes and Emma Florence.

**G**eorge Brackett, proprietor of the Brackett House, Big Rapids, was born in North Hannon, Me., Jan. 7, 1844. He is a son of George and Eleanor (Kelley) Brackett, and was reared a farmer, that being the vocation of his father.

At the age of 17 he became a soldier for the Union, and enlisted in Bangor, Me., Nov. 23, 1861, in Co. A, 13th Maine Vol. Inf., under Capt. Fred A. Stevens, and was in the service a little more than three years. Among his war experiences were the fights under Gen. Phil. Sheridan, in the Shenandoah Valley, up the Red River with Banks, at Pleasant Hill and Sabina Cross Roads, at the taking of Fort Esperanza, in Texas, and in 1863 was in Washing-

ton during the attempted raids. He was in 13 engagements and in numerous skirmishes, receiving his discharge Jan. 7, 1864, at Augusta, Me. On his return to his home he engaged as a drover and butcher until November, 1867, when he came to Big Rapids, and engaged four years in lumbering. He was then employed at the Big Rapids Furniture Factory, and at the end of one year was made foreman, which position he held five years.

In 1876, Mr. Brackett built the hotel where he is now operating, and rented it until 1879, when he opened a furniture store therein and managed it until the fall of 1880. It was then remodeled into a hotel, to which purpose it has since been devoted. The house has 30 rooms for guests, also a saloon with liquors and cigars. He also erected a building adjoining, where he keeps a restaurant and bakery.

Mr. Brackett was married in Croton, Newaygo Co., to Ellen Stengel, a daughter of Joseph and Ellen Stengel. They are the parents of five children: Fred. T., Lillie B., Cora, Edna and Charles P. George Arthur is deceased. Mr. Brackett is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

**E**rson T. Carpenter, farmer on sec. 21, Etna Tp., was born in Clinton Co., Sept. 21, 1838. He is a son of Benjamin and Luna (Spicer) Carpenter, who were natives of New York, and moved to this State soon after their marriage. Mr. Carpenter was under the parental guidance until eleven years of age, when, being a restless boy with an ambition to advance in the world, he was allowed to take his fate into his own hands, and labored as he was able to find employment until the fall of 1856; then he returned home and spent a year, attending the district school three months. In 1857 he became a sailor, and was on a "merchantman" until 1859. His next permanent occupation was as a soldier of the Union army. He enlisted in the Third U. S. Artillery, Co. K, and was in the service four years, his regiment being attached three years to the Army of the Potomac, during which time he was under fire in 12 engagements, escaping entirely without injury, and receiving honorable discharge July 29, 1864. Immediately thereafter he went into the Navy as an ordinary seaman,

was wounded and taken prisoner at Red Bluff, Ga., whence he escaped by taking "French leave," making good his voluntary flight by the aid of his trusty "understandings."

On leaving the service of the United States in 1865 he came to Wayne Co., Mich., and engaged in agriculture, which he followed until 1871, then came to Mecosta County and settled at Morley, residing there eight years. During this time he was in active official duty as Township Clerk, City Marshal and in various other positions. Meanwhile he had purchased a farm on sec. 21, in the western part of the township, and in 1880 he settled upon it to pass the remainder of his life. He was married Nov. 21, 186-, to Amelia, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Michel) Lovesy, who was born in Livingston Co., Mich., June 4, 1843. The five children of Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter are all living and were born in the following order: Henry J., Oct. 3, 186-; William F., Sept. 21, 1868; Gracie, Aug. 8, 1870; Effie, April 21, 1873; Frank, Aug. 13, 1876.

**B**artlett H. McMullen, M. D., practicing physician at Morley, was born in Stratford, Can., Sept. 15, 1857, son of John S. and Margaret (Holland) McMullen, who were born in Canada and came to Michigan in 1860, settling at Saginaw and moving afterward to Bay City, where they are now resident. Dr. McMullen has been a resident of this State since he was three years old. He remained under his father's care until he was 17 years of age, acquiring his primary education. He entered the Medical College at Detroit, and studied there nearly five years. He received his diploma and entered upon practice, which he prosecuted six months, then came to Mecosta County and settled at Morley, where he has since resided, and has a large and continually growing practice. He is esteemed in his profession and is rapidly gaining popular confidence. The Doctor is a Republican and a charter member of Excelsior Lodge, K. of H., No 1830, at Howard City, Mich. He was married at Morley, Mich., Sept. 7, 1882, to Alice M., eldest daughter of Geo. W. and Eliza (Adams) Sams. Her parents were natives of Illinois, but went to Ohio in its pioneer days, coming thence

to Michigan, where they are yet living. Mrs. McMullen was born Dec. 22, 1864. Dr. McMullen has held the post of School Superintendent, and is now Health Officer of Aetna Tp.

**P**encer Nickens, barber, at Morley, was born May 2, 1840. His parents, Nathaniel and Sinnia Nickens, were natives of the Eastern shore of Maryland, and in that State and in Virginia Mr. Nickens passed his early life.

In the summer of 1864 he came to Grand Rapids, and the first year was employed as porter in a hotel, and was next engaged in learning his trade. He founded his business at Cedar Springs in the spring of 1870, and has since followed his present profession. He is a respected citizen of Morley, is a member of the Order of Masonry, and belongs to the Knights Templar.

In politics he is a Republican; a man of liberal views, and an endorser and follower of the principles of the Golden Rule. He is radical in his views of temperance and morality.

The great-grandfather of Mr. Nickens was a soldier of the war of 1812, and was Color-bearer of his regiment. When the civil war broke out, he, having no employment, and his love of the Union very strong, went into the employ of Gen. Birney, and during three years acted as his valet. Mr. Nickens is a fine type of what his race has become since the terrible conflict that placed it on an equality with other men. He proves that, notwithstanding the perplexities of his color and profession, a man may, through moral qualities, take fair rank with more pretentious individuals.

**D**aniel L. Welch, farmer on sec. 27, Deerfield Tp., was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., April 9, 1838. His parents, Lyman H. and Judith (Stansell) Welch, were natives of the Empire State, where the mother still lives; the father died in the fall of 1839. Daniel L. made his initial essay in life at the age of 17, and was variously occupied until the age of 32, when he fixed upon agriculture as a vocation in life. He







*F. Pittman*

bought 50 acres of land in Montcalm Co., Mich., which he sold in 1879, and purchased 40 acres in Deerfield, where he now lives. His farm was partly improved, and he speedily put the place into the best condition.

He was married in August, 1865, to Susannah M., daughter of Howland and Harriet (Conkling) Soule, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York. They settled in Lenawee Co., Mich., in the fall of 1845, removing thence to Montcalm County, where they yet live. The two children of Mr. and Mrs. Welch are deceased. Otto A. was born March 1, 1843, and died Oct. 25, 1881. An infant died at birth.

Mr. Welch is an adherent of the Democratic party.



**F**redERIC Pfistner, farmer, sec. 26, Mecosta Tp., and whose portrait we give upon the opposite page, is a son of John and Jennie (Rusler) Pfistner, natives of Germany, where they were married and reared their children. Mr. Pfistner was born in Germany, Feb. 7, 1834, and remained at home until he was 19 years of age. He studied nine years in the excellent schools and colleges of Germany, acquiring a fine education, particularly in languages. On completing his studies he came alone to the United States, and landed at New York in the spring of 1853, going thence to Chicago. After paying his railroad fare thither he had but three cents left, and he borrowed \$3 of a chance acquaintance with which to procure food while on his journey. Upon his arrival at the Garden City he pawned his trunk to obtain the money to reimburse the confiding stranger. He took passage for Muskegon, and the gentleman who advanced the sum he needed, on learning the circumstances released his claim, and the captain permitted him to work out his fare to his destination. He arrived there friendless and penniless, but immediately found employment in getting out timber, for which he received a dollar a day, and was enabled to repay the sum of his indebtedness. He had worked two months, when he contracted the fever and ague and was compelled to remain idle four months. After he

had paid his expenses he had \$3 left, and set out for Big Rapids on foot. He found lodging in a lumber shanty, and had in his pocket one dollar to supply his needs until he could secure work. This he soon accomplished, engaging to work for the Long Bros., in the lumber camp of that company a few miles above the present site of the city. He worked for Shaw & Ives two summers, helping to clear up the land where the city of Big Rapids now stands. He remained in the employ of Long Bros. until the following spring, then returned to Muskegon and took a job of lumber driving, which occupied him some months. On its termination he went to Osceola County and worked with a man three years.

After the completion of the three years' service above mentioned, Mr. Pfistner came to Mecosta County and purchased 160 acres of valuable land in Mecosta Township, whereon he settled, and has since added 500 acres to his landed estate. Two hundred acres of this has been put into a good condition of cultivation, and the entire property is justly rated the finest in Austin Tp. The farm buildings are of the best, and his residence, acknowledged the most valuable in the township at the time of its construction, cost \$8,000. The farm is stocked with 51 head of cattle, 150 sheep and 50 hogs. Mr. Pfistner was married Oct. 18, 1860, to Mrs. Mary Yager, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Lute) Roosh, and widow of Lorence Yager, who was killed Nov. 19, 1859, by the falling of a limb. He left one child—Herman—born May 31, 1859, and died Nov. 1, 1881, of typhoid fever. Mr. and Mrs. Pfistner have had seven children, three of whom are deceased: Emma and Alice (twins), born June 8, 1872, died Dec. 21, 1881; Fred., born June 22, 1875, died Jan. 22, 1882. The record of births of the children living is as follows: Mary, June 8, 1861; Amelia, July 31, 1863; Jennie, June 6, 1866; Ida, Feb. 8, 1869.

Mr. Pfistner is a Democrat, and has held several school and township offices. He built the first school-house in the township, and, conjointly with his neighbors, secured a school two years before the organization of school districts in the township.

In religious views Mr. Pfistner's family affiliate with the German Lutheran Church.

**J**ohn Rierdon, farmer and tanner, Morley, was born in Exeter, England, Sept. 24, 1842, and emigrated to America with his parents, Thomas and Betsey (Osborne) Rierdon, natives of England. On coming to this country they settled in Ontario County, Can., in July, 1843, where they resided until death. Mr. Rierdon was but ten months old at the time he was brought to the Dominion, where he lived until 25 years of age. In 1867 he came to Grand Rapids and was employed as a teamster two years. In 1870 he obtained a situation as inspector of lumber at Pierson, Montcalm Co. and filled the position two years. In the fall of 1873, he was engaged by Alex. Stewart & Co., to keep a boarding-house and act as general overseer of their mill, in the township of Aetna, in this county, a duty he discharged 18 months. He purchased 40 acres of unbroken timber land one mile west of Morley, on section 26, in 1876, built a frame house and began to improve his land. June 27, 1879, his house and nearly all its contents were destroyed by fire. He then erected a house in Morley, which he afterward bought.

Mr. Rierdon was educated in the common and grammar schools of Canada; has held several township and other offices, and been active in advancing the interests of Morley. He was married in Toronto, Canada, to Mary J., daughter of Thomas and Cecelia (Hutton) Smith, born in Fond du Lac, Canada. Her father died in the spring of 1864, and her mother removed to Port Hope, Canada, and still resides there. Mr. Rierdon is a Republican, and is at present Supervisor of Morley.

**B**enjamin G. Tagg, farmer on sec. 32, Deerfield Tp., was born in Allegan Co., Mich., Sept. 16, 1859. He was educated and reared to the age of 18 years in his native county, and on leaving home came to Deerfield, Mecosta County. He is a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Pickles) Tagg, natives of England, who emigrated to America about the year 1850, and found a residence near Rochester, N. V. They

lived there five years and removed to Allegan Co., Mich., where they are yet living.

Mr. Tagg left home at the age of 18 to engage in agriculture on his own responsibility. He bought 80 acres of wild land in Deerfield, Mecosta Co., built a log house, and proceeded to improve his land after the customary methods, and now has a well located and profitable farm. He was married May 6, 1879, to Annie C., daughter of Robert and Mary Little. Mrs. Tagg was born May 6, 1857. She was the mother of two children—Florence E. and George R. The latter died in early infancy, and the mother passed from earth March 17, 1883.

**S**car T. White, minister, and farmer on sec. 16, Mecosta Tp., was born in Crawford Co., Pa., Sept. 6, 1848. His father, Jerome White, was a native of New York, and his mother, Lovinda (Lasner) White, was born in Pennsylvania, of French descent. At the age of 16 Mr. White found himself at liberty to hew out his own career in the world, and went to Dodge Co., Minn. His first employment was as a farm laborer eight months; he then went to Wisconsin, where his stay was brief. Home ties and influences still held him, and he returned to his native State, where he was married, May 10, 1867, to Caroline E., daughter of Miranda and Jesse (Armsbery) Main, natives of New York, who was born in Erie Co. Pa., Jan. 29, 1847. The newly married pair settled in Crawford Co., Pa., on a farm, and there remained until the winter of 1871.

They came to Newaygo Co., Mich., and Mr. White engaged as a lumberman two years. In 1873 they came to Mecosta County, fixed their residence in the then township of Colfax, where, however, they made a brief stay; returning to Pennsylvania, Mr. White occupied a short time as a fruit-tree agent there, and came back to Michigan, following that line of business until the spring of 1876, when he settled permanently where he now resides, having previously purchased a farm of 48 acres, which he has increased by the addition of 40 acres more, and has 20 acres under the plow.

Mr and Mrs. White have had four children: Helen A., born Nov. 14, 1868; Ala M., Aug. 27, 1870;

Mabel, Dec. 27, 1877; Gracie, born Oct. 2, 1880, and died Oct. 4, 1880.

They have been connected with the Church of Christ three years, in which communion Mr. White officiates every two weeks in the neighborhood where he resides. In political views he is independent, but on temperance issues is a radical prohibitionist. He has held the office of Township Clerk, Justice of the Peace, and in 1877 was elected delegate to the State Gubernatorial Convention.

**E**dward C. Rogers, farmer, sec. 11, Grant Tp., was born Jan. 4, 1841, in Orwell, Addison Co., Vt. He is a son of Robert H. and Abigail Rogers, both of whom are now living at Middlebury, Vt. The father is a native of New York, and is of Spanish and German extraction; the mother was born in Connecticut, and is English in both lines of descent. When he was nine years old, Mr. Rogers was placed in a situation as assistant in a furniture store, where he operated four years. He then engaged as a farm hand, and was thus employed until he was 20 years old. He was a few months past that age when he enlisted in defense of the Union flag. He enrolled Aug. 4, 1861, in Co. F, Fifth Vt Inf., under Capt. Stowell, of Cornwell, and was discharged Dec. 15, 1863, to enable him to veteranize, which he did the same day. A sufficient number of Co. F were remaining to preserve the name and organization, and the entire force veteranized. Mr. Rogers served until the close of the war, receiving his discharge June 29, 1865. He was engaged in nearly 100 battles and skirmishes, as is proven by the record of his regiment. Among the most important were Lee's Mills, Williamsburg, Savage Station, White-Oak Swamp, Bull Run (2d), South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Funkstown, Rappahannock, Wilderness, and at Spottsylvania, where he was the only man of his company uninjured, all save him being killed or wounded. He became Color-bearer, and so continued until the end of the war. His next recorded fight was at Cold Harbor, and after that at Petersburg, where in the final advance the brigade to which he belonged led the charge, and he was the first man to plant the Union colors on the

rebel fortifications. Throughout his entire period of service he was wounded but once—a saber cut from a rebel cavalryman at Bull Run. In the fall of 1864, a general order was issued granting a furlough of 35 days to one man in every 1,000 who could fulfill the specifications on which the permit was granted. He must bear inspection as to drill, care of arms and accoutrements, and in the matter of personal cleanliness. On examination, the furlough and money for the necessary traveling expenses going home and returning to his regiment, were awarded to Mr. Rogers, and when he once more rejoined his command he received a certificate of honor, running as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF HONOR,

awarded to Corporal Edward C. Rogers, of Co. F, Fifth Vt. Vet. Vols., for bravery and good conduct as a soldier in the cause of his country.

Mr. Rogers was married April 24, 1868, to Nellie B., daughter of William C. and Mary A. Smith, of Champlain, N. Y., who was born Oct. 21, 1850, at Mooers, Clinton Co., N. Y. Her father was of Scotch, and her mother of English extraction. Mr. Smith was a soldier in the 10th N. H. Vol. Reg., and died of fever contracted in the army.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers were born in the order named: Arthur W., April 25, 1871; Robert W., Sept. 10, 1872; Willard C., Nov. 15, 1874.

Mr. Rogers came to Michigan in 1877, and settled in Grant Tp., buying 40 acres of land, his homestead. He is a Republican, and a member of Post French, No. 28, G. A. R. He is serving his second term as Justice of the Peace, and his third term as School Inspector.

**J**ohn H. Wright, Morley, was born in Ionia Co., Mich., Sept. 10, 1847. He is a son of Norman S. and Betsey M. (Hydon) Wright; both were natives of New York and are deceased. Mr. Wright remained at home nearly 18 years, attending the common schools, also the union school of Greenville, Mich., and afterward the Commercial College at Grand Rapids, where he was graduated. He was in the employ of a mercantile house at Greenville two years. From

1870 to 1879, was in connection with two of the leading business houses of Grand Rapids, Mich. In the winter of 1879 he came to Morley for the benefit of his health, and finally entered into business with G. F. Cutler, remaining until the accidental death of his employer. Since that event he acts as manager and represents the hardware firm of G. F. Cutler & Co. Mr. Wright is a man of well-trained and experienced business qualities, and under his management the firm commands a large trade.

**R**ev. Robert H. Watson, a retired minister of the United Brethren Church, and a farmer on sec. 2, Grant Tp., was born in New Baltimore, Greene Co., N. Y., June 4, 1841. His father, John Watson, was born in New York, in 1801, and died Nov. 15, 1864. His mother, Mahala Watson, was born in the Empire State in 1802, and died Aug 15, 1853.

Mr. Watson was but 12 years old when he lost his mother, and from that period practically made his way in the world unaided. He was in his 20th year when the nation was called to arms by the revolt of the South, and May 13, 1861, Mr. Watson enrolled himself as a defender of the unity of the United States. He enlisted in Co. F, 33d N. Y. Vol. Inf., at Nunda, N. Y. His regiment was attached to the Army of the Potomac, under McClellan, and was in Washington at the date of the Bull Run disaster to the Northern forces. Pressing on toward the front, the disorganized hosts of soldiers and citizens, infantry and cavalry, met them in all the discomfiture and confusion of that defeat and panic. Mr. Watson's introduction to the heat and frenzy of battle and to the smell of rebel powder, was on May 5, 1862, at Williamstown. His next regular battles were at Yorktown, Mechanicsville,—seven miles from Richmond, — Peach Orchard, Savage Station, White-Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Turkey Bend, Antietam, Fredericksburg (1st and 2d) and Mary's Heights, where the conflict raged two days. Mr. Watson received a wound in the right arm from a minie ball, and another shot entered the right breast, passing out below the armpit. From the latter he has never recovered. His term of enlistment expired while he was in the hospital, and he received his discharge June 2, 1863.

He was occupied as a clerk in a store about a year, subsequent to his return from the army, and the year following rented a farm and gave his attention to agriculture. He was married June 20, 1863, to Julia A., daughter of Timothy W. and Jane Buckland, of Eagle, Wyoming Co., N. Y. Mrs. Watson was born Oct. 26, 1844. Her father was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., Aug. 19, 1821. He enlisted in March, 1864, in the Union army, was taken prisoner and sent to Salisbury, N. C., where he died in the prison pen, Nov. 19, 1864. Her mother was born in Boston, Mass., May 14, 1824, and is yet living.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Watson were born as follows; Franklin E., Oct. 14, 1864; Timothy W., April 4, 1866; Phebe H., April 9, 1868; Henrietta E., April 30, 1875; John J., May 23, 1878 (died April 6, 1879); Minnie M., March 28, 1880.

In 1867 Mr. Watson came to Grant Tp., and, under the provisions of the homestead law, located on the farm he now occupies, which contains 80 acres of good land, and is well fitted with a comfortable house and good farm buildings. He is a Republican, and is active in all reformatory measures, especially in temperance work. He has served his township one year as Supervisor, one year as Township Clerk, and three years as Road Commissioner.

In 1873 he entered the ministry, laboring in the interests of the society of United Brethren, to which himself and wife belong. He was a traveling minister for a time and in 1879 was ordained Elder. In 1880 he was elected Presiding Elder, re-elected the next year, and compelled to locate in 1882, on account of a difficulty of the throat.

**J**ulius Reynier, proprietor of the National Hotel at Morley, was born at Ingelheim, on the Rhine, April 8, 1853. His father, Julius H. Reynier, was a native of Belgium, and his mother, Catherine (Weitzel) Reynier, was born at Hesse Darmstadt, on the Rhine, Germany; both are deceased. When ten years of age Julius went to live with an uncle, and was a student four years at the Latin Gymnasium at Mayence, on the Rhine. He had a *penchant* for the sea; became a sailor at 14, and followed navigation three and a half years. Meanwhile his uncle had died,





*Jared P. Huling*



and he sailed for the Western Continent April 9, 1870. On arrival in this country he started immediately for the West, and after a short stay in Milwaukee, went to Plattsmouth, Neb., where he learned the printer's trade. He was engaged in mining two years. In the winter of 1872 he came to Grand Rapids, Mich., and was employed several months on the Bridge Street House, again resuming his trade, which he followed until 1875. He then established himself in the liquor trade, which he continued until 1882, then built the hotel of which he is the proprietor. His house is well managed, and the domestic department is in competent hands. In politics he is independent. He is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Reynier was married at Morley, Nov. 25, 1877, to Martha, second daughter of Alexander and Rosanna (Redmond) Putnam. Her parents were natives of Nova Scotia, and were among the earliest settlers at De Pere, Wis., where they now reside. Mrs. Reynier was born in Nova Scotia, Dec. 7, 1853. Children: Julius H., born Sept. 26, 1879, and Karl, born July 8, 1880.



**J**ared P. Huling, Jr., dealer in new and second-hand furnishing goods, at Big Rapids, was born in Lock Haven, Clinton Co., Pa., May 12, 1840, and is a son of Jared P. and Eliza Huling, both of whom are deceased. His father's business was that of hotel-keeper, and he remained at home until he was 16 years old. In 1856 he was page in the House of Representatives at Washington, when Franklin Pierce was President of the United States, and N. P. Banks, Speaker of the House. He intended at one time to follow the calling of a jeweler, and spent two years learning the details of that business.

Just previous to reaching the age of his legal freedom, the country was thrown into commotion by the firing on the Union flag at Fort Sumter. He enlisted under the first call for troops in April, 1861, in Co. B, 11th Pa. Vol. Inf., serving three months. March 13, 1862, he again enlisted, as a veteran, in the 17th U. S. Infantry. He was in the service

three years, and was in action during 17 regular engagements, besides numberless skirmishes. He received a shell wound in the right hip at Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864, and again, Aug. 18, 1864, while detailed to protect the men engaged in tearing up the Weldon railroad, he received a gunshot wound in the right hand, resulting in his losing the third finger; was also wounded in the left shoulder. March 13, 1865, he was discharged at Fort Preble, Me. He had been assured of a position in the employ of the Government, and arrived at Washington, April 14, 1865, whither he proceeded to receive his appointment as mail agent. He spent the evening of that day at Ford's Theater, and witnessed the tragedy that shook the world to its center. Mr. Huling left Washington just previous to the departure of the funeral train that bore the martyred Lincoln to Springfield, Ill.

He was in the employ of the United States Government as mail agent on the Philadelphia & Erie railroad, where he continued four and one-half years, engaging then in mercantile pursuits at Lock Haven, where he established himself in the sale of gents' furnishing goods. In 1874, five years later, he came to Big Rapids and opened a cigar and tobacco store, where (July 12) he was burned out, and suffered a loss of \$800. He at once started his business again, which he removed to another stand a year later. In the spring of 1876 he sold out and was variously engaged until 1878, when he opened an upholstering establishment, in company with Henry Arens, who died soon afterward, and Mr. Huling conducted the business alone until finally he converted it into its present character and deals in all kinds of new and second-hand house-furnishing goods; is now operating successfully.

Mr. Huling was married Oct. 22, 1868, to Lizzie H., daughter of John and Lizzie Stewart, of Jersey Shore, Pa.: she was born in Lock Haven, Pa., in 1842. They had three children, Wells, John S. and Ralph E. Wells was drowned in the Muskegon River when he was six years old. John S. died in October, 1879, of diphtheria, and five weeks later the wife and mother died. Ralph E. died in April, 1880, of diphtheria.

Mr. Huling is a charter member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and Grand Army of the Republic, Post French; is a "past" officer of the first and Past Adjutant of the last. Mr. Huling's portrait may be found on another page.

**B**sa G. Woodward, farmer on sec. 15, Hinton Tp. (P. O., Sylvester), was born in Canada, Oct. 20, 1853. His parents, John M. and Roxy L. (Smith) Woodward, were born respectively in Vermont and Canada. After their marriage they settled in the Dominion, where the father died, in the spring of 1877; the mother resides there still. Mr. Woodward attended the common schools and worked on the farm alternately until he was 21 years of age. After a year of labor on his own responsibility he went to Louisiana and was there employed in cutting ship timber. He returned to Canada in the spring of 1876 and was occupied there three years as a builder. He came to Mecosta County in the fall of 1879, and settled on 80 acres of land in Hinton Tp., which he had previously purchased. This is now his homestead, and 45 acres is under tillage. In politics Mr. Woodward is a Republican.

He was married in Canada, July 20, 1878, to Miriam A., daughter of Jonathan and Martha (Broderick) Tribe. Both the latter were natives of England and came to Canada with their parents in childhood. The father died there and the mother still resides in the Province of Ontario. Mr. and Mrs. Woodward have had three children. One died while an infant. Laura E. was born Oct. 13, 1878; Harriet E., Aug. 2, 1882.

**W**illiam Brander, farmer, on sec. 8, Hinton Tp., was born in Scotland, Dec. 24, 1827. His parents, George and Jeannette Brander, were also natives of Scotland, and came to America when the son was but eight years old, locating in Canada. At twelve years of age Mr. Brander went to live with his grandfather, where he remained until he reached man's estate, attending school and assisting on the farm. On attaining his majority he engaged in shoemaking, and made that his calling until he was forty years of age. In 1868 he purchased 80 acres of unimproved land, on which he has since resided and has 46 acres under cultivation.

Mr. Brander was married Nov. 30, 1852, in Canada,

to Mary A. Seaton. Following is the record of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Brander: Grace A., July 16, 1855; William H., Aug. 24, 1857; Mary E., March 26, 1862; Emily M., Nov. 4, 1863. In June, 1882, Mr. Brander deeded 40 acres of partly improved land to his son, William H. Mr. Brander has held the post of Assessor 11 years, and that of Highway Overseer one year. He is a Republican.

**W**illard S. Whitney, M. D., medical practitioner at Big Rapids, was born Sept. 27, 1821, at Hancock, Berkshire Co., Mass., and is the son of John and Christiana (Stafford) Whitney. His father was a farmer and he was trained to that occupation until he was 20 years old. In 1835 his parents removed to Elba, Genesee Co., N. Y., and in 1841 he became a clerk in a general store, where he worked several years, meanwhile reading medicine as opportunity presented. Afterwards he was variously occupied until 1854, when he formed a partnership with John F. Baker, M. D., of Batavia, N. Y., whence he went to Wellsville, Allegany Co., N. Y., in January, 1856. In 1858 he attended a medical institute at Buffalo, N. Y. He practiced his profession and attended lectures alternately until 1868, when he was graduated at the Homeopathic Medical College at Cleveland, Ohio. He was in practice at Lansing, Mich., five years, and at Lockport, N. Y., three years. In 1872 he returned to Michigan and located at Big Rapids, where he established himself permanently in business. He is one of the most popular physicians of Big Rapids, and is doing an annual business of \$5,000.

Dr. Whitney was married in Monroe Co., N. Y., to Mary A. Whiting, born in 1882. One son was born of this marriage, Willard A., now a practicing physician at Big Rapids (see sketch). The mother died in 1854, and Dr. Whitney was again married in September, 1855, at Batavia, N. Y., to Mary A. Putnam. She survived until 1860. The present wife of Dr. Whitney, to whom he was married June 1, 1861, was Mary Jane, daughter of Daniel and Amanda Raymond, born in Potter Co., Pa., Sept. 11, 1838. They have one daughter, Clara Amanda, born Feb. 8, 1878, at Big Rapids, Mich.

Dr. Whitney owns his residence and a dwelling

adjoining, four lots in various parts of the city, and a farm of 100 acres on sec. 13, Big Rapids Tp. He is a member of the Odd Fellows Order, the fraternity of Masonry and the Royal Templars of Temperance, in which cause he is earnestly interested.

**G**eorge W. Warren, dealer in agricultural implements and machinery, wagons, carriages, cutters, sleighs, seeds and grain, Big Rapids, was born in the township of Shiawassee, Shiawassee Co., Mich., Nov. 9, 1841. He is a son of Wm. M. and Laura (Sprague) Warren.

The grandfather of Mr. Warren, Comstock Warren, was born in Connecticut, in 1790, and in 1811 was married to Sarah Schofield, of Dutchess Co., N. Y. In 1823 he removed his family to Wayne Co., N. Y., where he engaged in farming, and returned to the "land of wooden nutmegs" in 1829, where he died, as is supposed, of cholera. His wife remained on the farm in Wayne County until her death. She lived to the age of 80 years. Wm. M. Warren was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., March 20, 1812. When he reached the age of 14 he bought his time of his father, paying \$50 therefor, and went to Waterloo, N. Y., and worked a year on the Seneca Canal. Two years later he entered the employ of Nathaniel Garrow, of Auburn, N. Y., where he remained two and a half years, and in the fall of 1832 worked with the contractors putting in the piers at Sodus Point, on Lake Ontario. Later in the season he started for Michigan, but was compelled to abandon his purpose by the freezing of the canal. He was married in March, 1833, to Laura Sprague, and spent the following three years teaming and jobbing at Lyons, Wayne Co., N. Y. In the fall of 1836 he moved to Shiawassee Co., Mich., and assisted in the construction of the first milldam and saw-mill in the county, located at the county seat, on the Shiawassee River. Laura (Sprague) Warren was the only daughter of Reuben and Olive (Burch) Sprague, and was born March 30, 1815, in Oswego Co., N. Y. Her father was an extensive farmer of Oswego County, and died in 1820, aged 57 years. Olive (Burch) Sprague was the daughter of David and Anna Burch, of Cayuga Co., N. Y. The latter died in 1825, leaving a large family of children. Mrs. Sprague mar-

ried Calvin Sweet for her second husband, and in 1836 accompanied her daughter to Michigan, where she died in 1851, aged 53 years. David Burch followed his daughter and grandchildren to Michigan and lived among them until he died. He spent his last days with Mrs. Laura Warren, and died at 84 years of age.

George W. Warren entered the Agricultural College at Lansing at the age of 18, and remained there two years, after which he spent four years in teaching in his native county. In January, 1863, he went to North Newberg and established a general store, in which he operated until the fall of 1865. Disposing of his business as a commercial man, he again became a teacher and was employed as Principal of the graded school at Byron for some time. His father, in 1856, came to Mecosta County and entered 720 acres of land, on secs. 3, 10, 21 and 22, of the township of Big Rapids; 160 acres of this, situated on secs. 3 and 10, fell to the share of Mr. Warren, and March 1, 1867, he took possession and commenced farming. Of this property he sold the largest portion and has purchased real estate until he has 170 acres. During the first year of his residence he was appointed County Superintendent of Schools, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Z. W. Shepherd, and held the post 18 months. He opened his present business in April, 1880. His stock is valued at \$6,000, and includes agricultural implements and machinery, wagons, carriages, sleighs, builders' materials, seeds and seed grains. His yearly transactions amount to about \$20,000.

Mr. Warren was married Feb. 21, 1867, in Burns Tp., Shiawassee County, to Elsie F. Warren, born in Royal Oak, Oakland Co., Feb. 25, 1838. They have had three children, two of whom are deceased: George G. and Alice G. Raymond P. was born at Big Rapids, April 2, 1873. Mr. Warren is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and his family belong to the M. E. Church. He has been Supervisor of his ward seven years and served one year as Township Clerk of Big Rapids.

The mother and grandmother of Mrs. Warren were members of the first M. E. Church established in Michigan. It was organized in Wayne County, near Detroit, and the grandmother was one of 20 charter members. The mother is living in Shiawassee County, and is probably the sole survivor of the membership. She was born in Detroit, Oct. 29, 1807;

the father was born at Woodstock, Vt., Nov. 8, 1804. The father of the latter was born in Vermont, April 28, 1778; the mother was born Oct. 31, 1777. Mrs. Warren's maternal grandfather, Joseph Banner, was born in London, Eng., in April, 1770; her maternal grandmother, Mary (McCarty) Banner, was born July 4, 1785, at Detroit.

Mr. Warren, associated with E. O. Rose (now of Grand Rapids), compiled a history of Mecosta County, which was read at the celebration of the Centennial birthday of the Nation at Big Rapids, July 4, 1876. The compilers of this volume take pleasure in hereby expressing their sense of obligation for the reliable data therein contained, which has proved most advantageous to the successful accomplishment of their work.

**D**avidson, farmer and lumberman on sec. 7, Deerfield Tp., was born in Canada, Aug. 18, 1853. His parents, William and Mary (Smith) Davidson, are now residents of the township of Aetna. The father is a native of England, and came to Canada when a boy; the mother is a native of the Dominion.

Mr. Davidson came to Michigan when he was a lad of four years. In the fall of 1874 he bought 40 acres of unimproved land, which he afterwards sold, and in 1876 he again invested in 40 acres of land on sec. 7, which is yet in his possession. Mr. Davidson is a Democrat in political principle.

He was married at Cedar Springs, Kent Co., Mich., in December, 1873, to Mrs. Mary L. Davis, daughter of Andrew and Sarah (Ward) House, and widow of James Davis. From her first marriage Mrs. Davidson has two children: Edna J., born Feb. 6, 1856, and married July 4, 1875, to Alfred Bell. George Davis was born Jan. 28, 1863.

**R**ichard L. Willett, Altona, Hinton Tp., was born in Canada, March 30, 1853. His father, George Willett, is a native of England, whence he came in the eighth year of his age, settling in Canada, of which country his mother, Nancy (Smith) Willett, was a native. On leaving Canada in the spring of 1863,

they came to Mecosta County, where they are still residents. Mr. Willett was ten years of age at the time of their removal; was under the personal charge of his parents until he was 20 years old, after which he spent five years lumbering, operating a proportion of the time in his own behalf. In 1873 he bought 40 acres of unimproved land, and in 1876 another 40, and yet another in 1878, all of which he has sold. He has 35 acres cleared and has built a fine large barn. About the time he reached the age of 25 years he took charge of the saw-mill of Harrison J. Brown which he managed until the fall of 1882. In company with W. N. Seaton, he purchased the stock of general merchandise of L. W. Declare, and has since been engaged in a prosperous business. His stock is valued at \$6,000.

Mr. Willett was married Dec. 21, 1878, at Altona, to Grace A., eldest daughter of William and Mary A. (Seaton) Brander. Mrs. Willett's parents were natives of Scotland and England respectively, who were settlers of the Dominion at an early period, and came thence to Mecosta County, where they still reside. Mrs. Willett was born in Canada, July 16, 1855. Before her marriage she was a teacher for nearly three years. The parents are of strong temperance sentiments and attend the M. E. Church, of which Mrs. Willett is an active member. The family includes two children: Leroy, born April 11, 1881; Mabel, March 27, 1883. Elmer R., born Dec. 28, 1879, died Jan. 10, 1880. Mr. Willett is a decided Republican. He has been School Inspector two years, and Superintendent of Schools one year. Has bought Wm. N. Seaton's interest in a store.

**J**osephus Groner, B. S., M. D., physician and surgeon, Big Rapids, was born in Northampton Co., Penn., Aug. 8, 1849. His parents, Jacob and Sophia (Mack) Groner, came to Michigan in 1854 and settled near Three Rivers, St. Joseph Co., where the father purchased a farm containing 155 acres. There Dr. Groner was reared to manhood and received his elementary education. In 1870 he entered the State Agricultural College at Lansing, where he graduated in 1874, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He was afterward engaged two years in teaching.





Theophilus C. Hunt.

In 1877 he began to prepare for his profession in the office of Dr. W. M. Ikeler, at Three Rivers, and in the fall of 1878 matriculated in the Medical Department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and was graduated July 1, 1880. He established himself at Big Rapids, and Sept. 12, 1880, was appointed physician and surgeon of Mercy Hospital, and is still connected with that institution as senior Medical Director. The local practice of Dr. Groner ranks with that of the best practitioners of the city and county.

Dr. Groner is progressive in his views and practice, keeping pace with the advance of practical medical science; is conversant with the accredited journals and literature of the day belonging specially to his calling. In the spring of 1883 he spent several months in the large hospitals of New York city, and pursued post-graduate studies under some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of this country. He is especially fitting himself for surgery, and his reputation as a bold and skillful surgeon is already pretty thoroughly known throughout the State.

He is a member of the Union Medical Society of Northern Michigan. He is also Medical Examiner for a number of leading life-insurance companies of the State and United States. Is a frequent contributor to the medical journals, and the value of his productions is attested by a letter from the editor of the "Physician and Surgeon," who says: "Some of the best medical journals have noticed (copied or abstracted) your article."

Dr. Groner was married Aug. 25, 1881, in Park, St. Joseph Co., Mich., to Ada F. Kellogg, a native of Berrien Co., Mich. Mrs. Groner is the daughter of Ransom and Eliza Kellogg. Her father was a farmer and is now deceased.

**Heophilus C. Hunt**, an early settler of Big Rapids, was born at Holliston, Norfolk Co., Mass., March 25, 1809. His father, William Hunt, was a descendent of English ancestry, and was born in Windham Co., Vt. His mother also came of British ancestry and was a native of Holliston. The parents were agriculturists and reared their children on the home farm, where Mr. Hunt lived until he was 18 years old. In 1827 he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law,

William E. Burr, and commenced the hardware business, a relation which existed until the death of the latter about 15 years later. During the last few years of their transactions, they were established at Simcoe, Norfolk Co., Canada. After the death of Mr. Burr, Mr. Hunt was engaged in the "Connecticut clock" business, managing a considerable trade by means of traveling salesmen. He was thus engaged about five years, when he changed his line of goods and imported teas for a time. Meanwhile he bought a steam saw-mill, which he managed until 1859.

In that year he came to Big Rapids and bought 40 acres of land on sec. 22, where he engaged in farming and also managed a shoe shop. He brought his workman, Robert Palmer, with him from Canada, who was the first shoemaker in Mecosta County. Mr. Palmer is living at Hungerford, Newaygo Co. The latter business was in existence two years, with an interval of a year between. About the year 1864 he embarked in the lumber trade, buying 280 acres of standing pine, which was cut and placed in La-zell's mill yard. The steam saw-mill of that gentleman was the only establishment of its kind at Big Rapids, then Leonard. Mr. Hunt carried on the lumber traffic four years, operating quite extensively most of that time and employing a number of men.

In 1870 Mr. Hunt bought the Waldon Hotel, known then as the Rose House. He put it in attractive order and after managing it personally a year he rented it. A year later he resumed its management. In 1879 his affairs became embarrassed and he suspended active business. About the same time he was elected Justice of the Peace and opened an office in the Northern National Bank block with C. W. Nottingham. On the completion of the Fairman & Newton block, they transferred their quarters and business there. Mr. Hunt transacted the affairs of his official position and dealt in real estate until the spring of 1882, when he vacated his incumbency, but is still operating in land. He was Supervisor of the Fifth Ward in 1880 and 1882, and owns a house and lot on Fourth Avenue.

He was married in Oxford Co., Can., Oct. 6, 1839, to Martha A., daughter of Elisha and Angeline Harris, born in the same place in May, 1820. Following is the record of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hunt: William F., deceased; Charles G., resident at Minneapolis, Minn.; Maria, deceased; War-

ren A., lately City Marshal of Big Rapids; Lucinda M., wife of John London, ticket agent of the D., L. & N. R. R. Co.; Mary A., wife of F. N. Lattimer, druggist at Ludington, died in November, 1882.

Warren A. Hunt was one of the most popular and efficient officers of the municipality of Big Rapids. Desiring to change his circumstances he resigned his office in September, 1883. On the acceptance of his resignation by the Common Council he was made the recipient of an elegant gold watch and chain as a testimonial of the esteem in which he was held. His future residence will be Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Hunt is enabled by reference to the "Genealogy of the Hunt Family," published in 1863 by W. L. G. Hunt, of Boston, Mass., to trace his descent through eight generations. We quote: "I am the son of William Hunt, the 16th, of Brattleboro, Vt., who was the son of Richard, of Wardsboro, Vt., who was the son of Ephraim (6th), second son of William (2d), of Braintree, Mass., who was the son of Ephraim (2d), of Weymouth, Mass., who was the son of Ephraim (1st), of Weymouth, who was the son of Enoch, of Weymouth, my English ancestor. Enoch Hunt came from Tittenden, Lee Parish, Buckinghamshire, Eng., with two sons, Ephraim and Peter, in 1638." Mr. Hunt's portrait is inserted on the preceding page of this volume.

**Or** F. Bentley, Clerk of Grant Tp., and farmer, sec. 12, was born June 27, 1851, in Ontario Co., N. Y. His father and mother were natives of the same county, the former born Jan. 28, 1824, and the latter in July, 1826. The mother died April 4, 1873. They came from New York to Eaton Co., Mich., in 1856, and in 1873 moved to Grant Tp., Mecosta Co. Mr. Bentley went to Wisconsin when he was 16 years of age, and spent a year there with his uncle. He came back for a year's stay at home, and returned to Wisconsin. A year later he went to Cerro Gordo Co., Iowa, where he remained about one year, thence going to Blue Earth Co., Minn., where he was a farmer for a period of two and a half years. He then came to Grant Tp. and bought 40 acres of land, his present homestead.

He was married May 21, 1871, to Rachel L.,

daughter of Nathan and Delilah Cook, of Cerro Gordo Co., Iowa, who was born May 4, 1856, in Columbia Co., Wis. Her father was born in New York, in 1822, and died in 1870; her mother was born in Beaver Co., Pa., in 1819, and is still living. The records of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Bentley are as follow: Nora R. was born April 8, 1872; Carrie L., Dec. 20, 1864, and died March 4, 1875; Edith G., Jan. 7, 1876; Claude O., March 26, 1878, and died March 19, 1879; Katie P., May 29, 1880, and died July 27, 1880. Mr. Bentley is a Republican in politics, and is serving his third term as Township Clerk. His wife is a member of the United Brethren Church.

**E**dward G. Haney, dealer in hardware and manufacturer of farm implements and machinery, at Big Rapids, was born at Oswego, N. Y., May 10, 1832. His parents, John and Sarah (Irwin) Haney, came to the Territory of Michigan when he was three years of age, and settled in Van Buren Tp., Wayne Co., where they were among the earliest settlers.

Mr. Haney left home at the age of 14, and went to Fort Wayne, Ind., to learn the business of an iron-molder, which he pursued a number of years. He came to Big Rapids in 1870, and in March of that year purchased an interest in the foundry of Calvin Price and James J. Osborn. The establishment was built about a year previously, and was devoted to the casting of cooking stoves, a number of which are yet extant in this vicinity. In May, Mr. Haney bought the interest of Mr. Price, and in December became sole proprietor by purchasing the claim of Mr. Osborne. He changed the character of the foundry products, and now manufactures all kinds of moldings and castings, and also the Haney Plow, acknowledged one of the best known to the trade. He employs about half a dozen men.

In June, 1874, Mr. Haney established a hardware store at Big Rapids, where he deals in all kinds of goods belonging to that branch of business. Besides stoves, tinware, agricultural implements, paints and oils, he sells wagons and buggies, and a host of miscellaneous articles.

He is a member of the Odd Fellows Order of Big



Rapids, Lodge No. 111, and of the Knights of Pythias, Mecosta Lodge No. 26. In 1871-2, he acted as Alderman of Big Rapids, and has served several years as a member of the Board of Education.

Mr. Haney was married in Grattan Tp., Kent Co., Mich., Jan. 7, 1856, to Joanna, daughter of George and Honora Tate, born at Harlem, N. Y., Dec. 11, 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Haney have buried three of their 10 children. Following is the record: Henry H. (dec.); Henrietta (dec.); Ida A., wife of Duff Jennings, grocer at Sheridan, Montcalm Co., Mich.; Geo. E. (dec.); William H., clerk in the hardware store of his father; Frank J., Cora M., Jennie S., Mary W. and Edward G.

**R**ufus Kent, farmer on sec. 1, Mecosta Tp., was born in Hampshire Co., Mass., March 16, 1820. His parents, Samuel and Loretta (Borden) Kent, were natives of New England, of English ancestry. His mother died when he was six years old, and he remained under the care of his father until he was of age, attending school winters and working on the farm summers.

On attaining to man's estate in 1841, he went to Pennsylvania and found employ with his uncle, remaining one year, and was afterward in the service of various other persons. He rented the farm of the McCoy estate in 18—, and there remained until the winter of 1856, when he settled on the place where he now resides, in Mecosta Tp. The family first lived in a rude house of logs, with one room and one window. Ventilation and light were secured by the style as well as method of the architecture. Succeeding seasons have gradually improved their condition until Mr. Kent now owns a farm considered second to none in the county, containing 310 acres, worth \$100 an acre, and supplied with first-class buildings. At the date of their location the wilderness was in its primal condition, bears and wolves disputing the right of possession with the settlers. One instance is related of a bold Bruin, which approached near enough to a blackberrying party to devour a pail of the fruit which had been gathered and left to await the end of the picking.

Mr. Kent occupies a prominent position in his

township as a pioneer and a man interested in all that can affect the substantial and material growth and prosperity of the community. He is a Democrat in political sentiment, and although he has held the post of Supervisor two years, he has, with that exception, declined all elective positions save that of Township Clerk, which he held two years.

He was married June 3, 1847, to Mary, daughter of David Butler. The family were of English descent. Mrs. Kent was born in 1826, and died June 27, following her marriage, a period of a little more than three weeks. Mr. Kent was again married Dec. 18, 1848, to Mrs. Mary McCoy, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Lock) Greer, of Scotch and Irish descent. Mrs. Kent was born May 14, 1825, in Mercer Co., Pa. She was left an orphan at the age of 13 years and secured such educational and other advantages as she could under the circumstances. The 12 children of Mr. and Mrs. Kent were born as follows: Laura, Oct. 9, 1849; Sadie, Sept. 8, 1851; Edward, Sept. 17, 1854; Mattie, May 16, 1858; Thompson V., Sept. 20, 1859; Monroe, Aug. 3, 1862; William G., June 17, 1865. The above are the survivors, seven in number. Following is the record of the deceased: Franklin, born Feb. 12, 1853, died Oct. 19, 1855; James L., born Sept. 17, 1856, died June 28, 1860; Ernest, born Feb. 14, 1861, died Feb. 22, 1861. John G. McCoy, a son by the first marriage of Mrs. Kent, was born April 28, 1847, and died Feb. 14, 1871.

The parents are members of the M. E. Church, and take a great interest in the moral and intellectual development of their children. The daughter Mattie is a teacher in the high school at Cadillac, Mich.

**C**arl Beuthien, of the firm of Beuthien & Frederikson, proprietors of the German House, Big Rapids, was born June 9, 1832, in Germany. His parents were farmers, and he was trained on a farm in his native land. He was married in Germany, Nov. 24, 1863, to Annie Arehsen, a native of Denmark. They have seven children, namely: Bine, Dora, Enwold, Martin, Katie, Lizzie and Carl.

Mr. Beuthien came to the United States and to Big Rapids, in 1871. He has been variously occu-

pied since that time until July 5, 1883, when he formed his present business relation, and opened the German House. The hotel has accommodations for 25 guests, and is doing a thriving business. The family are members of the German Lutheran Church.

**A**iba W. Pease, farmer and blacksmith, sec. 32, Hersey Tp., Osceola Co., Mich., was born Aug. 1, 1832. His father, Samuel Pease, was born in Connecticut in 1788, and was one of the first settlers of the Wyoming Valley, Pa.; was a miller by occupation, and passed the winters in trapping and hunting. His grandfather, Samuel Pease, was born in Glastonbury, Ct., March 14, 1760, and enlisted in 1777 to serve in the war of the Revolution; he took out a deed of land in Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 6, 1795; was with the army under Washington at the crossing of the Delaware; fought his last battle at Yorktown, and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. A significant fact and worthy of record is that six of his descendants fought on the same ground in the war of the Rebellion, to defend the liberty established by their ancestors.

The Pease family of the United States are descended from Robert and John Pease, two brothers who came from Ipswich, Essex Co., Eng., in the ship Francis, Capt. John Cutting, and landed at Boston in April, 1631. In 1634 they settled at Salem, Mass., and not long after, John went to Martha's Vineyard, and is claimed as the founder of the Pease family there. John Pease, Jr., of Salem, was the ancestor of the Enfield branch of the family, and of his descendants, the whereabouts of over three thousand living male members are known. But one is positively recorded as in any way connected with the Confederate army—Capt. Allen S. Pease, whose "Tactics" were adopted in the discipline of the army of the Confederacy. Dr. John C. Pease, one of the founders of the *Hartford Times* in 1816, and Dr. Calvin Pease of the University of Vermont, who originated and published the present school laws of that State, are of the same family.

Mr. Pease of this sketch enlisted in the war of Rebellion Aug. 30, 1863, in Co. K, 11th Pa. Vol. Cavalry, and on going to the front was at once introduced

to the fortunes of war at "Deserted House," Feb. 12, 1863, followed by an engagement at the siege of Suffolk, Va., from April 11 to May 4, at North Anna Bridge, July 4, 1863, Bottom Bridge Feb. 6, 1864, Reams' Station June 29, 1864, Charles City Cross Roads Oct. 1, 1864, and skirmishes without number. He was at Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and went thence to Lynchburg, where he spent eight days paroling rebel prisoners, and on his return to Richmond, received intelligence of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. After a tarry of two weeks at Richmond he went to Staunton, W. Va., where he spent three weeks, going thence to Charlottesville, Va. Three months later he went to Richmond and was mustered out of the United States service.

In the fall of 1868 he located at Big Rapids and worked at blacksmithing until the following spring, when he located a homestead claim of 56 acres on sec. 32 of Hersey Tp., of which he has made a valuable farm. He was one of the pioneer settlers of the township, and politically is a Republican. He is a member of the G. A. R., and is actively interested in the temperance movement of the day. He was married Sept. 17, 1854, to Rhoda M., daughter of David and Betsey (Stanton) Dix, natives of Pennsylvania and residents of that State. Mrs. Pease was born June 30, 1839, in Preston, Pa. She became the mother of nine children, as follows: Lucinda J., Jan. 17, 1856 (Mrs. T. B. Hardman); Drusilla J., Nov. 18, 1857 (died Jan. 6, 1862); Francis M., March 13, 1860 (died April 14, 1862); Hattie A., March 10, 1862 (Mrs. J. Vanatter); Bertha, June 29, 1866; Carrie E., May 14, 1868; Nellie W., Oct. 17, 1870 (died Aug. 10, 1873); Charlie W., June 9, 1873; Eddie J., Sept. 24, 1875.

**M**yrton Rawson, farmer, sec. 9, Fork Tp., was born July 26, 1831, in Sharon, Medina Co., Ohio. He is a son of Anson G. and Frances F. (Isbell) Rawson, the latter a native of New York, the former of Connecticut. Mr. Rawson is the second son of his parents and one of eleven children, ten of whom are living, and all in adult age. At an early date the parents went to Wayne Co., Ohio, moved later to Randolph Co., Ind., went thence to Medina Co., Ohio, then returned to Indiana, settling in Noble County





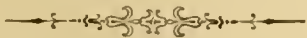
*Genl. W. Stewart*

in 1843, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Rawson grew to manhood in Noble County, and at the age of 22 entered upon the career of a farmer. He was dependent upon his own resources, and for the first seven years after setting out in life he rented farms. He was married May 10, 1855, to Mary S., daughter of William and Susan (Wyatt) Squares, of Jackson, DeKalb Co., Ind. Of this marriage three children were born. William A., born July 17, 1863, is yet living. Infant twins died unnamed. The mother died Jan. 26, 1866, after a long and distressing illness.

Mr. Rawson was married again at Kendallville, Ind., Nov. 10, 1867, to Mrs. Julia T., widow of Dr. Johnson Curl, and daughter of Dr. Thomas. One child resulted from this marriage, Edward O., born Oct. 4, 1869.

In September, 1879, Mr. Rawson went to Kansas and spent seven months prospecting for a place to settle: returned to Petoskey and thence to Sunfield, Eaton Co., Mich., where he was employed chiefly in farming. He was there married to Mrs. Martha, widow of James McElroy, who died, leaving her with two children, James and Laura. One child has been born of the last marriage, Mary Agnes, Aug. 18, 1882.

Mr. Rawson sold his farm in Sunfield in January, 1883, and bought 80 acres of land in Fork Tp., on which he settled April 15, 1883. Five acres were improved and a house built at the date of purchase, and in a few months Mr. Rawson has materially improved and increased the value of the place. In politics he is a Republican. His father was a soldier of 1812; was a minute man and responded to the call for aid when the British invaded Wayne Co., N. Y., and burned the village of Sodus.



**D**aniel W. Stewart, Register of Deeds of Mecosta County, resident at Big Rapids, was born at Centerville, St. Joseph Co., Mich., Dec. 11, 1849, and is a son of Daniel Stewart, born July 4, 1811, at Albany, N. Y., and Mary (McFarland) Stewart, born June 3, 1813, at Amsterdam, N. Y.; the latter still resides at Centerville. The father was a mason by trade, and in his later years was engaged in mercantile operations,

combined with traffic in lumber. He died at Centerville, March 25, 1876. The parents of Mr. Stewart were married March 25, 1835, and located at Centerville Sept. 21, 1837. Duncan and Jeannette (Campbell) Stewart, his paternal grandparents were born on Loch Tay, County of Perth, Scotland; Parlin McFarland, his maternal grandfather, was a native of Glasgow, and Isabella (McNaughton) McFarland, maternal grandmother, was born near Perth, Scotland.

Mr. Stewart obtained his elementary education at the public schools of his native place. At the age of 16 he was sent to the graded school at Sturgis and was a pupil there 18 months, after which he went to a school of the same character at Centerville and pursued a course of study there two years; he then attended the Business College at Sturgis three months. In April, 1875, he came to Mecosta County, locating at Morley, where he operated in general merchandise. He sold his business at the end of the first year, and interested himself in trading in shingles until the fall of 1877. He then, in partnership with J. T. Cook and W. T. Jones, inaugurated another mercantile enterprise, which proved signally successful, reaching an annual aggregate of \$35,000. In the spring of 1881, Mr. Stewart sold out, and during the next 18 months was occupied with the duties pertaining to the office of Postmaster of Morley, to which he was appointed in October, 1877, and which he resigned in January, 1883, on his accession to his present official position. Mr. Stewart was elected on the Republican ticket, running against Joseph H. Killbourne, opposition candidate. While a resident at Morley, he occupied various official posts; was elected Township Clerk in 1875 and re-elected successively until the spring of 1882, when he was elected Supervisor. He also acted as Village Clerk several years. He resigned his supervisorship in December, 1882, just previous to his removal to Big Rapids to enter upon his duties as Register of Deeds. He was married at Morley April 14, 1880, to Rebecca, daughter of William and Ann Hugh. Her father is a prominent lumberman of Morley and junior member of the firm of Higbee & Hugh. Mrs. Stewart was born Feb. 22, 1860, in Watertown, Province of Ontario, and is the mother of one child, Earl H. Stewart, born at Morley, July 26, 1881.

Among those worthy a place with the gentlemen whose portraits we present in this volume, is Mr. Stewart, whose portrait we give on the preceding page.



the duties of his office and profession alone. He was appointed attending physician at Mercy Hospital as soon as he was settled, and has since remained in charge. During his residence at Thamesford, he was Vice President of the Oxford Medical Society, and is now Vice President of the Northern Medical Society for this place.

Anselm Burkart, the father of Dr. Burkart, is a German, and was born at Alshofen, Baden, Germany, April 18, 1826. He is now a resident of Big Rapids, and is engaged in traveling for a business house in Canada. The mother of Dr. Burkart was born April 24, 1833, in County Wexford, Ireland. The parents were married Feb. 9, 1852, in Ingersoll, Canada. They had five sons and a daughter; James A., second child, is deceased. The brothers and sister of Dr. Burkart are Adolph O., Joseph B., Mary H. and Anselm S. His maternal grandfather, Patrick Doyle, was a wealthy farmer and prominent citizen in Norfolk County. John M. Doyle, his son, is a resident there in a prominent position. The family were pioneers of Canada.

**E**lizabeth Corbett, resident on sec. 23, Mecosta Tp., was born Dec. 12, 1824, in Ayrshire, Scotland. She is a daughter of William and Elisha (Davison) Spears, also natives of Ayrshire. She became the wife of James Corbett Dec. 6, 1848, and was a resident of her native country until 1856, when they came to the Dominion of Canada. In the spring of 1863 they came to Kent Co., Mich., where Mr. Corbett was engaged in lumbering a few years. Their next remove was to Mecosta County, where he was interested in the same pursuit until 1866. In that year he purchased, and the family took possession of, 80 acres of land, all of it in a wild state, from which it has been reclaimed, and where they now reside.

Mr. Corbett was born in Scotland, March 18, 1824, and died Dec. 11, 1880, at his home in Mecosta Tp., and was buried in Stanwood Cemetery. He was an industrious man and a good citizen; interested in the welfare of his children whom he lived to see grow to mature life, with good habits, established reputations, and useful members of society. Following is their record: William, born Dec. 7, 1849; Mary, Oct.

30, 1851; Margaret, May 9, 1857; John, Aug. 5, 1860; James, June 3, 1863; Matthew, Sept. 2, 1865; Jennie, April 30, 1870; Susan, born July 19, 1859, died March 19, 1860.

Mr. Corbett was a firm Democrat during his life; himself and wife belonged to the Established Church of Scotland from their childhood. Mrs. Corbett resides with her son, James, a promising young man, with good business qualifications and a thoroughgoing farmer.

**A**lter S. Howd, flour and feed merchant at Millbrook village, was born in Canada, Dec. 16, 1829. His parents, Samuel B. and Lovinda (Gould) Howd, natives respectively of New York and Canada, were married in New York, settled in Canada, finally returning to New York, where the mother died and the father married again. He located at Syracuse, N. Y., for a time and afterward went to Kansas and Missouri, where he died at the age of 74.

When 14 years old Mr. Howd was apprenticed to learn the trade of molder, at which he served two and one-half years. He was afterward occupied about the same length of time as clerk in a grocery, when he resumed his trade, but was obliged by illness to quit it and seek other means of obtaining a livelihood. He was employed for some time in a grocery at Cleveland, and in the summer of 1855 came to Gratiot Co., Mich., where he bought 200 acres of land under the "Gradation Act." After clearing 30 acres of this land he sold out and purchased a similar farm in the southern part of the same county, in order to secure for his children the superior educational advantages of that section. Three years later he sold again and came to Mecosta County, where he entered a claim of 160 acres of land in the townships of Millbrook and Wheatland, under the provisions of the Homestead Act. This he sold, and invested his money and interest in the mercantile business and located at Millbrook, where he is carrying on a flourishing trade.

In politics Mr. Howd is a Republican. He has been Probate Judge four years and served 12 years as Justice of the Peace. He belongs to the Order of Masonry, and is a member of the fraternity of Odd Fellows. He was married in Cleveland, O., to

Louisa M., daughter of Samuel Pease, a native of the State of New York. Mrs. Howd died in Gratiot County, leaving three children: Levant P., Martha E. and Albert J. Mr. Howd was married in Gratiot County, to Almira, daughter of Benjamin Hawkins, and their three children are, Francis A., Mary and Sarah R. Mrs. Howd belongs to the M. E. Church.

**J**ohn M. Raper, Big Rapids, was born June 29, 1835, at Toronto, Can., a son of John and Abigail W. (Oliver) Raper. His father was born at Bradford, Yorkshire, Eng., and came to America in 1830, locating at Toronto, Ont. He was an officer on the staff of Gov. Sir Penguin Maitland, and married his wife, a native of Boston, Mass., at Halifax, Nova Scotia. She died at Toronto, aged 64 years. The father died at Seaford, Ont., at the age of 77 years.

Mr. Raper received a good common-school education, and when 17 years old obtained a situation as clerk in a store. His next situation was as express messenger from Collingwood to Toronto, on the Ontario, Simcoe & Northern Railroad, Vickers' express line, and he afterward engaged in mercantile business at Holland Landing, Ont. He then removed to Toronto, where he was employed a year as chief clerk in the office of C. R. Christie, Division Superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railroad. At the end of that time he received an appointment as freight agent at St. Mary's Station, and after some time was transferred to New Baltimore, Macomb Co., Mich., where he acted in the same capacity two years. He afterward obtained a position as messenger for the American Express Co., between Detroit and Chicago, on the Michigan Central Railroad. Oct. 1, 1864, he went to Elmira, N. Y., as chief clerk of the United States and Adams and Howard Express Companies, remaining there until September, 1866, when he went to Ann Arbor, Mich.

On the organization of the Merchants' Union Express Company, Mr. Raper was tendered the position of route agent, which he accepted, and was in charge of all the offices in Michigan, which position he retained until the company was consolidated with the American Express. While in the employ of the Merchants' Union Express Company, the local agents presented him with a silver tea service, the presentation taking place in the Mayor's office at

Detroit. He then entered the employ of the American Express Company, and was also mail agent on the (now) G. R. & I. R. R., between Grand Rapids and Cedar Springs, the latter being then the northern terminus of the railroad. In August, 1869, he was sent to St. Joseph, Mich., to operate as special agent, removing thence to Detroit, to act as traveling solicitor in the commercial agency of Tappan, McKillop & Co. While thus employed he was tendered the position of conductor on the C. & M. L. S. R. R., which he accepted, and removed to St. Joseph, Mich., and acted in that capacity about three years, retiring April 1, 1873. In May following, he went back to Detroit, to act as collector for the Weber Furniture Company. Afterward he again entered the service of the American Express Company, and was stationed at Big Rapids, opening an office on Maple street. About 15 days after his arrival the first passenger train from Muskegon to Big Rapids passed over the C. & W. M. railroad. He remained with the American Express Company six and a half years, and meanwhile acted as Manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, located at Big Rapids. On leaving the employ of the express company he operated as a commercial traveler three years, when he engaged in his present occupation as salesman for J. S. Evans & Co., music dealers.

Mr. Raper was married in April, 1861, to Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Arksey, of Ann Arbor. They have had three children, two of whom, a son and daughter, are deceased. Charles Edwin Raper, born at Detroit, Feb. 6, 1864, is now in the employ of John Greenop & Co., at Big Rapids.

Mr. Raper was a charter member of Mecosta Lodge, No. 26, Knights of Pythias, and belongs to Big Rapids Lodge, No. 171, F. & A. M. He is a staunch Republican, and was elected City Recorder on that ticket in 1877-8.

**R**obert W. Bennett, member of the firm of Roben, Bennett & Gill, real-estate, loan and fire insurance agents at Big Rapids, was born on a farm in Marcellus Tp., Cass Co., Mich., May 31, 1855, and is a son of William P. and Louisa (Brokaw) Bennett.

The Bennett family, of which the subject of this biography is a descendant, have been a pioneer







*W. Cannon*

people. The great-great-grandfather of A. W. Bennett cleared a farm in Western Connecticut before the Revolutionary war had ever been imagined. The great-grandfather, Alfred Bennett, emigrated to Central New York when it was a wilderness, cleared a farm and contested titles with wolves, etc., on the tract of land now the city of Cortland. He was also a Baptist preacher of renown, and his memory is still cherished in the thoughts of every theologian of that denomination. He was for years a circuit rider, holding services at every clearing, and spreading the gospel, from a Baptist standpoint, through the wilds of Ohio and Indiana. His son Cephas married Stella, daughter of Abner Keeland, the first apostle of Universalism in New England; in 1829 he took her to the East Indies, whither he went as a missionary. He introduced the first printing-press, and afterwards the first sewing-machine, into Burniah, and with his wife is still engaged in the work of converting the heathen to Christianity, although they have been in active service 54 years. Cephas Bennett sent his son, William P., to America, at the age of 10 years. At 19 the latter became involved in matrimonial snares, and, taking his wife and worldly possessions, made his way West on a canal boat, and plunged into the wilderness of Michigan. He entered 160 acres of land in Marcellus Tp., and camped out until he could make a clearing and erect the pioneer's shelter. The tract of land has been converted into a typical Southern Michigan farm, and is still in the possession of its original owner, now resident at Cassopolis, where he has held the office of Probate Judge for 15 years.

In a work of this character pioneer reminiscences are specially valuable, and serve to render the biographical sketches of its patrons decidedly interesting.

Mr. Bennett was under the personal care of his father until he was 12 years old, when he was sent to Groton, New York, to attend the academy. He studied there two years, and attended the high school at Cassopolis, where he graduated. He afterward learned the printer's trade, at which he worked at Cassopolis, Lawrence and Grand Rapids. In 1874 he commenced a course of studies at the University of Michigan, which he pursued three years, working at the case during vacations, and was graduated in the Law Department, in March, 1877. He at once located at Big Rapids.

In August, 1878, he formed a partnership with D. Roben, in the real-estate, loan and insurance business, which relation still exists. The style and repute of the house of Roben & Bennett is widely known throughout Northern Michigan.

Mr. Bennett was married Sept. 3, 1878, to Mary, daughter of Matthew and Esther Roben, of Big Rapids. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett have one son, nearly two years old.

**M**ahlon Carman, of Morton Tp., whose portrait is given on the preceding page and who is one of Mecosta County's enterprising business men, was born in Huron Co., Ohio, in the village of Olena. He is a son of Lewis and Laura (Aiken) Carman. The father was a merchant and proprietor of a saw-mill in the State of Ohio, and moved to Lockport, Niagara Co., N. Y., when the subject of this sketch was eight years old, where he engaged in buying and selling stock.

When Mr. Carman was 16 years of age he was employed one and a half years in a boot and shoe store at Lockport. This engagement was terminated by the removal of his father's family to St. Joseph Co., Mich. Here he worked at home on the farm about two and one half years, when the family came to Millbrook and the father built a saw-mill, where the son worked until of age. In 1877 the latter went to Altona, Hinton Tp., and was employed in the general store of T. C. Gardner. After a year's service as assistant, he purchased the stock and continues to conduct the business. The value of the stock averages about \$12,000, and the annual transactions aggregate about \$40,000. Sept. 1, 1883, he established a store in the village of Mecosta, with a stock worth about \$1,500. Mr. Carman is operating also largely in shingles, and employs in his interest a shingle-mill in Morton, one in Wheatland and one in Hinton; he manufactures from 75,000 to 100,000 shingles daily, and ships chiefly to Eastern markets, employing about 65 men commonly, cutting and putting in his timber. The three mills designated are run to their full capacity, in his interest. He also deals in groceries and provisions at Mecosta, and has a general store at Altona.

Mr. Carman was married at Grand Rapids, March

1, 1877, to Isabella, daughter of William and Mary J. Pierce. Of this marriage one child has been born, Raymond W., in Millbrook.



**J**ohn Pordon, farmer, sec. 6, present Supervisor of Martiny Tp., was born in the town of Ravensburg (Danube), Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, Oct. 29, 1837. He is a son of Bertram and Cleopha (Pfleghaar) Pordon. His father was a farmer and died when the son was but one year old. He was fully orphaned by the death of his mother when he was nine years of age, and his uncle, Benedict Pflerhaar, assumed the care and guardianship of the bereaved child, continuing to protect him until he was 14 years old, when he was placed under training for the business of carpenter and joiner. After working at that trade two years, he emigrated to the United States and located at Toledo, Ohio. He worked a year at his vocation and then engaged in a nursery for a short time. In 1855 he went to Dundee, Monroe Co., Mich., and operated as a farm hand until the outbreak of the civil war in 1861.

He enlisted in the Fourth Mich. Inf. and served four years, nine and a half months,—the longest military service recorded in the pages of this work. His experiences include all the hardships, privations and contingencies incident to a soldier's life, except capture and torture at the hands of the rebels. The list of battles in which he took part are, Bull Run (Second), Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Marion Hill, Newbridge, Haines' Landing, Gaines' Hill, Mine Run, Hatcher's Run, Gravel Run, Petersburg, Wilderness, and last, Appomattox Court-House, where he was an eye-witness of the virtual collapse of the Rebellion. At the close of the war he was sent to San Antonio, Texas, and was there stationed nine and a half months. He was wounded May 6, 1864, and lost his hearing from the explosion of a shell at the battle of Gettysburg. He was discharged with the rank of Sergeant and returned to Michigan.

He resumed his former employment at home for a while, and after some time went to Detroit, where he worked as a carpenter three months. He spent six months in the employ of a plumber, and was then engaged in the Water-Works at Detroit, where he

continued five years. His next business enterprise was with Gerhart Gudnaw, in the grocery business, where he was occupied four months. After that he was a peddler six months, and after spending six months more in Detroit in various occupations, he sold his property there and came to Mecosta County, and was engaged by March & ———, heavy landholders in Chippewa Tp., and resided there four years. In 18—, he purchased the farm he now owns, containing 80 acres of land.

Mr. Pordon was married in 1866, in Monroe, Mich., to Anna, daughter of Ignatz and Victoria (Gunthner) Hilbert. She was born in Germany, Jan. 22, 1845, and came to the United States with her parents in 1853. Four children are comprised in the family, Cleopha J., Benjamin M., Clara J. and Amelia V.

Mr. Pordon is a Democrat, has held various offices and was elected to his present position in 1883.



**E**lifton D. Richards, hardware merchant, Millbrook village, is a son of James and Minerva (Smalley) Richards. The father was a native of Massachusetts, and the mother of Vermont. They were pioneers of Cleveland, O., where they settled in early married life; they now reside at Detroit. Mr. Richards was born at Cleveland, Sept. 6, 1856. He obtained a good education in the schools of his native city, justly celebrated for their excellent character, and at 19 years of age came to Stanton, Mich., where he was employed as clerk in a hardware store for a period of three years. He came to Mecosta County in 1877, and Oct. 1, opened a hardware store at Millbrook, where he is still engaged in business and has reasonable success. He carries a stock worth \$7,000, and leads his line of trade in that section of the county.

Mr. Richards was married at Auburn, N. Y., July 6, 1880, to Ada E., daughter of Lewis and Laura Cannon, of the State of New York, who was born in Ohio, and was an inmate of her father's home until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Richards have one child, Irma L., born May 14, 1881.

Mr. Richards is a Republican in politics; has been Clerk of his township one term, and is now

acting in the capacity of School Assessor of the district. He is an active member of the Congregational Church.



**G**eorge F. Stearns, President of the Northern National Bank, Big Rapids, was born at Ellisburg, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Jan. 9, 1832. The banking house with which he has been connected from its organization was opened for the transaction of business June 5, 1871. The institution is the result of a project which was carefully considered and made feasible by the combined energy, deliberation and capital of T. C. Platt, John F. Brown and G. F. Stearns. It was organized with Mr. Stearns in the capacity of chief official, J. F. Brown as Vice President, and Chas. P. Gifford as Cashier. They embarked on the sea of finance with a capital of \$75,000, which was increased in 1874 to \$90,000, and in 1883 to \$150,000. On the death of Mr. Brown, C. H. Wagener was elected to the vacant Vice Presidency and in 1875 L. S. Baker became Cashier.

The "Northern National" is one of the most solid institutions in the country, having a deserved repute of carrying on its financial transactions on a system and basis of impregnable security, and hence is justly regarded as incomparably stable as a business house and a model in its methods and purposes. It has a firm grasp upon the confidence of those with whom it has intimate financial relations, and the catalogue of its patrons and correlations include a host of the most substantial names in Northern Michigan.

Mr. Stearns is the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Martin) Stearns, whose record is a part of that of Big Rapids, both from the period of their settlement here and their relations to the social and business growth of the place. Daniel Stearns settled here in 1859, having previously purchased a low, two-story frame building, with a lean-to, where is now the southeast corner of Maple street and Michigan avenue. This building, styled the "Mecosta," was utilized many years as a hotel, to which purpose it was first devoted by Capt. Daniel Stearns. It has been raised twelve feet, remodeled, and still

looms up a tangible reminder of the day of "first things" at Big Rapids.

The business record of Mr. Stearns is one continuous course of energy, sagacity, shrewdness, prudence, tact and ability. He has all the restless activity, tenacity of purpose and intuitive comprehension of human nature which constitute a born financier. His leading traits of character have been conspicuous from his outset in life, and, to his undying credit be it put on record, that, with all his keenness and powers of *finesse* in business, not one imputation of improbity or dishonor rests against him. He walks among his fellow men in all the uprightness of moral rectitude, and wields an influence in his sphere second to none. He is always acutely alive to the possibilities of a business transaction, but he never swerves from the promptings of his innate manliness and his sense of obligation to society.

His entire life has been devoted to effort. His first speculative enterprise occurred when he was about twelve years old. He had received a package of fire-crackers for the "Fourth," but instead of having a grand private glorification, he found a swarm of young patriots who paid him a cent each for his stock of small explosives. No employment, so it afforded an opportunity to be doing something, was beneath his honest endeavors. He did whatever the contingency demanded and performed every duty becomingly. At the age of 12 he was employed in a general country store, remaining about a year; and on his parents' removal to Mannsville in his native county, he accompanied them, and did all manner of odd jobs in and around his father's hotel. Two years later he went to Adams, Jefferson Co., and engaged as a clerk in a store, where he operated two years. He went thence to Rome, N. Y., and filled a position in an extensive dry-goods establishment. In September, 1854, he came to Detroit with a friend, Wm. Chittenden, then holding a clerk's position in a dry-goods establishment, and now proprietor of the Russell House in that city. He borrowed money of his friend to make the trip to Detroit, and made all his associations in first-class places, wisely judging that his best testimonial was the appearance and habits of a gentleman.

With but nominal delay he obtained a clerkship in the commercial house of Holmes & Co., where his friend was a salesman. He remained there two years. Meanwhile his father had moved to Newaygo

and built the Brooks Hotel, whither Mr. Stearns proceeded and officiated one year as clerk. His next move was to the city of St. Louis, where he operated as a clerk in a dry-goods house two months, going thence to Chicago, where he was similarly engaged a short time. He soon left the Garden City, went to Detroit and secured a situation in the mercantile establishment of Farrell Brothers. In September, 1860, he came to Big Rapids with a stock of dry goods, etc., suitable for the demands of a country trade, and opened the second store in the embryo city. His father was established in the "Mecosta," and, besides his duties in the store, he assisted in every possible way at home, where the hotel was always overflowing with custom. By degrees he managed to convert his original stock of goods, valued at \$500, into a general stock of much wider scope, and trafficked in furs and all other articles that came in his way with any reasonable outlook for speculation therein. His business grew onerous, the sales of his closing year aggregating \$100,000. He had overworked and was compelled by impaired health to sell out. He devoted his attention and energies to speculation in real estate and furs until 1871, when the Northern National Bank was put in successful operation.

Mr. Stearns has dealt extensively in real estate, and now owns several thousand acres of pine and farming lands, together with 160 acres within the city limits, divided into small tracts, each containing a few acres. His residence at No. 220 State street is one of the most substantial and best arranged dwelling-houses in the city. The grounds are 100 feet front by 700 feet deep, finely graded and laid out, and sheltered by trees. The work has been done chiefly by Mr. Stearns' own hands, and in its unostentatious simplicity is revealed the character of its owner. Mr. Stearns has also extensive lumber interests, being a member of the firm of Baker & Stearns, who handle annually a large amount of mill products. He is also manager of the sales of the large tracts of land in Mecosta and other counties, belonging to the Warren estate.

Mr. Stearns was married at Detroit, June 4, 1861, to Harriet S., daughter of John Vernor; she was born at Albany, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Stearns have had two children: Carrie E., born March 27, 1869, and died Dec. 6, 1881. Charles F., a book-keeper in

the Northern National Bank, was born June 3, 1865.

Mr. Stearns is a member of the Masonic Order and belongs to the Knights of Pythias. He is a Democrat in political sentiment, and in the spring of 1869 he was elected Mayor of Big Rapids, and re-elected in 1871 and 1881, running largely ahead of his ticket.

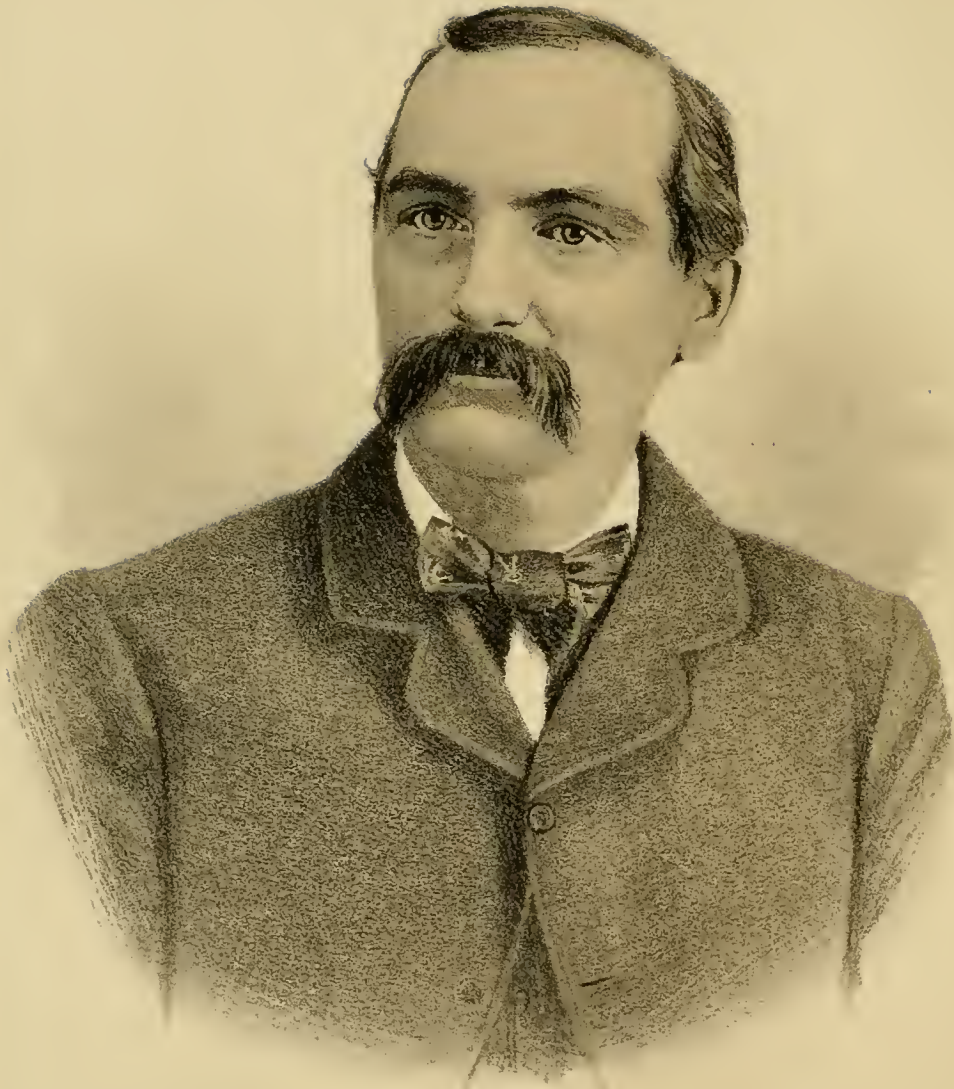
**A**polon Ladouceur, proprietor of the Montreal House, and of the Montreal Livery Stables, Big Rapids, was born at St. Eugene, Ont., and is a son of John B. and Esther (Lalond) Ladouceur.

He came from the Dominion to Big Rapids when 17 years of age, and operated about seven years in the lumber woods. In 1875 he bought the hotel of which he is now owner and manager, and conducted its affairs personally two and a half years. It was leased to a tenant for a similar period of time, after which he resumed its control, and has since continued to occupy and run the business, which is prosperous, and gradually increasing. The building is well adapted to hotel purposes, and contains 34 rooms for guests. In June, 1883, Mr. Ladouceur built the Montreal Livery Stable, 50 x 135 feet in dimensions, where he manages a first-class establishment for the accommodation of the public, keeping about 20 horses and all necessary livery fixtures.

Mr. Ladouceur was married at Big Rapids, April 14, 1879, to Susan, daughter of Michael and Margaret Bailey, born Feb. 18, 1858, a native of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. L. have buried three children: Lilly M., only surviving child, was born at Big Rapids, Oct. 14, 1882. Maggie is an adopted daughter. Besides his hotel and livery property, Mr. Ladouceur owns two city lots in Rose's Addition, Third Ward.

**E**ister C. Hodskey, jeweler, at Big Rapids, was born at Parma, N. Y., Aug. 10, 1822, and is a son of Willard and Permelia (Rowe) Hodskey. His parents were farmers, and he received the education and training common to farmers' sons. At the age of eight years he went away from home to work on a farm,





Yours Truly  
E. M. Stickney.



and when 12 years old came to Michigan and located in Highland Tp., Oakland Co.

In the spring of 1848, he bought 40 acres of land, which he owned about one year. When he sold his farm he engaged in traveling in the interests of a firm selling jewelry and Yankee notions. In 1851 he built the first hotel in Holly, Oakland Co., now the Anderson House, which he kept three years, and then exchanged for a farm of 40 acres, on which he resided until 1857, when he moved to Bronson, Branch Co., and there embarked in the grocery and liquor trade, and was soon after elected Constable. He continued to manage his first enterprise about one year, when he sold out and engaged in the jewelry business. He operated in Bronson three years, and exchanged his property there for a farm of 80 acres in Matteson, in the same county. Three years later he again sold and moved into Colon, St. Joseph Co., where he again embarked in the jewelry business, and there continued three years, going thence to Clarence, Shelby Co., Mo., where he pursued the same calling, returning after three years to Bronson. His stay there covered a period of a few months only, and he went thence to La Grange, Ind., and was similarly occupied there eight months, when he came to Big Rapids (May, 1873). He opened a jewelry and grocery store, which he ran eight years, and then exchanged his store for a residence and three lots on West Hemlock street. He transferred his stock to the store occupied by Charles Crandall as a grocery, and established his business in one half of the premises. Six months after, he moved into a building next the present establishment of Freyburg, clothier. In July, 1882, he removed to his present location, where he is doing a prosperous business. He has in stock a full line of all articles common to the branch of trade he represents—watches, clocks, jewelry, musical instruments, etc., besides keeping a repair department. His stock is worth about \$1,800, and his annual business amounts to \$3,000. He also owns a vacant lot in Rose's Addition.

He is a member of the Odd Fellows Order. Mr. Hodskey was married in Highland, Oakland Co., Mich., Dec. 25, 1847, to Amanda, daughter of Noble and Annie (Merchant) Ruggles, born in Colesville, Broome Co., N. Y., May 4, 1831. Lydia A., elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hodskey, was born in Highland, Mich., May 26, 1852, and Jessie M. was born in Bronson, Branch Co., Mich., Sept. 1, 1862.

**E**dmond M. Stickney, lumberman and manufacturer, residing at Paris, was born in McHenry Co., Ill., May 12, 1844. His father, George Stickney, was a native of Jeffery, New Hampshire, where he was born June 26, 1809. He came to Chicago June 20, 1835, and went to McHenry Co., Ill., in the fall of the same year, where he has since resided, in the pursuit of farming. The mother, Sylvia M. (Beckly) Stickney, was born Feb. 26, 1819, at Granby, Conn., and died in October, 1879. They were married at Nunda, Ill., Oct. 27, 1839.

Mr. Stickney acquired a fair education at the public schools, and pursued a full commercial course at Bryant & Stratton's College at Chicago, and was graduated with the class of 1864. He remained under the charge of his father until the time of his majority. In the fall of 1865 he went to Chicago, and was employed there a few months as book-keeper. In January, 1866, he came to Mecosta Co., Mich., and in company with Charles Shafer and William P. Montonye, started the first mercantile venture at Paris, Feb. 20, 1866, continuing the enterprise under the firm name of E. M. Stickney & Co. two years, and alone until 1877, when he purchased the water-power he now owns, with the saw and grist mill built by Shales & Fitting in 1867, on Parish Creek. He built the present saw-mill in 1882-3.

He saws about 15,000 feet of lumber daily, and owns 35 acres of timber land, whereon is the site of his mills, and 40 acres of land in Green Tp.

He was married May 18, 1870, to Mary Todd, a native of Yorkshire, England, born May 18, 1854. Their three children are Nettie M., Carrie A. and George E.

Mr. Stickney has been prominent in the public affairs of his village and township. He has served as Postmaster and Town Clerk 10 years, and has officiated as Justice of the Peace 11 years, being the present incumbent of that office, and is also Notary Public.

Politically he was formerly a Republican, but since 1878 has voted the Greenback ticket.

A portrait of Mr. Stickney is given in this volume.

**T**homas J. Sharpe, Supervisor of the Third Ward of Big Rapids, was born in Lincolnshire, Eng., Aug. 18, 1843. He is a son of Joseph N. and Elizabeth Sharpe, natives of the same country.

When he was 16 years old Mr. Sharpe went to serve an apprenticeship in a meat-market, and served his time in fitting for the calling as is the custom in his native land. He started for the United States in the fall of 1865, embarking on a sailing vessel, and making an extended passage of seven weeks and three days. He arrived in Big Rapids in January, 1866, and engaged as clerk in the shop of Harvey Anderson. In the autumn of 1867 he commenced business himself on the present site of Geo. A. Roof's block, and soon after formed a partnership with Carlos Teachout, which relation existed several months. In December, 1868, he established himself in a meat-market in upper Big Rapids, where he has since operated.

Mr. Sharpe was elected to his present position in the spring of 1882, and re-elected in 1883. He owns his residence and three lots on Marion avenue, his store building on North State street, and a house and lot above the Tioga Mills, besides being proprietor of 30 acres of land in the township of Big Rapids.

He was married near Kent City, Kent Co., Mich., to Mary, daughter of Alanson Rexford, proprietor of a hotel at Cedar Springs, Kent Co. She was born in Pennsylvania, and died May 19, 1876, at Big Rapids, leaving three children: Elizabeth, Carrie and Sarah A. Mr. Sharpe was married again at Big Rapids, to Jane O'Neil, who was born in Canada, Feb. 2, 1856. Of this marriage two children have been born—Mary and Elsie May.

**J**ohn Martiny, farmer, sec. 4, Martiny Tp., was born in Germany, March 25, 1820, and is a son of John and Katrina (Zegel) Martiny. Like the other youth of his native land, he was kept in school in his early life and trained to the calling of farmer. At 16 years of age he learned the cabinet-making business, which

he pursued until 1841. He was then drafted into the army and served two years, when he resumed his trade and worked until 1847, and during that year he sailed for this country. He landed at the port of New York and proceeded directly to Albany. After a brief tarry there he went to Springfield, Mass., and spent eight years working at his trade. In 1855 he came to Michigan and pursued his calling three years in Allegan County, and then interested himself in farming in the same county. In 1867 he entered and proved a claim of 80 acres of land in Mecosta County, in a township designated only by the terms in which it was recorded in the Land Office, but which will perpetuate throughout coming years the name which heads this sketch. Mr. Martiny still holds his homestead, and has added to his possessions until he has 320 acres of land, a portion of which is in a good state of cultivation.

Mr. Martiny has been twice married. His first wife was Mena Licher, to whom he was married in Germany in 1846. Two children were born of this marriage, Peter and Minnie. Mrs. M. died in 1856. Mr. Martiny was again married in 1858, to Mary Hilderbrand, a native of Germany. Of this marriage four children have been born, Robert, Daniel, Edward and Paul.

Mr. Martiny is a Democrat in political matters, and has held the offices of Township Treasurer and School Assessor.

**I**saac J. Leggett, M. D., physician and surgeon, resident at Paris, Green Tp., was born in Cohocton, Steuben Co., N. Y., May 19, 1854. His parents, Isaac and Sarah (Connor) Leggett, were natives of New York, where his father was by trade a millwright and also pursued agriculture. The latter died in February, 1881; the mother is still living, at Paris, with the family of her son.

Dr. Leggett obtained his elementary education at the common schools, residing at home until 1866, when he commenced the study of medicine, completing his course in 1875-6, at the Chicago Medical College. He commenced his practice with Dr. Hamilton, at Tecumseh, Mich., where he remained one year. In the fall of 1878 he settled at Paris,





*W. Kenney*

and opened business as a practitioner. In 1880 he added the drug business, and still combines that trade with his practice.

He was married Sept. 22, 1880, to Mary Woodward, born in the State of New York, in 1854. They have one daughter—Lola Genevieve—born Aug. 7, 1881.

Dr. Leggett is a Republican in political sentiment, and has held all the school offices of his town; was Superintendent in 1879, and is now School Inspector.



**W**illiam Remus, of the firm of Stephens & Remus, manufacturers, at Big Rapids, was born in the Province of Pomerania, Germany, Aug. 10, 1842. He is a son of Charles and Caroline (Horn) Remus, and learned the shoemaker's trade in his native country. Accompanied by two brothers and one sister, he came to this country in June, 1865, settling at first in Chicago, where Mr. Remus worked at his trade. In 1857, he came to Big Rapids and established a boot and shoe store, where he did a thriving business, and employed several men in the custom-work department. His health failing, in 1872 he sold out and worked as a builder about three years, and also acted as clerk in various stores in this city.

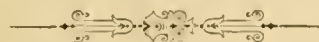
June 29, 1883, he formed a partnership with P. M. Stephens, and bought the Stimson Planing Mills, situated at the east end of the lower bridge, where they are engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds, etc., including most varieties of dressed lumber. The works are especially fitted for the production of first-class manufactures, being supplied with the best modern facilities and skilled mechanics. The capacity of the mill is estimated at about \$35,000 annual value, and 20 men are at present employed. Their rapidly increasing business will doubtless very soon require a large additional force of assistants.

The real estate of Mr. Remus includes two stores on Michigan avenue, and residence and four lots in the Third Ward, on Rose avenue. He is the Vice President of the Big Rapids Furniture Co., and controls \$9,000 of its stock. He was one of the organizers

and first members of the German Lutheran Church at Big Rapids; was one of its first Trustees, and has served in that capacity continuously since 1869, except one year; he is also Secretary.

Mr. Remus was married in Chicago, July 4, 1866, to Julia Trescotch, who was born in Germany, June 10, 1843. They have one son, William, Jr., born at Big Rapids, April 2, 1871. The brothers and sister of Mr. Remus, who accompanied him to this country in 1865, are all living in Osceola County.

Among the prominent and representative citizens of this county whose portraits we present in this book, we take pleasure in giving that of Mr. Remus, which we place upon the preceding page.



**D**avid C. Fuller, attorney, Millbrook village, was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., Jan. 28, 1818. His father, Reuben Fuller, was a native of Connecticut, and his mother, Hannah (Scott) Fuller, was born in Dutchess Co., N. Y. They first settled in Otsego Co., N. Y., afterwards removing to Onondaga County in that State. The early life of Mr. Fuller was passed in Madison Co., N. Y. In the fall of 1836, when he was 18 years old, he came to Adams, Hillsdale Co., Mich., where he lived until the spring of 1881, with the exception of five years, which period he lived in Wisconsin and at Adrian, Mich. In the spring of 1881 he came to Mecosta County and fixed his residence in the township of Millbrook.

Mr. Fuller obtained his elementary education in the common schools of his native State and attended an academy in Onondaga County two terms. In 1854 he began to prepare for his profession, and was admitted to the Bar in Wisconsin, Oct. 8, 1858. He was admitted to practice in the courts of Michigan August 2, 1882, and is actively engaged in the duties of his profession at Millbrook. He was married in Adams, Hillsdale County, Aug. 22, 1843, to Abigail T., daughter of Jacob and Theodicea (Hart) Jackson. She was born in Victor, Ontario Co., N. Y., June 14, 1823, and died April 1, 1883, in Millbrook, leaving four children, Morris R., Caroline A., Lucetta L. and Anson D. Mrs. Fuller was an active and prominent member of the M. E. Church (as is Mr. Fuller), and lived for her family,

where she was a model of all the domestic virtues; and in her death the household has met a loss which can never be supplied.

Mr. Fuller records himself a Republican "dyed in the wool." He has been in official positions in the various places where he has resided, and in 1854 united with the order of Odd Fellows at Hillsdale.

**N**icholas Scott, farmer, sec. 12, Millbrook Tp., was born in Canada, and is a son of Peter and Clarissa (Bower) Scott, also natives of Canada. Mr. Scott remained a resident of his native county until the fall of 1860, in which year he came with his family to Mecosta County and settled on 80 acres of land in its original state in Millbrook Tp. He built a shanty which served one year for shelter, and was replaced by a log house in which the family lived for 20 years. The primitive, temporary structures of the pioneer days are now all replaced by tasteful, convenient, suitable modern buildings, and 50 acres of the farm are under good tillage. Mr. Scott was married Dec. 12, 1850, to Betsey, eldest daughter of Lorenzo and Fanny (Fisher) Aldrich, the former a native of New Hampshire and the mother of Massachusetts. Three of their four children are living: Peter L., born Aug. 6, 1855; Ada C., Dec. 18, 1857, and George W., Dec. 6, 1862. Clarissa E. was born Nov. 3, 1851, and died June 1, 1857.

Mr. Scott is a Republican, and has been the incumbent of several township offices. Himself and wife are members of the denomination known as the "Church of God."

**R**obert Moore, farmer, sec. 23, Millbrook Tp., was born in one of the northern counties of Ireland, Feb. 7, 1846, and is a son of Joshua and Margaret (Armstrong) Moore, also natives of the same section of the Emerald Isle. Mr. Moore came from his native country to Canada in the spring of 1871, and was a resident of the Dominion one year. He came to Michigan in the spring of 1872, and settled in the

township of Millbrook, where he was engaged as a farm laborer until 1877. In that year he bought 40 acres of unimproved land on sec. 23, where he has built a house and placed about 18 acres of land in tillage. He was married in Stanton, Montcalm Co., Oct. 12, 1874, to Estella, daughter of H. B. and Ruth Wolcott, who was born Feb. 29, 1856, in Shiawassee Co., Mich. They have had four children: Emma E., born July 17, 1875; Margaret L., Dec. 2, 1878; Lewis S., May 22, 1880; Wm. H., Feb. 13, 1883.

Mr. Moore belongs to the Republican party. In the spring of 1883 he was elected District Overseer, and also holds the office of School Director. He and his wife are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

**A**tto C. Russ, M. D., practicing physician at Remus, was born at Cleveland, O., Jan. 4, 1854. His parents, Jacob and Barbara Russ, were born in Germany, and came to the United States and settled for a few years at Buffalo, N. Y., removing later to Cleveland. When Dr. Russ was 16 years old his mother died, and he was thrown upon his own resources and energies. He first found employment in a foundry, where he labored a year as a "cold nut cutter." Receiving a wound in his hand, he was compelled to abandon his occupation and entered the wholesale and retail furniture house of Hart & Malone, of Cleveland, as a salesman. He was there engaged 18 months. His prospects were so much impaired by the financial stress of 1873 that he left Cleveland and went to San Francisco, Cal., where he found occupation of varied character until the fall of 1875. He came back and went to Baltimore, Wood Co., O., and entered the office of Dr. Shesler, of that city, to read medicine. He prosecuted his studies there three years, and in 1878 attended the Eclectic Medical College at Philadelphia, and was there graduated Dec. 29, 1879. Armed with his hardy earned and well-merited "sheep-skin," he went to Antwerp, Paulding Co., Ohio, and entered upon the career of a medical practitioner. In the spring of 1881 he went to Vincennes, Ind., but the field did not seem one of practical benefit to his hopes, and he came to Fowler,





Charles Gay.



Clinton Co., Mich., prosecuting his profession there 15 months.

During that time he was married (April 18, 1882) to Almira, daughter of James and Sarah (Wheeler) Lance, who was born March 2, 1863, in Clinton County. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. After marriage, Dr. Russ came to Remus and began his practice, where his success has been almost without precedent, and his business has already assumed surprising proportions. Dr. Russ is a Democrat, and is the present health officer of Wheatland Tp. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias in Ohio, and is a member of the Masonic Order at St. Johns, Clinton Co., Mich.

**C**harlie Gay, editor and publisher of the *Pioneer* at Big Rapids, was born at Cuyahoga Falls, Summit Co., Ohio, Nov. 12, 1837. His father, William Gay, was born Nov. 9, 1811, in Vermont, and during the active years of his life was occupied as an engineer. He resides with his son at Big Rapids. The mother, Emily (Wells) Gay, was born in Chatham, Kent Co., England, Feb. 27, 1819, and died at Warren, Trumbull Co., O., April 15, 1881.

Mr. Gay secured a substantial elementary education in the common and graded schools previous to his fifteenth year, when he entered a printing-office to acquire the details of the profession to which he purposed devoting his life. He came to Newaygo, Mich., to fill a position in the office of the *Republican*, where he was occupied six years. In 1862, in view of the budding prospects of Big Rapids, he proceeded thither with the purpose of establishing a county journal. A cursory examination of the field seemed to warrant the enterprise, and on the 17th of April, 1862, the initial number of the *Mecosta County Pioneer* was issued. The enterprise was established at a momentous period. The country was in the throes of the awful internecine conflict that threatened the dissolution and ruin of the grandest national structure on the records of time, and Mr. Gay fully realized the responsibility of his undertaking at such an era. He established his paper as the organ of no demagogism, but on the inflexible and uncompromising fundamental principle incorporated in the

sentiment, "The Union, the Constitution and Enforcement of the Laws." The earnest young editor at once put himself *en rapport* with the community in which he established his business, and entered heartily into the work which, directly and indirectly, was uppermost in every man's purposes,—the re-establishment of the national unity, and the advancement of the interests of Mecosta County. An examination of the early files of the *Pioneer* makes an impression which should be placed on record,—that absolute moral cleanliness pervaded the entire community. The fact is rendered still more patent by the circumstances under which the Judiciary of the county was regulated.

The *Pioneer* was the first paper published in the county, and until Aug. 1, 1867, was issued in a folio of five columns. It was then enlarged by two additional columns; and again, in 1870, increased in the same proportion, becoming a pretentious journal of nine columns. In July, 1874, it took on additional dignity by conversion to a seven-column quarto, when its style was changed to the Big Rapids *Pioneer*. Aug. 1, 1881, the paper was issued as a daily, which still continues, and, conjointly with the weekly edition, is steadily increasing in influence and popularity.

In the spring of 1869, Mr. Gay was elected the first Recorder of the City of Big Rapids, and in 1870 was the successful candidate for the office of County Clerk, a post he held eight consecutive years; he also officiated as Town Clerk from 1864 to 1869, with the exception of one year, and was Justice of the Peace from the organization of the township until 1869. He is a radical Republican and cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

Mr. Gay is a typical American. His impulses are those of honesty and earnestness, and he guides his operations under their influence. He reaches conclusions with directness, acts always in accordance with his convictions, and makes no compromise with any issue that he believes antagonistic or detrimental to the principles which he inscribed upon his banners in his dawning manhood. He is trusted from his palpable, innate integrity and unselfishness of purpose. If his judgments conflict with those of other men, he is intrenched by his record of manly frankness and candor which have characterized every act of his public life. His journal has been conducted in accordance with the principles on which

it was established, and has won a position second to none in the State, of commensurate scope and purposes. It commands, as it has done from the outset, the respect of its contemporaries, and in political emergencies and general issues holds a declared and positive position. Its metal has never an uncertain ring and its tendencies are patent and unmistakable.

Mr. Gay is zealously interested in Masonic matters and occupies positions of trust in the several bodies of the order with which he is connected. He belongs to Big Rapids Lodge, No. 171, Pilgrim Commandery, No. 23, Big Rapids Chapter, No. 52, and to King Solomon Council, No. 25. In the two last named he holds the chief position at present writing.

The marriage of Mr. Gay to Rosalie Bailey took place at Newaygo, May 12, 1860. Mrs. Gay is a daughter of John and Julie (LeMay) Bailey, and was born at Vergennes, Vt., Nov. 18, 1843. Her father is dead. Her mother was a second time married, to David Jarse, of Newaygo, whom she survives. Mr. and Mrs. Gay have two children: Fred, born Feb. 21, 1862, and Jessie, born Nov. 6, 1863.

The similitude of the genial face of Mr. Gay in connection with this sketch.

On their own behalf the compilers and publishers of this volume desire to subjoin to the personal record of Mr. Gay a permanent expression of their grateful sense of his invaluable aid in the consummation of their work. His own emphatic disclaimer deters a more elaborate specification of the generous assistance he has accorded.

**G**ilbert A. Decker, saddler, Millbrook village, was born July 16, 1858, in Kane Co., Ill. His parents, Peter S. and Caroline Decker, reside in Millbrook Tp. At the age of 20 Gilbert A. went to the village of Millbrook to learn the trade of harness-maker, and was under the instructions of Charles Clements five months, when he bought the stock in trade of that gentleman and embarked in business independently. In the summer of 1879 he disposed of his interests and went to Morley to work at his trade;

but illness compelled him to abandon his employment for the time being, and after his recovery he worked in different places until the spring of 1883, when he again became the proprietor by purchase of the stock owned by J. A. Tory, to whom he made his sale in 1879. He is now doing a prosperous business and monopolizes his line of trade in the village of Millbrook. His stock represents a value of \$1,000.

Mr. Decker was married in Ottawa Co., Mich., June 27, 1883, to Henrietta, daughter of V. J. Seymour, a native of the State of New York. Mr. Decker is a Republican.

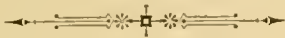
**J**ohn Flake, farmer, sec. 25, Fork Tp., was born near London, Ont., March 14, 1829, and is the only son of James and Margaret Ann (Davis) Flake. His father was a native of County Antrim, Ireland, and was a carpenter by trade, which calling he pursued all his life.

His mother was a native of New York and is still living, in the village of London, Can. The circumstances of his father precluded Mr. Flake from the privileges of education, and threw upon him in early life the responsibility of making a fair start in the world. He obtained a situation on a lake boat and followed the calling of sailor on the "unsalted seas" three years, earning \$3 monthly as net profit. He continued in the lake service until 1850, when he shipped as a seaman on a vessel going to the Isthmus of Darien (Panama), and on arrival there went to work on the Panama Railroad. After three months he contracted the malarial fever, from which few escaped who labored in that enterprise in the pestilential climate of the isthmus, and was sent to New York for treatment. On recovery he made another ocean trip, and on his return came to London, Monroe Co., Mich., and entered the sailing service on Lake Huron, Oct. 3, 1864, when he enlisted in the Union army, enrolling in the 29th Mich. Vol. Inf., and remained until the war ended. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, Middle Tenn., and he saw considerable active service in some of the most important engagements during the closing months of the contest, among them Stone River and Decatur. He finally was appointed wagon

master of his regiment, and continued to discharge the duties of the post until he was mustered out.

Mr. F. came to Saginaw and worked in the lumber mills about two years, and in the fall of 1867 came to the township of Fork and began lumbering for the firm of Camp & Whitney. He worked in the woods during that winter and in the spring was employed on the drive. In the spring of 1868 he bought his farm, built a house, and is now living in comfortable circumstances, with 60 acres of improved land.

Mr. Flake was married July 4, 1852, to Abigail, daughter of Silas and Mary (Heron) Richmond, and they became the parents of 11 children, five only surviving: Clara A., Christie Ann, Katie, John and Morris. Those deceased are Peter G., Thomas, Hugh, Maggie, James and an unnamed infant. Mr. Flake is a Republican, and belongs to the G. A. R., Post No. 77, at Sherman City, Isabella Co., Mich.



**F**ranks Dumon, Prosecuting Attorney of Mecosta County, residence Big Rapids, was born in Nissouri, Canada, Jan. 22, 1842.

His father, John F. Dumon, is a native of the Dominion, born Oct. 1, 1817, and is a farmer.

His mother was born Feb. 23, 1823, in Cherry Valley, N. Y. In 1847 his parents came to Michigan, and settled on a farm in the township of Otisco, Ionia Co., where they are still resident.

Mr. Dumon was his father's assistant until 20 years old, when he committed himself to the cause of the Union. He enlisted Aug. 8, 1862, at Otisco, in Co. B, 25th Mich. Vol. Inf., Capt. Samuel Demorest. His command was attached to the Army of the Ohio, under Gen. Burnside, and afterward under Gen. Schofield. He was under fire at Kingston, Knoxville and Mossy Creek, in the East Tennessee campaign; at Tunnel Hill in the Altoona Mountains; at Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, at the crossing of the Decatur and Peach-Tree Creek, and Chattanooga River. At the siege of Atlanta, July 22, 1864, he was severely wounded by a shot in the right side, and was sent to a field hospital near Marietta, Ga., and thence successively to the hospitals at Nashville, Tenn., Jeffersonville, Ind., St. Mary's and Harper's in Detroit. He was discharged from the

last June 7, 1865, and returned home to the farm with health so impaired that active life seemed forever relegated to the past.

In September, 1865, he went to Ann Arbor and entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, completed the required course of two terms, and was graduated March 27, 1867. He spent the year following in the law office of Wells & Morse, at Ionia, and in April, 1868, came to Big Rapids, opened an office, and has since devoted himself to the zealous prosecution of his calling.

He was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Mecosta County in the fall of 1868, and re-elected two years later. In 1878 he was the candidate on the Greenback ticket for Attorney-General of Michigan, but the party being in a hopeless minority he was of course defeated. In 1882 he was the successful candidate, on the Fusion ticket, for the office of Prosecuting Attorney, and ran about 700 votes ahead of his ticket. The popularity of Mr. Dumon is manifested by the election statistics. He is successful in his career as a lawyer, and secures general favor by his genial manners and good companionship.

His office is in the Telfer block, on Michigan avenue; he owns his residence and two lots on Ives avenue.

He was married Feb. 25, 1869, to Jennie, daughter of Wendell and Jane Benster, of Sylvan, Washtenaw Co., Mich., where she was born May 24, 1849. Their sons, Franklin G. and Frederick B., are both deceased.



**J**ohn Eaton, farmer, sec. 24, Chippewa Tp., was born Oct. 28, 1839, in Ingham Co., Mich. His father, Edward Eaton, was a farmer, and in 1835 brought his family to Eaton Co., from Pennsylvania, of which State he was a native. The mother, Eliza (Cole) Eaton, was also born in the Keystone State, and died in Mecosta County.

Mr. Eaton received from his parents a common-school education and the necessary training for the duties of farming. He came to Mecosta County in 1868 and entered a claim of 80 acres of land under the homestead act, in the township of Chippewa. He now owns 120 acres, and has a fair proportion of

it under improvements. In politics he is a Republican.

Mr. Eaton was married May 24, 1866, to Mary A., daughter of Dryas and Sally (Woodard) Moore. She was born in Livingston Co., N. Y., April 2, 1845. They have had six children, Dora I., Emma J., Nellie, Nettie, Jasper D. and Berthis.

**M**orris G. Dye, farmer, sec. 30, Sheridan Tp., was born May 14, 1845, in Medina Co., Ohio, and is a son of Amos J. and Deborah (Scranton) Dye, natives of Saratoga Co., N. Y. (See sketch of James R. Dye.) Mr. Dye resided in Ohio until he was 21 years of age, when he came to Michigan and settled in the township where he now resides, March 1, 1866. He entered and proved a claim of 160 acres of land, under the homestead law. It was in an entirely original state, and he has placed half the tract under fine cultivation.

Mr. Dye was married Jan. 17, 1870, to Cynthia Ann Burd. She was born in Jay Co., Ind., Feb. 25, 1850. Her parents, John A. and Susanna (Clyne) Burd, were originally from Virginia, and settled later in Gallia Co., Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Dye are the parents of nine children, all of whom are living, namely: Arthur, Ralph, William, Jacob, Amos, Mary, Anna Lee, Deborah S. and John.

Mr. Dye's politics are not of the rigid type: if a candidate is honest he supports him; if he is in any way uncertain, he votes the Republican ticket. In religious belief he concurs with the United Brethren. He has been Road Commissioner eight years, and held the office of Supervisor during the year 1881.

**E**lson J. Swager, blacksmith, on sec. 12, Green Tp., was born in Holmes Co., Ohio, July 18, 1823. His father, George Swager, was a native of Bedford Co., Pa., was a farmer, and moved to Michigan in October, 1837, locating in Hillsdale County, where he engaged in farming until his death in 1855. The mother, Esther (Sharpe) Swager, was born in Virginia, and died in October, 1848, in Ohio.

Mr. Swager remained in the care of his father until he was 20 years of age, when he went to learn his trade at Jonesville, Hillsdale Co., where he spent a year. He then went to Williams Co., Ohio, and was there married to Caroline C., daughter of Jason and Fannie (Hulbert) Welton. He spent three years there, working at his trade, when he came to Greenville, Montcalm Co., Mich., and there followed his business four years. His next remove was to Allamakee Co., Iowa, going a year later to Dunn Co., Wis., where he resided three years. At the end of that time he returned to Williams Co., Ohio. During his stay there the war of the Rebellion broke out and, Aug. 10, 1861, he enlisted and was in active service until Sept. 22, 1862. He was wounded May 31, 1862, at the battle of Fair Oaks. He was in the battle of Williamsburg, and on the expiration of his term of service remained there until May, 1865, when he settled in the township of Green, on a farm, and carried on agriculture eight years. Mr. Swager is a Republican in political sentiment.

The family comprises 11 children: Arlina L., Charles C., Liberous, Fannie, Philetus, Zuleka, Mina, George, Allen, Sarah E. and Leonard.

**J**ames H. Groom, farmer, sec. 12, Fork Tp., was born in Saratoga Co., N. Y., Oct. 5, 1839, and is the son of Milton and Catherine (Butler) Groom. His parents were natives of the State of New York, where they passed their entire lives. The father died when the son was two years of age, and he became an inmate of the family of Thomas Wagner. His mother remained two years later and resumed the care and charge of her child, retaining her guardianship until he was 13 years of age, when he was bound to John Howes and was under his supervision six years.

At the age of 19 Mr. Groom set out alone in life to make his record among men and secure the reward of patient, persistent effort in his struggle with circumstances. He worked by the day and month until the outbreak of the civil war. He enlisted in 1861 in the 77th Reg. N. Y. Vol. Inf., and was discharged at the end of four months on account of disability. He returned to the home of his birth, and two years later came to Michigan; remained for a





*F. Rose.*



*Sally M. Rose.*





time in Kalamazoo, came thence to Big Rapids, and after a short residence located a farm of 80 acres in Fork Tp., under the regulations of the homestead act. In political faith and action Mr. Groom is a Republican.

He was married in 1869, to Nancy M., daughter of Peter and Abigail (Freeman) Phenix. They were natives of Pennsylvania and came to Mecosta County in 1867, where they still reside. Mrs. Groom was born in Ohio, May 29, 1842.

**J**ames E. Rose, farmer, sec. 17, Big Rapids Tp., was born in Defiance Co., Ohio, Dec. 16, 1854. Freeman Rose, his father, was born in Pierrepont, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., May 25, 1820, and died Jan. 11, 1883. He was of Irish and English lineage, and moved to Defiance, Ohio, and removed thence to Michigan, settling in Big Rapids Tp., Dec. 20, 1856. His was the fourth family in the township, and their experiences exhibit all the characteristics of pioneer life. Freeman Rose married Sally M. Lloyd, March 9, 1854. She was born in Russell, N. Y., Feb. 9, 1823, and became the mother of four children, two of whom only are living—Mr. Rose of this sketch, and Harriet Lucy (Rose) Fifield, born Sept. 15, 1857.

Mr. Rose holds the homestead on which his father located in the earliest days of the history of Mecosta County. His mother is the object of his special charge, and relates graphically the incidents of her pioneer life in the township. Much of the time she lived alone with only her baby son for companion, her husband being under the necessity of leaving home to find work to support his family. A call at her door at midnight was a frequent experience, and many times she left her bed to admit strangers for shelter and food. Her husband would have abandoned the place but for her inflexible determination to establish a home here, and when people who were amazed at her resolution and persistent endurance remarked, "I should think you would die here!" she replied, "I did not come to die—I came to live!" and she has carried out her determination worthily. Let us hope she may live to celebrate her centennial birthday in the county of whose wonderfully rapid progress she has been an eye-witness.

Among those we have selected to represent the pioneers of Mecosta County, in the portrait department of this Album, there are certainly none more worthy than Mr. and Mrs. Rose, and it is with great pleasure that we present portraits of each of them in connection with this sketch.

**G**eorge Shust, farmer on sec. 21, Green Tp., was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, May 2, 1839. His parents, John and Barbara (Blake) Shust, were born and died in the "Faderland." Mr. Shust came to America when 14 years of age, accompanied by his brother John. They located in Cleveland, Ohio, where they remained three years, engaged as farm laborers, and occasionally obtaining employment in the city. Mr. Shust went thence to Hillsdale, Mich., and there worked on a farm three years. At the expiration of that time, in the fall of 1858, he came to Mecosta County, and spent four years as a lumberman. He then went to Kent County, and returned hither at the end of two years, when he bought the farm whereon he now resides, then in a perfectly wild state, and at once entered vigorously on the work of clearing and improving it. He now owns 160 acres, with about 100 in tillage.

Mr. Shust was married in 1861, to Cynthia Nippress, a native of Ohio, born Sept 11, 1844. She was a daughter of Robert and Christina Nippress, and died June 28, 1883. The family comprise five children, namely: Charles L., Nelson, Cora E., Chancey L., Della M., George W. and Flora A.

Mr. Shust is prominent in public-school interests in his township, and is a Republican with reference to national affairs.

**W**illiam M. Ferguson, dealer in fancy and staple groceries and gentlemen's furnishing goods, at Big Rapids, was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., March 13, 1842. He is a son of Ezra S. and Hannah (Barton) Ferguson, and was reared as a farmer's son.

He became a soldier for the Union during the first year of the Southern Rebellion, enlisting at

Owego, N. Y., Aug. 3, 1861, in Co. H, Third N. Y. Vol. Inf., Capt. J. S. Catlin, and served as a private two years. He was in a number of engagements and skirmishes, and was discharged Sept. 16, 1863, at Folly Island, S. C., returning to Owego, where he stayed about six months. He then entered the construction corps in the Government service, and spent a year in the South. In the fall of 1866, he came to Big Rapids, and was employed by the lumber firm of F. H. Todd & Co., to scale logs, etc., in the lumber woods. He was thus employed about 18 months, and has served several lumber houses in the same and similar capacities.

Nov. 17, 1882, he bought the general stock of goods of J. W. Fearn; he has added several lines of merchandise, and has since transacted business with sales averaging \$50,000 yearly. His stock is worth about \$10,000.

Mr. Ferguson is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He was married at Binghamton, N. Y., Oct. 28, 1868, to Hettie A., daughter of Benjamin and Betsey Thorn. She was born in Tioga, Tioga Co., N. Y., Oct. 18, 1841. They have two daughters—Lulie M., born Aug. 25, 1871, and Maud B., born March 9, 1867.



**H**arry I. Orwig, County Surveyor, residing at Big Rapids, was born at Newport, Portage Co., Ohio, Aug. 2, 1857, and is a son of John and Hannah M. (Hoover) Orwig.

In 1866 his father bought a farm containing 40 acres of land in the vicinity of St. Louis, Gratiot Co., Mich., where Mr. Orwig was reared until 1874, when he went to Valparaiso, Porter Co., Ind., and attended the Northern Indiana Normal School and Business Institute two years. He went to the high school at St. Louis, and also studied under private tutors, interspersing his educational course with teaching, which profession he followed six years.

In March, 1881, he came to Big Rapids, and engaged with Wm. M. Jacques, City Engineer and County Surveyor. A year later he was appointed Deputy to the latter office, and in the fall of 1882

was elected, on the Republican ticket, to the official position he now holds.



**W**illard A. Whitney, M. D., Big Rapids, was born at Clifton, Monroe Co., N. Y., Dec. 14, 1844, a son of Willard S. and Mary A. (Whiting) Whitney. He was kept in steady attendance at school until about the time of the Southern Rebellion, when, his interest having become fully aroused by the element of patriotism which pervaded the whole land, he enlisted at Buffalo, enrolling Nov. 22, 1861, in the 24th N. Y. Light Artillery, Capt. Lee, and was in the service until July 25, 1865. During his long period of military life he participated in numerous encounters with the rebels, of greater or less moment; among them the battles of Newbern, Kingston, Whitehall, Goldsboro, etc., etc.

In the fall following his discharge he went to Lansing, Mich., and was in a private academy under the instructions of Prof. Olds, where he remained 18 months. His father being a physician, the studious boy and youth had gathered a considerable fund of medical information and had, whenever opportunity offered, read medicine systematically. In 1868 he matriculated at Cleveland Homeopathic College, and was graduated in 1870. He began the practice of his profession at Lansing, and went thence to Lockport, N. Y., where he remained about a twelvemonth, and came to Big Rapids in the fall of 1873, where his father, Dr. W. S. Whitney, was already established. Their business interests were conducted jointly about one year, when Dr. Whitney of this sketch opened an office alone. He has a satisfactory business as physician and surgeon, and is now County Physician, a post he has held since 1875, with the exception of the year 1882. He is examining physician for the A. O. U. W., and also for the Order of Chosen Friends; is Surgeon of Post French, G. A. R.; Clerk of the Board of Education of Big Rapids; and President of the Northern Michigan Homeopathic Association.

Dr. Whitney was married at Big Rapids, Nov. 1 1874, to Lizzie E., daughter of Alfred L. and Fannie M. Clark, born at Oswego, N. Y., May 16, 1854. Dr. and Mrs. Whitney have one child—Fannie M., born at Big Rapids, Mich., Sept. 25, 1875.





W. D. Hopkinson

**W**illiam D. Hopkinson, merchant, at Paris, and whose portrait we present upon the preceding page, was born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., March 14, 1848. His father, William Hopkinson, was a native of Vermont, and by profession a surveyor and civil engineer. He came West about 1840, in the pursuit of his business, and assisted in the surveys of Lake and Osceola Counties, and while in the discharge of his duties contracted disease, of which he died in 1860. His mother, Phebe (Scoutin) Hopkinson, was born in the State of New York. She settled in Mecosta Co., Mich., in June, 1862, locating with a family of five children, on a farm in Green Tp., on which she still resides.

Mr. Hopkinson had such advantages for education as the common schools afforded, and took a short course of study in Eastman's Commercial College, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He has spent 20 years of his life as a school-teacher, continuing that calling up to the spring of 1883. He opened his mercantile establishment at Paris in May of this year.

He was married in 1872, to Mary A. Dodge, born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., and is a daughter of Luther and Jane (Norton) Dodge. She is a lady of superior intellectual attainments and has devoted the greater part of the last 15 years to teaching. The graded school at Paris was under the care and management of herself and husband in 1882-'3. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hopkinson: Cora M., in 1874, and Luther, Aug. 29, 1883.

Mr. Hopkinson held the position of Supervisor in 1879-80. The year 1881 he spent in Dakota for the benefit of his health, and on his return to Michigan in 1882, was re-elected, holding the post until the following spring. He is also a member of the School Board of Mecosta County.

**E**dward P. Strong, farmer, sec. 12, Sheridan Tp., was born Sept. 24, 1836, in the State of New York. He is a son of Abner Strong, born in 1802, in New York, of English descent, and Marietta (Handy) Strong, born in 1802, in the same State, and of the same lineage. They moved to Burlington, Mich., in 1837.

Mr. Strong became "his own man" at the age of 15, and after working some time as a farm assistant he learned the mason's trade, and afterward that of cooper. He came to Mecosta County in January, 1866, and bought 80 acres of land, to which he has since added 77 acres, all of which at date of purchase was in its original state. The owner has placed 90 acres in a good state of cultivation.

Mr. Strong enlisted in the late war, in Ionia County, in Co. B, 16th Mich. Inf., and served three years, receiving his discharge in Virginia, Aug. 12, 1864. He was wounded in the left hand, June 30, 1862, at the battle of Bull Run.

He was married Aug. 7, 1864, in Pennsylvania, to Mary, daughter of Aaron and Eliza (Thomas) Howard. Her father was of Holland Dutch descent, and both her parents were born in Pennsylvania about the year 1800. Mrs. Strong was born in Schuylkill Co., Pa., April 4, 1840. Mr. and Mrs. Strong now have three children in their household, namely: Nelson A., born Oct. 9, 1868, and Eugenie B., May 31, 1869; Mrs. Strong had one child by a former marriage, Clara L., born Aug. 21, 1859.

In regard to political issues, Mr. Strong is a Republican.

**L**ibert H. Ganong, farmer, sec. 2, Grant Tp., was born Jan. 22, 1841, in Hector, Tompkins Co., N. Y., and is the son of John and Margaret Ganong. The father was a farmer, and was born June 27, 1798, in Orange Co., N. Y., and died Nov. 4, 1873. The mother was born in Tompkins County, in 1810, and died Feb. 17, 1841.

Mr. Ganong was but 26 days old when he was deprived of maternal care, and was placed in charge of relatives until he was 10 years old, when he went to live with a man named J. C. C. Smith, residing in Seneca Co., N. Y., under whose supervision he remained for nine years. He was engaged in the capacity of farm laborer three years.

In the second year of the war of the Rebellion he responded to the sentiment of patriotism that ruled the hour, and quickened into life the young and true impulses of the best blood in the land, enlisting Aug. 14, 1862, in Co. A, 141st N. Y. Vol. Inf., and was assigned to the Department of the East, until after

the battle of Gettysburg, when his regiment was transferred to the Western Department, and was ordered to Chattanooga for the relief of Gen. Rosecrans. The first engagements there were those of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. A heavy battle was fought at Resaca, where the regiment suffered a loss of 101 killed and wounded. They pressed on amid continued skirmishing to Altoona Station, where more heavy fighting took place. This was the last active service of Mr. Ganong, as he was attacked with illness and sent to the rear. He did not recover sufficiently to rejoin his command, and was discharged June 1, 1865.

He remained in his native State about six months, going thence to Fayette Co., Iowa, and worked as a farm laborer two years. He came thence to Grant Tp., and was occupied two years in lumbering. In 1869 he entered and proved a claim of 80 acres, under the homestead law, which is one of the best tracts of land in the vicinity, in location and quality of soil.

Mr. Ganong was married in Cortland, Kent Co., Mich., Dec. 23, 1876, to Catherine Hayes. She was born Nov. 23, 1843, in Spring Harbor, Jackson Co., Mich., and is the daughter of Joseph F. and Elizabeth B. Hayes, who are still living. There is one child, Nora M. Ganong, born April 26, 1879. He is a Republican in political connection, and is a member of the G. A. R. and of the Masonic fraternity.

**J**ohn W. Bencoter, farmer, sec. 2, Sheridan Tp., was born in Luzerne Co., Pa., Jan. 24, 1827. He is the eldest of three children born to his parents, John and Sally (Masters) Bencoter, who were born in the above county in 1801 and 1803 respectively, of German lineage.

Mr. Bencoter was married to Ada B. Roberts, July 13, 1846, in Pennsylvania. She was born in that State, in Susquehanna County, July 9, 1829, and is the daughter of Oliver C. and Betsey (Harris) Roberts. The father was born in Peacham, Vt., Dec. 6, 1797, and died Aug. 15, 1882. The mother was born April 4, 1798, in Massachusetts, and resides with her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Bencoter have been the parents of

11 children, nine of whom are living. Following are their record: Sally A., born Feb. 5, 1849; Alexander W., Nov. 27, 1850; Viola, Nov. 10, 1852; Prudence J., April 29, 1855; Francis M., July 2, 1857; Chas. E., Jan. 4, 1860; Finella T., Nov. 3, 1862; Hattie L., May 7, 1864; Bessie F., April 23, 1867; Harris W., March 27, 1870; Erva, March 27, 1872. Bessie died Aug. 20, 1876; Erva died May 22, 1872.

Mr. Bencoter came to Flint, Mich., in April, 1865. In January, 1866, he went to Stanton, and March 1, 1867, settled on his homestead of 80 acres, in Sheridan Tp. He has cleared 60 acres, and placed 30 acres under cultivation. He has a good frame house and barn, besides other necessary farm buildings.

In politics he is a Republican, and has held the office of Township Clerk five years, and in 1878-9 was Township Treasurer.

**M**onroe R. Kent, farmer, sec. 1, Mecosta Tp., was born in Mecosta County, Aug. 3, 1862. He is the son of Rufus and Mary D. (Greer) Kent (see sketch), and has always resided with his parents. In the spring of 1880 he assumed charge of the estate of his father, which he is still managing. Mr. Kent is a young man of more than ordinary promise. He has secured a fair education, is energetic, is possessed of excellent moral qualities, being strictly temperate, and has a fine physical constitution and firm, sound health. He is a voracious reader and well informed on all general issues. He has no particular religious bent and in political faith is a Democrat. He is engaged in progressive farming and raises some of the finest crops in the county, the grade of his products having been more than once among the successful competing articles of farm culture at fairs.

**T**homas Wylie, farmer, sec. 32, Chippewa Tp., was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in November, 1844, and is the son of Benjamin and Ann (Mitchell) Wylie. They were both natives of Scotland, and are deceased.

Mr. Wylie was reared in his native county, and assisted his father in farming until 1861, when





*Richard S. Decker.*



he emigrated to the United States. He went to Philadelphia, and after residing there some time went to Wellington Co., Can., and there found employment two years, as a farm laborer. He went thence to Wisconsin and worked for a railroad company, in various capacities. Two years later he came to Grand Rapids, Mich., where he spent four months. In the fall of 1867 he came to Big Rapids and passed the winter; next spring he came to Chippewa Tp. and entered a homestead of 80 acres of land, the entire tract being dense forest. He cleared a place to build a house, took possession of his property, and proceeded zealously with the labors and struggles of the pioneer farmer. He owns 120 acres of land, and has one half of it under the best kind of cultivation, realizing all the satisfaction possible to a successful agriculturist.

He is neutral in politics, and has discharged the duties of a man and citizen in the various local offices to which he has been chosen.

Mr. Wylie was married Oct. 29, 1866, to Christina McMullen, born in Wellington Co., Can., May 31, 1848. She is a daughter of John and Grace (Blue) McMullen, natives of Scotland. Mr. and Mrs. Wylie have had seven children: Annie, John, Benjamin, Grace, Ellen, James and Jennie. The two last named are not living.

**R**ichard S. Decker, farmer on sec. 2, Millbrook Tp., was born in Delaware Co., N. Y., Sept. 10, 1825. In 1833 his parents removed to Canada, and Mr. Decker remained there until he was 33 years old, when the family went to Illinois and settled in Kane County. In the fall of 1860 he came to Mecosta County and entered a claim of 40 acres of land under the Swamp Land act in Millbrook Tp., then attached to Hinton. Mr. Decker was a laborer from the age of four years until he became a farmer in Michigan. Previous to his 30th year, he was employed at intervals in a machine shop, alternating with farm work and as a carpenter. Two years before going to Illinois he was variously occupied, and in that State he was employed nearly three years as a carpenter. Reverses in Canada swept away all he had accumulated, and on coming to Mecosta County he began life anew. The

township had no independent organization until 1865, and at the date of Mr. Decker's settlement this section was mostly in a state of nature, the first permanent inhabitants of the township having been resident but a year. In the spring of 1861 Mr. Decker entered upon the work of a pioneer; built a log house for his family and set about clearing his land. The year following he bought another tract of 40 acres of land and has since added 40 acres more, aggregating 120 acres in all of which he has been the owner. His home farm now contains 76 acres of his original estate, and nearly all of this is well improved. In 1870 the pioneer home gave place to its modern representative—a good frame house, but the days of struggle and privation are still honored in the memory of those who had the fortitude voluntarily to confront them and the forethought to look beyond to the years of fruition sure to follow honest, persistent endeavor.

Mr. Decker was married Feb. 26, 1851, to Ellen, second daughter of Lorenzo and Fanny (Fisher) Aldrich. Her parents were natives of New Hampshire and Massachusetts respectively, and she was born in Lower Canada, Dec. 26, 1832. Mr. and Mrs. Decker have had seven children. The eldest, Danforth D., born Jan. 11, 1853, died a month after birth. Those surviving were born in the order named: Mary C., May 23, 1854; Ida M., March 11, 1856; Hiram S., May 22, 1858; Leonard H., May 3, 1863; Darwin D., Aug. 6, 1867; Addie J., Oct. 19, 1869.

In politics Mr. Decker is a Republican, as his record shows. He has served his township two terms as Supervisor, four terms as Treasurer, and has been Constable one year. While acting as custodian of the municipal finances he became involved in difficulties that caused serious trouble and considerable litigation. The safe where the moneys belonging to the township were deposited for security, was broken open and \$800 abstracted; but Mr. Decker claims exoneration from responsibility in the affair.

He was drafted in 1864 and served in the Union army until the close of the war. His regiment was attached to the command of General Sherman, and Mr. Decker was in most of the engagements of the memorable campaign. Himself and wife are Adventists in religious belief. As one of the leading agriculturists and a prominent citizen of the county, we present Mr. Decker's portrait in this Album.

**W. Eldredge**, dentist, office No. 115 Michigan avenue, Big Rapids, was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., Dec. 12, 1843. His father, Erastus Eldredge, was born at Salem, Washington Co., N. Y., Aug. 28, 1789, and died Feb. 22, 1864. The paternal grandfather of Dr. Eldredge enlisted as a soldier of the Revolution at the beginning of the war, and was at one time on the staff of Gen. Washington. His father was a soldier of 1812, and fought at Plattsburg. The Eldredge family, of English ancestry, is one of long standing in America. The mother of Dr. Eldredge was Anna, eldest daughter of Samuel Watson. She was born in Maine, Sept. 5, 1799, and died in Penfield, N. Y., near Rochester, Aug. 28, 1883. Her father was born in Maine, Jan. 3, 1777; her mother was born Dec. 12, 1877. They were the parents of 10 children, born in the following order; Anna, 1799; Rufus, 1802; Daniel, 1804; Marion, 1805; Merrill, 1807; Samuel, Jr., 1809; Susan, 1814; Maria, 1816; Emily, 1819, and Frank 1822. Seven of these children are now living. The children of Mr and Mrs. Eldredge numbered ten: William, Ezra, Polly, Charles, Samuel, James, Daniel, Lewis, Irving, and Dr. A. W. Eldredge, the youngest.

He was seized with scarlet fever when two years of age, and partly lost the use of his right leg, which resulted in permanent lameness. He was a pupil at school most of his youthful life, and at the age of 20 attended the Commercial College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he continued nine months. In 1864 he went to Chicago and was employed as book-keeper in the establishment of E. T. Darby, plumber and gas-fitter. He remained in this position eleven months, and then went to Angola, Ind., and purchased the grocery and provision business of his uncle. Three months later he made an advantageous sale of the concern and commenced preparation for his professional career in the office of James Rawley, dentist. In the spring of 1866 he went to York, Ind., remaining a year. In the fall of 1867 he came to Big Rapids and opened an office. Dr. Eldredge has a prosperous practice, and employs two assistants. He is thoroughly read and adopts the best improvements in dental practice; is peculiarly popular in his business and social relations, from his char-

acter of manly dignity and integrity, winning and retaining the respect and patronage of the public by his merits as a practitioner and gentleman.

Dr. Eldredge was married at Fairport, N. Y., Nov. 16, 1870, to Alcesta, daughter of Abner and Cornelia Brown. She was born at Fairport, Sept. 19, 1843.

**William A. McCombs**, farmer, secs. 1 and 2, Sheridan Tp., was born May 16, 1825, in Columbiana Co., Ohio. His father, Archibald McCombs, was born in Washington Co., Pa., in 1769; was of Scotch extraction, and died in 1875. The mother, Catherine (Jeffries) McCombs, was born in 1803, of English and Welsh descent, became the mother of 11 children, and is still living, in Wood Co., Ohio.

Mr. McCombs is the third child of his parents, and was married Feb. 6, 1851, to Catherine Patterson. She died Oct. 22, 1860, leaving six children, all of whom are living: Elizabeth Ann, John William, Nicholas A., Caroline A., David M. and Archibald. Mr. McCombs was married March 17, 1861, at Uhricksville, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, to Mrs. Susannah (Jackson) Parish, widow of Abraham Parish, to whom she was married in 1852. He died in 1856, leaving two children—Dorothy and James. Mrs. McCombs was born March 29, 1826, in Ponteland, Northumberlandshire, Eng., a few miles from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Her father, James Jackson, was born in England, about 1803, and died in Erie Co., N. Y., in 1855. Her mother, Dorothy (Familton) Jackson, was born Feb. 22, 1805, in the village of Duns, about half a mile from the field of Chevy Chase, in Northumberlandshire, Eng. She died in her native county Dec. 2, 1833. Mr. and Mrs. McCombs have had four children—Robert L., Sarah M., Etta M. and Nora B. The last child died when six months old.

Mr. McCombs became a soldier in the late war, enlisting at Camp Meigs, Ohio, in Co. G, 51st Ohio Inf., for three years, but was discharged on account of disability at the end of 18 months. He is a Democrat in political faith, and belongs to the Methodist Church.

He came in 1865 to Mecosta County, and entered and proved a claim of 80 acres under the homestead law, and purchased 120 acres additional. Of this,

160 acres are under first-class cultivation, and exhibit a degree of thrift and industry eminently creditable to the proprietor. He was a pioneer in the township of Sheridan.

**J**ames M. Adair, farmer, sec. 22, Fork Tp., was born in Niagara, Canada, Aug. 4, 1803, and is the son of John and Phebe (Mills) Adair, both of whom were born on the borders of the Susquehanna River. The father was a soldier of the war of 1812, and held the rank of Quartermaster.

Mr. Adair remained with his parents until the death of his father, in 1813. His mother married Hartman Freeland, and after a short time he went to learn the trade of blacksmith, which he followed five years, and afterwards was employed on a farm and at the carpenter and builder's trade.

Mr. Adair was first married to Magdalene London, a native of Niagara Co., Canada, and became the father of five children, two of whom are living: Daniel L. and John H. The deceased were Mary, Annie and Phebe C. In 1830 Mr. Adair moved to Lucas Co., Ohio, and resided there until 1868, when he came to Michigan and, Feb. 5, located 80 acres of land under the provisions of the homestead act, and has since continued a resident. He was married a second time in 1861, to Mrs. Caroline (Dewese) Switzer. Mrs. Adair has one child, Martin A., by her first marriage.

Politically Mr. Adair is a Democrat. He has been School Treasurer a number of years and served Fork Tp. 15 years as Justice of the Peace.

**J**ames R. Dye, farmer, sec. 30, Sheridan Tp., was born Oct. 5, 1829, in Medina Co., Ohio, and is of Irish descent. He is a son of Amos J. and Deborah (Scranton) Dye, natives of Saratoga Co., N. Y. The father was born Feb. 20, 1808, and was married in March, 1829. The mother was born July 15, 1810, of Welsh parentage, and is residing with her son James R. Amos J. Dye died in September, 1864.

Mr. Dye is an unmarried man, and is the oldest

child of his parents. He enlisted in the Mexican war in 1846, and was in the service four months. He also enlisted in the Union army, Feb. 1, 1862, for three years, veteranized, and was honorably discharged in October, 1865. He enlisted in Mercer Co., Ohio, in Co. K, of the regiment known as the "Bloody Fortieth," and was a participant in some of the hardest-fought battles of the war.

In politics he belongs to the National or Greenback party. He has figured somewhat conspicuously in local politics, and has been Justice of the Peace 10 years. He settled in Sheridan Tp., March 1, 1866; owns 100 acres of land, and now has 45 acres under cultivation.

**D**avid Ackerman, farmer, sec. 22, Fork Tp., was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., July 1, 1807, and is son of John and Rachel (Bennett) Ackerman. His parents were born in New York, and his paternal grandfather, William Ackerman, was born in France, came to this country with the French troops under LaFayette and fought in the American Revolution.

The mother of Mr. Ackerman died when he was but eight years of age, and he was reared by his grandfather to the age of 14 years. He engaged as a farm laborer until 1826, when he went to Broome Co., N. Y., and the next two summers worked on a farm and followed the occupation of a lumberman in the winter. He went thence to Onondaga Co., N. Y., and in 1828 was married to Electa, daughter of Daniel and Anna (Norton) Woodford. Six children were born of this marriage, three of whom are now living: Electa M., Rhoda A. and Emily M. The mother died in 1843 and Mr. Ackerman was again married Jan. 26, 1846, to Mary Ann, daughter of James and Ruth (Gould) Ford, the former a native of New York, born Feb. 28, 1776, of English parentage; the latter was born in Dutchess Co., N. Y., May 5, 1779. Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman have had five children, four of whom now survive—Alzina L., Charles A., Edward E. and Imogene N. James H. is deceased. Mrs. Ackerman's grandfather, Nathaniel Ford, was a Colonel in the Revolutionary war.

Mr. Ackerman resided in New York until 1832, when he went to Huron Co., Ohio, and resided there

six years; he moved thence to La Grange Co., Ind., where his first wife died. He moved next to Calhoun Co., Mich., in 1857, and was there 21 years; then he came to Mecosta Co., Mich., in 1878 and located in the township of Fork. Politically Mr. Ackerman is a Democrat.

**J**ohn H. Bright, farmer, sec. 26, Fork Tp., was born in Darke Co., Ohio, April 21, 1853, and is a son of Jesse Bright, who was born in North Carolina, and after the death of his wife in 1859 married again and moved to Ohio, going thence to Indiana, and after a brief stay moved to Montcalm Co., Mich.; in 1870 he came to Mecosta County, and settled in Fork Tp., locating a farm containing 80 acres, under the homestead act, on which he has since resided.

Mr. Bright acquired his education in the common schools and was bred to agricultural pursuits. He accompanied his father to Mecosta County, and is now resident on a farm in the same section. He was married in 1876, to Rosa M., daughter of William and Jane (Sidler) Creevey, born Jan. 8, 1860, in Eaton Co., Mich. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Bright are Eva Jane, Jessie Bell and John William. Mr. Bright is a Republican in political adherence, and has served his township in several local offices.

**W**illiam H. Andrews, saw repairer at Big Rapids, was born in Sheffield, Eng., Sept. 17, 1831. Benjamin Andrews, his father, was born in Sheffield, in May, 1792, and his mother, Sarah (Utley) Andrews, in September of the same year. The grandparents of Mr. Andrews belonged to the agricultural class of England, but the sons on the paternal side were brought up as artificers in Sheffield, celebrated the world over for its cutlery and artisans' tools in metals. Mr. Andrews' father carried on a general hardware business in London for ten years, and came to New York with his family in 1834, where he carried on the business of saw repairing until his death, Dec. 3, 1841. The mother died in Elmira, N. Y., March 8, 1869. Wm. Andrews, uncle of Mr. Andrews, of this sketch, came to the United States in 1819, and brought with him the first saw-makers' anvil ever used this side of

the Atlantic. The anvil has been preserved and was exhibited at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, by Emanuel Andrews, brother of Mr. Andrews, of Big Rapids, himself at that time a saw-maker located at Williamsport, and the first founder of saw-making as a regular calling in Chicago. The uncle went to Auburn, N. Y., and founded an establishment for the repairing of saws, where he died.

Mr. Andrews spent his boyhood's years in school. At 14 he was apprenticed to the well-known house of R. Hoe & Co., of New York, to learn the trade of saw-making, to serve until he attained his majority. He remained a year after the expiration of his indentures, and in 1853 went to Elmira, N. Y., and worked a year there with his brother Emanuel, whom he accompanied to Chicago in 1854. He afterwards returned to Elmira and there pursued his trade until 1871, when he went to Williamsport and was again engaged with his brother Emanuel for the space of two and one-half years. He came to Big Rapids in 1874, and, associated with his brother Joseph, opened a shop for the sale and repair of saws. His business relations with his brother ceased at the end of ten months. In April, 1883, he bought the site where he is now located, and erected his shop, a structure 20x36 feet. His business includes re-teething, gumming and straightening saws, and his trade is prosperous and profitable.

Mr. Andrews was married at Big Rapids, July 24, 1880, to Anna, widow of Peter Klynsma. Mrs. Andrews was born June 22, 1848, in Holland, and is the mother of one child from her first marriage. Mr. Andrews belongs to the Masonic Order, Union Lodge, No. 95, at Elmira, N. Y.; also to the Royal Arch Chapter, No. 42, of Elmira, and is a member of Southern Tier Council, No. 16.

**W**illis Morse, farmer, sec. 12, Grant Tp., was born Nov. 21, 1830, at Concord, N. H. His parents, Jacob and Nancy Morse, were both natives of New York. Mr. Morse was reared to the vocation of agriculture, which he pursued until he was 31 years old, when the Southern Rebellion, with all its horrors and attendant calamities, made its fierce onset to destroy the national unity.

He enlisted Sept. 15, 1861, in Co. H, 44th N. Y.





*Gas. M. Darrah.*

Vol. Inf., Col. Striker. His regiment rendezvoused at Albany about five weeks, and then went to the front. The first battle in which Mr. Morse engaged was at Yorktown, followed by that of Hanover Court-House, May 27, 1862, where he received a bad scalp wound from a minie ball. After a lengthened stay in the hospital he was furloughed 30 days. When he rejoined his regiment at Harrison's Landing, the Union forces were falling back, and his command was detailed to protect the Federal Capital when Lee crossed Maryland with the expectation that that State would rise to his aid, and the capture of Washington be a comparative trifle. But the rebel chief found his hopes vain, and, instead of establishing himself in the seat of the Union Government, he found battle precipitated at Gettysburg. The regiment of Mr. Morse reached that most memorable field of the conflict on the second day of the fight, and at once went into action. He was wounded twice in the head and removed to the hospital, whence he was sent to Baltimore. Four months later he joined his regiment at Fredericksburg, and was next in the fight at Chancellorsville, under Hooker; and, after that most disastrous campaign, retreated to the northern bank of the Rappahannock, near Manassas. After the second Bull Run fight he went to Alexandria, and thence to Washington Hospital, on the sick list. He was transferred to the hospital at Point Lookout, and after four months again rejoined his regiment. The seven days' battles of the Wilderness ensued immediately, when Mr. Morse was captured. He was held by the rebels about 36 hours, when a charge was made by Gen. Custer and a rescue effected. He accompanied the forces of the cavalry chief to City Point, and went back to his command *via* Washington. He took part in all the battles where his regiment was engaged, until his discharge from service, Oct. 11, 1864.

He came to Michigan, and in July, 1866, entered a claim of 80 acres of land, where he established his homestead. The entire tract was covered with heavy timber. He has added to his estate by subsequent purchase, and now owns a fine landed property of 240 acres. In politics he is independent.

He was married Nov. 21, 1871, to Ruth A., daughter of Elijah and Rhoda Blanchard, of Chipewewa, Mich. Mrs. Morse was born Aug. 16, 1849, at Caton, Steuben Co., N. Y. Of this marriage there

are four children, born as follows: Nancy R., March 29, 1874; Emmett L., May 8, 1875; Leonard E., Nov. 19, 1877; Orville T., Aug. 19, 1879.

**J**ames M. Darrah, of the firm of Darrah Bros. & Co., proprietors of the City Flouring Mills at Big Rapids, was born in Luzerne Co., Pa., March 4, 1835. His parents, Robert and Sinia (Mitchell) Darrah, went to Jefferson Co., Pa., when he was two years of age, and where his father engaged in farming and lumbering. His parents and brother came west in the spring of 1856, and in the fall he followed. He found employment in the lumber woods and for some time worked by the month, engaging a part of the time in scaling logs. He was in the service of the lumber firm of Roberts & Hull nine years, and during the three last of these he was in sole charge of their lumber interests. The force of assistants numbered nearly 100 men.

At the end of nine years he bought timber land and engaged in the lumber trade on his own behalf, and also continued to fulfill contracts to furnish lumber for other parties. In the winter of 1882-3 he managed the labors of 80 men, and put in nearly seven million feet of lumber.

In August, 1882, the Darrah Bros. (James M. and Charles M.) bought the City Flouring Mills in upper Big Rapids, and not long afterward the son of one member of the firm, W. E. Darrah, was admitted to the firm as a partner. They are now engaged in building a new mill for their trade and will appropriate the old mill to custom work and feed.

Mr. Darrah owns a fine farm on sec. 33, of Green Tp., containing 80 acres of land; also one of 80 acres in the Township of Colfax, and 40 acres of land in Missaukee County, besides four lots in the city of Big Rapids. He was married at Big Rapids, Oct. 11, 1874, to Emma L., daughter of Daniel C. and Rhema Gore. Mrs. Darrah was born at Elkhart, Ind. Nov. 28, 1852. Of her marriage to Mr. Darrah three children have been born,—Grace E., March 9, 1877; Ella R. and James Chester. Only the first named child survives. Mr. Darrah is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and was one of the charter members of the Big Rapids National Bank. He was elected

Director at its organization and is a member of its present Board.

As one of the representative citizens of this County, and a gentleman well worthy the position, we present the portrait of Mr. Darrah in this work.

**B**enjamin T. Lovejoy, farmer, sec. 4, Sheridan Tp., was born Jan. 16, 1830, in Cattaraugus Co., N. Y. Almon Lovejoy, his father, was born in Connecticut, June 22, 1792, and came of a clear line of Puritan ancestry, and died Nov. 27, 1880. His mother, Hannah (Ames) Lovejoy, was of Welsh descent, born near the extremity of Lake Ontario, in the State of New York, Sept. 18, 1795, and died Nov. 6, 1880.

Mr. Lovejoy was married Dec. 25, 1857, in Paris Tp., Kent Co., Mich., to Charlotte A. Van Amburgh. She was born May 6 1830, in Oakland Co., Mich., and is a daughter of Matthew Van Amburgh. Mr. and Mrs. Lovejoy have been the parents of four children, born as follows: Almon M., Oct. 22, 1859; Abner L., May 19, 1861; James Nelson and George Benjamin, twins, born Feb. 16, 1863, and died three weeks subsequent to birth.

Mr. Lovejoy came to the State of Michigan in the fall of 1843, and settled in Hillsdale County. In 1855 he went to Kent County, where he remained 25 years.

On the outbreak of the Southern Rebellion, he felt himself impelled to do all in his power to avert from the nation the impending evils of disruption. He enlisted Aug. 5, 1862, in Co. E, 21st Mich. Vol. Inf., and was in the service three years, three months and seven days. Among other engagements in which he took part were the battles of Perryville, Ky., Oct. 8, 1862; Murfreesboro, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862, and Jan. 1 and 2, 1863. He was transferred to the Invalid Corps on account of disability, and was discharged Nov. 12, 1865, at Springfield, Ill.

He came to Mecosta County in 1880, and bought 80 acres of land, where he has since been farming. He has improved his farm to the best advantage; has 50 acres in tillage, a good frame house, and suitable farm buildings. He is a Republican and belongs to the United Brethren Church.

**A**ugh Johnson, farmer and lumberman, sec. 6, Chippewa Tp., was born in Middlesex Co., Can., June 18, 1833, and is a son of Alexander and Mary (Nesbit) Johnson. They were natives of Scotland, where the father was born, in February, 1794, and the mother in January, 1806. They came from their native land to Canada in 1820, and lived on a farm until the death of the senior Johnson, which occurred Oct. 4, 1874. In 1882 the mother became an inmate of the family of her son.

Mr. Johnson became "his own man" at the age of 18 years, working as a day laborer on a farm and as a hand in the saw-mills of the vicinity where he grew to manhood. He was married in 1860, to Margaret, daughter of John and Wealthy (Degraw) Whiting. The parents were born in the State of New York, the daughter in Caradock, Middlesex Co., Can. After his marriage, Mr. Johnson operated as a farmer in the Dominion 12 years. He sold out and in July, 1876, came to Chippewa Tp., Mecosta Co., bought 136 acres of land on sec. 6, and engaged exclusively in agriculture until 1882. In that year, associated with his brother, John, he erected a saw-mill and has since been diligently engaged in the manufacture of lumber. The mill has all the most desirable modern fixtures, with a capacity to saw daily 12,000 feet of hard or soft lumber.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been the parents of five children. Three are still living,—Amelia L., Alexander G. and Maggie L. Two are deceased,—Wealthy A. and Mary E. The family attend the Baptist Church. Mr. Johnson is a Republican.

**C**harles B. Lovejoy, grocer at Big Rapids, was born in Locke, Ingham Co., Mich., May 21, 1844, and is a son of Israel H. and Mary B. (Hill) Lovejoy. The father settled in Locke in 1840, when that and the joining townships were in their primeval condition. In order to reach the location of his claim, he was under the necessity of cutting a road through the wilderness a distance of three miles. At that time only half a dozen families were settled in the township, and those at widely distant points.







*Charles L. Tuttle.*

Lansing was the market for the produce of Ingham County, and the city pioneers were then clearing away the timber, where now the thronging citizens traverse finely graded streets and behold stately and splendid buildings. Mr. Lovejoy, Sr., was the youngest in a family of two brothers and three sisters, all of whom are now living, each having an average age of 77 $\frac{1}{4}$  years. He is a second cousin of the brothers Elijah Parish Lovejoy and Owen Lovejoy, the great Abolitionists. (The former died a martyr to principle on the evening of Nov. 7, 1837, at Alton, Ill., and the latter was a conspicuous member of Congress, who died in 1864.)

Mr. Lovejoy, of this sketch, is the eldest of nine children who attained mature age. (Two sisters and one brother are now deceased). He was reared on a farm, and at 20 years of age went to Albion, Mich., where he took a special course of commercial study at Mayhew's Business College. On leaving school he made his parents a short visit, and with \$8.50 as a capital for future operations he set out to Bay City to commence life on his own account. Eight weeks later he went home and entered the employ of George N. Cady, merchant at Albion, at \$10 per month and board. Six months later a better situation offered, and he went to Litchfield, Hillsdale Co., Mich., to enter the store of his cousins, F. E. & A. C. Lovejoy, as clerk and accountant, where he remained three years; in 1871 he came to Big Rapids, where he engaged as book-keeper five years; in 1876 he formed a partnership with John G. Gill, in the grocery business, a relation which existed 18 months and dissolved. He was for some time employed by various firms in the capacity of accountant, and Sept. 1, 1883, entered the business house of Cannon & Gottshall, as book-keeper of the Big Rapids Iron Works, but only remained until October, 15, 1883, when he went into the general grocery business on his own account.

Mr. Lovejoy was married in Litchfield, July, 10, 1870, to Lucy E., daughter of Hanford B. and Jane Wood. Of their marriage four children have been born, namely, Winfield E., Allie M., Edith M. and Edna J. (twins). Mr. Lovejoy is a member of the Masonic Order and Royal Arch Chapter; has also been a member of the Board of Education of the Fifth Ward five years, and in 1875 was Supervisor of that ward. He owns his residence and three lots on North Stewart avenue.



**C**harles L. Tuttle, farmer, sec. 18, Grant Tp., was born in Rochester, Monroe Co., N. Y., Jan. 18, 1836, and is a son of David and Mary Ann Tuttle. His father was born Jan. 3, 1813, in New York, and died Sept. 1, 1879. His mother was born in the Empire State Sept. 24, 1815, and died Feb. 15, 1847.

Mr. Tuttle became a citizen of the Peninsular State in 1864. After a stay of a few months at Grand Rapids he went to Cannon Tp., Kent Co., where he remained a year, and after passing a similar period of time in the township of Cortland, in that county, he came to Grant Tp., and entered a homestead claim of 80 acres. He has since bought 80 acres across the highway on sec. 19, both tracts being choice land. In 1880 he built a fine dwelling-house on sec. 18, at an expenditure of \$2,000.

Mr. Tuttle was married Jan. 6, 1858, to Mary C. daughter of R. L. and Mary Underhill. The father was born April 27, 1810, in New York, and died Aug. 10, 1854; his father, Samuel Underhill, was born in the same State, in 1777, and died Aug. 17, 1850. The mother was born Nov. 19, 1814, and died April 4, 1852. The grandmother, wife of Samuel Underhill, was born in 1780, and died May 20, 1859. Mrs. Tuttle was born at Allen, Allegany Co., N. Y., March 4, 1833. She is the mother of six children: Livingston D., born June 18, 1859; James W., Sept. 18, 1861; Roseltha A., June 11, 1863 (died Sept. 2, 1876); Irving A., July 4, 1865; Charles M., July 9, 1870 (died July 26, 1870); Florence L., Sept. 13, 1871 (died Aug. 30, 1873). Mr. Tuttle is a Republican in political sentiment and was the first Supervisor after the organization of the township. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church.

Livingston D. Tuttle, farmer, sec. 19, was married March 7, 1881, to Mary Ella, daughter of Ralph and Sarah A. Walker, born Sept. 7, 1857. There is one child,—Ralph Latham Tuttle,—born April 15, 1882.

In selecting representative men with whose portraits we wish to embellish this Album, we have chosen the subject of this biography, Mr. Tuttle, and present his portrait upon the preceding page.

**J**ames P. Cawthorne, farmer, on sec. 36, Wheatland Tp., was born in Flint, Genesee Co., Mich., May 7, 1853. His father, John W. Cawthorne, is an Englishman by birth and descent, and his mother, Myra J. (Calkins) Cawthorne, is a native of New York. Mr. Cawthorne is a music teacher by profession and has for years combined his labors in that avenue with the other duties of life which have devolved upon him. He finished his preparation for his vocation at the State Normal School at Ypsilanti and began to teach in 1872. He justly deserves the wide local reputation he has earned as a skillful musician and a competent teacher, whose success in the latter capacity is acknowledged without qualification. He teaches both vocal and instrumental music. He was married March 2, 1876, to Susie A., daughter of John A. and Ada (Golden) Wood, who was born May 27, 1860, in Chemung Co., N. Y. Her parents are of French and German descent. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Cawthorne resided with their parents until 1881, when they located on the farm where they now reside. The place was purchased some years previous, and contains 120 acres, with 47 acres under cultivation. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Cawthorne are two children: Charles C., born June 3, 1879, and Mabel, Nov. 9, 1882. Mr. Cawthorne is a Republican in politics, and is Secretary of the Order of Good Templars. Himself and wife belong to the M. E. Church.

**B**arnabas Kelley, farmer, sec. 13, Millbrook Tp., was born in Canada, Sept. 15, 1841. His parents, William and Maria (Samos) Kelley, were also natives of Canada, and about 1869 settled in Wheatland, Mecosta Co., where they now reside. Until the age of 16 Mr. Kelley passed his time at school and as a farm laborer; after this, until he was 22 years old, he was in the employ of various farmers, and passed one year working as a lumberman. He came to Ionia Co., Mich., in 1865, and worked one year on a farm, coming to Millbrook in 1866. He purchased 40 acres of wild land on sec. 14, and at once commenced

clearing and otherwise improving it. To his original purchase he has added 100 acres, and now owns a valuable farm of 140 acres, with a considerable proportion under the plow, and a good house and barn. He has acquired his property by frugality, persistency, and the exercise of good judgment.

He was married in Canada, Jan. 27, 1863, to Mary L., daughter of Samuel and Betsy Fisher, and they have had five children: Almon E., Charles H., William E., Ida A., and Medora D. Mr. and Mrs. Kelley are members of the Advent Christian Church. In politics Mr. K. is an ardent Republican.

**R**andall T. Capen, retired farmer, resident at Remus, was born in Tolland Co., Conn., June 2, 1823. His parents, Philip R. and Julia A. (Fenton) Capen, were natives of Connecticut and of English descent. During the years previous to attaining his majority, Mr. Capen attended school winters, and spent alternate summers in labor in the cotton factories at Windham and Bozrah. On reaching the age of 21 years he entered Swift's cotton mill as overseer, and afterwards occupied the same position in Fitch's mill, in the town of Bozrah. He was married June 16, 1844, to Julia A., daughter of Geo. H. and Lydia A. (Miller) Armstrong, who was born Dec. 1, 1825, and is of English and Scotch descent. She was liberally educated in her native State, and in her general deportment gives evidence of her New England training. Mr. and Mrs. Capen worked in the cotton mills after their marriage until the fall of 1847, when Mr. Capen had a serious attack of hemorrhage of the lungs, and was incapacitated for labor three years. When sufficiently recovered he engaged in farming, adopting agriculture as a calling in life in 1850, pursuing it diligently until the last few months, when he retired from active life and fixed his residence at Remus.

In 1850 Mr. Capen went to Jefferson Co., Ohio, where he owned a farm, and operated until the fall of 1859. He then came to Wheatland and bought 120 acres of wild land, built a pioneer's shanty and proceeded after the most approved pioneer style to clear and improve his farm, putting 45 acres in first-class farming condition.

The first election held in the township of Wheat-





*Andrew McFarlane.*

land occurred at the house of Mr. Capen. It was in the fall of 1864, and 14 voters assembled, 13 of them casting their ballots for Abraham Lincoln for President.

Mr. and Mrs. Capen have five children, viz.: Cyrus R., born July 5, 1845; Charles H., Oct. 15, 1849; Pearl L., Feb. 13, 1855; Ellen J., April 19, 1863; Estella R., Sept. 1, 1866. They have received a good business as well as common-school education. Mr. Capen is a radical Republican in politics and has held various local offices. He is a member of the I. O. of G. T. at Millbrook.

**G**orge Brady, farmer on sec. 22, Aetna Tp., was born in Virginia, Feb. 18, 1823, and is a son of Thomas and Jemima (Culver) Brady, who were natives of Canada. The date of the father's birth is unknown, but he lived in Virginia all the early period of his life, and died in Seneca Co., Ohio, in 1839. The mother was born in 1811 and died at the age of 72 years, at the residence of her son, and was buried in the Morley Cemetery. On the death of his father the maintenance of the family devolved on Mr. Brady, and they soon after went to Sandusky Co., Ohio, where they remained until 1847, then going to Fulton Co., Ohio, where they resided until 1856, the date of their settlement at Croton, Newaygo Co., and after a residence of two years they came to Aetna Tp., where they fixed their residence on 80 acres, which Mr. Brady had previously purchased. It was all in timber, and Mr. Brady built the usual log house and sought his fortune in the lumber business. The original purchase of 80 acres is now in a fine state of cultivation, well supplied with modern buildings except the house, which will soon be replaced by a suitable residence.

Mr. Brady is the oldest resident settler of Aetna Tp. He was an inhabitant of the township seven years before its organization. He was married in Fulton Co., Ohio, Jan. 1, 1862, at the age of 28, to Alvira, daughter of John and Pernelia (Hadley) Davis, born Feb. 11, 1835; parents were natives of Ohio and of Scotch-Irish descent. Mr. and Mrs. Brady have had eight children, six of whom survive: Eugene, born Jan. 5, 1854; Adelbert, May 20, 1856; Adaline, March 6, 1861; William, Aug. 10, 1863;

Isabell, Oct. 23, 1867. Those deceased are, Florence, born May 11, 1856, died July 15, 1857; a child born Sept. 1, 1872, died Nov. 12, 1882.

Mr. and Mrs. Brady are active members of society, though of liberal religious views. Mr. Brady is still in busy life, and, as a land inspector, has no rival. He is independent in political thought and action.

**A**ndrew McFarlane, farmer, sec. 16, Green Tp., was born in Godmanchester, Can., Oct. 30, 1835, and is a son of Andrew and Margaret (Gray) McFarlane. His parents were natives of Scotland and emigrated to America in early life, locating in Canada, where the father died; the mother came to the "States" with her children. She is still living and has a home with her son Peter, in Mecosta County.

Andrew McFarlane came to Michigan in 1856. Reaching Grand Rapids by established routes of travel, he found that an almost trackless wilderness lay between him and his point of destination, and in the fall of that year he walked to Mecosta County, and found employment in the lumber camps during that winter. In the spring of 1857 he bought 160 acres of land, paying therefor ten shillings per acre, located near Hersey, Osceola Co., and on it he labored five years. In 1862 he sold his farm and bought a half interest in a mill and a tract of land, and turned his attention and energies to milling and lumbering. He was thus occupied about 16 years, sold out again and interested himself in hotel and mercantile business at Paris, in which he continued six years. In May, 1878, his store was burned, and he determined to devote the balance of his life to agriculture and settled on his present farm. He owns 640 acres of land in Mecosta and Osceola Counties, his home place having 150 acres in the best condition for agricultural purposes.

Mr. McFarlane was married July 5, 1862, to Laura E., daughter of James and Laura L. (Hungerford) Montague, born Oct. 9, 1845. (See sketch of C. H. Montague.) Mr. and Mrs. McFarlane have had five children, born as follows: James A., Aug. 18, 1865; William A., March 28, 1867; Henry C., Feb. 5, 1870; Frederick, Dec. 15, 1882. John M., born Dec. 12, 1863, died Aug. 26, 1866. Mr. McFarlane

has always been alive to the public interest of the community of which he is a member, and served his township in several local offices; is at present School and Township Treasurer. Himself and wife are members of the M. E. Church. Politically he is a Republican. We give a portrait of Mr. McFarlane opposite the preceding page.



**H**arry M. Wilder, farmer, sec. 30, Grant Tp., was born March 20, 1837, in Pontiac, Oakland Co., Mich., and is a son of Joel and Hannah Wilder, both of whom were natives of Ontario, N. Y. His father was born Sept. 6, 1794, and died June 28, 1867; and his mother was born July 19, 1800, and is now living in Lapeer Co., Mich., where the family settled in 1836.

Mr. Wilder became a soldier of the civil war, enlisting at Detroit, Aug. 20, 1861, in Co. F, 16th Mich. Vol. Inf. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He participated in the siege of Yorktown, in April, 1862; Hanover Court-House, May 27, 1862; Mechanicsville, June 26, 1862; Gaines' Hill, June 27; White-Oak Swamp, June 30; Malvern Hill, June 30; Turkey Bend, July 1; 2d Bull Run, Aug. 30; Antietam, Sept. 16; Shepards-town, Sept. 19; Fredericksburg, Dec. 13; Chancellorsville, April 3, 1863; Middleburg, June 21; Gettysburg, July 1 to 3; Williamsport, July 12; Wapping Height, July 21; Bristow Station, Oct. 14; Rappahannock Station, Nov. 7; Mine Run, Nov. 27; Wilderness, May 5, 1864; Laurel Hill, May 8; Spottsylvania Court-House, May 18; Magnolia Swamp, June 1; Bethsaida Church, June 2; Petersburg, June 18; Petersburg & Norfolk Railroad, July 30; Weldon Railroad, Aug. 18, 19, 21; Preble Farm, Sept. 30; Hatcher's Run, Oct. 27; Dabney Mill, Feb. 6, 1865; Hatcher's Run (2d), March 25, 1865.

Mr. Wilder holds the following testimonial from his superior officer:

"Sir: Accept my congratulations and thanks for having so nobly and successfully performed your duty during your perilous term of service, and for having been connected with an organization which has with honor to itself participated in the following

named battles: (See foregoing list.) With many good wishes for your future,

I am respectfully yours,

B. F. PARTRIDGE,

Col. Commanding 16th Mich. Vol. Inf.'

Mr. Wilder was married Jan. 15, 1863, to Melinda Thompson, of Lapeer Co., Mich., born April 26, 1845. One child was born of this marriage—Don J., March 31, 1866. The mother died April 21, 1866; and Mr. Wilder was again married June 18, 1867, to Lydia E., daughter of L. D. and Nancy Marsh, of Charlotte, Eaton Co., Mich. She was born in Quincy, Branch Co., Mich., May 22, 1849. Of this marriage two children have been born: Del. C., Aug. 17, 1870, and Dio D., May 28, 1872.

Mr. Wilder came to this township in August, 1865, and entered a homestead claim of 80 acres, where he has since resided. He has held the offices of Justice of the Peace and Road Commissioner, is a member of the G. A. R. and of the Order of Masonry. He was one of 12 voters who organized the township in 1866, and his first wife's death was the first event of that character in Grant. The present Mrs. Wilder taught the first school term of 13 weeks. She received but \$2.20 cash for her services, her patrons paying her in such articles as they possessed. One man settled his proportion with ax-helves, another with part of a harness, another sent his ox-team to work on her husband's farm.

Those people were all honorable, and have made their way in the world, now owning well improved farms. The character of the primary school-ma'am of Grant may be better understood from the fact that she walked twice to Big Rapids and back—15 miles—to hear political speeches, feeling it her duty to be informed on the popular issues of the day.



**M**unson Lamb, farmer on sec. 5, Etna Tp. was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., Oct. 15, 1829. His parents, Isaac and Emeline (Hickok) Lamb, were natives of New York and Vermont respectively. He came to Michigan in 1838, and made his first location at Hillsdale, where he was married in 1854, to Clarissa, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Millspaugh) Jolls,



natives of the State of New York. Mrs. Lamb was born Aug. 9, 1840, in Hillsdale Co., Mich., where they continued to reside for eleven years. Mr. Lamb removed in 1865 to Lansing, Ingham Co., Mich., and there carried on farming 16 years. In 1881 he came to Mecosta County and located where he now resides, in Aetna Tp. Of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lamb, one is deceased. Noble was born Dec. 29, 1856, and died Feb. 20, 1859; Mary E. was born Jan. 3, 1859; Alverta was born Dec. 15, 1861; Thomas J. was born April 11, 1864; Hattie was born Feb. 9, 1866.

**G**eorge F. Waring, resident on sec. 1, Wheatland Tp., a well-driver by calling, was born in Farmington, Ontario Co., Can., Sept. 30, 1836. His parents, Nathaniel and Sarah (Odel) Waring, were natives of the same place. Until the age of 25 Mr. Waring was an assistant on his father's farm, and obtained his education at the academy at Macedon Center, Wayne Co., N. Y. He was married Oct. 9, 1861, at that place, to Louise, daughter of Orrin and Betsy (Reed) Lapham, who was born in Macedon, N. Y., Nov. 19, 1842, and educated at the academy in her native town. After completing her education she entered upon the duties of housekeeper for her parents, which post she filled until her marriage. Herself and husband lived with her parents two years. In the spring of 1865 they came to Kalamazoo Co., Mich., and located on a farm in the township of Texas, selling out two years later and taking possession of 75 acres in Oshtemo Tp., in the same county. In the fall of 1870 he went to the city of Kalamazoo and embarked in the grocery business. In 1874 he went to Plainwell, Allegan Co., Mich., and commenced to operate as a well-driver. In the summer of 1879 he located on 80 acres of land in Wheatland Tp., and has placed a portion of it under improvement.

Mr. and Mrs. Waring have had three children, born as follows: J. Allyn, Feb. 19, 1870; Minnie L., May 26, 1873; Marion, Feb. 19, 1874. The last named was killed by the cars Oct. 5, 1865. Mr. Waring is a zealous Republican and is now Justice of the Peace and School Inspector. Mrs. Waring is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

**B**enjamin L. Wolcott, farmer, sec. 23, Millbrook Tp., was born Dec. 5, 1853, in the State of New York, and is a son of Henry B. and Ruth (Taylor) Wolcott (see sketch). At the age of 23 years, Mr. Wolcott bought 40 acres of timbered land whereon to establish his home, and as a starting point to build his fortunes. He now has 20 acres cleared and under good improvements. He was married in Millbrook, Mich., 14, 1877, to Alice M., eldest daughter of Solomon and Jane (Reed) Evarts. The father was a physician in Shiawassee County, where he died; the mother resides with her children. Mrs. Wolcott was born in Vernon, Shiawassee Co., June 9, 1849, where he obtained a good education, and for ten years previous to her marriage was a popular and successful teacher.

Mr. Wolcott is a Republican, and has been the incumbent of all the responsible official positions in the township. Himself and wife attend the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

**J**ohn Blossom, farmer, sec. 24, Aetna Tp., was born March 21, 1844, in Jenkins Co., Wis., and is a son of Zenas and Mary (Hunt) Blossom. His parents came to Michigan when he was 7 years old, and settled in Allegan County, where he lived until the outbreak of the Rebellion. He enlisted in the Eighth Michigan Cavalry, his regiment being assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, under Burnside. He was with that command until 1863, when he was transferred to that of Sherman. At Macon, Ga., he was taken prisoner, and sent to the stockade prison pen of Andersonville. After three and one-half months incarceration, a removal was ordered to Goldsboro, and he made his escape by jumping from the train. He soon found a friendly negro who secreted him in a barn three weeks. He then fell in with Sherman's advanced guard—17th Army Corps—and joined Sherman at Milledgeville, Ga.

In the winter of 1865 he came home on a furlough, and returned Jan. 8, to Tennessee. He was pro-

moted to a Corporal's rank, and honorably discharged at the close of the war, Sept. 28, 1865.

The following paper is a valuable testimonial to the bravery of character and high esteem in which Mr. Blossom was held by his superior officers:

"This witnesseth that Corporal John Blossom of Co. F, Eighth Mich. Cav., has no superior in all that is required to make an excellent soldier. For the cheerfulness and alacrity with which he always performed the duties assigned to him; for his gentlemanly conduct, whether on the march or in the camp, and for his fortitude and courage while in the enemy's prison and on the battle-field, he will be highly esteemed.

(Signed) HOMER MANVEL,  
Adj. Eighth Mich. Cav."

In January, 1873, he purchased 80 acres of land on which is now his residence, 60 acres of which are improved. His farm buildings are convenient and substantial, and he has recently completed a good residence, at a cost of about \$1,000. In politics he is a Republican, and has held several offices in the service or his township.

Mr. Blossom was married in 1873, to Rebecca, daughter of John and Martha (Guitan) McCormick. She is a native of Ohio, and was born Nov. 24, 1840. The two children of Mr. and Mrs. Blossom were born as follows: Edward, July 17, 1877, and Laura M., March 20, 1880. The latter died Sept. 14, 1881.

**A**lexander Bane, farmer, located on sec. 32 of Deerfield Tp., P. O. Morley, is a son of Alexander and Susan (Bolton) Bane. His father was born in Scotland in 1816 and died June 24, 1883. His mother is a native of Lanark Co., Can., and is still living in the place where she was born.

Mr. Bane was born in Lanark County, Jan. 10, 1840. He obtained his education at the common schools and worked in a saw-mill when in youth. At the age of 18 years he engaged in lumbering, and in the spring of 1871 came to Kent Co., Mich., where he stayed three years in the employ of the G. R. & I. Railroad Company. On the expiration of his engagement he came to Mecosta County, and bought 40 acres of unimproved land of Henry A. French, where

he now resides. Twenty acres are now in a good state of cultivation.

Mr. Bane was married Dec. 15, 1862, to Sarah Jane, second daughter of William and Catherine (Sly) Ward. She was born March 17, 1840. Five of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Bane were born as follows: Emery E., Feb. 23, 1864; James, Sept. 25, 1871; Addie, June 6, 1874; Ernest, Feb. 10, 1879; William, Nov. 18, 1882. The deceased were Winnie E., Alexander, Susan and an unnamed infant. The family belong to the Methodist Church. Mr. Bane is independent in political sentiment and action.

**R**uben J. Weber, farmer, sec. 35, Aetna Tp., was born in Monroe Co., N. Y., Feb. 21, 1858. He is a son of John and Phebe (Martin) Weber, natives respectively of Germany and Ireland. Mr. Weber remained at home under the care of his parents and attending school until 1867, when he came to Kiddville, Mich., and after a residence there of a few months he went to Grand Rapids. Here he went to school, and was variously engaged, until the spring of 1871, when he came to Aetna Tp., and has been since occupied as a farmer. In 1882 he purchased 40 acres of wild land, and now has a considerable portion cleared.

In politics Mr. Weber is a Republican. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church, and active in furthering its interests. He is still a young man, zealous in what he undertakes, and executes intelligently. He is sure of future success and a life of usefulness in his generation.

**A**mos R. Streeter, junior member of the firm of Slawson & Streeter, proprietors of the stove-mill in Mecosta village, Morton Tp. was born in Tioga, Pa., July 12, 1854, and is a son of Jesse and Lydia (Reed) Streeter.

He was reared on a farm and received a common-school education. His father dying when he was about 14 years old, himself and mother managed the farm one year and then sold out. In March, 1871, Mr. Streeter came to Altona, Me-





*J. Milner*

costa Co., and, with his brother, Wm. W. Streeter, as a partner, he established himself in the blacksmith business. In 1876 he went to Rustford and engaged in the same employment singly, managing successfully until August of that year, when he went to Roland Tp., Isabella Co., and there operated similarly one year. In August, 1879, he came to Mecosta village and opened a shop, which he still owns, together with two lots on Main street. He bought 80 acres in the township of Martiny, and for two winters was engaged in cutting cedar timber for telegraph poles and fence posts. Of the latter he marketed about 30,000, and of the former several thousands; he also cut a considerable amount of pine logs.

In the spring of 1883 he formed a business relation with W. A. Slawson and built a stave-mill. The products include tub and pail staves, and are shipped chiefly to Grand Rapids. The mill fixtures comprise the most modern machinery, and the aggregated daily product averages from 15 to 20 cords of staves. About 20 men are employed. Mr. Streeter owns his residence and three lots on Main street, and 40 acres of land on sec. 14, near the mill, also two village lots in Superior City, Wis. He belongs to the A. O. U. W., and was elected a member of the Town Council in the spring of 1883. In 1880 he was Township Clerk, and in 1881 was Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Streeter was married in Deerfield Tp., Sept. 24, 1876, to Lillian, daughter of Lemuel and Eliza Chipman, born in Livingston Co., Mich. They have one son, Royal, born in Rustford, May 30, 1878. The mother of Mr. Streeter died at Jamestown, N. Y., Dec. 26, 1877.

**J**onathan Milner came to Big Rapids in 1870, and formed an association with Col. J. O. Hudnutt and B. M. Hanks in the Falcon Planing Mill. Four years later he sold his interest to his partners, and devoted his attention exclusively to an apiary which he had gradually been establishing near his residence. The seasons proving favorable, his careful and skilled management brought its reward, and his apiary soon numbered 400 colonies of bees, which he continued to manage, with satisfactory success, until 1879. In

June of that year he purchased the site of the building where he has since carried on his transactions, and proceeded to erect a suitable structure for the consummation of his plans. The mill is comparatively new, is 50 x 130 feet in size, and is fitted with the best modernized machinery for turning out first-class products in its line. Mr. Milner is skilled in his business, and carries on transactions amounting annually to about \$8,000. He employs a number of hands, and does planing, matching, re-sawing, molding, etc. The peculiar situation of the Eagle Planing Mill is eminently advantageous to managing its shipments, having a side track of the D., L. & N. railroad on its west side, and a branch of the G. R. & I. road on the east side of the building.

Mr. Milner was born in Yorkshire, Eng., Oct. 28, 1817. His parents, Thomas and Rebecca (Longhorn) Milner, emigrated to the United States in August, 1818, and purchased a farm near New Castle, Del. The son was a student at school and his father's farm assistant until he was 16 years old, when he went to Wilmington and learned the carpenter's trade. He was married in that city, June 10, 1843, to Minerva Daidy. They had one daughter, Elizabeth, now deceased. The mother died in Wilmington, April 6, 1846.

In the spring of 1850, Mr. Milner came west to Milwaukee, Wis., and was engaged by John Lapoint as manager of a sash and door factory, and later with Smith McVicker. Two years afterward he removed to Allegan Co., Mich., where he was interested in lumbering until 1854. In that year he entered the sash and door factory of Messrs. Krouse & Kellogg at Kalamazoo, as manager, where he continued until he came to Big Rapids.

Mr. Milner formed a second matrimonial relation in Allegan County, Nov. 5, 1854, with Loretta M., daughter of John and Melissa Barnes. She was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., March 9, 1831. They have four children: Charles H., eldest son, is a druggist at Big Rapids; George W., second son, is in his employ as clerk; Thomas J. and Mary E. are the younger children.

Mr. Milner is deeply interested in the educational affairs of Big Rapids, and is a member of the Board of Education.

We take pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Milner in this work.

**Wilson E. Darrah**, is junior member of the firm of Darrah Bros. & Co., proprietors of the Big Rapids City Mills, and wholesale and retail dealers in flour, feed and grain, is a son of Charles M. and Sarah E. (Hall) Darrah, and was born April 15, 1856, at Brookville, Jefferson Co., Penn. His parents removed to this county in 1857, before it was organized. His father bought 40 acres of timber land in what is now the township of Mecosta. In 1867, having cleared and almost wholly improved his tract of land, his father sold and bought 240 acres of land on sec. 6, with about 100 acres cleared and under tillage. In 1872, Mr. D. left home, and for some years was occupied in locating timber land. In 1882 Charles M. and James M. Darrah, brothers, associated with Mr. Darrah of this sketch, purchased the Flouring Mills of Big Rapids, situated on Oscola avenue and at the foot of Waterloo street. Their business reaches an average of \$75,000 annually, and is rapidly increasing. They operate four run of stones and employ four hands; are manufacturing about half the amount of products for which they have capacity. They are now engaged in the erection of a fine new building near the old one for milling purposes, 37 x 50 feet, with four stories and basement. It will be the most extensive milling establishment in the county and possesses a capacity of 150 barrels a day. It will be fitted with all the latest improvements, and be formally styled the Big Rapids City Mills. The present works of the Messrs. Darrah are the only flouring mills in this city.

**Jacob Parrott**, farmer, sec. 12, Millbrook Tp., is a native of France. He was born Aug. 6, 1835, and is a son of Charles and Elizabeth Parrott, also natives of France. He came to the United States in the spring of 1845 and settled at Detroit, coming five years later to Kent County. He was a farmer there 20 years, and in the summer of 1871 came to Mecosta County and bought 80 acres of land in the township

of Millbrook. He now owns 40 acres of his original purchase, 25 of which is in tillage. He was married in Kent County, April 9, 1859, to Sarah A., eldest daughter of Peter and Louisa (Ford) Aldrich, natives respectively of Canada and New York. She was born in Grattan, Kent Co., Mich., Sept. 19, 1844. Of their seven children, six survive, viz: Emma E., Charlie E., Lewis E., Lida A., Vernon L. and Myrtle M. Julius died when two years old. Politically Mr. Parrott is a Republican.

**Joseph Smith**, farmer, sec. 4, Chippewa Tp. was born Jan. 14, 1844, in Norway, a son, of Ole and Ine Smith. He came to America in 1861, and during the next two years was a sailor on the lakes, from Buffalo to Chicago. His next employment was at Grand Haven, where he worked in the lumber woods one winter, coming thence to Big Rapids and engaging in the lumber camps. In the fall of 1867 he homesteaded the farm on which he now resides, containing 80 acres, 35 of which he has placed under fair cultivation.

Mr. Smith was married in 1870 to Lucy, daughter of Hibbard and Lucy (Pease) Preston. She was born Nov. 27, 1852, in Tioga Co., N. Y. Of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, five are living: Lucy A., Minnie L., Jennie M., Olson K. and William G. One daughter, Ella J., is deceased. In politics Mr. Smith is a Republican.

**John White**, farmer, sec. 5, Chippewa Tp., was born Oct. 31, 1838, in Argyleshire, Scotland, and is a son of John and Mary (McLaughlin) White. The parents came with their family to Canada in 1843, and located in Williams Tp., Middlesex Co., where they lived on a farm. The father died Aug. 24, 1863; the mother resides with her son in Chippewa Tp., aged 70 years.

Mr. White was married in 1862 to Lydia Ann, daughter of Martin and Ann (Spanswick) Tolman. Her father was born Oct. 22, 1821, in Philadelphia; her mother in 1826, in Yorkshire, Eng., and died in 1859. Mr. Tolman resides in Saginaw Co.





*Arnold Ely.*



Mich. Mrs. White was born in the village of Preston, Waterloo Co., Can., Sept. 19, 1842. After marriage Mr. White was a farmer in Williams Tp. upwards of six years, when he became a resident of Warwick Tp., Lambton Co., Can. Between three and four years later he sold out and came to Mecosta Co., Mich. He reached Chippewa Tp. May 9, 1872, and bought 160 acres of land. With the energy and perseverance characteristic of the nationality to which he belongs, he has prosecuted his labors until one-half of his acreage is in a finely cultivated condition.

Following is the record of the nine children of which Mr. and Mrs. White have been the parents: John M. was born July 17, 1863; Peter, Feb. 6, 1865; Lydia Ann, Dec. 13, 1866; Alexander, Oct. 16, 1870; Mary E., Jan. 23, 1876; Hugh, born July 22, 1877, died Sept. 8, 1877; Catherine M., born Aug. 20, 1879, died Feb. 5, 1881; Archibald, born Aug. 18, 1880, died Sept. 21, 1880; William George, born June 21, 1882, died July 7, 1882.



**R**onald Ely, farmer, sec. 18, Colfax Tp., a prominent citizen of Mecosta County, whose portrait appears on another page of this volume, was born Feb. 20, 1845, in Albion, Calhoun Co., Mich., and is a son of Wells and Maria A. Ely. Both parents are natives of the State of New York and belong to the agricultural community of Branch Co., Mich., where they are now resident.

When Mr. Ely attained his majority he commenced farming in Litchfield, Hillsdale Co., where he worked a farm on shares. In 1869 he prospected through Mecosta County, and finally purchased a farm of 176 acres in Colfax Tp., lying two miles from the city of Big Rapids and in full view of it. He closed negotiations for the land in September of the year named and, Dec. 24, made a permanent location with his family. At the time of purchase the land was all dense forest, 15 acres being pine timber and the remainder of the tract, lying in a hardwood belt. Mr. Ely has 90 acres in a high order of cultivation, with a comfortable frame house, good farm fix-

tures and one of the best and handsomest barns in the township, built in 1880. The proprietor, having placed his farm in a prosperous condition, is beginning to give his attention to improving his stock.

Mr. Ely was married Sept. 1, 1867, to Lucinda, daughter of Philip and Diana Haight, of Butler, Branch Co. Her mother died Aug. 20, 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Ely have seven children, Minnie, Maria, Diana, Gertrude, Myrtie, Philip and Frank.

Since becoming a citizen of Mecosta Co., Mr. Ely has exerted every influence to promote its settlement and induce people in search of homes to make Colfax Tp. their objective point. He is, and has been, operating quite extensively in real estate, buying and selling timber lands.

Mr. Ely is a Republican of the most radical type. He has been Supervisor of Colfax three years, Justice of the Peace six years and Township Treasurer a like period; is a member of the Township Committee to build a new town hall on sec. 21 of the township. In 1882 he was the candidate of the Republican party for Sheriff of Mecosta County, but lost the election through the coalition of the Democrats and Nationals. P. O., Big Rapids.



**J**ohn V. Armstrong, farmer, sec. 6, Chippewa Tp., was born in Seneca Co., N. Y., Oct. 6, 1823, and is a son of Thomas and Eunice (Disbrow) Armstrong. His father was a native of Albany Co., N. Y., and his mother was born in Fairfield Co., Conn. Their early married life they passed on a farm in the Empire State, and in 1833 located in Oakland Co., Mich., where the father died in 1853. The mother died in 1874.

Mr. Armstrong was about 10 years of age when he was brought to Oakland County by his parents, and there he was educated and bred to agricultural pursuits until the age of 20 years, when he set out in life on his own responsibility. He was married in December, 1851, to Susan A., daughter of Evert and Lucy (Newton) Hawley. Her father was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., and her mother was a native of Massachusetts. They located in Wayne Co.,

Mich., in 1835, and some years after, the father went to California, returning after six years as far as Fayette Co., Iowa, where he died in 1867. The mother died in April, 1881. Mrs. Armstrong was born in Ontario Co., N. Y., Jan. 28, 1830.

In 1860 Mr. Armstrong went to Fayette Co., Iowa, and there followed farming for seven years. In the fall of 1867, he came to Mecosta Co., Mich., and took a farm of 80 acres under the regulations of the homestead act. He and his son own 250 acres of land in Mecosta County, lying contiguous. In 1869 Mr. Armstrong was elected Supervisor of Chippewa and served nine successive years. He has been Justice of the Peace 12 years, and is one of the present incumbents of that office in the township. He belongs to the National party, and was nominated in 1880 as candidate for Representative on the Greenback ticket, and made a good run.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have had three children, one of whom, Ellen, is deceased. Those living are Thomas H. and Estella M.



**W**illiam Broomfield, farmer and lumberman, sec. 31, Bloomfield Tp., Isabella Co., was born in Ontario, Canada, Oct. 2, 1832. His parents, Neil and Catherine (McLerin) Broomfield, were natives of Argyleshire, Scotland. They came to America and settled in Canada, in 1831.

Mr. Broomfield acquired the elements of a good education at the schools of the place where he was born, which he attended until he was 17 years old; by his experience and observation, he has improved his early acquirements to an unusually practical degree. In 1849 he went to Lockport, Niagara Co., N. Y., and was there employed some time in a shingle factory. He went thence to Hamilton, Canada, and engaged extensively in the shingle trade. After some months, he made a prospecting trip through Western Canada, and in the spring of 1853 came to Sanilac Co., Mich., and engaged in shingle manufacture. He remained there two years, and in the spring of 1855 journeyed through the Western country, visiting his home in Ontario in 1856. He extended his stay there until 1861, and in the fall of that year came to (now) Bloomfield and squatted on the place where he

now lives. He could only hold his land by the right of possession, as the homestead act was not yet passed. He kept himself informed as to the particulars affecting the interests of such land-holders as himself, and immediately upon the passage of the homestead act by Congress he entered the first claim under its provisions in Isabella County. The record was effected in May, 1864. His landed estate now includes 360 acres of land, of which he has placed 260 acres under the best improvements. All the buildings thereon are of the first order, and his beautiful residence cost \$3,000. In politics Mr. Broomfield is a Republican; has held the position of Supervisor in his township for ten years, and has been State Road Commissioner by appointment. He is a member of the ancient Order of Masonry.

Mr. Broomfield was married at Ontario, in April, 1859, to Ellen J., daughter of Marshall and Mary (Jackson) McLerin, who died Oct. 31, 1868, of typhoid fever, leaving three children: Ida, born March 1, 1860; Marshall, June 17, 1863, and Nellie, March 15, 1861. Mr. Broomfield contracted a second marriage in Ontario, Can., March 17, 1870, with Elizabeth, daughter of Malcom and Agnes (Cameron) Malloy, natives respectively of Scotland and Canada. She was born April 11, 1840. Three of six children born of this union are living; Catherine, born April 1, 1871; Neil, Jan. 14, 1873, and Archibald, July 3, 1875.



**S**ilas Pearson, farmer, sec. 5, Big Rapids Tp., was born Feb. 2, 1831, in Smith Tp., Peterborough Co., Ont., Can., and is a son of William and Mary Pearson. The father of William Pearson was a native of Massachusetts, an American soldier of the Revolution, and removed to Canada. On the advent of the second war with Great Britain, his son William went to the Bay State and enlisted in the American service, fought at Plattsburg and returned to the Dominion after the war was ended. He is still living there and receives a pension from the Government of the United States.

Mr. Pearson became a citizen of Michigan in 1870, when he came to Mecosta County and bought 68 acres of land, where he now resides. He has





Dr. J. F. Pease



*Mrs J. F. Pease.*



placed 50 acres of his farm in a creditable state of cultivation, and has erected thereon a good frame house. He was married in October, 1854, to Eliza Jane Duard, of Canada, where she was born June 25, 1836. Children: William D., Jane, Mary, Eliza A., John E., Richard Z., Harriet A., Joseph A., Nellie and Minnie E.

Mr. Pearson is a member of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.



**D**r. Jerome F. Pease, druggist and dealer in real estate, resident at Big Rapids, was born in Otisco, Ionia Co., Mich., Aug. 28, 1848. His father, Jerome Pease, was born Feb. 22, 1815, in Enfield, Hartford Co., Conn., and became a citizen of the Peninsular State in 1839. He was married Jan. 29, 1843, to Deborah Ann, daughter of Samuel and Anna Demorest, of Otisco. He was a man of peculiar temperament, developed under the circumstances in which he was reared and fostered. He was by nature ambitious and energetic, and his pioneer labors in Ionia County, with the perplexities under which he strove to accomplish his life's purposes, culminated in rendering him a husband and father of uncompromising principle. The mother was born July 6, 1821, in Prattsburg, Steuben Co., N. Y., of a family of stainless repute and record. She is one of eight children, all of whom are living and who are wearing worthily the descending laurels of their ancestral virtues. They are, Clark L. Demorest, Mrs. D. A. Pease, Samuel L. Demorest, Lyman Demorest, Mrs. Ezra Satterlee, Mrs. Henry Green, Valentine Demorest and Mrs. Abram Satterlee.

The second son, Samuel L., reached distinction in the service of his country during the Rebellion. He went to the front as a Captain in the 25th Mich. Vol. Inf., performed valiant duty in action, passed through the various degrees of promotion and, before reaching the termination of his meritorious career, displayed the stars of a Major-General.

Mrs. Pease was a thrifty and affectionate wife and a judicious, conscientious mother. Three of five children live to honor and adorn her record as a woman and a Christian. Her son, Dr. Pease of this sketch, places upon permanent record his sense of

the beauty of her character and unselfish devotion to the best interests of her family. Her children are Sophronia Ann, Charlotte, Jerome F., Sophronia Adele and Deborah. The first named daughter died when a year old; her namesake, third child, died at 19, at the dawn of a promising womanhood, leaving a most precious and beautiful memory. She learned the Christian's hope early in her life, and in her premature death she verified the truth in the words, "Those lives are long that answer life's great ends." She was a member of the Baptist Church.

Dr. Pease comes of a long ancestral line of descent in both the paternal and maternal lineage, strongly characterized by almost unparalleled tenacity of life. Four progenitors within his own personal knowledge became centenarians, or approximately so, and a great-great-aunt—Peggy Demorest (Mrs. Van-Vranken)—is living in Montgomery Co., N. Y., aged 103 years. The maternal grandmother died of an acute bilious attack when she was aged 84 years. She was recovering her sight and her gray hair was being rapidly replaced by a new growth, with its primal dark color.

Dr. Pease was a boy of ardent, sanguine temperament, entering early into an understanding of his relations to life and the world at large. His labors as the son of a pioneer and the circumstances which surrounded him, brought upon him the sobriety and apparent maturity of advanced years. At 15, Dr. Pease found himself destitute in a new world, one that demanded of him the best application of all he believed himself to be both in purpose and capacity. His early life had developed in him a determination and power of will that acknowledged no ruling element in events, and his active, energetic, hopeful temperament stood him in good stead when occasion demanded their co-operation. He has naturally all the traits of a successful business man, and has met with a prosperity which reflects a large degree of credit upon his abilities. His already generous fortune is the second he has accumulated within 20 years. He possesses to an unusual degree the traits of promptness, shrewdness and perception, is honest and upright in his dealings, and understands with clearness the requisite qualifications of a financier. His moral character is unimpeachable, his habits those of a self-respecting, Christian man. He considers the means he possesses as a trust to secure to those in whom he is interested the comforts and priv-

ileges their merits demand. His character is demonstrated by the record of his care of and kindness to the afflicted family of his wife. He has alleviated by every means in his power the burden resting upon them through the disability of the husband and father, and is giving the advantages of education to the two young brothers of Mrs. Pease and guarding the personal interests of all with the same vigilance he bestows upon his individual affairs. In political adherence and action he is a staunch Republican. He possesses a fine sense of the value of mental culture, and acknowledges the supremacy of the world of intellect. He has a keen discrimination in books and finds a high enjoyment in terse poetry. The following is one of his favorite quotations :

“’Tis toil that over nature  
Gives man his proud control,  
And purifies and hallowes  
The temple of his soul:  
It scatters foul diseases  
With all their ghastly train,  
Puts iron in the muscle,  
And crystal in the brain.

The grand Almighty Builder,  
Who fashioned out the earth,  
Hath stamped his seal of honor  
On Labor from her birth,  
In every angel flower  
That blossoms from the sod,  
Behold the master touches—  
The handiwork of God!”

When Dr. Pease found himself at liberty to enter upon a career in his own behalf, with wise judgment he availed himself of the first opportunity that presented, and engaged with Frank Belding, a neighboring farmer, in whose employ he remained a year. His next service was with the Hon. John Avery, M. D., of Greenville, where he won the esteem of all by his energy and probity. In 1867 he entered the employ of J. M. Fuller, druggist, now County Clerk. In 1871 he came to Big Rapids, where he engaged in the drug trade and practice of medicine, for which he had prepared at intervals during his other engagements. His business was prosperous, and in 1874 he built a store and dwelling-house. In 1876 he relinquished his medical practice on account of impaired health, and spent about two years in travel in the Eastern and Southern States. In 1878 he began to operate in real estate, to which branch of business he has since devoted a portion of his time and attention. In 1879 Dr. Pease established a drug business at Gowen, Montcalm Co.,

which he is still managing. In 1883 he purchased a stock of drugs, located at the corner of Scotten and Michigan avenues, Detroit, where he is doing a prosperous and increasing business.

Dr. Pease was married July 29, 1878, to Anna, daughter of M. F. and Caroline (Hill) Gerls, born in Texas, Crawford Co., Ohio, July 26, 1854. Her father was a native of Albany, N. Y. He was a man of shrewdness and capacity, possessed of natural characteristics such as would tend to secure a large degree of public influence; but in 1872, while yet in manhood's prime, he was stricken with paralysis, and has since been a sufferer from its irremediable effects. He was ever keenly alive to, and solicitous for, the best advantages for his children, and made many personal sacrifices to secure for them what he considered substantial benefits. Mrs. Caroline Gerls was born in Sterling, Windham Co., Ct. She possesses the traits of character which in early times made the women of New England historical. Her patience, perseverance and hopefulness are remarkable, and, combined with uncommon mildness and amiability of temper, serve to render her a type of woman worthy of emulation. She has devoted herself with untiring assiduity to the care of her husband and father for the past twelve years, and yielded most unselfishly to the extraordinary demands incumbent upon her. Mr. and Mrs. Gerls have been the parents of five children: Mrs. Eliza West, deceased; Mrs. Ellen Henry, of Sherwood, Mich.; Mrs. Pease; Thomas W. and J. Henry Gerls. The two last named are young men of pure lives, correct habits and unusual promise. The elder is in charge of the business of Dr. Pease at Detroit, the second is occupying the same position at Gowen. Thomas F. Gerls, paternal uncle of Mrs. Pease, is Postmaster at Pontiac, Mich., and is generally esteemed for his sterling traits of character. Henry Hill, brother of Mrs. Gerls, was a soldier in the 25th Mich. Inf., rose by merit to the rank of Captain, and is now cashier of the First National Bank of Greenville.

The earliest ambition of Mrs. Pease was to enter the ranks of public educators, and she bent every energy to the achievement of her purpose. She began her career as a teacher in Mecosta County when 14 years of age, and alternated as a student at school and a teacher until she was 19 years old, when she was graduated at the high school at Greenville.



She passed eminently creditable examinations and ranked as a superior scholar. Since she left school she has been constantly engaged in the pursuit of her chosen vocation, and has made rapid progress in the grade of her position. In 1874 she was Preceptress of a school at Stanton, Montcalm Co., and in 1876 was Superintendent of a school at Howard City. The subsequent four years she taught at Greenville, and in 1881 received her appointment as Preceptress at Big Rapids, where she is doing a work that will result permanently to the advantage of educational interests at that place. Too much cannot be said of her as a disciplinarian. Her silent control of her pupils is a marvel to witness, and is accomplished by an innate skill that cannot be described: it is a natural gift possessed by few.

Of her work at Greenville, E. P. Church, Superintendent of Schools, says: "She is most excellent help. She possesses skill to impart instruction, is a good disciplinarian, manages pupils easily, is a willing and faithful worker and presents to her pupils the example of a blameless Christian lady in her every-day life. We should be happy to secure her services again in our corps of teachers." This expression is fully corroborated by testimonials from E. F. Grabill, editor of the *Greenville Independent*, Rev. J. L. Patton, Dr. Chas. Martin and Hon. James W. Belknap, all of Greenville. Prof. J. S. Crombie, Superintendent of Schools at Big Rapids, says: "Her management of the school, and the results obtained from the work done by her, have been exceedingly gratifying. Personally, I would say that I regard Mrs. Pease as a very superior teacher, and one who can guide and control a room in a manner seldom witnessed. At the same time her work is thorough and she succeeds in winning the respect and good-will of her pupils." A partial friend says of her: "It is to be hoped that a long career of usefulness lies before Mrs. Pease. She is a woman of uncommon character and aspirations, which should place her in a fitting sphere to do entire justice to herself and benefit the generation to which she belongs, and in whose interests it is her highest ambition to labor. Her temperament is as equably adjusted as is possible, and her subservience to conscience and religion guides her life in unswerving right. She sways her friends by her firmness, her candor, her toleration and her hopefulness, and her

possible influence on the lives of others is always with her a matter of constant solicitude."

In their relations to Christianity both herself and husband afford worthy examples. They both became members of the M. E. Church early in life and devote unlimited time and means to furthering the interests of the Church and Sunday-school.

A permanent reprint of the features of Mr. and Mrs. Pease may be found on page 446, in connection with this sketch.

**S. Baker**, Cashier of the Northern National Bank at Big Rapids, was born near Bridgewater, Conn., Sept. 21, 1853. His parents removed to Chicago in 1864, where his father operated as a capitalist, and was a member of the Board of Trade. Mr. Baker came to Big Rapids when he was 12 years old (in 1865). His grandfather, Daniel Stearns, was a resident of Big Rapids, as was also a considerable circle of relatives. He attended school and was employed in various business houses; kept the books in the mercantile house of D. E. Stearns two years, and served one year in the same capacity with O. P. Pillsbury. In the spring of 1872 he became book-keeper in the Northern National Bank and has been promoted through the different positions to the post he now fills, to which he was appointed in January, 1875. He is now one of the Directors, and heavily interested in transactions in lumber, being connected with three different firms. He owns a half interest in the mill and yards of Baker & Stearns, situated at Crapo, in Osceola County, where the firm have carried on an extensive lumber trade six years. They employ a force of 100 men, and manufacture between 12 and 15 million feet of lumber annually. Mr. Baker also owned a half interest in the concern styled "B. F. Comstock & Co.," founded in 1881. Their production of lumber in 1882 was about twenty million feet. Their mill was sold in the fall of 1882, and the firm are about to close their relations. Mr. Baker keeps a desk in the bank for transactions in lumber, pine lands, etc. His real-estate interests include about 20,000 acres in Michigan and Wisconsin, and some small tracts of farming land.

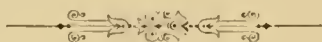
Mr. Baker was married in Paris, Mecosta Co., to Emma, daughter of James Cooper. She was born in Halstead, Essex Co., Eng., July 6, 1853. A son, Arthur, was born Dec. 6, 1875, and a daughter, Kitty Irene, Oct. 10, 1881.

Mr. Baker served as Alderman of Big Rapids three years.



**R**ichard W. Poling, harness and shoe maker, Austin Tp., is a native of New Jersey, where he was born Dec. 24, 1846. He is a son of Zephaniah and Eliza Poling, natives of Ohio, where they still reside. He came to this county in 1879, settling in Austin Tp., where he is engaged in following his occupation. He was married to Julia M. Vining, who died Oct. 28, 1877, leaving five children: Cornelia A., born March 3, 1861; Viola A., March 15, 1865; John W., Aug. 17, 1867; Violetta B., Sept. 17, 1868; Rosa A., Oct. 28, 1873. April 20, 1881, Mr. Poling married Angeline Wheeler, widow of Orange Wheeler, whose maiden name was Walker. By her first marriage she had had eight children: Rodney F., died June 12, 1853; Amos H., Maria J., Justin E., Harriet A., and Edgar L. are living; Eliza and Clara M. are deceased.

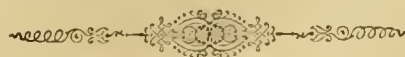
Mrs. Poling is the discoverer of a medicine on which she obtained a patent in 1872. It is known as Mrs. Wheeler's Vegetable Syrup, for which there is justly claimed great alterative and tonic properties, especially adapted to diseases of the liver. She has had great success in the sale of this medicine for the short time it has been introduced to the public, and for which there is an increasing demand. Mr. Poling owns 80 acres of fine farm land, upon which he resides.



**C**harles F. Barnard, of the firm of Reed & Barnard, Stanwood, is a native of Livingston Co., Mich., where he was born Oct. 2, 1853. He is a son of Ely and Aristeon (Curtis) Barnard, natives of New York; the former emigrated to Michigan in 1834, and the latter at a later date, where the father followed farming through life and died, in July, 1871: the

mother is still living. He was reared on a farm, and, although his educational advantages were limited, he managed, by his own exertions, to obtain sufficient knowledge to enable him to teach school, after which he worked on a farm during the summer season and taught during the winter, for several years. In March, 1879, he came to Mecosta County and entered the store of G. W. Reed, at Stanwood, as clerk. After one year he entered into partnership with Mr. Reed in mercantile business, under the firm name of Reed & Barnard. They keep on hand a large and superior stock of dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, etc., and command a large trade, their sales amounting annually to \$30,000. Mr. Barnard is a self-made man. He had no means to commence life with; but having early acquired habits of industry and economy he has succeeded in accumulating considerable property. In all his dealings he is marked for his uprightness and integrity. He is at present serving the township of Mecosta as Clerk.

He was married in Livingston Co., Mich., May 13, 1878, to Alice M., daughter of Staats and Rachel (Wilcox) Green, who was born in Yates Co., N. Y., May 13, 1861. They have had two children: Edna L., born Dec. 25, 1882; one died in infancy. Politically he is a Democrat, and religiously, is liberal.



**J**ohn Carr, farmer, sec. 27, Big Rapids Tp., was born Jan. 9, 1843, in Chittenden Co., Vt. Abraham Carr, his father, was born in Champlain, N. Y., April 6, 1806, of Irish and German parentage, and was married in 1828, in Vermont, to Eliza Green. She was born Feb. 18, 1811, in Louisville, N. Y. Of her marriage to Abraham Carr, 10 children were born. The father died April 29, 1876. Mrs. Carr is still living.

Mr. Carr was the seventh child of his parents. He left his native State Sept. 15, 1863, a few months before he was 20 years old, and reached his destination, Lowell, Dodge Co., Wis., three days later. After a residence there of 11 years he decided on a change of base, and in the month of October, 1874, he came to Big Rapids Tp., where he has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Carr was married Sept. 17, 1873, to Lucy A.





*William Hugh.*

Parham, of Concord, Dodge Co., Minn. They have two children: Ina May and Jennie Eliza. Mrs. Carr was born Dec. 28, 1855. Mr. Carr votes with the Republican party.

**W**illiam Hugh, senior member of the lumber firm of Higbee & Hugh, was born in Kidwilly, Wales, Feb. 2, 1829. He is the son of William and Rebecca (Gonar) Hugh, natives of Kidwilly, where the father died about 1865, and the mother in the spring of 1880.

Mr. Hugh experienced all the hardships of the class of people to which he belonged in his native land, gaining his limited but eminently practical education by studying under the most adverse circumstances. He commenced life's active work at the early age of 12. His father was the village blacksmith, and he, assisting in the shop, gradually learned the trade. For a period of about five years he was occasionally employed in some iron works and rolling mills; then for a time he was engaged in the timber business. His next employment was with the South Wales Railway Company, in which work he went from his native country to England, engaged with a railroad construction corps.

Soon afterward, in 1853, he sailed for this continent and, upon landing at New York, at once proceeded to Cincinnati. Here for a year he was occupied in a machine-shop, on blacksmith work, and also on steamboat work. He assisted in making the needed iron-work and finishing the round-house of the C., H. & I. R. R., at Cincinnati.

He had become imbued with a desire to engage in farming in Iowa, and he took a trip to the Hawkeye State, but on reaching there changed his intentions. He retraced his route as far as Chicago, and thence went to New York, where he embarked for Wales, by way of Liverpool, with the purpose of returning with his wife. His final decision was that he would first establish a home in Cincinnati. He sailed once more for the United States, but when off Cape Clear, Ireland, his steamer collided with a coast vessel; and being disabled she put back to Liverpool, her captain not daring to venture across the sea in a crippled vessel with 600 or 700 souls on board. Mr. Hugh

returned then to Wales, and when he finally reached New York, proceeded direct to Hamilton, Province of Ontario, Can., locating at a small village near that city. He started a common blacksmith shop, and finally began the manufacture of agricultural implements. His residence there lasted 18 years. In the fall of 1872 he came to Morley, and built the first planing mill in the township, which he conducted nearly seven years.

In the fall of 1879 he went into business with Mr. Higbee, and built the saw and planing mill where they now carry on an extensive business. Politically Mr. Hugh is a Republican; for eight years he has been a member of the village Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Masonic Order.

Mr. Hugh is a regular attendant of the Episcopal Church. He is a self-made man, financially, as he held no property when he commenced life for himself. By habits of industry, economy and fair dealing, he has acquired a substantial property, and is now classed among the representative citizens of Mecosta County.

Mr. Hugh was married in Wales, in the winter of 1851, to Amy Thomas, who was born Nov. 8, 1828, the daughter of William and Jane Thomas. The family circle now includes five children: Ann, born Sept. 23, 1853; William, born June 19, 1858; Rebecca, born Feb. 20, 1860; Jane, born Aug. 28, 1861, and David, born Oct. 15, 1870.

A portrait of Mr. Hugh is given in this volume.

**W**illiam Creevey, farmer, sec. 26, Fork Twp., was born in County Kildare, Ireland, April 28, 1832, and is a son of Patrick and Rose (Armstrong) Creevey, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Mr. Creevey was 18 years old when he left his native land to come to the New World. He first located in Monroe Co., N. Y., and after a residence of three years came, in the fall of 1855, to Eaton Co., Mich., and worked as a farm laborer three years. In 1858 he married Jane, daughter of Jonathan and Agnes Seidler. She was born in Steinbrook, Penn., where her father died when she was quite young. Her mother married Conrad Friend, and now lives in Eaton, Mich.

After marriage Mr. Creevey took farms to work on shares until he had by industry and good management acquired sufficient means to enable him to ven-

ture upon the purchase of a home for himself, and he finally bought 40 acres of land, which he improved and occupied until 1867; and then he sold out and came to Mecosta County, locating 80 acres of land under the homestead act, on sec. 26, in the township of Fork, which has since been his home. He enlisted in the service of the Union Sept. 1, 1864, and received his discharge at the close of the war, June 10, 1865. He was taken sick at Newbern, N. C., and sent to the hospital at Foster, and three weeks later to David's Island Hospital in New York Harbor, where he remained until he was discharged.

Mr. Creevey was elected the first Supervisor of Fork Twp., at the meeting held for its organization, a position he has filled 10 years. He has officiated as Postmaster of Fork 14 years, was Road Commissioner 10 years, Justice of the Peace 12 years, Treasurer one year, School Director three years. He is a member of the G. A. R., Post No. 77, at Sherman City.

The family of Mr. Creevey comprises the following children, born in the named order: Rose M., Jan. 8, 1860; George M., Oct. 8, 1861; William J., April 14, 1863; Charles C., March 10, 1870; Edwin, Sept. 27, 1872; Perry, Aug. 26, 1875; Agnes B., March 12, 1879; Arthur Grant, Dec. 25, 1881.

**W**illiam C. Philleo, farmer, sec. 27, Big Rapids Twp., was born April 25, 1841, in Savannah, Wayne Co., N. Y., and is a son of Martin and Elizabeth Ann Philleo, the former born Jan. 20, 1815, in Dutchess Co., N. Y., and died Aug. 20, 1871; the latter was born June 6, 1821, in Herkimer Co., N. Y., and is still living, in Ottawa Co., Mich. The paternal grandsire was a soldier of 1812, and fought at the battle of Plattsburg.

Mr. Philleo was married Oct. 30, 1867, to Mary Jane, daughter of Allen G. and Jane M. Pierce, of Flint, Mich. The parents were both natives of Orleans Co., N. Y. Two children have been born of this marriage: Anna M., Jan. 6, 1872, and Fannie A., June 17, 1882.

Mr. Philleo came to Michigan with his parents in 1854, and settled in Ottawa County. He was educated chiefly at Kalamazoo College, where in 1863 he

took a scientific course. He afterwards took a commercial course of study at Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., which he completed in 1866. He has taught 43 terms of school, mostly in Ottawa and Kent Counties. Mrs. Philleo taught school 12 terms after her marriage.

In 1869 Mr. Philleo bought 100 acres of land on secs. 27 and 28, in Big Rapids Twp., and has since added 40 acres adjoining by purchase. He has put 80 acres under advanced improvement, and has one of the best barns in the county. He has nearly completed arrangements for the erection of a dwelling in keeping with the general character of the place.

In political affinities Mr. Philleo is independent. He has been Township Supervisor four years, and Justice of the Peace eight years. He was nominated for Representative by the Democratic party in 1879, but positively refused to become a candidate.

**J**ames W. Mann, farmer, sec. 15, Fork Twp., was born in Maine, June 24, 1854, and is a son of John F. and Susan A. (Churchill) Mann (see sketch of John F. Mann), who were natives of the Pine-Tree State, and in 1866 came to Saginaw, and later to Fork Twp., Mich. He obtained his education in the common schools of Saginaw and was bred to the business of farmer and lumberman by his father, in which he is now engaged in Fork township. He was married in 1877 to Clara L., daughter of John and Mary (Houser) Grove, natives of Pennsylvania, who was born in the same State, Aug. 21, 1858. They have two children, Lula M. and Eddie E. Politically Mr. Mann is a Republican.

**J**ohn M. Conner, farmer, sec. 23, Big Rapids Twp., was born in Richland Twp., Miami Co., Ind., July 4, 1837. His father, James Conner, was born in South Carolina, and his mother, Mary (McCoy) Conner, was a native of Ireland.

Mr. Conner was a resident of his native State from his birth until Nov. 17, 1864, when he came to

Mecosta Co., Mich., and settled in Big Rapids Tp., where he has since resided. In October, 1869, he located on the farm he at present occupies. He was married Dec. 23, 1867, to Etta, daughter of A. C. and T. G. Kneeland. She was born at Indianapolis, Sept. 6, 1840.

Mr. and Mrs. Conner have three children, born as follows: James C., May 13, 1869; Vesta, Oct. 15, 1871; Dellis, Nov. 17, 1872. In political matters Mr. Conner is a believer in the principles of the National party.

**E**roy Cartwright, farmer on sec. 10, Hinton Tp., was born in Union Co., Ind., March 19, 1846. His parents, Calvin and Tabitha (Wright) Cartwright, were natives respectively of Indiana and Virginia, and were residents of Union County. They went to Berrien Co., Mich., in 1858 and came to Mecosta County in the spring of 1865. Mr. Cartwright was 19 years old when he accompanied his parents to Hinton Tp., where he bought 80 acres of wild land, on which he fixed his residence in the spring of 1872, and entered vigorously into the details of clearing and improving. He has since added 40 acres to his original purchase and owns 80 acres in the Township of Millbrook.

Mr. Cartwright was married in Trumbull Co., Ohio, Feb. 26, 1872, to Sarah E., youngest child of Orlo Winter. Of four children born of this marriage, three survive: Eva, born June 1, 1873; Mernett, Aug. 26, 1874; Martin, Aug. 28, 1878. A son died in infancy. Mrs. Cartwright is a member of the Church of the Disciples. Mr. C. is a Republican; has been Treasurer of his township eight years, and Supervisor two years.

**M**urdoch Sterling, farmer, sec. 28, Big Rapids Tp., was born April 8, 1822, in Godmanchester, Province of Quebec, Can. His parents, James and Agnes Sterling, were both natives of Scotland, and his father was a soldier in the war of the Revolution at the time of the surrender of Burgoyne.

In 1848 Mr. Sterling came to Michigan and was engaged for six years in the manufacture of lumber in Newaygo County, going thence to Ada, Kent Co., where he was occupied in farming seven years. In 1861 he came to Big Rapids, and two years later bought the farm where he has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits, containing 80 acres of valuable land.

Mr. Sterling was married Jan. 4, 1858, to Margaret McFee, of Croton, Newaygo Co., Mich. She was born on Prince Edward's Island, May 3, 1833. The records of the children of this marriage are as follows: Sarah M., born June 18, 1859, is now the wife of John Baird, of Mecosta. William was born May 26, 1861; James, April 18, 1863; Katie M., Aug. 2, 1865; John W. M., April 24, 1867; Cynthia J., Aug. 10, 1870.

Mr. Sterling has held the office of School Director during the last five years; himself and wife belong to the Presbyterian Church.

**R**obert Austin, farmer, sec. 27, Austin Tp., is a son of William and Takey (Johnson) Austin, natives of Elgin Co., Ontario, Can., where Robert was born Dec. 16, 1853. In the summer of 1870 the family came to Mecosta County and the spring following purchased 80 acres of timbered land, where the father and son labored together to clear the ground and establish a home. Robert Austin was married Feb. 1, 1876, to Charlotte, daughter of Solomon and Nancy (Gray) Cummings. Her parents were natives of New York, settled in St. Joseph Co., Mich., where the daughter was born Aug. 25, 1849. The young people settled upon 40 acres of the homestead. Of this land 25 acres have been reclaimed and placed in good condition. They have now an attractive home, endeared to them by their labors and the associations which center there. Four children have been born to them, as follows: Maud, Dec. 11, 1876; William H., Jan. 21, 1878; Ira B., June 20, 1882. The latter is a twin child; the other died soon after birth.

Mr. Austin is a liberal Republican in politics; is averse to notoriety, and invariably refuses to hold office. Mrs. Austin is a lady of more than ordinary

intellectual accomplishments. She attended the district school in her native place until she was ten years old, when she went to Wyandotte, Wayne Co., Mich., and studied at the college about eight years. She also studied for a time at Ann Arbor, and finished her educational course at the State Normal School at Ypsilanti. She was a popular and successful teacher four years previous to her marriage.

**J**oseph Falardo, resident at Big Rapids, was born in St. Esprit, Province of Quebec, July 28, 1837. He is a son of Louis and Lucille Falardo, the former a carpenter and wagon-maker by trade. Mr. Falardo is of French descent, his ancestors having emigrated from that country to America. The family name has been changed from Falardeau to its present form.

Mr. Falardo began life for himself as a clerk in a general store, where he was employed two years, and at the end of that time went to New Hartford, Conn., where he worked in a cotton mill about 18 months. His father moved to Brooklyn, N. Y., and he learned the carpenter's trade with him, and pursued it five years. At the end of that time his parents removed to Cohoes, N. Y., where he went to work in a sash, door and blind factory, and was thus employed one year, when he bought the machinery and fixtures of the concern, and began operations on his own account, associated with John De Villier and his father, Louis Falardo. Messrs. Falardo and De Villier bought out the interest of the senior Falardo at the end of a year, and continued operations six months, when the mill was sold, and it became necessary to remove their machinery.

In December, 1861, Mr. Falardo formed a partnership with E. B. Hayes, and established a sash, door and blind factory at Vergennes, Vt., where they employed an average working force of 100 men, and usually turned out between 300 and 400 doors daily. Their business was extended and prosperous, and at the end of eight years Mr. Falardo bought the interest of Mr. Hayes and connected himself with Charles C. Parker. The latter relation existed over three years, but the financial crisis which wrought such mischief

in every avenue of business, affected them seriously and the affairs of the concern were brought to a close. Mr. Falardo went to Essex, N. Y., and entered the employ of his two brothers in the same line of business. A year later he went to Whallonsburg, in the same county, and managed the mills of Capt. Root one year. His next business venture was at Whitehall, N. Y., where he formed a partnership with Mr. Hayes, and leased a mill, which they operated about 18 months, and in February, 1882, they came to Big Rapids, built their mills, and established themselves in business. The concern is under the proprietorship of Joseph F. Hayes, and is conducted by Messrs. Hayes & Falardo. A working force of 50 men is employed, and the daily products are 125 doors and 80 pairs of blinds. The machinery employed is the best known in the business.

Mr. Falardo was married at Cohoes, N. Y., Aug. 23, 1859, to Apolline Le Boeuf, a native of Canada, born April 8, 1841. The household includes six children: Eli V. R., Mary, Theodora, Charles, Edward and Lucille.

During his residence in the city of Vergennes, he was Alderman two years and Justice of the Peace three years. The family belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

**M. D. Knettles**, farmer, resident on sec. 15, Mecosta Tp., was born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., May 27, 1845. His parents, Henry and Rachel (Teeter) Knettles, were natives of N. Y., and were respectively of Dutch and English extraction. When Mr. Knettles became of age he came to this county and settled in Mecosta Tp., locating in the immediate vicinity of the Big Muskegon River, soon afterward purchasing 56 acres of land, to which he added 70 acres more a few years later. This was all in a wild condition; but on the first place there was a small house, which he inhabited 15 years. The energy and persevering efforts of Mr. Knettles and his family have reclaimed the unbroken forest, and wherè the dense timber shut out the rest of the world from view, fair, fertile fields have succeeded and the marks of progressive civilization are everywhere visible on the place. In addition to other improvements is a fine young or-







D. D. Wilcox

chard, containing 120 trees. The farm is well supplied with buildings and a new and beautiful residence has just been completed, at an expenditure of \$2,000. Mr. K. and his family may justly be rated among the leading inhabitants of the county.

Mr. Knettlles was married in Tompkins Co., N. Y., July 4, 1856, to Susan, daughter of Joseph and Katie (Prots) Everhart, born May 21, 1846, in Seneca Co., N. Y. The two children born of this marriage are still living: Cora B., born April 6, 1868; Libby M., April 18, 1870. Mr. Knettlles is a Democrat in political faith, and inclines to the Universalist doctrinal views. Mrs. Knettlles is theoretically a Presbyterian.



**S**tephen S. Wilcox, of Big Rapids, whose portrait appears in proximity to this page, was born July 29, 1840, in Schenevus, Otsego Co., N. Y., and is the son of John and Amanda (Upson) Wilcox. His father, who was of English descent, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and a pioneer settler near Hartford, Conn. The first frame house ever built in Schenevus was erected by him and is still standing.

Stephen S. Wilcox was the youngest of six children, and was educated at the schools and seminaries in the vicinity of his home, until he was 15 years old; he then removed to Galesburg, Ill., where he served as clerk for his brother in the hardware business, and finally learned the trade of tinner.

After serving three years' apprenticeship, during which time he spent his leisure in study, he, in the fall of 1858, taught the district school in Otsego, N. Y. In 1859 he bought a stock of hardware, and conducted a small business successfully for a short time. In 1862 he removed to Detroit, and for several years worked as a tinner.

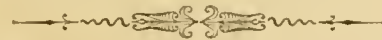
In 1868, the firm of S. S. Wilcox & Co., consisting of Mr. Wilcox and his father-in-law, J. W. Barlow, commenced a general hardware business at Big Rapids. Four years later Mr. Wilcox assumed the entire management of the business and has since conducted it successfully.

His son-in-law, Mr. W. J. Sloss, was admitted an active partner to the firm of S. S. Wilcox & Co. at the

commencement of the present year (1883). Mr. Sloss was born in Dearborn, Michigan, where he resided until his removal to Big Rapids, excepting four years spent at the Agricultural College at Lansing.

Mr. Wilcox is an Odd Fellow, and a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of this place. He gives his political support to the Democratic party, but does not aspire to office. Thorough acquaintance with the practical details of his business, and strict personal attention to every department of it, have insured his success.

Mr. Wilcox was married Feb. 7, 1863, to Miss Adelaide L., daughter of Theron W. Barbour, who removed from Vermont, and settled at Pontiac, in 1830, when Michigan was a "Territory." His family comprises the following children: Ida B., born at Farmington, Mich., Jan. 26, 1864; and Fred. Theron, born at Big Rapids, Mich., Oct. 29, 1869.



**J**ames Caudle, farmer, sec. 24, Big Rapids Tp., was born Dec. 14, 1802, in Hailes, Gloucestershire, Eng. (Hailes is the supposed site of Troy.) The parents of Mr. Caudle, William and Mary (Wallis) Caudle, were married Nov. 18, 1784, in Hailes, Eng., and never removed from England. The father was born in Hailes, Nov. 16, 1759, and died March 8, 1855. The mother was born July 25, 1762, and died in the fall of 1846.

Mr. Caudle was married Dec. 12, 1831, to Julia Pauline (Francis) Gubeau, born in Kirekerville, Normandy, France, Feb. 15, 1805, and died Dec. 27, 1872, in Walker Tp., Kent Co., Mich. They left England March 3, 1832, and landed at the post of New York, May 1, 1832. They located first at Rochester, Monroe Co., N. Y., where they resided 32 years. They started thence to Michigan April 11, 1864, and came to Kent County, where they lived in Walker about 12 years. They came to Big Rapids, Nov. 29, 1876, where they established a permanent home.

Mr. and Mrs. Caudle had 12 children. Eight of these have been removed by death. Wm. L. Caudle, only surviving son, died July 27, 1865, of disease contracted while a soldier of the Union army.

Julia (Caudle) Newcomb was born Sept. 3, 1834, and lives at Bay City; Mary (Caudle) Nordon, born April 26, 1836, lives in Walker, Kent Co., Mich; Ann (Caudle) Waring, born July 26, 1837, is a widow and keeps her father's house. Sarah F. (Caudle) Martin was born April 19, 1841, and lives in Summit, Mason Co., Mich.

Mr. Caudle is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

**R**obert Jamieson, farmer, sec. 22, Chippewa Tp., was born July 6, 1845, on the Isle of Islay, and is the fifth child of Donald and Margaret (McDougall) Jamieson, the former a native of the Isle of Bute, the latter born on the Isle of Jura. (The islands named are in the Atlantic Ocean, west of and belonging to Scotland.) The parents came to Canada in 1860, where the mother died in 1864, and the father in 1882.

Mr. Jamieson obtained a fair education in his native country, and came with his parents to America and resided a year with them in the Dominion. He came to Michigan in 1861; in 1867 he located in Chippewa Tp., this county, in which year several other settlers made their entries of land and began with energy the work of clearing and settling that part of the wilderness.

Mr. Jamieson was married in 1868, to Minnie, daughter of John and Mena (Licker) Martiny, born in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1850. Her parents were natives of Germany, and pioneer settlers of Mecosta County, being the first permanent residents of Martiny Tp., which received their name. (See sketch of John Martiny.) Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson have had three children: Donald, John and Alexander.

**B**arwin C. King, Postmaster at Morley, was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., Dec. 12, 1846. His father, Laban King, was a farmer, and is still a resident of Wayne Co. His mother, Matilda (Ringer) King, died in 1866. Mr. King was reared at home, and until the age of 20 assisted in the labors of his father, and acquired his education. At that period of his life he

went to Yates Co., N. Y., and engaged as a farm laborer. In 1869 he came to Michigan, and at first found employ in Jackson Co., with his uncle, Jasper King, remaining 14 months. He then went to Battle Creek and spent six months as clerk in a store. In 1872 he came to Morley and found a situation in the general store of E. W. Gerrish, and acted in that capacity two years. His next engagement was in "Schofield's" restaurant. The next year, 1875, he began to operate in lumber, shingles, etc., and has been so engaged to date. He was associated for a time with D. W. Stewart, and later with W. D. Lake in a general store and lumbering. In 1880 they sold their claims in the business and Mr. King has since continued alone. He received his appointment as Postmaster of Morley in January, 1883. He was married Feb. 2, 1881, to Miss Lake, daughter of Robert O. and Mariette (Redker) Lake, natives of the State of New York. Mr. King is a Republican in political faith and has held the offices of Justice of the Peace, Assessor, etc., a long period of years. He cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant.

**J**oseph J. Everhart, farmer, sec. 34, Big Rapids, was born Feb. 17, 1843, in Rose, Wayne Co., N. Y. His father, Joseph Everhart, was born Feb. 3, 1799, and died April 16, 1866, in Lansing, Tompkins Co., N. Y. His mother, Catherine Everhart, was born in Pennsylvania, Dec. 27, 1795, and died in 1872.

Mr. Everhart left his native State in 1867 and went to La Grange, Ind. In 1868 he came to Berlin, Ottawa Co., Mich., and after a year's stay there came to the township of Big Rapids, and in 1869 bought 80 acres of land, lying wholly within a belt of hard wood. He has 65 acres under the plow, and the place and fixtures are in the best condition. The tract has a fine lot of bird's-eye maple and other standing timber.

Mr. Everhart was married March 13, 1866, to Dora Teeter, a native of Lansing, Tompkins Co., N. Y. She was born Feb. 25, 1846, and is a daughter of Vincent and Catherine Teeter, the former a native of Pennsylvania, born April 23, 1807; the latter was born in New York in 1822. Children,

Lewie E., born Oct. 2, 1867, and died Feb. 18, 1872; Oren V., born Dec. 12, 1870; George E., born Oct. 7, 1878.

Mr. Everhart is a pensioner of the late war, in which he was a soldier. He enlisted Aug. 20, 1862, in Co. D, Ninth N. Y. Artillery, and was in the service until Feb., 1864, when he was discharged on account of disability, his health having become hopelessly broken. He is Road Commissioner, and has been Justice of the Peace one year; is a member of the G. A. R.



**E**oah Eaton, farmer, sec. 24, Chippewa Tp., was born in Ingham Co., Mich., July 25, 1848. He is a son of Edward and Eliza (Cole) Eaton, the former a native of Pennsylvania, the latter of New York. They came to Ingham County in 1835.

Mr. Eaton was trained to agricultural pursuits, and had only a common-school education. On reaching his age of legal freedom he began life for himself as a farm laborer, working in Jackson Co., Mich. In 1870 he came to Mecosta County, and entered a claim of 80 acres under the regulations of the homestead law, and now has 20 acres in first-class farming condition.

Mr. Eaton was married in 1875 to Mary, daughter of Simon and Ann (Crawford) Mott. She was born in Pennsylvania, in 1858, and became the mother of one child, Merriton, born Dec. 16, 1876; she died in 1877. In political matters Mr. E. belongs to the National party.



**G**li Hayes, resident at Big Rapids, was born at Bennington, Vt., Nov. 19, 1837, and is a son of Erastus H. and Maria (Harmon) Hayes. His father died when he was between four and five years of age, leaving the mother with four young children, the eldest of whom was but nine years old. With the energy and determination which characterize New England mothers, she kept her flock together, bringing her boys up to work on the little farm of 36 acres; and when Mr.

Hayes, her youngest child, was 17 years of age, the place was sold and the proceeds distributed among the heirs. Through the mismanagement of a brother, Mr. Hayes lost his little patrimony and entered upon his life's struggle empty-handed. His first work for himself was to learn his trade, and he went to Glens Falls, N. Y., for the prosecution of that purpose. He stayed there five years, accomplishing all the plans he had designed and becoming familiar with all mechanical details.

Five years later he went to Stillwater, N. Y., and became foreman for Cornell & Ladow in the same line of business, and filled the position three years. He then began business on his own account in the same avenue, employing half a dozen youths as assistants. He soon afterwards admitted John E. Burrows as a partner, and the next spring they removed their business to Mechanicsville, N. Y., and there continued to operate nearly three years, when they made another remove to Lape Hollow, near Lansingburg, N. Y., where they remained about a year.

Mr. Hayes sold out and went to Vergennes, Vt., and formed an association with Joseph Falardo. They established a large and prosperous business, which they prosecuted about eight years, when Mr. Hayes sold out again and bought the establishment of the Vergennes Machine Co., manufacturing pumping machinery for supplying water to towns and cities. He had three associates, and, the affairs of the concern eventuating disastrously at the termination of six years, Mr. Hayes closed business. Again associating himself with Joseph Falardo, they started a mill in Whitehall, N. Y., and operated about 18 months in the manufacture of doors, sash and blinds. In February, 1882, they removed to Big Rapids and built a sash, door and blind factory at the east end of the lower dam. Of this establishment Joseph F. Hayes is the proprietor, and the operative departments are managed by Messrs. Hayes & Falardo; a force of 50 workmen is usually employed, the business is prosperous and its relations gradually widening. Mr. Hayes has a genius for his peculiar line of business, and is naturally adapted to the construction of mill machinery.

Mr. Hayes was married at Glens Falls, March 27, 1857, to Frances M., daughter of Stephen V. R. and Sarah Shouts. She was born at Glens Falls, March 28, 1842. Of four children born to Mr. and Mrs.

Hayes three are living: Stephen V. R., an attorney at Big Rapids, Joseph F. and Fannie J. Lousie, eldest child, is deceased.

**J**ames M. Parkill, farmer, sec. 8, Green Tp., was born at Beloit, Wis., Oct. 25, 1842. He is the second child of Dennis N. and Sarah (Dunn) Parkill. The father was born in New York, and was a mechanic; he died in Wisconsin, and the mother, a native of Ohio, spent the last years of her life at Grass Lake, Mich.

Mr. Parkill was sent to the common schools of Farmington, Jefferson Co., Wis., until 14 years old, when he entered upon an apprenticeship to learn the calling of blacksmith, which he prosecuted until 1861. On the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in Co. H, 8th Wis. Vol. Inf., and was discharged from service in October, 1862, on account of a wound received at the battle of James Island. He resumed his trade on returning home, and continued to reside in Wisconsin until 1867, when he came to Mecosta Co., Mich., and settled at Big Rapids, where he worked at his trade five years. In 1872 he bought the farm on which he has since resided, containing 80 acres of land.

Mr. Parkill was married in April, 1867, to Ella P., daughter of Erastus and Sarah R. (Palmer) Fisher. Her father was a native of Massachusetts, and her mother of Ohio. They are now residents of Mecosta County. Mr. and Mrs. Parkill have had six children, as follows: Dennis J., L. J., Eva M., Sarah M., O. T. and Jessie J. (deceased).

Mr. Parkill is a Democrat in his political views and sympathies.

**A.** Wilcox, farmer, sec. 7, Big Rapids Tp., was born Feb. 6, 1858, in Wilna, Jefferson Co., N. Y., and is a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Ressiguie) Wilcox. The father was of German descent and born in New York, April 12, 1833, and is now a resident of Newaygo County. Elizabeth Ressiguie was born May 17, 1844, in the State of New York, and is of French descent. She became the mother of three children: William L. Wilcox, eldest son, was born in Hounds-

ville, Jefferson Co., Aug. 29, 1854. He came to Michigan in 1865, and in 1868 went to Denver, Col.; is now a resident of San Francisco, Cal. Samuel C. Wilcox was born Oct. 16, 1859, in Wilna, N. Y., and came to Michigan in 1865; went to Washington Territory April 2, 1883.

Mr. Wilcox came to Michigan in March, 1865, and settled in Oceana Co., Mich. He came to Mecosta County, and settled in Big Rapids Tp., Nov. 5, 1880. He was married April 25, 1880, at Big Rapids, to Emma L. Haight. She is of German descent and was born in Big Prairie, Newaygo Co., Mich., May 1, 1862. The ceremony of marriage was performed by Elder Grice.

Mr. Wilcox is connected with the National party in his political affiliations.

**T**homas Shaw, Sr., Circuit Court officer and Deputy Sheriff of Mecosta County, residing at Big Rapids, was born in Manchester, Eng., Aug. 28, 1813. He is the third son of John and Eleanor (Robinson) Shaw, the former a native of Radeliffe, Lancashire.

Mr. Shaw passed the years of his youth in the manner common among the people of his nationality, and at the usual age learned the craft of decorator of paper hangings. He was married Jan. 31, 1835, to Nicolas, daughter of James and Nicolas Stott, born Oct. 23, 1811, at Alnwick, Northumberlandshire. The family came to America in 1851 and landed at Boston, going thence to Lynn, Mass., where he worked at his trade a few months. He went successively to Hanover Society, Conn., and New Bedford, Mass., where he was similarly employed a short time, and then Lawrence, Mass., for several years. In 1855 he came to Mecosta County and pre-empted a quarter sec. (17) of land in Green Tp., the year previous to its being taken out of market. His experiences differed in no material sense from the oft repeated but never wearisome history of the average pioneer settler, until the clouds of war hung like a pall over the land and disunion seemed imminent. The promptness with which foreign-born citizens flocked to the Union standard was significant of two things: first, the sense of obligation awakened by the privileges they enter upon at once under the regulations of this Government; and, secondly, the value of discipline in





W. A. Hendryx M.D.



early training. Mr. Shaw felt that the emergency demanded his aid, and himself and two sons enlisted at Big Rapids. He enrolled in August, 1863, in Co. A, Tenth Mich. Cav., and was assigned to the position of Hospital Steward, and afterward was promoted to the post of Assistant Surgeon. The regiment went to the Department of East Tennessee and was first in action May 20, 1864, at Greenville, followed by the fights at Morristown, Kingsport, Carry Branch, New Market, Morrisburg, William's Ford and Dutch Bottom. These engagements covered the service of the regiment in the months of July and August. The work entitled "Michigan in the War" gives an interesting account of the wounding and subsequent interviewing by Gen. Wheeler (Confederate), of a farmer named Griggs, who with six others had exhibited singular bravery. Mr. Shaw was ordered to go to Griggs, which he did, with an escort of one, brought him within the Union lines and attended him until he was well. The regiment was in the famous cavalry raid of Gen. Stoneman, which covered a period of 72 days. The initial movement was made about the middle of March, 1865. One result of the expedition through the western part of North Carolina was the capture of Salisbury and a large quantity of rebel stores. The Union prisoners were removed in time to prevent their liberation, but the prison pens and arsenal were destroyed. In this the Tenth Mich. Cav. participated. On the 28th, Mr. Shaw was injured by his horse falling on him. Hernia of a painful type was the result, but he did not report himself ill and continued to discharge the duties of his post until the mustering out of the regiment Nov. 11, 1865, at Memphis. He was discharged from the service at Jackson, Mich.

On returning to Green, Mr. Shaw entered upon the practice of medicine, which he pursued two years, but was obliged to abandon it from inability to perform the necessary duties of the profession at night, and he resumed farming. He held most of the local offices of Green Tp., and after a few years moved to Big Rapids. Later, he sold his farm. He has been Deputy Sheriff eight years, and was appointed to his position in the Circuit Court in January, 1881.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Shaw in England, and one in America. An infant died before their removal to the New World. Eleanor, eldest child, and Mary Ann, fifth child and second daughter,

are deceased. James Stott Shaw, eldest son, is a popular physician in Boston. John and Thomas were soldiers, enlisting respectively in the Infantry and Cavalry service and passed their terms of enrollment in safety. Annie Howard Shaw is an ordained minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and preaches at East Dennis, Cape Cod. She is now pursuing a course of medical studies preparatory to filling the post of a missionary where the competent services of a Christian woman are in most urgent demand. Henry Charles, fourth son, is deceased.

**H**ilbur A. Hendryx, physician and surgeon at Big Rapids, was born at Seymour, New Haven Co., Conn., Feb. 21, 1849. He is a son of Wilson E. and Rosetta (Booth) Hendryx. His father was a mechanic and had charge of the Humphreyville Edge-Tool Factory more than 30 years. He was born in Southbury, Conn., in 1810. Dr. Hendryx was a pupil in the public schools of Connecticut until he was 18 years of age, when he spent a year in the establishment where his father was chief, after which he engaged as a clerk in a store in Ansonia, New Haven Co. In 1871 he came to Pentwater, Mich., and began to read for his profession in the office of Dr. E. N. Dundas, and afterward matriculated at Rush College, Chicago, where he was graduated. He attended this school in the winters of 1872-'3-'4. He took there a special medical course in anatomy, surgery and diseases of the chest, and spent considerable time in special wards of the principal hospitals of the Garden City. He went thence to Ewart, Mich., and three months later, in August, 1874, came to Big Rapids and entered into partnership with Fred. B. Wood, M. D. The relation continued about eleven months, when Dr. Hendryx established himself in an office on Michigan avenue. In November, 1881, he admitted Dr. Burkart to a co-partnership and the connection existed until November, 1882.

Dr. Hendryx is in the enjoyment of an extensive and popular practice. He belongs to the Masonic Order and Knights of Pythias, and is a member of the Northwestern Medical Society. In 1881 he was appointed local surgeon of the G. R. & I. R. R. Co., and in the same year as such for the the D., L. & N.

R. R. Co. He was physician in charge of Mercy Hospital three years, and for some time was Surgeon of the 2d Mich State Troops, with the rank of Major, but in October, 1883, was promoted as Brigade Surgeon, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was elected Mayor of Big Rapids in the spring of 1880, previous to which he served two years as Alderman. He has been United States Examining Surgeon on pension claims since 1876, and operates in the same capacity for several insurance companies, among them the Travellers' Accident. He has also a drug store in connection with his office, in which he is associated with A. H. Weber, style W. A. Hendryx & Co. Their stock includes a full line of drugs and druggists' sundries, and is valued at about \$4,500, with business amounting annually to \$10,000. Dr. Hendryx owns a shingle-mill at Lumberton, Newaygo Co., with a capacity of about 1,000,000 monthly; shipments are chiefly to Eastern markets. He also owns his residence and two lots on the corner of Spruce street and Warren avenue.

Dr. Hendryx was married at Big Rapids, Dec. 22, 1875, to Lucy A., daughter of Dr. Guy B. and Sarah A. Shepherd, of Sheboygan, Wis., who was born at Sheboygan Falls, March 7, 1856.

As one of the truly representative men of Mecosta County, not only as a citizen but as a professional and business man, we present the portrait of Dr. Hendryx in this work.

**G**eorge Grimes, deceased, was born in Carroll Co., Ohio, March 24, 1824. His parents, George and Isabella (Smith) Grimes, were long residents of Carroll Co., Ohio, and died there at an advanced age. Mr. Grimes passed all his early life in his native State, and in the fall of 1868 came to Michigan and bought 40 acres of wild land. He built thereon a board house, and at the time of his death had cleared 25 acres. He afterwards purchased 160 acres on sec. 15. He died April 27, 1879. Mr. Grimes was first married Dec. 3, 1848, to Catherine Wathey, who was born Sept. 7, 1826, and died Oct. 29, 1849. They had one child, Matilda, now the wife of Wesley Carr.

Mr. Grimes was afterward married a second time April 13, 1852, in Carroll Co., Ohio, to Eliza J.,

daughter of Peter and Ann (Guthrie) Warren. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and went to Carroll County, where they were pioneers, and where they died about the year 1857. Mrs. Grimes was born in Ohio Dec. 1, 1829. All the children of this marriage are living, born as follows: Milton P., July 19, 1853; Lorenzo D., Oct. 19, 1855; Cora A., May 10, 1859. Mrs. Grimes manages the farm left to her by the death of her husband.

**J**acob M. Dubois, farmer, sec. 8, Green Tp., was born in Tyre, Seneca Co., N. Y., Oct. 18, 1826. He is a son of Conrad M. and Susanna (Spear) Dubois, the former a native of Dutchess Co., N. Y.; the latter was born in New Jersey. The father came to Lodi, Washtenaw Co., Mich., in 1831, where he was a farmer. He went thence to Ionia County, and afterwards to Clinton County, where he died in 1873. The mother died in Mecosta County, Oct. 12, 1874.

Mr. Dubois obtained a reasonable education in the common schools of Washtenaw and Ionia Counties, and remained at home until the age of 18 years, when he set out in life to work for himself. After a few years he returned home and interested himself in the care of the family for a considerable length of time. In the fall of 1855 he came to Mecosta County and worked in the lumber camp of W. S. Utley during the winter, and in the spring of 1856 he located 120 acres of land, under the provisions of the Gradation Act, which has since been his home. Sept. 17, 1861, he enlisted in the Second Mich. Cav., Colonel Gordon Granger commanding. He was in several skirmishes, and at the battle of Perryville. In the summer of 1862 he was taken sick and was in Hospital No. 7, at Louisville, for some time, going thence to Quincy, Ill., where he remained a year. In the spring of 1864 he went to Nashville, thence to rejoin his regiment, and passed the last month of his period of enrollment in the service. He received an honorable discharge Oct. 22, 1864.

Mr. Dubois was married June 28, 1865, to Prudence A., daughter of Tyler and Mary A. (Bentley) Duncan, who was born at Oswego, N. Y., Oct. 31, 1823. Her parents were natives of Fulton Co. N. Y., and in 1856 located in Mecosta County,

where they resided during the remainder of their life. The mother died Dec. 28, 1863, and the father March 8, 1867. Politically Mr. Dubois is a Republican. He is one of the pioneers of the county, and is considered one of its most reliable

was left a widow. She was the mother of three children: Albert W. was born Oct. 14, 1858, and settled in Big Rapids Feb. 15, 1870, in company with Mr. Pullman of this sketch. George R. was born in 1860 and died the following year.

Mr. Pullman was married Oct. 13, 1880, to Margaret A. McCune, daughter of Samuel and Eliza (McKee) McCune, born Jan. 13, 1861, in Mecosta County. Of this marriage there is one child, George R., born March 6, 1882. Mr. Pullman is a Republican in his political views.

**Capt. James Judkins**, Paris, Mecosta Co., was born in Belmont Co., Ohio, March 24, 1825. His father, Dr. James Judkins, was a native of North Carolina, and came to Ohio at an early date, where he followed the practice of medicine for more than 50 years. He was a brother of Drs. Jesse and William Judkins, well known physicians of Cincinnati. His mother, Susannah (Boyce) Judkins, was born in Pennsylvania; both families were Quakers.

The subject of this sketch was educated at the Quaker college, in Mount Pleasant, Jefferson Co., Ohio. At the age of 22 he married Miss Mary A. Dorneck, daughter of John Dorneck, of Salona, Clinton Co., Pa. She was educated in the academy at that place, and afterward went with her parents to Ohio, and settled at Flushing, Belmont Co., where she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Judkins have had five sons, three living and two dead. Judge Byron Judkins, of Hersey, Mich., is their eldest living son; Lewis R. and Henry S. are telegraph operators. They also have an adopted daughter.

Capt. Judkins is a Republican, and has held different township offices most creditably for many years. He enlisted May 1, 1864, in the 156th Regt. Ohio Vol. Inf., remaining in service until the close of the war.

**Charles W. Pullman**, farmer, sec. 16, Big Rapids Tp., was born in Oxford Co., Upper Canada, Jan. 22, 1856. His father, George Pullman, was of English descent and born in New York in 1829. He was a soldier in the civil war and died in captivity in Libby prison, in December, 1863. The mother, Mary (Cramer) Pullman, was born in 1837, in Germany, and died in Oxford Co., Can., in December, 1863, in the same month she

**Robert H. Bovay**, farmer, sec. 33, Chippewa Tp., was born in Prince Edward Co., Ameliasburg Tp., Can., Jan. 14, 1846, and is a son of John and Minerva (Blake) Bovay. His father was born in England, in August, 1792, and his mother was a native of Canada, where she still resides.

Mr. Bovay was reared on a farm and received only a common-school education in his native Province. At the age of eight years he was "bound" to William Anderson, M. P. P., and resided under his guidance until between 19 and 20 years of age, when he went to Rochester, N. Y., and thence to the Chemung River, where he worked two months in a saw-mill; then worked on a farm in Canada six months, during which time volunteers were called out, and he enlisted, going to Prescott, Can., for a short time; then was on a farm on Prince Edward Island three months longer, where he had been previously engaged. He was then at Saginaw until 1868, in the lumber camps winters, and working at saw-mills during the intervening summers. He then came to Chippewa Tp. and bought 80 acres of land, which he has since increased to 120 acres. He has placed 40 acres under improvements, and has good buildings.

Mr. Bovay was married May 29, 1873, to Sarah Jane, daughter of George and Mary (House) Connor, born in Sheffield, Can., Dec. 26, 1850. Her father was a native of Ireland, and her mother was born at St. John's, N. B. The four children of the family were born as follows: William Albert, March 6, 1874; Alice Lauretta, Nov. 27, 1876; Frankie H. and Fannie May (twins), Jan. 4, 1883.

Mr. Bovay is Republican in politics; was elected District Treasurer, Jan. 22, 1882, and Justice of the Peace in 1883.

**T**homas Sales, farmer, sec. 7, Green Tp., was born in Caroline Co., Va., Aug. 4, 1823. He passed the first 18 years of his life in farming, alternating with other pursuits as occasion demanded. He left home in 1841, and went to St. Louis, Mo., going thence in 1846 to Chicago, where he spent two years in various employments. In 1848 he came to Michigan, to engage in lumbering, and passed through Mecosta County, *en route* to the lumber camp of Delos Blodgett, in Osceola County, and was in the employ of that gentleman until 1858. In that year he bought a farm in the northern part of Green Tp., containing 40 acres of land, where he expended labor and energy for five years, selling the property at the end of that time, and removing just across the line into Newaygo County, where he lived two years. In 1860, he bought the farm on which he is now located in Green Tp., containing 88 acres of unimproved land. He has applied his time and efforts to the clearing and improvement of his farm to the best purpose, and has 40 acres in advanced cultivation, with a fine residence, good orchards and fixtures, generally in excellent condition. He is esteemed among his fellow townsmen, and regarded as a valuable and public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Sales was married in 1860 to Mrs. Catherine Goose, a native of Germany. Two children have been born to them: Maria L. and William T. Mrs. Sales had seven children by a former marriage: Kate, George, Margaret and Mary, now living, and Henry, Lizzie and Mary deceased.

**R**ed B. Wood, physician and surgeon, at Big Rapids, was born Sept. 12, 1844, at Bainbridge, Chenango Co., N. Y., and is a son of Joseph and Sarah (Farnham) Wood. When he was two years old his parents moved to Williams Co., Ohio, and went a year later to De Kalb Co., Ind., where his father died within the

same year. His mother was of Scotch lineage, and by her death six years later her seven children were fully orphaned. The little flock—four boys and three girls—were scattered, never more to gather under the home roof.

Dr. Wood commenced his career as a practitioner after the manner in which children often indicate the bent of their proclivities. He experimented in surgery on small animals, and dosed with harmless compounds such persons as he could induce to yield to his importunities. He began to study early, and when 11 years old went to work for Wm. Mitchell, of Steuben Co., Ind., receiving \$4 per month the first season, and a dollar additional during the second year. After that he worked for Martin Eldredge two summers, at \$7 a month, and went to school winters. He saved his earnings and spent the school years of 1859-60 at Hillsdale College, where he first studied anatomy. In February, 1861, he went to work for Benj. Dygert, of Steuben Co., Ind., and in May following enlisted at Angola, in Co. A, 29th Ind. Vol. Inf., for three years' service. He was the second enrolled soldier from that county, and went out under Capt. J. H. M. Jenkins, rendezvoused at La Porte, Ind., and crossed the Ohio in June, 1861, from Jeffersonville, Ind., to Louisville, Ky. His first smell of rebel powder was at Mumfordsville, Ky., followed by engagements at Pittsburg Landing, Corinth (1st and 2d), Shiloh, Perryville, Stone River, Liberty Gap and Chickamauga, where he received a gunshot wound in the head. At Liberty Gap, he was wounded in the leg by a minie ball, and spent a few days in the hospital. On the last day of the fight at Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1863, he was captured and sent to Scott's prison at Richmond; was transferred successively to Royster, Pemberton and Belle Isle. Feb. 22, 1864, he was sent to Andersonville in the first squad that peopled that Golgotha of modern times. He was transferred Sept. 7, 1864, to Savannah, and went thence to Millen, Oct. 3, 1864. Nov. 20, following, he was returned to Savannah and exchanged, after spending 14 months in rebel prisons. He added largely to his medical knowledge by doing hospital duty while in captivity. He had charge of the small-pox patients at Richmond, and assisted in hospital organization at Andersonville, Savannah and Millen. He was sent from Annapolis, Md., to Indianapolis, where he was furloughed 90 days, went home and returned in the





John S. Herdman.

winter of 1864 to the place last named, to be mustered out of the service of the United States. In the spring of 1865 he resumed his studies at Hillsdale. The next winter he taught school and pursued his medical course with W. Alphonso Wood, of Angola, and in the winter of 1866-7 went to Bellevue (N. Y.) Hospital Medical College, and attended lectures.

Dr. Wood came to Big Rapids Feb. 14, 1867, and began the practice of his profession in company with Dr. D. F. Wooley. Mecosta County was in its pioneer days, and the experiences of Dr. Wood during the next few years present a fair exhibit of the life of a physician in the early history of a lumber district. Big Rapids had less than 400 inhabitants, but it was the central point of a large section, and the lumbermen, at widely scattered points, depended wholly on the physicians there located,— Drs. Wooley, Whitfield and Wood. The sanitary conditions in the woods differed from those at local points. The lumbermen were in constant need of medical aid. In addition to accidents, of which there was a large percentage, the exposure and carelessness of the men at work in the woods occasioned a large amount of sickness. In the winter of 1867-8 Dr. Wood entered into a contract with all the lumbermen on the Muskegon and its tributaries north of Big Rapids, by the terms of which each man paid him one dollar monthly, thereby securing medical treatment as his case demanded. Dr. Wood set out on his route every Monday morning, rode on horseback an average of 68 miles daily, returning Saturday or Sunday following. He carried with him his medicines and the mail for the lumber camps he expected to visit. The woods he traversed were Indian trails or worse, and the incidents of his journeys included such experiences as are common to the early settlement of a lumber section.

In 1870-1 Dr. Wood attended lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago, was graduated in the latter year, and in 1879 completed another course at Ft. Wayne, Ind. In 1877 he engaged in the drug trade at Big Rapids, and continued the management of that branch of business until April, 1880, when he sold out to Willard Jeffs and went to La Grange, Ind., where he formed an association with W. A. Stewart in the drug business, combining medical practice therewith. In the winter of 1881-2 he at-

tended a course of lectures at Rush Medical College, and again, in the winter of 1882-3, took a post graduate course at the same institution. June 26, 1883, he returned to Big Rapids and resumed his career as a medical practitioner.

Dr. Wood married July 20, 1865, Mary J., daughter of Wm. E. and Eliza J. (Thornburgh) Sargent. The parents are of Scotch and Irish descent, and the father became a soldier of the civil war, going into the service as Lieutenant of the same company in which Dr. Wood enlisted. The household of the latter includes two sons: J. Fordyce, born Jan. 13, 1868, and Phonso S., born Feb. 6, 1872.

**J**ohn S. Weidman, farmer and lumberman, resident on sec. 29, Hinton Tp., was born in St. Clair Co., Mich., May 10, 1852. He is a son of Evan and Harriet (Edgecomb) Weidman, who settled in Hinton Tp. six years ago and still reside there. Until the age of 25, Mr. Weidman was attending school and working on the farm, and was also employed on the rivers. He bought 40 acres of timber land in Hinton Tp., in the fall of 1876. In 1877 he was employed in lumbering on the Little Muskegon River and passed seven months in that occupation, then settled on his tract of 80 acres he had bought for a homestead. He built a frame house, and spent five months clearing his farm, then returned to his lumbering interests on the Big Muskegon, where he was occupied nearly eight months. He has continued ever since to alternate farm labors with lumbering. He has added to his farm and other land until he owns 600 acres, with 60 acres under an advanced state of cultivation.

Mr. Weidman was married at Big Rapids, July 3, 1877, to Maggie E., third daughter of William G. and Mary (Plimpton) Mitchell, who was born in Aetna Tp., Nov. 4, 1847. They have two children,—Fenora D., born Sept. 8, 1878, and Mildred A., Aug. 1, 1880. Mrs. Weidman is a member of the Congregational Church.

Mr. Weidman deserves the tribute due to every self-made man. He began in the world only with his hands, his energy and determination as farmer and lumberman, and has reached a social and financial status that compares fairly with the records of other

leading men of Mecosta County. In politics he is a Republican.

We present a portrait of Mr. Weidman in this book.



**B**lonzo Vangilder, farmer, sec. 6, Big Rapids, was born Feb. 24, 1824, in Onondaga Co., N. Y., and is the third son of Ransom and Azuba (Vantassel) Vangilder, the former a native of Vermont.

Mr. Vangilder left his native State and settled in Wisconsin in 1846, and resided in that State principally until 1865. He was married at Foud du Lac, Wis., Oct. 22, 1854, to Maria Williams, who was born Jan. 16, 1826, in Onondaga Co., N. Y. In August, 1865, Mr. Vangilder came to Mecosta Co., Mich., and settled in the township of Big Rapids, where he now owns 100 acres of land, with 40 acres in tillage, 20 acres cleared for pasturage and 40 acres of good timbered land.

Mr. and Mrs. Vangilder have had four daughters and two sons: Hannah M., Annis R., Mary E., James R. (died in February, 1881), Clara L. and Grant.

Mr. Vangilder enlisted in the war of the Rebellion Aug. 31, 1864, enrolling in Co. A, 38th Wis. Vol. Inf., on what was known as the "one-year call." Mr. V. was honorably discharged June 2, 1865, the war being practically ended. He is a Republican in politics.



**R**ansom R. Schofield, farmer, sec. 32, Chippewa Tp., was born in Orange Co., N. Y., Aug. 10, 1819. His parents, Reuben and Ruth (Kelley) Schofield, were natives of Vermont, and removed to the State of New York, where they resided 30 years, after which they located in Branch Co., Mich. After a residence there of five years they again moved, going to St. Joseph Co., Mich, where they ultimately died.

Mr. Schofield came to Branch County with his parents, and was there interested in farming for 20 years, on a farm of 160 acres. His first change of locality was to Black Hawk Co., Iowa, and there he

engaged three years in land traffic. He came back to Branch Co., Mich., bought 100 acres of land, and carried on farming two years, when he again sold out and went to Polk Co., Iowa, and there engaged in farming between two and three years. He again liberated himself, and traveled in the Eastern States for a time. On his return he came to Mecosta County, and in the fall of 1875 bought 160 acres of land in Chippewa Tp., and again became practically interested in farming. He has continued to add to his landed possessions until he now owns 640 acres in Chippewa Tp., and is the most extensive landholder within its limits. He owns also 100 acres of land in the township of Martiny. In regard to the principles of national government he is a Republican.

Mr. Schofield was first married in 1840, to Cordelia Schofield, a native of Orange Co., N. Y., who died in 1841, leaving one child, Anna C. He was a second time married, to Rachel Bates, born in the State of New York. She died in 1857, leaving a daughter who bears her name. The third and present wife of Mr. Schofield was Delilah Bates, a sister of his second wife, by whom he has three children,—Robert R., Essa May and Bertha D.



**M**abelle F. Glidden, Attorney at Big Rapids (firm of Glidden & Marsh), was born in Orleans Co., N. Y., June 12, 1850. He is son of Oliver D. and Adaline L. (Coy) Glidden. His father was a farmer, and in the fall of 1852 removed with his family to Paw Paw, Van Buren Co., Mich., where he engaged in farming and afterward in mercantile business. Young Glidden attended the public school until he was 16, when he taught a term or two in the common schools. The following year he matriculated at Hillsdale College, and was graduated in the Latin Scientific Course, with the degree of B. S., in the class of 1873. Meantime, he had taught a year in the high school at Paw Paw as assistant, and another as Principal of the public schools at South Haven, Mich. During his teaching and college course he had been reading law, and after graduation at college entered the office of Hon. James Gould, of Jackson, Mich., where he continued his legal studies until February, 1874, when he was admitted to the Bar. In March,



1874, he opened an office at Paw Paw, remaining there until September, 1875, when he came to Big Rapids and entered upon the practice of his profession. He formed his present partnership with E. J. Marsh, April 1, 1878. The firm occupy a suite of rooms fitted up for them in the Northern Hotel block. They are rated among the leading attorneys of Mecosta County, and are doing a successful business. They are also engaged in real-estate operations, which they conduct almost exclusively in their own interests.

Mr. Glidden has figured somewhat prominently in the political arena of the county and district. He is a staunch Democrat, and during the Presidential campaign of 1876 supported Tilden & Hendricks with great zeal, throughout the Ninth Congressional District. He is the Chairman of the Democratic County Committee, and has done much to organize that party in his county. He, with his father, started the *Big Rapids Herald*, in April, 1875, it being the first Democratic paper in the county, and one of the first in Northern Michigan. Mr. G. is Grand Chancellor of the Order of Knights of Pythias in Michigan, having been elected at the Grand Lodge session at Kalamazoo in July, 1883, and is also a member of the Masonic fraternity.

The marriage of Mr. Glidden to Lynn Van Antwerp occurred at Edwardsburg, Cass Co., Mich., Dec. 21, 1874. She is the daughter of Simon and Louisa Van Antwerp. There are two children: Coy H., born June 4, 1877, and Grace L., born March 2, 1880.

**E**on A. Pelton, hardware merchant, at Morley, was born at Grand Rapids, April 3, 1852. He is a son of Aldrich W. and Amanda (Gray) Pelton, the father a native of Canada, and the mother of Troy, N. Y. Upon their marriage they settled at Grand Rapids, Mich., and were among the pioneer settlers where that city now stands. The senior Pelton still resides there; his wife died in February, 1872.

Mr. Pelton was apprenticed to learn the tinner's trade, where he remained three years, and prosecuted his trade at Grand Rapids until the age of 21 years, when he went to Chicago and there remained two years, working as tinsmith. He then returned to

Grand Rapids and remained nearly eight months, going thence to Cadillac, Mich., and was in the employ of Hicks & Peck for 13 months. This engagement was ended by the burning of his employer's store. He went to Cedar Springs, Kent Co., and was there employed four years. In September, 1881, he came to Morley, bought the building and lot he now occupies, and has a fine stock of hardware, agricultural implements and farmers' tools, and is managing a flourishing and increasing trade, ranking among the first business men of the town.

Mr. Pelton was married at Grand Rapids, Mich. July 5, 1877, to Mary A., eldest daughter of J. S. and Nancy I. (Weeden) Wright, who was born in Walker Twp., Kent Co., Feb. 12, 1854. They have one child, La Verne A., born April 16, 1879. In politics Mr. Pelton has always been a Republican; has been Village Assessor, and was Township Clerk of Solon Twp., Kent Co., one year, but on removal resigned the post.

**J**acob J. Tallman, farmer, sec. 34, Chipewewa Twp., was born in the City of New York, July 10, 1831. His father, John J. Tallman, was born in Rockland Co., N. Y., Sept. 10, 1796, and was a farmer, carrying on that business for a number of years, when he sold his farm and went to New York city, where he resided eight years. He purchased a house at Hackensack, N. J., and engaged in real-estate transactions until his death, which transpired in 1875. The mother was a native of New Jersey, and is still resident there, in the township of Passaic.

Mr. Tallman was bred on his father's farm and in the city of New York, where he attended the public schools. At the age of 25 years he came to Cass Co., Mich., and found employment in the town of Porter, where he remained five years. He was the owner of 40 acres of land, which he purchased and put into an improved condition.

Three years afterward he sold this and went to Kalamazoo, where he resumed his occupation of laborer by the day and month, which he followed two years. Taking advantage of an opportunity that offered, he went to Middle Tennessee, to engage in bridge building on a railway, and after a stay of six months returned to Kalamazoo, where he worked at

the Seminary about 18 months. After three months' residence at Big Rapids, he moved upon his farm, which he had "proven up," containing 80 acres of land; this he began to clear and prepare for the purposes of cultivation.

Mr. Tallman was married March 31, 1858, to Mrs. Electa Irene (Tyler) Truesdell, widow of Alimerin Truesdell, who died in Sacramento city, Cal., in 1851. Of her marriage with him two children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The second, Jonathan Alimerin Truesdell, was born in 1850, and died Jan. 14, 1882.

Mrs. Tallman was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., July 16, 1829. Her father, Job Tyler, was born in Onondaga Co., N. Y., and was a farmer, as also a minister of the M. E. Church five years, when he became a convert to the tenets of the Seventh-Day Baptist Church, and entered its ministry, continuing his labors until his death in 1851. The mother, Sally (Davis) Tyler, was born in Vermont, and died April 21, 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Tallman have had two children: Milford J., born July 19, 1863, and died July 27, 1865; Josephine Alida, born April 4, 1866.

Mr. Tallman is a Republican in political sentiment. He has been Justice of the Peace four years, and has officiated in the positions of Constable, Township Treasurer and School Assessor of Chipewewa Township.

**E**ugene F. Burdick, teacher, residing on sec. 3, Hinton Tp., is a son of Reuben S. and Lavinia (Bailey) Burdick, natives of the State of New York, where they now reside and where their son was born, June 20, 1850. He spent his youth in the common schools and finished his course of study at Aurora Academy, Erie County. He taught school in his native State, and on attaining his majority came to Mecosta County and located in Hinton Tp. In the spring following he bought a small tract of land, on which he built a frame house, where he now resides. Since coming to the county he has been engaged in teaching, and has earned an enviable reputation in his calling.

He was married April 5, 1874, in the house which he now occupies, to Evaline, youngest child of Emery

and Ruby (Pettingill) Hewlett. Her parents were natives of the State of New York. They moved thence to Indiana and afterward to Michigan, finally settling in this County, where the father died in 1876. The mother is now residing in the Township of Wheatland. Mrs. Burdick was born in Berrien Co., Mich., Feb. 26, 1858. She is the mother of two children,—Gertrude E., born Aug. 3, 1881, and Reuben R. born April 26, 1883. Mr. Burdick is a Republican and has held the office of Notary Public

**J**ames Johnson, farmer and miller, resident at Paris, this county, was born in Sandusky Co., Ohio, Oct. 28, 1834, and is a son of Lewis and Abigail (Stults) Johnson. The father was born in Ohio, of Irish parentage, and moved to Jay Co., Ind., when the son was but seven years of age, afterward removing to Portland Co., Ind., where he died. His mother was born in Virginia, and died in 1880, at Winchester, Ind.

Mr. Johnson remained with his parents until he reached the age of 19, working on the farm and learning the trade of machinist. When he left home he went to Fremont, Ohio, and worked as a machinist and millwright until the outbreak of the civil war. He enlisted in 1861, in the 71st Ohio Vol. Inf., stationed at Fremont, and was seized with an affection of the eyes which, after three months, caused his discharge. Afterward he enlisted in the same regiment, and was in the service nine months, when he was again discharged, on account of sickness.

On leaving the army he went to Ohio, bought a saw-mill and interested himself in lumbering, operating until Sept. 1, 1864, when he enlisted a third time, enrolling in the 64th Ohio Vol. Inf., the regiment being attached to the command of Gen. Thomas, and was in the service until the termination of the war. Returning to Ohio, he resumed the profession of millwright. In 1868 his place of business was burned, and he lost everything. He came at once to Mecosta Co., Mich., and located at Paris, where he followed the callings of millwright and miller. In 1875 he bought a farm on sec. 15, where he is now engaged in agriculture, and continues to manage his mill for the accommodation of the country trade.

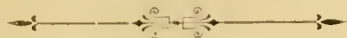
Mr. Johnson was married to Bridget Mulholland, a





*A. H. Vincent.*

native of Ireland, and daughter of Owen and Bridget Mulholland. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, three of whom are living, viz: Francis, Mary Ellen and Sarah Jane; James is deceased. In his political principles, Mr. J. is a Democrat.



**Col. Nathan H. Vincent**, resident at Big Rapids, was born in Allegany Co., N. Y., Dec. 5, 1839. His parents, David and Freegift (Saunders) Vincent, resided 50 years on a farm in Almond Tp., Allegany Co., N. Y., and died there in the fall of 1866, the demise of the father occurring three months before that of the mother.

A few months after Col. Vincent had attained his majority, the country was convulsed by civil war. It roused to activity every sentiment of loyal patriotism existing in the North; it taught men how strong were their own unrecognized love and fealty for home and country; it brought to the altar of the Union the best blood in the land, and developed to the awe-struck and wondering nations of the earth the imperishable character of American institutions.

Col. Vincent enlisted Aug. 29, 1861, in Hornellsville, N. Y., in Co. D., 86th N. Y. Vol. Inf., Capt. D. S. Ellsworth, and his regiment was mustered into service at Elmira. After six months' service as a private, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and successively to those of Sergeant and Sergeant Major, and Feb. 15, 1863, was commissioned Second Lieutenant. May 3, following, he was promoted to be Captain of his Company. His commissions as Major, Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel followed in swift succession, and after a command of eight months he brought the regiment to Elmira, where it was mustered out, Aug. 5, 1865.

On leaving Elmira the 86th N. Y. Regt. proceeded to Washington, and was engaged during the winter building fortifications for the defense of the Capital. Early in the spring it was assigned to detached service in Washington and Georgetown, and did provost guard duty until the return of the Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula Campaign under McClellan, when it joined the army at Manassas Junction, and was assigned to the command of Fitz-John Porter.

It was first in action at Bull's Run (2d), where an engagement lasting only 15 minutes (Aug. 29) cost the regiment upwards of 200 men. Col. Vincent was wounded below the knee, and was sent to the hospital, where he remained until the following morning. As the coming daylight streaked the east, he discovered that the Union forces had moved to the heights at Centreville, and the rebels were advancing to occupy the ground held the previous day by the Federal soldiers. He pressed two fence pickets into service for crutches, and made his way to a ruined bridge, crept across on a stringer, and joined the army.

He recovered in time to participate in the destruction of Fredericksburg. May 2, 1863, he was again under fire at Chancellorsville, at the close of what is on record as exceeding in disaster any previous campaign in which the Federal army had been engaged.

The loss in officers of the 86th at Chancellorsville was terrific. General Whipple, on the first day, led a reconnoitering force toward the left from the point held by the right wing (Howard's corps), and attacked the rear guard of Stonewall Jackson. Meanwhile the latter made his daring flank movement with his advance, and utterly routed the right wing. After some hours' severe fighting, Gen. Whipple fell back to an open field in the vicinity of the position whence the "right" had been driven. It was after nightfall, and the rebel pickets surrounded the field on three sides, a portion following in the rear of the withdrawing force and closing in, while the other sides were guarded by pickets from Jackson's force holding the former position of Gen. Howard. The night was thus spent, and at break of day it was discovered that the enemy's pickets had not joined on the side nearest the Union forces, and the beleaguered troops under Gen. Whipple availed themselves of the promise thereby afforded, and made a precipitate bolt, followed by the rebels. The soldiers crossed a ravine and met Gen. Hooker with his forces, who joined battle with the troops under Jackson. Whipple's men moved to a position to support Hooker's batteries, but were obliged to cross the ravine on the right to intercept the enemy marching on the Union lines. Under the severe fire to which the 86th was subjected, the Lieutenant Colonel commanding was killed, the Major severely wounded, the senior Captain killed, and Captain Ellsworth of

Co. D fell at the side of Col. Vincent. Whipple's men came up into the road, but an enfilading fire compelled them forward toward the batteries which they had previously supported, to find them fallen back to the Chancellor House, whither they followed, and while yet heated and panting were ordered back to the relief of a regiment that had been cut off. The destruction of officers had been so great that it was next to impossible to determine who was the legitimate leader, and Col. Vincent, the junior Second Lieutenant, assumed command, led back the regiment, rescued the organization and flag, but lost more men of his own force than he saved of the regiment he delivered. He was covered with blood from a scalp wound, and while standing among the battle-stained men, Gen. Whipple came up and advised him to go to the rear. Col. Vincent expressed his determination to abide with the regiment. His General marked him for promotion and moved on. A few minutes later they were once more in action, below the Chancellor House, where Col. Vincent received another scalp wound, a slight injury in the right arm, and another in the right hip. Gen. Whipple was shot, and his duty devolved on others.

The regiment was next engaged in a fight at Beverley's Ford, whither they went on a forced march, and did effective service, capturing the rebel headquarters, with papers outlining Lee's plans for carrying the war into Maryland and Pennsylvania. The rebel chief found himself unexpectedly on the eve of battle, and his hopes scattered like autumn leaves when it became certain that two years of indecisive war had lulled his sagacity blinded his judgment, and inveigled him into premature battle.

The 86th N. Y. Regt. was prominent through the Gettysburg campaign, where it did heroic service in repulsing the impetuous attack of the corps of Gen. Longstreet, July 2, 1864. Being in Sickles' corps, he participated in several actions along the route of the Orange & Alexandria railroad, and in the valley of the Shenandoah. It was transferred to the command of Gen. Hancock, and went into action at the battle of the Wilderness, May 5, having 770 equipped men. The struggle ended seven days later, but at roll-call at the close of May 10, only 50 men of the 86th responded to their names.

Col. (then Capt.) Vincent was disabled by gunshot wounds in the left arm and thigh, and was off

duty three months. His left arm was badly shattered, and has never recovered. He was an inmate of Seminary Hospital at Georgetown, until sufficiently well for furlough. At the end of 60 days he went to the Convalescent Hospital at Annapolis, Md., and was sent thence on detached duty to Camp Gilmore Concord, N. H., where he was occupied in the duties attendant upon the assignment of recruits. In November he made application to be relieved, and joined his command before Petersburg. On his way he stopped at Albany, and received his intermediate and final commissions from Gov. Seymour, and assumed command of his regiment as its Lieutenant Colonel. Soon afterward he became Colonel in verity, and took part in the closing conflicts of the spring of 1865, among them Hatcher's Run, Petersburg (final battle), and the other engagements in pursuit of Lee, until the surrender of the latter to the Federal authority at Appomattox Court-House. The regiment went thence to Beeksville Junction, and on to Washington for the Grand Review.

Col. Vincent bears on his body seven scars—the ineffaceable credentials of his bravery on the field. The regimental flag of 1864 is preserved at Albany, N. Y., with the record of the year and the following statements: "This flag was received at Brandy Station, Va., in March, 1864:" and "Four Color-bearers have fallen beneath its folds." This was but one of several flags carried by the "86th" during the war.

Col. Vincent returned to Hornellsville, where he went into business as a real-estate broker, and operated three years, officiating also as policeman and ticket agent of the Erie railroad. In May, 1868, he came to Big Rapids, where he purchased a lot and built a residence, which he sold soon after, and bought the well-known Stimson farm, containing 280 acres of land, situated on the north border of the city of Big Rapids, and lying on secs. 3 and 4, Big Rapids Tp. On this he moved, and followed farming about 11 years. He has made considerable improvements, and still owns the place. In 1881, he bought 25 acres adjoining his farm. In the spring of 1883 he sold 21 acres off the southern extremity. He also owns two lots in the rear of the Northern Hotel, each 240 x 60 feet; two lots adjoining, fronting on State street, 50 x 150 feet, on one of which he proposes to erect his residence. He is engaged in breeding trotting stock, in which he takes great pride and satisfaction.

Col. Vincent was married at Hornellsville, N. Y., Feb. 16, 1864, to Angeline Ellsworth, sister of Capt. Ellsworth, and a daughter of Horace and Susan Ellsworth, born in New York, Dec. 22, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Vincent have two children: Clara A., born at Hornellsville, May 7, 1865, and Daniel H., born at Big Rapids, Sept. 7, 1869.

In the fall of 1876, Col. Vincent was elected Sheriff of Mecosta County, on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected to the following term. He served two years afterward as Under-Sheriff, and is a member of the Order of Masonry, and several insurance societies. He is the present Deputy United States Marshal. He was an actor in the organization of the city of Big Rapids, and was a member of the committee which framed its charter.

A recent writer says a man's temperament is his fate. The statement probably amounts to a truism in the case of Col. Vincent. It is always impossible to estimate the exact degree to which a man's traits of character are inherent, or to determine whether they are the result of education and circumstances. The question is too broad for present discussion, but its interest in this individual case is no less intense, awakened as it is by a career and position which must lead every careful observer to reflection, and due weight must be accorded to innate tendencies, training, and the influence of events. The father of Col. Vincent was such a man as made the period in which he lived a most significant era, from its bearing upon that which lay in the immediate future. The Whig party, of which he was an adherent, reached its *ultimatum* during his active life, and the element of which he was the type, in its quiet but inflexible and unswerving methods, made the political history of this people during the last 40 years a grand possibility, and an illustrious certainty.

The character of Col. Vincent was molded by that of his father. The reflective habits of the latter trained him in such directions that in the simultaneous advent of civil war and his legal freedom, he found the opportunity of his life. The disaster of the first Bull Run engagement brought the nation face to face with a most portentous fact. The culmination of a colossal national wrong was precipitated upon an apathetic people. The sentiment of the Englishman who scornfully informed the parties at Big Rapids with whom he was negotiating, where

news was received of the disaster at Bull Run, that their business was off because they had no country, was identical with that which filled the North with unutterable shame, and awakened her hidden heroes to a sense that men were needed at the front. The young Vincent, in the first flush of his untrammelled existence, only saw one fact,—that the time to act had come, and the emergency demanded promptness and self-abnegation. The story has already been told in brief, but in the cause wherein was the element of success is contained a lesson that the young men of this generation might consider with profit. In a cursory review of the facts of his career he was asked concerning the governing impulse of which he was conscious. "I only realized an earnest desire to understand my duty," was the response which merits permanent record, both as an exponent of its author's character and in what it may mean to others.

On reaching his post of duty, his incompetency in military detail led Col. Vincent to strive in every way to remedy the defect, and he devoted all the time and opportunity he could control to that purpose. His apparent proficiency in acquiring the details of military tactics obtained his rapid advancement through the non-commissioned grades of promotion: his bravery in action did the rest. Like poets, leaders are born.

The grandest development of the civil war was the exhibit to the world of what stuff Americans are made; how quiet men, moving in humble walks in life, rise to heights reached by few others under the impelling power of an unheralded emergency. Forethought and self-knowledge are the foundation of Col. Vincent's achievements, in whatever avenue he acts. He needs no eulogy: his record is his crown of fame, but its luster pales in the glory of his perfect and pre-eminent manhood. His portrait on page 476, enhances the value of this volume.

**H**elen Chapin, merchant at Morley, is a son of James and Mary A. (Rice) Chapin, the father a native of Massachusetts and the mother of New York. At the age of 12 years Mr. Chapin left home to enter upon his life work alone. He was engaged in farming and other occupations until 18 years of age, when he rented a large dairy farm in Illinois, which he man-

aged one year. His parents had moved to Michigan where they were pioneers, and Mr. Chapin has passed his life at different points in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. In the fall of 1868 he came to Morley and has since resided here uninterruptedly. He carries on a general merchandise business, with an average stock of \$5,000. He is also owner of 40 acres of land in the township of Deerfield, 20 acres of which is cleared. He is independent in political sentiment and action, and has occupied the positions of Township Clerk and Village Trustee, and has declined several offices to which he was elected.

Mr. Chapin was married at Logansport, Ind., June 12, 1862, to Carrie, daughter of William and Nancy Warner, who was born Jan. 9, 1845. They have one child, Frank, born Feb. 29, 1864.

**E**nson McDuffie, farmer, sec. 18, Big Rapids Tp., was born in Harrison Co., Ky., in 1823. His father, Enoch McDuffie, was a native of the same county and State, and his mother, Catherine (Pope) McDuffie, was born in New Jersey. They removed to Ohio and two years later fixed their residence in Rush Co., Ind., where the father died in 1840, aged 45 years. The mother married the Rev. James Stallard, after two years of widowhood, whom she outlived, dying at the age of 70 years.

After the marriage of his mother, Mr. McDuffie went West and stayed about two years in and about Fort Des Moines, Iowa. He returned to Indiana and in 1846 married Miss L. J. Beckner. Of their marriage eight children—six sons and two daughters—were born, two of whom are deceased.

In 1864, Mr. McDuffie became a Union soldier, and was in the campaign under Gen. Sherman. He returned at the close of the war to find his wife a hopeless sufferer under the ravages of consumption, of which she died in 1867.

Mr. McDuffie was again married in 1868, to Elvira, youngest child of Andrew and Jane (Day) McFarlin, born in Ohio, in 1835. Her father was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1782. His parents came with their family to America in 1796, and the son Andrew became a soldier in the war of 1812.

Mr. McDuffie came to Mecosta County in 1871 and established himself in the township of Big

Rapids. He is the present Township Clerk, and has held the position six years. Mrs. McDuffie is serving the township as School Inspector, and is the first lady incumbent of that office in Mecosta County, receiving her appointment from the Township School Board.

**A**lorus W. Bruce, editor and proprietor of the Big Rapids *Current*, was born in Leslie, Ingham Co., Mich., March 26, 1843. His father, William Bruce, was a native of Massachusetts, born Sept. 12, 1818, and was a blacksmith by trade. His mother, Diantha C. (Rice) Bruce, was born in Vermont, Dec. 22, 1822.

Mr. Bruce, in early life, was for a brief season employed in his father's shop, after which, until the age of 19, he interested himself in agriculture.

On the outbreak of the Rebellion he shared the enthusiasm of the hour, and, despite the fact of his minority, enrolled himself as a private soldier in Co. A, 17th Mich. Inf., Capt. L. L. Comstock. He was in the service 18 months, and was in action at Fredericksburg and Vicksburg. At the battle of Campbell's Station, Tenn., Nov. 16, 1863, during Longstreet's advance on Knoxville, he received a severe wound, which resulted in the loss of his right leg. He, with 19 others, was captured by the rebels, and placed in a field hospital. He was carefully nursed by Mrs. Nancy S. Galbraith, a Union widow lady; and when the country was once more at peace he made a practical exhibit of his gratitude by securing to her from the general Government a just remuneration for her services. Mr. Bruce was discharged at Detroit, March 4, 1864.

The use and advantages of a more extended education to one in his circumstances became a fixed conviction during his illness, and on recovery he entered college at Adrian, Mich., and there pursued his studies until 1867, when he obtained a position as clerk in the office of the Auditor-General at Lansing. He discharged the duties of the situation continuously until May, 1870. At that date he came to Big Rapids and established himself in business as a book and stationery dealer. He continued his trade until the autumn of 1876, when he sold his interests.

During the session of 1871, he acted as Engrossing and Enrolling Clerk of the Michigan House of Rep-







*Eli. Frederick.*



*Anna Frederick.*



representatives, at Lansing, and while absent at his post his name was placed on the Union ticket of Big Rapids as a candidate for City Recorder. He was elected and served one year. At the Legislative Assembly of 1877, he was elected Postmaster of the two Houses.

In June, 1877, Mr. Bruce commenced his career as an editor, by the purchase of the *Record*, at Howard City, Montcalm Co., which he managed until 1879. On the 6th of February of that year, associated with W. F. Slawson, he founded the *Big Rapids Current*, and soon afterward sold the *Howard Record*. After a partnership of a few months he purchased the interest of Mr. Slawson.

The *Current* is a creditable representative of the Republican press, and is ably and consistently conducted. It is the official newspaper of the county, is quarto in size, and has eight pages of seven columns each. It has the largest circulation in the county, and, mechanically, is an evidence of the good taste of its manager. It is printed on a fine Campbell press. The office receives a considerable amount of job patronage.

Mr. Bruce was married in Green Tp., Mecosta Co., Oct. 22, 1873, to Maria, daughter of Jesse A. and Caroline Barker. She was born in Cascade Tp., Kent Co., Mich., Dec. 19, 1847, whither her parents came to Mecosta County in 1855, as pioneers. They made the journey to Green Tp. from the city of Grand Rapids with an ox team, coming all the way through the woods. Mrs. Bruce was educated at Grand Rapids and Muskegon, and began her labors as teacher at the age of fifteen, and continued them until her marriage. Herself and sisters were prominent among the pioneer educators of Mecosta County. Mr. Barker, her father, was Chairman of the first Board of Supervisors of the county, and was its first Probate Judge.

In 1872, Mrs. Bruce was appointed to the charge of the money-order department of the postoffice at Big Rapids, under her uncle, Thomas Lazell, Postmaster. The abilities of Mrs. Bruce are in requisition co-ordinately with those of her husband in the publication of the *Current*, in whose profits and responsibilities she is with him equally interested. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce have one child, Carrie C., born at Big Rapids, Jan. 13, 1876.

Mr. Bruce is a zealous member of the M. E.

Church, and has been Superintendent of the Sunday-school since 1871, except during his brief residence at Howard City.

**F**REDERICK, Sheriff of Mecosta Co., resident at Big Rapids, was born near North Liberty, Knox Co., Ohio, Aug. 24, 1843, and is a son of Christian P. and Esther (Divelbess) Frederick. When he was 14 years old his parents moved to Richland Co., Ohio, where his father bought a saw and grist mill, and, in addition to the management of these, followed agriculture.

Mr. Frederick was trained to active habits, and at the age of 17 commenced to prepare himself for the vocation of blacksmith, which he followed about two and a half years. In 1863, he yielded to the influences which controlled men and events, and enlisted at Mansfield, Richland Co., Ohio, in Co. G, 71st Ohio Vol. Inf., and served in the ranks until the close of the war. He was in action at Pulaski, Franklin and Nashville, besides being in a number of skirmishes, and was discharged at San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 16, 1865. He returned to his home and trade in Ohio, and pursued farming to some extent.

In the fall of 1868 he came to Big Rapids and opened a blacksmith shop, in company with a Mr. Chellis, which they managed about 18 months. Mr. Chellis was succeeded by James M. Parkhill and the last relation existed about four years, the firm selling out their business in 1874.

Mr. Frederick bought a half interest in the carriage and wagon manufacturing establishment of L. C. Lincoln. The concern continued to transact business until the fall of 1882, when Mr. Frederick was elected Sheriff of the county on the Fusion ticket, running against Arnold Ely. His majority was 433 votes, showing an advance of nearly a thousand votes ahead of his ticket.

He was married in Big Rapids Jan. 24, 1870, to Anna, daughter of James and Susan Cooper, a native of England, born Aug. 24, 1850. They have three children: Harley E., Cora M. and Lora E. Mr. Frederick is a member of the Order of Masonry and belongs to the fraternity of Odd Fellows. He has been Supervisor of the Second Ward two years and

He is of a speculative turn of mind, and has always been engaged more or less in handling real estate, which is now his sole business. He owns his residence on State street, 80 acres of farming land on sec. 22, Grant Tp., 80 acres in Newaygo, and a house and three acres of land in Walworth Co., Wis. He belongs to the fraternity of Odd Fellows, and is a member of Post French, G. A. R.

Mr. Jacques was married in Ottawa, Waukesha Co., Wis., April 5, 1871, to Alice I., daughter of Thomas and Alvira Boone, a native of Iowa. They have one daughter, Nevada P., born in Wisconsin, Jan. 28, 1876.

Mr. Jacques has given a great deal of time and interest to the science of fish culture. He has stocked a number of the water courses of the county, and in 1874 established a trout fishery on sec. 24, Big Rapids Tp., starting with 10,000 eggs. A year later he was compelled to abandon his scheme on account of his fish being stolen.

**J**ames Martin Denney, farmer, sec. 30, Sheridan Tp., was born Aug. 11, 1817, in Gallia Co., Ohio. He is a son of William F. and Mary Ann (Fulk) Denney, born in North Carolina, respectively in 1794 and 1791. The former was of Scotch and Welsh descent, and the latter German. In 1831 they settled in Jay Co., Ind.

Mr. Denney was married Sept. 20, 1842, to Lois E., daughter of Nathan and Laura (Miner) Scranton, born April 5, 1820, in Cortland Co., N. Y. Her father was a native of Rhode Island, and of Welsh descent. Her mother was born in Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Denney have had 11 children, as follows: John S. (dec.), Mary A., William T., James M. (dec.), Nathan, Laura, Joshua (dec.), Jordan, Henry F. (dec.), Lois L. E. and Riley S.

Mr. Denney came to Michigan in August, 1865. He first located on sec. 21 of Wheatland Tp., and came thence to the section where he now resides. Everything was in a state of nature, and he has reclaimed the land from a dense forest and established himself comfortably. He has served two terms as Justice of the Peace, and filled other offices.

He is an old-line Democrat, and belongs to the Methodist Church. He owns 120 acres of land, 30 of which are under good cultivation. His timbered land includes pine of first-class quality.

**F**ather Henry W. Grimme, Priest in charge of the Parish of St. Mary, at Big Rapids, was born at Hanover, Germany, July 3, 1849. He is a son of Joseph and Margaret Grimme, and when 16 years of age accompanied his parents to the United States.

His early education was obtained in his native land, and on his arrival in this country he was sent to Mount St. Mary's Seminary, at Cincinnati, to prepare for his vocation, the priesthood. After ten years' arduous application to his studies, he was placed in charge of the Roman Catholic Church at Wyandotte, Mich., where he officiated three years and three months. He then went to Otisco, Ionia Co., and after a brief tarry there, in December, 1880, he came to Big Rapids, and entered upon the duties of his station here. The society includes the members of 150 families, and has doubled since the beginning of his labors as parish Priest.

His mission stations are at Cedar Springs, Morley, Ensley, Croton, Fremont Center, Newaygo, Hesperia, White Cloud, Reed City, Evart, etc. He is popular among his people, and liked by the community.

Attached to the parish buildings is the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, including about 15 sisters. The school belonging to their quarters was discontinued for a while, owing to the destruction of the convent by fire, but has since been re-opened in connection with the Church.

**W**illiam P. Montonye, one of the earliest comers to Big Rapids, is a son of Hiram and Elizabeth (Shafer) Montonye, and was born Dec. 7, 1835, at Forty Fort, Luzerne Co., Pa. At 15 he left home and proceeded up the west branch of the Susquehanna River to Lock Haven, where he passed three years in the occupation of lumberman, when he arranged to perfect himself in the details of the carpenter's trade,





William Ladner



and spent two and a half years in the prosecution of this calling.

In the spring of 1858 he came to Big Rapids. While *en route* he reached Grand Rapids and paid three dollars to be conveyed to this place. He was accompanied by other travelers of similar destination; and soon after leaving Grand Rapids he and one of his companions became disgusted with their tardy progress, and made their way on foot, outstripping the stage by several hours. At that date there were but two residences on the west side of the river. He worked as a carpenter at Big Rapids and bought of Zera French a block in the Third Ward; also some lots in the First Ward, and continued to work at this trade until the advent of the civil war.

Yielding to the influence which swayed the entire North, Mr. Montonye enlisted, Feb. 22, 1862, in Co. E, Third Mich. Cav., Capt. Lattimer. His regiment was attached to the Western army, and he was in active service at the battles of Shiloh, Iuka, Corinth (first and second), and was taken prisoner at Rocky Ford, Miss. He was first sent to Mobile, and successively to Richmond, Andersonville and Savannah. He spent eleven months in captivity, undergoing all the horrors whose unparalleled activity stand out in bold relief on the events of modern warfare. At the expiration of that period he was exchanged, and in June, 1865, was discharged from service, at Baton Rouge, La.

On his return to Big Rapids he embarked in mercantile traffic, in company with Charles Shafer. Their store was located on part of the site of the Furniture block, and the business relation existed three years, when Mr. Montonye sold his interest and built a livery stable on Michigan avenue, in company with George B. Jones. Two years later he sold to his partner, and since that time has been operating in scaling logs for various lumber firms.

Mr. Montonye resides in the Fourth Ward, on Woodward avenue. He owns 15 acres of land in that precinct, and two city lots and barn on Maple street, rented and occupied by an omnibus line, and also owns the dry-goods store on Michigan avenue, tenanted by S. Wildberg. He was married at Grand Rapids, to Amanda Eggleston, a native of Connecticut. She died at Ewart, Osceola Co., and Mr. Montonye was again married at Big Springs, Ottawa Co., in January, 1883, to Mrs. Lydia Demond. He be-

longs to the Order of Masonry, and during the first year of his residence here was elected Constable, holding the office one year.

**on. William Ladner**, Probate Judge of Mecosta County, residing in Mecosta Tp., whose portrait is given on the opposite page, was born in Cornwall Co., England. He is a son of James and Jane (Chirgeoin) Ladner, natives of the county of Cornwall. The father was born Dec. 15, 1807, and died Sept. 21, 1882; the mother was born Nov. 22, 1812, and died Jan. 26, 1876. The record of their ten children is as follows: William, born Nov. 1, 1834; Richard D., April 1, 1837; Herbert, June 15, 1839; Jane E., June 8, 1841; James, May 21, 1843; Frank, Feb. 25, 1845; Thomas, May 3, 1847; Henry, Oct. 8, 1849 (died Sept. 24, 1878); George, Sept. 4, 1851; Emily A., Oct. 10, 1853 (died in May, 1875). Mr. Ladner's parents came to America in 1851, with eight children, and settled on a farm in Cannon Tp., Kent Co., Mich., where the father and mother died.

William was kept in school until his parents came to the United States. His father purchased a farm of 80 acres in the township where he located, and his son became his assistant, remaining on the home place until he was 20 years of age. He then came to Muskegon and interested himself in lumbering, operating winters and engaging in farm labor summers. In 1856 he settled in Mecosta County and bought a timbered tract, 80 acres in extent, in Mecosta Tp., then an annexation of the township of Leonard (now Big Rapids). Mr. Ladner brought his inherited energy and perseverance to bear upon the portion of wilderness of which he had become the possessor, and added to its dimensions by purchase, until he now has a valuable farm of 440 acres, with 240 acres under the best improvements.

Mr. Ladner has been identified with the interests of his township since his first location therein, and has held most of the positions of trust in the management of its local affairs. In 1876 he was placed in nomination by the Republicans of the county for Probate Judge, and received a decisive majority over Dr. Gruber, of Altona, opposition candidate. In the fall of 1880 he was again the successful nominee of

his party, running against Wm. Warren, of Hinton Tp. Judge Ladner has been a member of the Masonic fraternity 20 years. He resides on his farm, located five and a half miles from Big Rapids, and drives to the city during the sessions of court.

He was married in the township of Big Prairie, Newaygo Co., Mich., Aug. 21, 1860, to Lucy A. Howe, daughter of Samuel and Margaret Howe, who was born in Pennsylvania, March 12, 1843.

Their family includes seven children: Linnie, Fred, Harry, James, Eugene, Allen R. and Florence. Judge Ladner has never had occasion to call a physician to treat his children, and has always managed his affairs so judiciously that he has never needed the services of a lawyer.



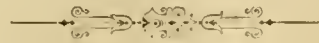
**W**illiam Miller, farmer, sec. 10, Grant Tp., was born in Glasgow, Scotland, April 15, 1838. His parents, John and Mary Miller, came to the United States in 1842, and settled at Mooers, N. Y., where the mother lived but a short time. Not long after her death, the father returned to Scotland, and there passed the remainder of his days. After the death of his mother Mr. Miller went to Canada, and there found a home with a farmer, with whom he remained until he was 15 years old.

In 1853 he returned to Mooers, N. Y., and three years later went to Orwell, Vt. He remained two years in the Green Mountain State, and then went to Nunda, Livingston Co., N. Y. Three years afterward he returned to Orwell, where he was married Sept. 14, 1859, to Emily, daughter of John and Susan Rogers, who was born in West Haven, Vt., Oct. 11, 1839. Her father is still living, in Grant Tp. Her mother died April 16, 1875, in Orwell.

Mr. Miller enlisted Dec. 16, 1863, in Co. K, 11th Vt. Heavy Artillery, and was detailed for duty at Fort Totten, Washington, D. C., where he continued until the following spring. In May, 1864, his regiment was sent to the front, and he was first initiated into the merits of war, with all the accompaniments of fierce battle, at Laurel Hill, Va. The fights at Petersburg and Cold Harbor followed in swift succession, and his command was sent on to guard the Weldon Railroad. The force was captured by the

rebels, taken to Libby Prison, and held there a week, when they were transferred to Danville, and thence to Andersonville, arriving in time to witness the execution of six Union soldiers for the crime of stealing from their comrades in bondage, a proceeding which received the sanction of the Confederate and United States authorities. On Sherman's appearance within the borders of Georgia, the prisoners were removed to Millin, where they were retained a short time, and then taken back to Andersonville, where, two weeks later, the stockade was broken by heavy rains, and the captives were sent to Savannah. Four weeks later they were remanded for the third time to Andersonville. In November, Mr. Miller was sent again to Savannah to be paroled, and while waiting suffered all the miseries of cold, nakedness, disease and exposure, froze his feet badly, and lay on the ground in the bitter atmosphere without covering. When he was sent to the parole camp at Annapolis, Md., he was in so exhausted a condition that he was carried from the steamer on a stretcher. He recovered somewhat, and received a furlough of 60 days. When the time expired he joined the Union forces once more, returning just in time for the final assault on Petersburg. His discharge papers bear date June 17, 1865.

In the fall of 1868 Mr. Miller came to Michigan and entered a homestead claim of 80 acres of valuable land, on which he is now resident. He is a member of the G. A. R. The Miller household includes two children: Mary E., born Sept. 16, 1862; and Julia, July 30, 1880.



**F**orest W. Aldrich, wagon-maker, Millbrook village, was born in the township of Millbrook, Aug. 28, 1860. His father's family were the first white settlers in the township, removing there in 1859 and settling on sec. 14. His mother, Sarah J. (Decker) Aldrich, is still living, and is a sister of Peter, James and John Decker. (See sketches). Leonard Aldrich, her first husband, and father of Mr. Aldrich of this sketch, died, and Mrs. Aldrich was married to J. S. Denney, brother of W. F. Denney, who died leaving seven children. She was married a third time, to Hazen Aldrich, brother of her first husband, and lives on

sec. 1. F. W. Aldrich was the oldest of three children, and was the first white child born in the township, receiving his name, Forest, from the forest in whose depths his conscious existence commenced. He obtained such education as the facilities of that period afforded, attending school as opportunity served, until the age of 17 years. In 1877 his parents removed to Montcalm County, where he was employed two years in a shingle mill; he afterward returned to Millbrook, where he has since been engaged in the manufacture of wagons, and manages a repair shop. He is independent in politics.

**B**enjamin F. Woolworth, Morley, harness-maker, was born in St. Joseph Co., Mich., Aug. 29, 1846. He is a son of Benjamin and Sarah Woolworth, the latter born in Pennsylvania, the former in New York. Mr. Woolworth was apprenticed in 1869, to learn the trade which he is now pursuing. His engagement lasted three years, and he entered the employ of the L. S. & M. S. R. R. Co., and there continued eight years.

In 1879, with a capital of \$90, he established his present business at Morley, and now owns a fine stock of goods peculiar to his line of trade, and is free from debt. In politics Mr. Woolworth is a Republican. He was married at Elkhart, Ind., about 1873, to Lizzie Ross, whose parents were of Swiss nativity. Charles H. and Frederick B. are the names of their children.

**L**ewis Hathaway was born in Lewis Co., N. Y., July 25, 1820; he is a son of Henry and Lucy (Seavill) Hathaway, natives of New York: they settled in Kalamazoo, Mich., in 1842, the father died in Allegan Co., Mich., and the mother came to Mecosta County, where she died in 1880.

Although his advantages for an early education were limited, Mr. Hathaway managed by his own efforts to obtain sufficient learning to enable him to teach school, which he did several terms. He has

followed farming principally through life. He was married in Allegan Co., Mich., in 1850, to Sarepta, daughter of Silas and Polly Nicholas; she was born in Berrien Co., Mich., in October, 1828. They have had the following children: Mary, wife of Timothy Haughey; Lina, wife of William King; Henry; Edward E.; Lucy; and Matilda, deceased.

Mr. Hathaway is an uncompromising Republican and prohibitionist. He has held nearly all the township offices; was Justice of the Peace several years. He is a member of the M. E. Church. He came to Mecosta County in 1869, settling in Big Rapids, and now owns a farm of 60 acres, in Green Tp.

**S**tephen R. Crandell, Assistant Postmaster at Big Rapids, was born in West Stockbridge, Mass., Jan. 30, 1836. He is a son of Stephen W. and Harriet (Frisbee) Crandell. His mother died when he was a few weeks old, and soon afterward his father removed to Columbia Co., N. Y., where he was placed in charge of Mrs. Starks, of Whiting's Pond. He remained with her until he was three years old, when his father was again married, and he was taken to Hudson, where the family resided.

He received a good common and select school education, and at 18 secured a position on the Western railroad, where he remained 14 years, acting in the capacity of foreman of section corps. He was next employed as engineer on a "stationary," where he operated one year.

In 1866 he bought 50 acres of land in Tioga Co., N. Y., near Owego, which property he held two years. Disposing of his interests at the North, he bought land in Virginia, and entered the employ of the Point Lookout & Washington R. R. Co., and became Superintendent of road construction in Maryland, where he operated about 18 months. He next engaged with the Fredericksburg & Gordonsville R. R. Co., to construct five miles of track; but the projectors failed, involving Mr. Crandell in a loss of \$8,000.

This disaster compelled him to begin his career anew, and he went to Washington, where he entered into the service of contractors, and was employed one year on the public works. He then returned to

New York and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1879, when he came to Big Rapids and accepted his present position under his brother, C. W. Crandell. (See sketch.) He is a member of the Order of Masonry, and was elected Treasurer of the City of Big Rapids, April 2, 1883.

Mr. Crandell was married in November, 1857, in Canaan, N. Y., to Mary A. Anderson, a native of the Empire State. The wife died, leaving one daughter, Harriet, wife of George Michaels, residing near Owego, N. Y. He was married a second time in Cheshire, Mass., Dec. 25, 1860, to Ella Jenkins, a native of Berkshire Co., Mass. Four sons have been born of this marriage: E. Burdette, Stowel A., Freddie W. and Ellis M.

**W**infield S. Tucker, merchant, Stanwood, was born in Southfield, Oakland Co., Mich., Nov. 18, 1852. His parents were Ransom D., and Maria (Dexter) Tucker, the former a native of Vermont, and of English descent; the latter a native of Massachusetts, and also of English ancestry. His father died in Oakland County, in February, 1877; his mother was killed by the cars, Sept. 28, 1883. Winfield S. was the eldest of two children, and was reared on his father's farm.

His chances for an early education were limited, yet by his own studious efforts he obtained a sufficient education to fit him for almost any commercial position in life. He worked on the farm during the summer season, to earn means to enable him to attend school during the winter.

When 18 years old he learned the art of telegraphy, and first operated at Milford, Oakland Co. He followed this occupation eight years, four of which were on the F. & P. M. railroad. He came to Mecosta County in 1877, entering into the mercantile business at Stanwood, which enterprise he still follows.

He was elected Supervisor of Mecosta Tp., in 1876, which position he still holds and fills acceptably. He was appointed Postmaster in 1877, and is the present incumbent; is also a Notary Public.

He was married in this county, July 18, 1874, to Mary, daughter of William T. and Sarah A. (Davis) Russell, who was born in Rock Co., Wis. Her

father was a native of Pennsylvania, and her mother of New York; both were of German descent. They emigrated to Mecosta County in 1868, where they still reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Tucker have had three children: Anna L., born Aug. 10, 1882; two died in infancy. Mr. Tucker began his business career without any means, but by industry and frugality has acquired considerable property, and bids fair to become one of Mecosta County's most useful citizens.

**W**illiam W. Smith, farmer, sec. 8, Fork Tp., was born in Lenawee Co., Mich., Dec. 18, 1838. His father, Freeman H. Smith, was born Nov. 6, 1812, in Pennsylvania, and came to Michigan in 1834, where he was a farmer, until his death, Oct. 12, 1864. His mother, a member of a well known Vermont family named Terrill, was born in the Green Mountain State, Nov. 14, 1811, and died Nov. 22, 1860.

Mr. Smith received a common-school education, and was an assistant on his father's farm until his marriage with Phebe Sanford, which occurred Oct. 14, 1860. Mrs. Smith was born in New York, and died in Michigan, June 6, 1864. Their first child, Augusta A., died in infancy. A second daughter, Cora E., is now Mrs. B. F. Laraway.

Mr. Smith was a second time married April 20, 1867, to Frances Amelia, daughter of Everett W. and Mary Jane (Sweezy) Horton, who was born in Orange Co., N. Y., Aug. 16, 1839. Her father was born in Walkkill, same county, Dec. 28, 1816, and her mother was born July 24, 1819, in New Jersey. They came to Michigan and located in Woodstock, Lenawee Co., in 1848, and are now residing there. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two children, Mary Annora and William Evert.

Mr. Smith was a farmer in Lenawee County until the spring of 1878, when he removed to the county of Mecosta, and located 80 acres of land under the homestead act, in the township of Fork, where he has with vigor and success prosecuted the work of clearing and placing his farm in a condition suitable for the best type of farming. It was heavily timbered, and the manual labor necessarily severe; but the reward is in proportion to the effort, the farm ranking now among the best in the township. It has





*E. H. Kenrick*

an unusually good spring, which by means of a "hydraulic" sends living water to the house. There are other springs on the farm where required. The first place of shelter erected on the land was a tent, where he and his wife lived several weeks, until he made a clearing and built a log house, in which he still resides.

Politically, Mr. Smith is a Republican. He is one of the most prominent citizens of the township, and has held all the local offices of any importance.

**E**dwin H. Kenrick, druggist, Millbrook village, is a lineal descendant of Philip Henry, who was born in the city of London, in 1631, and educated at Westminster, and was one of the 2,000 clergymen who left the Church of England in 1662 in consequence of the passing of the "act of uniformity."

Our present subject has in his possession the entire chain of genealogy extending back through more than 250 years, but was himself born in Allegany Co., N. Y., Aug. 25, 1845, and is a twin brother of Edward A. Kenrick, of Hillsdale Co., Mich. He is of English descent in the paternal line, his father, Edward Kenrick, being a native of Worcestershire, England, where he was born Feb. 10, 1801. His mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Wilcox, was of Rhode Island stock, but born at White Creek, Washington Co., N. Y., April 28, 1811, and was at the time of her marriage with Edward Kenrick the widow of Abraham Kalder. After their marriage the parents settled in Allegany Co., N. Y., and in 1855 came to Hillsdale Co., Mich., where they are yet living.

Mr. Kenrick acquired the rudiments of an education at the common schools, where he was a student until 15 years of age. He entered the grammar school at Hillsdale and afterward the college in that city, where he studied five years. He completed his educational course at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College at Chicago, where, after a year of study, he graduated, receiving his diploma in November, 1866. To allow his twin brother to complete his college course he returned to Hillsdale County and for two years managed the farming interests of his father.

Mr. Kenrick went to Ohio in September, 1868,

and engaged in general merchandise at Pioneer, Williams Co., forming a partnership with A. C. Marshall, under the style of Marshall & Kenrick. During the three years of their combined business engagements, circumstances impelled them to take an interest in a lumber mill owned by G. R. Joy & Co., which they held some months. In the spring of 1871 Mr. Kenrick sold his interest in the mercantile branch of the concern, and confined his efforts to the prosecution of lumber manufactures. Radical changes had placed the mill property in wholly different conditions, and it was now operated under the style of Sweet, Kenrick & Co.

A few months later Mr. Kenrick embraced an opportunity to sell out his mill property, and at once embarked in the drug trade, three years of his college course having been taken with a view of graduating as an M. D. Mr. E. N. Skinner, of Hillsdale, Mich., became a partner, and they operated under the style of E. H. Kenrick & Co. The firm entered upon the prosecution of the business and operated one year, when Mr. Skinner sold to the senior partner, who conducted the affairs of the concern alone until the spring of 1878. He then sold out his entire property in Pioneer, Ohio, and in May of that year he came to Mecosta County, located at Millbrook and became by purchase the proprietor of the small stock of drugs owned by Dr. E. B. Tucker, at that time the only representative of that line of trade between Stanton, Montcalm Co., and Big Rapids, north and south, and Mt. Pleasant, Isabella Co., and Morley, east and west, thus covering a diameter of more than 50 miles. At the date of writing, the drug establishment of Mr. Kenrick ranks favorably with any other in the same line north of Grand Rapids, and he is engaged in a thriving, prosperous business, conducted on commercial principles of acknowledged uprightness, which have secured him a large confidential patronage. A special branch of his business is the manufacture of a "diphtheria cure," which is swallowed, and is considered an antiseptic for this dread malady, and is claimed to be the first medicine ever given internally for this disease. He ships large quantities of the medicine to all parts of this country and to England.

He was married at Adrian, Mich., Dec. 24, 1866, to Caroline A., daughter of David C. and Abigail T. (Jackson) Fuller. She was born in Hillsdale Co., Mich., May 9, 1846. They have one child, Maud

C., who was born at Pioneer, Ohio, March 14, 1871.

Mr. Kenrick has always been a Republican, and in 1880 was a delegate to the State Convention at Jackson; but he is a practical business man, intensely devoted to his private interests, and, as he says, "has Yankee blood enough in his veins to make him love a good bargain more than political advancement."

He is a Knight Templar, and made the "Pilgrimage" to San Francisco in 1883, and devoted more than three months to the journey, "doing" not only the Rocky and Sierra Nevada Mountains, but the whole Pacific coast as far north as British Columbia; and on his return delivered several lectures on "What I heard and what I saw in a Journey of 10,000 miles." He also wrote a series of letters descriptive of his trip, which were published in the *Big Rapids Current* and were well received.

We take pleasure in presenting the portrait of Mr. Kenrick in connection with this sketch.

**C**harles H. Crane, Abstracter, Notary and Conveyancer, Big Rapids, was born in East Smithfield, Bradford Co., Pa., May 30, 1858. He is a son of Stephen R. and Lorinda W. Crane. His father was born March 15, 1822, in Port Byron, N. Y.; is a blacksmith by trade and is still residing in Ulster, Pa. His mother was born in East Smithfield, April 16, 1822, and was married there Sept. 12, 1844. She became the mother of eight children, born as follows: Ezra H., Oct. 14, 1846 (died Aug. 6, 1850); Lucy J., Oct. 17, 1848; Lewis E., Oct. 9, 1850; Ella J., April 27, 1853; Almira E., Dec. 11, 1855; Charles H., May 30, 1858; Harlo G., Nov. 1, 1860; T. Cornell, Aug. 14, 1864. The parents removed to Columbia Cross Roads in 1860, and in 1873 Mr. Crane of this sketch went to Troy, Pa., and was there employed two years as clerk in a hardware store. At the expiration of that time he came West to Lansing, where he entered the employ of Jones & Porter, real-estate and insurance agents. Two years later he entered the office of J. H. Moores, dealer in pine lands, etc., and a year after returned to the employ of Jones & Porter, remaining with them until April, 1882, when he came to Big Rapids

and engaged, and is at present, with Joel Perry. The set of abstracts in their possession was made originally by J. M. Colby, and has been supplemented and brought down to present date by Mr. Crane. They are complete in every respect, and are the only set in Mecosta County. Abstracts of any property within the limits of the county can be furnished.

Mr. Crane was married in Lansing, Dec. 15, 1881, to Ada M., daughter of D. K. and Mary A. Fuller, born June 12, 1860. Mr. Crane is a member of the Big Rapids Lodge of Sons of Industry.

**A**. Verity, senior member of the grocery house of C. A. Verity & Co., Big Rapids, was born in Kimball Tp., St. Clair Co., Mich., March 3, 1856, and is a son of William B. and Maria L. (Adams) Verity. The latter was a lineal descendant of John Quincy Adams. His father was a native of New York, of German lineage, and followed the calling of a farmer all his life; he died in Oshtemo Tp., Kalamazoo Co., June 28, 1872, at the age of 51 years. His mother was also born in the Empire State, and died in Oshtemo, Oct. 19, 1871, at the age of 49 years.

Mr. Verity was taken to Kalamazoo County by his parents when he was nine years of age. He found himself an orphan at 16, and went to Kalamazoo, where he attended school two years, and afterward entered the grocery and crockery store of Barrett & Torrey, where he operated two years, going thence to Sturgis and engaging about six months in the same capacity. His next employ was with L. E. White, dry-goods merchant, and he continued to serve in the house as a clerk two years, after which he obtained a situation with L. G. Twitchell. Six months later he opened business for himself at Kalamazoo, selling groceries and provisions about seven months.

He came to Big Rapids Jan. 1, 1879, where he entered into a business connection with W. H. Swift in the sale of groceries. The relation existed about eight months, when Mr. Swift sold his interest to E. R. Keith. Two years later Mr. Verity became sole proprietor, by purchase, changed his location and operated alone until Feb. 20, 1882, when he admitted William Fish, his present associate. The firm



carries a stock valued at \$2,500, and transacts an annual business of \$30,000.

Mr. Verity received the appointment of agent for the U. S. Express Co., Sept. 15, 1880, and is still managing in that capacity. He is a member of the M. E. Church, and belongs to the Royal Templars of Temperance.

**J**ohn Lonsdale, farmer on sec. 16, Green Tp., was born in Accrington, Lancashire, England, May 1, 1819. His parents, Edmund and Martha (Hindle) Lonsdale, were English by birth; father was an engraver by profession, and was employed in the manufacture of designs for calico printing. The family came to America in 1842, and located in Providence, R. I. Some time later they went to La Salle Co., Ill., where the father died.

Mr. Lonsdale passed his boyhood in the manner common to the youth of his class in his native land, acquiring such education as he could, and at 14 commenced to prepare himself to follow the business of block-printing for calico. He came to America with his parents in 1842, and in 1844 was married to Ellen Wilson, an English girl, daughter of John H. and Agnes Wilson. He became acquainted with her in Pawtucket, Mass., where he worked at his trade five years, and as an engraver two years. In 1850 he went to Manchester, N. H., where he engaged in the technical business of roller etching and polishing for the Manchester Print Works. He passed a year in that capacity, and then went to Lawrence, Mass., where he was four years in the employ of the Bay State Manufacturing Company, and worked two years in the Pacific Mills.

He came to Mecosta Co., Mich., in 1856, and bought a farm in Green Tp., which he at once began to improve. He has added to his first land investment until he now owns 320 acres, with 90 acres under the plow. The privileges and progress possible to all men under a republican form of government are exemplified in the career of Mr. Lonsdale. He came to this country to find a remunerative field for the practice of the craft to which he succeeded by heritage and training, as is customary in England. Our institutions plant the germ of advancement in the

heart of every foreigner who sets his foot on our free borders, and foster the growth with such equality of rights and advantages as he has earned by honest industry and self-respect.

In 1871, Mr. Lonsdale took a trip to Florida for the benefit of the health of his wife, and in September, 1875, went to California; returning in 1876, he spent a brief time in Philadelphia at the Centennial, passed the remainder of that year at the East, returning in the spring of 1877 to Michigan. Mr. Lonsdale has held the position of Treasurer two years and officiated as Justice of the Peace four years. He was a Whig in early life, and joined the Republican ranks on the organization of that party.

Robert Wilson Lonsdale is the only child of the household. He was born July 27, 1846, and married Marion Simons, of Salem, Mass. Mrs. Lonsdale died Sept. 9, 1883, after a long and painful illness.

**B**nsel Rowley, farmer, sec. 14, Grant Tp., was born Dec. 28, 1836, in Winstead, Litchfield Co., Conn. His father, Elias Rowley, was born March 22, 1798, in Winstead, and there died in 1875. His mother, Laura Rowley, was born in East Hartland, Litchfield County, and died in 1870, at Winstead. The ancestral descent of Mr. Rowley on the side of the father is English, and on that of the mother, Scotch. He passed the years of his minority with his parents in the "land of wooden nutmegs," and after leaving home worked for some time as a farm assistant. In 1860, he went to work in a carriage-bolt factory, where he remained three years.

Sept. 1, 1863, he enlisted for one year in the United States Navy, and reported for duty aboard the "Commodore Hull," Capt Joslin, which was assigned to the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, and cruised chiefly along the coasts of North and South Carolina, on special duty, to search for rebel torpedoes. That fleet will be a subject of American history for all time, as it dispatched the torpedo boats that destroyed the rebel ram "Albermarle" at Plymouth, N. C.

In July, 1864, an order was issued from the Naval Department discharging such recruits as had less than three months to serve on their periods of enroll-

ment; and, having been in the service nine months and eight days, he received his discharge papers. He went to Orwell, Vt., where he remained three years, coming to Michigan in 1868. He entered and proved a claim under the homestead law, of 80 acres of choice land, which he has placed under good cultivation, and has a comfortable house and farm buildings.

Mr. Rowley was married Sept. 12, 1857, to Delia R. Rogers, of Henrietta, Monroe Co., N. Y., who was born in Orwell, Vt., Aug. 12, 1841. Her father was born in 1809, and is yet living; her mother was born in Benson, Vt., in 1821, and died in Orwell in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Rowley have five children; Estella D., born Feb. 22, 1859; Carrie A., Nov. 12, 1863; Kate S., Feb. 16, 1861; Lemar E., Aug. 23, 1870; Jennie L., Sept. 6., 1873. Mrs. Rowley is a member of the M. E. Church. Politically, Mr. Rogers is a Republican, and belongs to Post French, No. 28, G. A. R.

**J**ohn Frederikson, Jr., of the firm of Beuthien & Frederikson, proprietors of the German House, is a son of John and Charlotte Frederikson, and was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, Aug. 13, 1852. His father is a seaman and owns a trading vessel, of which he is himself Captain. The son was trained to life on the sea on board his father's ship until the age of 18, when he shipped as an able seaman on the U. S. man-of-war, "Plymouth," and belonged to her crew three years.

He came to Big Rapids in 1873 and followed various vocations until July 5, 1883, when he associated himself with Mr. Beuthien in the management of the German House, where he is engaged in a prosperous business. He is a member of the Lutheran Church.

**A**bram Lockman, farmer and blacksmith, sec. 12, Wheatland Twp., was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Can. His father, Abram Lockman, was a native of New Jersey, and his mother, Rachel (Patterson) Lockman, of Pennsylvania. When Abram was eight years old his father died, and he went to work, obtaining

such remuneration as a boy of that tender age might receive, and managed to procure his living. At 17 he apprenticed himself to Henry Buckner, of Lancaster, Ont., and served four years. On the termination of his indentures he went to work for himself. In the spring of 1855 he came to Ionia, Mich., and there passed 14 years in vigorous prosecution of his trade, going thence to Stanton, where he operated one year. In 1870 he sold out and came to Mecosta County, where he has since worked at his trade. In the fall of 1875 he purchased a farm containing 160 acres. He sold 80 acres, and has improved the remainder until it is one of the best farms in that part of the county.

Mr. Lockman was married Sept. 7, 1874, in Isabella Co., Mich., to Mrs. Lura Brown, daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Hall) Shepard, natives of Ontario, Can., where Mrs. Lockman was born April 13, 1843. The family includes nine children. Mr. Lockman has four by an earlier marriage, three girls and one boy. Of her first marriage Mrs. Lockman has one son, and four children have been born of her marriage with Mr. Lockman—Maud A., June 15, 1875; Edmond, April 20, 1876; Earl, Jan. 28, 1878; Edith, Aug. 31, 1882.

In politics Mr. Lockman is a Republican, and belongs to the Order of Good Templars.

**C**harles D. Crandell, Postmaster at Big Rapids (1883), was born at Bridgeport, Conn., Dec. 5, 1845. His father, Stephen W. Crandell, was born in Columbia Co., N. Y., in 1800, of Welsh lineage. He was engaged nearly all his life in mercantile business in the city of New York, residing meanwhile at Hoboken. He began his commercial life as a commission merchant in West Washington Market, in that city, and afterward established himself in the wholesale grocery trade on Vesey street. He was a man of most positive character. He possessed abilities of much more than ordinary type, and fixed himself firmly in all his connections, basing his views upon an instinctive understanding of his obligations to himself and humanity. He died at a period that roused to active life all the best impulses of a man who cherished home and country, and realized the





*M. E. Hobart*

peril of both in view of the issues that were approaching culmination in the national affairs. He understood that safety lay only in the watchfulness of the generation of that day, and in rearing his children he instilled into them both by deed and word that lives were worse than worthless unless guided by inflexible principle and moral courage. Mr. Crandell, Sr., was an active politician and a zealous abolitionist. He was no demagogue, never held or sought the emoluments of office; but, recognizing the fact that the strength of a republic lies in the people, he strove to do what he believed the incumbent duty of every man under the protection of the national flag,—to uphold whatever was right and just in the institutions of the Government, and to throw all his influence against the evils which threatened the life and prosperity of the nation. He was killed by the cars Jan. 9, 1865, at Chatham Four Corners, Columbia Co., N. Y. The mother, Sarah Ann (Conklin) Crandell, was a member of an old English family, and was born in Litchfield Co., Conn., in 1810. She died at Chatham, Sept. 29, 1861.

Mr. Crandell of this sketch was in early childhood when his parents removed from Bridgeport to Hoboken. In 1855 his father placed his family at Chatham to secure for them the salubrity of that well-known section of the Empire State, and to remove them from the multitudinous dangers to health and morals in and near the great city where he continued to push his business interests. Mr. Crandell acquired his elementary education at the public schools of Chatham, and was placed for a few terms of study at the Seminary at Armenia, N. Y. His father designed to fit him for the profession of law, and in 1864 he was sent to Ypsilanti, Mich., to attend the union school preparatory to a collegiate course of study. This purpose was frustrated by the accident which deprived him of his father, and he was compelled to abandon the career which had been marked out for him. He left school and returned to New York, where he passed the ensuing three years.

Mr. Crandell came to Big Rapids April 28, 1868, and connected himself with the Tioga Manufacturing Co., becoming a stockholder and interesting himself actively in its operations as accountant. He continued this relation until June, 1874.

His public career in Big Rapids commenced two years earlier. He was elected City Treasurer in

April, 1872, and served three successive years. He received his appointment as Postmaster, Feb. 16, 1875, and has continued since in the discharge of the duties of that position, aided by his half-brother, Stephen R. Crandell, and two assistants. The affairs of the office are conducted with systematic energy, and its affairs are managed to the entire satisfaction of the public.

Mr. Crandell is conspicuous among the multitude of meritorious citizens of Big Rapids, from his acknowledged inflexibility in adherence to principle. One of the best evidences of the esteem and appreciation in which he is held is the outspoken estimate of his political opponents. No imputation of vacillation or uncertainty of purpose lies against him. No vagary of political advancement can lure him from his undeviating pursuit of duty in the light of principle. In thought, word and action he invariably "hews to the line." He is a born and bred Republican, and in every political issue follows his innate convictions unswervingly and regardless of possible advantage to be derived from the casuistry which is so marked a feature in the management of local and national campaigns.

Mr. Crandell was married at Big Rapids June 26, 1874, to Joanna, daughter of Timothy H. and Joanna Lee, born in Dedham, Mass., Oct. 9, 1839.

**M**arl E. Hobart, photographer, Big Rapids, was born at Ann Arbor, Mich., July 27, 1845, and is a son of Horace O. and Frances A. (Monroe) Hobart. In early youth his time was devoted to acquiring a common-school education. At 21, he commenced the study of medicine, in the office of Dr. Breakey, after which he entered the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in the spring of 1871. Meanwhile he had acquired the photographic art, for which he had a great liking, and in the fall of 1871 came to Big Rapids to engage in it as a business. He bought the stock and interest of W. F. Louekes, who was located nearly opposite the Opera block, where he continued three years, removing in 1874 to where now stands the Morrissey & Stickney block. After a year he went to Texas and established his business at San Marco, Hays Co., where he operated nine months, going thence to

Longview. His stay there was brief, and in 1876 he returned to Big Rapids and opened a gallery on Michigan avenue, in the building now occupied by J. Wiseman. Two years later he established his business on the southeast corner of Maple street and Michigan avenue, his present quarters. He is a popular and successful artist in his line, doing an annual business of \$5,000.

Mr. Hobart was married at Big Rapids, July 12, 1882, to Lucy E., daughter of General Stephen and Amelia (Barker) Bronson, born in Chicago, Ill. (See sketch of Gen. Bronson.) Mr. Hobart belongs to the Odd Fellows, and to the A. O. U. W.

A portrait of Mr. Hobart is inserted on another page of this Album.

**E**lisha A. Brigham, farmer, sec. 2, Chippewa Tp., was born in Fayston, Washington Co., Vt., Dec. 21, 1821. His father, Elisha Brigham, was a pioneer of that section of the Green Mountain State. His mother, Sophronia (Ryder) Brigham, was a descendant of the Chase family, well known and widely esteemed in the eastern part of the State.

The Brigham stock is traced back to Northumberland Co., England, which adopted the family patronymic under one of the appointments of the Doomsday Book. The name has been upheld in honor through descending generations, and is represented at Grand Rapids by Dr. G. N. Brigham, who has been established in that city since 1879. He is a gentleman of considerable literary standing, being a contributor to several medical publications and to a large number of leading newspapers in various sections of the country.

Mr. Brigham was reared to the calling to which he has devoted his life's energies, and was a member of the paternal household to the age of 26 years. In 1847 he invested his time and entire capital in a saw-mill, and on the termination of the enterprise five years later, had lost both.

In 1852, he went to Franklin Co., N. Y., where he remained seven years, engaged in farming, removing thence to Nebraska, where he resided about 18 months. He returned to Michigan, and remained near Grand Rapids until the fall of 1867, when he

came to Mecosta County and bought 40 acres of land in the then unorganized township of Chippewa. Here he accomplished pioneer service in a forest so dense that the work of removal seemed impossible.

Mr. Brigham was married June 20, 1849, to Celia Baxter, daughter of Eber H. Baxter. She was born in Moretown, Washington Co., Vt., March 16, 1826, the third of 14 children born to her parents. Mr. Baxter was an esteemed citizen of Fayston while he was a resident there, and in 1851 removed to Michigan, with 10 children. One child died in infancy and two remained in Vermont. Twelve of the children born in this family survive. Ira C. Baxter, sixth son, yielded up his life for the Nation's redemption from disruption, Sept. 20, 1863, on the field of Chickamauga. Seven of the fraternal band have become more or less known through their literary work. Albert Baxter, of the Grand Rapids *Eagle*, has been a resident of Michigan since 1845. Mrs. Brigham has been a poetical contributor to the current press many years. Her work is imaginative and graceful, with a spiritual tendency, which adds largely to its merit and beauty. Her sisters, Mrs. Cadwell, of California, Mrs. Cooper, of Evart, Osceola Co., Mich., and Mrs. Corman, of Lowell, Kent Co., Mich., wield facile pens; and Uri J. Baxter, a lawyer in Washington, D. C., is no less distinguished for poetical genius and literary ability than the other members of this gifted and accomplished fraternity.

Mr. and Mrs. Brigham have had four children: Rosa May, born April 4, 1859, died Jan. 5, 1868. Ziba W. was born May 8, 1850; Elisha K., Dec. 23, 1851; Edwin B., Oct. 1, 1857.

Mr. Brigham is a Republican and a member of the M. E. Church. On the organization of Chippewa Tp., he was the first Clerk, and has been Justice of the Peace 19 years.

**F**. McElroy, veterinary surgeon, Big Rapids, was born at Tullmore, Queens Co., Ireland, May 28, 1848. His parents, James and Elizabeth (Smith) McElroy, came to the United States when he was six months old, settling at Syracuse, N. Y. In May, 1850, they went to Elgin, Ill., where they now reside.

Mr. McElroy learned his business of his father, and practiced with him until 1876. In that year he

came to Grand Rapids, where he operated in the same profession. In the fall of 1879 he came to Big Rapids and established his business, which he has since prosecuted with success and growing popularity, the custom covering an area of 50 miles square.

Mr. McElroy was married at Spring Lake, Ottawa Co., Mich., May 27, 1874, to Emmeline, daughter of Duncan Stewart, a farmer of Gratiot Co., Mich. Two children have been born of their marriage,—William J. and Mary E.

**W**arwin B. Kelley, employe in the steam saw-mill of John E. Reiter, at Sylvester, Hinton Tp., was born in Ionia, Feb. 15, 1859. He is a son of Travis and Amanda (Banks) Kelley, natives respectively of New York and Ohio, who came to Michigan, settling first in Hinton Tp., where the father was employed in the steam saw-mill at Sylvester. In the spring of 1881 they went to Isabella County, now their place of residence.

At the age of 18, Mr. Kelley bought half the mill interest of Joseph Miso, and in December, 1881, he sold out to John E. Reiter. He went South in the summer of 1882 and was there employed a short time in a mill, but returned and entered the employ of Mr. Reiter.

Mr. Kelley was married at Big Rapids, Sept. 17, 1878, to Amelia, daughter of James N. and Catherine (Flanagan) Decker, and they have three children: Mabel, born Aug. 13, 1879; Ida, born June 27, 1881, and an infant, born Sept. 8, 1883. Mr. Kelley acts politically with the Republican party.

**J**ames W. Fuller, builder, residing at Big Rapids, was born in Somerset Tp., Hillsdale Co., Mich., Oct 7, 1844. He is the son of Lewis and Chloe (Lee) Fuller, who moved from Monroe Co., N. Y., about 1835, to Michigan and settled in Hillsdale County. In 1854 they went to Hudson, Lenawee Co., and occupied a farm they owned there several years, after which they returned to Somerset, where they now reside. The father is 86 years of age, and the mother is 79 years old this current year (1883).

While living with his parents in Hudson, Mr. Fuller fixed upon his calling in life, and at 16 years of age came to Cortland, Kent Co., and worked with his brother Lewis about two years, going next to Chicago and soon after to the Pacific slope, where he passed four years in San Francisco and at other points. In 1871 he returned East and entered at once upon his business as contractor and builder. Among the buildings constructed under his management are the hardware store of S. S. Wilcox, the First-Ward school-house and a number of private residences. He employs a force of 10 assistants. In 1880 he built a planing mill on the east side of the river, near the mill of Hayes & Falardo, which he managed with success nearly three years. He owns a residence and lot on Michigan avenue, and a lot with dwelling one block south; also two dwellings in the Fifth Ward. In 1876 he was elected City Treasurer and held the post one year; in the spring of 1881 he was elected Alderman and officiated two years.

Mr. Fuller was married at Big Rapids Aug. 26, 1874, to Ellen, daughter of Clark Ransom, born in Ransomville, Niagara Co., N. Y. Her parents were early settlers of that place, which received its name from her family. One child, Linnie, born to Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, is deceased.

**A**ndrew Breakey, farmer on sec. 11, Hinton Tp., was born at Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 23, 1844. His parents, Andrew and Catharine (Crass) Breakey, were natives respectively of Ireland and Canada, and removed to New York prior to their marriage, which took place in that city. Three years after, Andrew Breakey, Sr., removed with his family to the city of Rochester, N. Y., where he was employed by the contractors of the Erie Canal as a stone mason. He had been employed in his native county in peddling dry goods and linens, and early in his life was a companion of A. T. Stewart. Himself and wife died at Rochester.

Until he was 10 years of age, the subject of this sketch attended the public schools of Rochester. He began to prepare for the business of boat-calker and was so employed three years. The work was so severe and the manager so exacting that the proprietor himself remarked that "that fellow would not

stay a week;" but he persisted, and managed to accomplish his business to the entire satisfaction of the parties interested. In 1861 he went to Canada on a visit, but concluded to remain there, and was in the employ of his brother-in-law for nearly four years. He visited the city of New York and his old home at Rochester, and in the summer of 1866 came to Mecosta, Mich., and bought 40 acres of unimproved land in Hinton Tp., where he built a log house and began his career as a pioneer. Later on he added 40 acres to his original purchase and now owns a fine farm of 80 acres, with 50 acres under first-class improvements. He also owns 40 acres in Millbrook Tp.

Mr. Breakey has been Constable of Hinton Tp. for nine years, School Inspector two years, Highway Commissioner two years, Town Treasurer two years, and in the spring of 1880 was elected Justice of the Peace, and Supervisor in the spring of 1883, of which positions he is the present incumbent. He has been School Director six years, and is identified with the issues and interests of the Democratic party; himself and wife were formerly communicants of the English Church.

Mr. Breakey was married in Canada, July 19, 1864, to Matilda, fourth daughter of James N. and Catherine (Flanagan) Decker. The father was a native of the State of New York, the mother of Canada, and are now residents of Hinton Tp. Mr. and Mrs. Breakey have had six children: James G., born Nov. 28, 1867; Andrew N., July 15, 1872; Edward and Edwin (twins) July 15, 1874; Nellie, Jan. 5, 1880. Ella was born Aug. 9, 1869, and died Oct. 11, 1870.

**J**ames McCormick, proprietor of the Sherman House at Big Rapids, was born in Wyoming Co., N. Y., May 2, 1847. He is a son of John and Catherine (Mercer) McCormick. At the age of 21 he came to Michigan and settled at Saginaw, where he found employment in the lumber woods, and afterwards on the river, at rafting. After strenuous labors for a period of six years he commenced to work as a contractor and cut and put in logs about nine years at Saginaw, going thence to Hartland, Livingston Co., Mich., where he bought 80 acres of land, which he worked

18 months, and in the spring of 1870 came to Big Rapids, where he took charge of a lumber camp in the woods, for A. J. Bentley, and followed that occupation three years. He went to Ewart in 1873 and opened a saloon; four months later he rented the Union House, which he managed six months, returning at the end of that time to Big Rapids and followed lumbering a year, and afterward opened a saloon. In January, 1875, he rented the National Hotel, which he conducted until May, 1881. At that date he purchased a residence and three and one-half lots, of Charlie Lovejoy.

He began the building of his hotel in September, 1881, and opened it to the traveling public in July, 1882. It is two stories in height, 53 x 96 feet, with accommodations for 70 guests. A bar with the usual accessories is attached to the establishment.

Mr. McCormick was married in Hartland, Livingston Co., Mich., Sept. 24, 1866, to Ellen, daughter of Patrick and Mary Kelley, born in Detroit, Mich., Jan. 22, 1841. Of this marriage there are three children,—William P., Mary and Elizabeth.

**T**homas Ariss, retired farmer, Remus, was born in Waterloo Co., Ont., Can., July 3, 1833. He is a son of James and Mary (Bachelder) Ariss, natives of England. Mr. Ariss made his first venture in life as a lumberman, and spent some years in the woods and in "chopping fallows." He was married Aug. 14, 1854, to Myra Smith, a native of Canada, and they have had nine children, three of whom are living: James was born April 26, 1858; John, April 22, 1860; Thomas, April 23, 1862. The mother died, and Mr. Ariss came to Wheatland Tp., in the spring of 1862, and settled on sec. 23, where he bought 160 acres of land and pursued farming.

In 1880 he came to this place and settled, being one of the founders of Remus. He was again married, March 3, 186-, in Mecosta County, to Catherine, daughter of Alexander and Nancy (Campbell) McLeod, who were natives of Scotland. The daughter was born in Russell, Ont., Can., June 15, 1840. Nine children have been born of this marriage, as follows: William F., Aug. 8, 186-; George, Oct. 19, 186-; Mary A., April 24, 1869; Alvira, July







*D. Mc Lellan*

17, 1871; Benjamin N., June 25, 1873; William V., May 1, 1875; Emily, Aug. 19, 1877; Bruce, March 19, 1880; Viola, March 4, 1883.



**D**uncan McLellan, a pioneer resident of Big Rapids, was born in Huntington, Canada, July 15, 1830. He is of Scotch extraction, his father being a native of Paisley, Scotland. He is a son of Malcom and Margaret (Currie) McLellan, and obtained his education in the common schools of his native province. At the age of 13 he began to learn the trade of shoemaker at Huntington, and four years later settled at Grand Rapids, then a small village, where he spent a year. His next remove was to Croton, Newaygo Co., where he worked at his trade four years. In the fall of 1857 he bought 120 acres of pine lands on the Big Muskegon, located about 60 rods from the present site of the village of Paris. Mr. McLellan moved into the woods to give his personal attention to cutting and "putting in" the timber. He lived in a log shanty with "scoops" for its roof and with a punch-con floor. The timber was cut in the winter and sold, at Muskegon, to John Rudman, a well-known lumberman there, still living. In the spring of 1858 he bought 120 acres of land seven miles north and east of Newaygo, on what is known as Maringo Prairie, and passed the summer in farming. In the winter of 1858-9 he purchased 140 acres of pine land two and a half miles below Big Rapids, and passed the season as he had done the winter previous, in personal supervision of his lumbering interests,—returning to his farm in the spring. His wife was in a decline, and he took her to Chicago for medical treatment, and there spent the summer without any benefit to her, and she died in the fall of 1859. The summer of 1860 he spent on his farm at Maringo Prairie, and in the autumn bought 160 acres of pine land at Byers' Station, built lumber camps and passed the winter of 1860-1 in active business life.

His connection with the history of Big Rapids commences in 1859, when he bought 80 acres of farm land in the township of Leonard, changed by act of the Legislature in 1865 to Big Rapids. This

property is still in his possession, in addition to a considerable acreage he has since purchased, his homestead now aggregating 320 acres. Mr. McLellan went to Muskegon in the spring of 1861 and bought the Forest City Hotel, and continued its management until 1862. The tide of war that overwhelmed the land swept away his individual plans and purposes, as of so many others who realized their privileges under the institutions of the country, and he returned to Big Rapids to enlist in defense of the Union flag. He was enrolled in September, 1862, in Co. I, Sixth Mich. Cav., with Capt. Deane, of Pentwater, going out with his regiment as a saddler. He was in active service three years and three months, and in the item of constant, unremitted service he has an almost unparalleled record. From the date of his enrollment and being mustered into the service of the United States, he personally participated in every battle in which his regiment was engaged. After the virtual collapse of the Rebellion in the spring of 1865, his command was sent to Powder River, Dakota, remaining there until the fall of the same year. He received an honorable discharge at Jackson, Mich., in December, 1865.

In the fall of 1861 Mr. McLellan purchased two lots in the city of Big Rapids, at that time in a wild state, which he improved and on which he erected the building he now occupies in the year following the purchase. In 1868 he purchased a lot on Michigan avenue, which he at once improved, and proceeded to erect a large three-story frame building. It was destroyed by fire a year later, involving a loss of \$3,000. In 1868, with E. L. Gray, of Newaygo, as associate, Mr. McLellan constructed a State road from Big Rapids, southwest nine miles, in the direction of Big Prairie. As a remuneration they received 3,300 acres of swamp lands belonging to the State, a considerable portion of which was well covered with pine. Some hundreds of acres of this are still in Mr. McLellan's possession. He continued to prosecute the business of lumberman until 1870, when he bought the tannery property of Robert A. Moon, which he still owns and operates. The annual product is shipped chiefly to Boston and amounts in the aggregate to \$25,000.

In the same year in which he made his first investment in real estate at Big Rapids, he established a boot and shoe store, which in 1872 he converted

into a harness shop and still continues its management.

The gross landed estate of Mr. McLellan in Mecosta and Osceola Counties is about 1,200 acres, besides 27 lots in the city of Big Rapids. He resides in the rooms above his place of business, on South Michigan avenue, opposite the Opera-House block. He has served two years as a member of the City Council, and he belongs to the A. O. U. W., and also to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. McLellan was married in Grand Rapids, Sept. 25, 1855, to Margaret Lee, born in Massachusetts. Their only child, Mary Ann, died when three months old, and in 1860 the mother passed to the land of silent mystery. Mr. McLellan contracted a second marriage with Adaline, daughter of Abram and Eliza Carr, of Croton, Newaygo Co., in October, 1862. She was born in Vermont in 1834.

The publishers take peculiar satisfaction in presenting on another page the portrait of Mr. McLellan. He has had a long and successful career in Mecosta County, and his name will ever be associated with the records of the city of Big Rapids. His public and private character will long be revered by this and future generations.

**W**illiam H. Hicks, druggist at Morley, was born July 30, 1849. He is a son of John and Delia A. (Myers) Hicks. His father was a native of England and his mother of Connecticut. At 11 years of age Mr. Hicks went to live with an uncle and accompanied him to Michigan in the fall of 1860, settling in Ionia County. Aug. 4, 1864, he enlisted in the Third Mich. Vol. Inf., and was in the service two years, receiving honorable discharge in Texas. He returned thence to Ionia County and went to school, and was engaged on the farm at the same time. In the fall of 1866 he was employed as clerk in a hardware store in Ionia, and there learned the tinner's trade, following it over three years. He then went to Grand Rapids and not long afterward to Morley, where, about the year 1870, he went into partnership with Nelson Pike. The connection existed about one year, and Mr. Hicks established himself in the hardware business at Cadillac, Mich., where he continued

nearly eight years. He sold out and embarked in the drug business. Shortly afterward he came to Morley and commenced a substantial business, taking the lead in the drug trade in that place. His business is in a flourishing state, and he is justly esteemed an upright and honorable man in his dealings. In politics he is a Republican; he holds the office of Justice of the Peace, is a member of the School Board, and belongs to the G. A. R. and K. of H.

Mr. Hicks was married in Morley, July 7, 1872, to Hattie M., daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Forbs) Swanger. Of this marriage three children have been born, as follows: Fred G., July 28, 1873; Percy J., Aug. 30, 1878, and Ivy M., March 12, 1881.

**S**ummer Barstow, farmer, real-estate broker and lumber dealer, at Big Rapids, was born in Tioga Co., N. Y., April 24, 1833. He is a son of Charles R. and Charlotte (Coburn) Barstow. The father was appointed Postmaster of Owego in 1849, and Mr. Barstow of this sketch left school and engaged in the office as clerk.

This occupation terminated in 1853, when Mr. Barstow became connected with the N. Y., L. E. & W. railroad, and in a short time rose to the position of conductor, which situation he retained on several roads successively until June, 1874. His railroad experience was continuous for 21 years, save during the period of his service in the civil war. He enlisted in Owego, N. Y., in April, 1861, as Captain of Co. C, 23d N. Y. Vol. Inf., for a term of two years, and was in action at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and numerous other engagements of greater or less importance. He was discharged at Elmira, N. Y., in 1863.

In June, 1874, Mr. Barstow came to Big Rapids, and with his father engaged in lumbering, and the association existed until the death of the latter, Dec. 10, 1880. They purchased pine lands, and placed the lumber on the market. Mr. Barstow owns a farm containing 365 acres in Norwich, Newaygo Co., and has transferred considerable real estate in the city of Big Rapids. There are in the Third Ward two additions known as "Barstow's," and a third in the same ward designated "Barstow's Second

Addition." He is also the proprietor of two stores, and owns six lots with houses. He was elected in the spring of 1880 member of the Common Council of the city and resigned after three months.

Mr. Barstow was married in Dansville, Livingston Co., N. Y., Oct. 13, 1857, to Mary F. Dubois, born May 10, 1837. Of their three children, but one, Fred. D., is now living; he is an employe in the U. S. Express office at 82 Broadway, New York, and acts in the capacity of cashier. Edmund P. and Jessie are deceased. The mother died in Alexandria, Va., March 5, 1864, and the father was again married in Omaha, Neb., Dec. 20, 1867, to Sarah E. Lewis, born at Cooperstown, N. Y. Of five children three are yet living: Charlotte, eldest daughter, is deceased; Charles L., an infant child who died, Allen and Thomas P. are the names of the children in the order of their birth.

**W**illiam J. Hyatt, for the last 19 years a prominent citizen of Hinton Tp., is the youngest son of Newton and Susannah (*nee* Cooley) Hyatt, and was born in West Virginia, April 3, 1850. His father was from German ancestry, his mother from Irish, and they had a family of three sons and two daughters. Until nine years of age, Mr. Hyatt, the subject of this notice, was brought up on Little Beaver, in Beaver Co., Pa.; then, in the fall of 1859, he went to Augusta, Carroll Co., Ohio, and when 14 years of age he commenced operation in a portable saw-mill; in the spring of 1865 he moved with the mill to Mecosta Co., Mich., arriving April 26. This was the first steam mill in the eastern part of the county, Mr. Hyatt being among the first settlers. His principal occupation to the present time has been steam engineering and milling, and by his reliability in these specialties he has won for himself an enviable reputation. He is a gentleman of considerable reading, making an intelligent use of the best works. In 1873 he was Constable in his township.

A few months after he was 17 years of age he was married to Miss Fannie, eldest daughter of Matthias and Magdelana Kassner, and they now have three daughters, namely, Emma Viola, Mary Henrietta and Adella Magdelana.

**J**ames M. Colby, ex-Register of Deeds of Mecosta County, resident in Big Rapids, Tp., was born in Freeman, Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., July 12, 1834, of English ancestry. His parents, James and Abigail M. (Metcalf) Colby, were born in Vermont. The former, a farmer by occupation, died in Wisconsin, where he went in 1843 and resided about 40 years. The latter was born May 30, 1803. She came with her parents to New York in her childhood, going later in life to Wisconsin, and is yet living, at Wesley Station, Kossuth Co., Iowa.

Mr. Colby was married in Delafield, Waukesha Co., Wis., to Anna M. (Harris) Jacques, both of English extraction and born in Nova Scotia, emigrating thence in 1844 to Wisconsin. Mrs. Colby was born in Nova Scotia Aug. 12, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Colby have six promising children, the two eldest of whom were born in Wisconsin, and the other four in Michigan, as follows; Milton J., June 20, 1862; W. T. Sherman, April 5, 1865; Maria A., April 5, 1867; Io Vesta, Sept. 17, 1869; Alta R., Sept. 8, 1873, and James M., April 13, 1883.

In 1864 Mr. Colby came to Montcalm Co., Mich., and resided at Greenville a year, removing thence to Hinton Tp., Mecosta Co. In 1867 he came to the city of Big Rapids, and in 1878 fixed his permanent residence on sec. 24, of Big Rapids Tp.

Mr. Colby enlisted in the cause of the Union in Delafield, Wis., Aug. 11, 1861, and did valiant service in his country's defense, until wounded at the battle of Perryville, Oct. 5, 1861.

He is a Republican in politics, and in November, 1866, was the successful candidate on his party ticket for the office of Register of Deeds of Mecosta County, and held the position 16 years. While the incumbent of the post he compiled the set of abstracts now in use.

Milton J. Colby, the eldest son, was five years of age when his parents came to Big Rapids. He was a pupil at the schools of the city until he was 17 years old, when he entered the office of his father, Register of Deeds, and served as Deputy during the remainder of the term of office, which expired Jan. 1, 1883. He then re-entered school and was engaged in the duties of a student until April 1, fol-

lowing, when he was employed by Chas. H. Crane, Abstracter, to prepare a sectional index of the lands of Mecosta County. That labor accomplished, he entered the employ of Stephens & Remus, sash, door and blind manufacturers, at the east end of the lower bridge in Big Rapids.

**G**eorge E. Sparks, farmer, sec. 23, Chipewewa Tp., was born April 25, 1853, and is the son of John W. and Mary E. (Harris) Sparks. (See sketch.) His parents were natives of Crawford Co., Pa., and went to Ashtabula Co., Ohio, when the son was but two years of age. When he was 14 years old he accompanied them to Mecosta County, and until he 23 years of age was the assistant of his father.

Mr. Sparks was married May 7, 1876, to Nettie Buckland. She was born May 16, 1853, in Wyoming Co., N. Y., and the daughter of Timothy W. and Jane (Prey) Buckland. Her parents were natives of Vermont and her mother resides at Hersey, Osceola Co., Mich. Her father was a soldier of the civil war in 1861, and died a prisoner in the hands of the rebels at Salisbury, N. C. No comment is needed upon the manner and means of his death. Salisbury prison pen is the synonym for every species of consummate atrocity that human ingenuity can devise. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Sparks three children have been born: Edna, Aug. 27, 1879; Johnnie, born Jan. 13, 1883, and died Feb. 7, 1883, and an infant.

Mr. Sparks is a Republican in his views of National questions. He has held the offices of School Inspector and Justice of the Peace. His farm contains 120 acres of land, 40 of which is improved.

**E**dward F. Shankwiler, miller, Big Rapids, was born July 28, 1853, in Seneca Co., N. Y. His father, Dewitt P. Shankwiler, was born in the same county, Nov. 25, 1823, of German lineage. His mother, Mary J. (Thomas) Shankwiler, was a native of the same place, born in 1825.

Mr. Shankwiler was brought up on his father's

farm, receiving a good education and graduated at the University at Rochester, N. Y., in 1872. He came to Michigan in 1877, and, in company with J. P. Burroughs, rented a flouring mill at Hersey, Osceola Co., where they operated a year. Mr. Shankwiler came to Big Rapids and bought the Mecosta County Flouring Mills, situated on Ryan Creek, one and a half miles southeast of the city, admitting D. L. Garling as a partner. The business has proved a success, its demands requiring three assistants. In May, 1883, Mr. Shankwiler rented his interest to his partner and turned his attention principally to real estate. He erected and owns a residence on South Ives avenue, is the owner of several city lots, and of 116 acres of land on sec. 24, Big Rapids Tp.

Mr. Shankwiler was married in Seneca Co., N. Y., Feb. 20, 1880, to Annie B., daughter of David and Mary Selmser, born Nov. 9, 1856, at Amsterdam, N. Y. They have two children, both born at Big Rapids; Eleanor May, Jan. 12, 1881, and Donald, Jan. 13, 1883.

**D**aniel Stearns, one of the first settlers in Mecosta County, resident at Big Rapids, was born in Brattleboro, Vt., June 29, 1799. He is a son of Reuben and Annie (Stuart) Stearns. His father was a farmer in Windham Co., Vt., and Mr. Stearns was bred to the same pursuit.

When he reached the age of 21 years he went to Bath, Steuben Co., N. Y., and went to work in a distillery for his brother, remaining one year. He then went to Ellisburg, and, associated with another brother, established the business of cloth-dressing, which existed about five years. He came to Newaygo in 1854, and built the Brooks House, named in honor of its owner, John Brooks, which Mr. Stearns managed two years. In 1859 he came to Big Rapids and bought a building on the southwest corner of Michigan avenue and Maple street, which he converted into a hotel and ran two years. In 1861, in company with George F. and Daniel E. Stearns, two of his sons, he opened a general store, in which he continued until 1879, when he retired from business. He owns a fine residence and two lots on the corner





*Gertie C. Knapp.*





A. B. Knapp.



of Warren avenue and Oak street, and two lots on State street.

Mr. Stearns was married in Ellisburg, N. Y., to Elizabeth Coburn; she died at Ellisburg, April 10, 1829, leaving two sons, Chester E. and Samuel C. Mr. Stearns was a second time married, at Ellisburg, to Elizabeth Martin. Of this marriage eight children were born: George F., Sarah E. (dec.), Francis C., Martha H. (dec.), Daniel E., Mary C., Alfred P. and Albert S. (dec.). The mother died in 1863, and Mr. Stearns was again married in 1871, to Mary Gollady.



**A**bel B. Knapp, farmer, sec. 2, Grant Tp., was born Dec. 13, 1843, in Bronson, Huron Co., O., and is a son of Adolphus G. and Hannah (Richardson) Knapp, both natives of New York. The father is a son of Brundage Knapp, a native of Massachusetts, and was born Feb. 19, 1820; in early life he went to Salem Tp., Westchester Co., O., and afterwards to Huron County, where he was married Nov. 12, 1842. The mother was born Sept. 22, 1824, and accompanied her parents to Ohio when she was eight years of age. She became the mother of seven children, all of whom are living in Michigan. The senior Knapp, in the course of his active life, had frequent occasion to change locality, and a singular fact resulting was that in passing alternate periods of his life in Michigan and Ohio, three daughters were born in Michigan and three sons in the Buckeye State, alternating in order. In January, 1859, the family removed to Wright Co., Mo., but the secession element governed that portion of the State and they returned to Ohio, and finally, in 1866, came to Mecosta Co., Mich., settling in Grant Tp., where the father secured 80 acres of land. One of the sons bought 60 acres in Chippewa Tp., and Mr. Knapp of this sketch entered a claim of 80 acres in Hersey Tp., Osceola Co. The mother died March 26, 1879, of pneumonia, followed by heart disease, after an illness of a week. Her children hold her memory sacred, and speak in loving remembrance of her motherly devotion, her unselfish, sacrificing spirit and her lovely character.

Mr. Knapp of this sketch remained under his

parents' supervision until he was 18 years old, when he was released by his father to become a tanner and currier. He worked at his trade until January, 1864. He is now a stalwart, sinewy man, but he was in youth of light build and matured slowly. Repeated efforts to enlist when the war broke out were futile; the examining surgeons were inflexible and he succeeded in enrolling as a soldier for the Union only at the date named. He enlisted in 1863 in Greenville, Huron Co., but did not weigh 100 pounds, and was rejected. The following year he was successful, and was credited on the quota of Mansfield, Richland Co., as a recruit. He joined Co. L, 10th Ohio Cav., at Chattanooga. The regiment was ordered to La Vergne, Tenn., and went into winter quarters. A detail was sent to Nashville for horses, and the time was spent in drill until spring. The regiment joined the command of Kilpatrick at Ringgold, Ga., and made its first acquaintance with set battle at Resaca. After the victory there the 10th Ohio was ordered out light mounted and spent a day in hot action, fighting from nine a. m. to five p. m., repulsing a charge and retiring to the morning's position. The same orders were repeated the following morning, and they were on the scout five weeks without overcoats, blankets or haversacks, and some without canteens. Regular rations were not served during the entire period. Food depended on success in foraging, and on one occasion Mr. Knapp was without food three days and four nights. On the morning of the fourth day he secured a piece of mutton, which he devoured raw and without salt, the bloody juice streaming meanwhile from the corners of his mouth. Regular rations were first served at Adairsville. The next battle was at Kingston, and they afterwards went into camp at Gillam's bridge on the Etowah River, where they kept up cavalry service, foraging and scouting, until Kilpatrick set out on his remarkable raid. Mr. Knapp was ill and, instead of taking a part in the brilliant action of his command, as he anticipated, with all the relish of a true soldier, he was ordered off on sick leave to Chattanooga, and 48 hours later was on his way to Nashville, where he was ill two months with malarial fever and camp diarrhea. Later he went to Jeffersonville, Ind., where he was furloughed for 30 days. The rebellion came to a virtual close, and he was discharged from the service at Camp Dennison, Ohio, May 31, 1865. He returned to Peru, Ohio, where he worked at his

trade for a time, and, determining on a permanent settlement, he journeyed through Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, prospecting, and came at length to Mecosta County, whither his father's family had come shortly before, and reached Big Rapids in September, 1866.

He located land in Hersey, Osceola Co., in its original state, and there entered upon the career of a pioneer, spending five years in the manner common to the early settlers in this portion of Michigan. In 1872 he bought the land on which his father settled in 1866, and 80 acres adjoining. His homestead includes 160 acres, with 120 acres cleared. It is considered a first-class place, lying in a hard-wood belt, with soil a mixed clay and sandy loam, capable of producing the justly celebrated Michigan crops. In connection with his labors as a farmer Mr. Knapp has engaged in lumbering since his settlement in Northern Michigan, acting in behalf of other parties, scaling logs, managing corps of lumbermen, operating as foreman, etc., finding ample field for his efforts at \$100 per month. His farm has good buildings and a new barn, built in 1883, at a cost of \$1,500. He makes a specialty of raising fine grades of draught horses, and at the fair at Evart, Osceola Co., in the fall of 1883, took three premiums on colts and single horses. He has been active in town matters since he located in Grant, and served the township as Supervisor in 1874 and 1882. He joined the M. E. Church in 1878, and has been one of the officials of the society since. He is one of the prominent citizens of Mecosta County, and foremost among the active workers for its progress and substantial improvement. The neighborhood in which he is located is designated by his name, and he has been the responsible member of his father's family for years. He was a Republican from the beginning of his political career until the establishment of the National party, when he became its adherent, and in 1876 was the candidate for Sheriff on the Greenback ticket, in opposition to Col. N. H. Vincent, Republican nominee.

Mr. Knapp was married Oct. 29, 1877, to Gertrude E., daughter of Calvin and Mary J. Royce, of Deerfield Tp. (see sketch), born Nov. 12, 1855, in Delmar, Tioga Co., Penn. When she was 12 years old her parents came to Deerfield Tp. She devoted herself vigorously to obtaining an education, and at 16 commenced teaching at Millbrook. She taught 12 terms

of school, all in Mecosta County save one, the Barton school in Winfield Tp., Montcalm Co. She became a member of the M. E. Church in 1875, and was active in all avenues where a laborer was needed. She has served as Superintendent of Sunday-school and lent energetic and judicious aid wherever needed. She is a lady of fine acquisitions and generous impulses, a valuable member of her social sphere and warmly regarded by her intimate friends.

The elder sister of Mr. Knapp, Mary A., wife of Nelson A. McCord, lives in St. Louis, Gratiot Co., and is the mother of three children. Franklin B. Knapp is a minister of the United Brethren Church, located at Salt River, Isabella Co. He is married and is the parent of three children. Phebe A., wife of Wm. Cook, residing in Chippewa Tp., has four children. John A. Knapp is unmarried and lives in Grant. Josephine J. (Mrs. Owen Bentley) has three children. Vernor G. Knapp resides with his brother in Grant.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Knapp may be found in this work.

**G**ilbert W. Smith, lumberman, of the firm of Foster, Blackman & Co., Big Rapids, was born in Vernon, Conn., May 15, 1852, and is the son of Amos and Angeline (Keith) Smith. His parents removed to Brighton, Livingston Co., Mich., in 1857, and soon after to Howell, where his father was engaged as a dealer in boots and shoes about 15 years. He attended the schools of Howell until he was 18 years of age, when he went to Ann Arbor and entered the Literary Department of the University, where he was graduated with the class of 1874. Immediately after that event he became a member of the lumber firm of Galloway, Blackman & Co., of Howell.

In the spring of 1877 the present business house was constituted, consisting of Chapin C. Foster, of Indianapolis, Hudson B. Blackman, Elias D. Galloway, and W. W. Smith, of Howell. The interests of the new association were established at Big Rapids at the same time, with Mr. Smith as resident manager. They are operating extensively in lumber, having a steam saw and shingle mill at Edmore, Montcalm Co., where a laboring force of 100 men is

commonly employed, and the product amounts annually to about 10,000,000 feet each of shingles and lumber. At Baldwin, Lake Co., the firm owns a steam saw-mill, and employs about 100 men in the mill and woods, cutting about 10,000,000 feet of lumber yearly. They own about 3,500 acres of pine land in Lake County, where Messrs. Morton & Teachout have just completed a mill contract for 4,500,000 feet at Lumberton, Newaygo Co. Their shipments are commonly made to Indiana and Ohio, and to some extent to Eastern markets.

The firm have suffered considerable losses by fire; one, which occurred at Edmore in 1881, resulted in the destruction of their mill and lumber to the value of \$14,000, partly remedied by \$9,000 insurance. Aug. 20, 1883 (current year), they suffered a loss of 2,500,000 feet of lumber, valued at \$25,000, with an insurance of \$18,000.

Mr. Smith was married in Lapeer, Mich., June 10, 1875, to Elizabeth P., daughter of Rev. Gustavus L. and Hannah (Pettingill) Foster. The father of Mrs. Smith was a clergyman of repute in Presbyterian circles in the State of Michigan for many years, and at the time of his death his labors exceeded in continuity those of any other minister in that denomination. Mrs. Smith was born in Clinton, Lenawee Co., Mich., March 27, 1853. One child has been born of her marriage, Gustavus, May 19, 1876, at Howell, Mich. Mr. Smith was elected City Alderman in the spring of 1883; he is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

**B**erbert Ladner, lumberman and farmer, on sec. 34, Big Rapids Tp., was born in the county of Cornwall, Eng., June 15, 1839. His parents, James and Jane (Chirgwin) Ladner, came to America when he was nine years of age, and settled on a farm in the township of Cannon, Kent Co., Mich., where he remained until the age of 25 years. He bought 80 acres of land in the same township where he grew to manhood, and continued on it five years. In 1882 he bought a farm containing 80 acres on sec. 34, Big Rapids Township.

Mr. Ladner was married July 1, 1869, to Huldah, daughter of Robert and Catherine Ganong. She was born in the State of New York, June 22, 1848,

and died in Big Rapids Tp., March 12, 1874, leaving two children, Albert W., born in Big Rapids, March 5, 1871, and Vernia B., born in Osceola County, March 18, 1873.

Mr. Ladner contracted a second marriage in Big Rapids, Oct. 13, 1880, with Sinia E. De Tarr, born Aug. 7, 1856, in Lee Co., Iowa.

**G**eorge P. Corneil, lumberman, Big Rapids, was born in Ekfrid Tp., Middlesex Co., Can., Jan. 22, 1840, and is a son of Philip and Letitia (Parker) Corneil.

Mr. Corneil was a farmer until he was 22 years old; since that age he has been chiefly engaged in lumbering. He left the Dominion in 1865, coming in December to Big Rapids, where he at once interested himself in the leading pursuits of that period, getting out logs, not long afterward rising to the position of foreman, a post he filled in the interests of different parties for some years. In 1869 he embarked in business on his own account. In 1870 he commenced getting out ties and bridge timber for the G. R. & I. R. R. Co., under a contract, with which he was occupied until the fall of 1873. He went to Cadillac and formed a partnership with R. McDowell, of that place, where they embarked in the grocery trade and also operated as contractors "putting in" timber. Two years later Mr. McDowell sold his interest in the lumber business to his brother, A. McDowell, Mr. Corneil selling his claim in the grocery at the same time to his partner. The new association continued three years, Mr. Corneil becoming sole proprietor by purchase. He managed alone one year, continuing to buy and sell pine lands, as he had been doing on his own account. He went to Minneapolis, Minn., and spent two years speculating in farming lands. He returned to Big Rapids in 1882, and, on the first of October, became associated with his brother, A. C. Corneil, which relation still exists. A month later he formed a connection once more with A. McDowell, with whom he operated as contractor in lumber, and grading track on the G. R. & I. R. R., doing a heavy business, with a working force of 70 men on the railroad and 35 men in the woods. Corneil Bros. employ an equal number in their lumber operations.

Mr. Corneil owns a farm of 90 acres in the Third Ward of Big Rapids, which is all in an advanced state of cultivation, with the exception of eight acres of timber land. He also owns a half interest in two vacant lots in the Fourth Ward. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and the Knights Templar.

Mr. Corneil was married in Cadillac, Mich., Aug. 31, 1876, to Annie, daughter of Aaron and Almira Aldrich, born near Sharon, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Aug. 3, 1855. They have one daughter, Susie Clara, born Jan. 23, 1881, at Minneapolis, Minn.

**C**harles W. Cunningham, book-keeper in the Big Rapids National Bank, was born in Dexter, Washtenaw Co., Mich., March 13, 1858, and is son of John and Sarah A. (Adams) Cunningham. His father was ticket and freight agent for the Michigan Central Railroad Company at Dexter about 12 years, and died at Vicksburg, Kalamazoo Co., Mich., where his mother is yet living.

When he was 12 years old, Mr. Cunningham was engaged for a year as clerk in a store. His parents removed to Battle Creek, where he attended the graded schools until the age of 15. They removed the next year to Vicksburg, where Mr. Cunningham learned telegraphy in an office on the Chicago & Grand Trunk railroad. After acting as relieving agent on that road six months, he was stationed at Bellevue and remained there one year. In November, 1875, he came to Big Rapids, where he was engaged as telegraph operator and ticket clerk in the office of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad office, then located in the Mason House, where he operated four years. The next two years he was employed as operator and ticket agent at both depots of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, situated at upper and lower Big Rapids. In August, 1881, he engaged as general agent for the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad at Big Rapids, where he operated until January, 1883, when he resigned and engaged as traveling auditor for the Chicago & West Michigan Railroad. June 1, 1883, he accepted the position he now holds. In the spring of 1881 he was elected Recorder of the City of Big Rapids on the Republican ticket, which post he held two years.

Mr. Cunningham was married in Big Rapids, Sept. 24, 1879, to Jennie, daughter of Alfred S. and Amanda Mason, born Jan. 5, 1859, in Jamestown, Chautauqua Co., N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham have one child,—Charles A., born June 3, 1881.

**B**enjamin F. Brown, M. D., Morley, was born in Portage Co., Ohio, Jan. 3, 1840. His father, Jacob Brown, was a native of Ohio, and his mother, Lavinia (Bombarger) Brown, was born in Pennsylvania; they now reside on the "Western Reserve," where the father is engaged in the pursuit of agriculture. At the age of 18 years Dr. Brown became a student at Hiram College, under the management of James A. Garfield, its President, and continued his course two years; going thence to a high school located at Brimfield Center, Portage Co., Ohio, where he was in attendance three terms. In 1860 he began his preparatory course of medical study at Mogadore, Portage Co., under the direction of Dr. J. C. Ferguson, studying with him at intervals for three years. Dr. Brown had a brief army experience during the civil war, enlisting Sept. 6, 1861, in Co. C, Ninth Ind. Vol. Inf., and serving as Hospital Steward until July, 1862, when he was honorably discharged. He returned to Ohio and resumed his studies for his profession. In the winter of 1862-3 he attended lectures at the Cleveland Medical College. His next removal was to Akron, Ohio, where he entered the office of Dr. S. W. Bertys, as assistant. In the fall of 1865 he came to Michigan and settled at Muir, Ionia Co., and there engaged for a brief time in lumbering. He there owned an interest in a planing-mill, which was totally destroyed by fire and entailed a loss of \$10,000. This circumstance crippled him so severely that he was for some time virtually out of business. He endeavored to re-establish himself in lumber projects at Big Rapids, but his ill fate again supervened and he determined to resume his medical studies. In October, 1876, he went to the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and entered the Department of Medicine and Surgery, there prosecuting his studies until April, 1877. He then came to Big Rapids, but only acted in auxiliary practice until February, 1878, when he began his career as a practitioner at Morley.





*J. T. Escott*



Dr. Brown is well and favorably known in his business and ranks fairly with the profession in Mecosta County. His business is already extended, and increasing with encouraging rapidity. He owns a farm on sec. 30, Deerfield Tp., of 120 acres, with 55 acres under tillage, which he bought in March, 1881.

Dr. Brown was married Jan. 3, 1866, in Lyons, Ionia Co., Mich., to Amelia Ross, who was born in the State of New York, Dec. 29, 1842. The Doctor is a member of the Order of Masonry.

**J**oseph T. Escott, capitalist, farmer, and representative pioneer citizen of Big Rapids, was born Jan. 25, 1836, at New Rochelle, Westchester Co., N. Y. He is of a clear line of English descent, both parents being born in England of ancestors native in that country. His father, Joseph Escott, was born in Bristol, Gloucestershire, Feb. 23, 1806, and is a son of Thomas Escott. The latter was born at Bampton, Devonshire. He was left an orphan at four years of age, and was bound to a farmer. When he reached the age of 21 he went to Bristol, and lived there continuously until his death at 84 years of age. Upwards of 30 years of his life was passed as a foreman in a brush and bellows factory. Joseph Escott became a shoemaker, and varied that trade with the labors of a market gardener.

In 1827 he married Betsey Tyler, born Feb. 9, 1808, at Lower Easton, one and a half miles from Bristol, where her parents were engaged in market gardening. Joseph Escott came to the New World with his family, making the passage in a sailing vessel, consuming 37 days in the trip. They landed July 30, 1830, at New York, and the husband worked there about nine months at his trade of shoemaking, removing thence to Westchester County, residing successively at Port Chester and New Rochelle, occupied with his trade and keeping a turnpike toll-gate. In June, 1839, he came to Michigan, and moved from Detroit to Grand Rapids in a wagon, over the old Territorial road. At Fentonville, the eldest boy fell from the wagon and broke his leg, necessitating a delay of five weeks. Grand Rapids was a small village, provisions of all kinds sold at high rates, and, to add to the discomforts of poverty in a strange

country, the entire family (parents and four children) contracted the fever and ague, which confined them to the house nearly all of the first year.

In 1842, the senior Escott pre-empted 80 acres of Government land on the east half of the northwest quarter of sec. 15, Walker Tp., Kent Co. This he bought afterwards, cleared and improved, and resided thereon about 30 years, occupied in farming and gardening. The family increased to eight children, three of whom died in early life, and five grew to mature years on the home place. Two sisters and two brothers of Mr. Escott of this sketch yet survive. The father and mother came to Big Rapids Nov. 9, 1872, to pass their declining years with their son. The mother was suffering from an incurable disease, which she bore uncomplainingly and with Christian fortitude for years. She died Oct. 29, 1879, after a life of usefulness and merit. The father is yet living, in comparatively good health, in his 78th year.

Mr. Escott was first sent to school at 10 years of age, and spent the winters of his life until he was 19 obtaining an education, walking a mile and a half to the old red school-house at Walker Center. He never studied more than four months in a year, and did the chores on the farm while his father worked at his bench. At 19 he taught a term of school in the Colton district, in Alpine Tp., Kent Co., "boarding round," and enjoying all the "perquisites" of a pedagogue of that period. He taught seven terms of school in the vicinity of Grand Rapids.

On the Fourth of July, 1859, he was married to Sarah A. Louckes, daughter of John and Susan (Thompson) Louckes, farmers, resident in Walker Township.

John Louckes was born in Highgate, Franklin Co., Vt., June 4, 1806. His parents went to Mallahide, Middlesex Co., Ont., when he was 14 years old, and he was married there Jan. 30, 1827, to Susan Thompson, a native of Niagara District, Ont., born Aug. 15, 1810. Mr. and Mrs. Louckes spent the succeeding 27 years in the Dominion, engaging in pioneer labors, and enduring the privations of the place and period. In 1854 they moved to Kent Co., Mich., and bought a farm on sec. 11, Walker Tp., where the father died July 4, 1881. The mother resides on the homestead with her son. Mrs. Escott is one of a family of 12 children, of whom three sisters and five brothers are living.

Mr. and Mrs. Escott entered upon their married

life with hearts buoyant with hope, and in their apparently promising prospects anticipated a career of comfort, with no more hardship than is common to people in health, with energy to follow up a successful entry upon a contest with the world. Mr. Escott bought, of Jackson Rogers, a land contract for a tract situated in the western part of Alpine Tp., Kent Co., built a house and cleared 48 acres of heavily timbered land. He sowed 30 acres of wheat, and saw the season advancing in hopeful content, when he found he had trusted in a broken reed. Only a verbal contract held the man of whom he obtained his right to the land, and he transferred the title to a party with whom Mr. Escott could make no terms. In six months he found himself destitute, and with a heavy load of debt.

The succeeding four years they lived in Tallmadge, Ottawa Co., and in Walker Township. Prospects did not brighten, and in April, 1863, they came to Big Rapids, in the hope of building up their shattered fortunes. If an adequate picture could be drawn of the country through which they traveled and the condition of the roads, some idea of that journey might be conveyed; but no pen can do it justice with words. The household effects were piled on a wagon, and the mother with one precious baby rode a part of the distance, dismounting to walk over the worst places. They came by way of Newaygo and Big Prairie, and fifteen miles of the distance from the latter place was unbroken forest. The journey occupied three days, and the wagon tipping over once, bringing ruin to some of the crockery, was the only disaster of any account. They found Big Rapids in its early youth, having two stores, and a small community of whole-souled people, whose uniform circumstances placed them on a social level, which added materially to the general comfort.

Destitute of means, but young, healthy and not afraid of work, Mr. Escott found his strength and energies in demand at remunerative rates, and the money he earned as a day laborer and was enabled to save through his wife's economy and good management, soon cleared his indebtedness and placed him in comparative ease. He began the purchase and sale of land contracts, still working at whatever paid best, and finally bought 80 acres of land in Green Tp., (now the property of James Dalzell), and built a small house, into which the moved before it was

fitted with door or window. The first summer he cleared two acres, and sowed 25 cents' worth of rutabaga seed, which crop he sold on the ground for \$180. Later he sold his farm and secured a position as teamster with B. E. Hutchinson, one of the merchants of Big Rapids. His duty was to drive to Grand Rapids, *via* Newaygo (70 miles), buy goods, do numberless errands, and bring back his purchases to supply the demands of the country trade. He commonly started Monday morning with an empty wagon (save chance passengers), consume two days *en route*, spend one day in collecting his load, and three more in driving back to Big Rapids, if fate was propitious; but often the round trip occupied two or three days more. This business he followed 18 months, at satisfactory wages.

In 1865 Mr. Escott was appointed Deputy Sheriff under A. S. Mason, and at the election of the following year was the successful candidate on the Republican ticket for the office of Sheriff. His jurisdiction extended over Osceola and the east half of Lake Counties, then attached to Mecosta County for judicial purposes. The county being new and roads very rude, if any at all, made it necessary to transact most of the business either on foot or horseback, and he frequently brought in the sinners against the majesty of the law from the woods or camps on foot and single-handed.

In 1868 he was re-elected by a large majority. In 1870 the law prohibited another re-election, but he was appointed Under-Sheriff, with D. F. Wooley, Democrat. In 1871 he was elected Supervisor of the Fourth Ward of Big Rapids. In 1872 and 1874 he was elected Sheriff, and the fulfillment of these terms made an aggregate of 11 years in which he discharged the duties of that office. He has served as a member of the Board of Education and officiated as Deputy U. S. Marshal under James Henry and John Parker, acting about eight years. In 1878 he was elected Alderman of the Fourth Ward and held the place four years. In 1881 he was appointed by Gov. Jerome one of the managers of the Ionia State House of Correction and Reformatory, which post he held until Jan. 1, 1883. In the spring of 1883 (current year) he was again elected Supervisor of his ward.

In 1865 Mr. Escott bought 80 acres of land now situated within the limits of the city, being the west half of the northwest quarter of sec. 15, to which he

has gradually added by purchase until he has a farm of 280 acres of land, lying in one body and all improved, of which 210 acres are within the city limits. Fifteen acres, known as "Escott's Addition," are platted in city lots, which he is selling and supplying with buildings. In 1867 he erected his residence on the corner of State street and Sanborn avenue, on land then covered with indigenous forest trees. About 1875 he purchased an interest in the Big Rapids Furniture Stock Company, and was elected its President, operating one year as a manager of the retail department. He is connected with the Masonic fraternity, being a member of the Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Escott, two daughters and a son. The latter, George B., born May 6, 1871, is the sole survivor; Susan E., born July 8, 1861, in Tallmadge, died of membranous croup, Nov. 26, 1864, at the home of her grandfather Louckes, in Walker, where her mother had taken her on a visit. Nellie M., born Sept. 3, 1866, at Big Rapids, died of hemorrhage of the bowels, Aug. 21, 1868, in Tallmadge, where her mother was visiting a sister.

Mr. Escott's portrait on another page presents the likeness of a man whose entire record gives a continuous exhibit of what may be accomplished by steady adherence to a worthy purpose. He has only taken opportunity at its best, the secret of every man's success in a new country. He is still in the supremacy of a perfect manhood. His temperate habits and active life have preserved his health and strength, his eye has all its pristine keenness and brilliancy, and he walks with the erectness of a vigorous vitality. He never had a lawsuit, never was sued, never owned a gun or a dog, and never drank a glass of liquor at the bar in his life.

In the public and private career of Mr. Escott are the salient points which render him a representative of the manner of men who have placed the county of Mecosta and the city of Big Rapids, in a marvelously brief period, in their present state of prosperity, with a future of splendid promise. The class of which he is an acknowledged type deserve a volume for the adequate record of the worth of their example and achievements. The results and developments of the coming years will round and complete the annals of this portion of the Peninsular State.

**L**ucas I. Witbeck, Morley, was born in the State of New York, Sept. 4, 1845. His parents, Abraham and Maria (Van Vranken) Witbeck, were natives of the Empire State and are still residents there. His ancestors settled in the same State about the year 1636, among the earliest of the colonists, and were participants in the Revolution. Mr. Witbeck was under the care of his father until the age of 16, alternately attending school and working on the farm. He then went to learn the trade of carpenter and joiner, and served three years. He followed that vocation until 1871. In the fall of that year, interested himself in the business of butchering, which he continued nearly five years, operating as a wholesale dealer. He came to Michigan in the summer of 1875 and settled at Sturgis, following his trade as a builder for a short time, then removed to Lima, Ind., where he kept a meat market two years. He then returned to Sturgis, where he bought a market, and remained there until December, 1881, at which time he sold out and came to Morley, where he became proprietor, by purchase, of the meat market owned by August Rowland. This is his present establishment.

He was married in Montgomery Co., N. Y., to Harriet, daughter of Giles and Rebecca (Swort) Gates, natives of the State of New York, where Mrs. Witbeck was born. Children: Abraham L., Annie, Clarence, Gertrude L., Lucas I. and Maud. Clara died in infancy. Mr. Witbeck is independent in politics and belongs to the Order of Odd Fellows.

**L**oren T. Loveless, proprietor of the National barber shop and bath-rooms, under the Northern National Bank, was born in Newark, Ohio, Sept. 7, 1842, and is a son of Henry and Marinda (Thompson) Loveless. They went in 1846 to Pontiac, Ill., where the father died in 1852, and the mother in 1853, of cholera.

On the breaking out of the war Mr. Loveless went to Cairo, Ill., and shipped on the U. S. gunboat "Louisville" as an able seaman, and took part in seven engagements: Island No. 10, Fort Pillow,

Memphis, Haines' Bluff, Vicksburg and Arkansas Post. At the end of 13 months he received honorable discharge, and returned to Fairbury, Ill., where he re-enlisted in the Third Ill. Cav., Capt. Carnahan, and served until the close of the war, receiving his discharge at Springfield, Ill. He was in action at Red River, Franklin, Nashville, Memphis and during Forrest's raid.

After the war he went to Dewitt, Iowa, and opened a store for the sale of masons' supplies—lime, hair, cement, etc.,—which he sold out in February, 1866, coming thence to Newaygo, Mich., where he obtained employment as clerk in a store. A year later he began to drive stage and carry mail between Grand Rapids and Traverse City, and acted in that capacity one year. His next business venture was in Newaygo, where he opened a barber shop, which he continued to manage until 1870. In July of that year he came to Big Rapids, and in 1871 opened a shop for the prosecution of his business, in the old Shafer block. Six months afterward he made another change, succeeded by several others, and in January, 1882, settled in his present quarters, which are finely fitted with all modern conveniences, having first-class bath-rooms attached. He now employs two assistants.

Mr. Loveless was a member of the State militia nearly nine years, belonging to Co. E, Second Regt. Mich. State Troops, Capt. Brazee; is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, in which he holds the position of Noble Grand. He was also a member of the Fire Department about nine years, and is Assistant Inspector-General in the G. A. R. He owns his residence on South Warren avenue, a dwelling near it which he rents, and a vacant city lot.

Mr. Loveless was married March 22, 1869, to Carrie E. Thomas, a native of Michigan. Two children have been born of this marriage, Arthur L. and George M.

**T**homas G. Horton, farmer, secs. 30 and 32, Sheridan Tp., was born in Vinton, Athens Co., Ohio, Dec. 14, 1829. Daniel M. Horton, his father, was born in Connecticut in 1791, of English parentage. His mother, Anna (Kimball) Horton, was born in Hector, Tompkins Co., N. Y., in 1806, of German extraction. Mr.

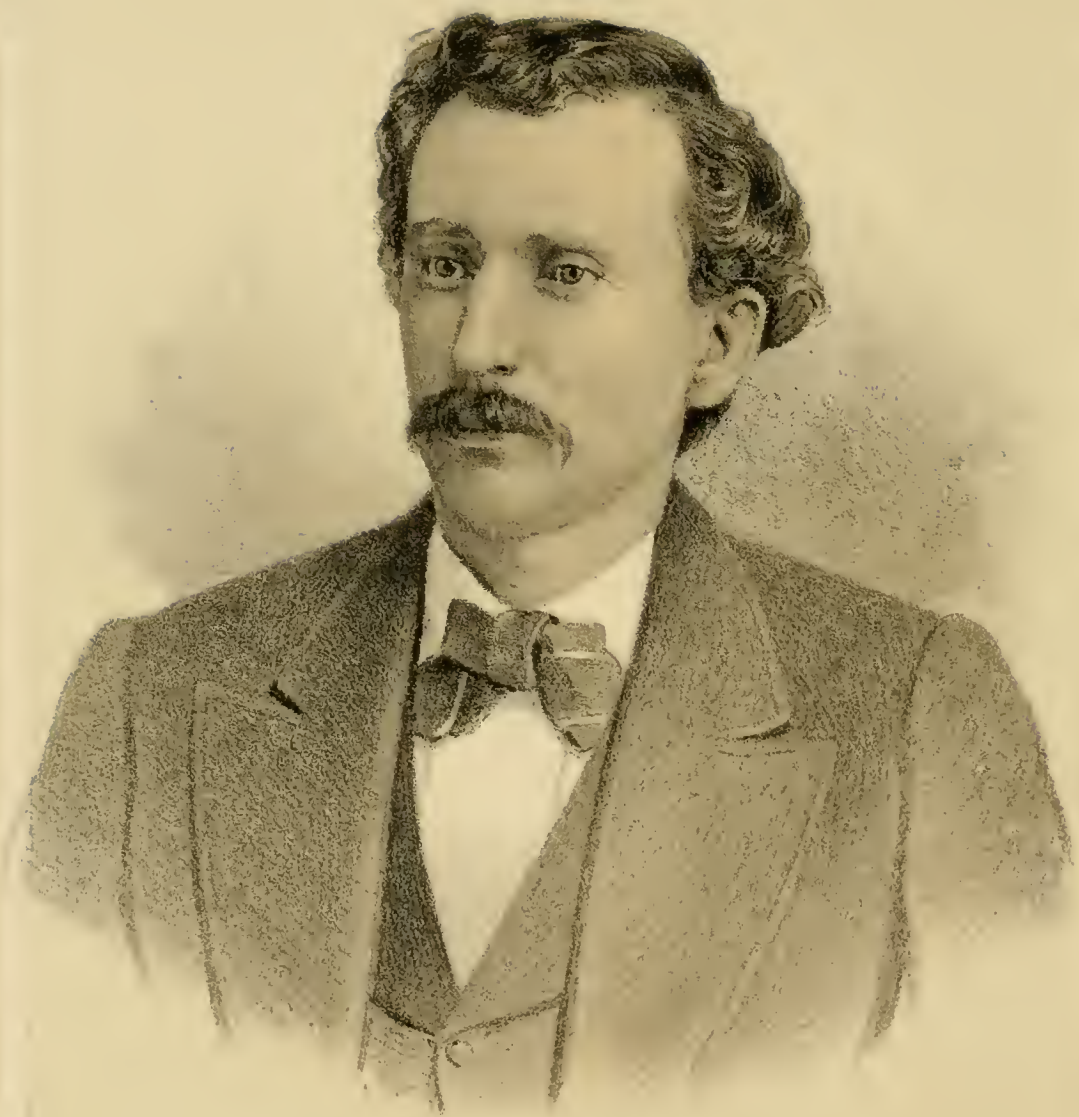
Horton was married Sept. 24, 1858, to Lucy Prentiss, of Cameron, Steuben Co., N. Y. She was born in Sycamore, De Kalb Co., Ill., and has been the mother of 11 children: Hector A., Victor E., Frederick C., Jessie F., John C., Eva T., William K., Melvin E., Thomas G., Isabella L. and Maud M. The three elder children are deceased. On his marriage Mr. Horton located in Bath, Steuben Co., N. Y., and removed to Millbrook, Mecosta Co., Mich., where he settled June 7, 1866. He removed to Sheridan in November, 1869, and has since been a citizen of that township. He is a Republican in politics, and has been Township Treasurer two terms (1881-2); was Supervisor in 1876, and has served two terms as Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Horton served as a soldier in the late war. He enlisted in the 76th N. Y. Vol. Inf., in Steuben County, and on account of decimation of the regiment at the battle of Mine Run, he was transferred to Co. K, 147th N. Y. Inf. He was wounded June 16, 1864, at the battle in front of Petersburg, while in the act of storming, and was in the hospital one year, receiving his discharge June 14, 1865, at the close of the war.

**H**on. Edgar Peirce, Representative from Mecosta County, resident at Big Rapids, was born in Elk Tp., Erie Co., Pa., May 6, 1841. He is of English lineage, being descended from John Pers, a native of Norfolkshire, Eng., who settled in New England in 1637. His father, Francis Peirce, was born in Waltham, Mass., and eventually removed to Pennsylvania, where he married Betsey Boomer, a native of Rhode Island. Mr. Peirce was the eighth of nine children born of this marriage.

He received a good education in the common schools and academy of his county, and was bred to the business of milling. He was on the eve of his majority when the assault on Fort Sumter sent an electric thrill round the world, and a few months after reaching the period of his legal freedom he enrolled in defense of the Union flag. He enlisted Sept. 13, 1862, under Capt. W. W. Miles, whose company was assigned to the 14th Pa. Cav., in rendezvous at Pittsburg, with Col. J. M. Schoonmaker as its superior officer. The regiment was attached to





*G. W. Reed.*

the command of Gen. Averill, of raiding notoriety. In an engagement at Rocky Gap, Va., Mr. Peirce was severely wounded through the left leg, and rode on his horse to Beverly, West Va., 150 miles distant, rather than be left on the field to fall into the hands of the rebels. He was in the Valley of the Shenandoah under Sigel, and was with Hunter on his disastrous expedition to Lynchburg. When Gen. Early caused the destruction of Chambersburg, Mr. Peirce rode with his command through the burning city, in pursuit of McCausland, and was in the advance battalion in the charge at Moorefield, Va., when the command of the rebel incendiary was nearly annihilated, and Chambersburg avenged. Mr. Peirce was placed in command of his company (I) by election, and led his men at Winchester and Fisher's Hill, and at Cedar Creek, where Sheridan snatched victory from defeat. He participated in the work of destruction in the valley, of which the record says: "There was nothing between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghanies worth fighting for."

Mr. Peirce passed through the non-commissioned grades of promotion from private to Orderly Sergeant, and in March, 1865, was commissioned Second Lieutenant. After the Grand Review at Washington, he was sent West on detached duty to the Indian Territory, and was mustered out in November, 1865. He returned to Pennsylvania.

In 1871 Mr. Peirce removed to Michigan, and engaged in manufacturing shingles, in Colfax Tp., Mecosta Co., and continued to prosecute that business eight years. In 1878 he was elected County Treasurer, and was re-elected to the same position in 1880. On the expiration of his last term he was elected Representative, and served in the Thirty-second Session of the Legislature of Michigan. In his record as a member of that body, Mr. Peirce clearly demonstrated his fitness for any post to which an appreciative and judicious constituency might raise him. He is eminently qualified in every sense; he possesses a fine mental organism, coolness and courage in moral issues, correct judgment and wise discrimination in popular measures, and brings the test of a disciplined intelligence to bear upon all questions of the day. His leading traits of character designate him as essentially a man of the people, equipped for quiet, persistent, inflexible conflict in the avenues in which circumstances may lead him.

Mr. Peirce was married Dec. 27, 1869, to Mary M. Wells. Three children have been born to them: Harriet L., June 21, 1871; Mary E., Aug. 25, 1875; Grosvenor, Aug. 16, 1881.

In October, 1883, Mr. Peirce formed a partnership with G. Clough, in the hardware business, firm style being Clough & Co. They carry a full line of merchandise common to such establishments, and have every prospect of entering at once upon a safe and successful business.

**W. Reed**, merchant, Stanwood, Mecosta Tp., was born in Livingston Co., Mich., July 8, 1844. He is a son of Oliver and Louisa (Barnard) Reed, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of New York. The father followed farming until his death, in 1859. Mrs. Reed is still living, and resides in Stanwood with her son, the subject of this sketch. He was raised on his father's farm, and Dec. 11, 1861, at the age of 15, he enlisted in the 16th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company I, which joined the Army of the Potomac under Gen. McClellan. He was in the Seven Days' battles before Richmond, the second battle of Bull Run, and many other hard-fought battles, and was honorably discharged Feb. 7, 1863. Returning home, he worked on the farm until the fall of the same year, when he came to Mecosta County. During the winters of 1863 and 1864 he worked in the woods as laborer. In 1865 he entered 80 acres of land under the homestead law, and proceeded to build the log house in which he lived until 1874, during which time he added about 300 acres to his farm by purchase, and cleared 80 acres.

In 1875 he entered upon mercantile business at Stanwood, continuing in that till the present time. He keeps on hand a large and well selected stock of dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, etc., and commands a large trade; also, has been engaged in lumbering quite extensively. In 1880 he associated with himself a partner, Charles F. Barnard.

Mr. Reed was married in Mecosta County, in 1864, to Eliza Moulter. They had two children: David, born in October, 1865, and Sarah, born in 1867. He was a second time married, in 1875, to Mary E., daughter of S. Kimball and Uretta (Hawks) Bagley, born at Plattsburg, N. Y., Oct. 26, 1853. This mar-

riage has resulted in four children: Georgia W., born July 1, 1876; Jessie M., born May 31, 1878; Guy K., born July 21, 1879, and Charles W., born Feb. 26, 1882.

By energy, industry and economy, he has acquired a nice property, and his mental and social qualities have made him one of the representative citizens of the county. He has held the office of Supervisor two terms, Justice of the Peace seven or eight years, and Highway Commissioner one year. He was one of the Board that divided Austin and Mecosta Townships. He was appointed Postmaster for Stanwood in 1876, and held the position for five years. Mr. Reed is politically a Republican. He is liberal in religious views, and is a member of the I. O. O. F. His portrait appears on page 524.

**S**idney H. Roosevelt, proprietor of the Northern Hotel at Big Rapids, was born in Flint, Mich., April 18, 1848. He is a son of Cornelius and Elvia (Hamilton) Roosevelt. The father was a hotel-keeper and was proprietor of the Carrolton House at Flint a number of years, and Mr. Roosevelt was trained to his calling under the care of his father and within the influences of his business.

At the age of 16 years he learned telegraphy and was engaged in the pursuit of that vocation about five years. In 1870 he went to East Saginaw, where he engaged in the Everett House four or five years as clerk, and went thence to Bay City, where he was employed in the same capacity three years. His next engagement was at "Sweet's" at Grand Rapids, where he remained five years. In 1881 he came to Big Rapids and opened the Northern Hotel. It is the leading hotel in the city and receives the best class of patronage. The building is one of the most prominent in Big Rapids, and is described in detail elsewhere. (See sketch of Hood & Gale.) Its patrons include a large number of day boarders, and its repute under the management of its experienced and obliging manager secures a large proportion of the traveling public as guests. The present clerk is Charles Miller.

Mr. Roosevelt was married in Saginaw, Mich., to Mary, daughter of Christopher Morass, born in

Windsor, Can., Aug. 4, 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt have one child—Ralph—born at Grand Rapids, Feb. 22, 1881.

**B**enson E. Brown, farmer, sec. 1, Hinton Tp., was born in Warren Co., Penn., Aug. 20, 1844. His father, Peter Brown, was born in Connecticut, and his mother, Mary (Libby) Brown, was a native of New York. The former died in the Keystone State in 1855; the latter resides with a son at Altona. Mr. Brown was 11 years old when his father died. He attended the common schools and worked on the farm and in the lumber woods. In the spring of 1867 he came to Michigan, and after a brief stay in Lapeer County he came to this county, and was in the employ of his brother, H. J. Brown, three years. He purchased 80 acres of unimproved land in 1870, built a frame house and barn, and has placed 40 acres of his land under advanced improvements. He is a Republican in politics, and has held the post of School Assessor four years, and is the present incumbent of that office. In April, 1883, he was elected Township Treasurer.

Mr. Brown was married in Montcalm Co., Mich., Oct. 8, 1870, to Lydia C., daughter of William J. and Emmeline (Webster) Allen. Her parents were natives of New York, and removed to Canada, where Mrs. Brown was born May 5, 1842. The family circle includes three children: Della B., born Jan. 5, 1871; Ernest A., Oct. 5, 1874, and Charlie, born May 12, 1879.

**A**llen E. Williams, lumberman, Upper Big Rapids, was born in Pembroke, Genesee Co., N. Y., Nov. 7, 1848. His parents, John L. and Emeline (Allen) Williams, were farmers and removed to Sycamore, De Kalb Co., Ill., where the father bought a farm. Mr. Williams, of this sketch, was at that time ten years old, and two years later his father removed with his family to Iroquois Co., Ill., and there pursued the same vocation.

Mr. Williams came to Muskegon, Mich., at the age



of 17 years, and was there employed by O. P. Pillsbury. Two years later he came to Big Rapids, in the interests of his employer, and in December, 1867, opened a store on State street, where Mr. Pillsbury was engaged in general merchandise two and one-half years. At the expiration of that time he determined to make his present calling the pursuit of his life, and threw himself with all his energies and resources into the details connected with the business of lumbering, going himself into the woods, locating pine lands, driving on the river, etc. His chief business for the last ten years has been buying and selling lands and employing men in cutting and putting in logs.

Mr. Williams was married at Big Rapids, May 31, 1869, to Georgia J., daughter of Thomas and Harriet (Malbon) McDaniels, born at Orono, Penobscot Co., Me., Oct. 19, 1854. Mr. McDaniels came to Big Rapids in 1864 and engaged in lumbering, his family following the next year. He prosecuted his business as a lumberman to a considerable extent until his death, which took place Jan. 14, 1881. He was 69 years old. Mrs. McDaniels resides with her daughter; she is 68 years old.

Mr. Williams is a Democrat, and represented his district in the convention at Lansing in 1880, and at Jackson in 1882. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.



**Thomas S Reed**, farmer, sec. 17, Grant Tp., was born Aug. 6, 1831, in Steuben Co., N. Y. His father, Benjamin Reed, was born Aug. 12, 1801, in New York, and died Jan. 22, 1882. His mother was born in Connecticut, about the year 1798, and died Jan. 10, 1871. They moved to Knox Co., Ohio, not long after the birth of the son, removing thence to Noble Co., Ind.

Mr. Reed came to Michigan and to the township of Grant, in 1872. He bought his homestead, containing 80 acres of land, which he is rapidly developing into a valuable farm. He was married March 4, 1858, to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Allworth, of Morrow Co., Ohio. Her parents were natives of New Jersey, and her father is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed have seven children: Samuel

W., born Nov. 25, 1858; Esther E., Aug. 31, 1860 (Mrs. Maxin Pion); William J., Feb. 15, 1863; Benjamin E., March 6, 1866; Edward L., Jan. 4, 1869; (died Feb. 24, 1874); Minnie M., Aug. 26, 1872; Francis E., June 20, 1875; Amy E., Feb. 17, 1878. The family attend the U. B. Church, of which the parents are members.



**Esther S. Decker**, farmer, sec. 12, Millbrook Tp., was born in New York, July 30, 1830, and is a son of Gilbert and Mary (Stanley) Decker.

He left home at 20 years of age, and for two years thereafter was variously occupied, and the year following was employed in a mill. His next occupation was in a machine shop at Newcastle, Canada, where he remained four years. In the spring of 1858 he went to Illinois and settled in Kane County, where he worked a farm on shares nearly three years. In the fall of 1860 he bought 80 acres of land in Millbrook Tp., on which he has since resided. He afterward bought 180 acres additional, sold 80 acres, and deeded 50 acres to his son. His farm now comprises 170 acres of land, with 100 acres under the best class of improvements. The humble, unpretentious log house built by Mr. Decker on his farm in the first year of his occupancy, gave place a few years ago to as fine a residence as can be found in the township.

He was married in Clark, Canada, May 27, 1852, to Caroline, third daughter of Lorenzo and Fanny (Fisher) Aldrich. Her parents were natives of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, who settled in Canada. Mrs. Decker was born in the Dominion, Dec. 21, 1835. Of her marriage to Mr. Decker nine children have been born, as follows: Lourena J., May 24, 1853; Lorenzo D., April 21, 1855; Gilbert A., July 16, 1858 (see sketch); Rosetta A., Jan. 24, 1861 (first female child born in the township); Richard S., Sept. 11, 1864; Hazen A., April 13, 1867; Mary E., June 2, 1869; Charlotte E., April 25, 1871, and Mabel E., June 24, 1879.

Millbrook township was organized in 1865, and Mr. Decker was elected the first Supervisor at the meeting of organization, an office he has held six years. He has been Justice of the Peace six years,

and District Assessor nine years. He is a Republican in political sentiment. He and his wife are members of the denomination known as the "Church of God."

**M**aria E. Brown, Big Rapids, daughter of Ethan and Nancy (Wilmer) Brown, was born in Owego, Tioga Co., N. Y., Jan. 21, 1825. Her father was born March 11, 1791, in Stockbridge, Mass., and was of English descent. Her mother was of Irish extraction, and a native of Stockbridge, where she became the wife of Ethan Brown. Of eight children born to them three yet survive, viz: William, resident at Saginaw; George, in business in Washington Territory, and Miss Maria, of this sketch. Those deceased were John F., Caroline, Marcus, and Susan C., widow of Mason Herrick. Miss Brown is rearing three of the children made orphans by the demise of Mrs. Herrick. They are Addie L., John F. and Marcus E.

Miss Brown resided in Tioga Co., N. Y., until 1874, when she came to Big Rapids, to live with her brother, John F. Brown. She owns his residence on Osceola avenue, eight lots, and 60 acres of land within the city limits. The main portion of the home was once one of the finest structures in upper Big Rapids.

**R**ev. William H. Manning, farmer, sec. 34, Chippewa Tp., was born in Odelltown, Can., Aug. 15, 1824, and is a son of Gabriel and Polly (Green) Manning, the former a native of New York and the latter of Vermont. His father was a farmer, and after his marriage went to Canada, and there died in 1866; his mother died in 1869.

Mr. Manning was reared on his father's farm, which was situated in a rural district, and he obtained little education in early life. This defect he remedied after he had grown to manhood. He remained with his parents until he was 22 years of age.

Mr. Manning was married May 14, 1850, to Permelia, daughter of Preston and Lydia (Marsh) Groot, who was born in Whitby, Can., Nov. 23, 1830. Her parents were natives of Lower Canada, and her grandfather was a soldier in the British army in 1812,

and a Baptist minister. Her great-grand sire was a British officer in the war of the Revolution. Mr. and Mrs. Manning have eight children: Addison A., Celia, Lydia A., Bertha M., Ellen M., William G., Wallace P. and Lewis H.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Manning resided in Canada until 1862, when they came to Michigan and located in St. Clair County, near Memphis, Macomb County. In 1865 Mr. Manning connected himself with the Dryden (Lapeer Co.) Conference, and entered upon his labors as a Christian minister. He was licensed to preach in 1850, while he lived in Canada. He was a licensed exhorter of the Dryden Circuit one year and then went to Dansville, Ingham Co., and was connected with that circuit for a year, and afterward supplied the Wheatfield mission one year.

In November, 1869, Mr. Manning came with his family to Mecosta County and located in Chippewa Tp., where he entered and proved a claim of 80 acres of land under the homestead law. He has been diligently engaged in farming, and has continued to preach at intervals as opportunity has served or occasion demanded. He is a Republican in politics.

**J**ohn F. Mann, farmer and lumberman, residing at Ewart, Osceola Co., was born Oct. 22, 1832, in Penobscot Co., Me. His parents, John and Sarah (Sammons) Mann, are both living. The former was born in Maine, the latter in Ireland.

Mr. Mann was reared to the business of lumberman, in his native State, entering the woods when a boy, as a teamster in the winters and passing the summers in log-driving on the rivers. He came to Saginaw, Mich., Aug. 12, 1866, and after spending some time in the mills there again engaged as a lumberman, and pursued the business nine years at that place. In 1871 he came to Fork Tp., Mecosta Co., and engaged in lumbering and logging for Palmer & Bro., operating as foreman in their employ three years. In 1875 he took possession of a farm in Fork Tp., and now, in connection with his son, owns 280 acres of land, which is under the management of the





William Van Loo.

latter. Mr. Mann has recently transferred his residence to Ewart.

He was married July 2, 1855, to Susan A., daughter of James C. and Susan (Roe) Churchill. Her parents were natives respectively of New Brunswick and Maine. Mrs. Mann is a native of the Pine-Tree State, and has had seven children, four of whom are living: James W., Maud M., Nettie M. and Jay F. Those deceased were Charles F., Bessie and Geneva.

**W**illiam Van Loo, Secretary and Manager of the Big Rapids Furniture Co., was born in the Netherlands, Dec. 3, 1836. In 1849 his parents, William and Mary Van Loo, came to the United States, and after a year's stay in Ottawa County moved to Greenville, Montcalm Co., and engaged in agriculture. They returned to Ottawa County in 1855, where the father died, in 1871, and the mother in 1879.

At the age of 14 Mr. Van Loo entered a mercantile house as a clerk, and in 1861 formed a partnership with his employer, Manning Rutan, in the sale of general merchandise. In 1866 the relation was terminated by Mr. Van Loo's selling his interest. He came to Big Rapids and built the grist-mill on Ryan Creek, known as the "Mecosta," the first mill for the exclusive purpose of grinding grain in the county. In this enterprise he was associated with John Bigelow. At the same time Mr. Van Loo opened a store, which he sold in 1870, and in 1872 disposed of his interest in the mill. In July of that year the Big Rapids Furniture Co. was organized. Mr. Van Loo became one of the leading stockholders, and was personally active as a salesman in the retail department. In July, 1874, he was elected Secretary and Treasurer, departments of which he was the virtual head several months previous. He is now the active manager of the business of the corporation. The works of the company are located at the west end of the upper bridge, and comprise a frame building, 40 x 60 feet in dimensions, with water power. The active capital is \$21,600. In 1870, Mr. Van Loo erected the first brick block in the county, and from the time of his fixing his residence at Big Rapids has been among the foremost in promoting the substantial interests of the place. Mr. Van Loo was married in

Greenville, Aug. 24, 1863, to Marie L. Church. Their elder son, William C., born Sept. 21, 1865, is pursuing a scientific course of study at Allion College, Calhoun Co., Mich. Kingsley was born June 22, 1869, being the first boy born in the city.

In 1869, Mr. Van Loo was elected first Supervisor of the City of Big Rapids, and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; served several years as Councilman, and in 1879 was elected a member of the Board of Education, and has been its President since 1880. He is a zealous and active member of the M. E. Church, for whose interests his solicitude has been unflagging. He has been Class-Leader, Trustee, S. S. Superintendent and Steward, and was largely instrumental in building and establishing the Church and society. He owns his residence and three buildings utilized as stores on Michigan avenue.

Mr. Van Loo is a zealous Republican and has been identified with the party and its issues since its organization in the State of Michigan. In all his views he exhibits the traits of the race from which he is descended. His love for civil and religious liberty is his heritage from his ancestors, some of whom were engaged in the memorable struggle between Philip II of Spain and the Low Countries, when that unscrupulous monarch, after his marriage with Isabella of France, had no better field for the development of his kingly genius and prerogatives than an attempted subjugation of the people of the countries then under the control of the government whose supremacy he so miserably travestied. His failure in his matrimonial schemes with Elizabeth in a sense relegated him to his appropriate sphere, and his mistaken essay to establish the inquisition where the papal power was at best but nominal, has sent his name to prosterity with that of Bloody Mary, Catherine de Medicis and Coligny. Let it be once more recorded in the immortal interests of the Christian religion that Protestants and Catholics made common cause against the monstrous innovation, and, instead of fastening the darkest device of the Romish Church upon a people whose national simplicity and purity was, at that period, unique, the permanent independence of the Provinces was secured and the Protestant religion established in that portion of Europe. The representatives of the race who could in an emergency centralize their strength upon an issue so momentous in its bearing upon the fate of future generations, are among the best and most val-

uable of the elements of our composite nationality.

Mr. Van Loo's portrait is an appropriate accompaniment to this sketch, and may be found on page 530.



**J**oseph Wendling, Mecosta, Morton Tp., was born in Canada, April 15, 1859. He is a son of Jacob and Mary (Schnoob) Wendling, both natives of Canada. They left the Dominion in the winter of 1873, coming to Mecosta County, where they now reside.

Mr. Wendling made the change of residence with his parents, with whom he remained until 23 years of age. At 15 he began acting as accountant for a lumbering firm, and remained with them three years. He was then employed in the store of C. H. Clement at Millbrook, one year, and then taught school one term; he subsequently engaged with M. Carman, a merchant, as head clerk, where he still remains.

Mr. Wendling was married in Wheatland Tp., Feb. 8, 1881, to Angeline, second daughter of George and Nancy (Smith) Willett. The father of Mrs. Wendling is a native of England, and the mother of Canada. They came to Mecosta County in the spring of 1863, and are still resident in the township of Hinton. Mr. and Mrs. Wendling have had one child—Charles—born in April, 1882, and surviving but a few days. The family attend the Roman Catholic Church, of which Mr. W. is, a member. He is identified with the Democratic party.



**C**harles W. Sebastian, farmer and lumberman, sec. 4, Green Tp., was born in Logan Co., N. Y., Dec. 7, 1855. His parents, Nicholas and Magdalena (Cooley) Sebastian, were born in France, of German parentage.

They came to the United States, and located in Mecosta Co., Mich., in the spring of 1867, where the father bought a farm on sec. 4, and proceeded with the work of clearing up the land and putting it in a tillable condition; he died Dec. 24, 1875. The mother resides at Big Rapids.

Mr. Sebastian was educated in the common schools of Logan Co., N. Y., and Mecosta Co., Mich., and

was his father's assistant in the homestead until the latter's death, and after that event continued its management. Feb. 20, 1883, he started a saw-mill on sec. 8, where he saws about 15,000 feet of lumber daily.

Mr. Sebastian owns 360 acres of land in Mecosta County, and is largely engaged in cutting and shipping telegraph poles to the markets of St. Louis, Philadelphia and Cincinnati. Some of the finest specimens of that peculiar variety of merchandise have been cut on his land, being superior in quality and size, and measuring from 40 to 60 feet in length. He has often obtained two 60-foot poles of the finest quality of cedar from one stump, with bases 18 inches to two feet in diameter, and one foot at the top.

Mr. Sebastian was married to Ida W., daughter of Moses C. and Caroline (Whipple) Besemer. Of this marriage one child, Lena, was born, Jan. 13, 1878.



**E**ter Kelley, farmer and saloon-keeper, Big Rapids, was born in Somerville, Ala., Feb. 18, 1842, and is a son of Patrick Kelley, born in Ireland, Feb. 2, 1814, and Mary (Egan) Kelley, born in Ireland in 1818, and died at Big Rapids, Nov. 13, 1880.

The parents came to the North and settled in Livingston Co., Mich., in 1847. They bought 120 acres of land in Hartland Tp., and there resided until 1872, when the place was sold, and they moved to Milford, Oakland Co., Mich. The senior Kelley bought a hotel, managed it a year, and went to Highland, in the same county, where he owned and kept the "Highland Center House," together with 40 acres of land. In 1879 the family came to Big Rapids, where he speculated in real estate until his death, June 8, 1883.

Mr. Kelley of this sketch came to Big Rapids in the fall of 1869, and was employed some time as a lumberman, afterwards operating as a contractor and foreman on the river and in the woods. He was for a considerable period in charge of the lumber yard of T. D. Stimson, in the city of Big Rapids. In 1871, Mr. Kelley bought a house and lot on Marion avenue, which he exchanged in 1873 for 80 acres of land in Green Tp., where he resided a year. He sold out, came to Big Rapids, and embarked in the liquor

business on North State street. In 1879 he went to Evart, Osceola Co., and managed the Irvin House about 18 months, when he came back to Big Rapids. In February, 1882, he opened his present business, and is carrying it on with marked success. In August, 1880, he bought 80 acres of land on sec. 9, Big Rapids Tp., under good improvements, where he is engaged as a farmer. He also owns a residence and four city lots, besides a business building and lot 40 x 150 feet, on the corner of Hemlock street and Michigan avenue.

Mr. Kelley was married at Grand Rapids, Oct. 17, 1872, to Mary, daughter of William and Mary Rafferty, born in Livingston Co., Mich., Feb. 23, 1847. They have six children: William, Charles, Frank, Nellie, George and Kittie. The family belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

**B**raham Van Alstine, farmer, sec. 10, Grant Tp., was born March 26, 1842, in Wolcott, Wayne Co., N. Y. His father, Jacob Van Alstine, was born Nov. 1, 1812, in New York, and died Dec. 28, 1860, in Shiawassee Co., Mich.

His mother, Eleanor Van Alstine, was born in the Empire State, Dec. 26, 1820, and is yet living, in Michigan. His ancestors were natives of New York and one grandfather was a soldier of the war of 1812.

In 1857 Mr. Van Alstine came to Michigan and settled in Sciota, Shiawassee Co. Nine years later he homesteaded a claim of 80 acres of land, now included in his landed estate, which aggregates 320 acres, of excellent quality. His farm is in first-class condition, with large, fine barn and other convenient buildings necessary to successful farming. He is making preparations to construct a dwelling-house in keeping with the farm and its other improvements.

He was married June 18, 1867, to Eleanor, daughter of Horace and Maria Burr. Her father was born in Vermont in 1818, and died in May, 1859. Her mother was born in the Province of Ontario in 1829, and is still living. Mr. Van Alstine was born Dec. 20, 1819. Following are the dates of births of their six children: Franklin, Aug. 28, 1868; Wade, June 21, 1871; Etta A., Aug. 1, 1873; Adele, July 3, 1876; Jay, Dec. 20, 1879; Ralph, April 20, 1882.

Early in life Mr. Van Alstine determined to exert

all reasonable effort to obtain an education, and by strenuous exertion succeeded in fitting for college. He entered the University of Michigan in 1859, and studied one year. His three years preparatory to a collegiate course had given him a good fundamental education, and at the end of his first year at Ann Arbor he judged it wisest to discontinue his studies. He is a Republican in principle and has been Supervisor of Grant Tp. a year, Clerk the same period, Road Commissioner three years, Justice of the Peace four years, and Township School Superintendent five years.

**T**homas K. Hurley, farmer and blacksmith, sec. 8, Green Tp., was born July 10, 1828, in Steuben Co., N. Y., and is the son of William and Mary (Mapes) Hurley. His father was a descendant of the Welsh, and was by occupation a mason. Among other important works on which he was engaged was the construction of the Neversink bridge in Sullivan Co., N. Y.; he died in 1850. The mother was a native of Connecticut, and died in 1872.

Mr. Hurley remained with his parents until the death of his father. His marriage to Minerva Cole occurred in Schuyler Co., N. Y., in 1850. She was a native of the Empire State and was a daughter of Ira and Nancy (Bailey) Cole. Mr. and Mrs. Hurley had three children. Only one—Ada (Mrs. Dwight Lydell)—is living. Two died in infancy. The mother died May 6, 1847, and Mr. Hurley contracted marriage a second time Jan. 9, 1858, with Emma, daughter of John R. and Elizabeth (Corbett) Allen. She was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., Jan. 6, 1836. Her parents were natives of the State of New Jersey and died in Steuben County, when she was very young. Mr. and Mrs. Hurley have three children, namely: Ettie (Mrs. Jason Lydell), Mary A. and Cora B.

At the age of 18 Mr. Hurley commenced learning the trade of blacksmith with Isaac P. Goodsell, remaining with him two years and afterward operated on his own account 15 years, in his native State. He enlisted Jan. 1, 1864, in the 10th N. Y. Cav., and served until the close of the war, receiving his discharge at Harwood Hospital, Washington, D. C., June 6, 1865. During his period of enlistment he worked at blacksmithing, and in the winter of 1864 was in active

service, being under fire at Hatcher's Run and the battle of Winchester, after which he was ill and was in various hospitals three months. His last fight was at Petersburg, and after his discharge he returned to Schuyler County, where he was sick a year with disease contracted in the army.

In 1867 he came to Mecosta County, and on the 26th day of June located on sec. 8, Green Tp., where he has since been busily occupied with farming and his trade. He owns 46 acres of land, all in good condition. With reference to National issues he is a Democrat.

**S**ilas Snider, farmer, sec. 21, Austin Tp., was born in Toronto, Can., Oct. 9, 1827. His parents, Jacob and Rachel Snider, were natives of New Brunswick, and early in life came to Canada. The father died at 85, the mother at 81 years of age. When 24 years old Mr. Snider went to Kentucky, where he was employed as a carpenter on a tobacco plantation. His stay was brief and he went back to the parental roof and began to work for his father. He was married Nov. 25, 1852, near Toronto, Can., to Mary, daughter of William and Jane (Mitchell) McMann, a family of Irish descent. She was born Feb. 17, 1830. A year after his marriage Mr. Snider embarked in mercantile business and continued operating in trade eight years. In 1861 the family came to Michigan and settled in Newaygo County, where Mr. Snider controlled a grist-mill one year. He then came to Austin Tp. and settled on a 40-acre farm which he had previously purchased, and to which he has since added by purchase 120 acres. He has 60 acres under cultivation. Five living children are members of this household and two have passed to the other world and are held in sacred remembrance. Following is the record of their births and deaths: Oliver C. was born May 14, 1858; Mary A., Jan. 9, 1861; Albert H., April 13, 1863; Hiram G., July 29, 1866; Emma M., Sept. 13, 1868; Robert W., Nov. 8, 1853, died Dec. 15, 1856; Sarah J., born April, 1855, died Dec. 3, 1856.

Mr. and Mrs. Snider have been members of the M. E. Church since 1857, and have both been ardent laborers in the cause of religion. Mr. Snider

has been Steward many years and is now Class-leader. He has always been active in the cause of education and in the interests of the Republican party.

**J**ohn B. Fribley, harness-maker, Big Rapids, was born in Lycoming County, near Williamsport, Pa., Dec. 21, 1837. He is a son of John and Sarah (Sutton) Fribley. At the age of 17 he went to Muncy in the same county, where he learned his trade. In 1856 he went to Ottawa, Ill. He left the latter place Aug. 17, of the same year, with a party desigining to settle in Kansas. At Iowa City they "fitted out" with 26 wagons laden with clothing and provisions. They met another party with similar intentions and joined in company with them. They crossed the Missouri River at Nebraska City in small flat-boats, and traveled six weeks before reaching the Kansas and Nebraska line. There they were met by "Jim" Lane and John Brown (Ossawatomie). The former made a political speech, and Sunday morning Brown preached a characteristic sermon, incorporating his views on the negro question. On attempting to cross into Kansas the entire number were taken prisoners, their arms and stores were confiscated, and the party taken to Topeka, where they were liberated by Gov. Geary.

Mr. Fribley settled at Easton, Leavenworth Co., Kansas, where he established a business and also followed farming, near Topeka; he also owned a ferry, plying across the Kansas River at Lecompton. He went to Colorado and was interested one summer in mining for gold.

At Denver, Colorado, Mr. Fribley enlisted in August, 1861, in Co. A, First Colorado Vol. Inf., under Capt. Wynkoop, and was in the United States service three years and eleven months. His first detail was to Apache Canyon and Paralto, New Mexico, with the Texan troops, and after the campaign there was terminated, the regiment returned to Colorado and was there mounted and ordered to the frontiers for duty in the Indian disturbances. Mr. Fribley was regimental saddler, but was in several Indian engagements. He participated in the Shilvington massacre on Sand Creek, 40 miles north of Fort Lyon, on the Arkansas River. The affair took







*A. S. Webber.*

place Feb. 17, 1863, and the whites sustained a loss of 16 killed and 33 wounded. The slaughter of Indians was complete, and included nearly 400 men, women and children. The record says: "There were none left that were big enough to die." The interpreter, John Smith, saved a little boy.

In June, 1864, he went with a detail of 100 soldiers and teamsters in pursuit of a band of marauding Indians, whom they found encamped at the head-waters of Smoky River,—about 700 in force,—and had with them the closest kind of a hand-to-hand encounter. One of Mr. Fribley's reminiscences of his campaign gives strong proof that the peculiar cunning and sagacity that makes the Indian so dreadful a foe and so powerful an ally, is only due to the circumstances of his training and education, instead of being the traits of his nature. While out with two comrades on a hunting and scouting expedition, they were suddenly surrounded by upwards of 200 Cheyennes. By an assumption of friendliness and interest the red-skins were led to believe that Mr. Fribley and his companions were not connected with the U. S. troops, and were decoyed within the lines of the command. Cutting loose from the mass of the band, the chief rode with the white men within range of the arms of the rear guard, who fired upon the advancing party. Six bullets were found in the body of the chief, but the scouts were unharmed. Mr. Fribley was discharged at Fort Riley, Kansas, July 15, 1865, made a brief visit to Pennsylvania and returned to Kansas.

In 1867 he opened a shop at Medina, Jefferson Co., Kansas, worked a year at his trade and engaged in farming several years, after which he again returned to the Keystone State. Two years later he opened a shop in Topeka, operating there some months, and then again spending three years in Pennsylvania, going thence to Colorado, and a few months later coming to Big Rapids, where he located in August, 1880. He was in the employ of Duncan McLellan about 16 months, when he founded his present business, and is now in a prosperous and increasing trade.

Mr. Fribley was married in Lycoming Co., Pa., May 14, 1876, to Kate Tomlinson, a native of Pennsylvania. Four children have been born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Fribley: Sarah, Mary, Laura and Elizabeth.

**H**adison S. Hooker, dealer in lumber, lath and shingles, at Big Rapids, was born in Mount Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio, Sept. 15, 1846. He is a son of Royal D. and Courtney Hooker, and was brought up on his father's farm.

When he was 17 years of age he enlisted in Lima, Ohio, enrolling Jan. 14, 1863, as a private in Co. H, 32d Ohio Vol. Inf., Capt. Barrett. He was in the engagements at Vicksburg, Kenesaw Mountain, siege of Atlanta and at Savannah, where the rebels surrounded them on an island, cutting off supplies, a process which compelled the entire division to subsist ten days on rice in the sheaf, gathered in the low lands. He was, besides, in a number of skirmishes, and veteranized Jan. 4, 1864, serving until July 20, 1865. On his discharge he returned to Allen Co., Ohio, having saved with his bounty \$2,500.

He remained a year on his father's farm, when he engaged in lumbering and purchased considerable land, heavily timbered. He built a saw-mill in Spencerville, and in 1879 he bought a grist-mill, and planing mill, which he sold in August, 1883. He sold his saw-mill in the fall of 1882. He built a fine residence in Spencerville in the summer of 1881, at an expenditure of \$7,000. This he still owns, with the lot whereon it stands, 99 x 132 feet in dimensions, besides two acres in the town. Mr. Hooker met with success in his lumber operations, and also in a large provision and grocery business, which he managed two years.

R. D. Hooker, father of Mr. Hooker of this sketch, came to Mecosta County and settled in Green Tp., where he bought 160 acres of farming land, and pursued agriculture until his death, which took place July 27, 1882; he was aged 69 years; the mother died Aug. 9, 1866. In 1879 Mr. Hooker bought 120 acres of pine land in Newaygo County, and in January, 1882, he came to Mecosta County, and in the same year he built a saw and lath mill in Green Tp., which he is still operating, and employs 50 men in the mill and woods, some as teamsters. In September, 1882, he purchased a fine residence at Big Rapids, and in July, 1883, he purchased of D. F. Comstock five acres on the river, where he purposes to build a saw, shingle and lath mill, having all the latest improvements.

He was married in Allen Co., Ohio, Aug. 14, 1866, to Elizabeth, daughter of Adam and Henrietta Fisle, a native of Germany. Of this marriage nine children have been born, in the following order, seven of whom are living: Charles A., John R., Henrietta, Anna L., Laura (deceased), Katie (deceased), George, Adison S. and Lavinia.

The portrait of Mr. Hooker may be found in this volume.

**W**illiam F. Denney, furniture dealer, Millbrook village, is a son of James M. and Lois E. (Scranton) Denney, and was born March 7, 1846, in Indiana. The father was in moderate circumstances, with a large family, and the elder children, as they grew in years, aided in sustaining the burden of the family support. In the fall of 1865 he came to Mecosta County and located in Wheatland Tp., and afterward moved to Sheridan Tp.

About the year 1874, the subject of this sketch purchased a building lot in Millbrook, on which he has since built a good frame structure, where he is doing a thriving business, carrying a stock valued at \$2,000. He commenced life empty-handed, and learned the cabinet-making trade, also that of carpenter and builder. By frugality and good management he has established himself in business on a permanent basis, and owes to no one save himself the advance he has made toward a fortune sufficient for the needs of the years and chances held in the future.

He was married at Big Rapids, Dec. 23, 1880, to Ella E., daughter of Newman G. and Jane Capen, a native of Wisconsin. They have one child, Newman G. Mr. Denney is independent in political sentiment and action, and is a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity.

**H**auincey Warren, farmer, sec. 32, Austin Tp., was born in Erie Co., N. Y., July 21, 1823, and is a son of Joseph and Fanny (Watson) Warren, natives of Vermont. He was occupied on his father's farm until the age of 23, when he went to Ontario, Can., in the fall of 1846, and there engaged in a saw-mill. He

was a resident of Canada 18 years, and was married there Aug. 13, 1849, to Catherine, daughter of Daniel and Susan (Winegarden) Roberts, natives of Pennsylvania, respectively of Welsh and Dutch extraction. Mrs. Warren was born Sept. 1, 1827. During his stay in the Dominion, Mr. Warren was chiefly engaged in lumbering. He came to Newaygo County in 1864, and thence to Austin Tp., where he entered a claim of 80 acres of land, 60 of which are well cultivated, with valuable buildings. Here has been the homestead for 21 years, and here the heads of the household expect to pass their sunset days.

The family includes two children: Adelbert D., born Feb. 11, 1859, and Rosetta E., March 11, 1868. Three children are deceased: William H., born Oct. 7, 1850, died April 29, 1851; Charles, born July 30, 1852, died Feb. 28, 1853; Alvaretta, born Nov. 1, 1854, died June 14, 1882.

**D**avid M. Benjamin, lumberman, resident at Grand Rapids, was born at East Livermore, Me., July 28, 1834. He is a son of David and Catharine C. (Stanwood) Benjamin, and was, until the age of 16, brought up on a farm and attended the common school. He then entered the academy at Farmington, where he studied two terms, going successively to Litchfield and Westbrook, attending the academy in those places the same length of time.

His first business venture was at East Livermore, where he was station agent on the Androscoggin River. After a year there he engaged as a lumberman on the Penobscot River, and acted in that capacity until he was 28 years old. He came to Muskegon, Mich., in October, 1862, where he had a year before invested in pine lands, and operated in lumber. In the summer of 1864 he erected a large steam saw-mill, fitted with gang-saws and all the most approved appurtenances pertaining to similar establishments. The works were among the most extensive in that city, having a cutting capacity of 240,000 feet daily. He conducted his business alone until 1873, when he entered into partnership with O. P. Pillsbury and Daniel W. Bradley. The firm style at present is O. P. Pillsbury & Co., and includes the senior member named, Mr. Benjamin, and

Wm. H., Edward and James W., sons of D. W. Bradley. The house is operating extensively in lumber traffic, and have offices at Muskegon and Milwaukee. Their timber tracts include 15,000 acres of pine lands in Michigan, 60,000 in Wisconsin and a considerable acreage in Minnesota. Their house and jobbing forces combined number about 200 men. The firm have a large planing-mill at Milwaukee, with a working capacity of 25,000,000 feet annually. They own about 9,000 acres of pine lands in Mecosta County.

Mr. Benjamin was married in Portsmouth, N. H., June 16, 1869, to Annie Louise, daughter of Andrew J. and Annie Pitts, born in Southampton, N. H., April 16, 1848. They have one son, Fred W., born at Grand Rapids, Jan. 23, 1878. Mr. Benjamin is a Democrat in his political views.

**J**asper E. Bisbee, grocer and druggist, was born in Allegany Co., N. Y., July 29, 1843, a son of Alanson and Mary C. (Bagley) Bisbee, both of whom were natives of Albany Co., N. Y. The father was a farmer and in 1858 located in the town of Campbell, Ionia Co., Mich., residing there until his death in 1863. The mother died in 1860.

Mr. Bisbee was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools; he obtained a situation in a store at Saranac, Ionia Co., Mich., and acted as clerk there one year, after which he learned the art of boot and shoe making, which he followed as a vocation some years. He went next to Newaygo County, where he worked during one summer, engaging in the fall with another party, and spent the next three years in travel and in giving public entertainments with the troop. On the termination of this business he resumed work at his trade in Newaygo, which he pursued some time. He next operated some months as a clerk in a hotel.

Mr. Bisbee was married in 1869, to Sarah E., daughter of Elias and Euphemia (Thompson) Scranton. Her parents were natives of Ohio and she was born in that State. In the family are three children: Earl E., Glen W. and Frank L.

Mr. Bisbee located in Paris in 1870, where he pursued his trade some years and established a heavy

business for the locality, which he sold out and then devoted his attention one year to farming, after which he returned to Paris and embarked in the enterprise he is now pursuing. In political faith he is a Democrat, and has held the office of Deputy Sheriff.

**J**ay D. Robinson, wholesale and retail dealer in meats of all varieties at Big Rapids, was born at Romeo, Macomb Co., Mich., July 11, 1850. His father, H. Robinson, was born in Cayuga Co., N. Y., and located in 1833, in Romeo, being the third settler in Macomb County, whither he and his father, Henry Robinson, made their way through the woods with an ox team, cutting the road as they proceeded. Mr. Robinson's father was a giant in stature and strength, standing six feet and three inches in stockings, and the object of great interest because of his power to lift immense weights.

The mother, Nancy Robinson, was born in Pennsylvania, 12 miles northwest of Pittsburg, and is now living with her son at Big Rapids, aged 59 years.

Mr. Robinson received a common-school education, and when 14 years old went to Cincinnati and entered the river service. His first employ was as a cabin boy on the "Robert Burns," a passenger steamer. He attained to the post of second clerk, and was absent from his home four years. On returning he established himself in mercantile business at Holly, in company with W. A. Taylor. Their operations were successful, and they were soon enabled to add a wholesale department and established warehouses at Saginaw City. They continued to conduct their business with satisfactory results until the general depression of 1876, when the shrinkage of values in all avenues of trade involved them in heavy loss, when they brought their affairs to a termination. He went afterward to Deadwood, Dak., in company with Eli Hammond, and they trafficked in miners' supplies, horses and merchandise of varied character, operating profitably for two years. Mr. Robinson became connected with the notion house of Jacob Brown at Detroit, where he remained two years, going thence to Chicago, where he was engaged with Keith Bros., who kept a gentlemen's furnishing goods establishment. After two years, in

1881, he came to Big Rapids, where his family resided for a year previous. He opened his present business Nov. 3, 1881, and carries a well assorted stock of \$5,000 to \$6,000; the annual business transactions amount to about \$30,000. Four assistants are employed. He owns eight acres of land on the border of Big Rapids, where he has a stock yard, pasturage, etc.

Mr. Robinson was married Jan. 8, 1874, in Holly, to Ella C., daughter of Solon and Vanda (Bunker) Cooley, born in Pontiac, Mich., July 22, 1855. Freddie J., only child, was born in Holly, Sept. 25, 1874. The mother died at Big Rapids March 16, 1883.

**Frank S. Maxon**, farmer, sec. 32, Deerfield Tp., was born Nov. 28, 1850, in Jackson Co., Mich., and is a son of F. D. and Meriba (Dunham) Maxon, both of whom are natives of New York.

Mr. Maxon received a fair education at the common schools of his native county, and a thorough training for his vocation of agriculturist. In 1875 he purchased 40 acres of land in the township of Deerfield and settled thereon, engaging since in farming and putting his place in the best possible condition.

Mr. Maxon was united in marriage in the State of Missouri, Feb. 18, 1872, with Loriania, daughter of Eli and Mary (Wray) Maxon, both of whom were natives of Virginia. Mrs. Maxon was born Feb. 12, 1856, in Nodaway Co., Mo., and has become the mother of five children: Charles A., born Dec. 20, 1872; William L. and Wilson R., twins, born June 25, 1876; Lewis E., March 18, 1878; Edgar H., Nov. 1, 1881. In political principle Mr. Maxon is a Republican.

**Chester W. Comstock**, Cashier of the Big Rapids National Bank, was born at Alexandria, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Oct. 30, 1856. He is a son of Daniel F. and Dollie E. Comstock. In April, 1871, his father removed his family to Big Rapids, remaining until 1874, when another removal was made to Cadillac, Mich., where the senior Comstock established a

banking house, Chester W. officiating as cashier five years. On the return of the family to Big Rapids in 1879, both father and son engaged in the lumber business.

The National Bank of Big Rapids was founded in 1883, and opened June 4 of that year, Mr. Comstock being elected its Cashier. It is a home institution, the stock being chiefly owned in Mecosta County.

**Thomas B. Pitman**, farmer, sec. 11, Deerfield Tp., was born in Canada, Sept. 25, 1852. His parents, John and Mary A. (Hewett) Pitman, were natives of Canada, and came to Michigan in 1868, residing at Saginaw two years, and, coming thence to Mecosta County, settled in Deerfield Tp., where they are now living on sec. 11. Mr. Pitman accompanied his parents in their migrations and bought 40 acres of unimproved land adjoining the tract owned and occupied by his father. He built thereon a board house and now has 23 acres of land under cultivation. He was married in the township of Deerfield, Oct. 29, 1874, to Georgiana Van Gordon, a native of the State of New York, where her parents are now living. Mrs. Pitman died July 2, 1879, leaving one child—Harry W.—born Dec. 5, 1875. Mr. Pitman attends the M. E. Church, and is independent in politics.

**Alfred S. Mason**, postal clerk on the Chicago & West Michigan railroad, resident at Big Rapids (route from Big Rapids and Holland), was born in Ellicott Tp., Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Sept. 16, 1828, and is a son of Martin and Polly (Griswold) Mason.

The father of Mr. Mason was a farmer, and he was reared to the age of 16, in the habits and pursuits common to farmers' sons. The family had removed to Jamestown, two miles distant, and at the age named he went to learn the trade of harness-maker, serving an apprenticeship of three years, after which he established himself at Jamestown and continued in business until the outbreak of the Southern Rebellion.

He responded to the first call for troops and en-





*Joseph West.*



listed at Jamestown in Co. B, 72d N. Y. Vol. Inf., in the Sickles Brigade. On the organization of the company in April, 1861, Mr. Mason was elected Second Lieutenant, and while on the Potomac, Nov. 5, 1861, was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. He was discharged at Yorktown, May 20, 1862, for disability. He returned to Jamestown and assisted in raising the 112th Reg. N. Y. Vol. Inf.

He came to Big Rapids in the fall of 1862, mainly to recruit his impaired health. He interested himself in the lumber trade, and was for some years associated with the Green Brothers in buying pine lands and "putting in" logs, transacting a heavy business. In 18— they purchased the property which is now the site of the Fairman and Newton block, on which a hotel was in process of erection. They completed the building and it was named the Mason House. It was one of the first hotels in the county and became prominent from its connection with the history of the progress of Big Rapids.

In the fall of 1874 the same association took a contract to grade 14 miles of the G. R. & I. R. R., four miles south of Cadillac, six miles north from the Manistee River, and four miles from the north branch of the Boardman River in Kalkaska County. This was accomplished in the autumn of 1874 and the following spring. They then contracted to grade and bridge seven miles west of Reed City on the F. & P. M. R. R., which undertaking was finished in the fall of 1876. The force usually employed numbered about 250 men and the required teams. The Messrs. Green & Mason carried on lumbering winters and building State roads summers, thus operating two years on what is known as the East Tawas & Houghton Lake State road, of which they built 12 miles. This was the last business venture of the company, the partnership relations being brought to a close at the same time with the completion of the job. In January, 1880, through the influence of Jay Hubbell, Mr. Mason was appointed to his present position of Mail Agent.

He has been a Republican ever since the organization of the party, and has been quite prominent in the field of politics. He was elected Sheriff of Mecosta County and served two years. He belongs to the Order of Masonry, is Master of Big Rapids Blue Lodge and Past High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter of that city. He owns a fine residence and lot on Ives avenue.

Mr. Mason was married in Jamestown, N. Y., Feb. 27, 1854, to Amanda A., daughter of W. D. and Hannah (Belden) Green. (See sketch of W. D. Green.) Mrs. Mason was born in Rensselaer Co., N. Y., May 13, 1831. Jennie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mason, is the wife of C. W. Cunningham, book-keeper in the Big Rapids National Bank. She was born in Jamestown, N. Y., Jan. 15, 1859. (See sketch of C. W. Cunningham.)

**J**oseph West, farmer, on sec. 27, Green Tp., was born in Wiltshire, Eng., Nov. 7, 1829.

His parents, William and Sarah (Bimester) West, were English by birth and belonged to the agricultural class in their native country.

He was the only son, and when two years old his father died. The education of Mr. West is such as is acquired by the majority of men similarly situated in youth. His father and stepfather were men of the class who bear the brunt of the world in their native land,—those on whose efforts and needs the so-called upper classes thrive; and his labors were necessary for the family support. Thomas Beasent was a widower with children when he became the husband of Mrs. West. In 1853 Mr. Beasent came to the United States and settled in Mecosta County, the children on both sides accompanying him. Mr. West married Mary Ann Beasent, Oct. 23, 1851; she was a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Gay) Beasent, and born Oct. 27, 1836. Mr. Beasent died in Mecosta County.

Mr. West obtained employment as a lumberman a few months after coming to America, and in the spring of 1854 came to Big Rapids and soon after located on sec. 33, in Green Tp., where he bought 80 acres of land under the Gradation Act, paying 75 cents per acre. There he labored and resided until 1867, when he purchased the farm where he now resides, containing 160 acres of land. Mr. West is a Republican and an honored citizen of Green Tp. His thrift and persevering industry have met with the reward of well directed effort, and he is in the possession of substantial evidence of the wisdom of his purposes in life. The land-holder is a sovereign by primal kinship to the first man, endowed divinely with all the lands of the earth.

William L., eldest son of Mr. West, was born in 1852, in England; married Clara Hovey, of Green Tp., and lives in Dakota. The remainder of Mr. West's children were born in Michigan. Eliza M. married William Dalziel. The others are: Charles E., Anna J., George W. and Eddie. Chester E. and Louisa are deceased.

We give a portrait of Mr. West in this volume as one of the pioneers of Mecosta County.

**E**yrus F. Richardson, farmer, sec. 8, Big Rapids, was born in Ohio, April 11, 1838. His father, Luther Richardson, was born in Maine; his mother, Rachel Richardson, was a native of Ohio. His parents came to the State of Michigan in 1843, and he was reared to manhood at Grand Rapids.

At the age of 22 years Mr. Richardson came to Mecosta County and worked at lumbering one season. In the spring of 1861 he bought 80 acres of land, where he established his home and has since pursued his calling of agriculturist. He has placed 60 acres of his farm under good cultivation, has a handsome residence and good farm buildings. He enlisted in the Union service Aug. 15, 1864, in Co. L, First Mich. Reg. Engineers and Mechanics, and was discharged June 6, 1865. He is a member of the M. E. Church, has held the office of Township Treasurer four successive years, and is at present Justice of the Peace.

He was married Nov. 9, 1860, to Maria Youard, of Grand Rapids. She was born in Ontario, Can., July 21, 1840. Her father was drowned when she was four years old; her mother is still living. Children: Mary J., born Nov. 17, 1861; died Nov. 30, 1882; Luther J. C., Oct. 2, 1863; William T. S., May 17, 1866; Minnie L., Oct. 27, 1868; Rachel M., Jan. 3, 1873; Kittie, Sept. 16, 1876, died May 31, 1879.

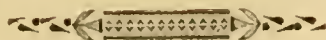
**B**enj. J. Shourds, farmer, sec. 1, Wheatland Tp., is a son of Jonathan and Sophronia (Jones) Shourds, who were natives of New York, and descended from French and English ancestors. Mr. Shourds was born in Wayne Co., N. Y., March 6, 1838, and was reared at home to the age of 21 years. He obtained

his education at the academy at Macedon Center, in his native county, and on attaining his majority began to work the homestead farm with his brother. He was married in Wayne County April 12, 1866, to Sarah D., daughter of Orrin and Betsey (Reed) Lapham, natives of the Empire State, who was born at Macedon Center, Wayne Co., N. Y., April 12, 1836, and was chiefly there educated, finishing her course of study at the Union College at Buffalo, N. Y. After marriage Mr. Shourds was engaged in farming in Wayne County until 1868, when he removed to Lenawee Co., Mich., locating in Palmyra, where he engaged in running a lath and planing mill. In the fall of 1869 he went to Allegan Co., Mich., and embarked in the mercantile business. In the fall of 1879 he returned to his native State and managed the farm of his father-in-law until the death of the latter, when Mr. Shourds came back to Michigan. He located on a farm of 120 acres in Wheatland Tp., which had been partly improved, where he has since been actively engaged in farming. He is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Order of Masonry. Mr. Shourds belongs to the Baptist Church.

**B**iram R. Reynolds, farmer on sec. 20, Mecosta Tp., was born in Williams Co., Ohio, Nov. 2, 1851. He is a son of Reuben and Delilah (Osman) Reynolds, natives of Vermont and New York respectively. Mr. Reynolds remained with his parents until he reached man's estate, and for several years after attaining the age of 21 years worked as a farm laborer. In 1874 he purchased a farm in Fulton Co., Ohio, where he operated seven years, and in the spring of 1882 bought a farm of 102 acres in Mecosta Tp. on the Big Muskegon River.

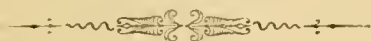
He was married Dec. 11, 1874, in Fulton Co., Ohio, to Ida M., daughter of Stephen and Sophia (Henderson) Green. Her parents were of English descent, and she was born in Paulding Co., Ohio, Dec. 22, 1854. She was adopted at the age of three years by Mr. Chancy Lane, of Fulton County, who cared for her until her marriage and has made her the legal heir of his estate. The five children of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds were born as follows: Lula L., Nov. 20, 1875; Medora A., Oct. 31, 1877; Basil

B., April 8, 1879; Geo. A., Sept. 16, 1880, and Goldie, May 5, 1873. Mr. Reynolds is a Republican.



**J**oseph Gaunt, farmer, sec. 26, Deerfield Tp., was born in Monroe Co., Mich., Sept. 3, 1834, and is the son of Harrison and Mary A. (Rushworthy) Gaunt, who were natives of England.

Mr. Gaunt has been a farmer all his life, except four years, when he was employed as a blacksmith. He was married in St. Joseph Co., Mich., Feb. 20, 1862, to Mary E., daughter of Nelson and Jane (Austin) Wells, natives of New York. Mrs. Gaunt was born in Michigan, Sept. 11, 1839. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gaunt: Minnie J., Dec. 13, 1862; Ida M., Jan. 16, 1866; John W., July 23, 1869. Mrs. Gaunt had one child by a former marriage, Edward, born Aug. 3, 1859.



**R**assel Bowen Hughes, resident at Big Rapids, was born at Camillus, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Oct. 4, 1828. When he was 12 years of age his father moved to Bellevue, Mich. He married Addale D. Holden, of that place, Feb. 13, 1848.

In 1850, in company with James Holden, David Thomas and J. J. Cook, he started for California, influenced by the gold-mining excitement which was then at its height. They drove their teams to La Salle, Ill., and then took a steamer to St. Louis, Mo., and from there to St. Joseph, where they arrived about the 1st of May, and made arrangements with other parties to travel together for protection and assistance. May 10 they started with a train of 10 or 12 wagons, 40 men and about 50 horses. They reached Salt Lake City about the 25th of June, having made 1,200 miles in about 45 days. July 6, they left their camp at Salt Lake and continued their march, reaching the Sacramento River on the 104th day from the Missouri River. They put their spare horses on a ranch, and started for the mines. They made their first camp at "Rough and Ready," a mining town in Nevada County, where they worked in

the mines until the rainy season, when they sold their horses and joined a company that had discovered a quartz vein at Brown's Valley, on the Lower, Yuba River. They expended considerable money, dug a large amount of rock that turned out well, and built a mill which, when nearly completed was carried away by a flood. They abandoned the claim. Mr. Hughes then engaged in operating some mines and a mining store, which was quite successful for a few months, until the mines failed. In the spring of 1852 he went to work by the day for a mining company at Park's Bar, Yuba River. He received \$5 a day, and worked about three months. About Sept. 1, he took the steamer "General Scott" at San Francisco for Panama; arriving, he crossed the isthmus to Aspinwall and took the steamer "Ohio" for New York. When off Cape Hatteras a gale drove the steamer into Charleston, S. C. Many passengers left, but he remained. He arrived home about Oct. 1, 1852.

Here he engaged in mercantile business until the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861, when he, on the first day of November of that year, entered the service as Second Lieutenant of Merrill's Horse, and passed the following winter in tents, in Northwestern Missouri, where the regiment was engaged in keeping down the rebels. In the summer of 1862 he was promoted First Lieutenant, but still remained on the regimental staff, where he had been assigned to duty in the beginning. He was regimental Treasurer and Ordnance officer during his entire term of service. During the summer of 1862 the regiment was actively engaged against the guerrillas. The winter of 1862-3 was passed at Warrenton, about 160 miles from St. Louis, and the next summer in fighting the guerrillas, with an occasional battle with more regular forces.

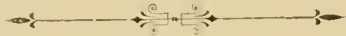
June 1, 1863, he was promoted Captain, and the same month marched to Iron Mountain, under command of Gen. Steele; they marched against and captured Little Rock, Ark., and engaged in several severe battles and skirmishes. Passed the winter in camp at Brownsville.

In the spring of 1864 he marched with his division from Little Rock, for the purpose of forming a junction with Gen. Banks near Shreveport, La., which was not accomplished, on account of the inability of the latter to reach that point. The expedition returned to Little Rock after an absence of 40 days, which had been almost a continuous battle. He

then with his regiment joined the division of Gen. Thomas at Chattanooga, where he served until the end of the war. It is a notable fact that during all his service he rode the same white horse, and although engaged in many conflicts neither himself nor horse, which he still owns, received any serious injury. Col. Merrill, the commander of the regiment, also used the same horse from the beginning to the end of the war.

On returning home at the close of the contest he again engaged in mercantile business at Bellevue, Mich., until 1876, when he went into the employ of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Company, at Big Rapids, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes have no children. He represented Eaton County in the Legislature of Michigan in 1871.



**W**alter McFarlan, farmer, sec. 19, Grant Tp., was born March 14, 1814, in Arcadia, Wayne Co., N. Y. His father, Walter McFarlan, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, May 1, 1774, and remained in his native country until he was 19 years old, coming to the United States in 1793. He followed the profession of a calico printer in Scotland, and when he settled in New York he became a farmer. He adopted the new country with all his might, became a "minute man" of 1812, was keenly alive to the issues that arose day by day brought forward for popular consideration, and exerted all his energies to aid the oppressed and relieve suffering of whatever type. When the British invaded the county of which he was a citizen, he held himself in readiness to answer her cry of distress, and was on duty when the invaders burned the village of Sodus, in Wayne County. He was an early adherent to the anti-slavery cause in New York, and on coming to Wayne County, Mich., became an essential factor in the operations of the Underground Railroad, of which he was known to be a "conductor," and without question aided as much as any other one man in securing safety and ultimate freedom for the slaves of the South who sought escape from bondage, and placed themselves under his guidance and protection. He was a zealous worker for temperance, and was a

member of the M. E. Church for more than 70 years. He was in its ministry 40 years before his death. He came to Detroit in 1825. His wife, Margaret McFarlan, was born at Fort Bruland, N. J., in 1778, during the war of the Revolution, and her father was killed by the Indians near the fort. She was married in 1800 and died Oct. 12, 1862.

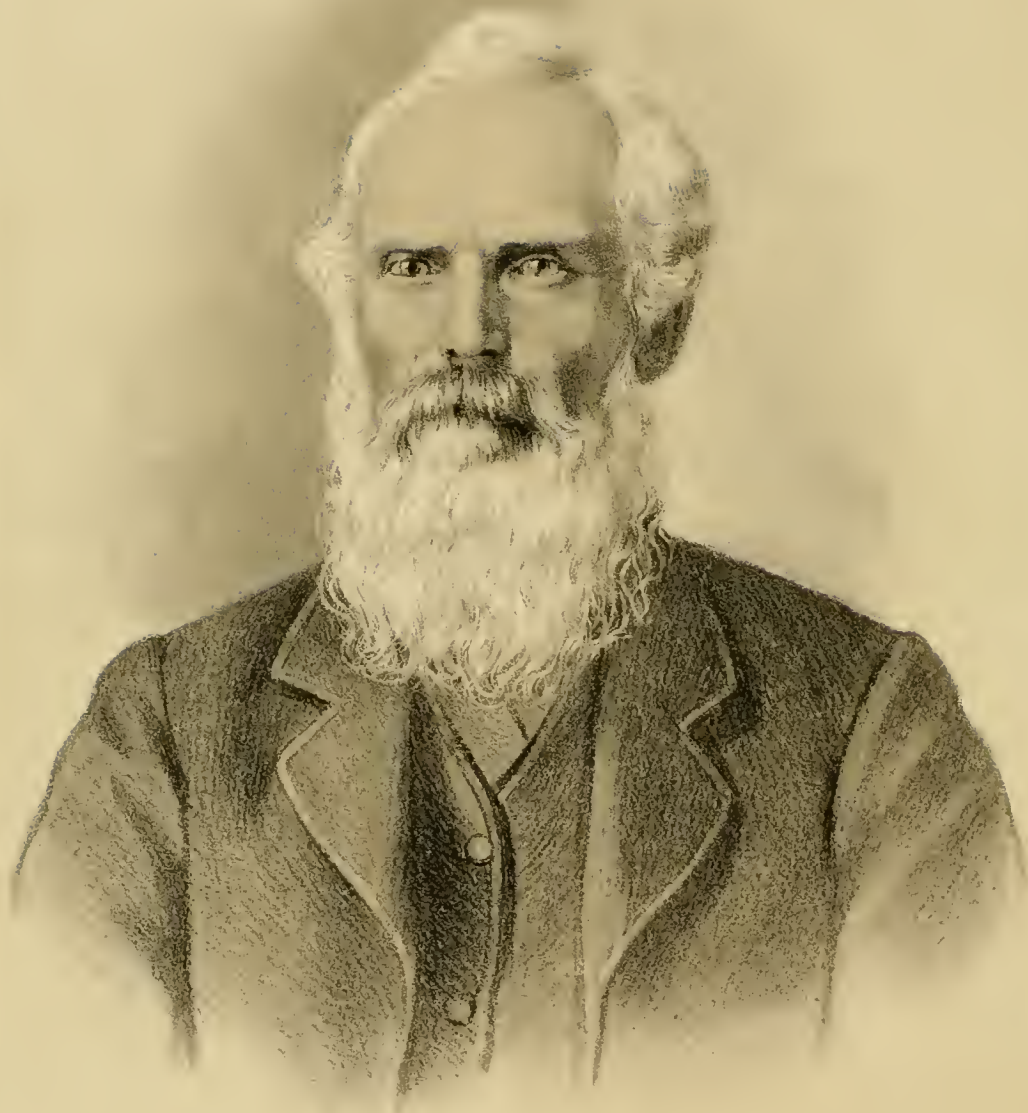
Mr. McFarlan of this sketch came to Michigan with his parents and remained with them during his minority, engaged in farm duties. He has been a farmer all his life, commencing that business on his own account by the purchase of a farm in Huron, Wayne Co., Mich., on which he lived 16 years. He next purchased a farm in St. Johns, Clinton Co., Mich., and, eight years later, came to Grant Tp., where he bought 85 acres of valuable land. Politically, Mr. McFarlan is a Republican; has been a member of the Free Methodist Church 18 years; was Justice of the Peace 12 years.

He was married Jan. 4, 1843, to Caroline Garretson, of Wayne Co., Mich. She was born April 5, 1826, and is of English extraction. Of this marriage 12 children were born, but four of whom survive: Helen P. was born March 20, 1844, and died May 19, 1875; Franklin, born Jan. 3, 1846, was a soldier of the civil war where he served two years, and died at Fort Hallock, Neb., Oct. 30, 1865; John Q. A., born Jan. 3, 1848, was also a soldier in the Union service and died June 9, 1867, of chronic diarrhoea contracted in the army; Fillmore W., born May 7, 1850, died Sept. 12, 1872; Norman J., born March 29, 1853, died April 11, 1877; Elva T., born June 15, 1855, is now Mrs. J. A. Harvey, of Newaygo Co. (married Aug. 6, 1876); Florence R., born Nov. 24, 1857, was married July 12, 1880, to John Moore, of Grant Tp.; Caroline E., born Aug. 10, 1860, died Jan. 26, 1882; David H., born Oct. 14, 1862; Benjamin R., born July 9, 1866, died July 23, 1867; Clarissa A., born Jan. 1, 1869; Sarah Jane, born Dec. 12, 1872, died March 27, 1876.



**C**harles H. Henry, harness-maker, at Big Rapids, was born at Marshall, Calhoun Co., Mich., March 3, 1852. He is a son of Lysander and Sabrina (Demming) Henry. His father was a stone-mason, and after he obtained a fair education, at the age of 17, he began to





W. G. Mitchell.

learn his trade, serving about two years in the acquirement of its details.

He enlisted in the regular United States military service at Detroit, Dec. 21, 1870, enrolling in Co. E, 19th U. S. Inf., Capt. Chas. W. Hotsenpiller. The command was sent to New Orleans, Holly Springs, St. Martinsville, La., Camp Supply, Indian Territory, and to Fort Elliot, Texas, where Mr. Henry received his discharge, Dec. 21, 1875. Returning to Michigan, he went into a harness shop at Hastings, Barry Co., remaining about 18 months. He re-enlisted in the service of the United States as saddler, and accompanied the regular army to Fort Hayes, Kansas, Fort Leavenworth and Fort Garland, Col., and went with McKenzie's command on the Uncompahgre Expedition when that tribe of Indians was removed to Utah. He went next to Arizona, and thence to New Mexico, where he was stationed at Fort Craig. He returned to Michigan in the spring of 1882, and on the 7th of August following he came to Big Rapids and for a time was in the harness shop of D. McLellan. Six months later he opened his present business, where he is operating successfully and steadily, building up a substantial trade.

Mr. Henry was married June 15, 1882, at Lowell, Kent Co., Mich., to Lois S., daughter of George and ——— (Kinnie) Elms. Mrs. Henry was born at Fayetteville, N. Y., Dec. 23, 1852.



**W**illiam G. Mitchell, farmer and lumberman, resident on sec. 7, Etna Tp., was born in Steuben Co., N. Y., Aug. 9, 1823. His father, Zephaniah Platt Mitchell, and his mother, Anna (Saxton) Mitchell, were natives of Dutchess Co., N. Y., and settled in Saratoga County, their farm lying on the site of the most celebrated resort in the world; there they died, aged 87 and 86 years respectively. Mr. Mitchell received all the advantages of the common schools and parental care until he was 20 years of age, when he came to Livingston Co., Mich., and worked on a farm from 1843 to 1850, operating winter seasons in the lumber woods of Mecosta County. He came here in 1850, to fix his final residence, and has been actively engaged in lumbering and in buying and selling

lands,—a period of over 30 years. He owns a tract of 400 acres and a home farm of 80 acres in a finely improved condition and valuable for location and fertility.

Mr. Mitchell's name is inseparably associated with the history of Mecosta County and Etna Tp. Ira P. Mitchell, his third child and eldest son, was the first white child born in this township and county. The family retain the sense of their pioneership to an extraordinary degree. The farm is supplied with modern buildings for all necessary purposes, but only recently did the primitive log house give place to the substantial, comely frame house now occupied by the family. The old door and its latch are preserved in memory of the "first" days of the county and there are in their possession several relics, valuable for their age and associations. Among them is a pocket-book, 110 years old; a pair of eye-glasses, more than 150 years old, with lenses of the commonest material, and several times larger than those in modern use, round as the full moon, with iron braces, heavy and cumbersome; a razor more than 300 years old is preserved and has all the veritable claims of its species for sharpness. A fact specially to be noted is that Mr. Mitchell was the first to effect a permanent settlement in the Township; there were other earlier comers, but they proved to be goers also. It was believed at that date that this section was useless for agricultural purposes, but an experiment the first year proved the fallacy of the supposition. The small garden of Mr. Mitchell, planted with a variety of vegetables, was the first effort at agriculture in Mecosta County.

Mr. Mitchell was married in Livingston Co., Putman Tp., to Mary A., daughter of Simon and Mary (Jenkins) Plyton, natives of New York, where Mrs. Mitchell was born, in Weedsport, May 7, 1832. They have had 13 children, eight of whom are yet living: Sarah E., born July 26, 1851, now wife of Peter Cahill; Emma M., born May 19, 1853, wife of Joseph Cahill; Ira P., born June 4, 1855; Margaret, wife of John Weidman, born Nov. 4, 1858; William C., born Oct. 4, 1863; Oliver, born July 31, 1865; Nora, wife of Jefferson Miller, of Monticello, born May 4, 1868, and Floyd, born August 24, 1874. The deceased were Martha, born Oct. 22, 1849, died Sept. 6, 1851; Edwin, born Sept. 21, 1867, died May 1, 1868; Alona R., born May 22, 1873, died Oct. 15,

1873; Hattie M., born Oct. 29, 1870, died Feb. 13, 1881; Jennie, born Aug. 22, 1878, died Feb. 16, 1881.

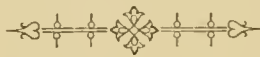
Mr. Mitchell is independent in politics, and is an adherent of the M. E. Church; has been Township Treasurer three years, and Justice of the Peace four years. His portrait is given in this book.



**G**eorge W. Cornell, farmer on sec. 35, Aetna Tp., was born Oct. 31, 1833, in Westchester Co., N. Y. His parents, Thomas and Anna (Merritt) Cornell, were natives of the same State.

On the death of his mother, in 1850, he left home and went to Steuben County, where he was occupied with agricultural pursuits until 1864, when he returned to Westchester County and there was similarly engaged until the autumn of 1872. He came in that year to Mecosta County and settled in Aetna Tp., where he bought 80 acres of land in a wild state and has now 30 acres in a cultivated condition.

Mr. Cornell was married in Tioga Co., Penn., March 9, 1858, to Lydia M., daughter of John W. and Polly (Wheeler) Richardson, natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Cornell was born June 19, 1839, at Ridgeberry, Bradford Co., Penn. She is a member of the M. E. Church, and actively interested in all questions of general advantage to the community to which she belongs. Her mother resides with her.



**D**aniel F. Woolley, M. D., the pioneer physician of Big Rapids, was born Aug. 16, 1829, at Fremont, Ohio. His father died when he was 18 months old. He was brought up on a farm until the age of 12, when he went to learn the trade of harness-maker and worked three years. He then entered the employ of L. V. D. Cook as clerk in a dry-goods store, where he remained until 1849. In that year he came to Grand Rapids and attended the school of Prof. Franklin Everett several terms. He next found a position with J. Morrison, general merchant, where he was occupied until 1853, in which year Mr. Morrison established a branch of his business at Croton, Newaygo

Co., and placed Dr. Woolley in charge. In the fall of 1854 the latter went to Newaygo and, associated with A. B. Furman, commenced the sale of groceries and provisions. He sold out in the spring of 1855 and bought a half interest in the drug store of Dr. Charles H. Leonard, where he transacted business until the fall of 1857, when he went to Ann Arbor and entered the Medical Department of the University of Michigan. He went to Lawton in the spring of 1859, where he remained but a few months.

While in business at Newaygo, he became satisfied of the practicability of Big Rapids as a point to establish himself as a medical practitioner. It was the nucleus of a large lumber district, and the place itself as well as the section contiguous, had no physician, and experience and observation both proved conclusively the feasibility of the outlook; moreover, his acquaintance with the few permanent settlers in the county was propitious. He was well known among them, and had acquired a fair degree of popularity, which was eminently favorable to the project; and in 1859 he transferred his interests, business and family to Big Rapids. His first patient to whom he was called, within an hour after his arrival, was the daughter of Judge Barker, now Mrs. V. W. Bruce, of the Big Rapids *Current*.

The city was in its incipency. The households were less than ten in number, and the entire white resident population included about 60 persons. The comparative sanitary condition of Big Rapids and adjacent districts was much more favorable than afterwards. The inhabitants were all in moderate circumstances, lived simply and regularly, and were in no sense invalids. As a rule, pioneers are a hardy, robust class, people who expect to encounter hardship and possess the requisite physical qualification. Hence the local practice at Big Rapids and that of its immediate vicinity was restricted. The trappers and Indians were literally free from disease; but with civilization came sickness. The removal of the forests admitted sun and light, and the consequent decay and transformation of vegetable accumulations set free deleterious matter and malarial disease followed. The consequent increase of medical business can be estimated from the grade of increase in the population, coupled with the resultant conditions named.

Dr. Woolley is regarded as one of the most reliable members of the medical fraternity of Northern Mich-



igan. His name is a household word at Big Rapids, so intimately is he connected with the majority of the leading families there. His traits as a man inspire the confidence necessary to a successful prosecution of his business, which is sustained by a large and constant patronage. He has been identified with all public movements for the progress of the city, and his efforts in all directions where his influence was needed have been unremitting. He belongs to the Order of Masons, and has served his county two terms as Sheriff. He owns his residence and two lots on Locust street, between Michigan avenue and State street.

He was married in Newaygo, Oct. 25, 1858, to Frances C. Stearns, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Stearns. She was born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., March 17, 1838. To Dr. and Mrs. Woolley, four children have been born: Vernor S., Kate M., Jesse and Edith E. Kate M. Woolley died Aug. 30, 1883, aged 17 years.

**W**illiam F. Slawson, city editor of the Big Rapids *Daily Pioneer*, was born at Greenville, Mich., May 30, 1849, being the son of Hiram H. and Eusebia (Fleming) Slawson, and until the age of 18 pursued his studies at the high school of his native place, with the exception of about a year and a half, which time was spent in attending school at Rockford, Ill. At the age of 18 he entered the office of the Greenville *Independent* as an apprentice, and served three years, at the expiration of which time he went to Syracuse, N. Y., and entered the extensive job printing establishment of Hitchcock & Smith, where he remained a few weeks, and then engaged with the Seneca Falls *Reveille*, in which office he remained a short time, and then returned to Syracuse and entered the office of Rose & Miller, job and book printers. Here he spent several weeks, and then returned to the office of Hitchcock & Smith, where he was located when, in 1871, he received an urgent invitation from his old employer in Greenville to again enter his employ as foreman of the office, which invitation he concluded to accept, and in this capacity remained in the *Independent* office six years. At the conclusion of the six years Mr. Slawson leased the job department

of the *Independent* office, conducting the same one year, and then removed to Ionia County, where he remained nearly a year, and then returned to Greenville and established the *Montcalm Telegram*, an independent local paper, and continued its publication until January, 1879, when he removed the office to Big Rapids, and in partnership with Mr. V. W. Bruce commenced the publication of the Big Rapids *Current*. In the following November Mr. Slawson disposed of his interest in the *Current*, Mr. Bruce purchasing the same, and entered the employ of the Detroit Paper Company as traveling salesman. After a few months, however, he quit the road, and opened a grocery store at Sebawa, Ionia Co., in which business he was engaged, when Mr. Bruce, his former partner, in the publication of the Big Rapids *Current*, made him a proposition for the purpose of receiving his services on the *Current*, which proposition he accepted upon closing out his grocery business, and remained with the *Current* until the spring of 1882, when he became connected with the *Pioneer* in the above mentioned capacity.

Mr. Slawson was married in Greenville, on the 8th day of March, 1877, to Miss Lizzie Justice, who was born in Chicago, Feb. 25, 1857. Mr. Slawson and wife are members of the Congregational Church, of which he is Treasurer, and is also Superintendent of the Sunday-school.

**J**ohn W. Sparks, farmer, sec. 14, Chippewa Tp., was born Feb. 11, 1830, in Crawford Co., Pa. He is the fifth child of Henry and Rebecca (Davis) Sparks. His father was born in Trenton, N. J., and was a son of Leonard and Lydia Sparks. The family are of mixed Welsh and German origin on the paternal side, the great-grandparents of Mr. Sparks having been natives of those countries respectively. His father was a teacher of prominence in Pittsburg, Pa., and after marriage went to Crawford County, and established himself as a farmer when that portion of the Keystone State was primeval wilderness. He passed 40 years on his homestead and then died, July 23, 1883. The mother was born in West Virginia, Aug. 4, 1804, and died in March, 1875.

Mr. Sparks was reared to the age of 18 years under the personal care of his father. He then

went to work for Uriah Foust, blacksmith, with whom he remained two years, going thence to Hartstown, where he remained three years. While there he was married—July 3, 1832, to Marry Harris, a native of Crawford County, born Sept. 12, 1835. She was a daughter of John and Annie (Boyer) Harris, natives of Pennsylvania and of German origin. Mr. Sparks went to Williamsfield, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, and worked at his trade until 1863, when he went to the oil regions of Venango Co., Pa.; thence he came four years later to Michigan and located where he now lives, in September, 1867. That part of Mecosta County was almost wholly a wilderness, there being but one settler within the limits of Chippewa Tp. He built a log house, the second structure for several miles, and when the township was organized he was elected its first Supervisor, and served two terms. The first township meeting was held in his house, as was the first religious meeting; and the first Sunday-school was organized there. This is the historic house of the township of Chippewa, and is still occupied by the original proprietor and his family.

The first wife of Mr. Sparks died in Williamsfield, in 1859. Two of her five children yet survive: George E. and Emma A. (Mrs. Edgar Morford). Mr. Sparks was married a second time to Celia, daughter of William H. and Permelia (Grout) Manning. She was born June 17, 1835. Of this marriage five children were born, two of whom are yet living, Celia Bell and Ceyion Manning.

**J**ames Burrison farmer on sec. 15, Hinton Tp., was born in Canada, Sept. 7, 1819. He is a son of John and Mary (Johnson) Burrison, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of Canada, where both died. Mr. Burrison lived in Canada until 1870, engaged in farming and lumbering. He came to Grand Rapids in the fall of that year and was occupied three years in teaming, and in 1873 bought 80 acres of wild land in Hinton Tp., which he has since improved and where he now resides. He purchased an additional 80 acres, and now has 90 acres under an advanced state of cultivation. Politically, Mr. B. is a Democrat. He was married Aug. 19, 1855, in Can-

ada. to Ann, daughter of James and Ann Bennie, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Canada, where Mrs. Burrison was born Jan. 19, 1840. They have had eleven children, as follows: James W., born July 16, 1859; John, April 28, 1861; Sarah E., June 27, 1863; Joshua, June 6, 1865; Sybil, Oct. 6, 1868; Charley E., April 17, 1871; Mary E., July 27, 1874; George, born Aug. 12, 1877, died July 27, 1878.

**W**illiam P. Nisbett, editor and proprietor of the Big Rapids *Herald*, was born in London, Eng., May 9, 1847, and is a son of Thomas P. and Eliza Nisbett.

In 1861 he came to the United States in company with his parents, who settled in New York, and two years later removed to Pontiac, Oakland Co., Mich. The last call for troops to aid in quelling the Southern Rebellion was made just previous to the eighteenth birthday of Mr. Nisbett, and he enlisted as a recruit for the 16th Mich. Inf., then actively engaged at the front. He was in the United States service but a short time, being mustered out in June, 1865, at Jackson, Mich.

In January, 1869, Mr. Nisbett founded and commenced publishing the Pontiac *Bill Poster*, which he continued until 1876, when ill-health necessitated a change, and he sold out his interest as publisher, but remained its political editor until the close of the Presidential campaign of 1880. Under his management the paper became a widely circulated and influential Democratic organ. He became well known in the politics of the State of Michigan, and was twice chosen Secretary of the State Democratic Convention. In his own section he was a leader in politics, and was during six years Chairman of the Oakland County Democratic Committee. He has always been a declared Democrat, and was one of the first to oppose and actively combat the Greenback movement in Michigan.

He was elected Alderman of his ward when 21 years old, and served two terms subsequently as Supervisor. He was Chief Engineer of the Pontiac Fire Department, with which he was connected a number of years, and filled acceptably other positions of trust while a resident of Pontiac, which covered a period of 17 years.

On leaving there he spent a short time in Colorado.

After visiting other parts of the West, he came to Big Rapids, and in the spring of 1882 purchased the Big Rapids *Herald*, and again settled himself in the publishing business. The *Herald* is rapidly improving under his management, and is fast becoming an influential and profitable country newspaper.



**Oliver D. Glidden**, with Glidden & Marsh, was born in Clarendon, Orleans Co., N. Y., Aug. 1, 1828. He is a son of Jehiel and Betsey J. (Davis) Glidden, and was reared on a farm, attending winter terms of school. At 19 he entered the Rockport Collegiate Institute, where he was a student a part of each of two years. He then spent summers and winters alternately in farming and teaching.

In 1852 he came West to Paw Paw, Van Buren Co., Mich., and became clerk and accountant in a store, where he passed several years. In 1876 he came to Big Rapids and started the Big Rapids *Herald*, the first issue of which appeared May 24, 1876. Its contemporary, the Big Rapids *Magnet*, thus announced its advent: "The Big Rapids *Herald* made its appearance last week. It is a six column quarto—same size as the *Magnet*—and Democratic to the core."

The publishing firm was O. D. Glidden & Co.; D. F. Glidden, son of the senior proprietor, being partner and associate editor. In 1878 the latter retired, and B. H. Howig was admitted as successor. During the last year of Mr. Glidden's connection with the *Herald*, its publishers collected a large amount of statistical matter concerning the early settlement of the city and county, which was arranged and published in the columns of the paper, and finally was issued in pamphlet and book form. It was also a complete Business Directory of Big Rapids at the date of its publication—1881.

The publishers of the Portrait and Biographical Album of Mecosta County have the pleasure of acknowledging the valuable assistance derived from the unpretentious work of Messrs. Glidden & Howig. Its data of early history have been found reliable, and its simplicity and accuracy have materially expe-

ditioned the labors attendant upon the compilation of this book.

Mr. Glidden disposed of his moiety of interest in the *Herald* to his partner in 1881, and has since been occupied in his present capacity for various firms.

He was married in Clarendon, Orleans Co., N. Y. March 30, 1848. His wife died in Paw Paw, Mich. March 4, 1864, leaving two children: Durelle F., born in Clarendon, N. Y., June 12, 1850 (see sketch), and Ida, born May 17, 1852, and died in Paw Paw, March 7, 1875. Mr. Glidden was again married in Paw Paw, Feb. 16, 1865, to Miss Maria Flynn, of Orleans Co., N. Y.

While a resident of Van Buren County, Mr. Glidden was Supervisor one year, Town Clerk one year, and Village Assessor of Paw Paw seven years. He was elected Supervisor of the First Ward in the spring of 1883 (current year), is a member of the Order of Masonry, Knights of Pythias, and the Good-Templars.



**William H. Brown**, farmer, sec 20, Fork Tp., was born in Middlesex Co., Mass., Nov. 5, 1833. His father, William H. Brown, was born in Concord, Mass., and died in 1881. His mother, Anstris (Baldwin) Brown, was born in Waltham, Mass., and died in 1838. He obtained such education as the district and high schools of his native county afforded, and when ready to make his own way in the world, he went to Richmond, Va., and obtained a situation as fireman on the Richmond & Danville R. R., transferring later to the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Co., where he worked in their shops one year. He was then employed as fireman by the same company, and a year later "got his engine," and operated as an engineer four years. He spent nine months in New Hampshire, among his friends, and again returned to Piedmont, Va., where he again commenced life as an engineer, continuing in that capacity two years. He went thence to Zanesville, Ohio, and was engaged in the same business on the Cen. O. R. R., three years. While in this employment he was injured by a car wheel passing over his foot. Later on he went to Jo Daviess Co., Ill., and

was engaged there three years in farming. Returning to Norwalk, Ohio, he obtained employment in the machine shops and remained there four years, going thence to Rockford, Ill., where he was employed four months in the car shops. His next transfer was to Adrian Mich., to the employ of the L. S. & M. S. R. R. Co., and three months later went to work on the Sandusky, Dayton & Cincinnati Railroad.

In the spring of 1866 he came to Mecosta County, and located 80 acres of land under the homestead act, in the township of Fork. The place was no exception to the general state of the land in the township, and was in heavy timber. Of the original purchase, he has 20 acres under the best improvements.

Mr. Brown was married July 15, 1856, to Cynthia L., daughter of Nathaniel R. and Hannah (Simonds) Bourne. Her father was born in Summers, Tolland Co., Conn., and her mother in Enfield, Conn. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have two children: William E. was born June 30, 1858, and married July 12, 1883, to Ida Ingraham; Oliver P. was born July 30, 1863. Mr. Brown is a Republican, and among the most prominent citizens of the township; has been Treasurer two years, and Clerk ten years.

**W**illiam H. Webster, of the firm of G. W. Webster & Son, architects and builders, Big Rapids, was born in Montoursville, Lycoming Co., Pa., Dec. 13, 1857.

G. W. Webster operated many years as Master Mechanic on various railroads in the East, and came to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1867. A year later he came to Big Rapids and engaged as contractor in building bridges, depots, round-houses, etc., on the G. R. & I. railroad, afterward entering the service of the C. & W. M. railroad in the same capacity.

William H. Webster attended school in his native town until he was 17 years old, when he came to Big Rapids, and was some time under the instructions of his father in learning the business of architect and builder. Meanwhile he went back to Pennsylvania, where he spent two winters at Williamsport College, and afterward went to Hillsdale College one winter. He studied architecture in the winter of 1882-3, in the office of Hewitt Bros., of Philadelphia.

His partnership with his father was formed in 1880,

since which they have operated together as builders, etc., furnishing also plans, specifications and estimates of cost of buildings. They have erected a number of buildings at Big Rapids.

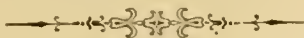
**N**athan M. Coates, farmer, sec. 4, Big Rapids Tp., was born June 2, 1829, in Northamptonshire, Eng., and when a year old was brought to this country by his parents. Mr. Coates came to Michigan in June, 1852, and settled in Muskegon County, and purchased a farm of 120 acres, where he resided until 1857. In that year he sold his place and came to Big Rapids, where he bought 80 acres of land, then in its primal condition of dense wilderness, lying one mile northwest of the city limits, and the homestead where he has since resided. He has cleared and improved 60 acres, which is now in a fine state of cultivation, and has a good frame house and other creditable farm appurtenances.

Mr. Coates was married April 15, 1860, to Emily Jane Preston, of Big Rapids, born in Owego, N. Y., Sept. 9, 1841. She died Nov. 30, 1877, leaving seven children: William H., George D., Lucy A., Harriet L., Charles (died June 14, 1883), Anna and Nathan. Mr. Coates was a second time married Oct. 12, 1880, to Delinda Mawhorter, born in Ohio, Jan. 28, 1837. She was a widow with one son, Willard A.

Mr. Coates has been Justice of the Peace six years and Road Commissioner the same length of time. Himself and wife are members of the Baptist Church.

**J**ohn Hinton, first settler in the township of Hinton, was a native of Wales. He married Phebe Ribble, a native of New Jersey, in 1812. They came to Mecosta County in October, 1855, and settled on sec. 15. Mrs. Hinton's death occurred Feb. 18, 1860, and was the first event of the kind in the township. It is held that the second marriage of Mr. Hinton to Mariette Rockwood, celebrated May 26, 1860, was the first marriage in the township. The first frame

barn was erected by Mr. Hinton in 1856. He died Jan. 4, 1874. The township was named in his honor.



**S**tephen Hoynes, resident at Big Rapids was born in Olmstead, now West View, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, Dec. 26, 1858, and is a son of Daniel and Catherine Hoynes. His father was born in Amsterdam, N. Y., in 1829, pursued agriculture all his life and died at West View, May 2, 1878. His mother was born in New York in 1826, and is resident on the homestead at West View.

Mr. Hoynes was engaged in acquiring his education until the age of 16, when he was apprenticed to a tailor at Olmstead Falls, and served four years, fitting himself in all details for a practical tailor. He then went to Cleveland and entered the employ of Jacob Wageman as cutter. He worked successively for Henry Cobel, and Petzkie & Stern, remaining with the latter house four years, meanwhile obtaining a commercial education in the Spencerian Business College. He came to Big Rapids Feb. 15, 1882, to enter the employ of F. W. Joslin as chief of the merchant-tailoring department, of which he is still in charge. He is popular and efficient in all the branches of business of which he is the manager.

John H. Hoynes, his brother, is a member of the firm of Adams & Hoynes, hardware dealers at Cleveland. William Hoynes, another brother, is manager of a department with C. M. Clark & Co., hardware merchants of the same city. Michael J. Hoynes, a third brother, is foreman of the Cleveland Electro-type Company.



**J**ames H. Buck, farmer, sec. 7, Aetna Tp., was born in New York, Oct. 1, 1830, and is a son of Allen and Mary Buck, both natives of New York, where they resided until about 1862. In that year they came to Barry Co., Mich., where they remained during the closing years of their lives. The father died in 1866 and

the mother departed this life very soon afterward.

Mr. Buck was married in New York, in 1855, to Sophia, daughter of George and Hannah Christer. She was born in the Empire State in 1832. Of this marriage 11 children have been born: Mary (Mrs. John Carlon); Hannah (wife of Alphonso Oberley); George, Charles and Lewis W. There are six deceased, viz: Len, Caroline, James, Gertrude and two children who died in infancy.

Mr. Buck came to Mecosta County in 1866, and settled on 80 acres of land, which he had previously purchased in Aetna Tp., which has since been his homestead. He is a member of the M. E. Church, and is an indorser of the principles of the Republican party.



**J**ames Aitken, lumberman and farmer, Big Rapids, is a native of Albany, N. Y., where he was born July 7, 1831. His parents, John and Janet (Bald) Aitken, were both born in Scotland. The father was engaged in the manufacture of patent leather in Albany, and when his son was but a child removed his family to a farm in Kingston, Can., where the boy was brought up to agricultural pursuits and trained as a lumberman. At 17 he was employed in the Dominion as a "land-looker."

He went to Ancaster, Can., in 1856, where he remained four years, removing thence to Morris, Huron Co., Can., and bought a farm of 102 acres, where he gave his attention to agriculture eight years. His next transfer of home and interests was to Albion, Calhoun Co., Mich. He remained there one year, and in 1867 came to Big Rapids, where he was engaged some years as a land inspector. He afterwards formed a partnership with Wm. Phippen, in the purchase of pine lands, putting the timber in the river. This relation existed three years, and on its dissolution he entered into a business association with S. H. Gray, and prosecuted the same enterprise until the spring of 1883, when their connection ceased.

On the location of Mr. Aitken at Big Rapids, he

bought two city lots of C. C. Fuller, and built his dwelling-house. In 1868 he bought 120 acres of land in the Fourth Ward, all of which is in a state of progressive cultivation. He is also the proprietor of 120 acres of hard-wood land in the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 34, and of 40 acres in the northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 13, township of Big Rapids, besides several tracts of stump land, aggregating between 1,500 and 1,600 acres. He was elected member of the City Council in the spring of 1883.

Mr. Aitken was married in Ancaster, Can. W., Dec. 15, 1856, to Jennett, daughter of Alexander and Dorothy (Wright) Patterson, born at Dundas, Can., June 10, 1838. Robert, eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Aitken, was born Dec. 15, 1857, at Ancaster, and died at Big Rapids, Dec. 5, 1869; Jennie was born at Ancaster, Oct. 18, 1859; David A., was born Nov. 17, 1861, in Morris, Can., and John, born in the same place, Aug. 12, 1863. They are all at home.



**J**ohn Franklin Brown (deceased), was born in Newark Tp., Tioga Co., N. Y., where he grew to manhood under the supervision and instruction of his parents, and received a business training whose character and value were amply elaborated by the splendor of his career until it was closed by his death.

His business life began in Owego, Tioga Co., N. Y., where he was employed as a lumberman by a gentleman named George Hollenbeck, after which he engaged in the lumber and stock trade in his native State, having his headquarters at Owego, N. Y., until he located at Big Rapids. In 1864 he came West and began lumber operations, where is now the beautiful and thriving Forest City, then a village comparatively, and in 1868 he transferred his entire interests to this point, where he was actively engaged until his death, which occurred March 30, 1881.

His business connections at Big Rapids were extensive and varied, and in their management he displayed a shrewdness and judgment second to that of no man who was ever associated with the public affairs or commercial interests of Mecosta County.

His influence will be felt until the present generation have joined him in the world beyond, and the enterprises which he initiated and assisted in establishing are among the most prominent, permanent and reliable of this city and county. In 1871 he organized the Tioga Manufacturing Company, and was its Managing Director as long as he lived. He was associated in the organization of the Northern National Bank at Big Rapids in 1871, and his connection therewith as its second official Vice-President terminated only with his life.

Mr. Brown was never married. In his private life his record is stainless; he won and held the confidence of his friends, and those whom he assisted in seasons of perplexity preserve for him deep and lasting gratitude. The business and social world of Big Rapids will long cherish the memory of his unselfishness and solicitude for the best interests of the community and mourn his irreparable loss. (See sketch of Maria Brown.)



**J**ohn Hickey, Big Rapids, was born July 23, 1845, at Montreal, Can., and is a son of John and Angelique Hickey. He was brought up on a farm until the age of 17, attending school most of the time.

In 1860 he went to the State of New York and was there variously occupied one year, when he came to Muskegon, Mich., engaging in the lumber woods and driving logs in the river. In the fall of 1874 he came to Big Rapids and engaged in the Montreal House as a clerk. The following spring he engaged as clerk in the clothing store of F. W. Joslin, where he remained two years. He then entered the employ of A. Sachen, clothing merchant, and clerked there two years.

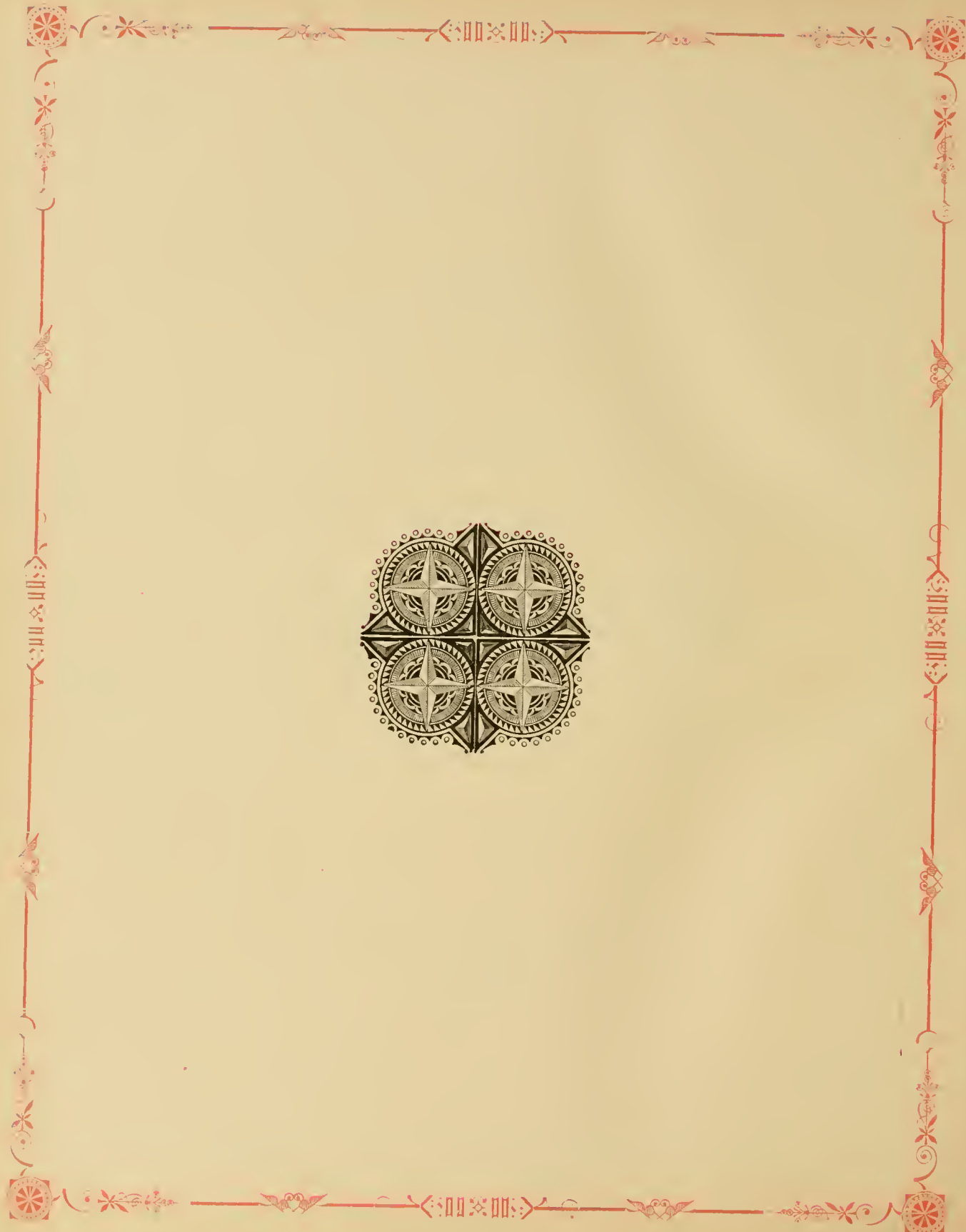
In 1879 he opened business at his present stand, where he keeps a good stock of foreign and domestic liquors, cigars, etc., and is doing a thriving business.

He was married at Big Rapids, Sept. 12, 1876, to Fanny Smith, born in Pembroke, Can. Mr. and Mrs. Hickey are the parents of two children,—Angelique and John.



HISTORICAL.









## INTRODUCTORY.

**W**ITHIN one brief generation, a dense and unbroken wilderness has been transformed into a cultivated region of thrift and prosperity, by the untiring zeal and energy of an enterprising people. The trails of hunters and trappers have given place to railroads and thoroughfares for vehicles of every description; the cabins and garden patches of the pioneers have been succeeded by comfortable houses and broad fields of waving grain, with school-houses, churches, mills, postoffices and other institutions of convenience for each community. Add to these a city of five thousand inhabitants, and numerous thriving villages, with extensive manufacturing interests, and the result is a work of which all concerned may well be proud.

The record of this marvelous change is history, and the most important that can be written. For thirty years the people of Mecosta County have been making a history that for thrilling

interest, grand practical results, and lessons that may be perused with profit by citizens of other regions, will compare favorably with the narrative of the history of any county in the great Northwest; and considering the extent of territory involved, it is as worthy of the pen of a Bancroft as even the story of our glorious Republic.

While our venerable ancestors may have said and believed,

"No pent-up Utica contracts our powers,  
For the whole boundless continent is ours,"

they were nevertheless for a long time content to occupy and possess a very small corner of it; and the great West was not opened to industry and civilization until a variety of causes had combined to form as it were a great heart, whose animating principle was improvement, whose impulses annually sent westward armies of noble men and women and whose pulse is now felt throughout the length and breadth of the best country the sun ever shone upon,—from the rocky coasts of Maine to the vineyards of California, and from the sugar-canes of Louisiana to the wheat-fields of Minnesota. Long may this heart beat and push forward its arteries and veins of commerce!

Not more from choice than from enforced necessity, did the old pioneers bid farewell to the playgrounds of their childhood and the graves of their

fathers. One generation after another had worn themselves out in the service of their avaricious landlords. From the first flashes of daylight in the morning until the last glimmer of the setting sun, they had toiled unceasingly on, from father to son, carrying home each day upon their aching shoulders the precious proceeds of their daily labor. Money and pride and power were handed down in the line of succession from the rich father to his son, while unceasing work and continuous poverty and everlasting obscurity were the heritage of the working man and his children.

Their society was graded and degraded. It was not manners, nor industry, nor education, nor qualities of the head and heart that established the grade. It was money and jewels, and silk and satin, and broadcloth and imperious pride, that triumphed over honest poverty and trampled the poor man and his children under the iron heel. The children of the rich and poor were not permitted to mingle with and to love each other. Courtship was more the work of the parents than of the sons and daughters. The golden calf was the key to matrimony. To perpetuate a self-constituted aristocracy, without power of brain, or the rich blood of royalty, purse was united to purse, and cousin with cousin, in bonds of matrimony, until the virus boiling in their blood was transmitted by the law of inheritance from one generation to another, and until nerves powerless and manhood dwarfed were on exhibition everywhere, and everywhere abhorred. For the sons and daughters of the poor man to remain there was to forever follow as our fathers had followed and never lead; to submit, but never to rule; to obey, but never to command.

Without money, or prestige, or influential friends, the old pioneers drifted along one by one, from State to State, until in Michigan—the garden of the Union—they have found inviting homes for each, and room for all. To secure and adorn these homes more than ordinary ambition was required, greater than ordinary endurance demanded, and unflinching determination was, by the force of necessity, written over every brow. It was not pomp, or parade, or glittering slow, that the pioneers were after. They sought for homes which they could call their own,—homes for themselves and homes for their children. How well they have succeeded after a struggle of many years against the adverse tides, let the records

and tax-gatherers testify; let the broad cultivated fields and fruit-bearing orchards, the flocks and the herds, the palatial residences, the places of business, the spacious halls, the clattering car wheels and ponderous engines all testify.

There was a time when pioneers waded through deep snows, across bridgeless rivers, and through bottomless sloughs, a score of miles to mill or market, and when more time was required to reach and return from market than is now required to cross the continent, or traverse the Atlantic. These were the times when our palaces were constructed of logs and covered with "shakes" riven from the forest trees. These were the times when our children were stowed away for the night in the low, dark attics, amongst the horns of the elk and the deer, and where through the chinks in the "shakes" they could count the twinkling stars. These were the times when our chairs and our bedsteads were hewn from the forest trees, and tables and bureaus constructed from the boxes in which their goods were brought. These were the times when the workingman worked six and sometimes seven days in the week, and all the hours there were in a day from sunrise to sunset.

Whether all succeeded in what they undertook is not a question to be asked now. The proof that as a body they did succeed is all around us. Many individuals were perhaps disappointed. Fortunes and misfortunes belong to the human race. Not every man can have a school-house on the corner of his farm; not every man can have a bridge over a stream that flows by his dwelling; not every man can have a railroad depot on the borders of his plantation, or a city in its center; and while these things are desirable in some respects, their advantages are oftentimes outweighed by the almost perpetual presence of the foreign beggar, the dreaded tramp, the fear of fire and conflagration, and the insecurity from the presence of the midnight burglar, and the bold bad men and women who lurk in ambush and infest the villages. The good things of this earth are not all to be found in any one place; but if more is to be found in any one place than another, that place is in our rural retreats,—our quiet homes outside of the clamor and turmoil of city life.

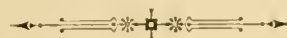
In viewing the blessings which surround us, then, we should reverence those who have made them possible, and ever fondly cherish in memory the sturdy old PIONEER and his LOG CABIN.

Let us turn our eyes and thoughts back to the log-cabin days of a quarter of a century ago, and contrast those homes with the comfortable dwellings of to-day. Before us stands the old log cabin. Let us enter. Instinctively the head is uncovered in token of reverence to this relic of ancestral beginnings, early struggles and final triumphs. To the left is the deep, wide fire-place, in whose commodious space a group of children may sit by the fire and up through the chimney may count the stars, while ghostly stories of witches and giants, and still more thrilling stories of Indians and wild beasts, are whisperingly told and shudderingly heard. On the great crane hang the old tea-kettle and the great iron pot. The huge shovel and tongs stand sentinel in either corner, while the great andirons patiently wait for the huge back log. Over the fire-place hangs the trusty rifle. To the right of the fire-place stands the spinning-wheel, while in the further end of the room is seen the old fashioned loom. Strings of drying apples and poles of drying pumpkins are overhead. Opposite the door in which you enter stands a huge deal table, by its side the dresser whose "pewter plates" and "shining delf" catch and reflect the fire-place flames as shields of armies do the sunshine. From the corner of its shelves coyly peep out the relics of former china. In a curtained corner and hid from casual sight we find the mother's bed, and under it the trundle-bed, while near them a ladder indicates the loft where the older children sleep. To the left of the fire-place and in the corner opposite the spinning-wheel is the mother's work-stand. Upon it lies the Bible, evidently much used, its family record telling of parents and friends a long way off, and telling, too, of children

*"Scattered like roses in bloom,  
Some at the bridal, and some at the tomb."*

Her spectacles, as if but just used, are inserted between the leaves of her Bible, and tell of her purpose to return to its comforts when cares permit and duty is done. A stool, a bench, well notched and whittled and carved, and a few chairs complete the furniture of the room, and all stand on a coarse but well-scoured flour. Let us for a moment watch the city visitors to this humble cabin. The city bride, innocent but thoughtless, and ignorant of labor and care, asks her city-bred husband, "Pray, what savages set this up?" Honestly confessing his ignorance,

he replies, "I do not know." But see the pair on whom age sits "frosty but kindly." First, as they enter, they give a rapid glance about the cabin home, and then a mutual glance of eye to eye. Why do tears start and fill their eyes? Why do lips quiver? There are many who know why; but who that has not learned in the school of experience the full meaning of all these symbols of trials and privations, of loneliness and danger, can comprehend the story that they tell to the pioneer? Within this chinked and mud-daubed cabin, we read the first pages of our history; and as we retire through its low door-way, and note the heavy battened door, its wooden hinges and its welcoming latch-string, is it strange that the scenes without should seem to be but a dream? But the cabin and the palace, standing side by side in vivid contrast, tell their own story of this people's progress. They are a history and a prophecy in one.



#### VALUE OF LOCAL HISTORY.

**B**EFORE proceeding with the narrative of the development of Mecosta County, it may not be inappropriate to refer to the value of local history. It is 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 America 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. If this information is not now collected and compiled in historical form, the generations of the future will be called upon to expend

large sums of money in research and exploration. 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 the grave.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES.

### GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL.

THE county of Mecosta is a model county in point of size, shape and divisions. It is an exact square, composed of 16 Congressional townships, four on each side. These coincide with the 16 civil townships which have been organized within the county, with two exceptions. In the case of Grant and Green Townships, owing to the interference of the Muskegon River, about two sections naturally belonging to Grant are attached to Green. Each Congressional township contains 23,040 acres, and the county accordingly contains 368,640 acres "more or less." Of this area there are but 30,000 acres under cultivation, comprised in 1,200 farms. From this significant fact one may form some idea of the future possibilities of Mecosta as an agricultural county.

The 16 Congressional townships are designated in the Government survey as townships 13, 14, 15 and 16 north, ranges 7, 8, 9 and 10 west. The county lies a little west of the center of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, and is bounded on the north by Osceola County, on the east by Isabella, on the south by

Montcalm, and on the west by Newaygo County. The Muskegon River flows through the western tier of townships, and the Little Muskegon River, rising in the eastern part of the county, flows in a south-westerly direction, emptying into the Muskegon just outside of Mecosta county, thence into Lake Michigan. The Chippewa River rises in the northeast part of the county, and, flowing southeast and then east, empties into the Tittabawassee River, thence into the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay. Numerous little streams throughout the county afford ample drainage and plenty of living water. A number of lakes, from one acre to 800 acres in extent, are situated in the east and north part of the county. These lakes, and smaller water-courses are described more fully in connection with the respective townships.

The surface of the county is slightly rolling, and the soil rich and productive for all kinds of crops. Portions of the county are sandy, especially among the pine woods, but not so much so as to make the soil unproductive. The timber is largely beech and maple, mixed with valuable pine.

Mecosta is already well supplied with railroads, and others now proposed will doubtless be built in the course of a few years. The Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad runs north and south through the

western part of the county, passing through Paris, Big Rapids, Byers, Rustford, Stanwood, Bell's Crossing and Morley. The Chicago & West Michigan railroad has about four miles and a half of track east and west in Big Rapids Township, with its terminus at Big Rapids. The present terminus of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad is also at Big Rapids, the road having been but recently built into the county. It runs from Big Rapids east and south-east through Colfax, Martiny, Morton, Wheatland and Millbrook Townships, leaving the county at a point south of the village of Millbrook. A branch of this road runs to Chippewa Lake, in Chippewa Township.

The county contains one city and two incorporated villages, besides a number of other platted villages, which, with the three railroads already in operation, afford good markets for all produce raised.



### GEOLOGY.

**G**EOLGY teaches that the continents of this world were once beneath the ocean. It is natural, therefore, to suppose that there are inequalities in the bottom of the ocean like those on the land. The recent deep-sea soundings confirm this opinion, and reveal mountains and hills, valleys and table-lands. The greatest depth reached in sounding is 29,000 feet, which exceeds the height of the loftiest mountain of the Himalayas. Some of the mountains of the sea are steeper and more abrupt than any on the land. In the British channel the depth changes within ten miles from 600 to 12,000 feet; and it is very common, within a few miles of the coast of continents and islands, for the depth to change suddenly from a few hundred feet to many thousand. In other cases, as in a large part of the bed of the Atlantic, between Europe and the United States, there are plateaus extending hundreds of miles with very slight undulations. The mysterious race that once occupied this continent may have sailed in their galleons over the Peninsula, and sounded the depth of the waters which rose above it in precisely the same manner as the mariner of to-day casts out

the sounding line. At the close of the Corniferous epoch a great upheaval of sea bottom formed a line of land across the southern counties of Michigan, which extended to an older and wider formation in the southern part of Ohio.

The land now within the boundaries of Mecosta was still submerged, but by degrees the southern belt rose higher, spread out towards the northern continent, and was actually approaching the state of dry land at the beginning of the coal-deposit era. At its close Mecosta and the counties bordering formed the high lands of the Lower Peninsula. It is stated that Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario were not in existence then, their places being represented by a swift running river, with expansions. The great geological age, the Mesozoic, dates from this time. It was marked by activity in the animal and vegetable kingdom, mild climates and the myriads of reptiles which swarmed in rivers and over land. Save in the fossils there is no record of the progress of this age to be found within the boundaries of Mecosta. The Tertiary period succeeded the Mesozoic. It was an age of beautiful climates and high development of mammals. Animals greater than the mastodon roamed over the land through verdant forests, meeting their enemy, man, and ultimately disappearing under his continued attacks.

The scene was changed; the snow and ice came on, burying all nature in its whiteness, and robbing the land of life. It was the beginning of the Glacial period. The duration of this age is lost in mystery. Were it possible to ignore the work of a God in the formation of the world, the continuance of the ice age might be set down at two thousand years; acknowledging a divine economy in the handiwork of the world, the period of its duration might have been an incredibly short time. Spring time came, and with it the sea of ice, which covered the land and water to a depth of over 5,000 feet, began to break up and dissolve, and the solids held within its grasp fell down and formed a bed of rocky fragments or boulder drift. The countless currents which sprang into existence and formed for themselves ten thousand channels, were the principal agents in the conformation of that peculiar stratum known as the "Modified Drift."

From Saginaw Bay to Lake Michigan, *via* the valleys of the Shiawassee and Muskegon Rivers, a

great channel, deep and wide, extended. South of this line barriers existed that checked the flow of the waters south and from hundreds of reservoirs. This accumulation of ice-water and the second season of ice resulted in the formation of another glacial field, differing from the great glacier in its depth and duration, being not over four feet in thickness. Along the borders of those reservoirs the ice became an integral part of the shore soil, of course including the limestone; and when the second geological spring time arrived, millions of cubic feet of water were added to these lakes, resulting in bursting asunder their green covering of ice, which, in ascending, carried with it the limestone tables, and as the waters fell, deposited them in the positions which they hold to-day. As the Niagara rock was worn down, the rushing waters made for themselves deeper channels, and the inland lakes lowered just in proportion as the great lakes. The present river system was laid out by nature.

There are few special features in the geological character of Mecosta County. There have been valuable deposits of gypsum discovered, and both coal and petroleum are supposed to abound beneath the surface. The future geologist will doubtless find much of value and interest not at present known in regard to this region.

## BOTANICAL.

It is unnecessary to name the flora of Mecosta County since the species are so numerous and well-known. Dr. Gray, in his treatise on the Botany of the Northern States East of the Mississippi, gives 130 orders of flowering plants. In 1860 a botanical survey of the State was made, under N. H. Winchell. His report regarded every flower, plant, shrub, tree and grass to be found in Michigan, then numbering 1,205 species, as all native with 85 exceptions. In 1880 Messrs. Wheeler and Smith, of Hubbardston, Mich., compiled and published a complete flora of this State, with corrections to date. Of this great number there are at present found within the confines of Mecosta County nearly 400 genera, embracing possibly 1,000 species. A large number of species considered in the report of 1860 have disappeared, while perhaps 25 species have been introduced within the last 20 years. The flowers, etc., are as rich generally as may be found in any of the Northern States; in a few instances the brilliancy of hue is unequalled by any. All appear to reach perfection in this portion of the Peninsular State.





## INDIANS.

**T**HE Indians visited by the earliest white explorers of this continent were without cultivation, refinement or literature, and far behind the Mound-Builders in the knowledge of the arts. The question of their origin has long interested archaeologists, and is the most difficult one they have been called upon to answer.

Of their predecessors the Indian tribes knew nothing; they even had no traditions respecting them. It is quite certain that they were the successors of a race which had entirely passed away ages before the discovery of the New World. One hypothesis is that the American Indians are an original race indigenous to the Western Hemisphere. Those who entertain this view think their peculiarities of physical structure preclude the possibility of

a common parentage with the rest of mankind. Prominent among those distinctive traits is the hair, which in the red man is round, in the white man oval, and in the black man flat.

Among common suppositions, however, is that they are a derivative race, and sprang from one or more of the ancient peoples of Asia. In the absence of all authentic history, and when even tradition is wanting, any attempt to point out the particular loca-

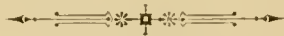
tion of their origin must prove unsatisfactory. Though the exact place of origin may never be known, yet the striking coincidence of physical organization between the oriental type of mankind and the Indians points unmistakably to some parts of Asia as the place whence they emigrated, which was originally peopled to a great extent by the children of Shem. In this connection it has been claimed that the meeting of the Europeans, Indians and Africans on the continent of America, is the fulfillment of a prophecy as recorded in Genesis ix, 27: "God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant." Assuming the theory to be true that the Indian tribes are of Shemitic origin, they were met on this continent in the fifteenth century by the Japhetic race, after the two stocks had passed around the globe by directly opposite routes. A few years after this the Hamitic branch of the human family was brought from the coast of Africa. During the occupancy of the continent by the three distinct races, the children of Japheth have grown and prospered, while the called and not voluntary sons of Ham have endured a servitude in the wider stretching valleys of the tents of Shem.

When Christopher Columbus had finally succeeded in demonstrating the truth of his theory that by sailing westward from Europe land would be discovered, disembarking on the island of San Salvador he supposed he had reached the East Indies. This was an error, but it led to the adoption of the name "Indians" for the inhabitants of the island and the main land of America, by which name the red men

of America have ever since been known. Of the several great branches of North American Indians the only ones entitled to consideration in Michigan history are the Algonquins and Iroquois. At the time of the discovery of America the former occupied the Atlantic seaboard, while the home of the Iroquois was an island in this vast Algonquin population.

An almost continuous warfare was carried on between tribes; but later, on the entrance of the white man into their beloved homes, every foot of territory was fiercely disputed by the confederacy of many neighboring tribes. The Algonquins formed the most extensive alliances to resist the enroachment of the whites, especially the English. Such was the nature of King Phillip's war. This king, with his Algonquin braves, spread terror and desolation throughout New England. With the Algonquins as the controlling spirits, a confederacy of continental proportions was the result, embracing in its alliance the tribes of every name and lineage from the Northern lakes to the gulf. Pontiac, having breathed into them his implacable hate of the English intruders, ordered the conflict to commence.

The Indians had not only their "*manitous*," but also their evil spirits; and the wild features of the lake scenery appears to have impressed their savage minds with superstition. They believed that all the prominent points of this wide region were created and guarded by monsters; and the images of these they sculptured on stone, painted upon the rocks, or carved upon the trees. Those who "obeyed" these supernatural beings they thought would after death range among flowery fields filled with the choicest game, while those who neglected their counsels would wander amid dreary solitudes, stung by gnats as large as pigeons.



### INDIAN LIFE.

**T**HE art of hunting not only supplied the Indian with food, but, like that of war, was a means of gratifying his love of destination. The male children, as soon as they acquired sufficient age and strength, were furnished with a bow and arrow, and taught to shoot birds and other small game. Success in killing

large animals required years of careful study and practice, and the art was as sedulously inculcated in the minds of the rising generation as are the elements of reading, writing and arithmetic in the common schools of civilized communities. The mazes of the forest and the dense tall grass of the prairies were the objects of the most searching scrutiny, and revealed at a glance the animal that made any visible traces, the direction it was pursuing, and the time that had elapsed since it had passed. In a forest country he selected the valleys, because they were most frequently the resort of game. The most easily taken, perhaps, of all the animals of the chase was the deer. It is endowed with a curiosity which prompts it to stop in its flight and look back at the approaching hunter, who always avails himself of this opportunity to let fly the fatal arrow.

Their general councils were composed of the chiefs and old men. When in council they usually sat in concentric circles around the speaker, and each individual, notwithstanding the fiery passions that burned within, preserved an exterior as immovable as though cast in bronze. Before commencing business a person appeared with the sacred pipe, and another with fire to kindle it. After being lighted it was first presented to heaven, then to the earth, then to the presiding spirit, and lastly to the several councilors, each of whom took a whiff. These formalities were observed with as close exactness as state etiquette in civilized courts.

The dwellings of the Indians were of the simplest and rudest character. On some pleasant spot by the bank of a river, or near an ever running spring, they raised their groups of wigwams, constructed of the bark of trees, and easily taken down and removed to another spot. The dwelling-places of the chiefs were sometimes more spacious, and constructed with greater care, but of the same materials. Skins taken in the chase served them for repose.

Though principally dependent upon hunting and fishing, the uncertain supply from these sources led them to cultivate small patches of corn. Every family did everything necessary within itself, commerce, or an exchange of articles, being almost unknown to them. In case of dispute and dissension, each Indian relied upon himself for retaliation; blood for blood was the rule, and the relatives of the slain man were bound to obtain bloody revenge for his death. This principle gave rise, as a matter



of course, to innumerable and bitter feuds, and wars of extermination, when such were possible. War, indeed, rather than peace, was the Indian's glory and delight—war, not conducted as in civilization, but where individual skill, endurance, gallantry and cruelty were prime requisites. For such a purpose as revenge the Indian would make great sacrifices, and display a patience and perseverance truly heroic; but when the excitement was over he sank back into a listless, unoccupied, well-nigh useless savage. During the intervals of his more exciting pursuits, the Indian employed his time in decorating his person with all the refinement of paint and feathers, and in the manufacture of his arms and canoes. These were constructed of bark, and so light that they could easily be carried on the shoulder from stream to stream. His amusements were the war dance, athletic games, the narration of his exploits and listening to the oratory of the chiefs; but during long periods of such existence he remained in a state of torpor, gazing listlessly upon the trees of the forest and the clouds that sailed above them; and this vacancy imprinted habitual gravity, and even melancholy, upon his general deportment.

The main labor and drudgery of Indian communities fell upon the women. The planting, tending and gathering of the crops, making mats and baskets, carrying burdens,—in fact, all things of the kind were performed by them, thus making their condition but little better than slaves. Marriage was merely a matter of bargain and sale, the husband giving presents to the father of the bride. In general they had but few children. They were subjected to many and severe attacks of sickness, and at times famine and pestilence swept away whole tribes.

### THE INDIAN DEAD.

THE nature of their funeral rites is thus described: A few days after the burial the child, the father or mother or near relative of the deceased gave a feast. The food was prepared and carried to the grave, to which all sympathizing friends repaired. If the feast was prepared by a man, none but men attended; and

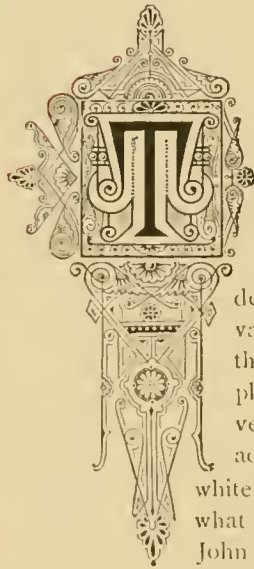
the same rule applied to women, as in the case under notice. When assembled, the ruler of the feast distributed to each one present a portion of the food prepared; and each one, before partaking, put a small quantity on the head of the grave, so that it might fall through an aperture and reach the body of the dead. In such a female gathering, if one of the company were deemed profligate, she was not permitted to make this offering to the dead through her own hands; but another received it from her, and offered it on her behalf. After the offerings were made to the deceased, the remainder of the food was eaten by the company. Similar feasts were held in honor of deceased men and women. When the party consisted of warriors, addresses were made, and the virtues of the dead chanted. The festivals are repeated every year, and when returning from their wintering grounds to their villages in the spring they were accustomed to clear away the grass and weeds from each grave, and keep them cleared during the summer. Among the Ottawas it was customary to place a post, proportioned in height to the age and size of the deceased, at the head of the grave. On one side of this post appeared the picture of an animal, the name of which was the prevailing name in the family. On the other side was a clumsy drawing, slightly resembling a man minus a head, representing a person whom the deceased had slain in war; or, if it were a child, the victim of one of its relatives was painted. A man with a head signified a person wounded. Such hieroglyphics were multiplied in just such measure as circumstances pointed out. Near the grave post was placed a cane, about two feet in length, so that when the passing Indian or visitor arrived at the grave he strikes the post two or three times to announce his arrival. Posts eight or ten feet high were frequently placed by the side of a hut, and always near the wigwam or hut wherein the conjurers met to consult on the cause of severe illness. On the upper end of this post was cut the figure of the human face. Mr. Lykins, afterwards associated with McCoy, discovered one on Grand River, on which was carved with savage exquisiteness a bust of some Indian chief. In the village was seen a tall pole, neatly peeled, streaked in vermilion and surmounted with a bunch of green boughs, probably representing the victory of some savage political party.

### THE INDIANS' FUTURE.

**S**TORM and flood and disease have created sad havoc in the ranks of the aborigines since the occupation of the country by the white man. Inherent causes have led to the decimation of the race even more than the advance of civilization, which seems not to affect it materially. In the maintenance of the same number of representatives during three centuries, and its existence in the very face of a most unceremonious, and, whenever necessary, cruel, conquest, the grand dispensations of the Unseen Ruler are demonstrated; for, without the aborigines, savage and treacherous as they were, it is possible that the explorers of former times would have so many natural difficulties to

contend with that their work would be surrendered in despair, and the most fertile regions of the continent reserved for the plowshares of the coming generations. It is very questionable whether the ultimate resolve of Columbus was not strengthened by the appearance of the bodies of Indians on the coast of Europe, even as the fact of the existence of a people in the interior led the French explorers in the very heart of the continent in later days. From this standpoint their services can not be over-estimated. Their existence is embraced in the plan of the Divinity for his government of the world; and it will not be a matter of surprise to learn that the same intelligence which sent a thrill of liberty through every nerve of the Republic will, in the near future, devise some method under which the remnant of a great and ancient race may taste the sweets of public sympathy, and feel that, after a long season of suffering, they have at last found a shelter amid a sympathizing people.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.



**ALTHOUGH** less than a third of a century has passed since the first pioneers began improvements in this region, they have converted the dense wilderness into a cultivated, productive country, fit for the home of an intelligent people, and affording all the conveniencies and comforts of an advanced civilization. The first white settlers within the limits of what is now Mecosta County were John Davis and family and John Parish, the former of whom are still living, and residents of this county. Mr. Davis located on what is now section 27, in the township of

Mecosta, in 1851, where he and his family still reside. Mr. Parish, who was a bachelor, located about the same time on a point of land in a bend of Muskegon River, about a mile below where the lower bridge in the city of Big Rapids now spans the stream. He built a log cabin and cleared three or four acres, which was afterwards known to all the early settlers as the "Parish lot." A short distance up stream from that point the current of the water is very swift, and the place was known among lumbermen as the "Big Rapids." When the village was founded, which has since grown to be one of the promising cities of Michigan, the lumbermen's name was retained. Mr. Parish continued to reside on his first claim (which was within the present limits of the First Ward of Big Rapids) for three or four years, and then removed to the township of Green, locating

where the village of Paris now stands. He laid out that village some years before his death in 1869. A year after these first settlers, came William Brockway, who, July 20, 1852, moved his family into a "logging shanty," which stood on the south bank of Mitchell Creek, near where the dwelling of Jesse Varney, in the Fourth Ward, was afterwards built. Mr. Brockway was engaged in lumbering, residing in the shanty mentioned till the spring or summer of 1853. Feb. 12, 1853, his wife, Margaret Brockway, gave birth to a daughter, who was named Alice, and who was the first white child born in the county. Mr. Brockway is still living, being a resident of Hinton Township, in this county. Early in March, 1854, Zerah French and family, and George French, with his mother and sisters, removed to Big Rapids, and were the first white families permanently located in the vicinity of this flourishing place. Their nearest neighbors were the family of John Davis, about ten miles distant, and the nearest settlement was at Big Rapids, upwards of twenty miles away.

The first settlers of the various townships are mentioned in the township sketches, and in the history of Big Rapids is given a full account of the settlement of that place.

#### HOW OUR FATHERS LIVED.

THE young men and women of to-day have little conception of the mode of life among the early settlers of Mecosta County. In but few respects are the manners of the present time similar to those of a quarter of a century ago. The clothing, the dwellings, the diet, the social customs, etc., have undergone a total revolution, as though a new race had taken possession of the land. Pioneer life in Mecosta County finds its parallel in almost every county in the State, and throughout the State, and throughout the entire Northwest. The land was to be cleared of forests, and the skill of human art used to transplant to this fertile region the civilization of the East. Cabins were to be erected, wells dug, and the rivers and creeks made to labor for the benefit of mankind.

As many living citizens can well remember, the pioneers had many difficulties to contend with, not the least of which was the journey from civilization to their forest homes. The route lay through a wild and rough country; swamps and marshes were crossed with great exertion and fatigue; rivers were forded with difficulty and danger; nights were passed in the dense forests, with mother earth for a couch and the trees and foliage for a shelter; long, weary days and weeks of travel were endured, but finally their eyes were gladdened, and their hearts beat faster, when a vision of their future home burst upon them.

The first thing upon arrival was to set about building a cabin. While this was being done, the family slept in their wagons or upon the grass, while the horses or mules, hobbled to prevent escape, grazed the country near them. Trees of a suitable and uniform size were selected, felled and prepared for their places. The day for the raising was announced, and from far and near came other pioneers to assist in the labor. The structure went up, a log at a time, those engaged stopping now and then to "wet their whistles," and soon it was ready for the clapboard roof, which was held on by huge weight poles. A door and a window were cut where the good wife directed, a chimney built, and the building was ready for its occupants. The space between the logs was filled in with split sticks of wood, called "chinks," and then daubed over, both inside and out, with mortar made of clay. The floor was sometimes nothing more than earth tramped hard and smooth, but was commonly made of "puncheons," or split logs, with the split side turned upwards. The roof was made by gradually drawing in the top to the ridge-pole, and on cross-pieces laying the "clapboards," which, being several feet in length, instead of being nailed were held in place by "weight-poles," reaching the entire length of the cabin. For a fire-place, a space was cut out of the logs on one side of the room, usually about six feet in length, and three sides were built up of logs, making an off-set in the wall. This was lined with stone, if convenient; if not, then, earth. The flue, or upper part of the chimney, was built of small split sticks, two and a half or three feet in length, carried a little space above the roof, and plastered over with clay, and when finished was called a "cat and-clay" chimney. The door space was also made by cutting an aperture in one side of

the room of the required size, the door itself being made of clapboards secured by wooden pins to two cross-pieces. The hinges were also of wood, while the fastening consisted of a wooden latch catching on a hook of the same material. To open the door from the outside, a strip of buckskin was tied to the latch and drawn through a hole a few inches above the latch-bar, so that on pulling the string the latch was lifted from the catch or hook, and the door was opened without further trouble. To lock the door it was only necessary to pull the string through the hole to the inside. Here the family lived, and here the guest and wayfarer were made welcome. The living-room was of good size, but to a large extent it was also kitchen, bed-room, parlor and arsenal, with fitches of bacon and rings of dried pumpkins suspended from the rafters.

These simple cabins were inhabited by a kind and true-hearted people, and in them were domestic industry, happiness and hospitality rarely elsewhere to be found. It is well for "Young America" to look back on those early days. They involved a life of toil and hardship, and the lack of many comforts; but it was the life that made men of character. Mecosta County to-day has no better men than the sons of those who built their cabins in the forest, and by patient endurance wrought out of the wilderness the landmarks for a prosperous commonwealth.

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### WEDDINGS.

**W**EDDINGS constituted an attractive feature of pioneer life. There was no distinction of rank, and very little of fortune. On these accounts the first impressions of love generally resulted in marriage. The family establishment cost but little labor, and nothing more than labor. The marriage was always celebrated at the house of the bride, and she was generally left to choose the officiating clergyman. A wedding, however, engaged the attention of the whole neighborhood. It was anticipated by both old and young with eager expectation. On the morning of the wedding day, the groom and his intimate friends assembled at the house of his father, and after due

preparation departed *en masse* for the "mansion" of the bride.

The journey was sometimes made on horseback, sometimes on foot, and sometimes in farm wagons and carts. It was always a merry journey, and to insure merriment the bottle was always taken along. On reaching the house of the bride the marriage ceremony took place, and then dinner or supper was served. After the meal the dancing commenced, and generally lasted until the following morning. The figures of the dances were three and four handed reels, or square sets and jigs. The commencement was always a square four, which was followed by what pioneers called "jigging," that is, two of the four would single out for a jig, and were followed by the remaining couple. The jigs were often accompanied by what was called "cutting out;" that is, when either of the parties became tired of the dance, on intimation, the place was supplied by some one of the company without interruption of the dance. In this way the reel was continued until the musician was exhausted.

About nine or ten o'clock in the evening, a deputation of young ladies stole off the bride and put her to bed. In doing this they would have to ascend a ladder from the kitchen, composed of loose boards. Here in the bridal chamber, the young, simple-hearted girl was put to bed by her enthusiastic friends. This done, a deputation of young men escorted the groom to the same apartment. The dance still continued until all were weary. On the next evening the "infare" was held, nowadays called "reception."

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### "SHAKES."

**A**NOTHER feature of pioneer life, which every old settler will vividly recall, was the "chills and fever," "fever and ague," or "shakes," as it was variously called. It was a terror to new comers, for in the fall of the year almost everybody was afflicted with it. It was no respecter of persons; everybody looked pale and sallow as though frost-bitten. It was not contagious, but derived from impure air and water, which is always developed in the opening up of a new country.

The impurities continued to be absorbed from day to day, and from week to week, until the whole body corporate became saturated with it as with electricity; and then the shock came; and the shock was a regular shake, with a fixed beginning and ending, coming on in some cases each day, but generally on alternate days, with a regularity that was surprising. After the shakes came the fever, and this "last estate was worse than the first;" it was a burning hot fever, and lasted for hours.

When you had a chill you couldn't get warm, and when you had the fever you couldn't get cool. It was exceedingly awkward in this respect,—indeed it was; nor would it stop for any contingency; not even a wedding in the family would stop it. It was imperative and tyrannical. When the appointed time came around everything else had to be stopped to attend to its demands. It didn't even have any Sundays or holidays. After the fever went down you still didn't feel much better; you felt as though you had gone through some sort of collision, threshing machine, or jarring machine, and came out, not killed, but next thing to it. You felt weak, as though you had run too far after something, and then didn't catch it. You felt languid, stupid and sore, and was down in the mouth and heel, and partially raveled out; your back was out of fix, your head ached, and your appetite was crazy; your eyes had too much white in them; your ears, especially after taking quinine, had too much roar in them, and your whole body and soul were entirely woe-begone, disconsolate, sad, poor, and good-for-nothing; you didn't think much of yourself, and you didn't believe that other people did either, and you didn't care. You didn't quite make up your mind to commit suicide, but sometimes wished some accident would happen to knock either the malady or yourself out of existence. You imagined that even the dogs looked at you with a sort of commiseration; you thought the sun had a sort of sickly shine about it. About this time you came to the conclusion that you would not take the whole State as a gift; and if you had the strength and means you would pick up Hannah and the baby, and your traps, and go back "yander" to "Ole Virginny," the "Jarseys," Maryland, or "Pennsylvania."

This bilious condition was as bad as the consumption for promising to leave you alone, and failing to

keep its engagements; as bad as a weak minded old debtor in promising to pay and ever delaying the fulfillment of his promise.

And to-day the swallows flitting  
Round my cabin see me sitting  
Moodily within the sunshine,  
Just inside my silent door,  
Waiting for the "ager," seeming  
Like a man forever dreaming:  
And the sunlight, on me streaming,  
Throws no shadows on the floor;  
For I'm too thin and sallow  
To make shadows on the floor—  
Nary shadow any more!

The foregoing is not a picture of the imagination: it is simply recounting in quaint phrase what actually occurred in hundreds of cases. Whole families would sometimes be sick at one time, and not one member at all able to wait upon another. Labor or exercise always aggravated the malady, and it took General Laziness a long time to thrash the enemy out. These were the days of swallowing all sorts of roots and "yarbs," and whisky straight, with some faint hope of relief. Finally, when the case wore out, the last remedy got the credit of the cure.

### FIRST THINGS.

**I**N Mecosta County the first white child born was Alice Brockway, daughter of William and Margaret Brockway, the second family to settle in the County. She was born Feb. 12, 1853, less than a year after her parents settled "among the pines."

In the fall of 1854, Silas Moore and Mrs. Sally French were married at Big Rapids, by Elder Kelly, of Big Prairie. This was the first wedding in the county.

In the fall of the same year, James Montague, of Green Township, sowed two acres of winter wheat, which was undoubtedly the first wheat sown in the county.

In the summer of 1856, John Hinton, of the township of Hinton, built a large frame barn, which was the first frame building erected in the

county. The lumber for it was cut with a whip-saw, involving a task that would discourage most men. John Davis erected a large frame barn in the township of Mecosta the same year.

In the fall of 1856, Warren & Ives erected a part of the frame for a water-power saw-mill on Mitchell Creek, near where Michigan avenue, in Big Rapids, crosses that stream. The mill was completed during the next spring and summer, and started for the first time, and a few boards sawed, on the Fourth of July, 1857, twenty-six years ago. This was the first mill, and the first lumber manufactured, in Mecosta County. This mill was the first manufactory of any kind ever erected in the county, and in those days was regarded as an institution of no little magnitude. It was well known to all the earlier inhabitants as the "Old Red Mill," and was in operation for many years, furnishing the lumber and timber for all the oldest wooden buildings in this city and vicinity. It was torn down a number of years ago, and little trace of the once busy mill now reminds the resident of earlier days.

Immediately after the mill was put in operation, the same firm, Messrs. Warren & Ives, erected a small frame building for an office, a few rods south of the mill. During the same summer, they erected a two-story frame boarding house, which was the first frame dwelling in Big Rapids, and also a large frame barn.

In November, 1857, a weekly mail was established between Big Rapids and Greenville. Jesse L. Shaw was appointed postmaster at Big Rapids, the name of the office when first established being Leonard. It was kept at the office of Warren & Ives, near the mill, and was the first post-office in the county. Prior to that time, the nearest post-office was at Croton, in Newaygo County, twenty-eight miles distant, from which point mail for this region was usually brought in a hand-satchel, the settlers taking turns in going after it. In December, 1863, a tri-weekly mail route was established between Big Rapids and Newaygo; and about the same time, a Mr. Vansickle, of Big Prairie, who was the mail carrier, commenced carrying passengers in a rickety old two-seated wagon, which he called a tri-weekly stage. It was the first thing of the kind in this part of the country, and its establishment was hailed as a luxury.

In May, 1858, a log school-house was built on section twenty-eight, in the township of Green; and

during the summer following a school was taught in it by Mrs. Martha J. Evarts. This was the first school-house built, and the first school taught in the county.

During the summer of 1858, Augustine N. Williams erected and opened a small hotel, which grew to be the Pacific House of later years, but which is now not run as a hotel. A part of the present structure is the original building erected by Mr. Williams. Although every settler's "latch-string" was kept hanging out, and every man's cabin afforded a stopping place for the traveler, this was the first hotel in the county.

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Mecosta County, held Sept. 1, 1859, Warren and Ives were granted permission to establish a rope ferry across Muskegon River, near the place where the lower bridge in this city now spans the stream.

The first equalized assessed valuation of the county (including the then unorganized county of Osceola, which was attached to Mecosta for judicial and municipal purposes), as determined at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors in October, 1859, was \$376,447.84. The first county tax, which was levied at this same meeting, was \$3,137.40.

The first general store in Mecosta County was opened by Edson Fuller, in 1859, in Big Rapids. The stock of merchandise for this store was hauled by teams from Grand Rapids, over roads that neither tongue nor pen can describe. The store stood on the corner of Michigan avenue and Elm street.

The first frame school building in the county was a two-story edifice built in Big Rapids in 1859.

At the April election in 1860, a proposition was carried to raise by tax \$6,000 to build a bridge over Muskegon River and to build a county jail. A contract to build the bridge just above where the lower bridge in this city now stands, was let to John F. Tinkham, May 24, 1860, for \$2,500. The bridge was completed and accepted Sept. 14, 1860, and was the first frame bridge over the Muskegon in Mecosta County. The proposition to build a county jail was afterwards abandoned, and rescinded by the Board.

The first term of the Mecosta Circuit Court was held at the school-house in the village of Leonard, commencing April 17, 1860, Hon. F. J. Littlejohn presiding.

The first lime burned in this county was by John

Snyder, in 1860, in the township of Green. Judge C. C. Fuller bought the first load of it and used it in the construction of a dwelling on the southeast corner of Michigan avenue and Linden street, in Big Rapids.

The first general celebration in this county of the national anniversary was held at Big Rapids, July 4, 1862. The officers of the day were Charles Shafer, President; C. C. Fuller, Reader; E. L. Gray, Orator; J. O. Coburn, Marshal; and Rev. Mr. Mills, Chaplain.

The first photograph gallery in the county was established at Big Rapids, by Zerah French, in 1862.

The first election of county officers was held on the first Monday in April, 1859, at which time the following officers were chosen: Alfred L. Clark, Sheriff; Orrin Stevens, Clerk and Register; Charles Shafer, Treasurer; Jesse A. Barker, Judge of Probate; Augustine N. Williams, County Surveyor. William T. Howell, of Newaygo, was appointed the first Prosecuting Attorney.

The first meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held on the first Monday in May, 1859. Present Jesse A. Barker, Supervisor of Green, and Luther Cobb, Supervisor of Leonard—there being at that time but two organized townships in the county.

The first kiln of brick burned in the county was put up by James Gillespie, in the summer of 1862, about a mile and a half southwest of the original plat of the village of Big Rapids. A Mr. Fitzgerald put up a small kiln in 1860, in the hollow on State street, a short distance south of C. C. Fuller's residence, but abandoned it before burning. Prior to the burning of Gillespie's kiln, all brick used in this region were hauled from Grand Rapids, at an expense of from \$50 to \$80 per thousand.

The first fire in the county occurred Jan. 29, 1863, when French's hotel, a large frame structure, was burned. It had been built the summer previous.

The first secret order established in the county was Big Rapids Lodge, No. 171, Free and Accepted Masons, which was instituted in 1865.

In the spring of 1865, Thomas Lazell put up and commenced operating a steam saw-mill and planing machine in Big Rapids,—the first steam power in the county.

The first harness-shop in the county was started in Big Rapids, by A. S. Mason, in October, 1864.

The first millinery establishment in Mecosta County

was opened in the spring of 1865 in Big Rapids, by Mrs. J. W. Tenny.

The first religious society in the county was the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Big Rapids, which was organized Oct. 23, 1865, with William J. Aldrich as pastor. During the following summer the society built a church edifice,—the first in Mecosta County,—and dedicated it Nov. 16, 1867.

The first daily stage route was established between Big Rapids and Newaygo, in November, 1865, by Hiram Misner, and with it came a daily mail. The following December a weekly mail route was established between Big Rapids and Hersey.

The first drug store in the county was opened in February, 1866, in Big Rapids, by J. W. Perry.

In the spring of 1866, John Bigelow and William Van Loo built a large flouring mill on Ryan Creek, about two miles southeast of Big Rapids. This was the first mill devoted exclusively to the grinding of grain in the county.

In July, 1866, at a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors, permission was granted F. H. Todd & Co., to build a dam across the Muskegon River in the upper part of Big Rapids. This was the first dam across the Muskegon River in Mecosta County, and it afterwards became known as the Tioga Company's dam.

During the summer of 1866, James Sutherland erected a brick dwelling on the southeast corner of State and Maple streets in Big Rapids, which was the first brick structure in the county.

In the spring of 1867, Gen. Stephen Bronson and his son Charles D. opened a banking house in Big Rapids,—the first in Mecosta County.

In 1867, Duncan McLellan and Robert A. Moon built and opened a tannery on the Tioga race in Big Rapids,—the first institution of its kind in the county.

Sept. 17, 1867, a school-teachers' convention was held in Big Rapids,—the first gathering of the kind in the county.

In the spring of 1868, Charles H. McConnell opened a book store and news depot in Big Rapids,—the first in the county.

In 1868, the First Presbyterian Church was organized, with E. B. Miner as pastor. In 1872, the society erected a commodious brick edifice in Big Rapids,—the first brick church in the county.

The first foundry in the county was built on the Tioga race, in Big Rapids, by Price and Osborn,—who were succeeded by E. G. Haney,—during the summer of 1869.

The first railroad in the county of Mecosta was the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad; June 20, 1870, the iron w s laid on that road into the corporate limits of Big Rapids, and a locomotive entered the city for the first time on that day. The road was soon completed to Paris, and the first passenger coach passed over it on the 22d of July. Regular trains commenced running August 8th, following.

In 1870, William Van Loo built the first brick block in Big Rapids, and the first in Mecosta County. It was completed in December, and occupied by D. E. Stearns, with a stock of dry goods, Jan. 1, 1871.

The Northern National Bank was opened June 12, 1871,—the first national bank in the county of Mecosta. George F. Stearns was elected President and Charles P. Gifford, Cashier.

The first county fair was held in 1874, commencing Sept. 29, and continuing three days.

The first lawyer in Mecosta County was J. H. Mulford, who came to Big Rapids in 1859.

The first physician in the county was Dr. D. F. Woolley, who located in Big Rapids in 1859.

The first resident clergyman was Elder William Kelley, who came to Big Rapids to live about 1861.

The first resident dentist was Dr. A. W. Eldridge, who came to Big Rapids in 1867.

The first mason was Thos. Lazell, who located at Big Rapids in 1860. The first stone wall laid in lime mortar, however, was built by C. C. Fuller, in the summer of 1860.

The first wagon and carriage-maker was James Jones, who located in Big Rapids early in the summer of 1857. There being no demand for his work, however, he did not open a shop till several years later.

The first resident blacksmith was Edward L. Williams, who left his farm in the township of Green and opened a shop in Big Rapids about 1860.


Robert Palmer was the first resident boot and shoe maker.

John Shaw was the first painter in the county.

The first village in Mecosta County was Big Rapids, recorded Nov. 3, 1859.







## ORGANIZATION.

**J**UST previous to the organization of the county of Mecosta, the territory now included within its limits was attached to Newaygo County for judicial and municipal purposes, the combined territory being then a portion of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Michigan. The Legislative act establishing the new county of Mecosta was passed Feb. 11, 1859. The county seat was by the same authority fixed at the village of Leonard, whose name was changed in November following to Big Rapids.

On the first Monday in April, 1859, the first election was held for county officials, at which time the following were elected: Sheriff, Alfred S. Clark; Clerk and Register, Orrin Stevens; Treasurer, Charles Shafer; Judge of Probate, Jesse A. Barker; County Surveyor, Augustine N. Williams. William T. Howell, of Newaygo, was appointed the first Prosecuting Attorney for the county of Mecosta.

One month later, on the first Monday in May, 1859, the first meeting was held of the County Board of Supervisors. There were at that time but two organized townships in the county,—Green and Leonard, and there were present, of course, but two Supervisors,—Jesse A. Barker, of Green, and Luther Cobb, of Leonard. Jesse A. Barker was elected Chairman of the Board. June first of the same year, a joint meeting of the Boards of Supervisors of Mecosta and Newaygo Counties was held at Newaygo, to effect a settlement between the two counties. Mecosta was found to be indebted to Newaygo County to the amount of \$1,000. Osceola and Lake Counties were attached to Mecosta for municipal and judicial purposes for a number of years, until sufficiently populated to "stand alone." Osceola at first formed but one township, but when separated from Mecosta comprised five civil townships.

The counties of Osceola and Lake remained attached to Mecosta until the spring of 1869. March 4, of that year, a bill for the organization of Osceola County passed the House of Representatives without a dissenting voice. It had already passed the Senate, and accordingly, when signed by the Governor a few days after, became a law and took immediate effect. It located the county seat at the village of Hersey, and provided for the election of county officers on

the fifth of April. This election resulted as follows:

*Sheriff*—Isaiah Manes; no opposition.

*Clerk*—J. A. Gamage, 9 maj.

*Treasurer*—R. F. Morris, 35 maj.

*Pros. Att'y*—S. F. Dwight, no opposition.

*Cir. C. Com.*—S. F. Dwight, no opposition.

*Recorder of Deeds*—J. A. Gamage, 9 maj.

*Surveyor*—E. F. French, 119 maj.

*Coroners*—J. W. Ash, 28 maj.; E. H. Wood, no opposition.

The same Legislature passed bills incorporating the city of Big Rapids, and attaching the west half of the unorganized county of Clare to Mecosta County, for judicial and municipal purposes.

The Boards of Supervisors of Mecosta and Osceola Counties, being unable to agree upon a settlement between the two counties, five commissioners were appointed by the Circuit Court of Mason County, on the application of Osceola, to adjust all unsettled claims and matters of difference. Three of the commissioners, William Freeman, E. N. Fitch and S. F. White, met in Big Rapids, Aug. 1, 1871, and after a session of two days awarded Osceola County the sum of \$676.59, also the field notes and plats of the towns in that county. The costs of the hearing amounted to \$154.80, which were also paid by Mecosta, making a total of \$831.39. This amount was about \$16 less than that offered by the Mecosta County Board.

Leonard (now Big Rapids) and Green Townships were organized in 1858; Hinton in 1860; Deerfield and Mecosta in 1861; Wheatland in 1862; Grant, Etna and Millbrook in 1865; Fork and Sheridan in

1867; Chippewa in 1868; Austin and Colfax in 1869; Martiny in 1875, and Morton in 1877.

When Big Rapids was incorporated, it was entitled to three representatives on the Board of Supervisors. Since then, by provision of the Legislature, it has been allowed one for each of the five wards. The Board of Supervisors, at first consisting of two, now comprises twenty-one members, as follows:

Etna—John Pierdon.

Austin—John Potter.

Big Rapids—E. C. Moore.

First Ward—O. D. Glidden.

Second Ward—Thos. Skelton.

Third Ward—Thos. J. Sharpe.

Fourth Ward—J. T. Escott.

Fifth Ward—C. F. Mynning.

Chippewa—Henry Hammond.

Colfax—E. A. Straub.

Deerfield—M. T. Nethaway.

Fork—Wm. Creevey.

Grant—L. F. Corey.

Green—W. D. Hopkinson.

Hinton—Andrew Breakey.

Martiny—John Porden.

Mecosta—W. S. Tucker.

Morton—I. W. Ferris.

Millbrook—D. C. Fuller.

Sheridan—John A. Markle.

Wheatland—Isaac Wambold.

Mecosta County has been a separate judicial district since 1873; and in 1881 it and Newaygo County were organized into the 27th Judicial Circuit. At the same session of the Legislature it was made a part of the 27th Senatorial District, with Manistee, Osceola and Wexford Counties, and a part of the 9th Congressional District with twelve other counties.





## OLD SETTLERS

**F**OR historical purposes, no formal organization of the old settlers of Mecosta County has yet been undertaken, though such an association will doubtless be formed in due time. On several occasions many of the pioneers have been brought informally together, but the largest gathering of the kind occurred at the Opera House in Big Rapids, in the evening of Thursday, Jan 23, 1879. Nearly all the early settlers of Big Rapids were in attendance,

and the surrounding townships were well represented, with a few from Newaygo, Osceola and Montcalm Counties. They all "set out" to have a good, old-fashioned jolly time, and they had it. Everybody seemed young again, and Opera Hall never contained a happier crowd. Those who desired to indulge in the "poetry of motion"—and there were few who did not, in Money Musk, Opera Reel, Virginia Reel, McDonald's Reel, and other old-fashioned contra dances—had the floor, while others occupied seats about the room, and engaged in social chat upon the scenes and incidents of days long gone by. The supper at the Mason House was not one of the modern "high-toned" affairs, with more style than victuals, but a real, genuine, old-fashioned, substantial meal. The bill of fare embraced oysters

in every style, baked pork and beans, meats of every description, mince, pumpkin and apple pie, with an abundance of *et-ceteras*. The committee of arrangements had bargained for a genuine old-fashioned supper, and right faithfully did Mr. White, the hotel proprietor, carry out his part of the agreement. Many pronounced it the best meal they ever ate at a hotel. Only one thing occurred to mar the pleasure of the occasion, and that was a failure of the lights before the assemblage was ready to disperse.



### OLD SETTLERS OF THE MUSKEGON VALLEY.

**A**N association has been formed called the "Old Settlers of the Muskegon Valley," which has held several annual reunions. June 18, 1879, it held a meeting at Big Rapids, about two hundred people attending. The association was called to order at noon by the President, Mr. T. D. Stimson, and Judge Brown delivered a welcoming address. About 60 new names were added to the register. At two o'clock an old-style dinner was served at the Mason House, to which all did ample justice. One table was set with dishes belonging to Mrs. White that were the property of Mrs. White's great-great-grandmother.

A mustard spoon and cup were two hundred years old. After dinner the meeting was addressed by Dr. Tatman, W. S. Utley, J. V. Crandell and Hannibal Hyde. A general good time was had, and the old friends and neighbors of years ago had a real old-fashioned visit.

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### SECOND OLD SETTLERS' PARTY.

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**I**N the evening of Feb. 10, 1880, another old settlers' party was held in Big Rapids, at Barrows' Hall. No speeches were delivered and merely an informal party was intended. Superfluous style and affectation were entirely ignored, and all hands went in for a good time, such as was common 15 and 20 years ago. There were 41 dance tickets and 97 supper tickets sold, the latter indicating the number present, besides the musicians. Those were invited to be present who had been residents ten years or more. These old settlers' parties were so successful that it was determined to keep them up as an annual institution,

and it was agreed that all residents of more than ten years should be welcomed.

The third annual party came off Friday evening, Feb. 11, 1881, and was very successful. Tickets were sold to the number of 79, indicating an attendance of over 150. Dancing was commenced at half past seven o'clock, and was kept up with no intermission, except for supper, till three o'clock in the morning. Many did not participate in the dancing festivities, but they put in good time in social chat and talking over old times. Taken all in all, it surpassed all former gatherings of the old settlers of this region. The gross receipts were \$162.50; expenses \$124.10; surplus, \$38.40, which was placed in the treasury of the Old Settlers' Association of the Muskegon Valley.

The fourth annual party was held at Armory Hall, on the evening of Friday, Feb. 17, 1882. Eighty-five numbers were sold, and over two hundred people participated in the dance. It had been announced that dancing would "begin at candle-light, and continue till breakfast time," and this program was very nearly executed. Supper was furnished at the Bracket House.

No party was held in 1883.





# LEGAL.

**J**UDICIAL tribunals and legal advocates will always be found in every civilized community. Mecosta County is no exception to this rule, although its citizens are not much given to litigation, and its criminal cases are remarkably rare.

The first term of court held in the county was in April, 1860, presided over by Judge F. J. Littlejohn, of Allegan. Mecosta was then in the ninth judicial circuit, which included all of Northern Michigan.

The first case called was that of William H. Leeds, *versus* John Powers. The first case decided was Theodore Newell *versus* Philetus P. Jones, a case of *assumpsit*, and was ended by default. There was no formal trial at this term, but several cases of importance were tried at the second term, held in September, 1860. The first criminal case tried at this term was the People *versus* Walter Kilpatrick, on a charge of rape. Kilpatrick was acquitted.

In regard to the Bar, we should bear in mind that the prosperity and well-being of every community depends upon the wise interpretation of its laws, as well as upon their judicious framing. Upon a few principles of natural justice is erected the whole super-

structure of civil law, tending to relieve the wants and meet the desires of all alike. But when so many interests and counter-interests are to be protected and adjusted, to the judiciary is presented many interesting and complex problems. Change is everywhere imminent; the laws of yesterday do not compass the wants and necessities of the people of to-day. The old relations do not exist, and new and satisfactory ones must be established; hence the true lawyer is a man of the day, and his capital is his ability and individuality. He cannot bequeath to his successors the characteristics that distinguish him, and at his going the very evidences of his work disappear.

In compiling a sketch of the Bar of a county, one is surprised at the paucity of material. The peculiarities and the personalities which form so pleasing and interesting a part of the lives of the members of the Bar, and which indeed constitute the charm of local history, are altogether wanting. The court records give us the main facts, but the auxiliary facts and interesting circumstances of each case are preserved in the memory of but few, and even there they are generally half forgotten.

The first lawyer in Big Rapids was a "transient." He came in the fall of 1859, and left early in the winter. He found but little to do, and did that little so unpopularly that he eked out a very meager living,—in fact he was "starved out," and left on the approach of cold weather, wearing his summer clothes. It is related that when some one asked him why he did

not go to work, he replied with an oath that he had a profession, and "if that doesn't support me I'll starve before I'll work!" It is to be hoped that he found some more congenial abiding place than Big Rapids. The next member of the legal profession to arrive in the village was H. W. Wiltse, who came in the spring of 1860, and was elected Prosecuting Attorney for the county the same fall. He practiced law until his death, in the fall of 1862. Ceylon C. Fuller, whose services for over 20 years are well known to the citizens of this region, and who at present fills the position of Circuit Judge, came to Big Rapids May 1, 1860. The fourth attorney to practice in the county was John G. Murdock, who remained a num-

ber of years, and then went to Texas. J. O. Coburn was another early lawyer of prominence. He enlisted in the Union army in 1862, and died in Libby Prison.

The present Bar of Mecosta County contains the following practitioners: M. Brown, John H. Palmer, Lewis C. Palmer (Palmer & Palmer), John B. Upton, Elijah F. Dewey, Frank Dumon, Calvin W. Nottingham, D. F. Glidden, Edwin J. Marsh (Glidden & Marsh), Douglas Roben, A. W. Bennett (Roben & Bennett), O. E. Mann, F. A. Mann, C. L. Northrup, G. R. Malone, Andrew Hanson, and S. V. R. Hayes, all of Big Rapids; Dewitt C. Moshier and John V. Haist, of Morley; and David C. Fuller, of Millbrook.

## POLITICAL.

**A**LTHOUGH Mecosta has uniformly been Republican since its organization, on National and State issues, yet in local elections there has been a tendency to cast away party discipline and support the best candidate. Before the war, the settlers were too few in number, and their attention too much taken with more pressing matters, to allow much political discussion. During the war all citizens united on the simple platform, the unconditional support of the Union.

In this great question was merged all minor ones. Since the Rebellion, the strength of parties has somewhat varied, as is seen in the following summary of elections, beginning with the first election after the organization of the county, in the year 1859.

### ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 6, 1860.

#### *President.*

Abraham Lincoln.....	109	54
Stephen A. Douglas.....	55	

#### *Governor.*

Austin Blair.....	109	53
John S. Barry.....	56	

#### *Lieutenant-Governor.*

James Birney.....	109	53
William M. Fenton.....	56	

#### *Secretary of State.*

James B. Porter.....	109	53
William Francis.....	56	

#### *State Treasurer.*

John Owen.....	109	53
Elon Farnsworth.....	56	

#### *Auditor-General.*

Langford G. Berry.....	109	53
Henry Pennoyer.....	56	

*Attorney-General.*

Charles Upson.....109 53  
 Chauncey Joslyn..... 56

*Superintendent of Public Instruction.*

John M. Gregory.....109 53  
 Francis W. Sherman..... 56

*Commissioner of State Land Office.*

Samuel S. Lacy.....109 53  
 Samuel L. Smith..... 56

*Member of Board of Education.*

Edwin Willets .....109 53  
 John V. Lyon..... 56

*Representative in Congress.*

Rowland E. Trowbridge.... 95 46  
 Edward H. Thompson..... 49  
 Francis W. Kellogg..... 13  
 Thomas B. Church..... 7

*Amendments to Constitution.*

For Amendm't to Banking Corporation . 82 9  
 Against " " " . 73  
 For Amendment to Sec. 2, Art. 18.....104 99  
 Against " " " . 5  
 For Amendment as to Leg. Sessions.... 89

*State Senator.*

Osmond Tower..... 98 33  
 Frederick Hall..... 65  
 Nelson Green..... 1

*Representative in Legislature.*

Martin P. Follett.....109 64  
 Irving E. Arnold..... 45  
 William S. Howell..... 1

ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 1862.

*Governor.*

Austin Blair.....103 72  
 Byron G. Stout..... 31

*Lieutenant-Governor.*

Charles S. May.....118 104  
 Henry R. Riley..... 14

*Secretary of State.*

James B. Porter.....121 108  
 William R. Montgomery..... 13

*State Treasurer.*

John Owen.....121 107  
 Charles C. Trowbridge..... 14

*Attorney-General.*

Albert Williams.....120 106  
 John S. Holmes..... 14

*Auditor-General.*

Emil Anneke.....121 107  
 Rodney Payne..... 14

*Commissioner of State Land Office.*

Samuel S. Lacy.....121 107  
 Charles F. Heynman..... 14

*Superintendent of Public Instruction.*

John M. Gregory.....121 107  
 Thomas H. Sinex..... 14

*Member of Board of Education.*

Edward Dorsch.....121 107  
 Daniel Brown..... 14

*Representative in Congress.*

Francis W. Kellogg.....100 66  
 Thomas B. Church..... 34

*State Senator.*

Charles Mears.....120 no opp.

*Representative in Legislature.*

William T. Howell.....111 no opp.

*Sheriff.*

Daniel F. Woolley..... 86 33  
 Samuel W. Rose..... 53

*County Clerk.*

Orrin Stephens.....140 no opp.

*County Treasurer.*

Sumner Stickney..... 82 25  
 John Dalziel..... 57  
 Charles Shafer..... 1

*Register of Deeds.*

Luther Cobb..... 82 34  
 William Fuller..... 48  
 Scattering..... 7

*Judge of Probate.*

Daniel Stearns..... 85 40  
 Hamilton M. Herrick..... 45  
 Jesse A. Barker..... 14

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Ceylon C. Fuller.....137 136  
 C. P. Ives..... 1

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Ceylon C. Fuller..... 80 18  
 John H. Murdock..... 62

*County Surveyor.*

Augustine N. Williams.....139 no opp.

*Coroners.*

Daniel Stearns.....	145	no opp.
John W. Rose.....	142	no opp.

## ELECTION OF APRIL, 1863.

*Circuit Judge.*

Flavius J. Littlejohn.....	106	19
William J. Cornwell.....	87	

*Associate Justice Supreme Court.*

James V. Campbell.....	105	13
David Johnson.....	92	

*Regents of the State University.*

Henry C. Knight.....	105	12
Thomas D. Gilbert.....	105	12
Edward C. Walker.....	105	12
J. Eastman Johnson.....	105	12
George Willard.....	105	12
James A. Sweezy.....	105	12
Alvah Sweetzer.....	105	12
Thomas J. Joslin.....	105	12
Oliver C. Comstock.....	93	
William A. Moore.....	93	
Zina Pitcher.....	93	
Nathaniel Balch.....	93	
Charles A. Richmond.....	93	
Adam A. Roof.....	93	
Elijah F. Burt.....	93	
Joseph Coulter.....	93	

## ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 8, 1864.

*President.*

Abraham Lincoln.....	143	46
George B. McClellan.....	97	

*Governor.*

Henry H. Crapo.....	146	49
William M. Fenton.....	97	

*Lieutenant-Governor.*

Ebenezer O. Grosvenor.....	146	49
Martin S. Brackett.....	97	

*Secretary of State.*

James B. Porter.....	146	49
George B. Turner.....	97	

*State Treasurer.*

John Owen.....	146	49
George C. Montoe.....	97	

*Member of Board of Education.*

Witter J. Baxter.....	146	49
Oliver C. Comstock.....	97	

*Representative in Congress.*

Thomas W. Ferry.....	147	50
Frederick Hall.....	96	

*Associate Justice Supreme Court.*

Thomas M. Cooley.....	146	49
Alpheus Felch.....	97	

*Representative in Legislature.*

William S. Utley.....	130	20
Daniel F. Woolley.....	110	

*State Senator.*

James B. Walker.....	145	48
William J. Mead.....	97	

*Sheriff.*

Alfred S. Mason.....	161	66
Charles B. Humphrey.....	95	

*Judge of Probate.*

Ceylon C. Fuller.....	164	66
Samuel G. Hutchins.....	98	

*County Clerk.*

John Dalziel.....	162	60
Orrin Stevens.....	102	

*Register of Deeds.*

Samuel Chipman.....	166	68
Floyd Misner.....	98	

*County Treasurer.*

Sumner Stickney.....	168	73
Charles Shafer.....	95	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Elias O. Rose.....	163	63
John G. Murdock.....	100	

*Surveyor.*

Augustine W. Williams.....	168	72
Justus W. Tenny.....	96	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Ceylon C. Fuller.....	164	65
John G. Murdock.....	99	

*Coroners.*

Rufus T. Morris.....	163	65
B. Elial Hutchinson.....	167	69
Alfred Clark.....	98	
William Brockway.....	98	

## ELECTION OF APRIL, 1865.

*Associate Justice Supreme Court.*

Isaac P. Christiancy.....	83	no opp.
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*Regents of the State University.*

Edward C. Walker..... 83 no opp.  
George Willard..... 83 no opp.

ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 6, 1866.

*Governor.*

Henry H. Crapo.....274 165  
Alpheus S. Williams.....109

*Lieutenant Governor.*

Dwight May.....274 165  
John G. Parkhurst.....109

*Secretary of State.*

Oliver L. Spaulding.....275 167  
Bradley M. Thompson.....108

*State Treasurer.*

Ebenezer O. Grosvenor.....275 167  
Luther H. Trask.....108

*Auditor General.*

William Humphrey.....274 166  
George Spaulding.....108  
George Gray..... 1

*Commissioner of State Land Office.*

Benjamin D. Pritchard.....275 167  
Louis Dillman.....108

*Attorney General.*

William L. Stoughton.....275 167  
George Gray.....108

*Superintendent of Public Instruction.*

Oramel Hosford.....275 167  
Samuel Clements.....108

*Member of Board of Education.*

Edwin Willets.....275 167  
John Bischmore.....108

*Representative in Congress.*

Thomas W. Ferry.....276 169  
John B. Hutchins.....107

*State Senator.*

John H. Standish.....278 no opp.

*Representative in Legislature.*

Charles W. Dean.....277 no opp.

*Revision of Constitution.*

For.....239 204  
Against..... 35

*Sheriff.*

Joseph T. Escott.....264 147  
William P. Montoye.....117

*County Clerk.*

John Dalziel.....268 156  
Daniel F. Woolley.....112  
James M. Colby..... 1

*County Treasurer.*

Andrew Green.....242 151  
Daniel Stearns..... 91  
Sumner Stickney..... 46

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Elias O. Rose.....245 109  
John G. Murdock.....136

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Ceylon C. Fuller.....257 131  
John G. Murdock.....126

*Register of Deeds.*

James M. Colby.....238 139  
Daniel F. Woolley..... 99  
Thomas Lazell..... 42

*County Surveyor.*

Benjamin F. Gooch.....272 163  
George Brady.....109

*Coroners.*

Isaiah J. Whitfield.....269 159  
Thomas Shaw.....272 164  
Charles B. Humphrey.....110  
Thomas Cahill.....108

ELECTION OF APRIL, 1867.

*Justice of the Supreme Court.*

Benjamin F. Graves.....232 163  
Sanford M. Green..... 69

*Regents of the State University.*

Thomas D. Gilbert.....232 163  
Hiram W. Burt.....232 163  
Ebenezer Wells..... 69  
William M. Ferry..... 69

*Circuit Judge.*

Moses B. Hopkins.....230 160  
Robert W. Duncan..... 70

*Delegate to Constitutional Convention.*

William S. Utley.....195 185  
Scattering..... 10

*County Superintendent of Schools.*

Zephaniah W. Shepherd.....190 175  
John G. Murdock..... 15  
Scattering..... 16

## ELECTION OF APRIL, 1868.

*New Constitution.*

Against adoption.....	474	141
For adoption.....	333	
For annual sessions of Legislature.....	519	394
Against annual sessions of Legislature..	125	
For Prohibition.....	396	34
Against Prohibition.....	362	

## ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 3, 1868.

*President.*

Ulysses S. Grant.....	775	423
Horatio Seymour.....	352	

*Governor.*

Henry P. Baldwin.....	765	404
John More.....	361	

*Lieutenant Governor.*

Morgan Bates.....	770	411
Salathiel C. Coffinbury.....	359	

*Secretary of State.*

Oliver L. Spaulding.....	771	412
Richard Baylis.....	359	

*Treasurer.*

Ebenezer O. Grosvenor.....	771	412
John F. Miller.....	359	

*Auditor General.*

William Humphrey.....	771	412
Louis Dillman.....	359	

*Commissioner of State Land Office.*

Benjamin D. Prichard.....	771	412
Henry Grinnell.....	359	

*Attorney-General.*

Dwight May.....	771	412
Augustus C. Baldwin.....	359	

*Superintendent of Public Instruction.*

Oramel Hosford.....	771	412
Duane Doty.....	359	

*Member of Board of Education.*

Daniel E. Brown.....	771	412
Isaac W. Bush.....	359	

*Representative in Congress.*

Thomas W. Ferry.....	775	419
Lyman G. Mason.....	356	

*Senator.*

John H. Standish.....	772	no opp.
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*Representative in Legislature.*

C. C. Fuller.....	946	829
Augustus Paddock.....	117	

*Sheriff.*

Joseph T. Escott.....	760	391
Lewis H. Green.....	369	
James Donley.....	1	

*County Clerk.*

John Dalziel.....	746	368
Orrin Stevens.....	378	

*Judge of Probate.*

George W. Crawford.....	722	343
James Kennedy.....	370	

*County Treasurer.*

Stephen Bronson.....	657	185
George F. Stearns.....	472	

*Register of Deeds.*

James M. Colby.....	742	366
Erastus E. Thompson.....	376	
George F. Stearns.....	1	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Frank Dumon.....	663	298
John G. Murdock.....	365	
Elias O. Rose.....	88	
C. C. Fuller.....	1	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Frank Dumon.....	723	353
John G. Murdock.....	370	
Elias O. Rose.....	4	

*County Surveyor.*

Theodore W. Robbins.....	1108	1098
Edwin F. French.....	5	
Marquis Morgan.....	10	

*Coroners.*

Isaiah J. Whitfield.....	761	385
F. B. Wood.....	1055	(no opp.)
Sidney P. Phelps.....	376	

## ELECTION OF APRIL, 1869.

*Regents State University.*

Joseph Estabrook.....	703	536
Jonas H. McGowan.....	704	538
John M. B. Sill.....	167	
John F. Mills.....	166	

*Circuit Judge.*

Moses B. Hopkins.....	639	431
Robert W. Duncan.....	208	

*Superintendent County Schools.*

Michael Brown.....	424	236
George W. Warren.....	188	

ELECTION OF APRIL 4, 1870.

*Circuit Judge.*

Augustine H. Giddings	917	913
Levi W. King	4	

ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 8, 1870.

*Governor.*

Henry P. Baldwin	538	297
Charles C. Comstock	241	

*Representative in Congress.*

Thomas W. Ferry	562	343
Myron Ryder	219	

*State Senator.*

Seth C. Moffatt	549	(no opp.)
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*Representative in Legislature.*

Edgar L. Gray	533	517
Seth C. Moffatt	16	

*Sheriff.*

Daniel F. Woolley	421	75
Edward S. Decker	346	

*County Clerk.*

Charlie Gay	430	86
Orrin Stevens	344	
George Warren	1	

*Register of Deeds.*

James M. Colby	551	338
William Brockway	213	
Scattering	3	

*County Treasurer.*

Charles Shafer	385	13
George W. Warren	372	
Scattering	1	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Frank Dumon	430	98
John G. Murdock	332	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Elijah F. Dewey	694	(no opp.)
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*County Surveyor.*

Edmund Tucker	406	102
Augustine N. Williams	304	
Edward Tucker	41	

*Coroners.*

W. Irving Latimer	550	222
Everett Douglass	545	215
Sidney P. Phelps	230	
William Remus	228	

ELECTION OF APRIL 3, 1871.

*Representative in Congress.*

Wilder D. Foster	806	365
William M. Ferry	341	

*County Superintendent of Schools.*

Henry C. Peck	832	721
John Boyer	111	
Scattering	4	

ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 5, 1872.

*President.*

Ulysses S. Grant	1103	784
Horace Greeley	319	

*Governor.*

John J. Bagley	1102	745
Austin Blair	357	
Henry Fish	4	
William M. Ferry	2	

*Representative in Congress.*

Jay A. Hubbell.....	1106	748
Samuel P. Ely.....	358	

*State Senator.*

Edgar L. Gray.....	1112	803
George W. Innes.....	309	

*Representative in Legislature.*

Elias O. Rose.....	1082	1008
George F. Stearns.....	74	

*Sheriff.*

Joseph T. Escott.....	1074	710
John W. Weaver.....	364	
William Garlick.....	33	

*Judge of Probate.*

Walter S. Howd.....	874	310
Theron W. Barbour.....	564	

*County Clerk.*

Charlie Gay.....	1095	729
Orrin Stevens.....	366	

*County Treasurer.*

W. Irving Latimer.....	1000	528
Charles Shafer.....	472	

*Register of Deeds.*

James M. Colby.....	1133	821
William Warren.....	312	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Benjamin F. Graves.....	1025	036
Byron F. Lockwood.....	389	
Michael Brown.....	24	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Calvin W. Nottingham.....	1117	1095
Donald McIntyre.....	22	

*County Surveyor.*

Darwin G. Bell.....	1121	(no opp)
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*Coroners.*

Thomas Shaw.....	1129	793
Everett Douglas.....	1109	754
Sidney P. Phelps.....	354	
Thomas Cahill.....	336	

*Representative in Legislature.*

Elias O. Rose.....	1846	1705
George F. Stearns.....	141	
Benj. H. Coolbaugh.....	12	

ELECTION OF APRIL 7, 1873.

*County Superintendent of Schools.*

Lewis G. Palmer.....	949	(no opp)
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ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 3, 1874.

*Governor.*

John J. Bagley.....	758	396
Henry Chamberlin.....	362	
Charles K. Carpenter.....	77	

*Representative in Congress.*

Jay A. Hubbell.....	832	604
Henry D. Noble.....	228	
Henry H. Noble.....	132	

*State Senator.*

Edgar L. Gray.....	831	827
Edward W. Andrews.....	4	

*Representative in Legislature.*

George F. Stearns.....	553	14
Fitch Phelps.....	539	
Nathaniel L. Gerrish.....	99	

*Sheriff.*

Joseph T. Escott.....	820	446
Stephen W. Foster.....	374	

*County Clerk.*

Charlie Gay.....	818	451
Orrin Stevens.....	367	

*County Treasurer.*

W. Irving Latimer.....	897	601
Joseph H. Kilbourne.....	296	

*Register of Deeds.*

James M. Colby.....	866	536
William Huen.....	330	
Scattering.....	3	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Benjamin F. Graves.....	754	337
Frank Dumon.....	417	
Scattering.....	3	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Calvin W. Nottingham.....	671	170
Douglas Roben.....	501	
Scattering.....	7	

*County Surveyor.*

Marshall Wheeler.....	796	410
Theodore W. Robbins.....	386	
Scattering.....	1	

*Coroners.*

John H. Foster.....	833	472
Thomas Shaw.....	827	463
Matthew Roben.....	364	
Sidney P. Phelps.....	361	

ELECTION OF APRIL 5, 1875.

*Circuit Judge.*

Richard A. Montgomery.....	1076	494
Augustine H. Giddings.....	582	

ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 7, 1876.

*President.*

Rutherford B. Hayes.....	1342	416
Samuel J. Tilden.....	926	
Peter Cooper.....	101	

*Governor.*

Charles M. Crosswell.....	1341	396
William S. Webber.....	945	
Levi Sparks.....	85	

*Sheriff*

Nathan H. Vincent.....	1251	211
Stephen W. Foster.....	1040	
Charles W. Whitfield.....	53	

*Judge of Probate.*

William Ladner.....	1337	416
John E. Gruber.....	921	
Thomas Lazell.....	111	

*County Clerk.*

Charlie Gay.....	1325	350
Daniel E. Stearns.....	975	
Isaac W. Clifton.....	46	

*Register of Deeds.*

James M. Colby .....	1058	224
Simon G. Webster.....	834	
Benjamin Chamberlain.....	503	

*County Treasurer.*

W. Irving Latimer.....	1369	446
Richard D. Ladner.....	923	
John Wiseman.....	63	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Benjamin F. Graves.....	1318	336
Durelle F. Glidden.....	972	
John S. Evans.....	55	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Walter L. Roberts.....	1315	322
Wallace W. Carpenter.....	993	
Michael A. Hartigan.....	57	

*County Surveyor.*

William Jacques .....	1352	409
Samuel S. Mitchell.....	943	
Ambrose M. Bell.....	84	

*Coroners.*

Thomas Shaw.....	1355	419
Lyman Nethaway .....	1356	427
Albert E. Newman.....	936	
Jesse Varney.....	929	
Augustus G. Fisk.....	74	
Robert Walker.....	76	

*Representative in Congress.*

Jay A. Hubbell.....	1323	303
Joseph H. Kilbourne.....	1020	

*State Senator.*

Marsden C. Burch.....	1417	469
John S. Law.....	948	

*Representative in Legislature.*

Fitch Phelps.....	1332	396
Charles M. Darrah.....	936	
William E. Hill.....	95	

ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 5, 1878.

*Governor.*

Charles M. Crowell.....	1192	463
Henry S. Smith.....	729	
O. M. Barnes.....	311	

*Representative in Congress.*

Jay A. Hubbell.....	1179	435
George Parmelee.....	744	
John Power.....	306	

*Circuit Judge.*

Michael Brown.....	1887 (no opp.)	
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*Representative in Legislature.*

Fitch Phelps.....	1139	419
William E. Hill.....	720	
Chauncey B. Hannum.....	360	

*Sheriff.*

Nathan H. Vincent.....	1198	518
Allen E. Williams.....	349	
Abel B. Knapp.....	680	

*County Clerk.*

Lewis Toan.....	1102	421
George M. Gotshall.....	681	
William O. Lake.....	452	

*Register of Deeds.*

James M. Colby.....	1224	491
Alexander H. Lane.....	733	
Charles B. Lovejoy.....	266	

*County Treasurer.*

Edgar Peirce.....	1192	478
Edmund M. Stickney.....	714	
Charles P. Bigelow.....	331	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Lewis G. Palmer.....	1067	390
Durelle F. Glidden.....	677	
Wallace W. Carpenter.....	487	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Calvin W. Nottingham.....	1165	396
Jacob C. Clark.....	768	
Wallace W. Carpenter.....	279	

*County Surveyor.*

William M. Jacques.....	1204	495
Sumner Stickney.....	709	
Samuel S. Mitchell.....	307	

*Coroners.*

William Creevey.....	1194	463
Lewis Carman.....	1190	458
Willard S. Whitney.....	732	
Lucien W. Tomey.....	731	
John E. Grouber.....	314	
John Lane.....	310	

ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2, 1880.

*President.*

James A. Garfield.....	1621	769
Winfield S. Hancock.....	852	
James B. Weaver.....	275	

*Governor.*

David H. Jerome.....	1518	539
Frederick M. Holloway.....	979	
David Woodman.....	248	

*Representative in Congress.*

Jay A. Hubbell.....	1592	572
Edwin S. Pratt.....	1020	
George Parmelee.....	91	

*Senator.*

R. Ambler.....	1735	1205
D. Rutherford.....	530	
G. Fowler.....	408	

*Representative in Legislature.*

Martin P. Gale.....	1756	818
John V. Armstrong.....	930	

*Sheriff.*

John Shaw.....	1560	403
Stephen W. Foster.....	1157	

*Judge of Probate.*

William Ladner.....	1632	524
William Warren.....	1108	

*County Clerk.*

Lewis Toan.....	1849	988
George B. Dougall.....	861	

*Register of Deeds.*

James M. Colby.....	1486	246
Homer A. Morey.....	1240	

*County Treasurer.*

Edgar Peirce.....	1726	728
Roscoe G. Wakefield.....	998	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Lewis G. Palmer.....	1584	484
Wallace W. Carpenter.....	1100	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Churchill H. Thrall.....	1846	1665
Wallace W. Carpenter.....	181	

*County Surveyor.*

William Jacques.....	1620	498
Samuel S. Mitchell.....	1122	

*Coroners.*

William T. Bliss.....	1624	458
Gardner F. Cutler.....	1632	763
Rufus Kent.....	866	
Colonel Ethan Allen.....	869	
Willard S. Whitney.....	252	
Sidney L. Rood.....	251	

## ELECTION OF APRIL 3, 1882.

*Circuit Judge.*

Ceylon C. Fuller.....	1324	353
George Luton.....	971	

## ELECTION OF NOVEMBER, 1882.

*Governor.*

David H. Jerome.....	1367	139
Josiah W. Begole.....	1228	
Daniel P. Sagendorph.....	44	
Charles C. Foote.....	7	

*Representative in Congress.*

Byron M. Cutcheon.....	1572	542
Stephen Bronson.....	1030	

*State Senator.*

Fitch Phelps.....	1502	358
Smith Fowler.....	1144	

*Representative in Legislature.*

Edgar Peirce.....	1556	461
Robert Robbins.....	1095	

*Sheriff.*

Eli Frederick.....	1545	423
Arnold Ely.....	1122	

*County Clerk.*

Lewis Toan.....	1481	597
Richard D. Ladner.....	884	
Charles A. Munn.....	295	

*Register of Deeds.*

Daniel W. Stewart.....	1527	419
Joseph H. Kilbourne.....	1108	

*County Treasurer.*

Simon G. Webster.....	1705	755
Chauncey B. Hannum.....	950	

*Prosecuting Attorney.*

Frank Dumon.....	1473	306
Lewis G. Palmer.....	1167	

*Circuit Court Commissioner.*

Churchill H. Thrall.....	1575	441
Oscar E. Mann.....	1134	

*County Surveyor.*

Harry I. Orwig.....	1622	589
Samuel S. Mitchell.....	1033	

*Coroners.*

Thomas Shaw.....	1511	363
David C. Fuller.....	1504	353
Willard S. Whitney.....	1151	
John V. Armstrong.....	1148	



**J**UST as President Lincoln entered upon his first term of office, the attack on and the fall of Fort Sumter was the signal for the loyal people throughout the North to rouse themselves and rush to arms in defense of the flag. Even in Mecosta County, then thinly populated, and on the remote borders of civilization, the feeling of enthusiasm was intense. Recruits promptly stepped forth to swell the army of the Union, and departed for the front amidst the prayers of families, friends and fellow-citizens. With cheerful alacrity the people responded to the successive calls of the President for troops throughout the war. There is something grand in the patriotism animating that people which, after straining its resources for months to meet one call, and hearing the news that 500,000 more are wanted, goes uncomplainingly, eagerly, into the work of raising its quota once more.

What terrible ordeals those troops passed through

during their long and eventful military career, and what magnificent results crowned their service! Victims of swamp and typhus fevers; baffled time and again by the flood; battling at every disadvantage with the flower of the enemy, on a strange soil, with a hostile population; long denied a victory; matured plans jeopardized; fighting all day, marching all night; advancing until they saw the spires of Richmond, then back again within sight of the white dome of Washington; never elated with success, never depressed with defeat; disaster following disaster,—they were buoyant to the close. Smiling through tears they parted with their beloved chief; one brave commander gave place to another, yet gaily they transferred their fealty. Marching to certain death up Mary's Heights on those awful days at Fredericksburg; falling by thousands at Chancellorsville; the waves of war sweeping toward their homes, spreading devastation worse than the track of the tornado, they again gave battle to that exultant invader at Gettysburg, and on that renowned and thrice sacred field for three long days they fought and won the victory that turned the tide of war and saved the North from desolation. Back again they follow the unyielding foe, drenching the wilderness with gore; for still another year they bleed, until Richmond falls; the army of Northern Virginia, overwhelmed with numbers, and supplies exhausted,

capitulated, the Confederacy was crushed and the Union preserved! In a few months all that were left of mighty opposing forces,—victor and vanquished, officers and privates,—returned to their homes, doffed their uniforms, furled their battle-flags, and their deeds passed from the present to the realms of history.

#### FIRST ENLISTMENTS.

**W**HEN the loyal people of the North were called upon to rally around the stars and stripes, Mecosta County responded with a will. The patriotism of the early settlers of this county was equal to that of any people in the State. May 13, 1861, George French went to Grand Rapids and enlisted in Company K, Third Regiment Michigan Infantry, and soon afterwards returned to Big Rapids for more volunteers. John Shaw, Fred L. Barker, Sidney Fox, James McAllister, Alexander French, James Misner, Robert Misner, Elias Snyder, Fred Schriver and — Coleman enlisted with Mr. French, and constituted the first squad of volunteer soldiers from Mecosta County. They were mustered into the United States service June 10, 1861, and shortly afterward accompanied their command to the front, where they did their full share toward earning for the "Old Third" its brilliant record as a fighting regiment. Of the original number, Messrs. French, Shaw, Barker, and James and Robert Misner lived to return home. The lives of the others were sacrificed in defense of their country.

#### COUNTY AID.

**T**HE county authorities, as patriotic as those of every other county in loyal Michigan, early adopted measures for assisting the families of those who volunteered for the Union army. At a special meeting held in August, 1862, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to pay a bounty to volunteers enlisted in the county, of \$50, and also to pay the families of the volunteers seven dollars per month for the wife and two dollars for each child under the age of fif-

teen years. This resolution took effect from its passage, and did not apply to those who had enlisted previously, except the support of families which applied to all in the county, regardless of the time of enlistment, and was to be paid regularly, whether the family were in a destitute condition or not.

This was a move in the right direction, because it was not right that the family of a volunteer be obliged to consume the last morsel of food, and wear out the last article of clothing, and the wife compelled to take in washing, or engage in some other menial employment to support her family, because her rightful protector and supporter was fighting the battles of his country, before receiving from the county the aid so generously and wisely authorized by the State.

Under the encouragement of this step, a number more volunteers came forward within a month.

#### DRAFT.

In the summer of 1863 an enrollment was made of those in Mecosta County liable to perform military duty, by E. O. Rose, enrolling officer; and it was found that there were 226 of the first class, and 78 of the second class; a total of 304. Those between the ages of twenty and thirty-five who were married and up to forty-five unmarried, constituted the first class; the married men between thirty-five and forty-five, the second class. Of the total number thus enrolled, thirty-five claimed to be aliens.

Soon afterward came a call by the President for 300,000 more volunteers before January. The quota of Mecosta County under this call was 32 men. Recruits came forward slowly for a while, but in December a sum was raised by subscription to pay each volunteer an extra bounty of \$100. The quota of several townships were about full, and a draft was continually expected in the remaining townships, which however was postponed several times, until in the spring came still another call for 200,000 men. This necessitated a draft from all the townships but Leonard (Big Rapids), which filled its quota under both calls by volunteer enlistments. The draft took place June 13, and 47 were drawn, as follows:

*Richmond.*—Henry Zeitler, Christian Schaff, John Pepper, Philip Mosser, Murray Cromwell, John Gerhardt, Theodore Lotte, Isaac Osborn, Neil McFarlan.

*Green.*—George Shust, Joseph West, Andrew



Green, Andrew J. Hyatt, John Dalziel, Ariel Aldrich, George W. Green, William Gibson.

*Mecosta.*—Franklin Smith, Nelson Ganong, Johnson E. Burgess, Hiram Hull, John Davis.

*Deerfield.*—Frederick Hunter, William Segar, Henry Mills, John Clink, Lewis Eckhardt, William Callar, Lewis Swartout, Ellis Davis, Samuel Hutchins, William H. Butse, William Mitchell.

*Wheatland.*—James McCloud, William Scheidel, John W. Gingrich, George Minkel, John Schneider, Michael Dittel, Dorvil H. Whitney, Randall F. Capen.

*Hinton.*—John W. Rose, John Van Dewater, William J. Allen, John Bower, Asa Brockway, Bentley Davis.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DRAFT.

For various reasons the above draft did not supply the requisite number, and a supplementary draft came off July 1. The *Pioneer* thus humorously alludes to it:

"A kind of supplementary draft came off this week, and the lucky ones are now being notified. This draft is for the purpose of filling the place of those who reported in Canada instead of at Grand Rapids on the last draft, and also those who were exempt. The town of Richmond seems to have been the most fortunate as to skeddaddlers, as a new draft of five men was made there; and we are informed that three of those drafted before are now in Canada, thus leaving those who remain a chance of being drafted to fill their places. Other parts of the county are in a similar situation."

Those drafted this time were:

*Richmond.*—Louis Reminapp, Conrad Folmerhauser, Alex. McFarlane, Thomas Sales, Henry Gerhardt.

*Mecosta.*—Henry Myres, Edward Davis, Charles Marsh.

*Deerfield.*—George Gilmore, James Buchner, Marcellus T. Nethaway.

*Hinton.*—William Brockway, Daniel Van Antwerp, John Godfroy.

*Wheatland.*—Eli W. Gingrich, Adam Kunkelman.

#### MORE RECRUITS.

This year, 1864, the Government was determined to crush the Rebellion by force of numbers, and call

after call for troops brought forth a cheerful response throughout the loyal North. Hardly was this draft over when 500,000 more were asked, and under this call the quota of Mecosta County was as follows: Richmond, 6; Green, 7; Leonard, 8; Mecosta, 5; Deerfield, 6; Hinton, 3; Wheatland, 2.

Leonard, Mecosta and Wheatland Townships raised their quota before March 1, 1865, and Richmond, Deerfield, Hinton and Green resolved to await the draft. This, however, never came off, as soon after came the fall of the Confederacy, and all enlistments stopped.

#### THE END.

**R**EJOICING at the end of the cruel war was fully as great in Mecosta County as elsewhere. Upon the reception of the news of the capture of Jefferson Davis, the citizens of Big Rapids turned out and bought all the powder in town, and fired fifty-two guns.

This accomplished, they deemed it advisable to execute the "old reprobate;" whereupon, an image of the ex-president, made of straw and old clothes, was speedily put together and suspended by a rope around the neck from a long pole, in which condition it was conducted to a cart, and after being properly put aboard, was conveyed through the principal streets, followed by a long procession carrying bells, horns, circular saws, and everything from which a noise could be made, that could be got hold of. After marching around for about an hour, the crowd came to a halt in front of Hutchinson's store, and hung the effigy. Speeches were then called for, and short addresses were made by several citizens.

The soldiers in due time returned to their homes and resumed their ordinary vocations.

#### THE SURVIVORS.

**T**HE brave men who survived this struggle have as true sentiments of patriotism within their breasts to-day as when they left mother, father, wife and family for the front, wherever they are found, in all questions of National or State import, it springs forth. It is not spasmodic in its action, blazing forth only, as in

a comet's erratic course, in times of public trials or danger, upon great occasions, and upon great incentive; but it is their rule of conduct,—constant, equitable, incorruptible and enduring. Wealth cannot bribe it; power cannot reduce it; ambition cannot blind it; friendship cannot swerve it from justice. Fear cannot intimidate it, nor injustice warp it, nor luxury corrupt or enervate it. We speak only, of course, of the men who volunteered from inspirations of patriotism; and, since their return from the field, by a conscientious deportment, stirred by these true principles of patriotism, they have earned the general respect of the people, and have filled some of the highest offices in the land; and as patriotism seeks to be effective to the interests of a State, to vindicate its rights, redress its wrongs, and secure its prosperity, these can never be better left than with those men who braved death for the Union of States, and that the States' rights might not be trampled upon in the mire of secession and rebellion;

Men who their duties know,  
But also know their rights, and, knowing,  
Dare maintain them.

#### SOLDIERS' REUNIONS.

**A** VERY successful reunion of soldiers and sailors was held at Big Rapids on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 1878. Although the weather in the morning was threatening, the attendance was large enough to fill Armory Hall. N. H. Moody acted as Marshal, assisted by John Shaw and G. W. Crawford. The procession was formed at 11 o'clock in the following order: City Cornet Band; Light Guards; Old Soldiers, headed by men who had been commissioned officers—the whole forming a long column. The line of march was northward to Pine street, eastward to Warren avenue, southward to Oak street, westward to State street, northward to Linden street, eastward to Michigan avenue, and northward to the Armory.

Three tables, extending the whole length of Armory Hall, with seats for 240 people, were loaded down with edibles of every description. The tables were tastefully ornamented with flowers and miniature

flags, and presented an appearance that did credit to the ladies having the picnic in charge. Dinner was announced at half-past twelve, and after all the seats were filled, a blessing was invoked by Rev. C. A. Munn, formerly Chaplain of the 100th Regiment Indiana Volunteers. As there were nearly a hundred people unable to obtain seats at the first table, a second one was prepared after the first had been cleared off.

After dinner came the speaking. The meeting was presided over by E. O. Rose. A brief but eloquent address by L. G. Palmer, of Morley, then followed, after which these toasts were offered and responded to:

1. Our Country: One and Inseparable. Response by Serg't. Edgar Pierce.
2. The President of the United States. Response by Gen. Bronson.
3. The Army and the Navy. Response by Douglas Roben.
4. The Stars and Stripes. Response by Col. J. O. Hudnut.
5. Michigan in War. Response by J. H. Palmer.
6. Michigan in Peace. Response by Capt. B. F. Graves.
7. Gen. Grant and his Lieutenants. Response by L. H. Palmer.
8. The Rank and File of our Volunteer Army. Response by Serg't. J. H. Kilbourne.
9. The Rebel Prisons and their Unfortunate Inmates. Response by Dr. F. B. Wood.
10. Our Fallen Comrades. Response by the audience silently rising.
11. The Loyal Women of the Union. Response by Lieut. T. J. Owen.
12. The Colored Troops. Response by Charlie Scott.
13. The Press—The Headlight of American Institutions. Response by Lieut. E. O. Rose.
14. When Johnnie Comes Marching Home. Response by S. McClanathan.

The responses, which were both able and eloquent, elicited frequent applause, and were listened to with marked attention throughout. The exercises were interspersed with instrumental music and singing. The former was furnished by the City Cornet Band, and the latter by a glee club, consisting of E. F. Dewey, S. S. Griswold, S. D. Henderson and Mrs. Campau, with Miss Jennie Mason at the organ. The pieces selected were the patriotic songs of war times, and the audience joined heartily in the chorus of each. This reunion will long be remembered by the participants as one of the most enjoyable days of their lives.

A permanent organization was effected, with a view to future reunions.

### SECOND REUNION.

A second reunion was held on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1879, and, like the former occasion, was a gratifying success. Something over two hundred veterans, accompanied by their wives and families, were in attendance from the city and surrounding country. At 10 in the forenoon, a national salute was fired, and shortly afterward the procession was formed for the street parade by Capt. B. F. Brazee, acting as Marshal, in the following order: City Cornet Band; Big Rapids Light Guard; veteran soldiers and sailors on foot; one of the rifled cannon which once formed a part of the equipment of the famous Loomis Battery; mounted veteran cavalrymen, among the latter being B. C. Allen, who was a private in the war of 1812. Mr. Allen carried a well worn flag, which was the identical flag borne by him in active service, and which he has since preserved as a relic of the last great struggle between England and the United States.

The line of march was as follows: north on Michigan avenue and Osceola street to Waterloo street; thence west to State street; thence south to Hemlock street; thence east to Michigan avenue; thence south to Pine street; thence east to Warren avenue; thence south to Oak street; thence west to State street; thence north to Linden street; thence east to Michigan avenue; thence north to the Armory. Many business and private residences along the line of march were tastefully decorated, conspicuous among the latter being the house of J. P. Huling, which was adorned with a large portrait of Washington, a bust of Lincoln, and a profusion of flags, mottoes and accoutrements of war. The column was halted opposite Mr. Huling's house, faced to the right, and three rousing cheers given for Washington and Lincoln.

Arrived at the Armory, the parade was dismissed, and shortly afterward the seats around the four long tables in Armory Hall were filled. Although provision had been made for upwards of three hundred people, the crowd was so great that only about two-thirds of it could be accommodated at the first sitting.

After an intermission of about an hour, during

which the tables were removed and seats arranged, the crowd re-assembled, filling the hall to its utmost capacity. The stage was handsomely decorated with flowers, flags and various implements of war. Mr. Allen, the veteran of 1812, occupied a position at the front, proudly bearing aloft his old flag. Order being restored, the audience was treated to a medley of National airs by the cornet band, after which Lieut. E. O. Rose, President of the Association, delivered a very eloquent address, from which the following brief extract is taken:

"Every man and woman who can say, 'my father (or grandfather) was a soldier in the war of 1812 or in the Revolution,' utters it with a feeling of pride; and in after years our children and grandchildren will experience the same feeling of pride in alluding to the part we took in the great struggle for the maintenance of national unity.

"As we view this vast assemblage, and reflect upon what brings us together, the mind's eye involuntarily wanders back over the lapse of years to the time when we left our several avocations, and went forth to assist in defending the old flag and the Government that floats it. We see the farmer leaving his plow, the mechanic his bench, the merchant his store and the professional man his office; we see them sign their names to the muster roll, and put on the uniform of the army and navy of the United States; we see them finally, with blanched cheek and quivering lip, bidding good-bye to those they love; we hear the gray-haired mother speak in tremulous tones as she bestows a parting blessing upon her darling boy; we hear the sister's reluctant farewell, and the sweet-heart's stifled sob as she bids her affianced good-bye; we hear the wife's agonizing groan as she gazes through blinding tears upon the receding form of her husband and protector; while little children, unable to comprehend the solemnity of the occasion, cling to her skirts with a frightened look and wonder what it is all about. And could you look into the hearts of the men who thus tore themselves from the ties of home, and boldly went forth to brave the perils of a soldier's life, you would find photographed there mental struggles which few but old soldiers can understand. Many of those family partings were the last upon earth, for hundreds of thousands of those who battled for the Union found graves in Southern soil.

"In conclusion, let me express the hope that this

reunion, so pleasantly begun, may be throughout a season of rejoicing. When we go to our respective homes, I trust that each may feel that it was 'good to be here.' May the chain of friendship which was first linked together in the camp, on the march and on the battle-field, be brightened and strengthened. Many of our comrades fill Southern graves; others are falling by the wayside from year to year, and the day is not far distant when the sods of earth will cover the last of the grand old army of the Union. And as we pass down the declivity of time, each day bringing us so much nearer honored graves, may the love and gratitude of the Nation, and the choicest blessings of heaven and of earth be yours."

After another air by the band, Frank Dumon responded to the toast, "The Union," following which the band played "Hail Columbia." J. B. Upton then responded to the "Old Flag" in such eloquent words that they are worth recording here.

"When a few years ago the message flashed over the wires, 'The Duke is dead,' every person knew that it meant the Duke of Wellington. When it was announced that the Senator was dead, every person knew that Charles Sumner was no more. And when now we hear the words, 'the old flag,' every intelligent, enlightened American citizen knows that they mean the history of the United States as a nation. They mean the high and glorious resolve of our forefathers that this goodly land should be free, and the home of millions of undisputed sovereigns. They mean all the sorrows and grief they bore to secure this grand heritage for their descendants, as well as the joy they experienced in contemplating such a grand and glorious legacy. They mean their heroic bravery, their unflinching devotion to the principles of liberty during all the long years of the war. They mean their victory and elation at Saratoga; their defeat at Germantown; their heroic endurance and suffering at Valley Forge; their unswerving devotion to the just cause; and their grand and glorious victory at Yorktown, wherein they smote and shivered the power of haughty England, and secured for themselves and us their descendants the priceless boon of independence. They mean the type and symbol of our national growth until the war of 1812, in which it floated proudly over our victorious soldiers on the land and on the sea, and saw England again the suppliant for peace. They mean the daring and the courage of our patriotic soldiers in the war with

Mexico, and their victories achieved therein. They mean the power of a loyal government of patriotic men and women to suppress the mightiest domestic insurrection and rebellion recorded in the annals of history. They mean the heroic resolve, the dauntless courage of our gallant soldiers, many of whom are here now present. They mean the quarter of a million of slaughtered brothers, husbands and fathers; the sorrow, the grief, the desolation in thousands of households; the unflinching devotion of our sisters, wives and mothers. They mean the sanguinary assault, the deadly affray, the repulses, the victories, during all the years of the war, until the rebellion, in the person of General Lee, laid down the scepter of its power at Appomattox, at the feet of the silent man,—the mightiest, the greatest and the grandest general of the world,—Ulysses S. Grant. They mean thereafter the healing of the nation, and the restoration of the powers of Government. They mean the marching onward of our Government from its infancy until it is recognized as among the leading powers of the earth. They mean the development of our country until it has become the granary of the world—the Egypt where all the sons of want may come to procure the needed sustenance of life. To the loyal and patriotic of to-day they mean a greater love for our institutions, a higher zeal for their support, a more hearty consecration to their maintenance, and a firmer determination to uphold this Government, because it is 'of the people, by the people, and for the people.' They mean the hearty orthodox prayer of heaven for the defenders, and hell for the destroyers of 'The Old Flag.'"

The glee club sang "Rally Round the Flag, Boys," and then the third toast, "Abraham Lincoln, the martyred President," was responded to in a fitting manner by L. G. Palmer, as follows:

"No need to recite history. It is indelibly written upon every loyal heart. From the cabin to the capitol, his record is that of an honest boy, a faithful citizen, a loving, brave commander, content to labor in the most humble calling, yet competent to decide the destinies of a great nation. Never within the period of our national history had we such need of a Lincoln as when he entered upon his perilous duties. Asking the prayers of his countrymen, he took their cause upon his broad shoulders, carried it triumphantly through the dark struggle, landed it safely at

the cost of his life. *Martyr* indeed! Never did the old flag take half-mast upon so sad an occasion as when the wires flashed that fatal message, "Lincoln is dead." The nation was at first convulsed as by an earthquake, then it trembled, then wept as a child. Sad silence reigned everywhere. The hum of machinery was hushed. All gayety gave place to deep sorrow. The palace, the cottage, the hovel, were alike draped in mourning. Strong men met, greeted each other in whispers, and sobbed aloud.

"In his death, every human being lost a friend. He long ago predicted and expressed a belief that his life and the rebellion would end together; and his blood, though shed by the cowardly assassin, as the agent of our ungrateful people, has cemented the bonds of our Union; and accursed be the traitor who dares attempt to break that sacred seal.

"No name enrolled upon the pages of history calls forth such tender, loving enthusiasm from the American people as the honored name of Abraham Lincoln. He was not only great as a statesman, but a man in the purest meaning of that term. The murmur of a child would move his sympathy; and when his country called upon him, above all others, to reunite, if possible, the broken bonds of brotherhood, he responded from the depths of his great heart, 'We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break, the bonds of affection. The mystic cords of memory stretching from every battle-field and patriot's grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of Union, impelled by the better angels of our nature, with malice toward none, with charity to all.' These are but a trifling example of the calm, deliberate, loving sentiments of our sainted hero. Yet with gentleness he combined firmness. When he heard the lash of the master, followed by the groan of the slave, mark his expression:

"Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that the scourge of war may soon pass away. But if God wills, let it continue until all the wealth piled up by the bondmen's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn by the sword.' Yes, he heard the piteous appeal and hastened to the rescue. He struck the shackles from 4,000,000 slaves and left them as God intended they should be,

unfettered, free as the waves of ocean, the winds of heaven. And though he could not heal the aching limbs, he could rob the slave-pen and the whipping post of further victims. He could clasp the black hands that were everywhere upheld to him. He could heal their wounded hearts.

"History has recorded many noble documents, some never to be forgotten. 'Magna Charta,' dear to us all; the 'Declaration of Independence,' which, please God, shall never die; last in number, first in human kindness and brotherly love, Lincoln's immortal 'Proclamation of Emancipation.' It brought forth liberty from bondage, warmed the cold hearthstone, restored many a lost link so cruelly severed from that golden love-chain that binds a mother to her child. Forever green in the memory of that humble people, Lincoln will be your name. It will be lisped in prayer until every lip is speechless and every heart is still.

"But why prolong this eulogy? Human expression is too feeble to portray his merits or do justice to his noble character. He stands alone in history, the humblest, yet the highest. Summon the artillery of the nation, marshal in solemn column all her soldiers, her sailors and her citizens. Let sweetest music be wafted on every breeze. Aye—mingle with it the heavenly chorus of angels, and chant his requiem from shore to shore. Float the old flag from every house-top and mast-head, and then, even then you have but a just response to your toast, 'Abraham Lincoln, Our Martyr President.'"

The glee club then sang the song, "Lay me down and save the flag," and after that Dr. F. B. Wood responded to the toast, "The Picket." This was followed by two songs, the "Picket Guard," and "Kingdom Comin'," by the club. Judge M. Brown then responded to the toast, "The Prison Pen." After a graphic portrayal of the sufferings at Andersonville and Libby and other rebel prisons, the speaker said:

"No nation can prosper which would treat its prisoners with such cruelty. I honor my country; I love its institutions; but whenever it resorts to such treatment of prisoners of war, then, I pray that he who holds the destinies of nations in his hands may blot it from the map of empires."

The glee club then sang "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," and then the toast, "Our Fallen Comrades," was responded to by the audience rising, and standing in

silence while the band played a dirge. "The Loyal Women" was then responded to by J. M. Colby, and the band next played "The Girl I left behind me." After this, Noble D. Rood, of Colfax Township, spoke briefly, from experience, of the rebel prisons, confirming all that had been said of their cruelty. At the conclusion of Mr. Rood's remarks, it was suggested that all who had been prisoners of war stand up. A count of those who arose to their feet in response to this suggestion disclosed the fact that the audience contained twenty-seven men who were living witnesses of the atrocities perpetrated upon those who had the misfortune to be captured by the rebels during the war. The next toast was "The Bivouac," which was responded to by Lieut. Edgar Peirce, as follows:

"Of the many recollections of a soldier's life brought to mind on occasions like the present, none are perhaps more vivid and interesting than the recollections that cluster around the bivouac fire. As memory wanders back to those stirring times of 1861-5, and calls to mind the countless fires that have gleamed from the Potomac to the Gulf, marking each day's progress on that long and bloody road, what a panorama moves before our mental vision! Those fires have long been cold, but in memory they burn as brightly to-day as they did in years gone by, and give rise to many pleasant, many tender, and many painful emotions.

"What pleasanter scene, for instance, can be imagined than that presented by an evening bivouac at the close of a pleasant summer's day, in some beautiful spot in the valley of Virginia? The blue mountain tops in the hazy distance, the green field dotted with white tents, the myriads of twinkling camp-fires surrounded by careless and picturesque groups of boys in blue, the inspiring strains of martial music, mingled with the sounds of laughter and song, all combine to make a scene of enchantment which, once seen, can never be forgotten.

"But when autumn came with its icy winds and chilling storms of rain and sleet, and the roads were one endless, hopeless stretch of mud, the picture had a darker shade. Then, after wearily plodding all day through mud and rain, often until late at night, we would at length turn aside into some dripping piece of woods, and listen to some such command as this: 'Halt! Dismount and fix yourselves comfort-

able for the night!' Comfortable! Easy said; but with the rain coming down in torrents, blankets and clothing soaked through, teeth chattering, fingers stiffened and benumbed with cold, and stomachs yearning for mother's cupboard at home, the prospect for comfort was not flattering. We lived through it, however, and can again, if occasion require it.

"But what a troop of mournful and tender recollections come crowding on the memory when we think of the bivouac after the battle; when the clash of arms had ceased; when the sounds of the shrill, demoniac Southern yell, and the deep-chested, full-mouthed Northern roar were no longer borne on the breeze; when the last, fierce, desperate charge had been made, and the battle lost or won! Silently we gathered around the bivouac fire in sadly diminished numbers, missing the merry voices, and dear, familiar faces of many loved comrades, who only the evening before were with us full of life and mirth; but to-night their unshrouded and uncoffined forms lowly lie in unmarked graves.

"Hundreds of thousands of those loved comrades now lie quietly resting in their last bivouac. Scattered all over the sunny South they peacefully sleep, making its vaunted sacred soil truly sacred with their loyal dust. On the pleasant slopes of Cemetery Hill, at Gettysburg, on the very spot where in life they stood a living wall against which Lee's trained legions surged like a mighty wave, only to be, like a wave, dashed back in fragments, thousands of them gloriously rest. And I hope that these, our annual reunions or bivouacs, as they might be called, will be kept up, if for no other purpose than to keep the memory of those brave men green. I trust as time rolls on and our numbers diminish, our interest in these gatherings will increase, until we finally meet in that grand reunion on the other shore."

The band then played "Yankee Doodle," after which M. T. Nethaway responded to the toast, "The Long Roll." His remarks were very interesting, and at their conclusion the bugle call for the long roll, was sounded from behind the scenes, which was followed by the genuine, old-fashioned roll, beaten upon the drums by Messrs. Palmer, Miller and Hobart. Gen. Stephen Bronson then spoke on the "Close of the War." The exercises closed with the song, "Red, White and Blue," by the glee club.

## THIRD REUNION.

Aug. 24, 1880, another reunion was held of the Old Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Mecosta County. The attendance, owing to unfavorable weather, was not as large as on previous occasions. A procession was formed at the armory about 11 o'clock, under direction of Marshal Owen, assisted by W. D. Moody. First came the City Cornet Band, then came the Big Rapids Guard, and the veteran soldiers brought up the rear. The procession moved eastward to Warren avenue, thence southward to Oak street, thence westward to State street, thence northward to Woodward avenue, thence westward to Stearns' Grove. In passing the residence of A. C. Tibbits, on Oak street, the procession was halted, and three hearty cheers were given for the decorations which adorned the front of the building. At the grove, after dinner, a stirring address was given by the president, Edgar Peirce. Just as he was closing a sudden rain caused the meeting to adjourn to Armory Hall. Here the following toasts were responded to:

- 1.—“*Our Flag.*”—Response by Hon. Michael Brown.
- 2.—“*Our Fallen Comrades.*”—In silence, audience standing.
- 3.—“*General Custer.*”—David Burns.
- 4.—“*The Foragers.*”—J. B. Upton.

The exercises were interspersed with music by the band, and songs by a glee club.

## FOURTH REUNION.

The fourth annual reunion was a grand success. It occurred Thursday, Aug. 4, 1881, and was largely


attended. The great novelty this year was the use of real tents, and the performance of army camp duties by the veterans. A salute was fired at 10 o'clock, and shortly afterward a procession formed under the direction of Captain Brazee, assisted by G. W. Crawford and Thomas Shaw, in the following order: Knights Templar Band; Big Rapids Guard, armed; old soldiers, armed; a veteran war-horse, and a section of artillery. The procession moved through the principal streets, and then returned to camp for dinner. An excellent dinner was served under a big tent erected for that purpose, and squads had dinner in nearly all the mess tents on the grounds. After dinner, a patriotic address was delivered by Hon. M. Brown, and the following toasts were proposed and appropriately responded to, as follows:

- “*On the March.*”—Response by L. G. Palmer.  
 “*The Bumpers.*”—Response by Frank Dumon.  
 “*Boots and Saddles.*”—Response by Edgar Peirce.  
 “*Our Fallen Comrades.*”—In silence, audience standing.


“*The Chaplain.*”—Response by Rev. C. A. Munn.  
 Music was furnished by the Knights Templar Band. At the business meeting the Executive Committee were authorized to purchase a cemetery lot, whereon indigent members might be buried. A letter of regret was read from Robert T. Lincoln, Secretary of War. The reunion closed with a ball at the Armory, which was attended by 125 couples.

The Third Michigan Infantry held a reunion at Big Rapids, Dec. 13, 1881, which was attended by 200 veterans. Among the exercises was the toast, “The Boys in Blue,” to which J. B. Upton, of Big Rapids, made an impromptu response.





# AGRICULTURAL.



EXTENT and fertility of the soil constitute a measure of the permanent wealth of the locality. Great as is the lumber industry in Mecosta County, it is nevertheless true that the time will come when the forests of Central Michigan will be all cleared away, and the State no longer furnish lumber for a continent. It is therefore well that the soil of this county is rich and capable of a high state of cultivation.

A very great variety of crops can be raised here profitably: fruits, grains and garden stuff; and the agricultural resources of the county can be imagined when it is considered that in 1882 the 1,200 farms comprised only 30,000 acres under cultivation, which is less than a tenth of the area.

Early in March, 1874, steps were taken to form an agricultural society. A meeting of citizens from different parts of the county, for this purpose, was held March 5, at the office of B. F. Graves, in Big Rapids. Col. N. H. Vincent was made Chairman, and G. W. Warren, Secretary. B. F. Graves drafted articles of association, which were signed by N. H. Vincent, Carlos Teachout, F. P. Wood, John McCutcheon, C. C. Fuller, J. K. Klesner, A. Vangilder, C. W. Whitfield, G. W. Warren and Henry Main. Messrs. G.

W. Warren, B. F. Graves and F. P. Wood were appointed a committee to distribute to the supervisor of each township and ward throughout the county a subscription paper, to be placed before the voters at the next spring election; and the following address issued to the people through the press:

## TO THE CITIZENS OF MECOSTA COUNTY.

Steps have been taken to organize an agricultural and mechanical society. Articles of association have been drawn up and signed by the requisite number, and an invitation will be extended to every voter in this county to become a member. Subscription lists will be in the hands of some competent person at every poll district in the county, at the spring elections in April next. The object of this society is to develop and promote the agricultural and mechanical interests of this county; and to the end that it may be made a successful enterprise, it is desired that every citizen of this county give it their hearty co-operation and support. But little is known here yet of the great agricultural resources of Northern Michigan. Possessed of a rich and fertile soil, the time is not far distant when this county will not be surpassed in agricultural and mechanical productions by any county in Northern Michigan; and that she may not fall behind her sister counties in the great race of development and civilization, it is desired that every effort be put forth by the people of this county to build up and firmly establish a society of this kind. In the great agricultural districts of the Eastern and Middle States, societies of this kind have become permanent fixtures, and they are well calculated to stimulate, build up and promote the stock-raising and producing interests of an agricultu-



ral community. The pine forests of this county are fast disappearing, and a few years hence improved farms will take their place. Let us then make every effort to build up and promote the agricultural and mechanical interests of the county that they may keep pace with the lumberman's ax. Nature has done much for us in this county, and with the encouragement and assistance of the combined efforts of the people of this county, and with the assistance of capital, that will come in time, this county can be made one of the leading manufacturing counties in the State; and nothing is better calculated to stimulate the manufacturing interests than a society of this kind. We think this is a matter of great importance to us all, and we hope that no opportunity will be lost to make it a success.

G. W. WARREN.  
FOSTER P. WOOD.  
BENJ. F. GRAVES.

Big Rapids, March 7, 1874.

The meeting held April 9, for the election of officers, was attended by about 40 persons. Charles Shafer was chosen Chairman, and G. W. Warren Secretary. Col. N. H. Vincent was then elected President of the society, G. W. Warren, Secretary, and W. I. Latimer, Treasurer. The following persons were elected Directors: Fitch Phelps, Levi H. Roberts, W. W. Smith, John A. Markle, Carlos Teachout and John V. Armstrong for one year; J. T. Escott, P. S. Decker, S. S. Chipman, John F. McCabe, J. O. Rose and James Canaan for two years; and J. N. Decker, C. M. Darrah, George Minkle, H. M. Johnson, B. F. Graves and Luther Cobb for three years. J. O. Rose, G. W. Warren and B. F. Graves were appointed a committee to draft by-laws for the society, and present them to the Directors for their approval. It was directed that the third Monday in April be fixed as the time for holding annual meetings, and also that all persons who had paid into the treasury the sum of one dollar be considered members.

At a meeting of the Directors held April 28, they decided that the Society hold a fair for three days, commencing on the 29th of September following. Committees were appointed to secure grounds and prepare a premium list.

#### FIRST FAIR.

The first fair was duly held at the appointed time, and was a grand success. It was the first time the

people had had an opportunity to compare productions of agricultural and mechanical skill, and to exhibit what was raised, made and owned in Mecosta County. The entries aggregated over 500, and \$408.50 were paid in premiums. A goodly number were in attendance, in spite of bad weather. For the succeeding year the following officers were elected: President, Luther Cobb; Treasurer, W. I. Latimer; Secretary, G. W. Warren; Directors for three years—Fitch Phelps, of Colfax; L. H. Roberts, of Morley; W. W. Smith, of Fork; E. P. Strong, of Sheridan; C. Teachout, of Green; J. V. Armstrong, of Chippewa. Director for two years (to fill vacancy caused by electing Mr. Cobb as President), A. Vangilder, of Big Rapids.

#### SECOND FAIR.

The second fair, held in September, 1875, was much inferior to the first fair. There seems to have been little interest manifested either by exhibitors or visitors. The following officers were elected: President, William Ladner; Secretary, John Dalziel; Treasurer, C. M. Darrah. Directors for three years: J. T. Escott, C. Main, Geo. Gilmore, R. D. Ladner, J. O. Rose and A. B. Knapp.

#### THIRD FAIR.

The third annual fair was held Oct. 3, 4 and 5, 1876, and was an improvement on the preceding. Six hundred entries were made, and the attendance was excellent. An annual address was delivered by J. B. Upton, on the afternoon of the second day.

#### FOURTH FAIR.

The fourth fair, held Oct. 2, 3 and 4, was still better, as a very general interest was manifested. The display, both of crops and live stock, was fine. On the afternoon of the second day, there was a band contest, in which the Evert band won the first prize, the Big Rapids Cornet Band the second prize, and the Big Rapids Light Guard Band the third prize. A baby show was held the same afternoon, which furnished much amusement. Four prizes were offered. On the last day was held a firemen's tournament, in which four companies entered. For the ensuing year William Ladner was elected President, George W. Warren Treasurer, and C. M. Darrah, Secretary.

#### FIFTH FAIR.

The fifth fair, held Sept. 18, 19 and 20, 1878, was a partial failure, on account of persistent rain the last two days. The first day gave promise of a successful fair.

#### SIXTH AND LAST FAIR.

No fair was held in 1879. The sixth fair was held Sept. 28, 29 and 30, 1880. The weather was very unpropitious, and hence the attendance was small. The number of entries was 222. The receipts were so small that the premiums were paid only at the rate of fifty cents on the dollar. Since then no attempt has been made to have a fair. It is to be hoped that the enterprising citizens of the county will take hold of this matter and revive these fairs, as they are unquestionably a benefit to all.

#### FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

**I**N the fall of 1879, it was announced that six farmers' institutes would be held in various parts of the State, one of them at Big Rapids. This was duly held Jan. 15 and 16, under the direction of Professors Beal and Kedzie, of the State Agricultural College, and was a very interesting and profitable meeting. Col. N. H. Vincent, as President, called the assemblage to order in the evening of the first day, Thursday, and delivered a short opening address. He spoke approvingly of all gatherings of this kind; dwelt upon the advantages to be derived from a better understanding among farmers, and a more extended cultivation of the social relations. He urged the organization of farmers' clubs in every town, that there might be frequent interchange of opinion, and a more thorough knowledge of subjects pertaining to agriculture. If the farmers would do this, he felt confident that the next county fair would be a grand success, and result in great profit to all concerned. He expressed gratification at seeing so many farmers

present, and assured them that the people of this city would endeavor to make their stay pleasant during the session of the institute.

Dr. J. T. Fraser, of Fowlerville, New York, being introduced, gave an interesting lecture on the structure and anatomy of the horse's foot; the various acute and chronic diseases to which the horse's foot is subject, and the best ways to avoid contraction of such diseases. He illustrated his talk by the use of the bones which enter into the structure of the horse's foot and lower part of the leg, and also by blackboard diagrams.

The next morning's session opened with a large attendance. After a little time spent in discussing questions from the drawer, R. F. Kedzie, teacher of chemistry in the State Agricultural College, was introduced, and delivered a learned lecture on "Superphosphate for the Farm." The speaker explained the component parts of superphosphates, their properties and effects upon vegetation, cost, etc. L. G. Palmer, of Big Rapids, then read an excellent essay entitled, "Boys on the Farm."

In the afternoon Judge Brown, of Big Rapids, treated the audience to an essay entitled, "Brain and the Farm." Mrs. J. K. Upton read an essay entitled, "Polly and the Kettle;" and George W. Warren read an essay on the culture of roots for winter and spring feeding. Prof. Beal also talked a little on insects injurious to vegetation.

In the evening, before a full house, Prof. Beal talked for an hour or more on "Horticulture at the Agricultural College." Sherman Upton, of Big Rapids, then followed with "College Life," illustrated, embracing a series of cartoons and crayon sketches. This caused a great deal of merriment and formed a very appropriate closing chapter of the institute.

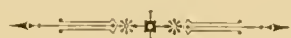
Music, which was one of the leading features, was furnished by the Big Rapids and Green Glee Clubs. Just before final adjournment, resolutions were unanimously adopted tendering thanks to the Agricultural College Professors and others from abroad for their assistance and instruction, to the Glee Clubs for their music, and to the people of Big Rapids for entertaining visitors.



# RAILROADS.

**H**ISTORY of railroads is not void of interest, and especially interesting is the history of railroads passing through Mecosta County. The pioneer railroad of this county is the Grand Rapids & Indiana. Its history is very similar to that of many other railroads in the United States. While it is now a profitable, well-equipped and well-managed road, it passed through the usual stages of struggling and poverty and mismanagement incident to most roads which are attempted to be built without money. The regular program for all such roads is first to get a land grant from the State, then to spend several years in canvassing cities and townships for local aid in the shape of cash or bonds; then to grade a portion of the route and build a few miles of railroad; then follows a period of inactivity, in which frequent announcements are made to the effect that so many millions have been raised in the East or in Europe, and work will immediately be resumed; then at last the road does slowly creep along, and the citizens who first aided the road have the satisfaction of knowing that their children may finally ride over the railroad. In the meantime

frequent changes of management occur, lawsuits retard operations, and perhaps the road is sold two or three times.



## GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA R. R.

**A** United States land grant for the building of a great north and south line was in existence from about 1850, and efforts were from time to time made to find a company who would accept it and commence the work. In the early part of 1860 a party of English capitalists sent a representative to this country in the person of Mr. Samuels, a civil engineer, to examine the route, the character of the lands and country through which the road was to be constructed, and to make his report to the American directors, which, if favorable, would at once secure all the means required. To show what a trifling cause gave check to the growth of this entire region for nine years longer, it is worth recording that Mr. Samuels made the survey, was gratified with the prospect, and was before the Board of Directors in the city of New York to say that he would accept the securities and furnish the money at once; and while making the final arrangement, news came of the disastrous defeat of

the Union army at the first battle of Bull Run. Rising in his seat, Mr. Samuels said: "Gentlemen, you cannot give us proper security for our money. Your armies are defeated, and you have no country! Our conference is at an end, and I return to England upon the next steamer."

After the war closed, the project was again revived and the work commenced, the objective point being Little Traverse Bay, and it was only through the untiring perseverance and determination of one man that a direct line was secured through the embryo village of Big Rapids, and the great benefit of a railroad secured to Mecosta County. This road, the Grand Rapids & Indiana, was built and operated for some years under contract with the original owners, by the "Continental Improvement Company, of Pennsylvania."

The road was built very slowly, and the various townships and villages along the proposed line were thoroughly canvassed for subscriptions to aid the construction. Big Rapids, Green Township and others responded liberally, voting the maximum amount allowed by law. The line was gradually constructed from Grand Rapids northward as far as Cedar Springs, and there seemed for a time "stuck;" but in the summer of 1869 work was resumed north of that place. A thousand men were put at work, with teams, etc., and a short journey from Big Rapids would bring the citizen face to face with the van of the army of laborers. During August, work was prosecuted on the contract of William S. Patterson, commencing two miles south of Big Rapids and extending six miles southward.

The natural supposition would be that the advent of this road would have united the interests of all in the hitherto isolated Big Rapids, but on the contrary there now commenced an internecine strife between the upper and lower portions of the town, which were alike disastrous and disgraceful. The railroad company, desirous to conciliate all parties, endeavored to stand aloof from the contention. About this time the afterwards famous railroad magnate, Tom Scott, bought a tract of land of T. C. Hunt, on the east side of the river near the upper dam, paying therefor \$14,000. It was at that time really the intention of Mr. Cass, President of the Continental Improvement Company, to locate the repair shops of the road at this point; and it was of course generally

supposed that this fact would transfer the center of commercial business to the north part of the city. Residents of that part were elated over the prospect, and when visiting the inhabitants of the lower town would facetiously observe that grass would soon grow in their streets, generously offering to furnish the necessary timothy and clover seed, even drinking to the prosperity of the "street dairy farm." Soon after, when the citizens, by a donation of forty acres of land, bound the railroad company to perpetually maintain a station on east Maple street, a party from the lower part of town retaliated by going in a body to the north side, and in open day actually sowing grass seed in the streets and harrowing it in. Bitter words and still more bitter feeling resulted, and as a matter of course all general interests suffered.

As the road actually approached Big Rapids, the question of location of the depot became an important one. The company offered to build the depot on the west side of the river, on the site just north of the old red saw-mill, provided the city would procure for and donate to them the right of the way through the city limits, and the above mentioned field as a site for depot and shops, also \$8,000 in cash, or in lieu thereof the bonds of the city to the amount of \$10,000. The citizens thought this demand was too exorbitant, and the railroad authorities claimed that it was no more than would fully compensate them for the extra cost of earth-work, and several hundred feet of extra track which they claimed would be required. The result was that as the citizens refused to pay the amount asked, the depot was located about sixty rods east of the river, at least three times as far from the business center of town as the proposed location on the west side. Another depot was constructed at the same time at the upper end of town, and trains now stop at both "Lower Big Rapids" and "Upper Big Rapids."

Early in September, 1869, G. A. McDonell & Son, contractors, broke ground for the railroad within the city limits of Big Rapids, east of the river Muskegon.

October 11 of the same year, the company began to run daily trains each way between Grand Rapids and Morley, in this county. One was a passenger train, and the other a mixed train, having in addition to freight cars two passenger coaches. The passenger made the trip each way in two hours and a half. This made Morley a place of some consequence, being the

temporary terminus of the road, and the growth of the village really dates from that time. A post-office was established at Morley, the first postmaster being also first station agent on the railroad,—F. P. Bodwell.

In the latter part of May, 1870, the company began to lay iron north of Morley at the rate of a mile a day, during pleasant weather, and on Monday, June 20, 1870, the track reached the site of the present depot east of the lower bridge, and the citizens of Big Rapids at last had the pleasure of seeing a real live locomotive in their midst. A barrel of sugar, surrounded by about a hundred citizens, greeted the thirsty track-layers when they reached the depot grounds, thus testifying to the satisfaction felt by all in witnessing the fulfillment of what had been so long promised. June 30, the track was laid to Paris.

July 6, work was commenced on the lower depot at Big Rapids, which was built 24 x 60, and was ready for use the same month. Another was built of the same size at the upper station, one mile from the lower.

July 27, the interests of the railroad met with a temporary check. An injunction was issued out of the Circuit Court of Mecosta County enjoining and restraining the company from running their cars across certain lands belonging to Col. Stewart Ives, the company having made no arrangements about the right of way. In the afternoon of the same day, Marshall Lynch, of Big Rapids, with a corps of assistants, "tore up" one length of the rails which was laid across the said lands. This caused but a temporary delay, however. The company relaid the rails and brought suit against Col. Ives for trespass. The rails were not again disturbed, and on Monday, Aug. 8, the first regular train came through Big Rapids. Paris was now for a short time the terminus of the road.

The citizens of the County began to derive benefit from the railroad before regular trains were run, as freight was carried to some extent on the construction trains, by arrangement with Mr. Zimmerman. Between June 24 and July 2, 113½ tons were brought from the South to Big Rapids, 34½ tons on one day.

September 13, 1870, a special train was run from Grand Rapids to Paris, for the accommodation of Gov. Baldwin, whose duty it was under the law to inspect each twenty-mile section of road, as completed, in

order to make the necessary certificate to secure the railroad company the Government land to which the construction entitled them. The Governor was accompanied by Hon. T. W. Ferry and other prominent citizens of the State. The party stopped at Big Rapids for dinner, at the Mason House. The Governor and others were profuse in praises of the road, of Big Rapids, Paris and the surrounding country. A week later a train containing railroad notables and others was run from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Paris, 200 miles, in ten hours.

For some time it was expected that the company would locate car shops at Big Rapids; but Grand Rapids held out to the railroad officers such inducements that the shops were erected in that city.

The annual report of the road for the year ending June 30, 1870, contained the following with reference to business between Grand Rapids and Morley :

From Passengers,	\$45,903 60
“ Freight,	71,978 51
“ Other Sources,	7,533 22
Total,	\$125,415 33
Operating Expenses,	65,182 97
Net Earnings,	\$60,232 36

Oct. 10, 1870, the road was formally opened through from Fort Wayne to Paris. Early the next year it was completed to Reed City. We will follow its detailed history no farther. It has since been completed to Traverse City and Mackinaw. The importance of the road to Big Rapids, and also of Big Rapids to the road, is shown by the following table of receipts for 1871, at both stations at Big Rapids :

	Upper Depot.	Lower Depot.
January,	\$453 99	\$3,867 73
February,	341 46	3,829 24
March,	611 92	3,802 94
April,	748 62	3,543 19
May,	752 97	3,548 68
June,	816 82	3,249 78
July,	688 56	3,799 32
August,	575 00	3,836 96
September,	1,098 57	4,637 83
October,	974 31	3,906 37
November,	1,162 98	5,486 71
December,	841 72	5,353 05
	\$9,066 92	\$48,862 40

The total at both stations was therefore \$57,929.32. Of course the business now is much larger.

#### SMASH-UP.

On the evening of Tuesday, April 8, 1872, occurred a smash-up on this road, in Mecosta County, which was the most destructive that had occurred up to that time anywhere on its line. It took place between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, about five miles south of Big Rapids, the regular mail train from the south being the victim. On that Tuesday morning, some time after the early mail train had gone south, a small portion of the road-bed over a little swamp, a short distance north of Morley, had settled so as to render it impassable for a time, and necessitated the transfer of passengers and baggage from train to train on either side of the sink. For this purpose locomotive No. 14, driven by Engineer Tinkham, with two box or freight cars, backed down from Big Rapids in the evening, to meet the regular mail train from the south, which was due at 4:46. Workmen had been engaged on the sink during the day, and at a little before nine o'clock succeeded in repairing it so far as to admit of the passage of trains; and instead of transferring, the coaches composing the mail train were attached to the rear of the box cars, and the whole proceeded toward Big Rapids, at about 20 miles an hour.

In passing through the long, deep cut south of the "high bridge," about half or three-quarters of a mile south of Byers' Station, the train encountered a quantity of earth that had caved down from the eastern bank. The locomotive was thrown from the track, and the box cars, being crowded forward by the momentum of the baggage cars and coaches, were crushed and smashed into a promiscuous pile of splinters and rubbish, while the tender turned a complete somersault, landing clear in front of the engine, with its rear to the north.

Three men were in the engine cab at the time of the accident—M. H. Tinkham, engineer; Isaac L. Walker, fireman, and Ed. Stoff, brakeman on a freight train. Walker and Stoff were instantly killed, both being so wedged in between the wrecked cars and engine that it was impossible to extricate them till the debris had been removed by the wrecking train. The engineer was pitched forward through the front cab window, and landed in the mud beside the

boiler, the tender passing over him in executing its flying leap. He was considerably bruised, but had no bones broken. His escape from an instant and terrible death was almost miraculous.

The forward end of the baggage car pitched into the bank on the opposite side of the track from the engine, while the rear end was thrown off the other way, leaving it diagonally across the track. Its inmates, the mail agent, baggage-master and express agent, all escaped with only slight scratches and bruises.

Forward of the baggage car, between that and the box cars, was a freight caboose, which contained a large number of laborers who had been at work on the sink; and although the caboose was somewhat stove up and turned partially across the track, as well as canted up on one side, none of the men were seriously hurt.

The passenger coaches were brought to a standstill without being thrown from the track. They were all well filled, and, marvellous as it may appear, all escaped with nothing more serious than fright, and slight scratches, bumps and bruises for a few. This good fortune is probably attributable to the fact that the crushing of the box car materially diminished the shock which the coaches must otherwise have sustained, as well as the moderate speed of the train. Had it been going at as high a rate as the mail train usually runs, with no box cars to receive the force of the shock, the inevitable result is simply terrible to contemplate.

The excitement and confusion which followed the crash can only be realized by those who have witnessed and experienced similar scenes. The darkness was impenetrable, the mud on both sides of the track miry and deep, and the whole hemmed in by a steep bank on either side, higher than the tops of the cars. The escaping of steam from the disabled engines made a most frightful noise, drowning the voices of all about the wreck, and adding to the almost perfect bedlam which seemed to reign for a time.

The train was in charge of Conductor Arnold, who walked to the lower depot in Big Rapids, bringing the first intelligence of the disaster, and reporting the same by telegraph to the company authorities. Quite a number of passengers walked through to Big Rapids, and during the night several women and

children were brought up in wagons which were sent down for them; but many remained till morning, suffering from hunger and numerous other discomforts incident to their castaway situation. These then got away as best they could, some on foot, a few on a hand-car, and others in wagons which went down from this city.

Early that morning, the telegraph operator at Lower Big Rapids was transferred to the wreck, the wire tapped, and direct communication opened with headquarters. Supt. Gorham and Ass't. Supt. Walker were on the ground as soon as they could reach there from their respective headquarters, and a force of men put to work at removing the debris.

Walker had been in the employ of the company some time, and was a favorite among his associates. He was a single man. Stoff was a married man, his family residing in Middleville, Barry County, Mich. He had but just entered the employ of the company, and was making his second run when his earthly career was thus suddenly and tragically terminated. No blame was attached to the engineer or any other employe on the ill-fated train. It being very dark, and the obstruction of exactly the same color as the road-bed, it is not at all surprising that he should not discover it till so near; and having passed safely over the same track within the preceding hour, there was nothing to occasion unusual caution on his part. If blame rests anywhere, it is upon the company, for permitting stumps and trees standing upon the very brink of cuts, to become gradually undermined, and finally tumble down the bank with the disastrous result witnessed in this instance.

#### RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE ROAD.

Jan. 14, 1874, at a special meeting of the Continental Improvement Company, held at Grand Rapids, the formal transfer of the road from the C. I. Co. to the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Company was completed, the latter having taken actual possession on the first of December previous. Under this new arrangement, W. O. Hughart, of Pittsburg, formerly President of the Pittsburg & Connellsville Road, was elected President of the G. R. & I. R. R., and entered at once upon the active duties of his office. He made Grand Rapids his home, and from that time on the road has been managed exclusively from that city.

#### CHICAGO & WEST MICHIGAN R. R.

THIS was the second road built into Mecosta County, and was projected soon after the G. R. & I. Ry. first entered the County. Feb. 5, 1870, a meeting of representative citizens was held at the Mason House in Big Rapids, at which resolutions were adopted favoring the building of a railroad from Muskegon to Big Rapids, and a committee was appointed to confer with citizens of Muskegon and intermediate points. This committee consisted of Gen. S. Bronson, Hon. C. C. Fuller, J. F. Brown, Col. Stewart Ives, Andrew Green, George F. Stearns, T. D. Stinson, J. O. Rose, D. M. Benjamin, Charles Shafer, E. Fisher and G. W. Crawford.

Another meeting was held March 21, at Brown's Hall, at which enthusiastic speeches were made; and it was reported that the citizens of Muskegon had already subscribed \$30,000, and would raise the amount to \$80,000. Resolutions were adopted in favor of Big Rapids Township aiding the scheme to the extent of \$40,000.

The Muskegon & Big Rapids Railroad Company was formally organized April 12, 1870, at Muskegon. Big Rapids was represented on the Board of Directors by George F. Stearns, John F. Brown, Jacob O. Rose, Col. Stewart Ives and Sumner Stickney. Gen. Bronson and Col. Ives were appointed from this city to receive subscriptions. At a subsequent meeting of the Directors, officers of the company were elected as follows: Alexander Rogers, President; George F. Stearns, Vice President; Stewart Ives, Secretary; Chauncey Davis, Treasurer. Early in May the actual survey of the road was commenced, and all seemed to be going on well, when unexpectedly the Supreme Court of Michigan decided against the constitutionality of local aid given to railroads. This decision killed many railroad projects in the State, and for a time the Muskegon & Big Rapids Railroad seemed to have been effectually strangled.

After a year or so, however, the company was once more organized, with Hon. L. G. Mason as President, and F. A. Nims as Secretary, and it was determined to build the road with no aid except that of individuals. In the summer of 1872 they visited New

York, and on returning announced that the road could be built and equipped that year, under one arrangement. This was nothing more nor less than a consolidation of the company with the Chicago & Michigan Lake Shore, whose road was then built and operated as far north as Pentwater. This arrangement was cordially endorsed by the stockholders and directors resident at Big Rapids and Muskegon, and the contract for the construction of the entire road, to be completed and in running order by the first of January following, was let to a Mr. Thompson, a railroad contractor who had just been performing a piece of work for the Michigan Central, and who at once transferred his entire force of about 1,000 men, with all the necessary tools and equipments for railroad work, to this Muskegon & Big Rapids road, beginning at the same time at both ends of the line. With this large, efficient and well organized corps, the work was pushed as rapidly forward as it could have been under the circumstances.

Owing to bad weather and other obstacles, the completion of the road was delayed till the summer of 1873. In July, regular trains—two passenger and one freight—were put on the line. The stations and distances on the line are as follows: Big Rapids; Hungerford, 6½ miles from Big Rapids; Traverse Road, 11 miles; Pingree's Dam, 19 miles; Morgan Station, 20 miles; Alleyton, 21 miles; Worcester, 25 miles; Fremont Center, 31 miles; Fremont Lake, 33 miles; County Line, 36 miles; Holton, 39 miles; Twin Lake, 45 miles; Big Rapids Junction, 51 miles; Muskegon, 55 miles.

The completion of the road was celebrated by an excursion from Big Rapids to Muskegon, which was well patronized. In connection with this road's history, it may be mentioned as an interesting fact that it crosses the natural bed of Mitchell Creek thirty-two times within two miles of Big Rapids, and thirty-eight times within three and a quarter miles. Five or six years after the completion of this road, the Chicago & Michigan Lake Shore and the Muskegon and Big Rapids railroads were organized as one road, under the name of the Chicago & West Michigan railroad.

Thus the city of Big Rapids has direct communication with Chicago and all the lake ports intervening.

#### DETROIT, LANSING & NORTHERN R. R.

**T**HIS was the third railroad built into Mecosta County. Its present northwestern terminus is Big Rapids. The Ionia & Stanton Branch of the D., L. & N. R. R. was made by consolidating the Ionia & Stanton road with the D., L. & N., a number of years ago, and almost every year since the project has been discussed of extending that road to Big Rapids. Feb. 21, 1879, Col. J. O. Hudnutt received a letter from J. B. Mulliken, Superintendent of the D., L. & N., saying that he was then "ready to talk railroad to Big Rapids, and listen to any proposition the citizens might wish to make." On the evening of the next day a meeting of business men was held at the Mason House to talk up the matter and answer a list of questions proposed by Mr. Mulliken. John F. Brown, F. Stearns, F. Fairman, J. T. Escott and C. P. Bigelow were appointed a committee to confer with the railroad authorities. The railroad company finally agreed to ask no money bonus, but to build the road at once, if the citizens would procure the right of way through the county, which was done.

A meeting was held at Big Rapids, May 10, to discuss means for obtaining the right of way. It was finally decided that the most feasible and practical way would be to solicit subscriptions from the resident property-holders of the city, equal to about two per cent. of their respective assessed valuations, to be paid as needed in ten per cent. installments. The following committees were appointed to solicit such subscriptions: First Ward, E. P. Clark and F. W. Joslin; Second Ward, H. E. Hardy and S. S. Wilcox; Third Ward, G. W. Warren and C. D. Crandell; Fourth Ward, S. G. Webster and J. T. Escott; Fifth Ward, P. Erikson and S. S. Griswold. These committees met with gratifying success in their canvass, and in four days reported from the First Ward \$1,200; Second Ward, \$2,100; Third Ward, \$900; Fourth Ward, \$500; Fifth Ward, \$100; total \$4,800.

The road was completed to Big Rapids in the spring of 1880, and regular trains began running on Monday, May 31. This road is now the principal medium of traffic with the East, and Mecosta County has now railroads extending to each of the four points of the compass.



# EDUCATIONAL.

**A**S the settlers of Mecosta County came from a country of free schools, their attachment to such institutions remained with them, and soon became manifest in their works. They believed that such agencies were the most powerful in advancing the condition of the people. The great Frenchman, Jules Simon, said: "That people which has the best schools is the best people; if it is not so to-day, it will be so to-morrow." The first school-house in the county was built in May, 1858, nine years before the people were able to build the first church. During the summer of the same year, Mrs. Martha J. Evarts taught the first school. This was on sec. 28, in the township of Green. The schools of the county have more than kept pace with the progress of other matters.

The following are the latest educational statistics for Mecosta County, being compiled for the year 1882:

### School Children and Apportionment.

Whole number of children in census.	1,597
Number included in apportionment.	1,176
School fund apportioned	\$5,550.21

### General School Statistics.

No. townships and cities	17
" school districts	85
" districts that maintained school during year	
" graded schools	3
" children between five and twenty years of age	5,005

No. of children attending school during the year	3,760
Average number of months schools were maintained	6.6
No. of brick school-houses	1
" of frame school-houses	68
" of log school-houses	16
" of pupils that can be accommodated	5,008
Estimated value of school property	\$85,291

### EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS.

No. of male teachers employed	36
" female teachers employed	101
" months taught by male teachers	203.4
" months taught by female teachers	533.2
Total wages of male teachers for the year	\$6,435.03
Total wages of female teachers for the year	15,377.11
Average monthly wages of male teachers	34.09
Average monthly wages of female teachers	28.81

### RESOURCES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Moneys on hand Sept. 5, 1881	\$16,799.95
One-mill tax	2,775.30
Primary school interest fund	5,399.11
Library moneys	1,079.33
District taxes for all purposes	30,324.28
Raised from all other sources	8,819.72
Total resources for the year	65,250.29

### EXPENDITURES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Paid teachers	\$22,231.61
" for buildings and repairs	15,271.26
" library books and care of library	863.08
" on bonded indebtedness	5,680.73
" for all other purposes	6,882.17
Amount on hand Sept. 1, 1882	11,321.44
Total expenditures, including amount on hand	65,250.29

### STATISTICS OF TOWNSHIP LIBRARIES.

No. of townships reporting library moneys used for general school purposes	7
No. of townships forfeiting their library moneys	4
" townships maintaining libraries	5
Whole number of volumes in libraries	283
Amount paid for books and care of libraries	\$41,53
Amount of taxes voted for libraries	50.00
Amount fines, etc., received from County Treasurer for support of libraries	167.95

## STATISTICS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARIES.

No. of districts of less than 100 children, reporting libraries	7
No. of volumes reported by the same	487
" districts of more than 100 children, maintaining libraries	3
No. of volumes added during year	995
" volumes in such libraries	1,045
Amount paid for support of such libraries	\$750.28
" of fines, etc., received from County	
Treasurer	1,002.38

## Graded School Statistics.

*Big Rapids.*

Number of children between five and twenty years	1,039
Estimated valuation of school property	\$30,000
Amount paid for instruction	6,561.25
Average monthly wages of male teachers	130.00
Average monthly wages of female teachers	33.55
Grand total expenditures	21,371.92
Grand total indebtedness	6,000.00
Cost per capita of instruction	8.72
Total enrollment	1,089
Average number belonging	620
" daily attendance	530
Number of male teachers	1

female teachers	14
Average number of pupils to each teacher	47

*Mecosta.*

Number of children between five and twenty years	172
Estimated value of school property	\$2,100
Amount paid for superintendence and instruction	356.50
Average monthly wages of male teachers	49.06
female teachers	35.74
Expenditures	1,285.59

*Morley.*

Number of children between five and twenty years	135
Estimated valuation of school property	\$1,000
Amount paid for superintendence and instruction	765
Average monthly wages of male teachers	50
female teachers	35
Total cost per capita for instruction and incidentals	11.58
Total enrollment	114
Average number belonging	80
" daily attendance	65
Number of male teachers	1
" female teachers	1

## THE PRESS.



AS the Big Rapids Pioneer was the pioneer newspaper of this part of the State, it was rightly named. The first number was issued April 17, 1862, and was a very creditable sheet in every particular, though it did not exhibit a very liberal advertising patronage for the first few months. It was started as a five-column folio, by Charlie Gay, as publisher and proprietor, and though it has had several changes in size, it has been essentially under the same management for the nearly twenty-two years it has thus far been pub-

lished. Established when Big Rapids (or Leonard) had less than 150 inhabitants, and Mecosta County little over 1,000 inhabitants, and always devoted to both town and county, even its enemies admit that it has materially aided in the development and progress of this section of the State of Michigan. Politically it has been uniformly an exponent of Republican principles, which, when the paper was started, were synonymous with support of the Union. The following salutatory gives the platform of the paper, and also shows to some extent the feeling generally prevailing among the people:

"In presenting our little sheet to the public for their criticism, we shall offer no apology for its diminutive proportions or for the matter contained therein, but bespeak for the *Pioneer* a candid and

impartial reading. It will be the aim of this paper to advance the interests of Mecosta County, not forgetting in the meantime the interests of the proprietor.

"As to politics, we shall discuss them as little as possible, believing as we do, that at the present time, when our country is shaken to its center by the most causeless revolt that has ever happened in the history of nations, as the lamented Douglas said, "every man is a PATRIOT OR A TRAITOR."

"We shall not stop to discuss party issues, nor party measures, but stand on the broad platform of American liberty; determined to know no party preferences aside from the one great and glorious sentiment, "the UNION, the CONSTITUTION and enforcement of the LAWS."

"When this unholy rebellion shall have been crushed, and its guilty leaders have suffered a just penalty for their damning treason; when the glorious old Stars and Stripes shall wave again in triumph over the whole of our reconstructed Union, and peace again smiles upon us, then we shall find time to talk of party politics—not till then. We shall heartily support the National administration as long as its policy is the utter subjugation, and annihilation if need be, of traitors to our flag; not believing it to be the duty of the Government to treat with treason, nor to be influenced by any excuses which may be made for the rebellion, by Southern rebels or Northern traitors.

"We have always been a Republican since the first organization of the party; but we now stand on the great Union platform, with the President, all Union Republicans and patriotic men who have formerly been identified with the Democratic party, as Edwin M. Stanton, Joseph Holt, Andy Johnson and hosts of others who love their country more than the notoriety of being party leaders, or the recipient of party favor. We shall claim the right of expressing our views through the columns of the *Pioneer* on any and all subjects, as our motto will be "INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NOTHING;" and we may say some things that will be distasteful to our readers; therefore we will here ask their pardon in advance, as we can do so with much better grace than after the offense is committed. It will not be our policy to criticise the actions of our leading statesmen, nor the behavior of our Generals;

neither to advise the President when it is best to order the advance of our "Grand Army," believing as we do that those whom we as a nation have entrusted with the management of the civil and military affairs of the country, are quite as competent to judge of what is best and necessary in the matter as we are, pioneers in a Michigan wilderness neither shall we be so very severe in our reviews of the leading journals of the Union as some of the country papers sometimes are, thinking that perhaps their editors are as competent and do as well as we would under like circumstances. And finally, we shall attempt to mind our own business, work for the success of the *Pioneer*, and strive to render it worthy of the confidence and support of the people of Mecosta County and the respect of our contemporaries."

C. C. Fuller was associated with the *Pioneer* in an editorial capacity from the beginning for several years, but for the first three years it was owned exclusively by Mr. Gay. Dec. 2, 1865, with the beginning of the fourth volume, appeared the announcement that Orrin T. Fuller had been received as a partner. The paper was then published by Charlie Gay & Co. until May, 1873, and then Mr. Gay was alone until November, 1876, when the *Magnet* was combined with the *Pioneer*, and the Pioneer-Magnet Printing Company was formed, consisting of Charlie Gay, M. W. Barrows, and E. O. Rose. In February, 1882, Mr. Barrows purchased Mr. Rose's interest. Since Mr. Barrow's death in February, 1883, Mr. Gay has been once more sole manager, although Mrs. Barrows still retains an interest in the paper. Besides these changes in ownership, the paper has experienced several changes in size. For the first five years it was published as a five-column folio. From 1867 to 1870 it was a seven-column folio. From 1870 to 1874, a nine-column folio; and in the latter year it was enlarged again to a seven-column quarto. On this occasion its name was changed to the "Big Rapids *Pioneer*."

Nov. 16, 1876, appeared the first number of the *Pioneer-Magnet*, the editors of the two papers having concluded to join forces. The following announcement explained this change:

We greet our patrons and friends to-day with the *Pioneer-Magnet*, a consolidation of the Big Rapids *Magnet* and the Big Rapids *Pioneer*. We have merged the material and business of the two offices into one, and have organized a stock

association under the laws of this State, which is to be known as "The Pioneer-Magnet Printing Company." This change has been adopted after mature deliberation, with the belief that it will enable us to more effectually promote our own and the public interests.

The *Pioneer-Magnet* will be, as its predecessors have ever been, the champion of all the material interests and varied resources of Mecosta County. No effort will be spared to make it a welcome visitor to every family, and a source of profit to all business men whose patronage it may enjoy. In politics it will be Republican to the core. It must not be understood from this, however, that it is blindly pledged to sanction every measure and act of the party, or of its individual members, for deserving criticism will never be withheld.

The patronage and friendship which our respective papers have enjoyed in the past are duly appreciated, and we venture the hope that the business relations between our new company and the public may be pleasant and mutually profitable. With the increased facilities afforded by uniting the material and machinery of two well equipped printing-offices, and the employment of thoroughly competent workmen, we flatter ourselves that the "Pioneer-Magnet Company" has no superior in the printing business in Western Michigan.

E. O. ROSE.  
CHARLIE GAY.  
M. W. BARROWS.

The daily issue was started Aug. 1, 1881, in size a five-column folio. The following salutatory greeted the public at this time:

In commencing the publication of the daily *Pioneer-Magnet*, we have but little to say. Believing that a readable newspaper, containing the latest telegraphic, general and local news, will be supported by the people of Big Rapids and vicinity, we undertake to furnish such a paper. A liberal outlay of money for telegraphic news and help will be made, and an earnest effort put forth to make the daily *Pioneer-Magnet* worthy of the patronage it seeks. It will contain the regular afternoon press dispatches, which cost quite a sum of money, and no efforts will be spared to make its local news department perfect and complete. Whenever warranted by the demands of patronage, its present modest proportions will be enlarged, and all improvements necessary to keep pace with the times will be made. Trusting that our efforts will be appreciated, and supported by an intelligent public, the daily *Pioneer-Magnet* is launched upon the sea of journalism.

April 24, 1882, the name was changed to the *Pioneer*, and the size made six columns.

The Big Rapids *Magnet* was established under the

name of the Big Rapids *Independent*, in 1870, the first number appearing June 21. E. O. Rose was editor and proprietor. It was started as a four-page, 32-column paper, very neat in appearance, and manifesting much ability. The following extracts are taken from the salutatory:

This is an humble and perhaps difficult undertaking, prompted by neither desire nor ambition to control in political or societary matters, but to be a chronicler of local and general news, which we propose making a specialty, and in which we shall endeavor not to be excelled,—in other words, we shall publish a *news* paper. We do not mean by this, however, that upon all political and social subjects we shall be silent, for we shall fearlessly express our opinions and convictions upon any and all matters in which we happen to become interested, and condemn wrong whenever and wherever we find it.

In our political ideas we shall be governed by no man nor set of men, and our platform will be INDEPENDENCE IN EVERYTHING, NEUTRALITY IN NOTHING.

In National and State politics we shall, from a life-long preference for the great and undying principles of the Republican party, support the nominees of that party; but in local politics, where we have the advantage of a personal acquaintance with the individuals craving the support of the people, we respectfully reserve the right to determine for ourselves which is the most deserving of it, believing as we do that in all local and petty offices, integrity, competency and fitness should have more to do with the selection than party lines.

Promises are among the cheapest commodities, and sometimes, at the commencement of such an enterprise, more are made than are afterward fulfilled; but not being given to a profusion of them, and preferring to be judged by our deeds rather than words, we simply announce that we shall publish just as good a paper as is possible with our limited facilities, and as the support we receive will warrant, and that it will be our special aim to make the INDEPENDENT interesting and profitable, not only to the inhabitants of the city of Big Rapids and Mecosta County, but of the whole Muskegon Valley.

With the beginning of the year 1871, J. O. Rose became a partner, and the paper was published by J. O. and E. O. Rose, the latter, however, continuing to manage the paper personally. At the beginning of its fifth volume, June 18, 1874, the *Magnet* (the name for which the *Independent* had been exchanged) was enlarged to a six-column quarto. The connection of J. O. Rose ceased the last of October, 1874, and the paper was then published and edited

by E. O. Rose alone until it was united with the *Pioneer*, in November, 1876.

#### Big Rapids Regulator.

**S**INCE 1, 1880, the paper bearing this name was established, and published with more or less regularity for about two years, by David Drake Cooper, of Big Rapids. He claims to have had a circulation of 1,200 at one time; and at the present writing promises that the paper will soon be revived.

#### Big Rapids Current.

**L**IVELY paper by the above name, and the youngest of the three at Big Rapids, is published Wednesdays, by V. W. Bruce. It was started early in 1879, by Mr. Bruce and W. F. Slawson, the first number appearing February 6. The following is extracted from the salutatory:

In the ages long ago, before Big Rapids had a name or even a being, the powerful current which now flows through our beautiful city started on its course from the highlands of Michigan, around Houghton Lake, and ever onward has been its flow, scattering blessings without number to all the inhabitants of the Muskegon Valley.

To-day another *Current* starts on its course to accomplish a similar purpose; and it is the earnest hope of the publishers that it may as honorably fulfill its mission. We do not come basing our hopes of success upon the downfall of others; for did we not believe that there is room for another paper in Mecosta County, among its thousands of inhabitants, we should not come.

We shall make the collection of local and county news a speciality, and will be grateful for any such items furnished, whether we deem it best to use them or not. Party politics and its rewards shall not be our guiding star, although, being Republicans, we shall stand by our principles as individuals; but our paper will be independent (not neutral) on all political matters. Temperance being the great question of the day, our *Current* will gladly bear on the temperance standard worthy men and measures, without exception, who may confidently look for our encouragement and support, but no others need apply. To build up and strengthen the community in every way

possible will be our constant aim, and every enterprise bearing this, or the development of the city and county, in view, may draw on us as the soil upon that other current.

The *Current* was started as a seven-column folio, and enlarged to a quarto July 20, 1881. Mr. Slawson retired in November, 1879, and Mr. Bruce is now sole proprietor.

#### Big Rapids Herald.

**D**URING the spring of 1876 this paper was started by O. D. Glidden, and the first number appeared May 24. In size, it was a six-column quarto; and in politics, a supporter of the Democratic party, as will be seen by the following, extracted from the salutatory:

We come before our readers with this new candidate for public favor, with the belief that it will fill a want heretofore felt in this part of the State for a paper Democratic in principles, and devoted to the interests of the people of northern and central Michigan. We shall endeavor to make the *Herald* a paper not alone for Big Rapids and Mecosta County, but for the people of this part of the State. Politically, the *Herald* will be on the side of Democracy and reform, believing that the Republican party is responsible for the reckless extravagance and corruption in government.

We believe the only way by which the great problem of economy and purity of government can be solved and the issues of to-day met in the interest of the people, is in the complete overthrow of that party and the success of the Democracy, committed as it is, to economy and reform. And we invite the co-operation of the Democrats and reformers of Northern Michigan, that we may, together, do our full share towards such a success. We will cheerfully give space in our columns for the discussion of these and all other questions of general interest to the people. While the *Herald* will occupy no equivocal position politically, we shall endeavor to make it eminently a home paper,—such a paper that every man in Northern Michigan will find it profitable and interesting to read; and that it shall be a welcome visitor in every home.

In 1878 the paper was sold to a stock company, and published for a few months in the interest of the Greenback party, under the name of the *Greenback Herald*. B. H. Howig then became editor, and after a few months Mr. Glidden again became connected

with the paper, which was for two years published under the firm name of Glidden & Howig. Then came another change, Mr. Howig leasing the paper for a year of Mr. Glidden. April 1, 1882, the office was sold to William P. Nisbett, the present proprietor and editor. It is now a six-column, eight-page paper, 30 x 44.

#### Daily Morning Enterprise.

**D**URING the spring of 1881 this short-lived paper was started at Big Rapids, by W. S. Stevens, who came for this purpose from Newaygo County. Soon after this, he formed a partnership with Wesley Griffith, of Greenville. It was independent in politics, and in size a four-column folio, afterwards enlarged to a five-column folio. Its office was just north of McLellan's shoe store. After a struggling existence of three or four months, the material was sold to Muskegon parties, and the paper discontinued.

#### Mecosta Advance.

**I**N April, 1881, this paper was started by T. W. Harrison, formerly of Edmore, where he had been engaged in journalistic work. Sept. 1, 1882, he sold out to the present proprietor, H. M. Trussell, of Pittsburg, Pa., where he was connected with the *Daily Chronicle*. It was started as a seven-column folio, but with the beginning of the second volume it was enlarged to a five-column quarto. It is published every Friday. Politically it is independent. The *Advance* is an excellent local newspaper, and has good correspondents in all parts of the county. The *Morley Advance* is published also by Mr. Trussell, and is of the same size and appearance as the *Mecosta* issue. The first number appeared April 13, 1883. H. O. Lake is the *Morley* editor.

## → LUMBERING INTEREST. ←

**M**ECOSTA County is so situated on the border of a great timber country, and yet at convenient distances from good markets and great distributing points, and contains within its borders pine forests so valuable, that it is to be expected that the lumbering industry be of the greatest importance. The lumber of Michigan is known all the world over for its quality; and as to quantity, it is sufficient to be a source of employment and wealth for decades to come. Even before the first settlement of Mecosta County, its territory had been crossed by many adventurous

lumbermen. The "Big Rapids" were known among the lumbermen long before the site of the present city ceased to be the property of the United States Government. The Muskegon river was recognized as an extremely convenient means of transporting logs from the interior of the State.

The lumbermen leave no record of their work, and no trace other than pine stumps of their visit; hence it is impossible to give any extended account of early operations. Glancing through the columns of the *Pioneer*, one sees here and there an item which indicates the magnitude to which the business had reached in an early day. In the issue of April 29, 1864, appeared the following item:

"The 'Big Drive' is now passing our village, and in a few days will be over the rapids, as the water is at a good stage, and some thirty men, we believe, are

helping the logs over the rough places. About 100,000,000 feet of logs have been put in the past winter on the Muskegon and its tributaries."

Again, June 9, 1866: "Commodore Pingree, of Muskegon, widely known as the oldest navigator of the Muskegon river, has just made an entirely successful experiment in getting the 'Big Drive' over the rapids at this place. The logs were piled two or three deep for about two miles, and about half a mile on the flat the logs were on dry land, the water having gone down and left them there. The getting them off seemed almost an impossibility, but the Commodore got them all afloat by filling the channel below with logs, and raising the water over three feet, thus producing slack water for nearly half a mile. The logs are now being floated off rapidly, and new 'jams' are made farther down, as necessity requires. He says he will run the logs to the mouth, unless the river dries up entirely; and from the manner he is operating here, and the kind of men he has to help him, we have no doubt of his success."

Again, April 30, 1868: "Commodore Pingree passed over the rapids here on Sunday last with the 'Big Drive,' consisting of about 60,000,000 feet of logs. The drive is considerably ahead of time this year, and must reach its destination several weeks in advance of former years." And so every year whole forests are floated down the Muskegon, yielding wealth and employment to thousands.

#### LIFE IN A LUMBER CAMP.

Real life in a lumber camp is so unique that a brief account of a visit to such a place may not be out of place. Every one who can do so should visit a camp, and see how the work of cutting and putting in logs is conducted. That is one thing that should be seen before wandering in foreign lands to feast one's eyes on strange and wondrous things, for nowhere abroad will he find what we have near home.

The camp visited we found under the immediate supervision and management of two gentlemen, who had the contract for cutting and putting into the river the timber from 240 acres of land. The camp was in the midst of the forest, and consisted of six buildings, situated conveniently near together, and of sufficient capacity to accommodate seventy men, twenty pairs of horses and seven pairs of oxen. The

first is the "cook shanty," 20 x 52 feet in size, and one-story high, which serves for a kitchen and dining-room for the entire crew. The work of this department is performed by four girls and a chore boy, the latter bringing wood and water and making himself useful in a thousand ways. Two long tables, covered with enamel cloth, enable forty-two men to take their meals at once. Two large cooking-stoves are kept constantly in use; and when told the amount of provisions consumed per day or week, the query naturally arises how so few hands can prepare such a quantity of food with only two stoves. Work in the woods creates an appetite like a furnace, and provisions disappear before a crew of seventy men like dry leaves in a whirlwind. The bill of fare consists of potatoes, beans, pork, bread and molasses, and other substantial food, one meal seldom varying materially from another, with strong tea three times a day. A full force of men consume each week about five barrels of flour, five barrels of pork, from fifteen to twenty bushels of potatoes, and other things in like proportion.

In one end of this building a room is partitioned off which serves one of the contractors as a private residence and the sleeping apartments of the female help. An alarm clock at least three-quarters of an hour ahead of the true time awakens the inmates of the shanty at four in the morning, and the day's labor commences at once. The teamsters are first called, and while breakfast is being prepared they feed and harness their teams; while they are at breakfast, the choppers and other workmen rise, and fill the second table. The teamsters are off to their work long before daylight, and usually make one trip to the river, a distance of two miles, and back before darkness disappears. Five trips constitute the day's work, and when that is accomplished, they unhitch and do no more till the next morning, although it may be several hours before sundown.

The "men's shanty" is 26 x 36 feet in size, and one and a half stories high. It is provided with thirty-two bunks, eighteen on the first floor, and fourteen in the chamber, each designed for two men, though three can sleep in them very comfortably. They are made of boards, ranged on either side of the room, in tiers one above another, and are provided with a straw tick and blankets. The building is warmed with a large box stove, and lighted at nights with kerosene lamps.

The barn proper is 30 x 52 feet, with a stable on either side fourteen feet wide, making it 52 x 58 feet on the ground. It is made warm and comfortable, and furnishes stabling for forty horses and fourteen oxen. Near by is the granary, a small building where the grain for the teams is kept.

In another building, a blacksmith, and a worker with edge tools, sometimes called a "wood-butcher," find employment,—the latter doing the wood-work on the logging sleds, putting in axe-handles, etc., while the former does the horse-shoeing, irons the sleds, repairs broken chains, etc.

In a small building near the cook shanty, the other contractor resides, with family, and "keeps store," his stock consisting chiefly of tobacco, lumbermen's clothing and such other commodities as the hands require. A large bell, suspended on a pole, the strokes of which can be heard for two or three miles, calls the men to their meals.

A logging sleigh is an institution deserving more than a passing notice, for it never fails to attract the attention of the novice. In appearance it resembles

a cross between a pile-driver and a toll-gate. It consists of a pair of "bobs" with runners three inches thick and shod with steel bars three inches wide. The beams and other parts are correspondingly heavy; crosswise each sled is a beam of timber called a "bunk," seven feet in length, with a huge spike in either end to prevent the load from sliding off. They are built low and wide, the runners being from four to five feet apart, to prevent capsizing on uneven ground. On this vehicle, an ordinary pair of horses move a load of from five to fifteen logs, scaling from fifteen to twenty-five hundred feet, board measure, and making a load in bulk nearly or quite as large as a load of hay. To haul such loads, the roads must be in good condition, and it is well-known that the logging roads are the best in Michigan.

This description of one camp will give an idea of all camps, though of course no two are alike. This camp had turned into the river 4,500,000 feet in three months, and 1,000,000 feet more had been cut and rejected by the scaler, for some defect. The labor on this 1,000,000 feet was all lost.








## MISCELLANEOUS



**W**HILE the people of Mecosta County have been as a rule a very orderly people, yet some black sheep are found in the best communities in the world; and accordingly there was an early sentiment in favor of erecting a county jail. As early as 1862 the question was seriously raised, and it was decided to ask the voters at the April election, 1863, to vote a tax of \$1,500 for the purpose of erecting a jail. The *Pioneer* favored the measure, and in the issue of March 19, 1863, said:

"It is well known that we have now to send what few criminals we have to the jail in Newaygo; and it is also evident to any one who has seen that structure, that it is not fit for a stable, much less a proper place in which to confine a prisoner. Some will object to the tax, on account of other taxes being high,

and may think it cheaper to use the so-called jail of Newaygo than to build one of our own; but when the fact of expenses incurred in taking prisoners to Newaygo and boarding them at the Brooks House at \$4 a week—as we believe has been done—is taken into consideration, we are of the opinion that to build for ourselves will be considered the better policy, besides showing that we are able to have at least one public building in the county."

The proposition, however, was rejected at the election, and not seriously raised again until after the war closed. After many discussions, the Supervisors raised \$1,000 in 1866, and it was decided to build a jail, if \$1,500 more could be raised by special tax. A proposition to this effect was submitted to the voters in 1868, and carried by a strong majority. The vote stood, 600 in favor, and 246 against, leaving a majority of 354 in favor. The townships in Osceola and Lake Counties attached to Mecosta, cast 159 votes in favor of the tax, and 19 against it, which left a clear majority of 214 for the tax in Mecosta County alone, independent of the territory attached.

At the next meeting of the Board, the Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of expending the \$2,500 raised for a jail, at Big Rapids. E. O. Rose, Chairman of the Board, John Dalziel, County Clerk, and Joseph T. Escott, Sheriff, were appointed a Building Committee, and given full power to select the site and have the jail erected. The citizens of Big Rapids, feeling well satisfied with the action of the Supervisors, manifested their exhilaration by furnishing them a supper at the Mason House on the evening after the decision, where some 30 or more of the business men joined with them in discussing a good meal. The contract was speedily let, and the building completed the same fall.

Propositions to build a court-house at Big Rapids have been voted down a number of times, the majority thinking that the county seat would some time be located at or near the geographical center of the county, and hence objecting to the expense of erecting a court-house so near one side of the county.

The county offices are at present located in the

Big Rapids Opera House. At the October (1883) session of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Escott introduced the following resolution:

*Resolved*, by the Board of Supervisors of Mecosta County, that the question of raising the sum of \$30,000 by tax upon the taxable property of said county, to be raised in manner as follows, viz: \$15,000 during 1884, and \$15,000 during 1885, for the purpose of building a court-house and county offices in Mecosta County, be submitted to the voters of said county, at the election to be held on the first Monday of April, 1884.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: yeas, 14; nays, 6.

A substantial county poor-house and insane asylum was erected in 1883, at Stanwood, in Mecosta Township, and in the fall it was burned down, presumably by incendiaries. The County Board of Supervisors have offered a reward of \$500 for the detection of the guilty party or parties.

#### FOREST FIRES.

**F**IRES in the forests of Michigan are dreaded as much as the prairie fires of Illinois and Iowa once were. They come generally in the fall of the year, when dead leaves are on the ground, and are most destructive after a dry season. Mecosta has suffered slightly from these fires at different times, but the days have gone by when these are very dangerous; and as the timber is gradually cleared away, the fires are dreaded less and less.

October, 1871, was a month long to be remembered as the one which witnessed so much destruction in Chicago, and through many portions of the State of Michigan. Several localities in Mecosta County were visited, though comparatively slight damage was done. On Sunday, Oct. 8, the fire commenced spreading among the brush and down timber which covered the ground west of Sanborn and Rust's Addition to Big Rapids, and during Sunday night it crossed Mitchell Creek, and entered the brush and timber along the north side of the stream. It soon swept up within dangerous proximity to the numerous dwellings in that part of the town, which were only saved from destruction by the timely efforts of the fire department and citizens, who were called out about three o'clock in the morning. By the perse-

verance of the inhabitants, the flames were held in check till about half past two o'clock on Tuesday morning, at which time a slight shower of rain rendered further work unnecessary. The moisture from this little rain was completely exhausted during Wednesday and Thursday, and a high wind springing up Friday forenoon, the destruction of the town seemed imminent. The fire raged all along the western side of the city, in many instances in dangerous proximity to dwellings and other buildings, while a similar fire was sweeping directly toward the town from the south, on both sides of State street. Many men were endeavoring to check the progress of the flames during the forenoon, and at noon the danger seemed so great that all places of business were closed, and all the male adults ordered out with pails to prevent the fire reaching the town. A large number were engaged in the vicinity of Warren's Addition, but the greater portion went southward, to the farm of Isaac Griffin. This latter force were not on the ground a moment too soon, for a perfect conflagration was raging in the large amount of combustible material in the woods on the south side of Griffin's farm, from which sparks were blown entirely across the fields, setting fire to the woods on the north side, where the principal part of the timber had been cut into fire-wood. Had the flames attained headway in this locality, the approach of the fire towards town would have been difficult to prevent. By dint of hard work, however, the destroying element was held in check, and no buildings were destroyed. Friday night came a moderate rain, which afforded relief.

In the county at large a few parties suffered. In Chippewa Township a house was burned belonging to a Mrs. Beck, a homestead settler, who had been at work in Big Rapids all summer to earn the money to pay for its construction. It was nearly completed, but not yet occupied. One of the most sweeping losses that happened was that of Peter Powers, who resided on a homestead in the northern part of Green Township, on the west side of the river, in the bend to the eastward of the railroad, and it occurred on the 9th. Mr. Powers lived in a shanty, near which he had completed a good log house. During the night, the fire was driven by the wind so close to his buildings that he thought they could not be saved, and he removed all his household stuff and wearing apparel into the garden,—a supposed place of

safety. The new building took fire and burned; sparks from it set fire to his pile of goods, and they too were all consumed, leaving him nothing but a naked shanty, and an almost naked family, consisting of a wife and four children, ranging in age from four to twelve years. Mr. Powers had been engaged a part of the preceding summer and fall in getting out shingle bolts, all of which were burned. In the town of Austin, a little boy aged about four years, son of Jacob Snider, was badly burned. He was out in the woods with an elder brother, a lad of some six or seven years, where his parents were fighting fire, though some distance from them, when his pants caught fire; and before assistance reached him, they were completely burned from his limbs, and one of his boots roasted to a crisp. Several buildings were burned in Wheatland Township.



#### STARVATION.

**S**ETTLEERS in the early times occasionally suffered from the lack of the necessities of life, owing to unexpected failures in crops, before they had become able to provide for such contingencies by accumulating a surplus. In the *Pioneer* of December 31, 1868, appeared the following notice, startling enough to the reader of to-day, but, alas! too familiar to those inured to pioneer hardships:

"Our citizens must take action at once to relieve the destitution which now prevails in the northern part of Osceola County. It is a fact that a large number of families are now subsisting on potatoes and salt, and some are not even as well off as that. These people moved into the wilderness during the past spring and summer, without means, and settled upon homesteads, and on account of the dry season the few crops put in by them were nearly ruined; hence they have scarcely anything to eat. Many of them reside several miles from neighbors, in an almost unbroken wilderness. The fact is, these helpless women and children *will starve* before the opening of spring, unless timely relief is furnished. Our Board of Supervisors should also act promptly in affording temporary relief to these poor sufferers."

#### "HEREOF FAIL NOT."

**E**ARLY in July, 1872, a man was brought to Big Rapids to be committed to jail on a document of which the following is a copy, fictitious names being inserted for those in the instrument:

"State of Michigan, County of Mecosta. To any Constable of said county: In the name of the People of the State of Michigan, you are hereby commanded to take one John Pack, or whatever his name may be, and bring and have him forthwith before me, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said county, at my office in the village of Paris-Green, on the second day of July, 1872, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to answer a complaint made by G. Staba, for burning, in a plea of burning a building, to the damage of four hundred dollars; and after such arrest you are to notify the plaintiff thereof. Hereof fail not, but of your doings make full return according to law. Given under my hand at Paris-Green, this 2d day of July, 1872.

"JOHN DOE, J. P."



#### IRON-CLAD MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

**N**OT many years ago in the history of Mecosta County, a newly elected justice of the peace who had been used to drawing wills and deeds, and little else, was called upon as his first official act to marry a couple who came into his office very hurriedly and told him their purpose. He lost no time in removing his hat, and remarked, "Hats off in the presence of the court. All being uncovered, he said, "Hold up your right hands. You, John M—n, do solemnly swear that to the best of your knowledge and belief you take this woman ter have and ter hold for yerself, yer heirs, execkyerters, administrators and assigns for your and their use and behoof, forever?"

"I do," answered the groom.

"You, Alice E—r, take this yer man for yer husband, ter hev and ter hold forever; and you do further swear that you are lawfully seized in fee simple,

are free from all incumbrance, and have good right to sell, bargain and convey to the said grantee, yourself, yer heirs, administrators and assigns?"

"I do," said the bride, rather doubtfully.

"Well, John, that'll be about a dollar'n fifty cents."

"Are we married?" asked the bride."

"Yes, when the fee comes in." After some fumbling it was produced and handed to the "court," who pocketed it and continued: "Know all men by these presents: that I, being in good health and of sound deposin' mind, in consideration of a dollar'n fifty cents to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do and by these presents have declared you man and wife during good behavior and until otherwise ordered by the court."



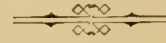
#### MODEL MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

THE following is an actual occurrence in Chippewa Township, in the fall of 1871, and for brevity and simplicity may well be termed a "model marriage ceremony." It is here given for the benefit of those dignitaries and officers who are authorized to marry, and also those who contemplate a similar leap in the dark:

The first preliminary was the payment of a fee of five dollars, which the Justice required in advance. He then directed them to join hands, and inquired their ages. The groom replied "sixty years;" and the bride elect blushingly admitted that she had seen fifty-six summers fade into autumn and winter. He then inquired, "Have you, or either of you, ever had a *living husband or wife?*" to which he received a negative answer from both. Then, addressing them, he inquired if they took each other for lawful husband and wife; and receiving affirmative answers, announced with due solemnity, "Then in the name of the Lord I pronounce you man and wife."

Even the above, however, has been excelled in brevity. A Methodist minister, of a jovial disposition, knowing that the couple applying to him desired a short ceremony, accommodated them by omitting all accessory forms and simply bidding the

parties to stand up and saying, "I pronounce you husband and wife."



#### POPULATION OF MECOSTA COUNTY.

TRUE index to the rapid growth of Mecosta County is the increase in the population as indicated by the census. The county which had in 1859 about 1,000 inhabitants, has now perhaps 16,000. The census of 1880 credited the county with 13,973, as follows:

Aetna Township, including part of Morley....	894
Morley, part of.....	221
Austin Township.....	833
Big Rapids Township.....	549
Big Rapids City.....	3,552
First Ward.....	601
Second Ward.....	710
Third Ward.....	1,110
Fourth Ward.....	561
Fifth Ward.....	570
Chippewa Township.....	445
Colfax Township.....	669
Deerfield Township, including part of Morley.	1,093
Morley, part of.....	78
Fork Township.....	343
Grant Township.....	307
Green Township, including Paris.....	1,132
Paris.....	155
Hinton Township, including Altona and Sylvester.....	986
Altona.....	85
Sylvester.....	55
Martiny Township.....	192
Mecosta Township, including Stanwood.....	613
Stanwood.....	146
Millbrook Township, including Millbrook.....	706
Millbrook.....	242
Morton Township, including Mecosta.....	471
Mecosta.....	189
Sheridan Township.....	207
Wheatland Township.....	981
Total.....	13,973

TAXATION.

Give in the following table an exhibition, in a condensed form, of the taxes spread upon the rolls of the respective townships of the county, and the wards of the city of Big Rapids, for the year 1884, as determined by the Board of Supervisors, at their session in October, 1883:

TOWNS & WARDS.	STATE.	COUNTY.	TOWN.	SCHOOL.		HIGHWAY.	BRIDGE.
				SCHOOL.	HIGHWAY.		
Andrus	\$290 30	\$722 30	\$400 00	\$2,214 54			
Austin	363 60	1,002 10	550 00	1,032 00			
Big Rapids	357 97	1,173 80	200 00	750 00	\$150 00		
First Ward	510 45	1,673 70	2,120 68	3,573 23	379 31	\$189 65	
Second Ward	710 05	2,331 05	7,204 15	5,308 43	533 64	266 82	
Third Ward	392 58	1,287 25	4,134 15	3,046 26	612 46	753 12	
Fourth Ward	190 37	654 20	1,944 14	1,432 55	360 02	72 00	
Fifth Ward	182 17	567 40	1,275 06	959 52	236 12	47 23	
Chippewa	188 35	1,601 30	250 00	2,005 00	250 00		
Collins	363 10	993 85	350 00	1,553 00	250 00	208 00	
Deerfield	343 43	1,126 25	300 00	1,027 19	250 00	75 00	
Grand	140 52	460 95	250 00	1,040 00	95 00		
Green	274 80	901 05	350 00	1,464 00			
Horton	479 15	1,571 15	2,900 00	2,296 00	150 00	250 00	
Marion	345 97	1,134 45	525 00	2,297 61	250 00		
Mecosta	485 80	1,592 95	350 00	756 24	200 00		
Northbrook	223 20	732 00	200 00	1,371 86	200 00		
North	616 35	2,119 30	350 00	1,718 25	300 00		
Northbrook	294 30	967 05	300 00	1,690 27	306 87		
North	233 62	766 10	350 00	1,039 80			
Northbrook	485 50	1,591 80	500 00	1,573 66	150 00		
Total	\$7,624 05	25,000 00	\$5,000 00	1,573 66			

ASSESSED AND EQUALIZED VALUATION.

SUMMARY of the present wealth of Mecosta County may be seen from the following table of the assessed and equalized valuation of property by townships and wards, the figures of which were determined by the Board of Supervisors of the county at the regular October session of 1883. This portrays in undeniable figures the present wealth of the county:

TOWNS & WARDS.	ASSESSED VALUATION.			EQUALIZED VALUATION.		
	REAL.	PERSONAL.	TOTALS.	REAL.	PERSONAL.	TOTALS.
Andrus	\$167,510	\$44,970	\$212,480	\$147,510	\$44,970	\$192,480
Austin	140,617	26,411	167,028	240,617	26,411	267,028
Big Rapids	276,680	312,700	589,380	276,680	42,110	318,790
First Ward	296,375	420,630	717,005	316,375	159,610	475,985
Second Ward	320,280	191,910	512,190	316,375	62,190	378,565
Third Ward	216,630	141,400	358,030	201,630	141,400	343,030
Fourth Ward	152,350	21,650	174,000	152,350	21,650	174,000
Fifth Ward	91,385	27,800	119,185	131,435	27,800	159,235
Chippewa	203,480	73,200	276,680	351,480	73,200	424,680
Collins	188,822	1,020	189,842	261,822	1,020	262,842
Deerfield	158,485	11,595	170,080	281,485	11,595	293,080
Fork	118,877	3,018	121,895	118,877	3,018	121,895
Grant	170,918	3,189	174,107	210,918	3,189	214,107
Green	363,351	73,325	436,676	343,351	73,325	416,676
Horton	270,850	31,448	302,298	270,850	31,448	302,298
Marion	310,958	13,580	324,538	410,958	13,580	424,538
Mecosta	175,120	17,995	193,115	175,120	17,995	193,115
Northbrook	285,297	77,841	363,138	467,297	77,841	545,138
North	154,780	12,990	167,770	154,780	12,990	167,770
Northbrook	205,319	18,970	224,289	187,319	18,970	206,289
North	335,312	89,902	425,214	335,312	89,902	425,214
Grand Totals	\$4,607,366	\$1,149,424	\$5,756,790	\$5,312,366	\$1,149,424	\$6,461,790

# TOWNSHIPS.

## ÆTNA TOWNSHIP.



HIS Township, occupying the southwest corner of Mecosta County, is numbered thirteen north, range ten west, Congressional survey, and is bounded on the north by Mecosta Township, on the east by Deerfield Township, on the south by Montcalm County, and on the west by Newaygo County. It is watered by both the Muskegon, which crosses the northwest corner, and Little Muskegon, crossing the southeastern corner. It contains also Ryerson Creek and

Brockway Creek, flowing into the Muskegon, and Big Creek, with its tributaries, West Branch and Clear Creek, flowing into the Little Muskegon. The township contains several small lakes, among which are Davis Lake, Briar Patch Lake and Brady Lake. The greater part of the village of Morley lies in Ætna Township. The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad runs through sections thirteen, twenty-four, twenty-five and thirty-six.

Ætna was the eighth township organized in Mecosta County, its first election occurring Oct. 10, 1865. Its first Supervisor was Frederick R. Luther. The first white settler was William Brockway, who located on section twenty-nine. The first birth was that of Ira P. Mitchell, son of William G. and Mary A. Mitchell. The first death was that of Platt Mitchell, in April, 1855. The first couple married were Fred.

Matthews and Mary Howe, by Clark D. Green, Justice of the Peace, in June, 1864. The first frame building was a dwelling erected by Clark D. Green, in 1868. The first mill was a portable saw-mill put up by A. B. Bunn, in 1869. The first school-house was a log building erected on section ten, in 1860. The first school was taught by Rachel Whitzel, in 1861. The first store was opened by John Butler, in 1869. The first post-office, Morley, was established in 1869.

Ætna Township shows remarkably steady and rapid increase of population. In 1870, at the first census after its organization, Ætna had already a population of 385. The State census of 1874 gave 557, and the last census, in 1880, showed a total of 894. In 1874, it had 722 acres of improved land, and in 1881 in had 1,221 acres. In 1866 the equalized valuation of its real and personal estate was \$27,078. Its present valuation is \$192,480. The total vote in November, 1882, was 231.

### MORLEY.

The village of Morley owes its existence to the construction of the G. R. & I. railroad. The first settlers on the village plat were Charles Lawson, Nelson Pike, M. Swanger, George H. Ward, Hiram Bryant, Allen Chapin, Rodney Elmer and Harvey Winas, all of whom came in the summer or fall of 1869. The post-office was established the same fall, and Frank P. Bodwell was appointed the first Postmaster. The present Postmaster is D. C. King.

The population of the village increased very fast,

and in one year had become 328, by the actual count of M. Swanger, who took a census in the fall of 1870. This showed a sufficient population to warrant the incorporation of the village, which was ordered by the County Board of Supervisors the same fall. The first officers elected were: Michael Swanger, President; A. Chapin, Clerk; H. Daniels, Treasurer. In 1883 Morley was incorporated by the Legislature, and the following officers were chosen: George H. Ward, President; W. H. Richmond, Clerk; George H. Force, John Pierdon, William Hugh, Sen., M. T. Nethaway, William T. Jones and John Hanson, Trustees.

The population of the village is now between 500 and 600. The following is the list of business men and firms now in Morley:

Beard, F. C., grocery.  
 Carr, J. M., lumber and shingles.  
 Chapin, Allen, general store.  
 Cutler, J. F. & Co., hardware store.  
 Dickerson, Isaiah, livery stable.  
 Davy & Flock, wagon shop and blacksmith.  
 Higbee & Hugh, lumber and lath.  
 Hill, William, restaurant.  
 Force, George H., general store.  
 Hanson Bros., grocery.  
 Hicks, W. H., drug-store.  
 Hanson, M., notions.  
 Jones, W. T., shingles.  
 Jones, Wellington, crockery.  
 Jones & Hugh, grist-mill.  
 Lake, W. O., stationery.  
 Loshbough, G. B., wagon-shop and blacksmithing.  
 Lawson, Charles, boot and shoe store.  
 Morgan Bros., furniture store.  
 Mickins, Spencer, barber shop.  
 Pelton, Lon. A., hardware store.  
 Pike, Nelson, drug store.  
 Pike, Mrs. A., millinery shop.  
 Pierdon & Sanegar, tannery.  
 Reynier, Julius, hotel and saloon.  
 Rockwell, Mrs. Wm., millinery shop.  
 Richmond, W. H., jewelry store.  
 Smith, O. W., photograph gallery.  
 Swanger, M., bakery and restaurant.  
 Thurkow, John E., general store.  
 Frask, R. S., saloon.  
 Wiley, N. W., shingles.

Ward, Mrs. G. H., millinery.  
 Wagner & Foolmer, shingles.  
 Whitbeck, L. I., meat market.  
 Woolworth, B. F., harness shop.

The medical profession is represented by Drs. B. F. Brown, B. H. McMullen and J. B. Cook; and the legal by D. C. Moshier.

M. L. Jones is the station agent on the G. R. & I. Railroad.

The *Morley Advance* is a five-column folio, printed at Mecosta, of which about three columns are items pertaining to Morley. H. O. Lake is the *Morley* editor. H. M. Trussell is the proprietor and publisher. The first issue of the *Advance* appeared April 13, 1883.

General Wool Post, No. 164, G. A. R., was mustered Aug. 2, 1883, with the following officers: Charles Reed, Com.; Orwell Ball, S. V. C.; M. T. Nethaway, J. V. C.; D. C. King, Q. M.; William Rockwell, Chap.; Sanford Reed, O. D.; Orrin I. Hill, O. G.; William H. Hicks, Surgeon; Clark Van Wie, Adj. The post numbers 24 members.

The only church in Morley is that of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, organized in the fall of 1870. For some years, until able to build a church, the society held its services in the school-house. They have now a commodious church edifice, seating between 300 and 400, and which cost \$1,500. Services are held at least once every Sunday, and twice every alternate Sunday. The present pastor is Rev. C. W. Smith, who commenced his duties in September, 1883.

The school building at Morley was erected in 1871-2, at a cost of \$2,500. Additional sums have been spent on the building at different times—\$1,000 in 1883. The Principal of the school is Frank O. Wickham, and he is assisted by Miss Gertrude Grover. The *Morley Academy* is a private school taught by Clark Van Wie, and was opened in July, 1883. It has a model department for preparing teachers. The attendance varies from 30 to 40. The institution is supported by a stock company, which has raised \$1,500 in shares of \$25 each.

A driving park has just been purchased west of the village, and a track laid out and graded. The park contains 20 acres. The President of the association is John Bell; Secretary, D. W. Stewart.

Morley has been a severe sufferer from fire, on two

occasions. The first was Oct. 6, 1876, when the National Hotel, the Central House, and the Commercial House, and all south of them to the river were burned. A woman and child, living near Rustford, were consumed in this blaze. The fire is supposed to have originated in a lamp explosion. Feb. 17, 1880, the business block from Second to Third streets was consumed. These two conflagrations swept away nearly the whole of the village, though, Phoenix-like, Morley is now more of a place than ever. The second fire is supposed to be due to incendiarism. Albert Fairchild was tried for the crime of arson, convicted, and sentenced to the State Penitentiary for life, but through a technical error obtained a second trial and was acquitted.

#### AUSTIN TOWNSHIP.

THE township of this name is numbered 14 north, range 9 west, Congressional survey, and is bounded on the north by Colfax Township, on the east by Morton Township, on the south by Deerfield Township, and on the west by Mecosta Township. Austin lies between the Muskegon and the Little Muskegon, the former of which just touches the northwestern corner of the township. Rising in Austin Township are a score of small streams, which all flow from the center. Those on the east flow to the east, those on the south to the south, and those on the west to the west. Among the more important of these streams are Mac's Creek, Quigley Creek and Beaver Creek. In the northeastern corner is Burdon Lake. The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad passes along the western border, running through sections 6 and 31. The township contains no villages.

Austin was organized in January, 1869, and its first Supervisor was Jacob Snyder.

The population of the township according to the census of 1870, was 346. In 1874 it had grown but a little, and had 416. By the census of 1880, it had doubled its population of six years before, and had 833. Its increase in acreage of improved land was still greater. In 1874 it had 1,089 acres, and in 1881 it had 2,464. The equalized valuation of its real and personal estate at the time of its organization in

1869, was but \$125,727. Its present valuation is \$267,028. Its total vote, in November, 1882, was 56.

#### BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP.

THE township of Big Rapids, containing the city of the same name, is an exact Congressional township, being township fifteen north, range ten west. It contains 23,040 acres of land, of which as large an amount is under cultivation as in any other township in Mecosta County. It is intersected by the Muskegon River, which flows in a winding course south through the eastern part of the township. Flowing east through the northern part, and emptying into the Muskegon at Big Rapids, is Mitchell's Creek. In the southern part are Cold Spring and other small creeks, which flow into the Muskegon. Big Rapids is pre-eminently the railroad township of the county, being traversed by three lines,—the Grand Rapids & Indiana, the Detroit, Lansing & Northern, and the Chicago & West Michigan (formerly the Muskegon & Big Rapids).

The township was organized in 1858, under the name of Leonard. Luther Cobb, was the first Supervisor. In 1865, by act of the Legislature, the name was changed to Big Rapids. The first white settler of the township was John Parish, who located on section 14, in 1851, and was also one of the first two settlers in the county. Many of the first events in the county occurred in this township. The first first birth in the township and also in the county was that of Alice Brockway, daughter of William and Margaret Brockway, Feb. 12, 1853. The first marriage in both township and county was that of Silas Moore and Sally French, solemnized by Elder Kelley in the fall of 1854. The first frame dwelling was the two-story boarding-house built by Warren & Ives in 1857. The first mill was the water-power saw-mill built by the same parties in the spring of the same year. This was the first frame structure in town; and a run of stone afterwards added, made it the first grist-mill in the county. The first school-house was a two-story frame building, erected in 1859, on the corner of Michigan avenue and Oak street, in Big Rapids, and afterwards known as the First Ward School-house of the city. The first



school was taught by Mrs. Mary Fuller, in the summer of 1860.

The population of Big Rapids (then Leonard) Township in 1860 was 317; in 1864 it was 342; in 1870 it was 465; and in 1880 it was 549. It had 2,440 acres of improved land in 1878, and 2,239 acres in 1881. The decrease is only apparent, and is due to different standards used in different years. The equalized valuation of real estate and personal property in 1859 was \$161,279.36; and its present valuation is \$312,790. This of course excludes Big Rapids City. The total vote in November, 1882, was 87.



### Chippewa Township.

**C**HIPPEWA Township, situated in the northern tier of townships of Mecosta County, is township 16 north, range seven west, Congressional survey, and is bounded on the north by Osceola County, on the east by Fork Township, on the south by Martiny Township, and on the west by Grant Township. It is on the divide between the two slopes drained by the Muskegon and the Chippewa, though most of it is tributary to the Chippewa. Pogie Lake, in the northwestern part, is the source of Pogie Creek, which unites with Muskegon River in Grant Township. South through the central part of the township flows Roundy Branch, which enters Upper Evans Lake on the southern line of the township. This lake has from its southern end, which is in Martiny Township, a short outlet flowing into Lower Evans Lake. This in turn flows by another short outlet into the South Branch of the Chippewa. On the head-waters of the Roundy Branch and tributary streams are Pine Lake, Emerald Lake, and a number of smaller bodies of water. On the northern boundary lies Big Stone Lake, which projects into Osceola County, and in the southwestern part of the township lies Chippewa Lake, the largest body of water in Mecosta County. It may be considered as the source of the South Branch of the Chippewa. It covers parts of sections 19, 20, 21, 29, and 30, and is 800 or more acres in extent. A railroad has recently been built to Chippewa Lake, as a branch from the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad, and

a small steamer plies on the lake. It may in time become a very popular resort. Chippewa Township was given a civil organization in 1868, and it elected as its first Supervisor, John W. Sparks. The first white settler, a Mr. Pollock, located on section six, in the spring of 1865. The first birth, that of Mary McCormack, daughter of Malcolm and Catherine McCormack, occurred April 20, 1868. The first death was that of Mrs. Sylvester Smith. The first marriage, that of Robert Jamieson and Minnie Martiny, was solemnized by Rev. E. B. Miner, in January, 1868. The first frame building was a barn, erected by William Perry in 1874. The first mill was a saw-mill, erected by R. W. Kimball, in 1872. The first school-house was a log building erected on section eight, in the spring of 1870; and the first school was taught by Z. N. Tidd, in the summer of the same year. The first store was opened by Wilson Brothers in June, 1873. The first postoffice, Chippewa Lake, was established in 1870, with S. V. Tice as Postmaster.

The Chippewa Grange is an organization deserving mention. It was started in 1874, with a membership of 25. At the present time it has 30 members, and is in excellent condition. They have a hall, built in 1879.

The lumber interest is of great importance in Chippewa Township. The Chippewa Lumber Company purchased 150,000,000 feet of timber near Chippewa Lake, in the fall of 1882. They also purchased the D. F. Comstock Mill at Big Rapids, and removed the same to Chippewa Lake during the winter. They commenced sawing the 1st of June. They will soon have a large planing mill and shingle mill in connection with their lumber business. The same firm have platted a village called Chippewa, which is growing rapidly, and has excellent prospects for future prosperity, as the nearest towns are Evart and Big Rapids, 12 miles distant. On section 2 is a saw-mill with a capacity of 18,000 feet per day, run by William Wilson, Bro. & Miller.

In 1870, the population of Chippewa Township was only 140. In 1874 this had increased to 291, and in 1880 the census credited it with 445. In 1878 it had 1,522 acres of improved land; and in 1881 it had 1,737 acres. In 1869, the equalized valuation of its real and personal estate was \$32,414; and its present valuation is \$426,680. The total vote of the township, in November, 1882, was 54.

### DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP.

**D**EERFIELD Township is thirteen north and nine west, of the Congressional survey. It lies in the southern tier of Mecosta County, and is bounded as follows: On the north by Austin Township; on the east by Hinton Township; on the south by Montcalm County; and on the west by Aetna Township. It is well watered, the Little Muskegon flowing nearly west through the middle of the township. It traverses the township on sections thirteen, twenty-four, twenty-three, twenty-two, twenty-one, twenty, twenty-nine and thirty, from which it leaves the Township. In the northern part of Deerfield are Quigley Creek, which flows with and enters the Little Muskegon near the center of the township, and the East Branch of Big Creek, which flowing southwest unites with the Little Muskegon near the village of Morley, in Aetna Township. In the southern part of Deerfield begin several small streams, which, although they flow south, finally find their way to the Little Muskegon. The Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad barely enters the township, running through sections six and seven. A portion of the thriving village of Morley belongs to Deerfield, although the main part is in Aetna Township. Bell's Crossing and Rustford, small stations on the D. L. & N. railroad, are situated in Deerfield Township.

The territory included in Deerfield was organized in March, 1861, and its first Supervisor was Samuel S. Chipman. The first white settler was George Quigley, who located on section four. The first birth was that of James Quigley, son of George and Jane Quigley, in 1858. The first death was that of Frederick Eckard, in 1863. The first marriage was that of Isaac Sedore and Elizabeth Smith, solemnized by George Quigley, Justice of the Peace, in December, 1862. The first frame building in the Township was a dwelling erected by Lysander Quigley, in 1859. The first mill was a small water-power grist-mill and saw-mill, built on the Little Muskegon River by Ethan Satterlee. The first school-house was a log building erected on section five, in 1862; and the first school was taught the same year by Margaret Quigley. The first store was opened by George Magill, in 1863.

The first post-office, Big Creek, was established about 1865.

In 1864 the population of Deerfield Township was 296; in 1870 it was 564; in 1874 it was 654; and in 1880 it was 1,093. In 1878 the township had 4,389 acres of improved land; and in 1881 it had 4,491 acres. At the time of its organization, in 1861, the equalized valuation was \$40,451; and its present valuation is \$300,080. The total vote of the township in November, 1882, was 145.



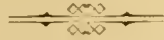
### COLFAX TOWNSHIP.

**T**HIS is township 15 north, range 9 west, Congressional survey, and is bounded on the north by Grant Township, on the east by Martiny Township, on the south by Austin Township, and on the west by Big Rapids Township. The township is drained principally by Ryan Creek, which flows west through the northern part of the Township. There are several good-sized lakes and a number of smaller ponds in Colfax. The largest is Clear Lake, on section 21. In the northwest corner are Long Pond and Town Line Lake. On the northern boundary is Pickerel Lake; and in the northeastern part of the township are Colby Lake, Cook Lake, Mud Lake and Twin Lakes. In the southwestern part of the township is the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad, which crosses section 31. On this road is Byers' station and post-office. The Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad runs through sections 18, 17, 16, 15, 14 and 13. In section 13 the Chippewa branch connects with the main line, and at this junction is the new village of Rodney, which has good prospects for future growth.

The township of Colfax was organized in 1869, and its first Supervisor was Sidney L. Rood. The first white settler was Lloyd W. Simonds, who located on section 19, in 1860. The first death was that of Helen A. Rood. The first couple married were Noble D. Rood and Martha A. Edwards. The ceremony was performed June 30, 1869, by Lloyd W. Simonds, Justice of the Peace. The first frame building was a barn erected by L. W. Simonds in 1868. The first mill was a portable steam saw-mill, put up by Henry Escott, in 1869. The first school-

house was a frame building erected on section 31, in 1870.

The population of Colfax Township in 1870 was only 146. In 1874 it had increased to 263; and the census of 1880 showed a further increase to 669. It had 2,001 acres of improved land in 1881. The present equalized valuation of the real and personal property of the township is \$264,842. Its total vote in November, 1882, was 94.



#### Fork Township.

**F**ORK Township is situated in the northeast corner of Mecosta County, and is Congressional township 16 north, range 7 west; and is bounded on the north by Osceola County, on the east by Isabella County, on the south by Sheridan Township, and on the west by Martiny Township. It is watered by Chippewa River, the North and South Branches of the same, Rat-Tail Creek and Chippewa Creek. The last two are tributaries of the North Branch, which they join in about the center of the township. These streams, especially the South Branch, are the outlets of a score or more of lakes, of which but three or four are in Fork Township. The others are mostly in Chippewa and Martiny Townships. Fork has no railroad, no village, and but one post-office,—Fork.

The territory above described was organized into a township in October, 1867, and William Creevey was elected the first Supervisor. The first white settler was Marvin A. Rogers, who located on section 28, in the winter of 1865-6. Among the other early settlers, who came between 1866 and 1868, were John H. Gibbs, Charles Rogers, Chauncey Rogers, Charlie Powers, Almond Mott, Leonard Chroshaw, Walter Kendall, Philip Chroshaw, William Brown, J. H. Groom, Oliver Bark and Leland Roe. The first white child born was Gazelle Murphy, daughter of James and Josephine Murphy, Aug. 21, 1866. The first death was that of John Nicholson, in the fall of 1869. The first marriage was that of Marvin A. Rogers and Alice Ford, in the fall of 1867, solemnized by Elder Z. W. Shepherd. The first frame building in the township was erected by L. W. Roe, in the fall of 1870. The first school-

house was a log building put up on section 28, in the summer of 1870; and the first school was taught by Mrs. Cynthia L. Brown, during the same summer. The first store was opened by Lewis E. Wolcott, in 1875. The first and only post-office, Fork, was established in the spring of 1860.

In 1870, the population of Fork Township was 163; in 1880, this had more than doubled, being 343. In 1878, Fork had 1,670 acres of improved land. In 1881, under a different rule of assessment, it had 1,219. Its equalized valuation in 1868 was \$64,096; and its present valuation is \$122,705. The total vote in November, 1882, was 43.



#### Grant Township.

**T**HIS is slightly smaller than any other township in the county. It comprises all of township sixteen north, range nine west, Congressional survey, except section six and parts of sections five and seven, which, being cut off by the Muskegon River, are, for the sake of convenience, attached to Green Township. It is bounded on the north by Osceola County, on the east by Chippewa Township, on the south by Colfax Township, and on the west by Green Township. It is watered in the northern part by the Muskegon River and its tributaries, Pogie Creek and Blodgett Creek, and in the southern part by Pickerel Lake River and Ryan Creek. The Township contains several small lakes, drained by these streams, of which the most important are Blodgett Lake, Mud Lake, Pickerel Lake, Young Lake and Little Young Lake. These lakes and streams abound in fish, and no better field for the sportsman exists than Grant Township. It has no railroad within its borders and yet much of its territory has been cleared and settled.

The township was given a civil organization in 1865, and the first election was held in October of that year. The first white settler was Sylvanus Ford, a single man, who located on section 20 in 1863. The first family to settle in Grant was that of Charles L. Tuttle, who located on section 18, also in 1863. The first birth was that of Irving Tuttle, son of Charles L. and Mary C. Tuttle, which occurred July 4, 1865. The first death was that of Uryal

Aldrich, in 1865. The first marriage was that of Uryal Aldrich and Mary Donley, in 1863. The first frame building was a dwelling erected by Sylvanus Ford, in 1871. The first school-house was a log building erected on section 18, in 1868. The first school was taught by Lydia Marsh, in the same year.

By the census of 1870, the population was 144; in 1874 it was 179, and in 1880 it was 307. In 1878, Grant Township had 1,231 acres of improved land; in 1881 it had 1,324. Its equalized valuation in 1866 was \$44,797; its present valuation is \$240,107. Its total vote in November, 1882, was 71.

The first officers of the township were: Supervisor, Charles L. Tuttle; Clerk, Abram Van Alstine; Treasurer, Allen Moore; School Inspectors, Peter Long and S. C. Hemphill; Highway Commissioners, Hugh McCune, R. Whalen and H. M. Wilder; Justices of the Peace, Sylvanus Ford, Hugh McCune, S. C. Hemphill and R. Whalen; Constables, William White and Joseph Morgan.

#### Green Township.

**G**REEN Township is numbered 16 north, range 10 west, of the Congressional survey, and lies in the northwest corner of Mecosta County. It is bounded on the north by Osceola County, on the east by Grant Township, on the south by Big Rapids Township, and on the west by Newaygo County. Besides an exact Congressional Township, Green includes a little over two sections which naturally belong to Grant Township, but are cut off from it by the Muskegon River, and are therefore for convenience' sake attached to Green. Muskegon River forms thus the eastern boundary for a mile and a half. It then flows west for about four miles and then in a southerly direction until it leaves the township. The land is watered also by Buck Horn, Paris, Shaw and Tinny Creeks, and a number of smaller streams, all of which are tributary to the Muskegon.

The township was organized in 1858, before the County of Mecosta was detached from Newaygo, and was one of the only two townships organized when the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Mecosta County was held, in May, 1859. Jesse A. Barker, who was at this meeting, was the first

Supervisor of Green Township. The first white family in the Township was that of James Montague, who settled on section 27 in June, 1854. The first white child born was Helen Montague, daughter of James and Laura Montague, born in 1855. Theophilus Humphrey, son of Charles B. and Jane Humphrey, was born in the fall of 1857. The first death was that of Mrs. Millard, in 1859. The first marriage, that of John McFarlane and Betsey Turk, was solemnized by Jesse A. Barker, Justice of the Peace, Dec. 25, 1860. The first frame building was a house erected by Andrew and Lewis H. Green, in 1857. The lumber for it was drawn from Big Prairie, a distance of 30 miles or more, and the mortices of the framework were dug with an old chisel and a mallet, without the aid of an auger, there being no such a tool in town. John Parish and Andrew McFarlane erected a frame dwelling the same year. The first mill was a saw-mill, built by John Parish and Andrew McFarlane, in 1857, on Parish Creek, near where the village of Paris now stands. The first school-house was a log building, erected in May, 1858, on section 28. The first school was taught by Martha J. Evarts, in the summer of 1858. The first store was opened by Edmund M. Stickney, in 1866. The first post-office, Paris, was established in 1864.

The census of 1860 gave Green Township 246 inhabitants; in 1864, the State census showed but 235. In 1870 the population had increased to 616; in 1874 to 886, and in 1880 to 1,132. In 1878 the township had 1,395 acres of improved land; and 4,638 in 1881. Its equalized valuation in 1859 was \$144,306.60; and its present valuation is \$418,676. Its total vote in November, 1882, was 166.

#### PARIS VILLAGE.

The village of Paris is located on the east half of section 16, and on the west bank of the Muskegon River. The first white settler was John Parish, the "father" of the village, which he laid out. It was named "Parish," and this was afterwards changed to the present appellation, "Paris." He also built the first house of logs, about 1864, on the village site. He also built the first frame house. Among the early settlers was Andrew McFarlane, who, in partnership with Parish, built and operated a saw-mill. Other early settlers were E. M. Stickney and James

Wright. Mr. Stickney opened the first store, in February, 1866. Shaler & Fitting built the mill now owned by E. M. Stickney, in 1867.

Paris is not incorporated, and has a population of about 350. There are no lodges or other organizations. A small, neat church has just been built by subscription, in which all denominations may meet. The pastor who preaches every Sunday in this church lives at Hersey, Osceola County.

The following are the names of the business men of the village:

Bisbee, J. E., grocery and drug store.  
 Frink, L. M., Frink's Hotel.  
 Hopkinson, W. D., general store.  
 Johnson, T. C., wagon shop.  
 Leggett, I. J., drug store.  
 Murphy & Dolan, saloon.  
 Nichols, J. E., restaurant.  
 Robison, H. M., blacksmith.  
 Symonds, S. H., shoe shop.  
 Swigler, N. J., blacksmith.  
 Stickney, E. M., saw and grist mill.  
 Seranton, W. S., saloon.

The medical profession is represented only by Dr. I. J. Leggett.

The most important event in the history of Paris was the great fire of 1879. At about half past three o'clock in the morning of Monday, May 26, the rear part of Andrew McFarlane's store was discovered to be on fire. A strong wind was blowing from the northeast at the time, and but two or three minutes elapsed before the entire building was enveloped in flames. McFarlane's hotel, the "Muskegon House," which stood adjacent to the store on the south side, was on fire; but a few minutes after the alarm was given, and the inmates of the hotel had barely time to get out, some of them saving but a part of their apparel.

The store buildings of E. M. Stickney, situated on the opposite side of the street, and occupied by Mr. S. Elwood, with a general stock of merchandise, were on fire before half the people of the village had been aroused from their slumbers. A two-story building adjacent on the south, owned by Mrs. Annie Hall, of Detroit, and occupied by Mr. Elwood with a stock of crockery, melted into smoke and ashes with the rest. A large two-story building, originally designed for a store, but occupied by Elliot Cheney for a hotel,

which stood next south of the store-buildings occupied by Mr. Elwood, was also in flames about as soon as the others, all of them being directly in the course in which the flames were driven by the wind. The inmates of this last mentioned building escaped with most of their apparel, which was about all that was saved. The Cheney Hotel was owned by Mrs. Roxy Compton. Another large two-story store building, situated several rods south of the Cheney Hotel, was the next to take fire. It was occupied as a residence by two families, one of them being that of Mr. Judkins, station agent at Paris, and they had time to remove all or nearly all their household goods. A substantial barn belonging to E. M. Stickney, and two or three cheap cow stables, complete the list of buildings destroyed.

Mr. McFarlane saved literally nothing from his store, in fact no one attempted to enter the building, the entire inside being a sheet of flame before the inmates of the surrounding buildings were apprised of the danger that threatened them. Mr. McFarlane's loss on buildings and stock was about \$7,000 or \$8,000, with no insurance. Mr. Stickney's loss on buildings was about \$2,500, with \$1,500 insurance. He also lost about \$200 worth of lumber, which was piled near the railroad track, in the rear of McFarlane's store. A small warehouse situated at the rear of Stickney's building, and owned by Fox, Shields & Co., of Grand Rapids, was insured for \$300. Mr. Elwood's loss on merchandise was about \$10,000, with \$4,000 insurance. Only a few handfuls of goods were saved. The postoffice was located in Elwood's store, and the letter case and stamp drawer were saved, but the paper mail and the pouch containing the letter mail to come south that morning, were swallowed up in the flames. Mrs. Hall's building was worth about \$1,200. Mrs. Compton's building was worth about \$1,200, and was insured for \$300. Mr. Cheney, who occupied the building, lost about \$500 with no insurance. Mrs. Staab's building was worth about \$1,000. Many other buildings were in imminent danger; but the activity of the citizens fortunately saved them. Among other things burned were the books and records of the town of Green, which were in Mr. Elwood's store. The origin of this disastrous conflagration is not known. It was probably a case of incendiarism.

### Hinton Township.

**H**IS is Congressional Township 13 north, range 8 west, and is bounded on the north by Morton Township, on the east by Millbrook Township, on the south by Montcalm County, and on the west by Deerfield Township. It is drained by Silver Creek (into which flows Decker Creek), in the northern part, and by Tamarack Creek in the south, which flow westward into the Little Muskegon, sometimes known as the South Fork of the Muskegon River. This stream itself flows in a southwesterly direction through the northwestern corner of the Township. There are two post-offices in Hinton. Altona on sections six and seven, and Sylvester on section ten.

The township of Hinton was organized in January, 1860, and the first Supervisor was R. Van De-water. The first white settler was John Hinton, who located on section fifteen, in June, 1855. The first birth was that of Margaret Kibbe, daughter of Horatio N. and Margaret Kibbe, Aug. 15, 1857. The first death was that of Phœbe Hinton, Feb. 18, 1860. The first marriage was that of John Hinton and Mariette Rockwood, solemnized by Leonard Aldrich, Justice of the Peace, May 26, 1860. Another report says that Samuel W. Rose and Ann Hinton were the first couple married. The first frame building was a barn, 30 x 50 feet, erected by John Hinton, in the summer of 1856. The first mills were a saw-mill, built by William Seaton and Bartley Davis, and a flouring mill, built by Harrison J. Brown, in the summer of 1868. Both are water-power mills, located on the Little Muskegon, where the village of Altona was afterward platted. The first school-house was a log building, erected on section 21, in 1861. The first school was taught by Rachel Whitzell, in the summer of 1861. Others say that Lydia Allen taught the first school, in the spring of 1861. One report says that Harrison J. Brown opened the first store in 1868; another says that David Fowler opened the first at Sylvester. The first post-office in Hinton Township was Hinton, established in 1862.

In 1860, the year of the organization of the township, the population was 153; in 1864 it was 167; in

1870 it was 390; in 1874 it was 638, and in 1880 it was 986. In 1878 the township was reported to have 3,799 acres of improved land; in 1881 only 2,971 acres were reported. This apparent decrease was due merely to a change in Supervisors, and consequently no standard of classification. Hinton's equalized valuation at the time of organization was \$70,194.38, and its present valuation is \$302,298. Its total vote in November, 1882, was 189.

### Martiny Township.

**H**IS is township 15 north, range 8 west Congressional survey, and is bounded on the north by Chippewa Township, on the east by Sheridan Township, on the south by Morton Township, and on the west by Colfax Township. It is drained in the northeastern part by the South Branch of the Chippewa, including its tributaries, Upper and Lower Evans Lakes, Bloom Lake, Dimon Lake, Tubb's Lake and others; but the greater part of the Township is drained by the West Branch of the Little Muskegon River, which is the outlet for Horsehead Lake, Martiny or Johnson Lake and Pretty Lake. Horsehead Lake is the second body of water in the county, in point of size. In the southeast part is the East Branch of the Little Muskegon River. Through the southwestern part of the Township runs the recently constructed Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad, and through the northwestern part runs the Chippewa Branch of the same road.

Martiny was organized as a civil township in January, 1875, and elected its first Supervisor, Nicholas Thieson. The first white settler was John Martiny, who located on section four in 1868. The first birth was that of Helen Albert, daughter of Christopher and Ann Albert, in 1870. The first death was that of John Johnson, in 1873. The first marriage was that of Noah Eaton and Mary Kent, solemnized by George Shields, Justice of the Peace, June 7, 1875. The first school-house was a log building erected on section four in 1873. The first school was taught by Nellie Sheir, in 1873. The first post-office—Martiny—was established in November, 1875.

The census of 1880, the only one taken since Martiny was organized, gives it 192 inhabitants. It



Aldrich in 1864. The first school-house was a log building, erected on section 11, in 1863. The first school was taught by Louisa Allen, in 1863. The first store was opened by W. S. Howd, in 1865, where the village of Millbrook is now located.

The population of Millbrook Township by the census of 1870, was 302; by the State census of 1874 it has 412; and in 1880 the general census gave 706 inhabitants. In 1878 it had 2,151 acres of improved land; and in 1881, 2,407 acres. Its equalized valuation in 1866 was \$29,957; and its present valuation is \$564,748. Its total vote in November, 1882, was 107.

#### MILLBROOK VILLAGE.

The village of Millbrook is a thriving place of between 300 and 400 inhabitants, on section one. It would undoubtedly grow faster, and have more business, had not the railroad been located so far away as it is. The citizens of the village offered the D., L. & N. Railroad Company every reasonable inducement to come to the village, but opposing influences were too strong.

The first house was a log dwelling erected by Hazen Aldrich, in 1863. The same man put up the first frame house on the village site, in 1864. The first store was opened by W. S. Howd, in March, 1865. The present school-house was erected in 1869, at a cost of \$800. The principal is C. F. Fitzgerald.

Millbrook has two religious organizations,—the Congregational and Methodist Episcopal. The former denomination erected a church in 1874, at a cost of \$3,000; and the latter have a small church now in process of construction. Rev. Mr. Schiedel preaches for the Congregationalists, and Rev. Mr. Wyant for the Methodists.

Level Lodge, No. 219, I. O. O. F., has a membership of 35, and meets every Saturday evening. The principal officers at the present time are Levi S. Meneri, N. G.; Charles Knauss, V. G.; James Wylie, Secretary; William F. Denney, Treasurer.

The postoffice was organized in 1869, and Orson N. Earl was the first Postmaster. Henry D. Brown at present holds the appointment.

The following list comprises all the firms at present doing business in Millbrook:

Aldrich, Forest, wagon shop.

Brooks, Keller & Eicher, restaurant.  
Brown, H. D., postoffice, notions.  
Denney, William F., furniture store.  
Dysinger, George, blacksmithy.  
Dole & Precious, saloon.  
Decker, G. A., harness shop.  
Eicher, A., meat market.  
Fink, R. M., dry goods.  
Harmon, E., Harmon House.  
Howd, A. J., feed and flour.  
Horton, E. T., general store.  
Haggett, George, blacksmithy.  
Kenrick, E. H., drug store.  
Lock, Frank, barber shop.  
Norton & Carnian, grist-mill.  
Pattison, J. M. & Co., drug store.  
Richards, James & Co., hardware store.  
Stanley, J. B., grocery.  
Stanton, H., blacksmithy.  
Willett, Ida, millinery.

The medical profession is represented by C. H. Rodi, S. A. Gates, J. W. Pattison and W. J. Cree; and the legal by D. C. Fuller and W. S. Howd, the former of whom is Justice of the Peace.

#### Morton Township

MORTON Township is numbered 14 north, of range 8 west, Congressional survey, and is bounded on the north by Martiny Township, on the east by Wheatland Township, on the south by Hinton Township, and on the west by Austin Township. The Little Muskegon, its East and West Branches, and smaller tributaries, drain the township. In the western part are four good-sized lakes, and two smaller ones. The large ones are named Round Lake, Long Lake, Blue Lake and School Section Lake. The last named derives its name from the fact of being partly on section 16, the section which in every township is set apart for the benefit of the schools of the State. The recently constructed Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroad passes through the north-eastern portion of the township.

Morton was organized as a civil township in January, 1877. The general census of 1880 gave a



population to the township of 192. In 179 it had 287 acres of improved land; in 1881 it had 642 acres. Its equalized valuation at the time of organization, in 1877, was 114,840; its present valuation is more than double that amount, being \$257,680. Its total vote in November, 1882, was 162. The township has had a marvelous growth in the last three years.

The first mill was built by John Van Vleck & Son, of Palo, Mich., on the north side of the Little Muskegon River, and afterward moved about four miles north of Mecosta village, where it is now run by Charles Van Vleck, John Van Vleck having died in 1880.

#### MECOSTA VILLAGE.

The village of Mecosta is but little over four years old, and owes its existence and prosperity to the construction of the D., L. & N. railroad through this county. The opening up of a rich agricultural and lumbering district, by this road, made a station near the center of the county, where several years previous a large number of hardy tillers of the soil had settled to the south and east, and already had many thousand acres of land well under cultivation, an absolute necessity; for the farmer needed a market for his grain and produce, as well as a place to purchase supplies, while the lumbermen needed a shipping point and base of supplies in order to carry on the business of manufacturing the sturdy pine (of which there is an immense forest to the north) into lumber, lath and shingles for transportation over the new railroad. Foreseeing this necessity, Weber Bros., of Ionia, who also had a large interest in the pine land at this point, E. B. Moore, of Edmore, and Giles Gilbert, of Stanton, formed themselves into a stock company and platted what has since been known as the village of Mecosta. The plat, which was duly recorded July 17, 1879, contains 120 acres, and is beautifully located on the East Branch of the Little Muskegon, at the junction of the Alma and Clinton State road with the D., L. & N. railroad, 16 miles southeast of Big Rapids and 12 miles northwest of Millbrook, and is about four miles east of the geographical center of the county. The company gave Amos S. Johnson, formerly of Sherman City, full power of attorney, and made him the resident agent for the sale of lots.

At that time nearly the entire plat was heavily

timbered, although the greater portion of it is now cleared. The first lot was sold to Charles Cummings, of Stanton, shortly after the plat was recorded. The first building was put up by D. O'Brien about the 1st of October, 1879. H. W. Bassingwaite, George Evans and A. S. Johnson put up buildings the same month, and John Van Vleck and son commenced the erection of a steam saw and shingle mill. During the fall and winter of 1879-80, several more buildings were put up by actual settlers, but not until the first of May, 1880, when trains commenced running regularly over the new road, did the young village experience a healthy growth.

The first store was a general grocery and supply store, kept on Main street, where is now Parks Brothers' hardware store, by H. W. Bassingwaite.

The post-office was established in December, 1879, and John Van Vleck was appointed Postmaster. His widow is now Postmistress.

The first hotel was opened by Ephraim LeGrange, in 1879, and christened the Mecosta House. It is on the corner of Main and Weber streets, and is now kept by Dominick O'Brien.

The village was organized as a school district in 1879, and the school-house, begun in 1880, was completed in 1881. This was a log building, and the first school was taught by Mrs. M. A. Chipman. The same year, the present nice frame school-house was completed, at a cost of \$2,000.

The first religious society was of the Baptist denomination, organized by John Van Vleck, and held its meetings in the log school-house. In the fall of 1880, the Methodists sent a minister by the name of Hoag, who remained about one year, also preaching in the log school-house. Rev. J. Berry at present holds services in the town hall, but the society is preparing to erect a church on the west side of the river, at a cost of \$2,500.

The first and only bank is the private bank of Gilbert & Wixson.

The Mecosta Planing Mills were built by Rathvon Bros., and started in the spring of 1883.

Mecosta Lodge, No. 93, A. O. U. W., was organized March 30, 1881. The present officers are A. S. Johnson, P. M. W.; C. W. Calkins, M. W.; A. R. Street-er, Recorder. The present membership is 28.

Mecosta Lodge, No. 55, K. O. T. M., was organized in 1882, and, like the A. O. U. W., is an insur-

ance society. The present officers are R. D. Reed, S. K. C.; J. H. Waller, S. K. F. K.; L. W. Esselstene, S. K. R. K.

Mecosta has a good brass band, led by A. C. Waller, organized in May, 1882.

The following are the first village officers of Mecosta, elected April 2, 1883: President, A. S. Johnson; Trustees for two years, H. M. Trussell, C. W. Parks, J. W. Pierce; Trustees for one year, J. W. Ferris, D. O'Brien, A. R. Streeter; Clerk, C. M. Calkins; Street Commissioner, E. La Grange; Constable, Marvin Spencer; Assessor, E. A. Davis.

The business interests of the village are represented by the following firms:

Beard, Henry, wagon shop.  
 Black, George, general store.  
 Bromley Bros., livery stable.  
 Calkins, C. W., furniture store.  
 Conrad, E. S., photograph gallery.  
 Cooley, L. D., drug store.  
 Carman, M., general store.  
 Duley, R. H., Wilson House.  
 Diller, Mrs. George, dressmaking.  
 Evans, Mrs. R. G., notions.  
 Gilbert, G. & Co., general store.  
 Gardner, J. T., jewelry store.  
 Garland & Hornung, clothing house.  
 Gilbert & Wixson, bank.  
 Hullinger, James, drug store.  
 Morris Thomas, shoe shop.  
 Metzorg, Isaac, clothing store.  
 O'Brien, Dominick, Mecosta House.  
 O'Brien, W., restaurant.  
 Pangburn, W. S., boot and shoe store.  
 Parish, W. H., saloon.  
 Parks Bros., hardware store.  
 Reed, R. D., meat market.  
 Rice, Lewis, blacksmith.  
 Rathvon Bros., planing mill.  
 Stewart, B. M., grocery.  
 Trussell, H. M., *Advance* office.  
 Thomas & Esselstene, millinery.  
 Thomas, Morris, harness shop.  
 Wernette & Schultz, blacksmith.  
 Wilcox, D. W., shingles and lumber.  
 Wilson, Albert, barber shop.  
 Wilcox, John, blacksmith.  
 Woolford, R. S., grocery and drug store.

Wernette, C. W., saloon.

Woolford, Mrs. N. O., millinery.

Among the professional men are C. B. Pattison and J. H. Waller, physicians, and N. W. Bush, lawyer.

The last school census of the village contained the names of 225 children of school age, which would indicate a total population of nearly 800.



### Sheridan Township.

**I**N the eastern tier of townships of the county is township 15 north, range 7 west, Congressional survey, named as above, and is bounded on the north by Fork Township, on the east by Isabella County, on the south by Wheatland Township, and on the west by Martiny Township.

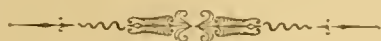
Sheridan is on the divide between the territory contiguous to Lake Michigan, and that stretching towards Lake Huron. It contains no stream of any size, except the south branch of the Chippewa River, which flows through the northwestern corner. In the eastern portion are Bamber Brook, and other small streams flowing east, while in the southwestern part are the head-waters of the Little Muskegon. The township contains half a dozen very small lakes, and three lakes of some size are intersected by its boundary lines. Lake No. 6 lies near the southwestern corner, while Dimon Lake and Tubb's Lake lie near the northwestern corner, and partly in Martiny Township.

Sheridan has no villages and no railroads. It was organized as a township in 1867, in the same year in which Fork was erected, and in October of that year it held its first election, which resulted in the choice of Edward P. Strong as the first Supervisor. Mr. Strong was the first white settler of the township, having located on section 12 the first of January, 1866.

The first white child born was Mary E., daughter of William W. and Susan McComb, who greeted the light April 29, 1866. The first two marriages—those of A. Berry and Angeline Benscoter, and Chauncey Rogers and Minnie Gibbs—were solemnized on the same day, Nov. 28, 1867, by Elder Z. W. Shepherd. The first death was that of Ella S. Hanna, and oc-

curred June 1, 1866. The first frame building in the township was the school-house in District No. 1, built by John A. Markle. The first school-house was a log building erected on section 11, in the spring of 1868, and Mrs Aaron Osborn taught the first school during the summer following. E. P. Strong opened the first store in June, 1867. The first postoffice, Rienza, was established in the spring of 1870.

Its population in 1870 was 135; in 1874, 160; and in 1880, 207. In 1878, it reported 990 acres of improved land, and in 1881, 1,192 acres. Its equalized valuation in 1868 was \$44,312; and its present valuation is \$204,139. Its total vote in November, 1882, was 39.



#### Wheatland Township.

**W**HEATLAND Township is township fourteen north, range seven west, Congressional survey, and is in the eastern tier of townships of Mecosta County. It is bounded on the north by Sheridan Township, on the east by Isabella County, on the south by Millbrook Township, and on the west by Morton Township. It is on the divide between the watershed tributary to Lake Michigan, and that tributary to Lake Huron, and its land is accordingly higher than that of surrounding counties. Pointer and other creeks tributary to the Little Muskegon drain the northwestern part, while the greater part of the township is drained by Pine River and its branches (of which the most important is Pony Creek), which flow eastward into the Tittabawassee. Wheatland Township has a number of small lakes,—Lake No. 1, Pine Lake, Pickett's Lake, Gay Lake, Mud Lake,

Lake No. 6, and others, which form the head-waters of the Little Muskegon and Pine Rivers. The township is crossed by a railroad recently constructed,—the Detroit, Lansing & Northern,—which runs through the southwestern part. Wheatland contains no villages, although Millbrook lies just on its borders.

The township of Wheatland was organized in October, 1862; and its first Supervisor was Jacob Schiedel. The first white settler was William Schiedel, who located on section 24, in September, 1860. Solon Hall located on section 36, the same year. The first birth was that of Ellen Hall, daughter of Solon and Mary Hall, in the summer of 1861. The first death was that of John Norman September 28, 1864. Catharine Robitzsch died about the same time. The first marriage, that of Thomas Ariss and Catharine McCloud, was solemnized by Solon Hall, a Justice of the Peace, in 1866. Others say that Isaac Harvey and Marisa Blood were the first couple married. The first frame building was a dwelling erected by John D. Clement, in September, 1865. The first mill was a water-power saw-mill erected by Frederick D. Miller, in June, 1875. The first school-house was a log building erected on section 26, in December, 1864. The first school was taught by Lydia Allen, in the winter of 1864-5. Others say that Adaline Aldrich taught the first school in the winter of 1865.

The population of the township in 1864 was 120. This increased to 400 in 1870; to 632 in 1874; and to 1,170 in 1880. The township had 3,534 acres of improved land in 1878, and 4,320 acres in 1881. Its assessed valuation in 1868 was \$44,312; and its present valuation is \$424,214. Its total vote in November, 1882, was 200.





# City of Big Rapids.

**T**HE origin of the above name has been explained under the heading "Early Settlement."

It was a name appropriately given by the early settlers to the rapids in the Muskegon River at the point where the thriving county seat now stands; and when the town was started it naturally took the name it has ever since been borne.

The earliest entries of any lands now included in the city plats are one fractional lot of 32.20 acres located by Robert P. Mitchell, May 3, 1853, and also one fractional lot of 55.70 acres located at the same date by John Parish. These pieces were south of Mitchell Creek, and between Michigan avenue and the Muskegon River, being portions of the First Ward of the city. A Mr. Fred Hall entered land soon after, but the interest of these men must have been purchased by Messrs. Warren & Ives some time afterward, as we hear no more of them in connection with the village.

March 1, 1855, Zera French and his brother George came through the wilderness *via* Croton from

Grand Rapids, and in one sense were the real founders of Big Rapids, as they came in search of permanent homes, and not in any sense as speculators. The entire region north of Big Prairie was then a wilderness. Not a blow had been struck, nor a cabin raised, where Big Rapids now stands, and only three or four claims made, with the exception of speculators in pine lands. We quote now George French's own words:

"We came up on the east bank of the Muskegon and somewhere near the upper dam found Duncan McLellan engaged in lumbering,—putting logs into the river. He had a rude camp in which we were hospitably entertained over night. The following morning we constructed a log raft, on which we crossed the river. The snow was several feet deep on the west side and yet the view through the forest was to us inviting and grand, and we at once determined to locate here. We found a Mr. Parish and a Mr. Mitchell had already a Government certificate for small pieces of land near, and a man by the name of Hall had possession through his agent of about 160 acres; but aside from this all was undisturbed. My brother Zera at once purchased three forty-acre pieces, the southern boundary of which was Hemlock street, north of where the Central school building now stands, and of course covered the mill site afterward utilized on Mitchell Creek."

George French made claim to about the same amount of land as his brother, a little farther to the

north. They had conversed upon the subject of a future village being located here, and when some time afterward Warren Ives surveyed a portion of their land, and recorded a village plat, Zera French then laid out a portion of his own land north of Mitchell Creek, and lying on both sides of State street, into a village plat, gave it the name of Glen Elm, and it was recorded by that name May 9, 1860. A. N. Williams was the surveyor of this new village.

There appears to have been some little feeling at this time between Mr. Ives and Mr. French in regard to location of county buildings, and this may have been the cause of locating a new village on the French property; but it must have been amicably settled soon after, as Mr. French was persuaded by Orrin Stevens and others to change the name to "French's Addition to Big Rapids," which was done and recorded June 4 of the same year. George French now decided to engage in other business, and sold his claim to Zera French, who, having a small family to provide for, at once commenced the building of a log house. This was the first house of any kind built within the village limits. It was situated a little north of the Big Rapids Iron Works, and about midway between State street and the river. The ruins of its foundation may yet be seen. This house, with the south forty acres on which it stood, was sold to Ives & Warren, soon after the arrival of Chauncey P. Ives in this country. Another forty-acre piece west of this, covering the lot where the new school-house now stands, was included in this purchase, and the consideration was \$600 cash for both.

This house was occupied by Mr. Ives while engaged in erecting a mill office and large boarding-house near by. The saw-mill was built first, all the actually necessary lumber for this purpose being hauled from Newaygo, and the other buildings finished as soon after as the lumber could be cut by the new mill to construct them. Mrs. Orrin Stevens presided for a long time at their boarding-house, and the old settlers remember many bountiful repasts served by her.

A good story is told by one of the pioneers about these days when nearly all the necessaries of life had to be brought from Grand Rapids. He received from a certain grocer a keg of molasses (?) and in the bill accompanying it found he was charged for

ten gallons, while the keg, by actual measurement, could hold but eight gallons. He wrote back to the grocer that he "didn't mind the money overcharged so much as he did the strain on the keg!" It is needless to say that the error was in due time rectified.

Chauncey P. Ives removed here and purchased the interest of Fred Hall and others about the year 1856. As has been said, the French Brothers owned and were at this time in possession of about 240 acres of land, bounded on the south by Hemlock street. Upon this land where now stands much of the northern part of the city, they had made considerable improvement and had designed much more; and it had also become known some time previous that they intended some of this ground for a village. For this reason, although Zera French did not possess the means to push the enterprise, he deserves a large share of the honor of founding the city.

The following incident shows what trivial matters sometimes change the fortunes of individuals. James Montague, one of the earliest settlers of the county, entered fractional lot number five, covering the old red mill site, somewhere about the time the same lot was taken by Mr. French,—he claimed a little before,—and undoubtedly had in view the valuable water power for a mill site. Both parties appeared at the land office, each claiming the right to the certificate of entry. In such cases it was the duty of that office to institute a court of inquiry, and after mature deliberation Mr. French was pronounced the rightful claimant. Mr. Montague always felt that injustice was done him.

The land upon which all the present business part of the city of Big Rapids is built, was owned in connection (but not in partnership) by Messrs. Ives, Warren and Leonard. Mr. Warren soon afterward purchased the entire interest of Dr. F. B. Leonard, and the records show that the original plat was surveyed and recorded by Warren and Ives, November 3, 1859, and comprised about 100 acres of land. A Mr. John F. Tinkham, of Grand Rapids, was the surveyor employed to do the work, and it is just to add that Mr. Tinkham was thoroughly competent as a surveyor. His lines are more accurate than those of the Government surveyors.

It is well known that anything having little present or prospective value is carelessly handled and tossed about, while an article of real or supposed value will

receive the most careful attention. It was thus with a great portion of the land in Northern Michigan. Its supposed worthlessness made it cheap in the eyes of all, and a little deviation in lines, or the loss of a few acres more or less, was of no consequence. Portions of the forty-acre tract known as Sanborn & Rust's Addition was wanted at an early day by a few settlers, but Mr. Rust could not be prevailed upon to sell it in part, although he was willing to sell it entire. Several of the well-known citizens therefore agreed to take a certain number of acres each, to include the entire forty, and the deeds were made out accordingly. The owners then determined to run streets through it, east and west, parallel with and joining one or two on the Warren & Ives plat; and when asked why not plat their property in lots and blocks, they replied that they only wanted it for pastures for their domestic animals! It seemed foolish to them to "lay out the whole country as a city." By a glance at the map it will be seen that each selected a portion according to the size of his purse, or inclinations, without regard to shape or dimensions, presenting an appearance of either the surveyor or his sextant having been slightly "twisted." Men who have always been known as possessing superior judgment in other matters, failed to see the want of careful groundwork at that early day.

As many additions have been made to Big Rapids, for the sake of convenience they are all mentioned here in chronological order:

The original village of Big Rapids was platted by Messrs. Warren & Ives, of Troy, N. Y., and duly recorded Nov. 3, 1859. It comprised about 100 acres of land, situated upon the western bank of Muskegon River, on section 14, township fifteen north, of range ten west. On the 9th of May, 1860, Zera French platted an addition on the north comprising about forty acres, which was first called Glen Elm, and soon afterwards changed to French's Addition to the Village of Big Rapids. On the 20th of November, 1865, Sanborn & Rust platted forty acres on the west, which was named Sanborn & Rust's Addition. On the 25th of September, 1866, Clark & Fuller platted thirty-six acres immediately south of Sanborn & Rust's Addition, which was named Rose's Addition. On the 14th of the same month, Ceylon C. Fuller platted twenty-five acres immediately south of Clark & Fuller's Addition, which was named Fuller's

Addition. On the 22d of the same month, Thomas D. Stimson platted two acres, lying between the original plat and Clark & Fuller's Addition, which was Stimson's Addition. On the 22d of October of the same year, George W. Warren platted forty acres, lying west of Rose's Addition, which was named Warren's Addition. On the 5th of November in the same year, B. E. Hutchinson platted thirty acres, lying west of Sanborn & Rust's Addition, which was named Hutchinson's Addition.

The year 1859 was full of promises to the little colony of pioneers. The act organizing the county of Mecosta, and designating the village of Leonard (as Big Rapids was then called) as the county seat was approved by the State Legislature Feb. 11, 1859, and the election of the first county officers took place soon after. The organization of the county and the establishment of the county seat now directed attention to those seeking new homes, and gave a new impetus to the growth of the village.

It is somewhat difficult, after the lapse of twenty-five years from the time Mr. Ives became a resident of Big Rapids, to understand the various motives which may have actuated him with regard to some portions of his work. His companions of that early period all unite in saying that he was active and enterprising, untiring in his efforts to promote the public good, generous where the many could be served, a man of broad and comprehensive ideas, never visionary, although somewhat prophetic, and whose far-seeing judgment saw the future city of Big Rapids positively standing, in the distance! It is related that when the first small hotel was built, by A. N. Williams, in the spring of 1858, and the question arose as to the number of lots required for such a purpose, Mr. Ives remarked, much to the amusement of his neighbors, that "within twenty years a two-story hotel covering half a block would be required to accommodate the necessities of the time." When the reader considers the elegant accommodations now afforded the public in the Northern Hotel, one of the finest hotels in the State, and in the numerous smaller hotels in Big Rapids, who shall say that such a man was not worthy to be a leader in the settlement of any new country? He often spoke of the geographical position of the village in relation to other portions of our country yet to be settled; and possibly in some far distant time, he saw in imagination a more direct route from the Eastern Hemisphere

across the continent to the Atlantic,—saw a great national roadway of iron from Puget Sound to Lake Superior, thence direct to the straits of Mackinaw and south through the village of his creation, bearing away eastward to New York and Boston. "Gentlemen," said he in one of his speeches, "I assure you that cargoes of the teas of China will pass unbroken through Big Rapids to New York!" He was a man of kindly disposition, ever extending a hand to the weak and deserving; and it is said of him that no man ever applied personally for work who was, if in need, turned away. He would even board the man, for the time, at his own expense, until he could make business for him. He has been known to employ three men to perform one piece of work in order to give them all employment at a remunerative price, when one man would have answered the purpose quite as well. He was a man of fair personal habits and personal neatness, but an inveterate smoker, his large, generous pipe, with its long reed stem thrust deep into his mouth, being quite a constant companion. He could not have been selfish, and yet he had his own peculiar ideas, and was determined to follow them.

Others were now rapidly settling round about the new village, and additions to the original plat were now in order. It may be that these were viewed with a jealous eye, as calculated to interfere somewhat with plans of his own. Be that as it may, Mr. Ives, whose lands extended only to State street on the west, at once determined to prevent additions to the village in that direction by platting lots on the west side of Michigan avenue, 150 feet deep to an alley, reserving the remainder, about 300 feet in width, to State street, and extending from his north line the entire length of his village plat south, in a complete state of nature. His next and favorite idea, for reasons of his own, was to force the growth of the village over the grounds he had platted to the south. To further this project he positively refused to sell any portion of his lands north of Maple street, but was generous to those who would make improvements south or southeast. He felled the trees the entire length of Michigan avenue, and opened from the south end communication with the old trail from Newaygo. He also opened up Ives and Warren avenues from Maple street, a long distance into the woods, hoping to attract attention in that direction.

And still later, when grounds for school purposes were required, he offered to donate the lots of his own selection, which were on the corner of Michigan avenue and Oak street, then in the woods, seven blocks south of his office.

He prevailed upon others to purchase lots and open mechanic shops near the school grounds, and many can remember a wagon and blacksmith shop, and a bakery and tailor shop, all in active business in that vicinity, as late as 1867. He also, as soon as a competent mechanic could be procured, commenced the erection of a dwelling for himself, on the corner of Michigan avenue and Linden street, which was afterward sold to B. E. Hutchinson, and, although moved from the original foundation, is still an old and time-honored landmark of the city.

But, as "the best laid plans of mice an' men gang aft agley," the fond hopes of Mr. Ives were not to be realized in his life-time. Other influences were brought to bear against him which will hereafter be mentioned, changing the business center of the city permanently. The following, although occurring some years after, is appropriately related here, in connection with the location of the business center of the village:

Some time in 1861 or 1862, when Mr. Williams built the second hotel in the village, the site proposed and thought the best was on the corner of Elm street and Michigan avenue, where the "Furniture block" has since been located. In bargaining for the ground, the party then owning it insisted on having an old wagon thrown in, the value of which may have been \$20. Mr. Williams would not accede to the demand, and immediately purchased ground on the site of the old Mason House, and within the next 24 hours was laying the foundation. Judge C. C. Fuller, whose interest was farther south, noticing the change in location, was thoroughly disgusted, and said to Williams, "Stop your work; go and complete the trade with Mr. Clark for that ground, and I'll pay for that darned old wagon myself rather than have you build away out of town." But the work had already progressed too far, and that unfortunate vehicle had, we fear, changed the future center of the city for at least the space of half a century.

Mr. Ives, however, had exhibited much wisdom in his work and ideas as to the future of a large city.

He gave all the principal streets a uniform width of 80 feet, crossing at right angles. The lots were all 50 x 150 feet, with 20-foot alleys in the rear. He left spacious public grounds in a central part, upon which the original grand old forest maples were left standing (but which selfish and vandal hands have since destroyed), donated generous lots to the different religious organizations who might occupy them, and planned everything for a model village and a brilliant future.

His original idea, but one which was strongly opposed by his friends, was that all streets should be 100 feet wide; and nothing in the entire history of the city is to be more deeply regretted than the objection offered at that time to his excellent judgment in this particular.

Besides French's Addition, others were now from time to time recorded, and began to be peopled in spite of the proscribed barrier of 300 feet of forest on the west. State street was opened and became a public highway. It was found that travel could not be forced through from the south on Michigan avenue, and inexorable fate seemed to point in other directions for settlement. Other causes conspired to sever mutual interest between the original owners. Litigation, threatened and real, followed in later years, and gave a check to the prosperity of the village, from which it slowly recovered.

After Mr. Ives had completed his mill and office, a postoffice seemed a necessity. Application was made and one established, with Jesse C. Shaw for the first Postmaster, who was appointed under President Buchanan. A weekly mail was then opened with the outside world, *via* Greenville, arriving on horseback every Thursday, and returning a portion of the way the same day. A peck of mail matter was a heavy mail for this region. The first daily mail was established in 1865, between Newaygo and Big Rapids. For a long time after the first settlement here, it was customary for the inhabitants to speak of themselves as if "walled in;" and if one left the town he was said to be "going outside;" and this custom continued until the almost hourly arrival of mails and trains broke down that imaginary wall between themselves and the rest of mankind. The railroads and telephone exchange, now fixed institutions, have placed Big Rapids "inside" for all time.

Orrin Stevens, the first Register of Deeds of Me-

costa County, came to Big Rapids from Big Prairie, in the month of March, 1859, and was assisted in transporting his goods over the primitive roads by a Mr. Hersey, who is said to have been the first white settler north of the Muskegon River, and who, as late as 1880, resided at Croton. He found the only unoccupied house to be the one first built by Mr. French, and in which he and his family gladly found shelter for a few weeks. This year, after the county officials were elected, it was deemed necessary to build a bridge across the river. County orders were issued, and the contract let to construct a good substantial wooden bridge for the sum of \$3,000, to Mr. Tinkham, who had been the village surveyor. This bridge was built on wooden piers, and thrown across the Muskegon at its junction with East Maple street. A rather substantial two-story school-house was also built about this time, on the lots before mentioned as having been donated by Warren & Ives.

This structure was an imposing one for that early day, and the School Commissioners were empowered to let the contract. Charles Shafer was one of the directors, and the superintendence of the work devolved upon him. James Jones and a Mr. Kirkpatrick were the fortunate contractors, receiving for the labor alone the munificent sum of \$150. The district furnished the material. As lime was not to be had in this region at that date, the building was ceiled throughout instead of being plastered. Only about a dozen children were found to attend the first term of school, which was presided over by Mrs. Mary Fuller.

In the early spring of 1860, the first term of Circuit Court was held in the upper story of this school-house, Judge Littlejohn presiding; and the first case called on the calendar was William H. Leeds *versus* John Power. The nature of the case is not recorded.

Charles Shafer came to the village in September, 1857, and moved his family here in February, 1858. He says: "I found a very small clearing in the woods. Chauncey P. Ives, Jesse C. Shaw, Samuel Bailey and brother, Zera and George French and a few others were here—probably fifteen or twenty persons in all." Mr. Ives had thrown a rude dam across Mitchell Creek, at the foot of the hill where it now crosses Michigan avenue, and had erected a saw-mill, known since as the "Old Red Mill." It was an old-fashioned, rough-boarded structure in



which was one upright saw, and which on the fourth day of July, 1857, to the great delight of the villagers, cut its first few feet of lumber. This mill continued to do work as late as 1868 or 1869, and in 1875 it was torn down and removed to the lower dam, where new machinery was added, and the mill rebuilt.

The trees had been cut out of Michigan avenue south, and a narrow roadway opened for travel. On the east side of the avenue for a long distance north and south a rude brush fence was constructed, so that the domestic animals might be safely corraled between this point and the river. The price of corner lots at this time was \$100 each, and inside lots \$50. Mr. Shafer at once purchased two lots on the southwest corner of the block bounded in that direction by Michigan avenue and Elm street; and in consideration of his being a mechanic the north lot adjoining this property was donated to him, and thus he secured 150 feet square for the trifling sum of \$150. The same land would probably to-day be considered cheap at \$10,000. His first work was to cut out a few trees where the foundation was to be laid, and remove 16 feet of the brush fence, and prepare to build a dwelling 16 x 24, on the north line of his property. The house was one and a half stories high, boarded up and down with rough lumber, and as no shingles could be had, rough boards formed the roof also. His first bricks for a chimney were hauled from Grand Rapids by team, and cost \$65 per thousand.

Soon afterward Mr. Shafer built and opened on his corner lot the third general store in the village. Edson Fuller had the honor of displaying to the early settlers here the first stock of miscellaneous merchandise. His store was on the northwest corner of Michigan avenue and Elm street, in a small but new structure. G. F. Stearns, now President of the Northern National Bank, opened the second store, with a capital of only \$300, in September, 1860, on Michigan avenue, near the lot where Vandersluis' store now stands. Mr. Shafer, about this time, received the appointment of Postmaster, Mr. Shaw having resigned in his favor.

Mr. Shafer also relates: "Having expended what little money I had on hand, after my store was completed, it became a serious question with me how I should fill it in part with a stock of goods. A firm in Grand Rapids offered me all the ready-made

clothing I wanted on time; but this alone would not answer, and I at once repaired to Detroit, an entire stranger there, and with only a small amount of money. H. P. Baldwin, since Governor of the State, was then engaged in the boot and shoe business in that city. I called at once at his office and requested to see him in person. In brief, I informed him that I was Charles Shafer, ex-Treasurer of Mecosta County, now Postmaster and Justice of the Peace; that I had no cash, but wanted a stock of boots and shoes on time, and would remit the money in small sums as fast as possible. He seemed to be pleased with my frankness, asked a good many questions touching my responsibility, etc., then, rising, told me to select all the boots and shoes I wanted. I shipped home about \$250 worth of his stock, gradually paid off the indebtedness, to his apparent satisfaction, and bought many more from the same firm."

Mr. Shafer kept his postoffice for a short time in his dwelling-house, until he commenced business as a merchant, then removed it into his store. There was at that time no postoffice north of this in the lower peninsula, and of course people came here occasionally from a long distance. It was customary for the settlers in the woods to come in on Thursday and await the coming of the mail; and often every family within a radius of many miles was represented and on the look-out for the mail-carrier, who usually came on a mule to the east bank of the river, tied his animal to a tree, and after feeding him from a bag of grain brought for the purpose, if no canoe appeared in sight, would either blow a horn or raise an Indian "yell" to attract attention. Some one then volunteered to bring him over; and the mail being distributed he was ferried back in the same manner.

The lumbermen's name—Big Rapids—stuck so thoroughly to the place, and was so widely known, that after the establishment of the postoffice here a large amount of mail matter came directed to that name. It soon became apparent that only the postoffice department and the few inhabitants here knew anything about such a place as "Leonard," Michigan; and a petition was signed and forwarded to the proper officer, requesting that the name of the office be changed to Big Rapids, which was at once complied with, and the village of "Leonard," with the exception of being laid down on a few old maps, now ceased to exist.

About this time Mr. Shafer was asked by the Department to survey a mail route from this point through the wilderness to Elk Rapids *via* Grand Traverse, and to receive bids for carrying a weekly mail, as during the winter months the settlers at these remote points were practically ice-bound and isolated from the outside world. Among others, Nelson Ganong put in the lowest bid—\$300; but the route being so expensive the Government abandoned the project altogether.

Comparatively few amusements were indulged in at this early date, although unbounded hospitality was the rule instead of the exception; and, as in most new colonies, no "aristocratic cliques" or "select few" caused the least jealous feeling. Both capitalist and laborer, old and young, stranger and friend, all met at social gatherings on common ground, danced and sung, grieved and rejoiced together. In the language of one who came over twenty years ago, "We had plenty of plain food to eat, tobacco to smoke, and stories to tell; and with our weekly supply of outside newspapers, to give us the news of the world, we were supremely contented and happy." Incidents sometimes occurred to break the monotony, and furnish amusement for the villagers, one of which it may be well briefly to relate.

In the summer of 1865, a trifling altercation occurred between two residents, one being at the time a cripple. A knock-down was the result, but neither was seriously injured. George French was at that time Justice of the Peace, and to him the aggrieved party applied for redress. It being a rather hot and dull day for business, this was the signal for amusement. All the legal fraternity of the place at once put in an appearance, and with all the gravity befitting the occasion proceeded with the trial. C. C. Fuller was retained for the defense, and as a matter of course some of those present volunteered to prosecute the case, and uphold the "peace and dignity" of the State of Michigan. But few witnesses were required to establish the fact that the offense had been "wantonly and with malice aforethought" committed. Some new tactics had been urgently necessary on the part of the defense, in order to save their client, and the counsel proved equal to the occasion. It is generally believed that in that court there was not only a little collusion between the counsel on both sides, but that the prisoner at the bar was also included, and a kind of "gunpowder plot" cooked

up for the simple, unfortunate German complainant.

"May it please your Honor," said Mr. Fuller, addressing the court: "we propose to show that the prisoner is *non compos mentis*; and, beckoning to a civil engineer who happened to be present as a spectator, and who promptly came forward, he said: "We will swear this gentleman as an expert on insanity, and allow him to testify." The prisoner was also allowed to make a statement, and to the utter astonishment of that Justice he was questioned in regard to his diet, and admitted that it was, and always had been, principally mush and milk; and that stranger and expert being under oath testified that such a diet invariably produced serious mental disturbances, and what was known as emotional insanity! This was indeed an unheard of and dangerous result from the use of hasty pudding!

"Your Honor," pleaded the counsel, "having unquestionably established the fact of insanity, of course our client is not responsible, and we ask that he be set at liberty." But the Justice concluded, in order to partially heal the wounded feelings of the German, to impose a light fine of fifty cents and costs, in all amounting to two dollars. The audience, whose sympathy for the poor, insane prisoner would not allow them to do otherwise, now made up a purse to pay the cost, and his Honor also remitted the fine, much to the disgust of the complainant, who always claimed "dot leetle feefy cents" as belonging to him personally.

The first celebration of the Nation's birthday was held in the woods not far from where the Methodist church now stands, July 4, 1859, at which nearly 100 persons attended. It is said that Mr. Standish, from Newaygo, was the orator on the occasion. "The following year," says Mr. Shafer, "a pic-nic celebration was held, and the table was set for one hundred and fifty persons, showing that an increase of the population was expected." B. L. Gray was the orator that year.

The first lawsuit in the village was a case of assault and battery, rather amusing in its character: the People *versus* McAllister, tried before Charles Shafer, Justice of the Peace. As there was no jail to go to, McAllister paid his fine, \$10, and went on his way rejoicing.

The first marriage in the village was a Mr. Hagart to Miss Goliday, solemnized before Jesse Shaw a

Notary Public, as neither minister nor justice could be found at that time.

The first birth in the village of Big Rapids, after the name had been changed from Leonard, was that of Charlie Hutchinson, son of B. E. and Elma L. Hutchinson, which occurred March 1, 1860. It is related that on this occasion Chauncey P. Ives offered to deed the child any lot in the village his parents might designate, provided he was allowed to incorporate in the name of the infant some part of the name of the village. This, however, was declined.

The first butcher shop in the village was opened by Henry Escott, who often drove his animals from a long distance; and it is related that porter-house steak was then twenty-five and thirty cents a pound.

The first regular freight line from Grand Rapids was established by Clark & Latimer, in 1860. This line, with all its running stock, was purchased the following year by B. E. Hutchinson, who first settled in the village Feb. 10, 1860. Mr. Hutchinson at once supplied additional teams, commencing his new business with six well equipped wagons,—three at each end of the line. Two thousand pounds of freight was considered a usual load, and five to six days was consumed in making the journey between the two points by way of Newaygo. If the teams were on time, one left each end of the route on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of each week. Through tariff was two dollars per hundred pounds. Mr. Hutchinson also started the first dray in the city, a two-wheeled vehicle, in April, 1870.

The honor of setting up and distributing the first type in Mecosta County, belongs to Charlie Gay, referred to in his sketch, in a small office on the east side of Michigan avenue, between Maple and Elm streets, in this city. He issued the first number of the "*Mecosta County Pioneer*," April 17, 1862, assisted in the editorial department by Hon. C. C. Fuller. Mr. Gay seemed determined to adapt the price of his paper to the possibly limited purse of the new country, as for a long time it was only \$1.00 per year. From that small, five-column folio, since combined with the "*Big Rapids Magnet*," has grown the present daily *Pioneer*, one of the best papers in Michigan. A further notice of this paper is given elsewhere.

During the winter of 1857-8 there was a great

scarcity of food in the northern part of Michigan, and the State authorities in some cases were obliged to afford relief to the settlers. Food was also scarce in the new village, but wherever it was found that the families were getting short of meat as well as money, there always remained one alternative here. Messrs. Williams, Kirkpatrick and James Jones constituted themselves a committee of three to procure a supply, and with guns, ammunition and torches they would embark in a "dug-out" for a night's deer-stalking up the river, usually returning next morning with an ample supply of venison, landing near Maple street as a distributing point. The meat was freely and gratuitously dispensed among all the settlers, and a few of the more favored ones would occasionally distribute some flour.

"Late in the fall of 1858," says Mr. Shafer, "I found myself getting short of flour for my family. I mention this incident to show the kindly feeling and extreme hospitality of every one in our new settlement. Selfishness seemed unknown, and our common wants seemed to create a common bond of sympathy between us. Nelson Ganong was going to Grand Rapids with his team and offered to bring me some flour if I could raise the money to purchase it. It was then five dollars a barrel in that city. I had only two dollars in cash, and prevailed upon him to defer his journey a day or two, until in some way the amount could be raised. We both walked over to Williams' Hotel and stated the case. Mr. Williams said it would not do for me to be short of flour, as winter was coming on, and contributed \$1.50 (every cent he had) to the fund. His man-of-all-work about the premises also loaned twenty-five cents to the enterprise, and Mr. Ganong volunteered to make the amount four dollars. But where was the other dollar to come from? Mr. Williams was equal to the emergency. Said he, 'I am expecting some gentlemen from Chicago in a day or two, who are lumbering up the river. They usually remain over night at my house, and from them I shall obtain a little money, and if Mr. Ganong can wait I will make up the desired sum.' The travelers in due time put in an appearance, cash was raised, and per consequence the barrel of flour."

In the first years of the Big Rapids settlement, as a matter of course provisions of almost every kind had to be brought here from a long distance and

with only a narrow passage for any vehicle through the forest. If the weather was stormy and wet, the task of making such a journey was an unenviable and often expensive one. Goods of every kind were therefore high in price, if at all obtainable, and often money would not purchase what was required. It is related that as late as 1861, when a partial freight line by wagon had been established by Mr. B. E. Hutchinson, when the roads were bad, and many goods awaiting transportation at the opposite end of the line, it often was impossible to bring but a limited amount of provisions; and on the arrival of the cargo with perhaps only one barrel of flour, a dozen persons, some perhaps from a distance in the country, would all be found awaiting its arrival. There were no "favored" ones in those days, and says an old settler: "It often happened that in order to make the flour go round, each would receive only a milk-pail full." Possibly, in a known case of illness in a family, a larger quantity would be apportioned.

In the *Pioneer* of June 18, 1863, is a short article written by H. Lucas, a minister of Big Rapids, from which, to show the exact degree of progress the village had made in four years from the time it was platted, the following is extracted:

"Big Rapids \* \* \* contains about one hundred and fifty inhabitants, and is the county seat of Mecosta County. It is surrounded by a beautiful farming country, and a more intelligent set of inhabitants is not to be found in any place, east, west north or south. There are no liquor establishments in this village, and of course all is quiet and industry. There are two dry-goods and grocery stores in the place, conducted by Stearns and Hutchinson, both enterprising young men and doing a good business. One paper is published here, which commends itself to the community, and merits an extensive circulation. A good district school is now in progress, and there is now every inducement for good settlers to identify themselves with this community. I have been in Michigan sixteen years, and have preached to a good many congregations, but never to a more respectable and attentive one than I have found in this village."

The Methodist Episcopal Church was the first one organized in Big Rapids, and dates from 1865. Occasional services had been held for many years before that, but this was the beginning of religious services.

In those days the services were marked by an interest that is too often lacking in later times. Congregational singing was the rule, and was plain and grand. In those days the old hymns were not tortured in the following style so common now:

"Oh for a man  
Oh for a man  
Oh for a mansion in the skies."

"We'll catch the flee  
We'll catch the flee  
We'll catch the fleeting hours."

"He'll take the pil  
He'll take the pil  
He'll take the pilgrim home."

"With reverence let the saints appear,  
And bow-ow-ow before the Lord."

This society erected a fine church, in due time, at a cost of \$4,000. This was dedicated on Saturday, Nov. 16, 1867, with appropriate ceremonies. The sermon was preached by M. A. Daugherty, and he was assisted in the services by Rev. I. Cogshall, Rev. A. J. Eldred and Rev. J. H. Ross, of Grand Rapids. The quarterly conference of the M. E. Church was held in the afternoon in the church. In the evening a Sunday-school anniversary service was observed. On the following day, Sunday, a love-feast was held at nine o'clock, Mr. Cogshall preached at half past ten, Mr. Eldred at two o'clock, and Mr. Ross at seven o'clock. For some time after this, the Methodist and Presbyterian societies alternately worshipped in this church.

From the same paper we also quote as follows:

"F. H. Todd & Co. will soon commence building a dam across the river at this place, and expect to have a mill in operation the present season, or early in the spring. This will be of vast importance to our village, as the improvement of our water-power, together with the building of the G. R. & I. R. R., is all that is required to insure the prosperity of this country, and make Big Rapids a city of 10,000 inhabitants in ten years."

This water-power has been indeed a powerful aid to the development of Big Rapids, although the prediction in regard to increase of population was hardly realized. When it is considered that there is at present but one-tenth of the water-power at command utilized, it will be admitted that there is no limit to the possibilities of the future, and that the time is not far distant when the prediction as to the population will be more than realized. This dam above

referred to was completed in the spring of 1867, and marks an important era in the history of Big Rapids.

The year 1866 was a most prosperous one for the village. The *Pioneer* of December 8, 1866, said: "Our village has been the scene of busy activity the past summer, in the erection of buildings and the hurry of other kinds of business, and the sound of the saw and hammer is still heard in all directions from morning until evening. Sixty-one buildings have already been erected and nearly all completed, since the opening of spring, and others are yet to be built this fall. The scarcity of lumber has prevented many from building, although three saw-mills have been running nearly the whole summer. This difficulty will be obviated another season, as two more mills, one steam and the other a water mill, will be put up and ready to run early in the spring." And again: "Our population has more than doubled during the past six months, now numbering 800 or more, and many of the mechanical trades are not yet represented."

The issue of December said: "The different kinds of business and professions now here are as follows: four general stores, one grocery store, one hardware and grocery store, one tin shop, one drug store, one meat market, three saw-mills, one grist-mill, one furniture shop, two blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, one jeweler, two boot and shoe shops, two hotels, one livery-stable, one bakery, one gun shop, three lawyers and three physicians, besides some twenty or more carpenters and joiners, and two masons."

In May following we are told that fifty more buildings had been erected. In January, 1868, an article appeared in the *Pioneer* from which it is gathered that during 1867 the population of Big Rapids increased to 1,500, and that during that year nearly 200 new buildings were constructed. These included several dwellings, costing from \$1,500 to \$2,500, one three-story hotel, a large school-house and several stores. The hotel cost \$10,000. We quote:

"The manufacturing and mercantile interests of the town have kept pace with its growth, and all have had a prosperous year. The four saw-mills here have been taxed to their utmost in supplying the local demand for lumber, and a part of the time were unable to make lumber as fast as they needed for building. Some 5,000,000 feet have been made

since July 1, 1867, but there is no surplus on hand, and spring will find us with a very short supply for the wants of the coming season. The Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad being completed from Grand Rapids to Cedar Springs, and now in operation, gives us a more speedy means of communication with the outside world, as we now have a daily stage and express running in connection with the cars, and can reach Grand Rapids in one day instead of two as formerly."

During February, 1868, considered the duller month of the season, Hutchinson's freight line from here to Cedar Springs carried 66,292 pounds; the largest load was 5,299 pounds, and the average load was 3,900 pounds.

From what has been said on a previous page, it will be seen that before the coming of the railroad provisions were frequently scarce in Big Rapids. This is further illustrated by the experience, in the summer of 1868, of Dr. Woolley, at that time landlord of the Mason House. He sent a man out in the morning with a two-horse light wagon, with instructions to go in all directions in search of potatoes; and at dark the man returned with only two bushels, for which he had paid three dollars, and consumed the entire day in order to get them at all! But Dr. Woolley was never out of provisions. His gross receipts in cash after he took possession of the old Mason House in 1867 were about \$1,000 a month, and often forty persons were obliged to sleep on the floor at night, so limited were the accommodations.

Dr. Woolley was the first physician in Big Rapids, and was crowded with work from the first day he came. As there was no other physician in all this region, his practice extended as far north as Clam River, and through the woods at every point of the compass for thirty or forty miles.

Those who voluntarily became the pioneers "bearing the burden and heat of the day," are seldom the ones who amass wealth in new countries. They love the partially isolated life for the quiet surroundings; for the peculiar beauties nature presents in her most primitive form where "unadorned she is adorned the most;" for the immunities from fashion's follies, from the turmoil of crowded streets, and from the rush and bustle of business, mental and physical, incident to older places, which often make life a continual care and shorten its term. They are willing to exchange

the wealth of money and power for the wealth of health, peace, contentment and consequent happiness, and are usually an industrious, hospitable and kindly disposed people, enduring with perfect cheerfulness any little privations they may suffer. Thus it was with all the early settlers of Big Rapids.

Some trouble was experienced occasionally by the diverse feelings of the principal owners of Big Rapids. When Mr. Warren purchased the interest of Dr. Leonard in the village plat, he became the owner of an undivided two-thirds interest in the whole. It is much to be regretted that these two men did not form a partnership; for as Mr. Warren was always a resident of Troy, N. Y., and Mr. Ives a resident here, no legal business could be transacted by either party except through an agent of the other, in regard to any part of their joint property. The wheels of progress could be instantly blocked if either party refused upon the least pretext to convey his interest in the title. Mr. Ives, always anxious to see improvements going forward, could frequently act in cases which admitted of no delay, as he would had a partnership really existed, trusting to the subsequent approval of Mr. Warren in the matter. But, as often happened, Mr. Warren did not approve, and his signature could not be obtained. Thus ill feeling was engendered, and litigation sometimes followed.

Jacob O. Rose purchased of Zera French his entire interest in all lands in the northwest part of the village, including the Glen Elm Addition, Feb. 2, 1864, and, as the records show, for the sum of \$975. Another important change in ownership of Big Rapids real estate occurred three years later, when Gen. Stephen Bronson, of Illinois, purchased the interest in the village so long held by Chauncey P. Ives. Gen. Bronson had already established himself here, and in connection with other parties had opened the Exchange Bank of Bronson, Stickney & Co., which was soon after incorporated, under the general banking law of the State. This was the first banking institution in Big Rapids, and supplied a much desired want in this northern region. The transfer of the property from Ives to Bronson is recorded Oct. 16, 1867.

Big Rapids was growing so surely to prosperous dimensions that in the winter of 1868-9 the talk of adopting a city government took definite shape. A

meeting was held according to announcement Feb. 11, 1869, to consider the question of incorporation. It was well attended. Charles Shafer was elected President, and S. F. Dwight, Secretary. A resolution in favor of applying for a city charter was discussed at length, and adopted without a dissenting voice. Charles Shafer, Stephen Bronson, E. O. Rose, N. H. Vincent and G. W. Crawford were appointed a committee to draft a charter. The matter was pushed promptly, and early in April of the same year the bill became a law which incorporated Big Rapids as a city. The corporation was made to include sections eleven and fourteen, and the east half of sections ten and fifteen. It was directed that the city have three representatives on the Board of Supervisors, one being elected, and the Mayor and Recorder being entitled to seats on the Board. The bill also provided for the organization of the township of Big Rapids, and directed a township election to be held at the house of John Halpine, on the third Monday in April. The charter election of the city was fixed for the same date.

This election came off duly on the 19th of April, and resulted as follows:

Mayor.—George F. Stearns.

Recorder.—Charlie Gay.

Supervisor.—William VanLoo.

Treasurer.—W. Irving Latimer.

School Inspectors.—S. S. Wilcox (one year) and R. D. Pierson (two years).

*Aldermen.*—First Ward, Daniel Stearns and Thomas D. Stinson; Second Ward, Morgan L. Palmer and John F. Brown; Third Ward, Jacob O. Rose and A. Frank Markham; Fourth Ward, Ceylon C. Fuller and Alfred L. Clark.

*Justices.*—First Ward, Charlie Gay; Second Ward, Erastus Fisher; Third Ward, Everett Douglass; Fourth Ward, Elijah F. Dewey.

*Constables.*—First Ward, Edgar W. Ford; Second Ward, Robert A. Griffin; Third Ward, George W. Bevington; Fourth Ward, George W. Jones.

Lewis H. Green was appointed City Marshal, E. O. Rose, City Attorney, and B. E. Hutchinson, Street Commissioner.

The first meeting of the City Council was held April 22, and the governmental machinery was set in full motion. The bond of the Marshal was fixed at \$1,000; of the Treasurer at \$5,000; and of the Street Commissioner at \$1,000. At subsequent

meetings the most important of the city ordinances were adopted, providing for licenses, nuisances, improvements, etc.

In the fall of 1870, the city was cheered by the arrival of the first trains on the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad, a full account of which is given elsewhere, under the head of "Railroads." From this time population increased still more rapidly, and many disadvantages in the way of improvement removed.

It is a melancholy truth that from the date of the first entries of city lands, down to as late a period as 1872, factional interest and jealousy, and sectional feeling and rivalry, were almost continuous, and silently if not openly expressed, to the serious detriment of the city, turning away valuable accessions of both people and capital. But time, the great leveler of all distinctions, with the aid and advice of those who took up a residence at a later day, again produced a unity of feeling, and to-day we are pleased to record that all is now changed, and an era of progress and prosperity has dawned upon the city which all sincerely hope nothing can ever impair or obstruct.

Big Rapids has been a sufferer from fire at various times, some of which deserve mention. The first fire of any consequence in the place was the destruction of a large quantity of lumber belonging to Warren & Ives in the year 1860. The next was French's Hotel, in the north part of the city, occupying the ground where the Waldon House has since been erected, and which was destroyed by fire Jan. 29, 1863.

Probably the most disastrous fire that has ever occurred in its effects upon the growth of the city, was that known as the "great fire," April 26, 1869, when every building on the west side of Michigan avenue, between Elm street and the Mason House on the corner of Maple, was totally destroyed. The fire originated in Ford & Bailey's meat-market, next door north of the large hardware and grocery store of Crawford & Green, at about eleven o'clock, p. m., and in two hours the whole range, consisting of ten buildings, was laid in ashes. The loss was variously estimated at from \$20,000 to \$50,000. No water supply or engines for extinguishing fires were here at that time, and common pails or buckets were the only appliances afforded. Lines of men were formed

to supply water with buckets from wells in the vicinity, and even from the river, but without avail. The Mason House, on the northeast corner of the block, was only saved by tearing down a small building belonging to Harwood & Olds, and then hanging carpets and bed-clothes from the roof and windows, and keeping them saturated with water. Nothing was insured except the Mason House.

Another disastrous fire occurred on Sunday morning, July 12, 1874, which destroyed nearly every building on the east side of Michigan avenue from the old Pacific House on Maple street to Shafer's block on Elm. Comparatively little property was saved at this fire, and only partial insurance covered the losses. The great destruction at that time is said to be due to defective linen hose, and not to a want of water.

The Shafer Block, a large three-story brick veneered structure, on the northeast corner of Michigan avenue and Elm street, was burned Nov. 9, 1874, and proved a very severe loss, not only to the owner but to the city in general.

The last extensive fire occurred Oct. 19, 1879, when the new Mason House Block, and all the business houses south of it on the west side of Michigan avenue, to the brick block now occupied by A. S. Hobart & Co., were totally destroyed. All buildings on the east side of this block were more or less damaged by the intense heat. In fact, the fire extended around and over the Hobart store, and did considerable damage beyond. All these disasters combined contributed in no small degree to retard the growth of the town. Many men lost all they possessed, and, becoming disheartened, removed to other places, while those who remained were many of them compelled to begin life anew.

The last calamity, and one that threatened to be one of the most destructive to the city, occurred April 29, 1881. The snow and ice from the country and lakes above melted with such rapidity that the Muskegon River was swollen to an immense height, and a jam of logs completely filling the river from bank to bank, and in many places piled several feet above the water, extending from this city to about six miles above, commenced to move with the current. The booms and cribs gave way before the moving mass; the top of the Tioga dam and the bridge just below were swept off, and for a time all the mills and manufactories at this point were in imminent danger of

serious damage, or of being carried off altogether. Maple Street bridge, although severely tried, withstood the terrible ordeal, to the delight and satisfaction of the hundreds of people who had gathered upon the banks to witness the grand but destructive sight. The lower dam was partially carried away, and required an outlay of some thousands of dollars to repair it. The entire damage to the city from this flood is estimated at from \$25,000 to \$30,000. Repairs were immediately commenced, and soon the booms, piers, dams and bridges were in a more substantial condition and better fitted to battle with the elements than ever before.

Soon after Big Rapids became a city, the question of water supply for fire protection and for private use became a general topic with the citizens. At a meeting of the Common Council, April 11, 1871, Alderman William Van Loo offered the first resolution, "That a committee be appointed to ascertain the expense of supplying the city with the Holly water-works." This resolution, with its amendment by Alderman Jacob O. Rose, "To investigate the cost of the works by both steam and water power," was adopted, and the committee appointed. A majority of the council approved of the main resolutions, and went steadily on with their work and what they conceived to be their duty, despite the criminations and recriminations of the people, and the various petitions *pro* and *con* which were presented, and always respectfully discussed and considered. Its first proposed cost was increased through unforeseen causes incident to all enterprises, and ultimately amounted to perhaps \$70,000.

The amount expended in the fall of 1871 was \$30,271.40, of which \$10,000 went to the Holly Company for machinery, and \$11,192.93 to H. Phelps for pipe, and for laying same. The following spring, by a vote of 215 to 123, the citizens decided to raise a further loan of \$15,000 towards completing the works. Then, at different times since, various other amounts have been expended, though it has undoubtedly been a good investment.

The fire department of Big Rapids was organized in March, 1871. The first officers were: J. M. Cook, Chief Engineer; E. O. Rose, First Assistant; C. D. Crandell, Second Assistant. In May of the same year, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, was organized, which at that time constituted the entire

department. Its officers were: Charlie Gay, Foreman; William H. Bennett, First Assistant; O. T. Fuller, Second Assistant; J. Frank Clark, Secretary; S. D. Thompson, Treasurer. Several hose companies have since been organized and thoroughly equipped.

The "Young Alerts," of Big Rapids, have the champion belt for hose companies in Michigan, won at the State tournaments of 1882 and 1883. The former tournament was held at Charlotte, in August. The hose companies entered were the Protections, of Ann Arbor; Protections, of Muskegon; Cadillacs, of Cadillac; Hillsdales, of Hillsdale; Unions, of Battle Creek; and the Young Alerts, of Big Rapids. The Protections, of Ann Arbor, Protections, of Muskegon, and Hillsdales, of Hillsdale, were given no time, on account of imperfect couplings. Cadillac Hose made the run to the hydrant in 27 seconds, but owing to an imperfection in their hose they were unable to make any coupling, and were given no time. The Unions, of Battle Creek, made a handsome run in 41½ seconds; hydrant time, 26½. The last to run were the Young Alerts, who made the run in 41¼ seconds; hydrant run in 26¼, winning by one-fourth of a second. They brought home a prize of \$125, and the champion belt.

At the State tournament of 1883, held at Marshall, Aug. 15 and 16, the Young Alerts again won the first prize of \$125, and the champion belt, making the run in the unprecedented time of 39¼ seconds. The competing companies were from Albion, Hillsdale, Battle Creek, St. Johns and Hastings.

The team composing the Young Alerts this year were Robert McGregor, Foreman; David Aitken, Fred Wakefield, Fred Gay, Dan McDonald, Herbert Priest, Alexander McGregor, Ferber Black, Charles Van Alstine, John Hagadone, Winifred Case, John Aitken, Will Lincoln, James Vallies, Burdette Crandell, Walter Gaunt, Robert Moon, Stowell Crandell and Ed. Hagadone.

## SCHOOLS.

**A** MODEL of beauty, size and convenience is the central school-house, and when the new First-Ward school building is completed the city will have ample school accommodations for years to come. The school census taken in 1883 shows the number of persons in the



district between 5 and 20 years of age to be 1,317, an increase over 1882 of 178. This increase has necessitated the employment of three additional teachers, besides one for an ungraded school.

The following is the full corps of instructors for the year 1883-4, with the salaries paid:

J. S. Crombie, Superintendent.....	\$1,650
Anna Pease, Preceptress.....	700
Prill V. Boyce, Assistant High School.....	475
G. L. Bingham, Grammar.....	450
Fannie Forester, Grammar.....	400
Flora A. Lincoln.....	400
M. D. Chittenden.....	350
C. E. Hulsart.....	350
Nettie Peters.....	350
Lottie C. Price.....	350
Allie Hay.....	350
Etta Smart.....	340
Maggie Switzer.....	330
Marion Palmer.....	330
Hattie Place.....	330
Alverta Lamb.....	330

Total.....\$8,200

The bonded indebtedness of the district is \$7,000, of which \$4,000 is to be paid Feb 1, 1884, and \$3,000 Feb. 1, 1885. The value of the school property in the district is estimated at \$35,494; number of pupils that can be seated in the various buildings, 1,050; number of pupils enrolled in 1882-3, 1,166.

Following is a synopsis of the annual report of the Board of Education for the school year ending Sept. 3, 1883, and the estimates of receipts and expenditures for the year commencing Sept. 3, 1883:

RECEIPTS.

Cash in treasury as per last report.....	\$2,901 13
Receipts during year.....	15,623 22
Total general fund.....	18,524 35
Balance in building fund, Sept. 4, '82.....	650 95
Receipts during year.....	5,642 35
Total building fund.....	6,293 30
Balance in library fund, Sept. 4, '82.....	405 34
Receipts during year.....	368 43
Total library fund.....	773 77
Total receipts for the year.....	25,591 42

EXPENDITURES OF THE YEAR.

General fund—teachers' salaries, etc....\$15,691 30

Building fund—wood house, walks, etc....	4,293 30
Library fund—new books, printing, etc. .	393 41

SUMMARY.

Total general fund.....	18,524 35
Orders paid.....	15,691 30
Balance.....	2,833 05
Total building fund.....	6,293 30
Orders paid.....	4,293 30
Balance.....	2,000 00
Total library fund.....	773 77
Orders paid.....	393 41
Balance.....	380 36
Total amount in treasury to date.....	5,213 61

ESTIMATES FOR COMING YEAR.

Estimate of expenditure for coming year.....	\$16,370 44
Amount on hand, general fund.....	2,833 25
One-mill tax.....	1,500 00
Primary school fund.....	1,000 00
Total resources.....	5,333 25
Recommended to raise by tax.....	14,500 00
Total.....	19,833 25
Estimated expenditures.....	16,370 44
Balance.....	3,462 81

BUSINESS.

THE pioneers who first visited the ground on which the city now stands, saw in the "big rapids" of the Muskegon River a mighty power that would some day be the means of establishing a manufacturing city. Nature seems to have so designed it. A river whose constant flow of water is seldom materially affected by the snows and rains of winter, or the extreme drouth of summer, with a fall greater than any other stream in the State, seems to invite the manufacturer to this spot. In the early history of the city the lumber interest was the one looked after; but as the timber in the vicinity was removed, other industries

took its place, and now, although it is still headquarters for a large extent of the lumber manufacturing district, is not dependent upon that alone for its existence. The natural and abundant facilities for manufacturing has drawn men and capital, and every year it is increasing; and it is confidently predicted that the time is not far distant when Big Rapids will be second to none in the State as a manufacturing center. Its immense water power, the excellent farming lands around the city, timber for manufacturing purposes, and many other things, seem to verify the prediction.

The city has three large lumber mills, two flouring mills, two shingle mills, five large establishments for the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds, two foundries and machine shops, in which are made anything from a rivet to a steam engine, one large furniture factory, one large and several small wagon factories, one match factory, one picture-backing factory, besides several smaller manufactories of different kinds. The last mentioned—the picture backing factory of James G. McElwee—is worthy of special mention, as it is the largest of the kind in the world. The products of this mill are shipped to all parts of the United States.

#### TIOGA MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

This company has been one of the principal instruments in building up Big Rapids and its manufacturing interests. It was incorporated Nov. 17, 1870, by John F. Brown, Thomas C. Platt (Owego, N. Y.), Marcus E. Brown (Hornellsville, N. Y.), Byron M. Hanks (Rochester, N. Y.), and Joseph O. Hudnutt, for the purpose of operating in lumber, lath, shingles, etc., and also flour and feed. The capital stock was \$500,000, in 20,000 shares of \$25 each. Of this stock, \$400,000 were actually paid in at the start, the 4,000 shares representing the other \$100,000 being held by the Directors for sale. Of the 16,000 shares held by the incorporators, 4,694 were held by John F. Brown; 4,693 by Thomas C. Platt; 4,693 by Marcus E. Brown; 960 by Byron M. Hanks, and 960 by Joseph O. Hudnutt. John F. Brown, of Big Rapids, was Managing Director until his death, in 1880. The company built and ran a steam-power saw-mill, a water-power saw-mill and a flouring mill. They also held interests in the Northern National Bank, and many other prominent enterprises in Big Rapids and vicinity.

#### BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

A move in the right direction has recently been made by the principal citizens of Big Rapids. At a meeting held Oct. 26, 1883, they organized themselves into the "Business Men's Association," the object of which is to induce capitalists to invest in Big Rapids, in manufacturing, etc. They have raised a fund of \$1,000 to defray the expenses of the organization. The following are the officers: M. P. Gale, President; F. Fairman, G. F. Stearns, W. S. Gray, George A. Roof, C. M. Darrah, S. S. Wilcox and J. McCormick, Vice-Presidents; William P. Nisbett, Secretary; W. W. Smith, Treasurer; S. H. Gray, J. M. Crocker, D. F. Glidden, S. L. Newton, E. G. Haney, M. M. Cole and J. T. Escott, Executive Committee.

#### TELEPHONE.

A telephone company was formed in 1881, consisting of M. P. Gale, Hudnutt Bros. and others, which was in October of 1881 bought out by the present Telephone and Telegraph Construction Company. Its office is in the Furniture Block, and H. D. Reid is General Manager. The main office is in Detroit. The Big Rapids system now has 85 wires.

#### NORTHERN HOTEL.

The hotel called the "The Northern," Sid. H. Roosevelt, proprietor, is justly conceded to be one of the finest hotels in Northern Michigan, and has added much to the fair name of Big Rapids. The building was erected in 1881. It faces the south, and is 300 feet in length, extending from State street to the alley west of the Northern National Bank. It contains, first, one large store, 40 x 100 feet, directly west of the alley. Next come three rooms, 18 x 40, for offices or small stores. Then come the barber shop, reading-room, and other small apartments connected with the hotel. The hotel office, forty feet wide and fifty feet deep, occupies the center of the block. Directly in the rear of it is the dining-room 40 x 60, and in the rear of that the kitchen, 30 x 40. Next come five rooms, 18 x 40, and two, 18 x 44, for offices and small stores.

The upper story is all used as a part of the hotel. It is divided into sixty-eight parlors and sleeping rooms, the largest being 18 x 18, and the smallest 10 x 14, and all but four have outside windows. A hall extends through the entire block, and outside stairways at the northern and western extremities render

escape easy in case of fire. Abundant sewerage is furnished, the site being upon the slope facing Mitchell Creek. The entire block is lighted by gas and heated by steam, the furnace and boilers being located in the basement directly under the dining room, with a laundry under the kitchen.

The "Northern," under the management of Mr. Roosevelt, and favored with the services of so efficient and genial a clerk as Charles L. Miller, is a credit to Big Rapids.

#### MERCY HOSPITAL.

Mercy Hospital, at Big Rapids, was established by the Sisters of Mercy of Grand Rapids at the instigation of Father Herbstrit, a Roman Catholic priest stationed here. The institution was an urgent necessity from the number of accidents in the lumber woods. The sisterhood purchased 40 acres of land and proceeded to erect a building which cost \$7,000. It was begun Feb. 5, 1879, and before the close of the year its list of entries included 200 names. The aggregate number for the years 1880-81-82, were respectively 500, 900, and 800. Up to date of writing (Oct. 24, 1883), the number of patients who have received treatment the current year is 743. There are now 60 patients in the various wards. The death rate has thus far been the lowest of any hospital on record, being but 3½ per cent.

In December, 1882, the building was consumed by fire, and a temporary structure has been erected to serve the demand until the new one now in progress is completed. It will cost \$24,000 besides the addition which is contemplated, and will require an additional expenditure of about \$13,000.

The Sisters discharge all the required labors of the establishment. Five or six are at all times in attendance, and the hospital is sustained by the contributions or sale of tickets among the lumbermen which are solicited by agents in the employ of the Sisters. Each ticket costs \$5, and entitles the holder to the benefits of the hospital in case of sickness or accident. Patients suffering with any disease except those of an infectious nature are admitted. The beneficiaries of the institution express their satisfaction with the care and attention they receive, and regard the gentle women who strive to alleviate their sufferings with grateful affection. The drugs required

are kept in stock and the medicines compounded at the hospital.

Drs. Burkart and Groner are the present medical advisers, and their services are gratuitous. They visit their charges on alternate days and treat some remarkable cases, and perform rare and difficult surgical operations. Among the most recent was the amputation of the tongue of James McGill, July 20, 1883. The disease was cancer of the tongue, and the operation was performed by the regular attending physicians. On the third day of August they performed the rarely successful operation of stretching the sciatic nerve, with the best results. Dr. W. A. Hendryx was attendant physician and surgeon about two years.

#### BANK ROBBERY.

**R**OBBERY was committed at the Exchange Bank of Big Rapids, between Sunday evening, Nov. 30, and Monday morning, Dec. 1, 1873, of \$2,868.42 in checks and notes. Upon attempting to open up for business Monday morning, at the usual hour, the inner door of the vault could not be unlocked. All efforts to open it being unsuccessful, an opening was made in the back or west wall of the vault through which an entrance was obtained. An examination of the door disclosed the fact that the sliding bars or bolts were securely held in place by a prop—a piece of two-by-four scantling, about two feet in length, so placed as to effectually prevent their being moved by the key. Further examination also disclosed the fact that a long framework of shelves for the reception of books, standing against the south wall, had been shoved away from the wall, and that there was a hole in the cement floor in the southwest corner, sufficiently large to admit the body of a man. The safe was found unlocked, its valuable contents gone, and the unpleasant conviction that the bank had been robbed was forced upon the minds of every one present.

A thorough examination of the premises being made, it was ascertained that the burglar entered beneath the sill at the southwest corner of the building, and tunneled his way to the base of the vault, a

distance of about 15 feet, and then by making an excavation in the masonry or stone work of the vault, he was enabled to effect an entrance up through the cement floor.

The trench was large enough for a man to crawl from end to end without difficulty, and near the vault the excavation was large enough for a man to sit upright, with plenty of room for work. The earth and stones which had been removed from the excavation were packed away on either side, filling the space between the joists clear up to the floor. There were found in the tunnel two pairs of heavy double blankets, two straps (which had evidently been used to fasten the blankets into a compact bundle while they were being taken in there), an old summer coat, a gunny sack, and a quantity of crackers, all which would indicate that the burglar had burrowed beneath the floor for some time; in fact, the amount of work done, considering the cramped position of the operator, and the caution with which it had to be conducted, must have occupied several days and nights. The only things in the shape of tools found in the excavation were a small screw-driver without a handle, and a piece of cross-cut saw plate, about five inches square.

One rather singular coincidence, and perhaps a very fortunate circumstance for the robber, was the fact that the safe within the vault had been left open, and after having gained an entrance he had nothing to do but appropriate its contents and make his exit.

The reason of the safe being unlocked, Gen. Bronson, President of the bank, explained as follows: On Sunday forenoon, having occasion to examine some papers that were kept in the safe, and not understanding the combination upon which it was locked, or how to unlock it, he got Mr. F. D. Brown, who was at one time cashier of the bank, to go and unlock it for him. Having taken out the documents he desired, Mr. Brown closed the safe door and inquired if he should lock it. He (Gen. Bronson) replied that he might wish to inspect other papers not yet taken out, and Mr. Brown thereupon left the bank. After concluding the inspection of the documents he went there to examine, he returned them to their place, closed the door, and took hold of the knob for the purpose of locking it; but it occurring to him that he might turn it the wrong way, and thus derange the

combination or get the lock out of order, and believing everything to be secure within the vault, he left the safe unlocked.

Two young men, Charles Stickney and Charles Milner, who slept in the back room of the bank, their bed being not more than three or four feet from the hole made in the vault, stated that they heard no noise or disturbance whatever during the night. Young Stickney stated, however, that for several days before he had occasionally heard a scratching noise beneath the floor, but supposing it to be caused by rats or mice, he paid no attention to it.

A track made by a dirty shoe-pack or moccasin was discovered, leading from the rear of the building back to the alley, and thence southward, and was supposed to have been made by the robber as he departed from the premises. It, however, could not be followed beyond the engine house. There were numerous theories and speculations concerning the robbery, but no satisfactory traces of its perpetrator were ever discovered.



#### PRESS CONVENTION.

**R**IG Rapids has come to be a favorite place for holding conventions and reunions. One of the most prominent of the meetings held in Mecosta County's metropolis was the second annual meeting of the Northwestern Michigan Press Association,

Monday and Tuesday, July 14 and 15, 1879. The following journalists were in attendance:

- C. S. Ramsey and wife, *Cheboygan Tribune*.
- App. M. Smith, *Manistee Times*.
- Frank Bracelin, Montague *Lumberman*.
- Hon. E. G. D. Holden, S. F. Aspinwall and wife, *Grand Rapids Journal*.
- L. A. Barker and wife, *Lake City Journal*.
- T. T. Bates and wife, *Traverse City Herald*.
- G. E. Matthews and wife, *Fremont Indicator*.
- E. I. Sprague and wife, and Miss O. Spencer, *Traverse Bay Eagle*.
- A. H. Johnson, *Sutton's Bay Tribune*.
- L. M. Sellers, *Cedar Springs Clipper*.
- A. Chase, *Evart Review*.
- G. W. Minchin, *Red City Clarion*.

J. W. Hallack, Sparta *Sentinel*.

E. O. Rose and wife, Charlie Gay and wife, M. W. Barrows and wife, Big Rapids *Pioneer-Magnet*.

O. D. Glidden and wife, D. F. Glidden and wife, Big Rapids *Herald*.

W. F. Slawson and wife, V. W. Bruce and wife, Big Rapids *Current*.

W. S. Stevens and wife, Hesperia *Hesperian*.

Maj. J. W. Long, wife and nurse, Isabella *Times*.

J. H. Wheeler and wife, Sherman *Pioneer*.

A. Bilz, Miss Fannie G. Bilz and Miss Allie Sabin, Spring Lake *Republican*.

C. F. Chapin, Cadillac *News*.

Gen. A. A. Stevens and C. C. Sexton, Grand Rapids *Democrat*.

Frank H. Rose, St. Johns *Home Chronicle*.

James Vandersluis, Grand Rapids *Banner*.

W. S. Benham, Grand Haven *Herald*.

E. F. Grabill and wife, Greenville *Independent*.

F. Weller and wife, Miss Theresa Quinlin, Muskegon *News and Reporter*.

W. M. Harford, Muskegon *Chronicle*.

W. A. Smith, Charlevoix *Sentinel*.

R. R. Johnson, Muskegon *Journal*.

C. P. Rice, Muskegon *Daily Times*.

Don. Henderson, Allegan *Journal*.

J. Parmiter and wife, Hart *Journal*.

The following representatives of papers outside the Northwestern Michigan Press Association were present:

Gill R. Osmun, Detroit *Evening News*.

W. S. George and wife, Lansing *Republican*.

Rev. H. Lamont, Chicago *Witness*.

After a business meeting Monday afternoon, an evening was spent in social chat, and festivity. At ten o'clock they were serenaded by the city cornet band, and then followed an enjoyable banquet at the Armory Hall, prepared by A. R. White, proprietor of the Mason House. After being seated in the hall, S. S. Wilcox, of Big Rapids, presiding, Dr. Bigelow, in behalf of the citizens, delivered an eloquent welcoming address. The banquet over, T. T. Bates, of the Traverse City *Herald*, delivered a feeling response to the address of Dr. Bigelow. Then followed the toasts:

"Michigan."—Response by Hon. E. G. D. Holden, of the Grand Rapids *Journal*.

"Our Schools and Colleges."—Response by Hon.

W. S. George, of the Lansing, Mich., *Republican* "The Editor's Guests" (Will Carlton)—Recitation by Kittie May Woolley, of Big Rapids.

"The Press—Indispensable to American Progress."—Response by Hon. M. Brown, of Big Rapids

"Women—May she never be Underestimated."—Response by E. O. Rose, of the Big Rapids *Pioneer-Magnet*.

"Our Second Century."—Response by Rev. E. W. Miller, of Big Rapids.

"The Newspaper Man—His Ups and Downs."—Response by G. E. Matthews, of the Fremont *Indicator*.

The responses were excellent, and loudly applauded. At the business meeting Tuesday morning, E. O. Rose, of Big Rapids, was elected President. Tuesday forenoon, the entire party spent a couple of hours riding about town and witnessing the various objects of interest, carriages for that purpose being furnished by the citizens. At eleven o'clock the fire department came out for its review, and was cordially praised. The party left in the afternoon for the north, on an excursion to Mackinaw Island. This meeting was the largest assemblage of newspaper men ever seen in the State, up to this time.

## ORGANIZATIONS.

**B**IG RAPIDS contains a good representation of secret, benevolent and other associations, of which the principal are here noticed. The societies are functions of an advancing civilization, which are destined to grow and strengthen with the increase of an enlightened population.

### BIG RAPIDS LODGE NO. 171, F. & A. M.

Was dedicated Feb. 8, 1866, the ceremonies being conducted by Alex. Mann, of Muskegon, representing the Grand Master. The officers installed at that meeting were A. S. Mason, W. M.; Charlie Gay, S. W.; B. E. Hutchinson, J. W.; G. F. Stearns, Treas.; E. O. Rose, Sec.; George French, S. D.; A. N. Williams, J. D.; James Furster, Tyler. The present officers are: A. S. Mason, W. M.; E. W. Ford, S. W.; Peter McNaughton, J. W.; G. F. Stearns, Treas-

urer; A. W. Eldredge, Sec.; C. H. Olds, S. D.; Thomas Shaw, Sr., J. D.; G. F. Whitney, Tyler. The present membership is about 120, and the lodge is in a flourishing condition. It meets the first week in every month.

#### BIG RAPIDS CHAPTER, No. 52, R. A. M.,

Was organized under dispensation Aug. 28, 1867, with W. I. Latimer as High Priest; Charlie Gay, King; Alfred S. Mason, Scribe; Orrin Stevens, Sec.; B. E. Hutchinson, C. of H.; E. O. Rose, Prin. Soj.; A. M. Green, R. A. C.; C. C. Fuller, M. 3d V.; J. O. Rose, M. 2d V.; Andrew Green, M. 1st V.; George W. Green, Sent. The present officers are as follows: Charlie Gay, High Priest; Hiram E. Hardy, King; John H. Foster, Scribe; George F. Stearns, Treas.; Alonzo H. Eldredge, Sec.; Simon G. Webster, C. of H.; O. D. Glidden, Prin. Soj.; Wesley F. Louckes, R. A. C.; Alfred S. Mason, M. 3d V.; Hiram Honeywell, M. 2d V.; Peter McNaughton, M. 1st V.; George F. Whitney, Sent. The chapter now has a membership of 74, and meets the first Wednesday of each month.

#### KING SOLOMON COUNCIL No. 25, R. & S. M (Royal and Select Masters),

Was instituted Tuesday, Aug. 4, 1868, by James Kennedy, proxy for T. I. G. P., with the following officers: C. C. Fuller, T. I. G. M.; Charlie Gay, D. I. G. M.; W. I. Latimer, P. C. W.; G. F. Stearns, Treas.; E. O. Rose, G. R.; D. E. Stearns, G. C. of G.; B. E. Hutchinson, G. C.; F. E. Nelson, G. S. The present officers are: Charlie Gay, T. I. M.; Peter McNaughton, D. M.; B. Elial Hutchinson, P. C. W.; George F. Stearns, Treasurer; Charles D. Bronson, Recorder; Hiram Honeywell, C. of G.; Ceylon C. Fuller, C. of C.; Joseph W. Fearn, Steward; George F. Whitney, Sentinel. The present membership is 18. The Council meets at Masonic Hall the first Tuesday evening of each month.

#### PILGRIM COMMANDERY NUMBER 23, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,

Was organized under dispensation in November, 1868, with the following officers: W. I. Latimer, E. C.; Charlie Gay, G.; C. C. Fuller, C. G.; E. O. Rose, S. W.; C. D. Bronson, J. W.; B. E. Hutchinson, W.;

J. Kennedy, St. B.; G. F. Stearns, Sd. B., and Treas.; E. O. Rose, R.; F. E. Nelson, S. It was regularly constituted Sept. 10, 1869, by T. A. Flower, of Pontiac, Rt. Em. G. C. of Michigan. The present officers are: Simon G. Webster, E. C.; Ceylon C. Fuller, Gen.; Edward W. Hudnutt, C. G.; Calvin W. Nottingham, Prel.; Charlie Gay, Rec.; George F. Stearns Treas.; Alfred S. Mason, S. W.; Peter McNaughton, J. W.; Hiram E. Hardy, St. B.; John H. Foster, Sd. Bearer.; Willis M. Slosson, Warden; George F. Whitney, Sent. The Commandery meets the first Friday evening of each month. The present membership is 96.

#### BIG RAPIDS LODGE, NUMBER 111, I. O. O. F.

Was organized Wednesday, Sept. 18, 1867, with J. O. Rose, as Noble Grand; Alonzo Powers as Vice Grand; and E. O. Rose as Secretary. The present membership is 70, and the lodge meets every Monday night at Odd Fellows Hall. L. T. Loveless is Noble Grand, and M. V. Taylor, Secretary.

#### BIG RAPIDS ENCAMPMENT, NO. 55, I. O. O. F.

Was organized in 1872, and has now about 45 members. It meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

#### BIG RAPIDS COUNCIL, NUMBER 174, ROYAL ARCANUM,

Was organized in 1878, with E. J. Marsh as Regent W. W. Carpenter as Secretary, and C. C. Fuller as Collector. The present officers are: L. C. Patterson, Regent; E. R. Keith, Secretary; George A. Roof, Collector; and John Watson, as Treasurer. The Council meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month, and has a membership of 34.

#### MECOSTA LODGE, NUMBER 26, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS,

Was organized in 1875, and is now in a very flourishing condition. The present officers are: C. D. Carpenter, P. C.; John R. Snyder, C. C.; C. D. Crandell, V. C.; E. P. Clark, Prelate; O. D. Glidden, K. of R. & S.; George D. Miles, M. at A.; T. R. Crocker, M. of E.; F. R. Fowler, M. of F.; A. W. Withington, I. G. D. F. Glidden, of this lodge, is the Grand Chancellor of the order for the State of Michigan.

## THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR

Have a lodge, organized in October, 1882. It now has 140 members. The principal officers are Gen. Stephen Bronson, V. S.; T. J. Wakeman, M. W.; J. W. Griffin, Fin. Sec.; J. T. Davison, Sec. The lodge meets every Tuesday night.

## PINE-TREE LODGE, NUMBER 763, KNIGHTS OF HONOR,

Was organized Sept. 16, 1877. It now has a membership of 44, and meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. F. Fairman is Dictator; J. F. Clark, Reporter; and C. W. Nottingham, Financial Reporter.

## BIG RAPIDS LODGE, NUMBER 35, SONS OF INDUSTRY,

Was organized in September, 1883, with the following officers: O. D. Glidden, M.; D. W. Stewart, W.; G. W. Trowbridge, C.; Charles H. Crane, Sec.; C. J. Hood, T.; H. D. Reid, Stew.; H. I. Orwig, Mar.; T. Edmunds, G. The present membership is 37. The lodge meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

## THE ROYAL TEMPLARS OF TEMPERANCE

Have a branch here, organized in August, 1880. It meets twice a month. E. E. Stone is S. C.; D. Emerson, Treas.; W. S. Whitney, Sec.; and Wm. H. Andrews, Fin. Sec.

## BIG RAPIDS LODGE NUMBER 408, I. O. G. T.,

Was chartered Aug 18, 1880, with the following first officers: O. D. Glidden, W. C. T.; Mrs. M. H. Cobb, V. T.; M. D. Ford, Chap.; Mrs. Jennette Blackwood, Sec.; William Binney, Ass't Sec.; G. C. Gardner, Fin. Sec.; C. N. Chick, Treas. The lodge now has a membership of over a hundred, and meets every Friday evening. The following are the present officers: Lewis Toan, W. C. T.; Mrs. Millie Chapman, V. T.; G. R. Malone, Chaplain; H. E. Chapman, Sec.; Miss Lottie Price, Ass't Sec.; C. W. Barton, Fin. Sec.; Fred Hill, Treas.

## AMITY LODGE, NUMBER 93, A. O. U. W.,

Was organized Jan. 12, 1881, with Edgar Peirce as

P. M. W.; Charlie Gay, M. W.; C. W. Nottingham Recorder; F. Fairman, Receiver. The present officers are: Charlie Gay, P. M. W.; W. W. Putnam, M. W.; S. G. Webster, Recorder, and F. Fairman, Receiver. The lodge meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, and has about 40 members.

## THE BRAZEE RIFLES

Were organized in June, 1875, with B. F. Brazee, Captain; M. D. Ford, 1st Lieutenant, and Charles H. Milner, 2d Lieutenant. The membership was then about 85; and the company will now muster 50. B. F. Brazee has been Captain continuously since the formation of the company, except in 1877, when S. G. Webster was Captain. Daniel Alcombrack is now 1st Lieutenant, and C. M. Wiseman 2d Lieutenant. The company meets every Thursday night for drill in its armory, which is valued at \$3,000. This has a parlor up stairs, and an office down stairs, both well furnished. The drill room is 40 x 100. The building is 150 feet deep, but 30 feet are used for a stage, as the armory is often used for re-unions and public meetings. The company has been called out twice for actual service,—at Grand Rapids, in 1877, and at Muskegon, in 1881, the occasion both times being workmen's strikes.

## POST FRENCH, NUMBER 28, G. A. R.,

Was organized Sept. 6, 1881, with eighteen charter members, and the following officers: B. F. Brazee, Com.; Michael Brown, S. V. C.; J. Shaw, J. V. C.; L. T. Loveless, Adjutant; Thomas Shaw, Chap.; Edgar Peirce, Q. M.; Dr. A. W. Whitney, Surg.; William T. Bliss, O. D. The present membership is 131. The post meets every Wednesday evening. The following are the present officers: B. F. Brazee, Com.; John P. Schort, S. V. C.; Henry Albro, J. V. C.; W. A. Cole, Adj.; Thomas Shaw, Chap.; A. T. Compau, Q. M.; Dr. A. W. Whitney, Surg.; D. Alcombrack, O. D.

## THE CHAUTAUQUA LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC CIRCLE

Has a branch in Big Rapids, organized Oct. 2, 1879, with about a dozen members. Rev. C. L. Barnhart was elected President; Mrs. E. W. Miller, Vice-President; Miss Mary E. Russell, Secretary and Treasurer, and Miss F. F. Angell as Preceptress. The following ladies were chosen as an advisory

committee: Mrs. E. O. Rose, Mrs. C. J. Hood, Mrs. V. W. Bruce, Mrs. A. J. Russell and Miss Clara Osburn. The purpose of this society is to promote a desire for study among adults, whose time is generally employed at their regular avocations.



### CHURCHES.

**T**HE pioneer church in Big Rapids is the Methodist Episcopal, some account of the early history of which is given in the history of Big Rapids on a previous page. The society was formed in 1865, and the church built and dedicated in 1867. The present pastor is Rev. J. W. Hallenbeck, who came in September, 1883. The society now has a membership of about 260. V. W. Bruce is Superintendent of the Sunday-school, which has about 250 on the roll.

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Was organized in the fall of 1869, and the church edifice was erected in 1871, at a cost of \$2,000. The first pastor was Rev. Sydney Beckwith. The pastor at the time the church was built was Rev. W. Flower. No meetings have been held since December, 1882, though there is a prospect of a speedy revival. The present membership is 65.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Was organized in 1876, with Rev. E. W. Miller as pastor. He remained six years, and was then succeeded by Rev. William McCracken, the present pastor, who came from Allegheny City, Pa., in March, 1882. The society bought their church edifice of the Baptists, in 1878. It is located on the corner of State and Hemlock streets, and is now valued at \$3,000. It will seat about 200. The present membership of the Church is over 100.

#### THE UNITARIANS

Are now building a fine church in Big Rapids, and

are having a pipe organ constructed in Detroit. This will be the first pipe organ in the city. The Catholics, Swedish Lutherans and German Lutherans have organizations in good condition and holding regular services.



### POPULATION.

**A**CCORDING to the census of the respective years from 1870 to the present time, the ratio of increase of the population of Big Rapids has been steady, indicating a healthy growth upon a substantial foundation. The following tables give a condensed statement, in a form convenient for reference. First, the census of 1870 gave:

First Ward.....	378
Second Ward.....	441
Third Ward.....	375
Fourth Ward.....	243
Total.....	1,237

The State census of 1874 showed the following:

First Ward ..	707
Second Ward.....	1,018
Third Ward.....	886
Fourth Ward.....	472
Total.....	3,083

By the general census of 1880, the population was as follows:

First Ward.....	601
Second Ward.....	710
Third Ward.....	1,110
Fourth Ward.....	561
Fifth Ward.....	570
Total.....	3,552

The population at the present time is probably forty per cent. more than that in 1880.



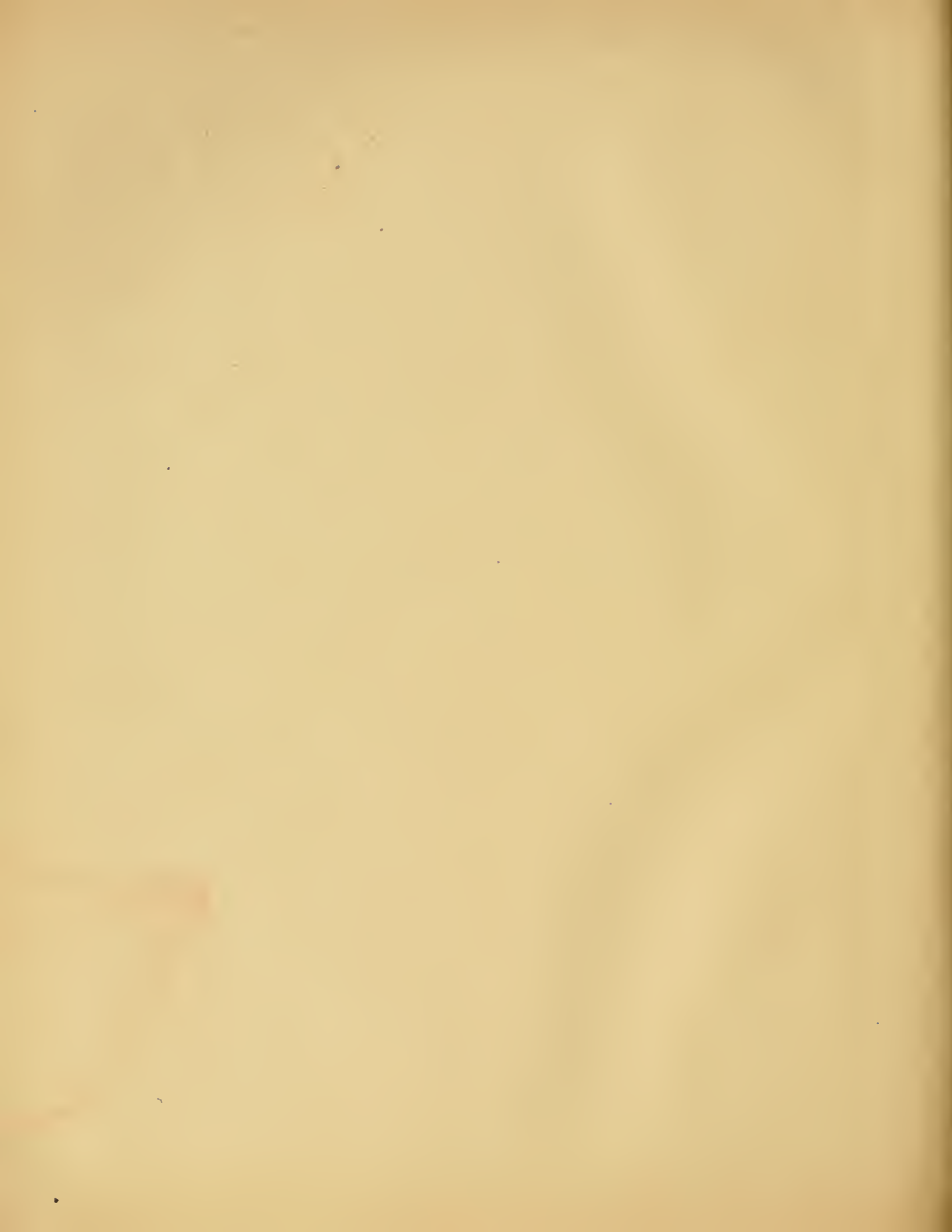






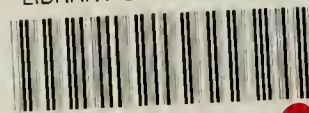








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