THE

PUTNAM COUNTY ATLAS

1895.

Containing Sectional Outline Maps of the County, Showing Location of Roads, Railroads; Towns, Rivers, Creeks, etc.

FARM MAPS

Of the Fifteen Townships of the County, together with Maps of all the Towns Reduced to Single Page Size.

HALF TONE VIEWS

Of County Buildings, Churches, School Buildings, Business Houses, Private Dwellings, etc.

HALF TONE PORTRAITS,

WITH BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF PUTNAM COUNTY PEOPLE.

BRIEF HISTORY

Of the County, Towns, Churches, Crawfis College, Schools, and other Interesting and Valuable Data.

PUBLISHED BY D. W. SEITZ AND O. C. TALBOT,
OTTAWA, OHIO.

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Emery, Dr. Joseph S.
Emery, Mrs. Dr. Louisa
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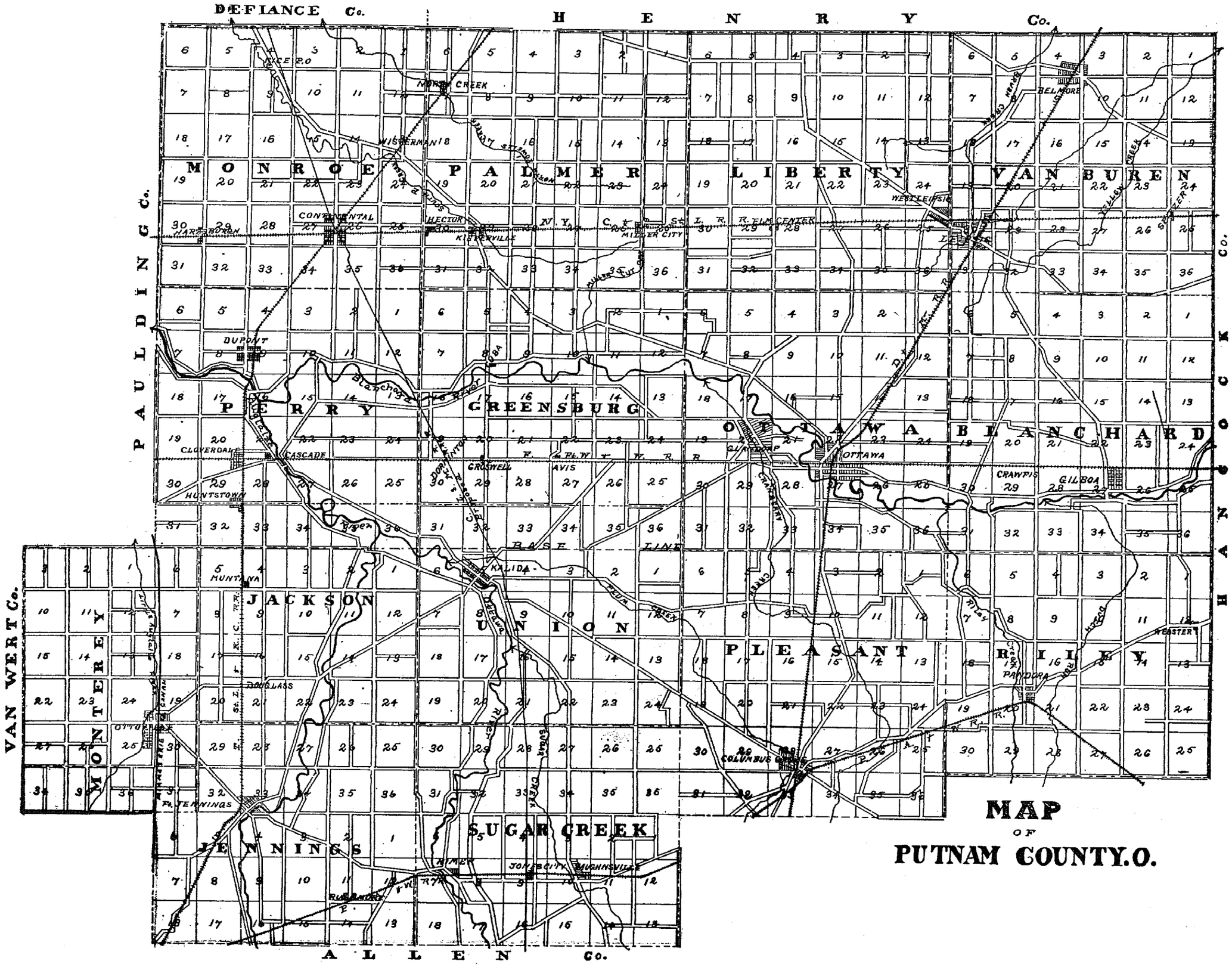
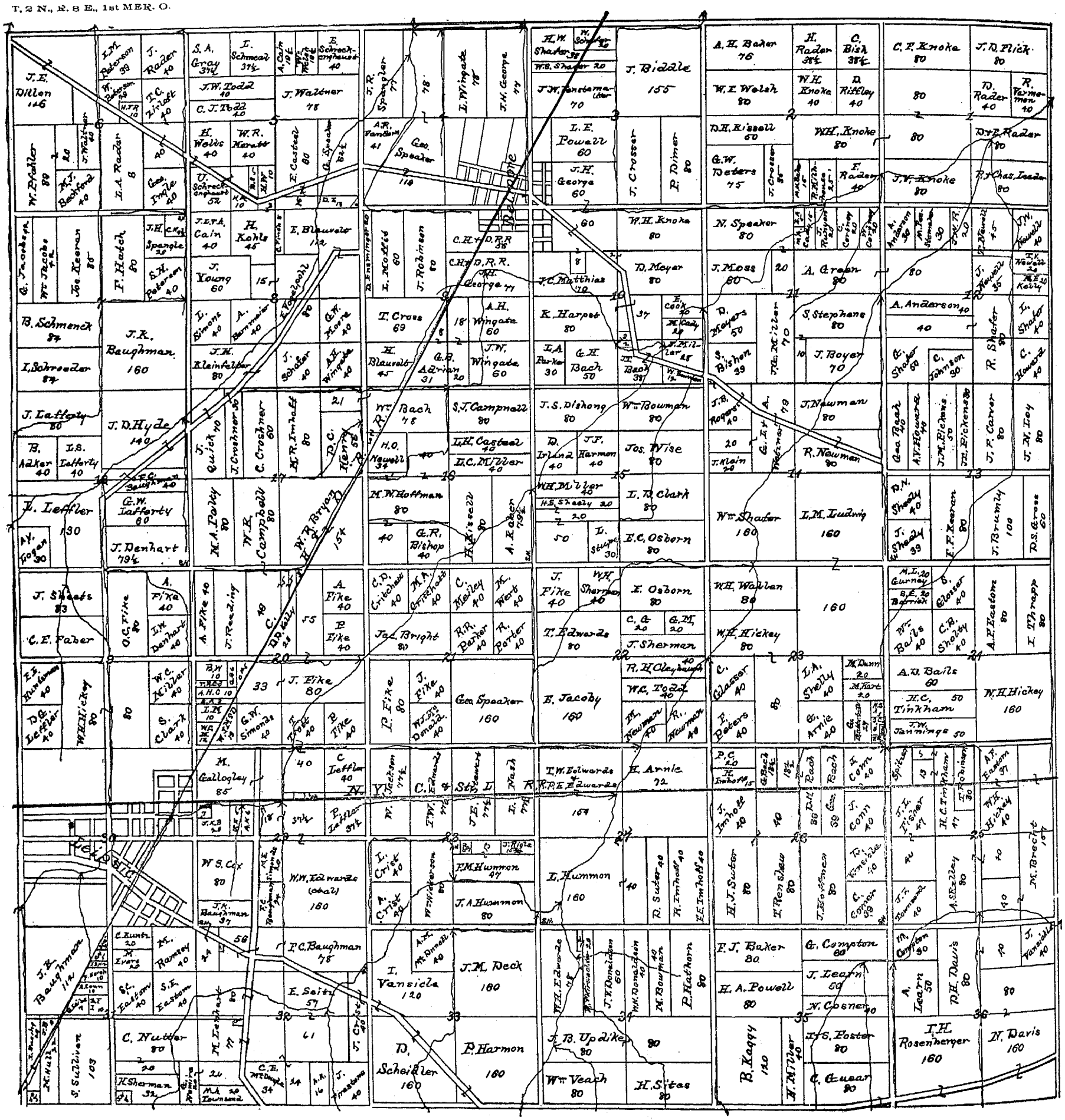


MAP OF PUTNAM COUNTY. O.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

T, 2 N., R. 8 E., 1st MER. O.



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

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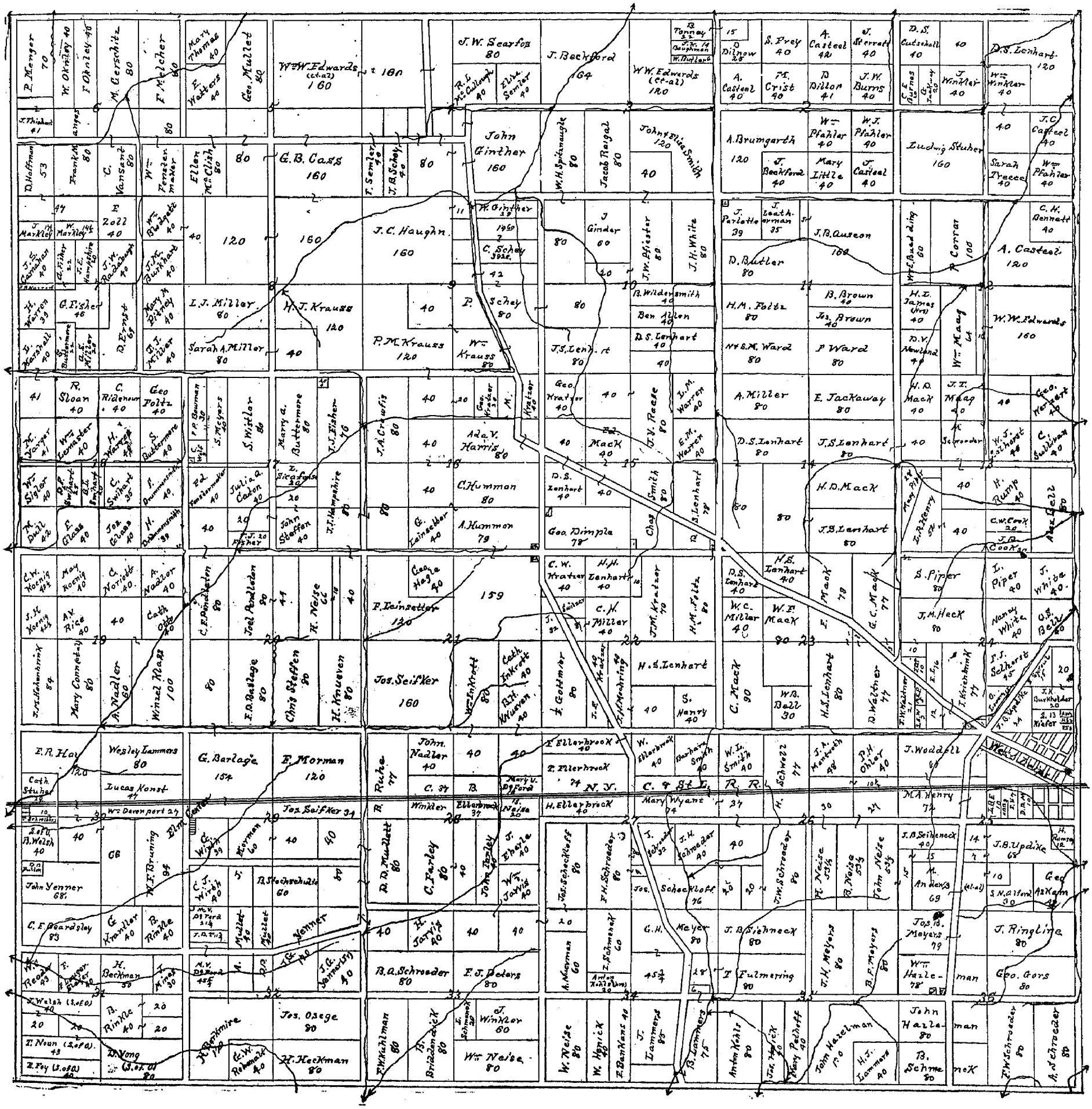

PALMER TOWNSHIP.

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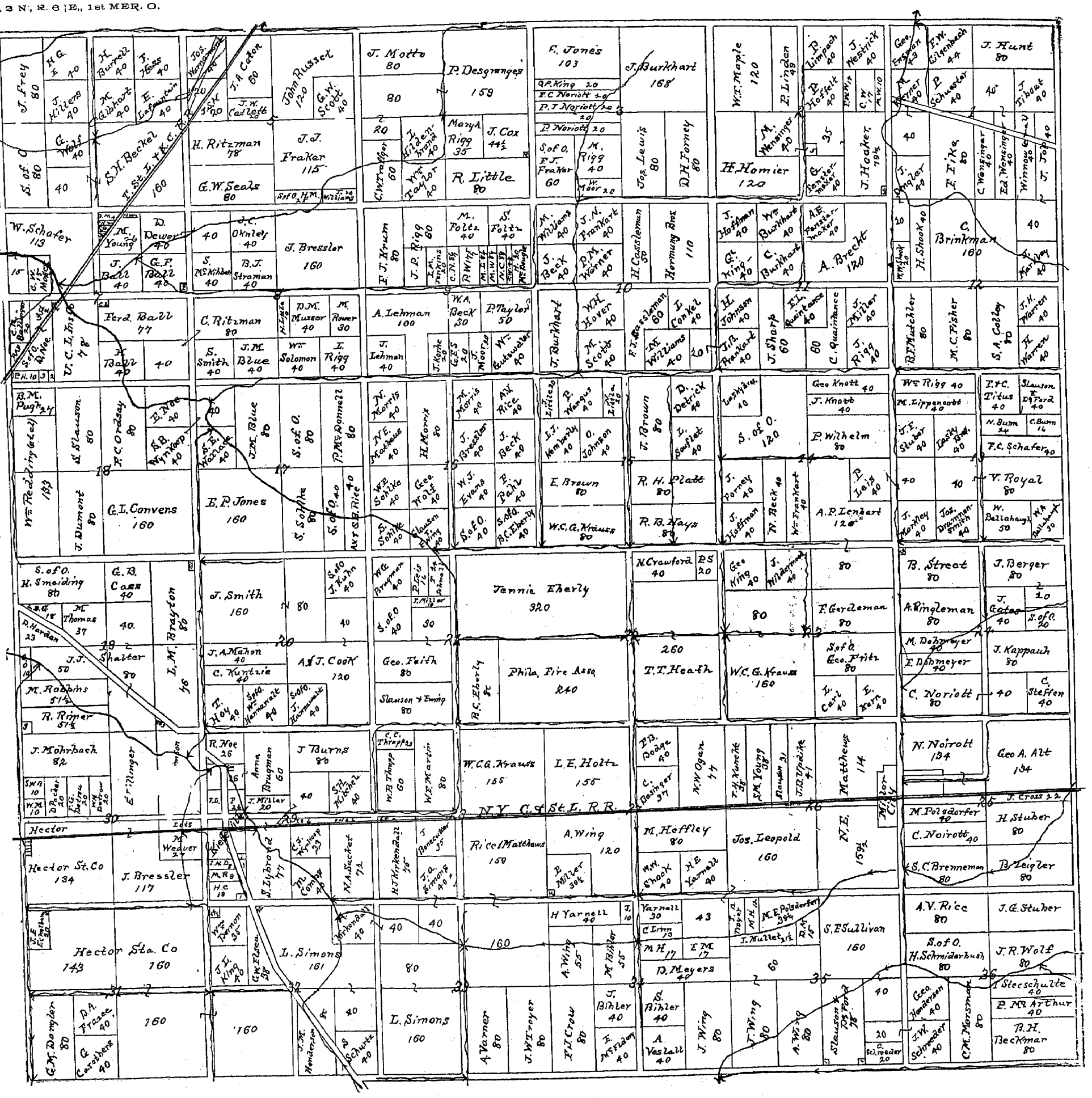
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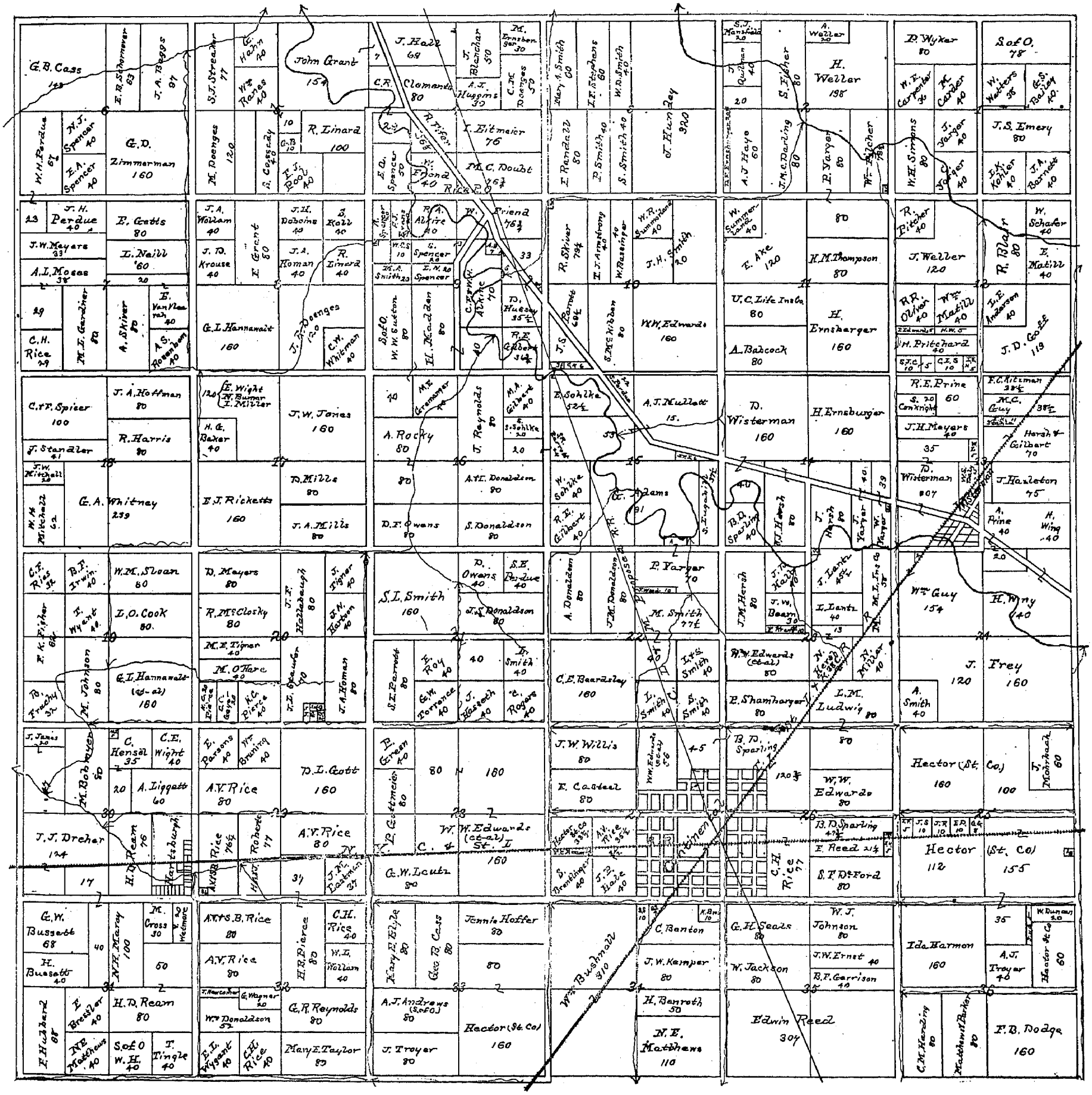
Geo. Wolf 40
Geo. Wolf 40

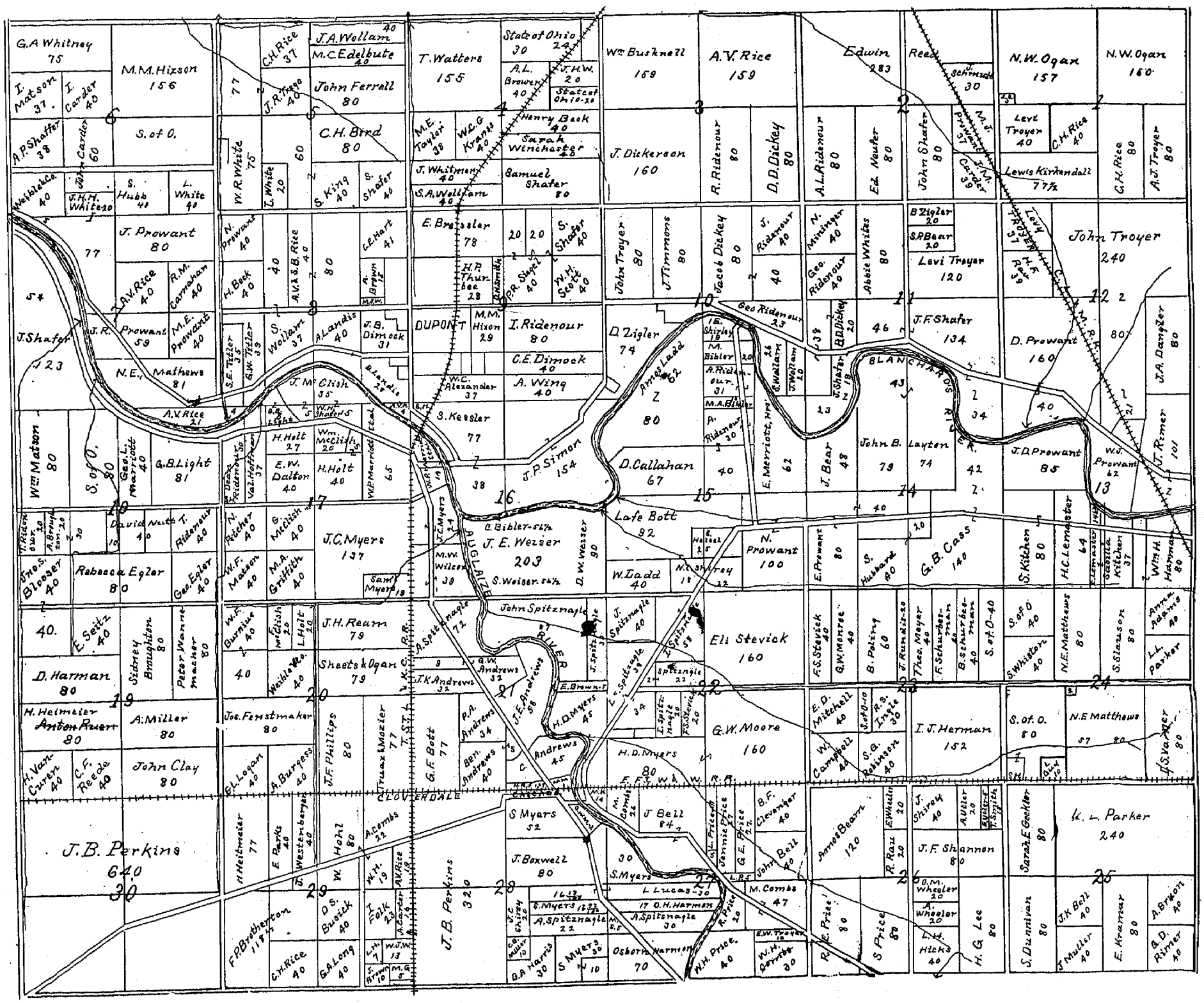
MONROE TOWNSHIP.

T. 2 N., R. 5 E., 1st MER. O.



PERRY TOWNSHIP.

T. 1 N., R. 5 E., 1st MER. O.



GREENSBURG TOWNSHIP.

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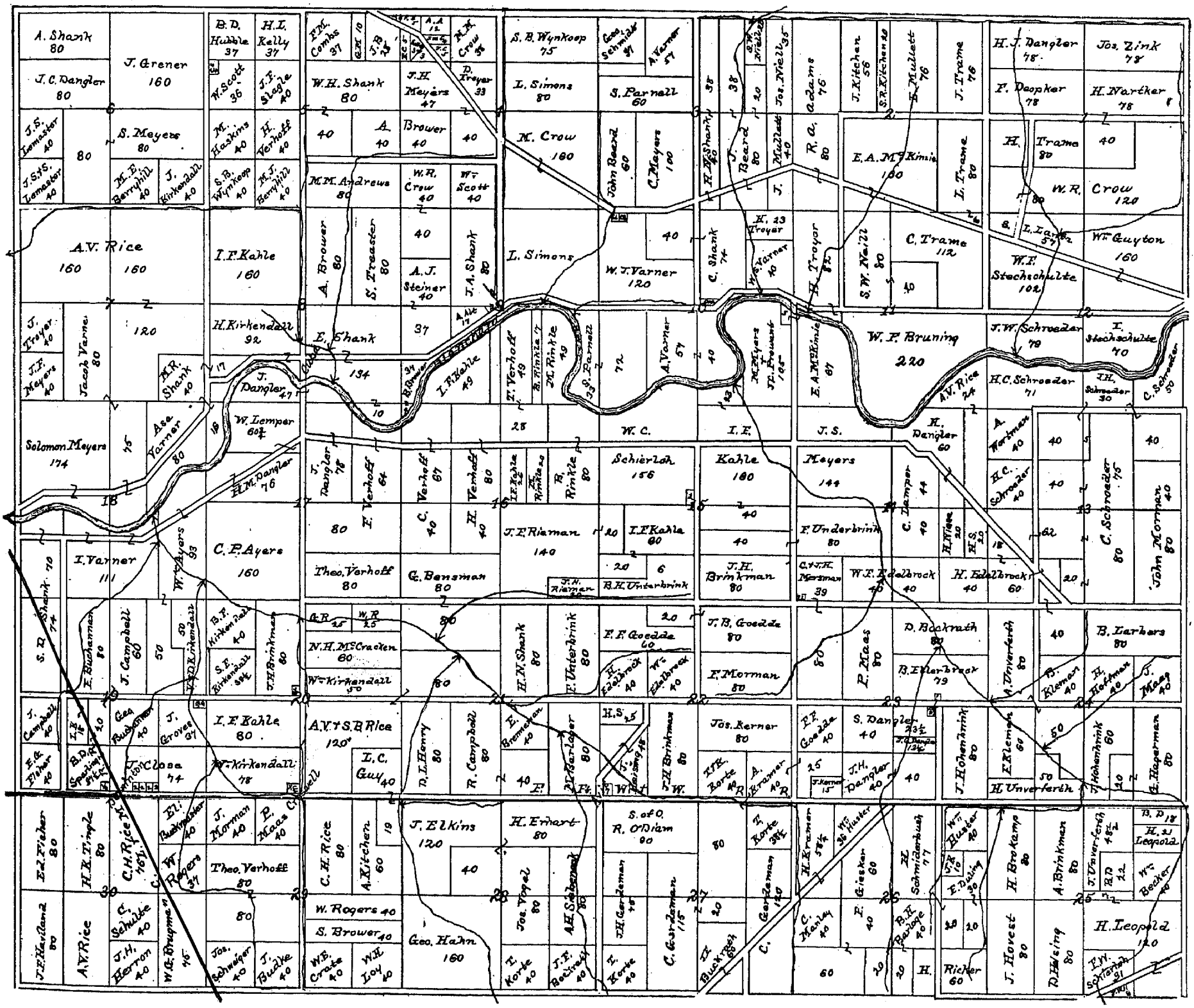

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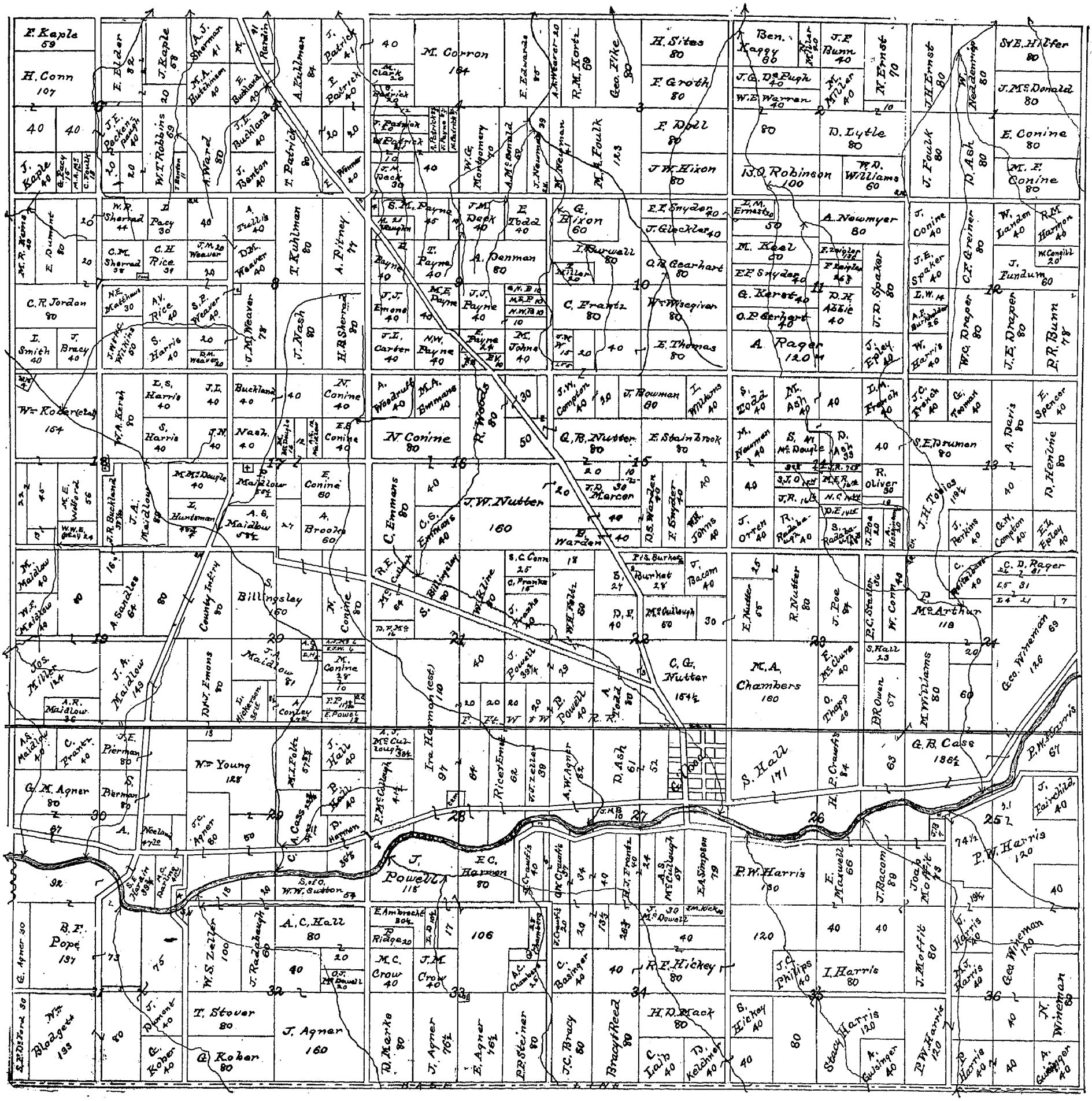
T. 1 N., R. 8 E., 1st MER. O.



RILEY TOWNSHIP.

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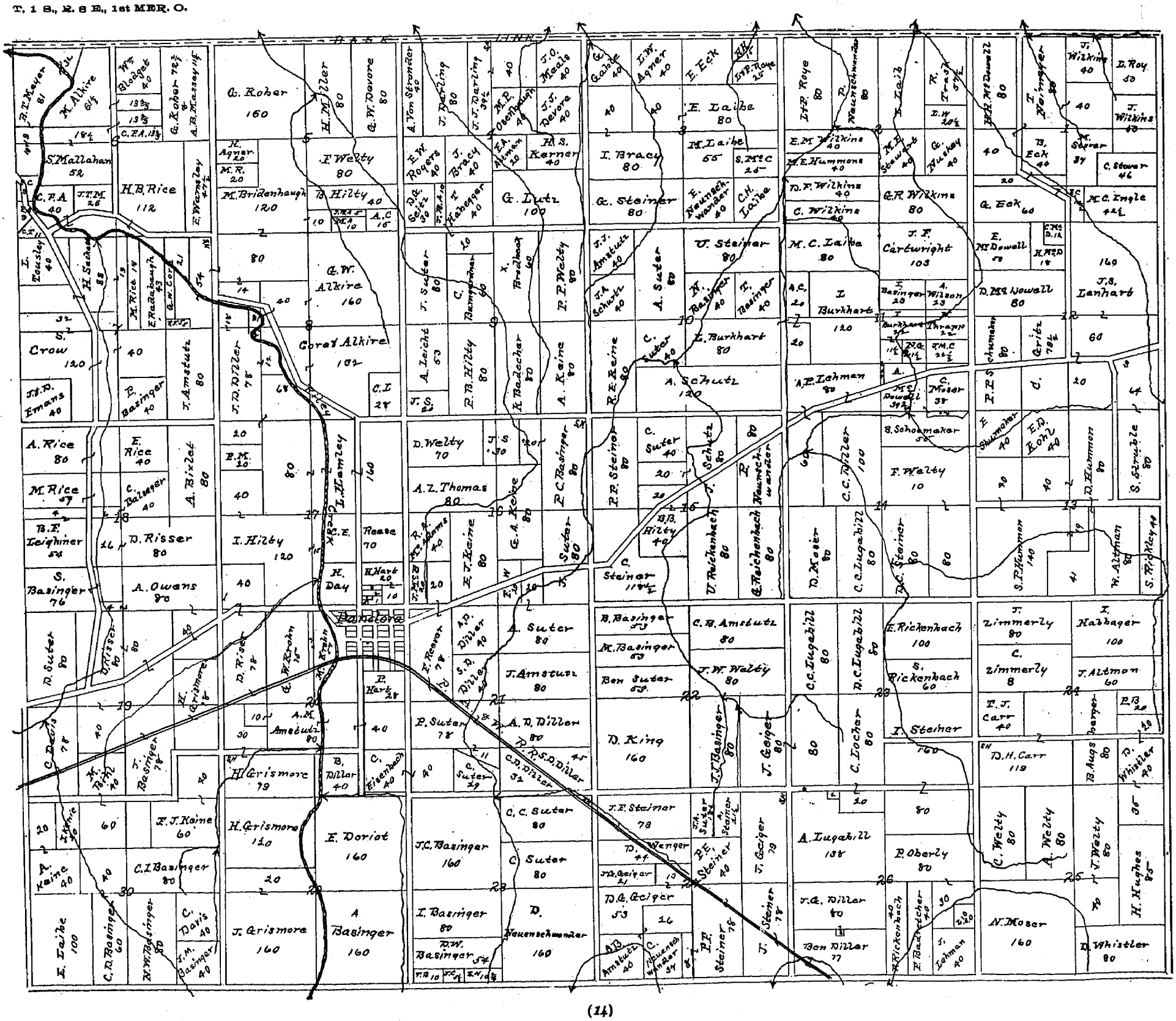

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

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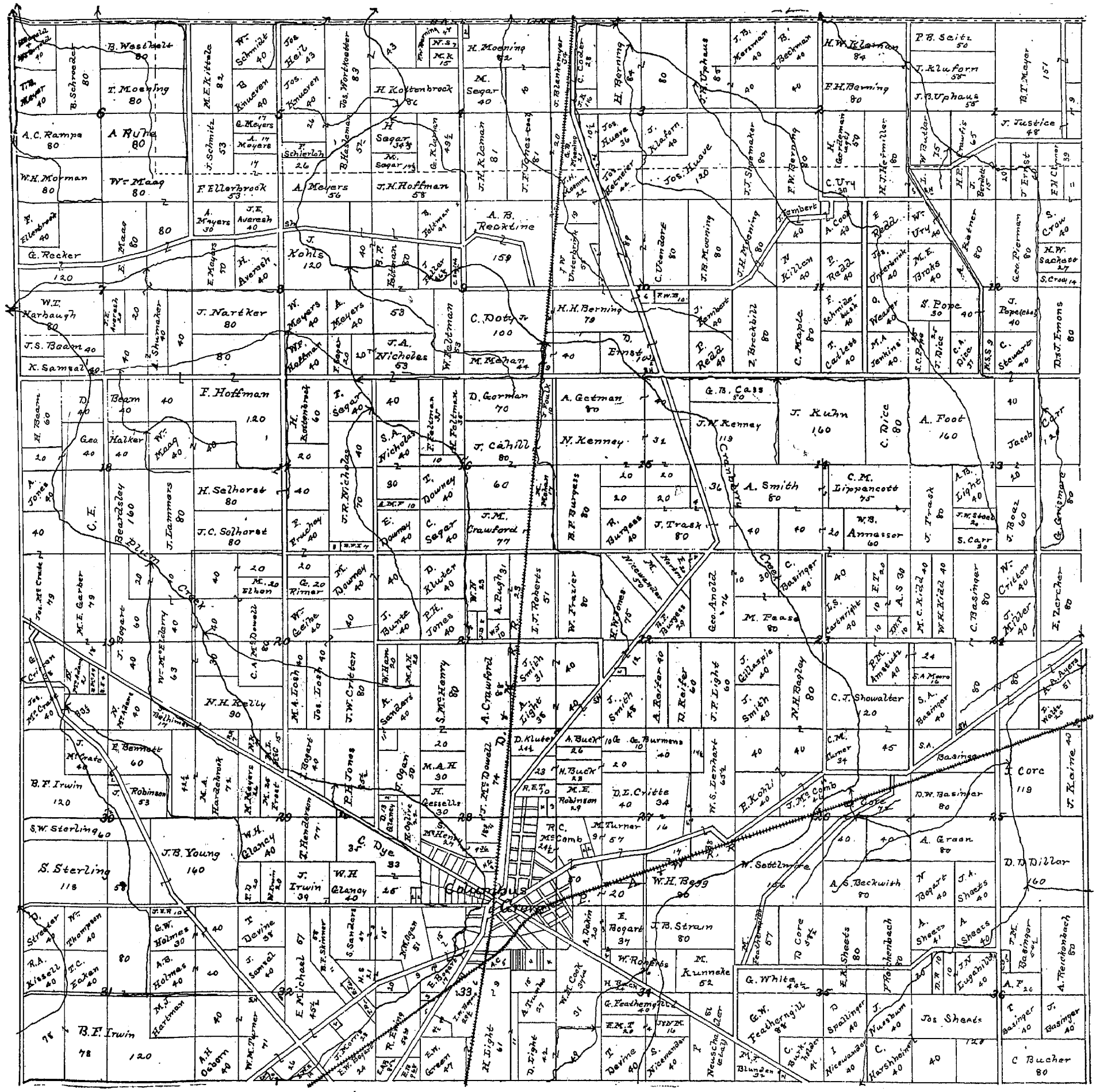
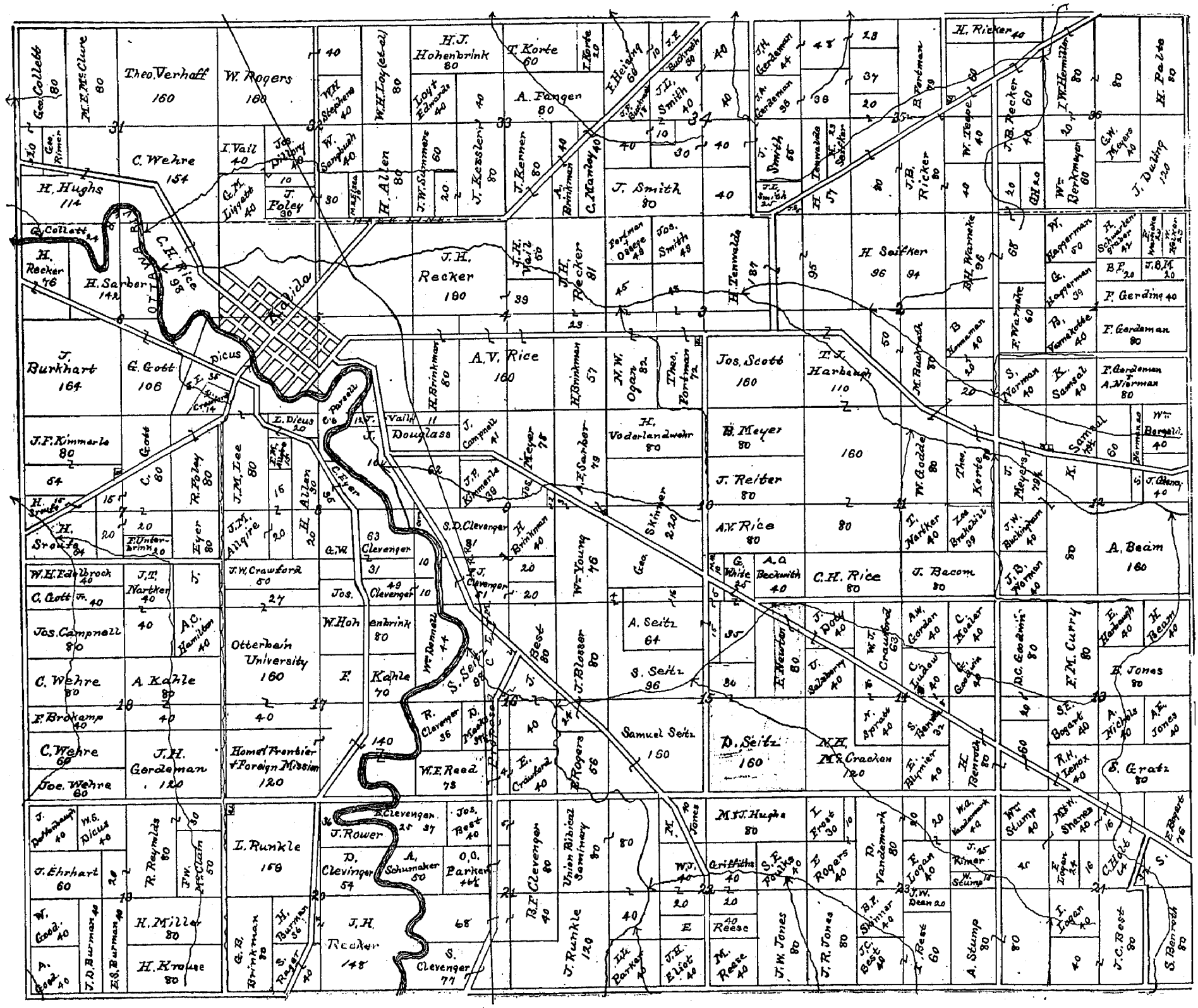

Columbus
Grove
Creek
Creek
Creek

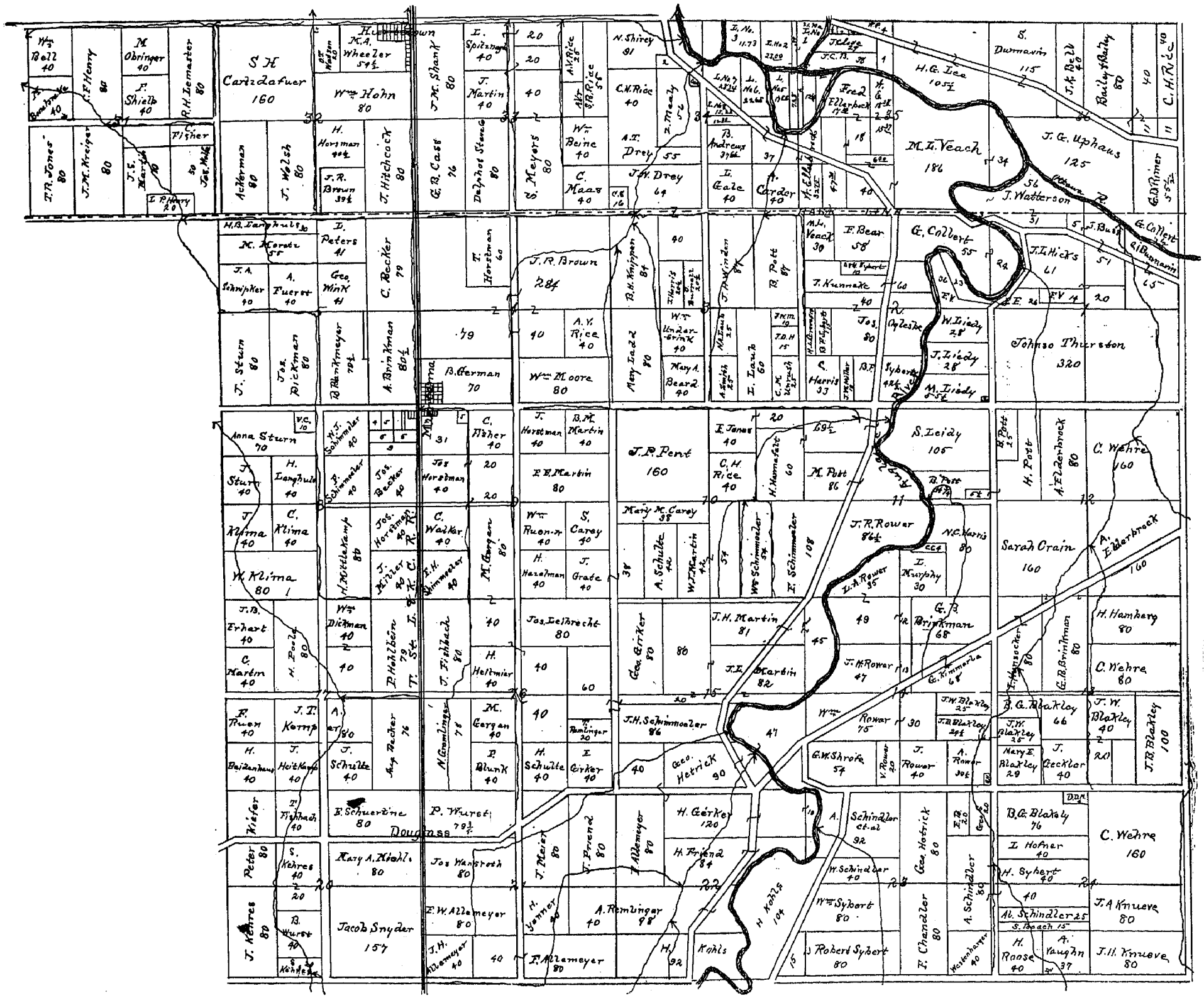
UNION TOWNSHIP.

T, 1 S. AND 1 N., R. 6 E., 1st MER. O.



JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

T. 1 S. AND 1 N., R. 5 E., 1st MER. O.



MONTEREY TOWNSHIP.

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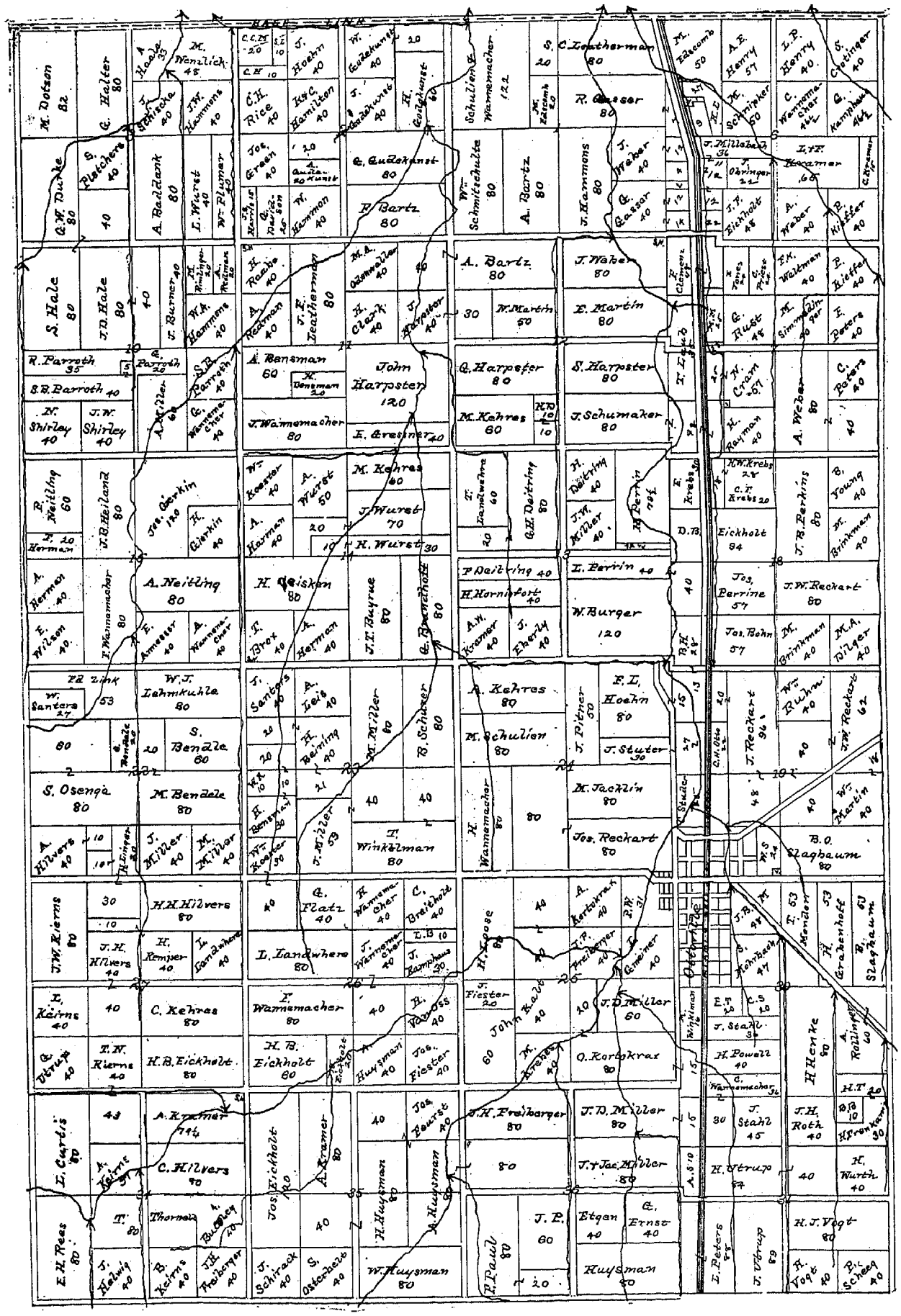
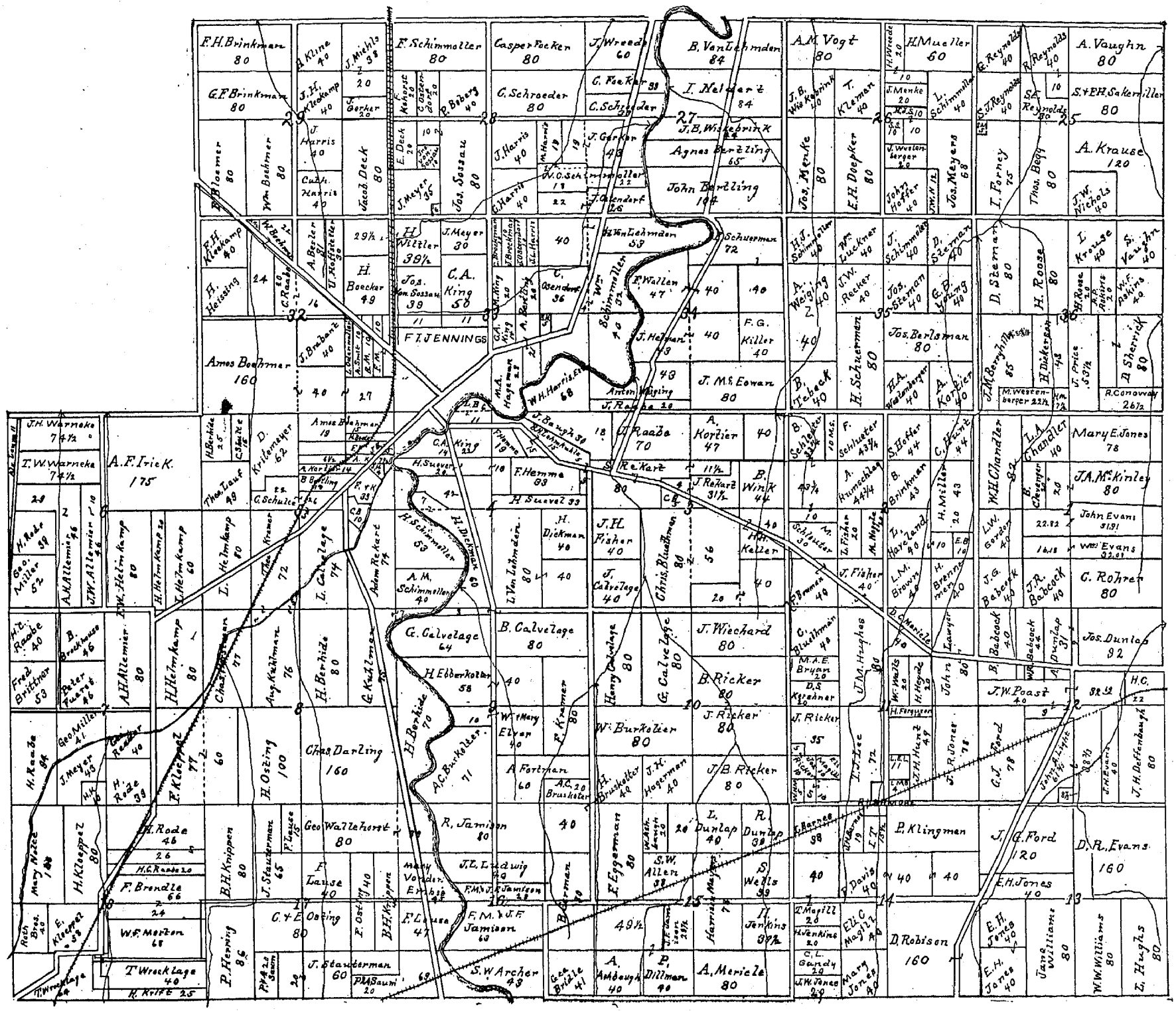


JENNINGS TOWNSHIP.

T'S. 1 AND 2 S., R. 5 E., 1st MER. O.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Wm. Luckner 40
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D. Sterman 40
A. Weiging 40
U.W. Recker 40
Jos. Sterman 40
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B. Winik 44
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Geo. Miller 41
J. Meyer 43
H. Reder 40
H. Rode 39
F. Kloeppez 77
60
H. Osting 100
Chas. Darling 160
H. Berkhide 70
A.C. Burkhalter 71
H. Berkhide 80
G. Kuhlmann 78
Chas. Kuhlmann 77
Aug. Kuhlman 76
H. Kleinkamp 80
H. Kleinkamp 60
L. Kleinkamp 80
Thos. Kramer 72
L. Calvelage 74
Adam Rekart 74
A.H. Allemier 80
J.W. Allemier 46
J.W. Allemier 46
H. Kleinkamp 20
H. Schimmoller 53
A.M. Schimmoller 40
H. Dickman 60
G. Calvelage 64
B. Calvelage 80
H. Ebberhalter 58
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W. Mary Elver 40
F. Kramer 80
A. Fortman 60
A.C. 20 Bruskotter
Henry Calvelage 80
G. Calvelage 80
J. Wiechard 80
B. Ricker 80
J. Ricker 80
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H. Bruskotter 40
J.K. Hagerman 40
J.B. Ricker 80
C. Bluethman 40
M.A.E. Bryan 20
D.S. Kesslner 20
J. Ricker 35
J.M. Hughes 80
I. Fase 72
W. Mayls 20
H. Hayes 20
H. Ferguson
J.H. Hunt 49
L.L.L. 17
J.R. Jones 78
J.W. Poast 40
G.J. Ford 78
J.H. Evans 40
J.H. Deffenbaugh 80
Geo. Wallerhorst 80
R. Jamison 80
40
F. Lause 40
Mary Vorder Embsie
J.E. Ludwig 40
F.M. & J.F. Jamison 28
H. Rode 46
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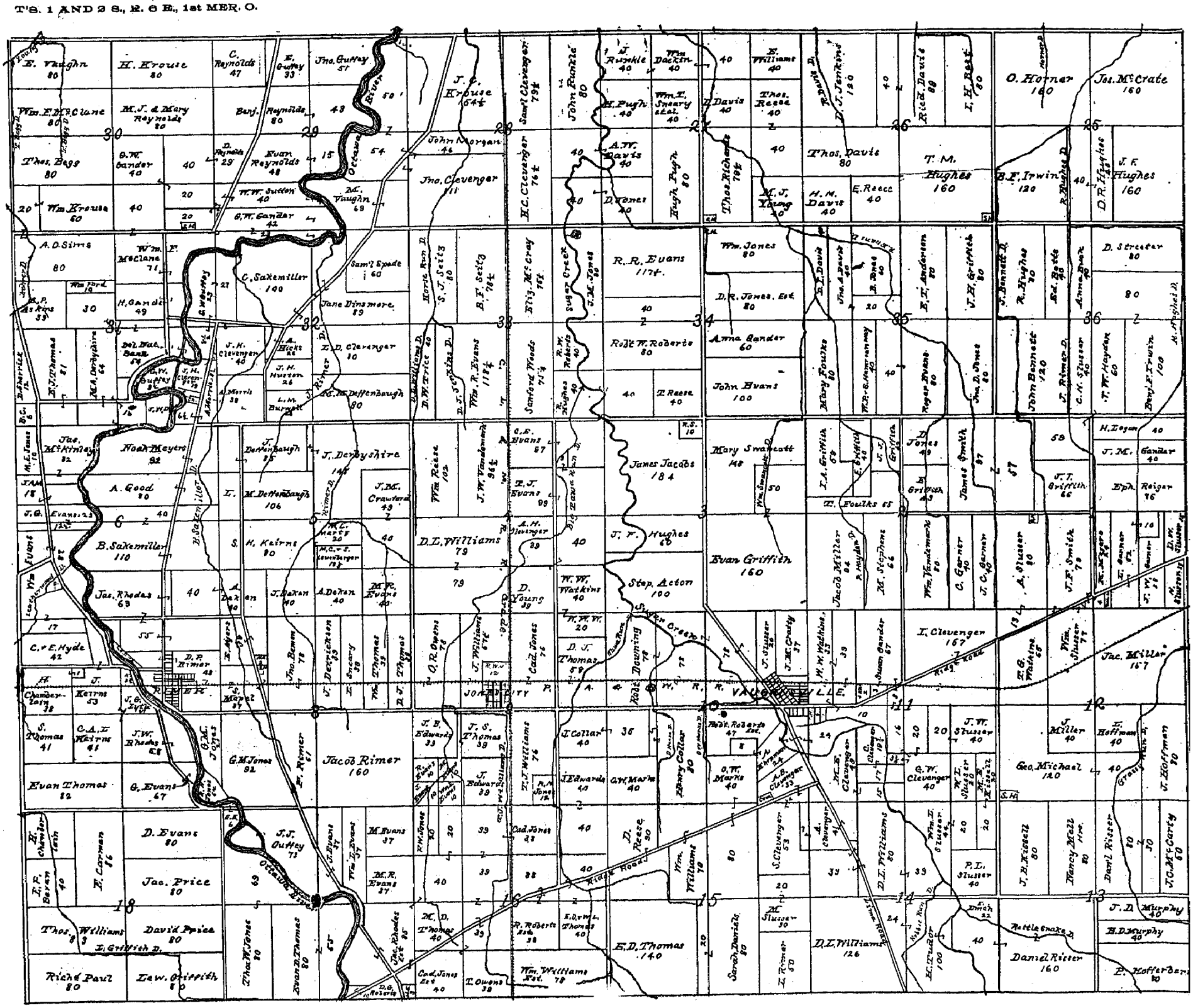
H.C. Rode 20
F. Brendle 66
24
W.F. Merton 68
T. Wrecklage 40
R. KRIFE 2.5
B.H. Knippen 80
J. Stauderman 65
C. & E. Osting 80
F. Osting 40
B.H. Knippen
F. Lause 47
F.M. & J.F. Jamison 60
J. Stauderman 60
P.M. 2.0 Seam
P.M. Saum 20
P. Hennig 86
S.W. Archer 48
Mary Nuzee 78
H. Kloeppez 80
Rich. Bros. 40
E. Kloeppez 38
H. Reder 59
Geo. Miller 52
A.H. Allemier 46
J.W. Allemier 46
H. Kleinkamp 80
H. Kleinkamp 60
L. Kleinkamp 80
Thos. Kramer 72
L. Calvelage 74
H. Raabe 40
B. Bruckhouse 46
Fred Brittmer 53
Peter Fuerst 46
A.H. Allemier 80
H. Kleinkamp 80
Chas. Kuhlmann 77
H. Berkhide 80
Aug. Kuhlman 76
G. Kuhlmann 78
Adam Rekart 74

SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP.

T'S. 1 AND 2 S., R. 6 E., 1st MER. O.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H. Krouse 80
C. Reynolds 47
E. Gurley 33
Jno. Gurley 51
J. C. Krouse 164
Wm. E. McClane 80
M. J. & Mary Reynolds 80
Benj. Reynolds 80
Evan Reynolds 48
Thos. Beggs 80
B. W. Sander 40
W. W. Sutton 40
M. Vaughn 69
John Morgan 46
Jno. Clevenger 111
Wm. Krouse 60
G. W. Sander 42
A. D. Sims 80
Wm. F. McClane 71
C. Saxemiller 100
Sam'l Spade 60
Jane Dinsmore 89
H. Sander 49
J. H. Clevenger 40
A. Hicks 26
J. H. Houston 26
L. M. Burnett 29
A. Morris 38
M. M. Deffenbaugh 80
Jas. McKinney 82
Noah Meyers 92
J. Derbyshire 148
A. Good 80
M. Deffenbaugh 106
B. Saxemiller 110
S. H. Kairns 80
Jas. Rhodes 69
C. & E. Hyde 42
D. P. Rimer 48
Chamberlain 38
Kairns 53
S. Thomas 41
C. A. & E. Kairns 41
J. W. Rhodes 68
Evan Thomas 82
G. Evans 67
G. M. Jones 82
Jacob Rimer 160
D. Evans 80
E. Carman 76
Jac. Price 80
Thos. Williams 83
David Price 80
Richd. Paul 80
Dew. Griffith 80
Thos. W. Jones 80
Evan D. Thomas 80
J. J. Guffey 73
Sam'l Clevenger 79½
John Runkle 80
N. Runkle 40
Wm. Dakin 40
H. Pugh 40
Wm. T. Sneary et al. 40
A. W. Davis 40
D. Vanes 40
Hugh Pugh 80
Thos. Richards 79½
R. R. Evans 117½
Robt. W. Roberts 80
Wm. R. Evans 114
Sanford Woods 79½
Wm. McCrey 152
Sugar Creek
Z. M. Jones 80
R. W. Roberts 80
R. Hughes 80
T. Reese 40
Wm. Jones 80
D. R. Jones, Est. 80
Anna Sander 60
John Evans 100
Mary Swancott 148
Wm. Swancott
T. A. Griffith 69
E. Griffith 48
W. Foulks 65
Evan Griffith 160
James Jacabs 184
D. L. Williams 79
Wm. Reese 102
J. W. Vandemark 96½
G. P. Evans 57
T. J. Evans 99
A. H. Clevenger 39
D. Young 39
W. W. Watkins 40
D. J. Thomas 59
Step. Acton 100
Stucker Creek
J. F. Hughes 60
O. R. Owens 78
J. Williams 76
Cad. Jones 76
Robt. Downing 74
Jacob Miller 84
M. Stephens 66
Wm. Hendrickson 80
C. Garner 40
J. C. Garner 40
A. Stusser 80
J. F. Smith 79
J. T. Griffith 66
H. Degan 40
J. M. Sander 40
Eph. Reigan 76
D. W. Stusser 40
I. Clevenger 167
Jac. Miller 167
T. G. Watkins 65
Wm. Stusser 71
Ridge Road
O. Horner 160
Jas. McCrate 160
B. F. Irwin 120
R. Rimer D.
D. R. Hughes 48
J. F. Hughes 160
T. M. Hughes 160
T. Davis 80
H. N. Davis 40
E. Reece 40
M. J. Young 40
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Rich. Davis 80
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D. J. Jenkins 120
D. Streeter 80
R. Hughes 80
Ed. Betts 80
Anna Bunk 40
John Bennett 120
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C. N. Stusser 40
T. W. Hayden 60
Benj. F. Irwin 100
J. Bennett D.
E. T. Anderson 80
V. H. Griffith 80
Roger Evans 80
Jno. D. Jones 80
Mary Foulks 80
W. R. & Hannah Kay 40
Jno. A. Davis 40
R. Jones 80
Wm. Davis 40
Jno. Davis 40
R. Jones 80
Wm. Davis 40
Jno. A

BRIEF

History of Putnam County.

BY HON. D. I. BROWN.

THE territory of which Putnam County is composed, except the Ottawa Reserve of twenty-five square miles, was acquired by the United States from the Indians by the treaty of the Foot of the Rapids of the Lake Erie of September 29, 1817, between Louis Cass and Duncan McCarthur, commissioners of the United States, with full power and authority to hold conference and conclude and sign treaties with all the tribes or nations within the boundary of the State of Ohio, and the sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Wyandot, Seneca, Delaware, Shewanee, Pottawatomies, Ottawa and Chippewa tribes of Indians.

Putnam County was bounded and established by act of the Legislature, passed and took effect February 12, 1820, and included towns one and two south, and one and two north of ranges number five, six, seven and eight east of the first meridian in Ohio. Each town or township containing thirty-six sections of land, and in all five hundred and seventy-six square miles.

The county seat was located in the southwest quarter of section number five in town one, south of range six, east of the first meridian of Ohio, and named Kalida, by a commission appointed by resolution of the Legislature, passed February 12, 1829, as required by law previously passed.

This territory, twenty-four miles square, was organized as a political division of the State of Ohio and called Putnam county, in 1834.

William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClish were appointed by the Governor as Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the county. The Judges met at the house of Abraham Sarber and organized the court by electing Daniel W. Gray, Clerk, and Amos Evans, Prosecuting Attorney.

Abraham Sarber was appointed Town Director; Thomas Gray, William Priddy and Samuel Myers, County Commissioners; F. C. Fitch, County Surveyor; Samuel Myers, John Cochran, Isaac Owens, A. E. Martin, James Nichols and Daniel W. Gray, School Examiners. An order was made for an election to be held on the 31st day of May, 1834, to elect a Sheriff and Coroner for the county.

On August 18, 1834, court met at the house of Abraham Sarber. Present, William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClish, Judges, and Daniel W. Gray, Clerk. It appearing that no election had been held on the 31st day of May as directed, William Cochran was appointed Sheriff, and William Turner, Coroner.

Court met on November 20, 1834, at the house of Sheldon Gutherie, in Kalida. Present, Cochran, Morris and McClish, Judges; Clerk D. W. Gray. The bond of William Turner as Coroner was approved and he was sworn into office.

April 30, 1835, court met. Present, George B. Holt, President Judge; Cochran, Morris and McClish, Associate Judges. At this court the first grand jury of the county was empannelled. Its members were John Guffy, James Turner, Peter Bussert, James W. Wamsley, William Ramsey, Moses Sutton, Caleb Gaskill, Obed Martin, John Hand, McDaniel Osborn, Benjamin Clevenger, Isaac McCracken, Robert McCracken, John Lisk and John Ridenour, with Benjamin Clevenger, foreman, and James M. Lee, constable. [James M. Lee is the only one of this court now, 1895, living.]

At the October election of 1834, William Priddy, Benjamin Clevenger and Sheldon Gutherie were elected County Commissioners; Henry Myers, Auditor; John M. Cochran, Treasurer; William Cochran, Sheriff; James Taylor, Coroner; Moses Lee, Recorder; Samuel Ramsey, Assessor; and F. C. Fitch, Surveyor. At this election only 163 votes were cast, as follows: Sugar Creek township cast 34 votes; Union, 23; Perry, 27; Jennings, 17; Riley, 18; Blanchard, 32; Ottawa, 22. This completed the organization of Putnam county.

The first important official act of the County Commissioners was the purchase from the State of Ohio of the balance of section five in Union township. They had the same laid out into lots and sold through the Town Director, and the proceeds applied first in payment to the State for the land and expenses of survey, sale and record. The balance was applied to the erection of a temporary frame courthouse and jail. In 1838 and 1839 a substantial brick court house and jail were erected.

The territory of Putnam county remained the same as originally established until the winter of 1849, when it was changed by act of the Legislature for the purpose of creating the new county of Auglaize. By detatching the entire southeastern township (Richland) with one tier of sections off of the south side of Riley township, the entire township of Monroe—town two south of range seven east—three tiers of sections off of the south side of Sugar Creek township, the same number of sections off of the south side of Jennings township, and by attaching at the same time to Putnam county the east half of town one south of range four east, from Van Wert county, the county was left in its present form. By this change the area of the county was reduced from 576 square miles to 480 square miles. This change of territory was a great loss to the county as the part detached was the best improved land in the county at that time and included Bluffton, Beaver Dam, West Cairo, and that part of Delphos lying east of the Miami and Erie extension canal, together with that fertile region of land known as "Sugar level," while the territory attached was then a swamp and wilderness.

THE RIVERS AND NATURAL STREAMS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

The Great Auglaize river meanders through the entire western part of the county, and has well defined banks. The Blanchard fork of the Great Auglaize river enters the county on the east line and winds its way through the central part to within two miles of the west line, where it enters the Great Auglaize river. The Ottawa river, or Hog creek, enters the county from the south, running in a northwesterly direction through Sugar Creek, Union and into Jackson township, where it enters into the Great Auglaize river, about two and a half miles northwest of Kalida. These are the main outlets of the county. Riley creek, Sugar creek, Powell's creek, Cranberry creek, and Plum creek are the smaller streams leading into these rivers. These, with various other small streams, constitute the natural drainage of Putnam county. The lands between the main rivers descend from the bank of the river back and, as a rule, constitute broad swales without natural drainage, so that a good portion of the county is left without sufficient drainage from these streams to redeem the swales and swamps of the county. Therefore, in order to redeem these and other lands in Ohio's Black Swamp, a system of artificial drainage was necessarily brought into use. Ditching by agreement between adjoining land owners was resorted to, but proved ineffectual to drain the farms already cleared of the timber. It was evident that some general system must be devised, adopted and enforced. This would necessarily require legislation. Legislation was therefore asked for on the part of the State to redeem the lands not marked on the original plat as irredeemable swamps, and also on the part of the Congress of the United States to redeem the thousands of acres of land in this county marked by the Surveyor General's report as irredeemable swamps. With a view of redeeming these swamps the Congress of the United States, on the 28th day of September, 1850, passed an act donating these lands in Ohio to the counties in which they were located, or to the State of Ohio, and by the State to the counties. The commissioners of the counties, under the provisions of the act of the Legislature authorizing the drainage of these swamps, were authorized and required to cause these lands to be sold for their drainage. This was done in Putnam County, but the drains made were without sufficient outlets, and therefore the lands passed out of the State into the hands of individuals without any consideration to the county and without the

land being drained or the object of the law being accomplished, so that there was no real benefit derived to the county.

And it was doubly necessary to have further legislation on the subject. In 1853 the State Legislature passed a general drainage law authorizing the trustees of the various townships to locate, establish and construct ditches and drains within their respective townships and authorizing a joint meeting of the boards of adjoining townships to establish ditches in the same. Various ditches were attempted to be constructed in Putnam county under the provisions of this act; it, however, was so incomplete in its provisions that it was wholly ineffectual. In 1854, on the 25th day of April, the Legislature passed an amendatory act, and again on the 26th of March, 1859, all of which acts proved ineffectual, the Supreme Court having decided portions thereof unconstitutional. In 1859 the first general drainage law conferring jurisdiction upon the County Commissioners to locate and establish ditches was enacted, and at the session of the Legislature of 1861, the act of 1859 was modified so as to make the law more practicable and capable of being enforced. From that date up to 1879 various amendments were made to the law of 1861, and in the meantime the law upon that subject became so mixed up that it was scarcely possible for the best lawyer or the highest court in the State to tell what the law was. At the session of the Legislature which closed on the 23rd day of June, 1879, a revision and codification of all the ditch laws was embodied into one act and became the law of Ohio. The main provisions of this law remained the same. Under the provisions of this act the swamp lands of Putnam county, as well as the swale lands of the county, have been effectually drained and redeemed, so that at this time all the swamp lands donated by Congress to the state, and by the state to the counties for drainage, have been fully redeemed and are now the most productive and fertile parts of the county; and the swales and low lands have all been provided with outlet drains and constitutes the best corn lands we have.

The cost of these drains, as a rule, has been assessed upon the lands and paid by the owners thereof, amounting to a very large sum of money. It is impossible, at this time, to state the exact sum of money that the people of this county have paid for draining their lands, or even to approximate very nearly thereto, but we think we are safe in saying that more than one million dollars have been expended in redeeming the swamps and swale lands of Putnam county, so that today the drifts are cleaned out of our rivers and creeks, the smaller streams have been straightened and widened and the obstructions removed; our main drains extend for miles through the country with lateral drains leading into them, our roads are drained on the sides by ditches leading into these main drains, our farms are drained by a system of tiling or under drains leading into the lateral drains, and our lands are productive in the rainy as well as in the dry seasons, and taken all together Putnam county is thoroughly redeemed by its drainage and is one of the best agricultural counties in the State. The lands in this county have not only been redeemed by the drainage, but the health of the people has been greatly benefitted. As far back as 1850, both before and after that time, this country was one of the most malarious of Ohio. Fever and ague and bilious fevers, with various other climatic diseases, were the curse of the country. The doctors were constantly employed in their profession in dealing out calomel and quinine, which were the staple remedies at that time. Scarcely a family, whether located along the rivers or in the swale, passed a single year without being compelled to pay heavy doctor bills. As the country improved and the rivers and streams were cleaned out, and the lands drained, the ague and fevers disappeared, the health of the community became good, and while the doctors may have increased in number with the population, yet their business decreased with the drainage of the land so that now Putnam county is as healthy a location as any in the northwest.



THE COURT HOUSE.

ROADS.

The South Ridge Road, leading from Findlay to Ft. Wayne through Pandora, Columbus Grove, Vaughnsville and Delphos, was one of the early roads along which the settlements were made.

The Sugar Ridge Road, leading from Fostoria west across this county and through where the Village of Leipsic now is (all woods then) and to the town of Medera, thence to the Defiance road.

The Poplar Ridge Road, leading across the north end of the county and into Defiance county. These roads constituted the original Ridge roads of the county, along which portions of the early settlements were made, and follow the ridges without reference to points of compass.

The Findlay, Ottawa and Kalida State Road leading from Findlay down the north side of the Blanchard River through Gilboa to Ottawa, where it crossed the Blanchard River, thence extended to Kalida.

The Williamstown State Road, starting at Williamstown, Hancock county, running in a northwesterly direction through the town of Pandora to Ottawa, where it crossed the Blanchard River, following the river down on the north bank to the Auglaize, and the Auglaize on the east bank to Defiance.

The Wapakoneta and Defiance State Road, leading from Wapakoneta to Fort Amanda in Auglaize county, thence down on the west side of the Auglaize River through Fort Jennings to Fanconia in Putnam county; thence down the river to the county line.

The Perrysburg State Road leading directly from Kalida, Putnam county, to Perrysburg in Wood county, running in a northeasterly direction from Kalida to Perrysburg.

The Kalida and Napoleon State Road leading from Kalida this county, to Napoleon in Henry county, crossing the Blanchard River at Cuba. The latter two of which were never fully opened out.

These roads were laid out with reference to the points desired rather than the points of the compass, so that, as a rule, they cut the lands diagonally, and along the rivers follow the banks without reference to course. Many of them have been straightened

since under the supervision of the County Commissioners, so as to run upon section or sub-division lines.

The county roads of Putnam county are, as a rule, laid upon section and sub division lines, with the township roads laid out for the convenience of the citizens of the various townships.

On April 13, 1880, the Ohio Legislature passed an act authorizing the electors of each township in Putnam county to vote for or against piking the roads of the respective townships, and under the provisions of this act and the acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, the following townships proceeded to pike the roads, viz.: Ottawa, Blanchard, Riley, Pleasant, Sugar Creek, and Van Buren; and completed their roads in 1880 and 1881, at a cost to the townships ranging from $30,000 to $60,000 each.

To defray the expenses of building these roads and make the necessary culverts and bridges, the townships issued their bonds, as a rule, running twenty years at a rate of interest not exceeding eight per cent per annum, no part of principal of which was payable in most cases until after the expiration of fifteen years. The leading roads through each of the townships under this system were either macadamized or graveled, so that at least in these townships, Putnam county has roads that will compare favorably with any other part of the state. These roads have greatly added to values of farm property and to the business of the towns and villages. The farmer now can market his surplus produce in time of wet weather, when the roads hitherto were impassable, as well as in dry weather when the roads were good. Since that time the other townships in the county have taken advantage of the knowledge acquired by the improvement of the roads in these townships, and having procured the passage of other and different laws for the improvement of their roads, have put the same into operation in nearly all the townships and are now graveling and macadamizing their roads. In Jennings, Jackson and Monterey townships the trustees make annual levies and expend the same for material which is placed upon the roads by the citizens under a system of subscription, thus saving to the township fund the entire cost of construction. No bonds are issued, so that when the roads are completed they are paid for. Taken all together we may say that Putnam county has good roads throughout the entire county.

THE MIAMI & ERIE EXTENSION CANAL

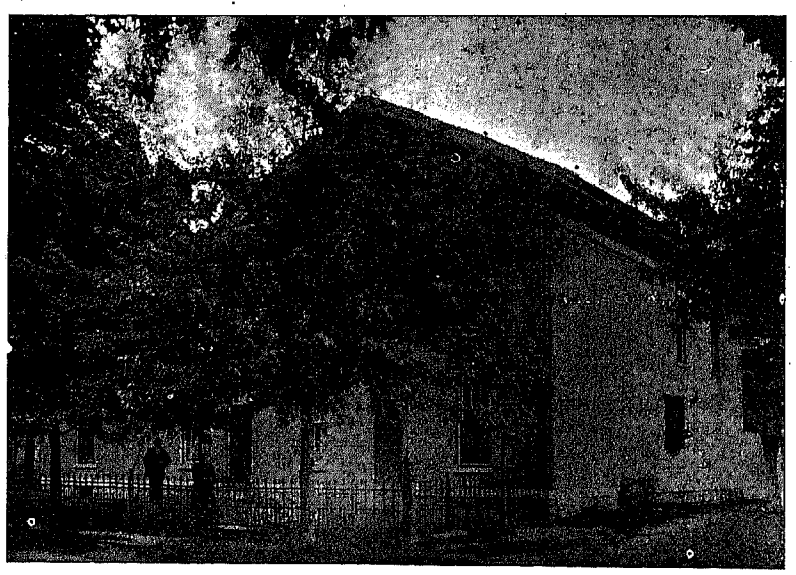
Runs a portion of the way along and near the west line of the county and for six miles through Monterey township in said county, at the north part of which it turns a little to the west and leaves the county, so that at the northwest corner of the county the canal is about two miles and a half west. The entire western portion of this county, however, has had the benefit of this canal by its navigation ever since about the year 1845, when the boats first began to run through to Toledo and Dayton. Up to the time of the building of the railroads this was the only means of getting the surplus produce of this county to the market. After the year 1849, when the old Mad River & Lake Erie railroad extended an arm into Findlay, the eastern portion of this county had an outlet for their produce at that point. For a few years before that their nearest point was Carey, on the main line of Mad River road. Shortly before that their outlet was Tiffin, on the same line, and before 1839, the only outlet they had was Sandusky City. Thus it will be seen that it cost more to market the produce of this county than it did to raise it, and in some instances almost as much as it brought in the market. In 1854 the Ohio & Indiana railroad, extending from Crestline, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, Indiana, began to run its cars and carry freight over its track. This afforded a market for the southern part of this county at Lima, Ohio, but in 1859 the Dayton & Michigan railroad was completed and running through Columbus Grove, Ottawa, Leipsic and Belmore, affording a market within the limits of the county for the produce of the entire county, since which time the canal on the west has ceased to be of much value as a means of transportation of the produce, of at least to the middle and eastern portions of the county.

In 1878 a narrow guage railroad, which was changed to a standard guage in 1888, and known as the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City, or Clover Leaf, Railroad, was constructed through the western portion of the county. This road runs through Ft. Jennings, Douglass, Muntanna, Huntstown, Evansville (now Cloverdale), Dupont, Marice City (Continental), Wisterman and North Creek.

In 1883 the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad was built through the northern part of the county, and along its line are located the towns of Spitzer (Townwood), Leipsic, West Leipsic, Elm Center (not platted), Miller City, Keiferville, Hector, Marice City (Continental), and Hartsburg.

In 1882 the road now known as the Pittsburg, Akron & Western was constructed, first as a narrow guage railroad, but has since been changed to a standard guage road.. This road runs from Delphos through Rushmore, Rimer, Jones City, Vaughnsville, Columbus Grove and Pandora.

In 1894 the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western Railroad was completed from Findlay to Ft. Wayne. This road runs through the towns of Gilboa, McCulloughville, Ottawa, Glandorf, Avis,



THE COUNTY JAIL.

Crosswell, Dornington, (the last three have not been platted), Cascade and Cloverdale. These railroads furnish to all parts of the county convenient shipping points.

Another railroad, the Lima Northern, is now, 1895, being built through Columbus Grove, Ottawa and Leipsic.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

BY REV. T. J. HARBAUGH.

Of the eighteen counties comprising the Maumee Valley, none is more worthy of note and favorable comment than Putnam. The unsurpassed fertility of her soil is proverbial, and the mere mention of her name brings to the mind's eye visions of her extensive fields of grain.

The magnificent natural drainage furnished by its three rivers and numerous smaller streams, give to the county a prominence in that respect that no other one in the valley enjoys.

The material for the construction of good roads—a consideration that figures so largely in the prosperity and happiness of any community—is found in limitless supply in many parts of the county, which places this region in a leading position as regards to good roads. In connection with these facts it is readily seen that, with six railroads crossing her territory, Putnam county's transportation facilities are excellent.

The latitudinal position of Putnam county insures to it a dense population, with ever increasing prosperity to the people, a favored locality indeed.

It will doubtless be of great interest to those yet unborn, who shall live and work out life's problems in this county, to know something of its history; to study its beginnings, and learn of the men of sturdy hearts and sterling worth, and the women of heroic mould who made it possible for them to have so goodly a heritage.

People who withstand the test of the world's evolutions are those who profit by the wisdom and virtues of those who have wrought before them, and as we contemplate the lives and work of Putnam county's pioneers, there is found much to praise and honor.

These early settlers, who are rapidly reaching the end of life's journey, came from the central eastern counties of the state and were largely of Pennsylvania German descent. To secure a home of their own and live in quiet enjoyment of the fruits of their labors was the worthy standard of the ancestry of the young men and women who, joining their lives and fortunes together, came west to carve out of the primeval forest a home, as their parents had done. And what was true of the native Americans, who braved the dangers and endured the hardships incident to the settlement of a new country, was also true of the immigrant of the Old World, in whose breast the spark of freedom had been kindled into flame by the spirit of '76, which had penetrated every corner of Europe. To be a sovereign freeman in "this land of opportunity" was ample compensation for the great sacrifice entailed by so long a journey, and the fruitful fields surrounding the many happy homes of Putnam county attest to the courageous fortitude and persevering faith of our county's pioneers. The privations of the early settlers were manifold and great, but plodding industry and sturdy self-reliance outdoors, joined with good cheer and thrift indoors, brought their reward: the farm cleared, the home improved and made comfortable for the declining years of the parents, the children grown to manhood and womanhood, happily mated and "striking out" from the home roof, in turn, to build for themselves a home, —these were some of the blessings that crowned their declining years.

The pioneers of fifty or sixty years ago, having so many things in common to contend with, it begot a sort of kindly reciprocity which made the whole neighborhood neighborly and brought the families often together in helpfulness to each other. They all ate corn-bread and cooked over the open fire place; they wore homespun clothing and filled their lamps with coon and 'possum grease, and worked and planned how they might accomplish three important things during the year, namely: to pay their taxes, to buy leather for their winter shoes, and to get a barrel of salt for the ensuing year.

When sickness or death, or any other misfortune befel a home, the spirit of the Good Samaritan was practically manifest.

Socialities were strong, and the spirit of caste unknown. The young people were healthy and vigorous and enjoyed their sports as well as the youth of the present day. The young man who, at a log-rolling, barn-raising, chopping or husking bee, distinguished himself by out-lifting, out-chopping or out-husking the other youth of the neighborhood, might pick his company from among the pioneer lasses, and besides, was quoted as "tall" authority in many other things because of his physical prowess.

The young lady who could spin the most "cuts" of yarn in a neat manner, and who demonstrated thrift in the management of household duties, had incense burned to her with sincerity, and the time would not be far distant when she would have an opportunity to preside over a little household of her own.

Industry and economy in their truest sense, were cardinal virtues with the old and young in those days, and the names of our

early pioneer should ever be held in revered memory by us who are building on the foundation so well laid by them.

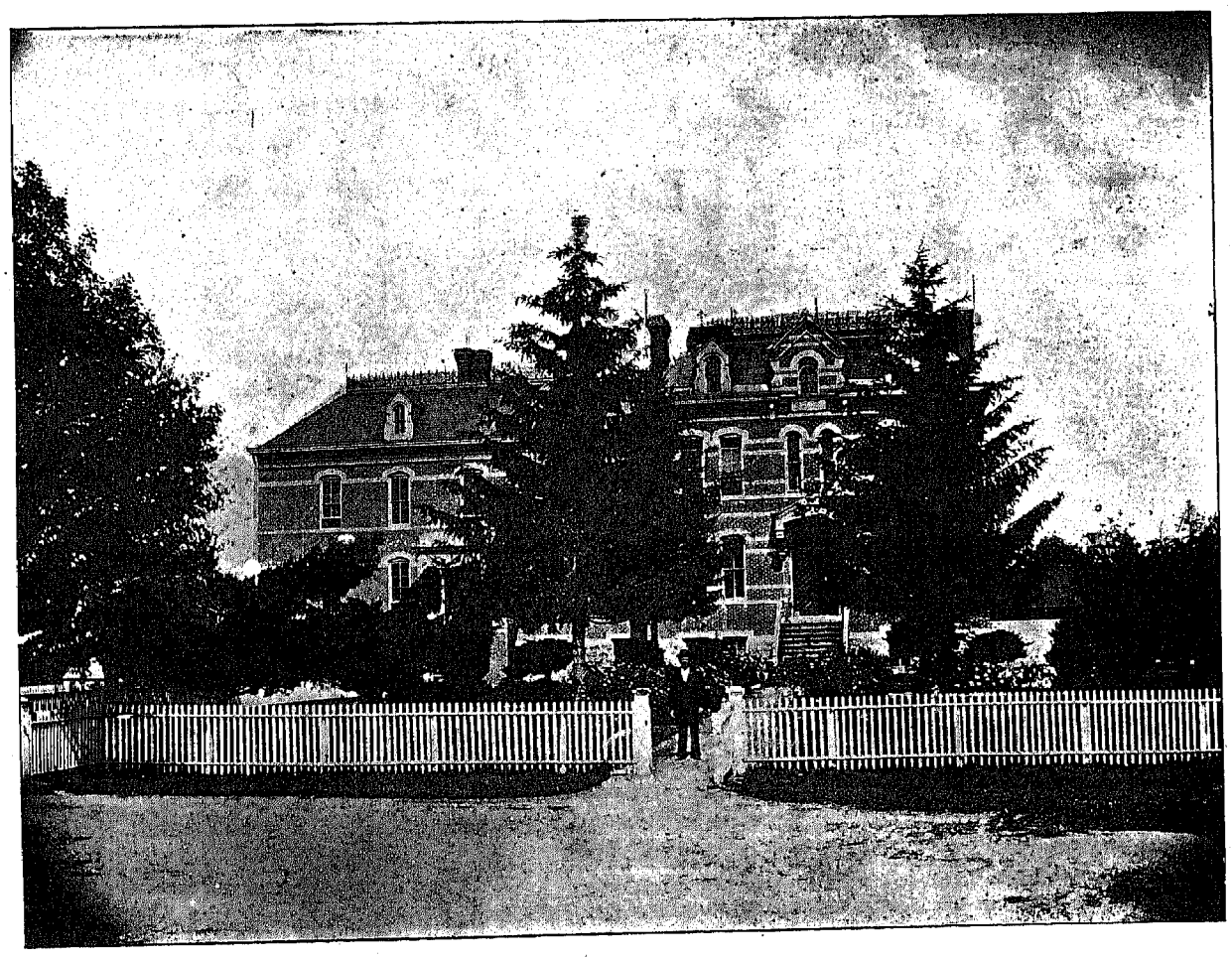
REMINISCENCES OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO.

BY LEWIS E. HOLTZ, C. E.

The writer quite vividly remembers the time, about the first of April, 1834, when with his parents, four brothers and two sisters, wended their way from Frederick county, Maryland, westward over the mountains by way of National Road, passing through Cumberland, Wheeling, Zanesville, as far west as Jacktown. Thence northwesterly through Newark, Delaware, Marion, Upper Sandusky, arriving at Tiffin, Seneca county, the latter part of April, having traveled twenty-one days. We brought with us one large covered wagon drawn by four heavy draft horses; we also had one barouche drawn by one large carriage horse. The father, mother and two sisters occupied the carriage during the journey, while the boys (the two older ones owned rifles) traveled on the road or on either side where the most game was found. The father having sold his farm of one hundred and twenty acres for $7,000—situated on the left bank of Monococy River, seven miles north of Frederick City—and with the money thus acquired bought eight hundred and thirty acres of land, mostly of the Seneca Reservation—land of excellent soil but very heavily timbered—so we boys learned how to clear land. Felling trees and driving oxen was in those days considered an accomplishment. The means of securing an education were painfully limited. Common schools were said to exist; we usually had about three months' training in the three "R's," saving and excepting the odd days when the weather was dry enough to tramp out wheat, which was accomplished by the treading of horses on ground floors; the plank floors were considered a luxury rather than a necessity. No portable threshing machines were known of in Seneca county. Our wheat crops were generally good in quality and quantity. The same was true of the rye and oats; all had to be reaped by hand and bound into sheaves (not bundles as now) and set up into shocks, ten upright and two broken into caps, and thus left standing three or four weeks before stacking. We could estimate the amount of grain very closely by the number of shocks or dozens. When once in stacks we regarded the crop safe. But little was threshed or tramped out before winter, excepting enough for bread and seed. The corn crops were good. Enough has been said in this line of history for the limited space allowable.

We now fall back to the three "R's." During the winter of 1835-6 I was employed by the school directors to build fires in the school house early each morning for the term of three months, for which I was paid the sum of one dollar and fifty cents, during which time I attended school and did my best. My text books were Dayboll's arithmetic, C. A. Goodrich's history of the United States, the Elementary spelling book and Kirkem's grammar. Our teacher took great pride in showing me *how* to solve problems in arithmetic, and after school was ended I kept thinking of the *why* we had so to do it. I then discovered that the hows and whys were two particular features in mathematics. I then procured Playfair's Euclid. Now this Euclid was a teacher in Alexandria, Egypt, three hundred years B. C. When he devised plans for re-establishing land boundaries, which were lost by reason of the frequent overflowing of the River Nile, his knowledge thus acquired, together with his former acquaintance with the subject of lines and angles, placed the science of geometry upon a true basis. I then procured a copy of Olney's geography. A good neighbor, Dennis F. Cramer, a practical surveyor, gave me instructions on surveying. At about the age of eighteen years I commenced the practice of surveying, and at the age of twenty-five years went to a select school taught by James Evers in the old brick school house in Tiffin, using Comstock's philosophy, Day's algebra, Davies' legender, Gummere's surveying. Went through Davies and Gummere in a term of four months. Better instructors than those above named are very scarce in this country. In June 1855, accepted a deputyship uuder Marcus Schuyler, then County Surveyor of Seneca county, O. Then bought a new Vernier compass of James Foster, Jr., of Cincinnati; paid $60.00 for same. Bought a new watch of Wm. Gallup, of Tiffin, for $35.00. The compass and watch—both as good as new—have been in use over forty years. During my practice have found one of the most important subjects connected with surveying land is the reading and interpretation of deeds. Many deeds are found in the hands of pretended owners of land that are not worth the price of the paper they were written upon. The cause very frequently is that men have been elected Justice of the Peace or commissioned as a Notary Public, who by the laws of Ohio are authorized to write or take acknowledgements of deeds, who are wholly unfit for the business.

For instance, the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 15, township 1 north, range 7 east, first meridian of Ohio, containing 40 acres of land according to the official plat returned, etc., *is good*. Again, the following described tract of land, intended for the same tract, eommencing at the southeast corner of section 15, township 1 north, range 7 east, first meridian of Ohio, running thence north 80 rods, thence west 80 rods, thence south 80 rods, thence east 80 rods to the place of beginning, containing 40 acres more or less, *not good*; because if the quarter over-runs then the metes and bounds would not take in the land intended, but if the quarter falls short then there would be a conflict, because it would take in land not intended. Now in the first description we have a sub-divisional part of the quarter, 40 acres, according to the official plat, etc. "More or less" in a description is of no account, while the common view is that it cures a multitude of errors. Again, a patent issued by the Government for the west half of the southwest quarter of section six, township two north, in range seven east, first principal meridian of Ohio, containing 83.28 acres according to the official plat as returned, etc. Then comes the patent for the east half



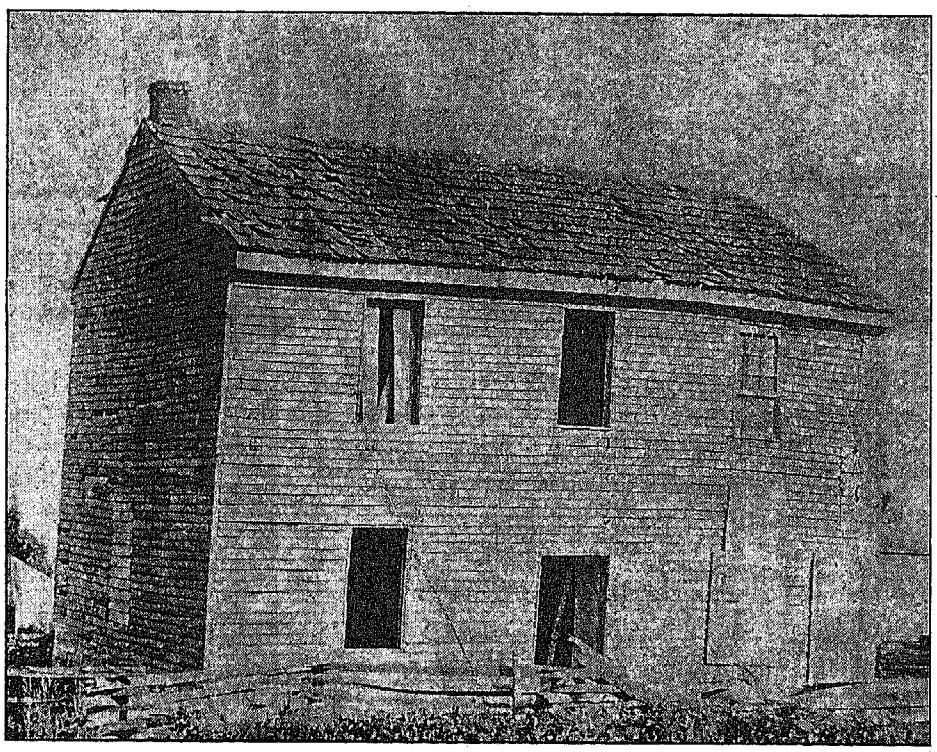
THE COUNTY INFIRMARY.

of the southwest quarter of section 6, township 2 north, range 7 east, first principal meridian of Ohio, containing 80 acres according to the official plat returned, etc. Now upon close examination of the plat referred to we see 20.95 chains as the width of the west part of said southwest quarter, and 20.00 chains understood as the width of the east part of said southwest quarter. Now by the act of Congress, approved February 11, 1805, found on page 51 of the land laws for Ohio, which reads as follows: "all lines that have been actually run and marked shall be held and considered as the true length thereof," there would seem to be a conflict between the plat and patents. While the plat indicates the west part to contain 83.28 acres and the east part part to contain 80 acres, now the patents recognize 163.28 acres in the quarter section. The patents should describe the land in said southwest quarter as the west part of said southwest quarter containing 83.28 acres, and the east part of the southwest quarter containing 80 acres. We should then survey the land by dividing the lines pro rata as indicated by the official plat because the plat controls as between it and the patent.

The northwestern portion of Ohio was originally surveyed and platted under the "Mansfield System;" that is, a base was established on the 41st degree of north latitude, running through the State from west to east, and a meridian line was established and made the west line of the State, from which ranges are counted and numbered eastward. A range is a row of townships running north and south. A township is a tract of land six miles square, and consequently contains 36 sections of 640 acres each, and are numbered north and south from the base line. In running the range lines they are made parallel with the meridian line and corners were set. First a section corner, thence north 40 chains to quarter post, 80 chains to section corner, etc., for six miles; and the corners thus set belong to the township on the west side of the range line, and the north and south side of townships are run in a similar manner, setting the section corners and quarter post which belong to the township next north of the lines thus run. All corners so set are witnessed by two trees, giving the name or kind of tree, its diameter in inches, its bearing from the corner stake as set, the distance therefrom in denomination of links, where lines are being run if perchance a tree should stand upon the line so run; it is noted in the field book as a sight tree, the kind of tree, the diameter in inches is given; the sight tree is always marked with two notches on the hither side and two notches on the thither side. These sight trees are entitled to the same respect as corners set on the same line and must be regarded as true, straight lines while in fact they are seldom strictly so, the townships having been surveyed into six-mile squares.

Now we come to the sub-division of townships into sections, but strictly speaking it is a system of blocking out sections by commencing one mile west of the southeast corner of the township, running thence north between sections 35 and 36 forty chains set quarter post, 80 chains set post corner to sections 25, 26, 35 and 36; running thence east on random line 40 chains, set temporary quarter post 80.10 chains, intersected east boundary 20 links north of post; thence west on true line 40.05 chains, set quarter post 80.10 chains to section corner, and thus continuing north and east until we arrive at the north line of township, noting the offset in links either east or west of the section corner to 35 and 36, belonging to township next north, where a permanent corner is established. Thence beginning at the southwest corner of section 35, running thence north between sections 34 and 35, following the same process as before, blocking out sections until we arrive at the north line of the township; then returning to the south line of township, running north between sections 33 and 34 and by the same process blocking out the third tier of sections, returning to south side of township and running north between sections 32 and 33, blocking out the fourth tier of sections; then returning and running north between sections 31 and 32, and after running east on random and correcting back to the corner of sections 29, 30, 31 and 32, thence running west 40 chains set quarter post, thence 80.80 chains intersected west boundary 50 links south of post, where we set permanent corner. With this offset of 50 links the post referred to is the corner heretofore set to 25 and 36 on range line, and by this process the last two tiers of sections are blocked out, completing the thirty-six sections in the township. Young surveyors will observe that offsets occur only on the north and west sides of townships and that no quarter posts are set on said lines, but must be determined by actual measurement (no presumption allowed) and placed on line between adjacent government corners.

All lines noted as running north are in law due north. All lines noted as running east or west are in law due courses. All



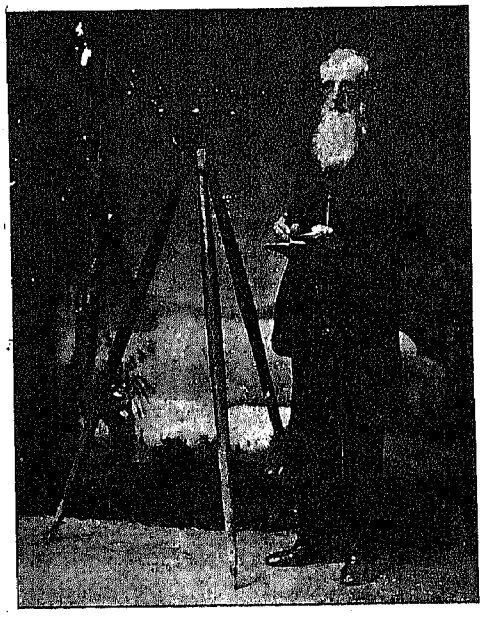
PUTNAM COUNTY'S FIRST COURT HOUSE.

centers of sections are determined by the intersection of two straight lines, one passing east and west from quarter post to quarter post, the other line running north and south from quarter post to quarter post. Thus far we have reduced ranges and townships to sections, and sections to quarters. Now comes quarter sections to be divided into one-half quarters, 80 acres; and quarter quarters, 40 acres. Excepting the last tier of half sections on the north and west sides of townships, where the official plat shows fractions as indicated by numerals being placed upon lines of plat showing their lengths—in which case pro rata distances apply—we have been showing some of the "hows." Now the "whys" deserve some attention. In running a line due north and south or east and west through quarter sections, we run parallel with the lines next adjacent thereto. The center lines through a quarter section must run on a mean bearing of the two adjacent lines which run in the same general course.

We find in many cases so great a variance that a reason should be given *why* we are compelled to follow such variable course. A case in point is as follows: In fractional section eleven, township 2 north, in range 15 east, first principal meridian, Ohio, the section was not full on the north side by reason of the south boundary of the Seneca Reservation. Now the quarter post to section eleven was set by measurement at one-half distance on said north line as usual and according to law. Subsequently the Seneca Reservation was sold by the Indians and afterwards divided into sections, and in doing this the government surveyor set his quarter post to sections two and eleven, five chains too far east. Now this strip of land in section eleven and within the Reserve is between five and ten chains in width. We then have to run from the quarter post on the south boundary line of the Reservation due north to the corresponding quarter post between sections two and eleven. This line, in law, runs due north, while in fact it runs north 20 degrees east. Thus we meet with many cases that will puzzle a new man in the business of surveying, but the most trying cases is the interpetation of deeds; and when we meet a case of a deed so inacurately worded, we must sometimes inquire how the Supreme court would construe it. These inaccuracies in the wording of deeds show clearly a burning necessity for having competent conveyancers who should have entire control of writing deeds—who should be examined thoroughly before his commission is issued. Again there is a seeming necessity for having a standard measure. The Statute of Ohio provides that a standard measure shall be kept at each county seat, and it is required that chains used by surveyors must be kept corresponding with such standard, all of which is a good thing; but when we come to re-survey government lands we must comply with the act of Congress approved February 11, 1805, and use the standard, with which secton lines and corners were established originally; so that our unit of measure is merely used as a comparison, that is, if 40 chains should be 40.10 chains, then 20 chains, should be 20.05. Now the same principal holds good, that if a proprietor of land lays it out into town or village lots and his measure of 60 feet is found to be 61 feet, which is frequently the case, then we must regard the measure of the original proprietor of such town or village as the true measure of such town or village. (See act of Congress referred to; also in case of Avery's lessee, vs. Baum's heirs, Wright's Report of Supreme Court of Ohio, page 576, also 9th Pickering, page 521, Massachusetts.)

In November, 1863, I removed to Ottawa, Putnam County, Ohio, engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements, gained some experience, financially speaking; but the mind still clinging to the subject of triangles and corners as of former years, sold out and returned to the business of surveying and civil engineering. In October, 1868, was appointed by the Commissioners of Putnam County, Ohio, to survey the James H. Smith ditch, No. 1 and No. 3. Made my report to them, showing profiles and grade line of ditches, giving cuts to be made along the lines of ditches, and when the board examined the report it was something new to them, as they had never seen a grade line for a ditch. Thereupon a discussion ensued as to the adopting of the report, and after due deliberation two of the Commissioners said, "that is a good thing," while one said, "no, it is a humbug." But thehceforward all reports on proposed ditches were required to be accompanied with a profile and grade line, (See Ditch Record No. 4, page 154), since which time have surveyed many miles of ditches. One ditch in particular I wish to mention was proposed ditch known as the "James Donald" ditch in Putnam, Henry and Wood counties. I was appointed by the joint board of said counties to survey and level and report my proceedings, which was done accordingly, and at the first meet-

ing of the joint board my report was adopted and further orders given to prepare a supplementary report. A second meeting had and my supplementary report was adopted, and certain other matters left over for a third meeting, at which meeting the board dismissed all further proceedings in the matter and left the bills of cost unprovided for. The board said the costs must be collected out of the bondsmen; but upon inquiry it was found the bond was given to cover costs to the amount of two hundred dollars, while the costs footed up over two thousand, including printers' fees and other engineers' fees who had previously surveyed a part of the lines, but was rejected at the time of my appointment, but subsequently adopted in part. Upon application to said joint board it was agreed that if a special act was passed by the Legislature authorizing the payment of said claims that the joint board would pay all the bills duly proven (as directed by said act). I am indebted to Hon. D. I. Brown, a member of the Legislature in 1879, for the interest he took in the passage of the act authorizing the payment of all claims growing out of the proceedings. Now after the act was passed authorizing the payment on application to said several boards, they severally refused to pay the claims; whereupon I proceeded by writs of mandamus to compel the payment by said several boards. Thereupon James H. Smith and Ferdinand Unterbrink, County Commissioners (to their credit be it said), ordered the claim against Putnam county paid, which was accordingly done, but the Commissioners of Henry county and Wood county refused to pay their respective shares.



L. E. HOLTZ, C. E.

The result of my action may be found in the 41st O. S. Report, page 423, and the sequel to the case was that I was admitted to practice in the courts as an attorney-at-law.

Coming into Northwestern Ohio a mere boy, under thirteen years of age, and having passed through the various vicissitudes of life incident to a new country, having waded miles of swamps surveying land and engineering ditches, until I can now look forward toward my 75th milestone of years. Space and time forbids saying more. My health and strength being fair (save the sense of hearing, which is dull); having nothing to complain of, especially when I look back sixty to sixty-five years and attempt to call the roll of my playmates of those days, I feel truly grateful for my present enjoyment of life.

HON JOHN M. SHEETS

Judge Sheets was born May 26, 1854, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was of German ancestry, being a descendant of that thrifty class, the Pennsylvania Dutch, while his mother was a New Englander. The first twenty years of his life was spent upon his father's farm near Columbus Grove, where he attended country school and labored on the farm alternately. At the age of twenty he began teaching school. He afterward attended the Union Schools at Columbus Grove, and in 1876 entered the freshman class at Baldwin University, at Berea, Ohio. Prof. Schuyler, the author of Schuyler's Mathematical works and Schuyler's Logic and Mental Philosophy, was at that time the president of the university. Judge



JUDGE JOHN M. SHEETS.

Sheets graduated in 1879, having completed a four years course in three years, taking also during those three years, in addition to the regular course, several elective branches. His special forte was mathematics. He took every branch of mathematics, both required and elective, which was taught in the university, save one. Among those taken by him were geometry, analytical geometry, trigonometry, plane and spherical, surveying, navigation, mechanics, mathematical astronomy, and calculus.

After graduating at Baldwin University he went to Ann Arbor and took the law course at the University of Michigan, Judge Cooley being one of his preceptors. He graduated in March, 1881, and was, at once admitted to the Bar of Ohio by the Supreme Court. He commenced the practice of law at Ottawa, Ohio, in April of the same year, being in partnership with Hon. C. J. Swan until Mr. Swan removed to Toledo.

In March, 1882, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Scott, a lady student at Ann Arbor with whom he became acquainted while attending law school at that place.

In October, 1882, he formed a partnership with J. S. Ogan, which continued until Judge Sheets was elected to the bench.

In 1894 he was nominated by the Republican party as their candidate for Common Pleas Judge for the subdivision of the Third Judicial District, comprising the counties of Fulton, Henry and Putnam, and notwithstanding the normal majority against that party in the subdivision was about two thousand he was elected by a majority nearly equaling that ordinarily given to the Democratic candidate.

Judge Sheets possesses to an extraordinary degree what may be called "the genius of labor," and to that, coupled with fine natural capacity, large executive faculty, a pleasant address and strict integrity, can be attributed his rapid progress in his profession and the judicial honors which an appreciative constituency have bestowed, honors, which the devotion he has shown to his judicial duties, the carefulness of his decisions and the rapid progress he has made toward clearing off the encumbered docket of the courts have proven to have been well and worthily bestowed.

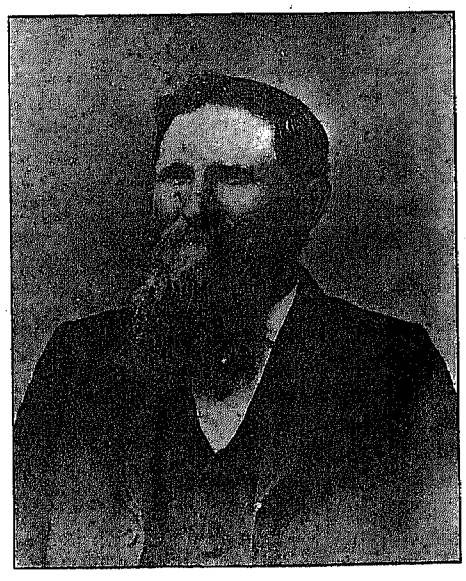
G. B. BRINKMAN.

Mr. Brinkman was born April 18, 1844, upon a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. A farmer's son, his entire life has been spent upon a farm. The only educational advantages which he enjoyed were such as were afforded by a common country school, and these only until he was fourteen years old.

Mr. Brinkman resided in Greensburg township until after his marriage. In 1872 he removed to Jackson township, in this county, upon the farm where he now lives. In 1868 he was married to Miss Deina Wehrie, daughter of Clemens Wehrie, one of the old residents of the county. There were born of this union thirteen children—Joseph, Anna, Deina, Mary, Amelia, Andrew, Frank, Elizabeth, Josephine, Matilda, Caroline, Elenora and Laura, all of whom, except Elizabeth, are still living.

Mr. Brinkman's natural capacity for business and the confidence felt in his integrity by his fellow citizens of Greensburg township, induced them to select him for the position of Township Clerk before he was twenty-six years of age, and the same causes no doubt induced his election, after his removal to Jackson township, as Township Trustee, a position which he held for two terms. In 1889 he was nominated and elected County Commissioner of Putnam county, in which capacity he is still serving, having been re elected in 1892.

During Mr. Brinkman's administration a vast amount of improvement in the drainage of the wet lands of the county by means of county ditches has been accomplished, and we believe



G. B. BRINKMAN, Commissioner.

with as little dissatisfaction as has ever been evinced in the same length of time, while the improvements in the way of bridges, etc., have been of great benefit to the people of the county.

Mr. Brinkman presents an excellent example of what a farmer's boy, with but few advantages and no aid save such as he could get from his own strong arms, industrious nature and wise economy, may make of himself.

JONATHAN W. POAST.

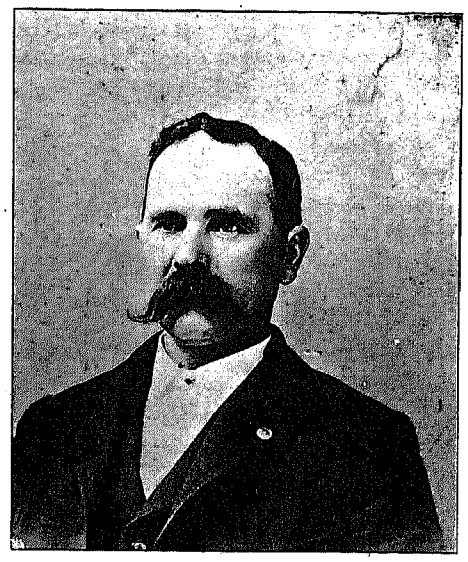
Mr. Poast was born in Crawford county, Ohio, November 3d, 1846, and came to Putnam county in October, 1859, with his parents, who settled on a farm in Sugar Creek township.

In 1863, at the age of seventeen, he volunteered and became a private of Co. E, 197th Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving in that regiment until the close of the war, when he was, on August 5, 1865, at Todd's Barracks, Columbus, Ohio, mustered out of the service "honorably discharged." After his military service closed he returned to farming in Putnam county.

On the 30th of August, 1868, he was united in marriage to Miss Julia Ann E. Todd, and in the fall of that year removed with his young wife to Kansas, remaining in that state for four years, at the expiration of which time he returned to Putnam

county where, in 187b, he moved on to the farm which he now owns, in Jennings township.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Poast a family of three children—William G. Poast, born December 27, 1871, married to Miss Jennie Clawson, July 10, 1895; Myrtle A. Poast, born July 13, 1874, married to William H. Allen, August 28, 1895; Mary Alice Poast, born September 19, 1882.



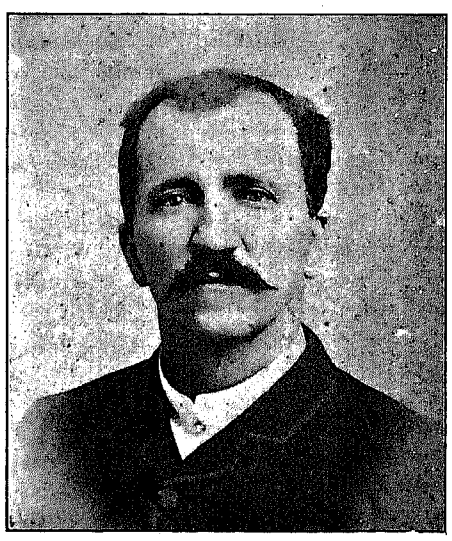
J. W. POAST, Commissioner.

Mr. Poast was elected Justice of the Peace in Jennings township and served in that capacity for two terms, and served as well in several other positions of trust in that township, excellent testimony to the high character which he sustained among his neighbors, those who knew him best; testimony which is emphasized by his appointment to fill a vacancy in the office of County Commissioner from January to September, 1895, and his election in 1894 as Commissioner for the term commencing September, 1895.

DANIEL G. LEFFLER.

Mr. Leffler was born August 13, 1837, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and in 1851 came with his parents to Putnam county. His father, Solomon Leffler, aged eighty-six years, is still living in the county.

Mr. Leffler responded to the first call of President Lincoln for volunteers, and in April, 1861, became a soldier of the 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was with General Cox in his march up



DANIEL G. LEFFLER, Commissioner.

the Kanawha river. After his term of enlistment in the 21st was closed he re-enlisted in the 49th O. V. I., under the command of the gallant Colonel Gibson, and serving until the close of the war, having been in every engagement in which his regiment took part and having been wounded three times in the battle of Chicamaugua. He was mustered out and honorably discharged in June, 1865, after Lee's surrender, under the general order of the War Department.

He was married to Miss Lavinia Hyde, daughter of Adam Hyde, in June, 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Leffler have five children—Charles Henry, born April 10, 1868; Daniel M., born December 21, 1869; Ella A., born November 8, 1871; Edward C., born February 25, 1875; Arleitie J., born April 16, 1878.

Mr. Leffler started in the grocery business in Leipsic in 1870, in which business he has ever since been engaged, having by his energy, push, business faculty and fair treatment of his customers built up a large and profitable trade and occupying his own building, one of the finest brick blocks in Leipsic.

Mr. Leffler has all of his life been a "man of affairs." In addition to the labors incident to his large and successful grocery trade, he has been called upon by his fellow citizens to serve the public in many capacities. He was elected a member of the first council of the town of Leipsic and served in that capacity in all for twelve years. He was Corporation Treasurer for two terms, township treasurer of Van Buren township for two terms, and treasurer of the Leipsic Special School District for seven years. He was appointed County Commissioner of Putnam county in 1894 to fill a vacancy, and in November of that year was elected County Commissioner by the voters of the county.

A brave and faithful soldier, an honest, competent business man, a pleasant neighbor, the many and various offices which Mr. Leffler has held, is evidence that merit does not always go unrewarded.

HERMAN W. SCHMITSCHULTE.

Mr. Schmitschulte is a native of Germany, having been born January 14, 1848, at Borghorst, Province of Westphalia, in that Empire. He is the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Wilken) Schmitschulte.

On June 3d, 1866, at the age of eighteen years, he came to the United States, going directly to Louisville, Kentucky, where he made his home with relatives until in August, 1867, he came to Putnam county where he worked in the Glandorf Woolen Mills during the winter of 1867–68.

In April, 1868, Mr. Schmitschulte entered the store of Messrs. Frease & Raff as clerk, where he remained until January, 1870, when he went into business for himself, establishing himself in Ottawa, this county, in a grocery and general supply store.

In December, 1880, he was appointed Deputy Clerk by J. J. Zellers, then the Clerk of the Courts of the county, which position he continued to occupy for four years under Clerk Zeller and three years under his successor, R. J. Spellman, until Mr. Spellman's death in 1887, when, in November of that year, Mr. Schmitschulte was appointed by the County Commissioners as Clerk. He was nominated and elected Clerk of the Courts in 1889, and held the office until August, 1895, when he retired, after having for fifteen successive years been at the service of the public in the Clerk's office of the county.

Mr. Schmitschulte was married May 17, 1870, to Miss Mary A. Recker, by whom was born to him four children, all of whom are living.

He was greatly aided in his duties as clerk by his eldest daughter, Miss Lizzie, whose familiarity with the records and with the causes which have been tried while she was deputy clerk was wonderful, and proved of great value to attorneys and others whose business or interests compelled them to seek for information in the Clerk's office. So valuable are her services that at the earnest solicitation of Clerk Beutler, who succeeded her father, she was appointed and accepted the appointment of Deputy Clerk under him. He was also aided in the work of making up the journals and complete records for more than a year past by his son Herman J., who is a graduate of the Ottawa High School.

Mr. Schmitschulte received the education usually given in Germany to the children of well-to-do families before he left Germany, and had no further schooling after his arrival in this country.

Mr. Schmitschulte has been exceptionally faithful in the performance of his official duties, and his genial nature and readiness to oblige, albeit he is a little hasty in his temper, has made



H. W. SCHMITSCHULTE, Clerk of Courts.

him friends almost as numerous as his acquaintance in the county, and his acquaintance in the county reaches into every part of it, as during his fifteen years in the Clerk's office he has been brought in contact with a very large proportion of the citizens.

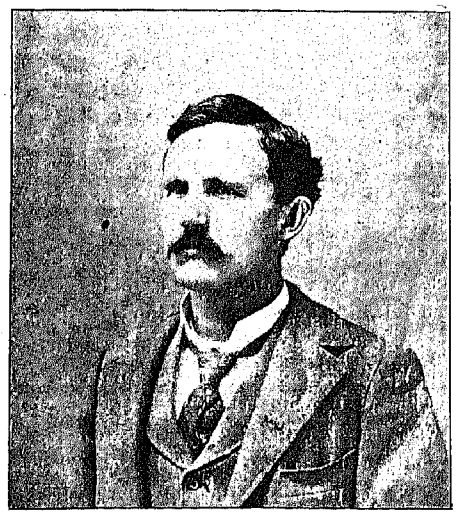
JAMES P. LEASURE, Prosecuting Attorney.

The above picture represents the present Prosecuting Attorney of Putnam County and one of the foremost young attorneys of Northwestern Ohio.

James P. Leasure was born on a farm near Columbus Grove, in Monroe Township, Allen County, Ohio, May 24, 1858, and like most farmer boys he spent the early years of his life at hard farm labor, thus acquiring those traits of industry and perseverance which have placed him on the road to success.

He attended country school, also the public schools at Columbus Grove, and completed his education at Ada, Ohio, graduating from that place in 1884.

Mr. Leasure selected the profession of law for his life occupation and turned to the foremost law school in the United States to gain an education in this line.



JAMES P. LEASURE, Prosecuting Attorney.

In 1889 he graduated from the Ann Arbor law school and soon afterwards entered the office of Squire Sanders, of Columbus Grove, Ohio.

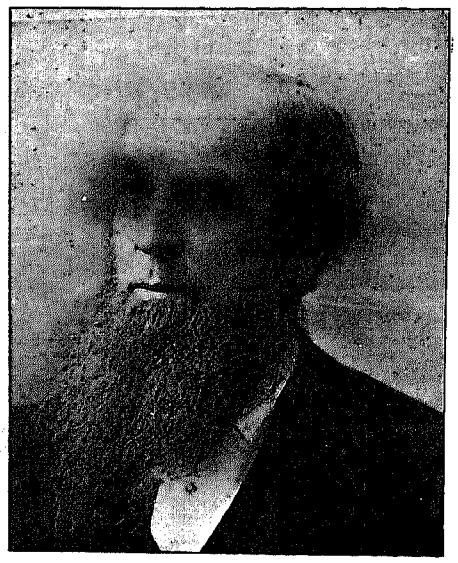
Two months later he was admitted to the bar and immediately after located at Ottawa, entering the office of Messrs. Sheets & Ogan, in whose office he remained until February, 1890, when

he formed a partnership with Chas. Frayer, this partnership continuing until Mr. Frayer's election as Prosecuting Attorney in 1892, when it was dissolved and Mr. Leasure formed a partnership with Guy Killen. This partnership was succeeded in 1893 by one with David N. Powell, under the firm name of Leasure & Powell.

At the November election of 1894 Mr. Leasure after a hard fought campaign, in which the odds were against him, was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Putnam County and now fills that responsible office with honor to himself and the public.

AMOS Z. THOMAS.

Amos Z. Thomas, a son of David M. Thomas, a well known farmer of the Western Reserve, was born in the Township of Hartford, County of Trumbull and State of Ohio. He received a common school education while he remained at home with his father working upon the farm. When about the age of nineteen years, his father having given him his time, he then engaged in the occupation of school teaching for a period of two or three years, and thereafter entered the Alleghany College at



AMOS Z. THOMAS, Probate Judge.

Meadville, Pa., as a student and completed a classical course at that institution, graduating therefrom in a class of seventeen in June, 1859. For two years thereafter he was an instructor in the higher branches at Carrollton Academy, Carrollton, Ohio. He then gave up the occupation of teaching and took up the study of law at the office of Birchard & Moses, well known lawyers at Warren, Ohio, during the years of 1863 to 1865, and was admitted to the bar at Canfield, Ohio, in 1865. In June, 1866, he came to Putnam county, where he has resided ever since.

On March 9, 1876, he was married to Anna R. Hagenbaugh, daughter of John Hagenbaugh of Green County, Ohio. He first taught school at West Leipsic, and afterwards at Kalida, until the year 1870, when he formed a law partnership with Stansbury Sutton at Ottawa, Ohio, under the firm name of Sutton & Thomas, which partnership continued up to the time of the death of Mr. Sutton in 1879. Thereafter he continued in the practice alone until the year 1882, when he again entered into a law partnership with W. W. Sutton, under the firm name of Thomas & Sutton. This partnership continued until November, 1890, when he was elected to the office of Probate Judge and entered upon the duties of his office on the 9th day of February, 1891, and was re-elected to that position in 1893, and which office he holds at the present time.

He was appointed School Examiner of the county in 1870, which position he held until 1879, when by reason of extensive practice he was compelled to resign the same. He was elected as member of the Council of the Village of Ottawa a number of times. His well known principles of honesty and integrity have gained for him in the county a large circle of friends, and it is a matter of common remark that in his official duties none cares for or protects the estates of decedents and wards better than he. In all official positions which he has held he has given entire satisfaction and has left them with the good will of all and regret at the expirations of his term. He now resides on Third street, Ottawa, Ohio.

AARON OBERBECK.

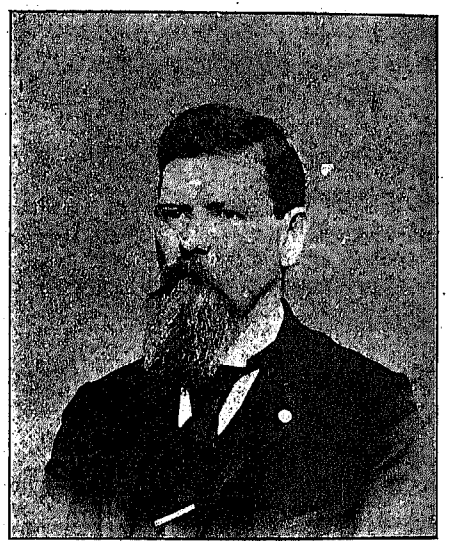
Among the successful, self-made men of Putnam County, who started in youth from the bottom of the ladder, without material or financial aid, is Aaron Oberbeck, the present County Auditor, who was born June 29, 1843, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The Oberbecks were early settlers of Pennsylvania, and their ancestry is traceable to the early Dutch settlement of New York, but on account of the contending powers and the turmoil thereby, they changed location to a point above the Delaware Rapids, where war ships were ineffective and where the great-grandfather of the subject of this biography was born and raised. His grandfather, Conrad Oberbeck, served as a captain in the war of 1812, and died at the advanced age of 94 years. John Oberbeck, father of Aaron, was born February 19, 1812, on the "old home farm," and at the age of 28 years married Sophia Beck, daughter of Philip Beck, who also was a soldier of the war of 1812. John Oberbeck moved with his family in the spring of 1848 and located in Greensburg Township, Putnam County, Ohio. He resided later at Kalida, Ohio, until the death of his wife in 1884, since which date he has made his home with his son Aaron, at Ottawa, and daughter Sarah Baxter, at Convoy, Van Wert County. To John and Sophia Oberbeck were born ten children, all deceased in infancy but four, to-wit: Louisa, wife of F. E. Mills, of Leipsic, Ohio; Sarah, wife of William L. Baxter, Convoy, Van Wert County; Christena, wife of John Warner, Benton Ridge, Hancock County, and Aaron Oberbeck, Ottawa, Ohio.

Mr. Oberbeck's boyhood days were spent in attending the public schools in Kalida, Ohio, in which he acquired a fair knowledge of a common school education. He was one of the first of Putnam County's boys to respond to the country's call for volunteers, enlisting in April, 1861, in Company E, 21st O. V. I., being at the time less than 18 years of age, but on account of being sick with lung fever was not mustered for service. But nothing daunted, he enlisted again and was mustered into service September 2, 1861, in Company A, 57th Regiment, O. V. I., and with which regiment he served and was honorably discharged on the 12th day of September, 1864. Although the youngest and smallest member of his company, he was at the battle of Shiloh, by order of his colonel, promoted to corporal for gallant conduct on April 6th and 7th, and on the 8th while advancing on the enemy's rear guard and about four miles from Shiloh Church, he was, with a detachment of his company and a detachment of Company F, numbering some forty men, deployed as skirmishers and ordered to push the enemy's rear guard, which was done in great style until beyond support, when an overpowering column of eight to ten hundred Confederate cavalry charged down upon and through the Union skirmish line, terminating with half the skirmishers killed or wounded, some few taken prisoners, while he with some fifteen others in number cut their way back to the main line unharmed. He participated in many bloody battles, including Shiloh, Siege of Corinth, Arkansas Post, Champion Hill or Baker's Creek, Vicksburg, Jackson, Miss., Mission Ridge, Atlanta Campaign, etc., being in all some twenty-three battles and skirmishes.

Mr. Oberbeck had many narrow escapes, one of which was of a most remarkable character. While near Shiloh Church, during the hottest onslaught of that great battle, he was struck by a rifle ball which spent its force after penetrating his blouse pocket containing some eight or ten letters, a daguerreotype and a strong folding horn comb and a neatly folded silk handkerchief, which he carried in his side pocket, thus proving the means of saving his life.

After returning from the army he had no occupation but that of a soldier. Three years gone and no profession, he thereupon commenced anew by attending school and teaching during the winter season for two or three years, and in the meantime was employed in the County Recorder's office, and during the summer of 1869 was employed as Deputy County Clerk of Courts, and at intervals before and after was employed as clerk in the County Auditor's office. In the year 1866 he took up the study of surveying, to which he devoted all his energies and leisure time and in which he became sufficiently proficient to be appointed Deputy County Surveyor in 1871, and five years later was elected County Surveyor and discharged the duties of the same efficiently for a period of six years. At the expiration of his term of office he continued his profession of surveyor and civil engineer and was thus employed until elected County Auditor in 1892.

In the meantime he served about fifteen years as City Civil Engineer of Ottawa, Ohio; four years Town Council and three



AARON OBERBECK, County Auditor

years on the School Board, during which time Ottawa's splendid High School building was erected and completed. During his long period of public service he has proved faithful to every trust and his record is such as to warrant the belief that any position to which his fellow citizens may call him in the future will be ably and worthily filled. As before stated Mr. Oberbeck is, in the strictest sense, a self-made man and almost entirely the architect of his own up building and career, always actuated by a laudable desire to increase his knowledge to discharge intelligently and promptly the duties devolving on him when placed in a public position.

Mr. Oberbeck was married December 5, 1871, to Miss Jennie Cartwright, daughter of Ex-Sheriff W. W. Cartwright, and Paulina (Bowman) Cartwright. Mrs. Oberbeck was born in Putnam County, July 14, 1851, and died April 3, 1889, the mother of four children. Laura E., born June 9, 1873, wife of John Conine; Harry, born August 15, 1875; Nellie, born December 9, 1879. Mr. Oberbeck's second marriage was solemnized with Katie Eisenbach, daughter of Conrad and Christena Eisenbach, January 23, 1890, which union was blessed with the birth of one child, Zella, who was born July 14, 1891.

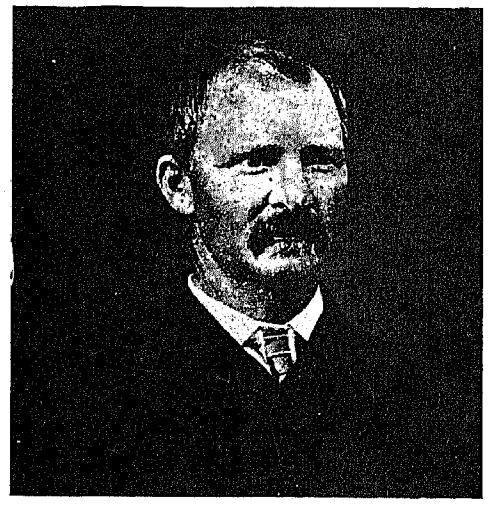
In politics Mr. Oberbeck has always taken a great interest and leading part with the Democratic party of his country, state, county. He has been a member of good standing in Blanchard Lodge No. 284, I. O. O. F., for upwards of twenty-five years, and he also takes a lively interest in his membership of Thomas Allen Post No. 576, G. A. R.

JOSEPH LEOPOLD.

Mr. Leopold, the eldest son of Bernard and Elizabeth Leopold *nee* Siemer, early German settlers of this county, was born at Glandorf, Putnam County, Ohio, September 22, 1845.

He was educated in the common schools of that place, con-

ducted for many years by R. J. Spellman, a former County Clerk. He was raised a farmer's boy, having worked on his father's farm until 1867. He was married to Elizabeth Recker on May 4, 1871, to whom were born eight children, of which five are living. Mrs. Leopold was a daughter of Herman H. Recker, who was a Justice of the Peace of Ottawa Township for more



JOSEPH LEOPOLD, County Treasurer.

than twenty-five years, and Commissioner of Putnam County for two terms of three years each, and a man of mark and influence in the community.

In 1867 Mr. Leopold came to Ottawa with his father and opened the new hotel, the Leopold House, conducting it for two years, when he sold out and returned to the farm, continuing to buy and ship stock for several years. He afterwards took charge of the Leopold Elevator, dealing in and shipping grain, etc., until 1892, when he was elected County Treasurer, which office he now holds—having been re-elected in 1894 for a second term.

Mr. Leopold is an energetic, thriving business man, conducts his office upon business principles and is pleasant and obliging to all, making it distinctively his effort to render as pleasant as possible the unpleasant task of paying their taxes.

JAMES D. HUDDLE.

Mr. Huddle was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, November 27, 1859. His parents, Noah and Mary (Seitz) Huddle moved to Putnam County in the fall of 1860. From the facilities af-



JAMES D. HUDDLE, County Surveyor.

forded by the common schools of this county and his home studies he fitted himself for the vocation of teacher, in which profession he was engaged from 1880 to 1888, during that period pursuing the studies which prepared him for the position of Deputy County Surveyor, which position he filled under D. W. Seitz, County Surveyor, from 1888 to 1894, at which time, having been elected at the November election in 1893, he succeeded Mr. Seitz as County Surveyor, which position he now holds. Having a marked artistic taste and natural facility in drawing, Mr. Huddle yielded to his natural bent by taking a course in drawing in all of its branches at Valparaiso, Indiana, which, although it seemed at the time to him a little extravagant, yet has resulted in making him the finest draughtsman who ever held the position of County Surveyor and his record books and reports a pride to the county. He is also a member of the Village Council of Ottawa, having been elected in 1894.

Mr. Huddle was married to Edith Lee, September 12, 1883, with whom he removed to Ottawa, where they have built for themselves a cozy home.

In September, 1894, Mr. Huddle, at the request of the Weather Department of the United States, accepted the appointment of observer for this locality and has in charge the instruments furnished by the goverment for that purpose. His accurate reports of the amount of rainfall and other matters lying within his observation, have been published in the county papers and have attracted the attention and interest of the farmers of the county.

BOSTWICK F. BURGESS.

Mr. Burgess was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, on the 18th day of February, 1846, removing with his parents to Putnam county at the age of thirteen years. Until he was eighteen



B. F. BURGESS, Sheriff

years of age his time was spent at work upon his father's farm with only such educational advantages as he could gather at the common country schools.

In February, 1864, when the clouds of war lowered darkest over our land and the fate of the nation seemed to tremble in the balance, Mr. Burgess, then a boy of eighteen, volunteered and was assigned to the 21st Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, then a veteran regiment in the field, and served as a private until the close of that struggle. He was captured by the enemy at Augusta, Georgia, and suffered the horrors of the prison pen at Florence, South Carolina. So terrible were his sufferings while there that only an iron constitution and indomitable courage could have brought him through them. The writer remembers having assisted him to alight from the train at Ottawa on his return from his captivity, and at that time, after weeks of nursing and generous diet within our lines after his exchange, he was still but the shadow of a man, seeming like one who had no flesh, the skin alone covering the bones.

Mr. Burgess was married September 6, 1865, after the close of the war, to Miss Rebecca Norton. They have four children—Eva A. (Burgess) Gettman, Cora V. (Burgess) Smith, Francis N. Burgess, and Zoa Burgess, their youngest, whose portrait is given on this page.

Since his marriage Mr. Burgess has lived upon the farm which he now owns in Pleasant township, until December, 1894, when, having at the November election of 1893 been elected Sheriff of Putnam county, he moved to Ottawa and entered upon the duties of his office—duties which he has ever since performed with faithfulness, ability and accuracy. He was again nominated in 1895 by the Democratic party for the office. A brave soldier, a good citizen and a pleasant gentleman, Sheriff Burgess well deserved the recognition which he has secured from his fellow citizens.

MISS ZOE BURGESS.

Below is a portrait of little Miss Zoe A. Burgess, the court house pet, who makes frequent calls at the various offices, always bringing a ray of sunshine, a peal of laughter and a merry heart. She is the youngest daughter of Sheriff Burgess; was



MISS ZOE BURGESS.

born on a farm two miles and a half northeast of Columbus Grove, on the 27th day of November, 1888, where she resided and attended school until her family removed to Ottawa, on the 29th of December, 1893, when she entered the third room of the Ottawa Union Schools. She is an exceptionally bright pupil, and her winning ways have made her a general favorite with all and she counts among her friends all those with whom she is acquainted.

DR. G. A. LIGHT.

The subject of this sketch was born near Columbus Grove, Ohio, August 7, 1860, at which place he attended school, and



DR. G. A. LIGHT, Coroner.

afterwards taught fourteen terms in the schools of Pleasant township.

He was elected justice of the peace in 1882, at the age of twenty-two years, being then the youngest justice serving in

Ohio, and as far as the writer can learn, the youngest justice ever elected in Northwestern Ohio.

His official term closed with credit to himself and to the office. He graduated in the Pulte Medical College, of Cincinnati, in 1888, practiced his profession two years at Columbus Grove, then moving to Leipsic, O., he at once established himself in a large practice and by his earnest zeal and strict attention to his chosen profession, has made his pratice a constantly progressive one.

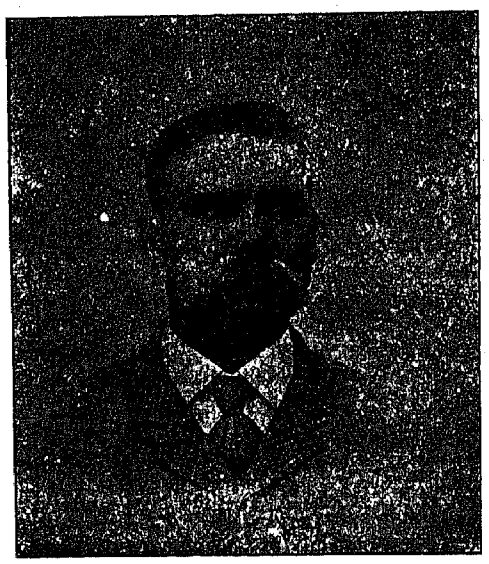
Dr. Light was elected coroner of Putnam connty as a Democrat in 1893, and has filled the office with credit.

He is again a candidate for that office, and will be elected in 1895.

His political views are purely Democratic. His ambitions are with the interests of Putnam county, and this, one of the banner counties of the state, may look proudly at the promise of his future career.

W. FRANKLIN SHERMAN.

Mr. Sherman was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, on September 8, 1852, and moved with his parents to Putnam county when he was eleven years old. Shortly after arriving in Putnam county his father volunteered and went to the front, leaving to Mr. Sherman, then but a boy of twelve, the task of caring for the family. The duty thus imposed upon him was faithfully



W. F. SHERMAN, Infirmary Director.

performed, but it left but limited time and opportunity for acquiring an education, even such as was afforded by a common country school.

Mr. Sherman was married in 1874 to Miss Frances Willdermood, of Wyandot county. He is a farmer by occupation and has also been a contractor, having done a large amount of public ditching in the county. He is also the proprietor of the Sherman House at Belmore, where as "mine host" he dispenses hospitality to all who require it.

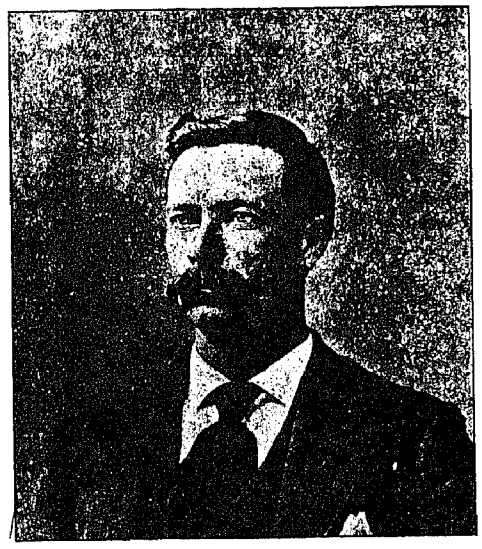
In 1893 he was elected Infirmary Director of Putnam county for the term of three years, and at the primary election this spring received the unanimous nomination of the Democratic party for a second term.

Mr. Sherman is a stirring, active business man, and his unanimous re-nomination indicates that the manner in which he has performed his official duties has met the unqualified approbation of those by whose votes he was first called to fill the position.

Mr. Sherman's paternal grandmother is still living in Seneca county, Ohio, at the ripe age of ninety-eight years.

JOHN W. SUMMERS.

Mr. Summers was born in Seneca county, Ohio, August 15, 1861. He is the son of William P. and Mary Summers, who removed with him, then an infant, to Putnam county, where he has lived ever since. His early advantages and education were such only as are within the reach of every boy and young man who has lived in this county. The common schools were his academy and his college, and what of education and information he has gained outside of them have been acquired by reading and study by himself. A worker from his boyhood up, his natural capacity and his strict integrity have given him an influence in this county, which is evidenced by the public position which he occupies through the votes of the citizens of his county. He was married August 27, 1885, to Miss Rosetta Clevenger. In 1894 he was elected infirmary director of Putnam county and will hold his office until 1898. His father, William P. Summers,



J. W. SUMMERS, Infirmary Director.

is one of the old residents of the county; born in Ireland nearly 70 years ago. At the age of fourteen years, he took to the sea for a livlihood, and for fourteen years experienced the hardships and vicissitudes of a sailor's life, coupled with the knowledge of strange lands, which that calling affords to one who follows it. He visited Japan, South America, the West Indies, Australia and nearly all the South Sea Islands. He was shipwrecked while rounding the Cape of Good Hope, and barely escaped with his life. In the course of his wanderings he reached California during the earlier excitements of the newly discovered gold fields, and sought his fortune at the diggings, working with varied success for about five years, when having accumulated some money, he was tempted by the reports from Australia to try his fortune there. The venture, however, was unfortunate for him, and after an unsuccessful effort of a year and a half he returned to his native island, where he met and married Miss Mary Martin, with whom he shortly afterward sailed for America, where he has ever since resided. His mother, the grandmother of the subject of this sketch, is still living in Delphos, a hale old lady at the age of one hundred and two years. While in California, away back in the fifties, Mr. W. P. Summers was made a Master Mason, and is noted among the Free Masons of this country for his devotion to the grand principles which actuate the members of that order, as well as his knowledge of the esoteric work of the order, in which his proficiency has been recognized by his having been selected to fill many, even to the highest, offices in the lodge. He was also postmaster of Kalida.

From such a father the subject of this sketch inherited the energy and enterprise which at the age of thirty-three years made him one of the solid farmers of our country, and the genial, kindly nature, with perhaps "a touch of the Blarney," which rendered him popular with all who know him.

BERNARD KREIGER.

Mr Kreiger was born at Dayton, Montgomery county, Ohio, September 4, 1837. He was the son of Mathias and Mary (Hopka) Kreiger who emigrated from Hanover, Germany, in 1834. In 1841 he was brought to Glandorf, in this county, by his parents, with whom he lived at that town until October 5, 1861, at which time, in answer to the call of President Lincoln for more troops, he enlisted as a private in Company I of the 37th O. V. I., and served the full three years. No better example of the faithful, brave and earnest soldier can be found than was "Barney" Kreiger during the entire term for which he enlisted, doing faithfully his duty wherever placed. Wounded in his right arm at Vicksburg he was ready for duty at Chicamauga, Mission Ridge, Atlanta, and in the many smaller engagements in which his regiment and company made their mark upon the enemy. As a sentinel, faithful; as a soldier, brave; and as a forager, a decided success. Barney was a bright example of the volunteer soldier who went into the army from patriotism and got all the fun out of it that he could. He was mustered out with his company at Rome, Georgia, October 13, 1864. After his return home, on the 16th day of May, 1865, he was married to Matilda Doepker. There were born of this marriage eleven children, of whom seven are now living.

During the past ten years Mr. Kreiger has been the janitor at



BERNARD KREIGER, Janitor.

the court house in Ottawa, and by his thorough attendance to the duties of his position, the readiness with which he responds to the numerous call for "Barney," and his constant efforts to aid the many citizens of the county whose business or inclination calls them to the building under his care, have made the name of "Barney Kreiger" well and favorably known throughout the county.

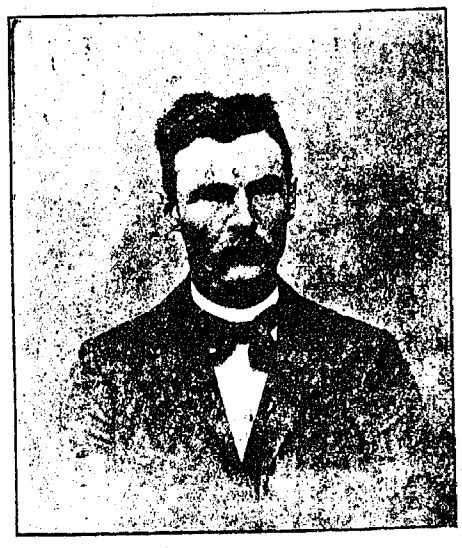
JAMES WILLIAMS.

Mr. Williams was born December 30, 1854, in South Wales, and was brought by his parents to Putnam county in March, 1856. He was educated in school district No. 6, of Syracuse township, in this county. This school is familiarly called "Bryntawa College" in that township.

He was married in 18— to Miss Leah Jane Hughes, a native of this county, having been born here October 1, 1864. To this union were born three boys, Elias, Evan Milton and Thomas Walter, born August 27, 1883, July 4, 1886, and March 22, 1889, respectively.

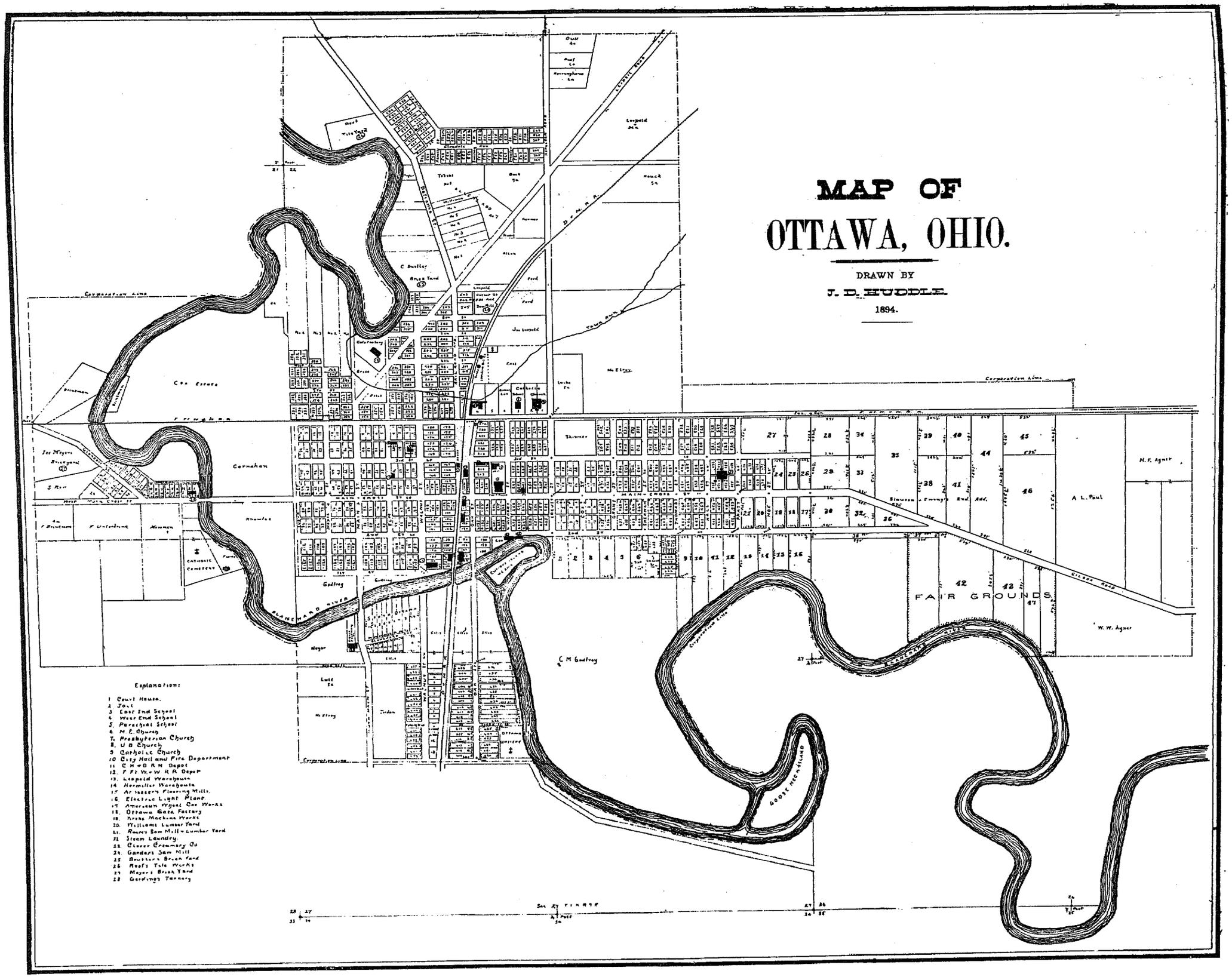
Mr. Williams served as trustee of Sugar Creek township for three years, and at the general election of 1893 was elected Infirmary Director of Putnam county, in which capacity he is still serving.

Mr. Williams is one of those solid, steady farmers, whose



JAMES WILLIAMS, Infirmary Director.

energy, industry and capacity have aided so largely in building up the agricultural standing of Putnam county among the counties in the state.


MAP OF
OTTAWA, OHIO.
DRAWN BY
J. D. HUDDLE.
1894.
Explanation:
1 Court House.
2 Jail
3 East End School
4 West End School
5. Parochial School
6 M. E. Church
7. Presbyterian Church
8. U B Church
9 Catholic Church
10 City Hall and Fire Department
11 C H & D R R Depot
12. F Ft W & W R R Depot
13. Leopold Warehouse
14 Hermiller Warehouse
15 Arnesser's Flouring Mills.
16. Electric Light Plant
17 American Wheel Car Works
18. Ottawa Gate Factory
19. Krebs Machine Works
20. Williams Lumber Yard
21. Rowe's Saw Mill & Lumber Yard
22 Steam Laundry.
23. Clover Creamery Co
24. Gander's Saw Mill
25 Boutler's Brick Yard
26 Roof's Tile Works
27 Meyer's Brick Yard
28 Gardings Tannery
FAIR GROUNDS
Corporation Line
Cornahan
Knowles
Godfrey
Meyer
Lutz
Jordan
Shimmer
Catholic Cemetery
Blanchard River
Goose Neck Island
C M Godfrey
A L Paul
H. F. Agner
W. W. Agner
Gilson Road
Tawa Run
Leopold
Houck
Cox Estate
Brinkman
Joe Meyers Brickyard
F Unterbrink
Mossman
Catholic Church
Catholic Cemetery
Ottawa Cemetery
Lutz
Jordan
Shimmer
Ford
Allen
Cost
Lucke
Mc Elroy
Cass
Grice
Pitts
Brick Yard
Tobias
Bock
Hermer
Dull
Hoffman
Tile Yard
Corporation Line
Tawa Run
Blanchard River
Goose Neck Island
Sec 27 T 1 N R 9 E
Post

History of Ottawa.

HON. DAVID I. BROWN.

The Village of Ottawa is located in Ottawa township, in Putnam county, Ohio, on the Blanchard fork of the great Auglaize river, twenty-two miles nearly west of the city of Findlay, and about fourteen miles above the point where the Blanchard empties into the great Auglaize river. The village of Ottawa was laid out on the last Tawa Reserve in Ohio, and on the site of the old Indian town of Lower Tawa in 1834, by Aughinbaugh and Barnett, of Dayton, Ohio. This reserve consisted of twenty-five sections of land in a square form, and seems to be the last land owned by the Ottawa or Tawa tribe of Indians in this county, and was held by them by the terms of the treaty of "The Foot of the Rapids of the Miami of the Lakes," of September 29, 1817, a history of which will be found in Congressional Appendix No. 1, second session of the Fifteenth Congress of the U. S. The center of said tract, by the terms of the above named treaty, is located at the point where the old Indian trace crossed the Blanchard river near the southwest corner of the original town plat. The original plat of Ottawa contained one hundred and twenty eight in-lots, which together with the outskirts on the west and south of said plat, and between the plat and the river, comprise the whole of the northwest quarter of the northwest fractional quarter of section twenty-seven in said township. Since the orignal plat there has been platted additions to the village; one in 1856 on the north, on what was known as the Indian Green, by Lucius Hubbard and in 1859 Col. Milton C. Ewing and his sons added another in the same locality. Dr. C. T. Pomeroy made an addition on the east about the year 1854. Judge John Cox laid out another addition some time after this. In 1866 the firm of Slauson & Ewing made an addition on the east and again in 1868, and since that time additions have been made on the south across the Blanchard river, also on the west across the Blanchard. The Tawa Indians, to whom the Ottawa reserve had been assigned, sold it to the United States in 1832. Soon after that they left for Indian Territory, beyond the Missouri (now Kansas).

Ottawa is the present county seat of Putnam county. The county seat was removed from Kalida to Ottawa by a vote of the people at the annual October election of 1866, under an enabling act authorizing the vote to be taken, passed by the Legislature of the winter before. Michael Row built the first house, in which he opened the first tavern, (a hewed-log house) located on lot No. 57, in the fall of 1834, this was the centre of the town plat. Mr. Row came to Ottawa with his family in the spring of 1834. From the time of their arrival until the time that they moved into their new house, they resided in the old Tawa Council House, located on what is known as Indian Green, north of Tawa creek. Old William Williams built the first frame house in the village about the same time; there being no saw mills or lumber to be had, this house was sided up with clapboards. Among the first settlers of this village and township was George Agner, who settled two miles east of Ottawa, probably in 1832. William Galbreath, William and Jonathan Y. Sackett, Henry Crawfis, Christian Heuber and Meredith Parrish settled here about the same time. James Adgate and Henry Ridenour settled on the west side of the Blanchard, below Ottawa, in 1832. James Adgate built the first saw mill on Blanchard river, near Ottawa, and afterwards added to it a corn-cracker; the date of building this mill cannot be exactly given. The village of Glandorf, in this township, and being within two miles of Ottawa, seems to have been first settled by a Catholic priest, late having been a professor of college in Glandorf, Germany. He was known in early times as Father John W. Horstman, but in the Catholic records of Glandorf, his name appears as Rev. William Horstman. In 1833 Prof. Horstman located and procured patents for 560 acres of land in section twenty-nine. He located a Catholic church on this land and built a log church in which services were held until a sufficient number of settlers came in to build a better one. Since this time they have had, including the present one, three churches. The present church is a grand structure, built mostly by the membership of the church at a cost of many thousands of dollars. Father Horstman was accompanied here by John Francis Kahle, William Gulker, Christian Strope, Mathias Bockrath, F. W. Schuman, Fred Bockrath and Ferd. Brodrick, who left Glandorf, Germany, on the 28th day of August before. A small portion of this land was reserved for church and school purposes, the remainder was disposed of to the poor immigrants coming from the old country, upon such reasonable terms as to enable them to pay for the land as they could save the money. Thus it seems that Father Horstman laid the foundation of wealth to many poor families who settled on these lands. After he settled here, Father Horstman built the first grist mill on Cranberry creek, within the present limits of Glandorf, in 1837. In 1841 the Rev. George Boehne came to Glandorf and remained there until 1848, when he was transferred to Ft. Jennings, where he died in 1860. Father Horstman died at Glandorf, Ohio, February 21, 1843.

Ottawa township was organized on the first Monday of March, 1835. The first election was held at Michael Row's tavern April 6, 1835. The first officers were: Trustees, George Agner, William Galbreath, James Adgate; Treasurer, Michael Row; Clerk, William Sackett; Constable, William Bowman; Supervisors, Michael Row and William Galbreath; Overseers of the Poor, Meredith Parrish and Samuel Clark; Fence-viewers, Michael Row and Samuel Runyun, and by order of the court for an election held May 3, 1835, John Cox and William Williams were chosen as the first Justices of the Peace for the township. In 1835 Dr. Calvin Thayer Pomeroy and John and David Cox bought land here and settled in the then new village with their families. Dr. Pomeroy came from Melmore, Seneca county, Ohio, where he had practiced medicine. He entered at once upon the practice of his profession at his new home, became quite prominent in the profession and being a good business man and a successful physician, soon laid the foundation of wealth for himself. To him more than any other man is credit due for the development of the village and the surrounding country It was through his efforts and liberal donations that the D. & M. railroad was located through the town. He was drowned a few years ago while on an excursion on Lake Huron.

The village of Ottawa has two railroads; Dayton & Michigan, extending from Cincinnati to Toledo, was completed and trains run in November, 1859, and another, the Findlay, Ft. Wayne and Western, extending from Findlay, Ohio, to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and thence west, with trains running since 1894, with a fair prospect of a road, paralleling the Dayton & Michigan, being constructed during the season. The present population of Ottawa is 2,300; this is based upon the school enumeration of 1895, of seven hundred and three (703) pupils. The public buildings consist of two public union school buildings, one located on the original plat, west of the D. & M. R. R., consisting of eight rooms, was completed for school in the year 1868, the other located on the Slauson & Ewing addition, east of the D. & M. R. R., was completed and first used in September, 1892. This is a very fine building and is one among the best in the state of Ohio. The village Council House, Police Station and Engine House with offices belonging to each is located immediately east of the D. & M. R. R., and is a substantial brick building. The Court House, a brick building of the old style, was completed and the first court held in it in 1867. The Common Pleas Court room, with the Clerk's office, Consultation room, Petit and Grand Jury rooms are in the second story, all the other offices belonging to the county are on the first floor. The Jail and Sheriff's residence are in the same enclosure with the Court House, and are built of stone and brick. Ottawa has four church buildings; the Methodist Episcopal, on Main-cross street, east

of the railroad, a one story brick building erected in 1857; the Roman Catholic, a brick building erected in 1868, and dedicated to the Saints, Peter and Paul; the Presbyterian, a two story brick building erected in 1867, and the United Brethren, a frame building between Third and Fourth streets erected in 1848. A building known as Utrup's Opera House, on Main-cross street, has been used for theatrical purposes and as a public hall for twenty years.

The roads leading into Ottawa and through the township are macadamized or gravelled and within the limits of Ottawa there are three substantial iron bridges spanning the Blanchard river.

Ottawa's business is conducted through three banks, three dry goods stores, six groceries, three drug stores, three newspapers, two hardware and two tin stores, two fruit stores, four restaurants, three millinery stores, two jewelry stores, two notion stores, two saddler shops, three wagon and buggy shops, two blacksmith shops, one machine shop and foundry, two sash and door factories, two general lumber yards, one wheel factory, one gate and fence factory, three boot and shoe stores, three hotels, three boarding houses, two agricultural implement stores, four barber shops, two photograph galleries, two dentists, one marble shop, one tile factory, two brick yards, two furniture and undertaker's shops, one steam laundry, two cigar manufactories, two creameries, one electric light plant, two warehouses, one flouring mill, one saw mill and lumber yard.

Orders in the village: Masons—Master Masons, Chapter, Council and Eastern Star; Odd Fellows—Subordinate and Encampment; Knights of Pythias, Maccabees, Grand Army of the Republic, Royal Arcanum, Catholic Knights of Ohio, and National Union.

Present officers of the village: Mayor, Thos. J. Sweeney; Marshal, D. S. Blakeman; Clerk, Louis H. Huber; Treasurer, Chas. Schierloh; Street Commissioner, Jas. A. McDowell; Council, Frank Brinkman, A. T. Fox, B. Beckman, Frank Kern, Herman Crawfis, James D. Huddle.

Ottawa has not been favored with oil or gas to any considerable extent in its immediate vicinity, it has had no boom or rapid growth in improvements and population but has had a steady, healthy growth and through the influence of its schools, churches and its society in general Ottawa stands as high in intelligence and moral worth of its citizens as any village of its population in the northwest. Its physicians stand equal with any in the profession anywhere, and among the twenty five lawyers are eminent jurists and ex-judges of the Common Pleas and Circuit Courts of the state, and the business men compare favorably with good business men everywhere.

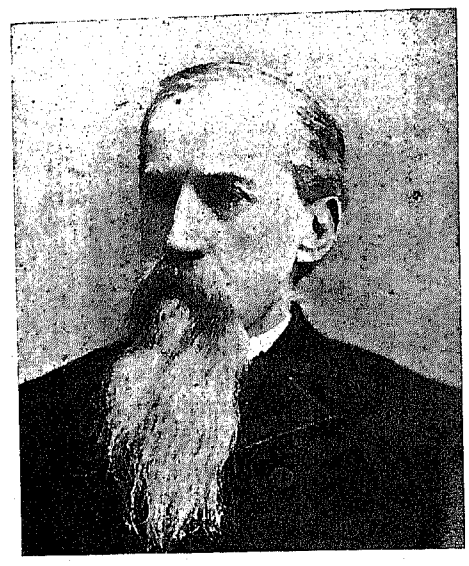
JUDGE J. J. MOORE.

Judge J. J. Moore was admitted to the bar on April 29, 1863, and immediately entered into the practice with Hon. S. W. Gilson, a well known and distinguished lawyer at Canfield, Ohio, and so continued until the fall of 1866, at which time he removed to Ottawa, Ohio, where he has resided ever since, and continued in the profession. While engaged in the profession he was twice elected to the legislature of the state from Putnam county, which position he filled with credit to himself and the people, and took high rank among the men of the state for the ability displayed and attention given to all legislative matters.

In 1878, he was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the third sub-division of the third judicial district of Ohio, and again re-elected to this position in 1883. Shortly after this time the Constitutional amendment creating the Circuit Court having carried by a vote of the people, he was in 1884, and while yet serving as a Common Pleas Judge, elected a Judge of the Circuit Court of the third Circuit of Ohio, and resigned the position of Common Pleas judge to accept the higher one. He was re-elected in the office of Circuit Judge in 1888 and continued in that position until the expiration of his term, February 9, 1895, at which time he resumed the practice of law at Ottawa, Ohio, forming a partnership with A. V. Watts, under the firm name of Watts & Moore.

In 1888 he was elected president of the State Bar Association of Ohio. He was married at Canfield, Ohio, to Elizabeth C. Patterson, of which union there is one child living, Gilson Moore, who resides at and is in business in Ottawa, Ohio.

As a judicial officer he gave eminent and entire satisfaction as



JUDGE J. J. MOORE.

can be best attested by the promotions he received. He earned the entire confidence of all classes of people and by reason of his learning, the bench upon which he served, ranked the best in the State, and the reports of his decisions as found in the several Circuit Court Reports, show great learning and take high rank with the Bar of the State. Being of a friendly and social nature, he attracted to him and made his warmest friends among the younger members of the bar, and it was a matter of common remark that it was a pleasure to practice before him.

As a matter of further proof of his honesty and the confidence of all classes of people therein, at the several times he was a candidate for his judicial positions, no nominations were made by his opposing party against him.

A. V. WATTS.

The person represented by the portrait below needs no introduction to the people of Putnam county. For twenty years the name of A. V. Watts has reached far beyond the limits of his county. Mr. Watts was admitted to the bar on



A. V. WATTS.

August 25, 1871, and elected Prosecuting Attorney of this county, in October, 1874, serving in that office two terms, with entire satisfaction to the public. He is a man of great natural abilities, wonderful memory and untiring industry. These qualities combined with a great gift of argument, have placed him in the foremost rank of Ohio's jury lawyers.

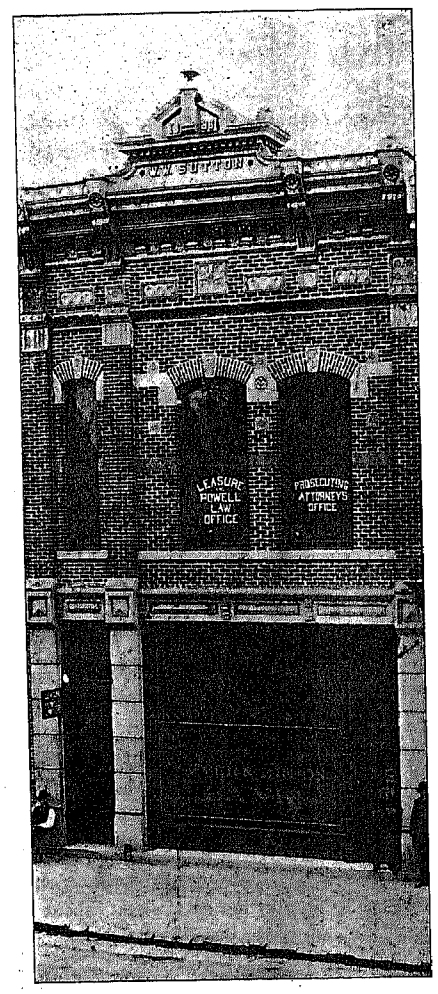
On February 11, 1895, he formed a partnership with Judge J. J. Moore, and under the firm name of Watts & Moore, may be found one of the first law firms of the state.

DAVID N. POWELL.

David N. Powell was born on a farm in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 20, 1863, and on a farm and in the public schools he spent a busy boyhood.

He graduated from the high school at Leipsic in May, 1888, and in August, 1888, he attended the Northern Indiana school at Valparaiso, Indiana, and graduated from the Commercial department in 1889 and from the Law department in 1890.

After graduating in the law department he returned home and entered the law office of Messrs. Sheets & Ogan, where he remained for two years. In 1893 he was admitted to the bar and soon after entered into a partnership with James P. Leasure for the practice of law and is junior member of that promising firm of Leasure & Powell.



EPHRAIM R. EASTMAN

Was born near Woodstock, Ohio, May 6, 1854, and attended public schools in Ohio and Iowa until 17 years of age.

At the age of fourteen he was thrown upon his own resources by the death of his mother and began teaching school at the age of seventeen, which profession he followed until 1883, occupying his vacation in mechanical and agricultural work until he began the study of law in 1879. He pursued his studies diligently during 1880, 1881 and 1882 at Defiance and afterwards at his home in Putnam county until he was admitted to the bar, June 2, 1885. He resided at Dupont from June, 1884, until October, 1886, when he located in Ottawa, and entered into a partnership in the practice of law. This partnership was dissolved one year later and another formed with Wm. C. G. Krauss, which partnership still continues.

Mr. Eastman is a graduate of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, also of the school of German Chautauqua College of Liberal Arts, and is now a student of English under Prof. McClintick, of the University of Chicago.

Mr. Eastman was united in marriage October 18, 1874, to Elizabeth Ellen Parrett, of Putnam county, and to them have been born ten children, eight of whom are now living. Lillie



E. R. EASTMAN.

A., born September 10, 1875, is a graduate of the Ottawa public schools, also of the Ohio Wesleyan University. Ora M., born September 22, 1877, is a graduate of the Ottawa public schools and now a student of Ohio Wesleyan University. Alphonso M., born December 25, 1879, died in 1881. Maud E., born January 8, 1882, now a student in the Ottawa high schools. Ivan L., born April 1, 1884, also a student in the Ottawa public schools. Ethel I., born June 16, 1886, is also a student in the public schools. Leroy E., born March 13, 1888, is at school. Marie A., born September 6, 1890. Herbert P., born November 9, 1892. Dorotha G., born November 6, 1894, and died December 23, 1895.

Mr. Eastman is the secretary of the Ottawa Home and Savings Association, of which he was the founder. He is also attorney for the Putnam County Abstract Company and one of its incorporators. He is an ardent advocate of the compulsory school law and of a system of county superintendence of public schools.

Mr. Eastman and his family are members of the M. E. Church; he is a member of Blanchard lodge of I. O. O. F., Ottawa lodge, F. and A. M., Tawa Council R. A. and other societies. Mrs. Eastman is a member of the Golden Link Lodge, D. of R. and the Order of the Eastern Star and also of American Federation of Literary Clubs and other educational and beneficial societies,

WM. C. G. KRAUSS.

The subject of this sketch was born June 7, 1838, in the village of Basil, Fairfield county, Ohio, and moved to Putnam county, with his parents, May 27, 1847, to what was known as the town of Medary, in this county, and in 1851 moved on a tract of wild land in Section 9, Liberty township, which he he helped to clear and prepare to make a farm of, under all the difficulties of early pioneer life.

By dilligent study at the country schools and at night Mr. Krauss acquired an education sufficient to enable him to teach school, and in 1854 at the early age of 16 years he began teaching a country school in Palmer township, which he taught for three years, and later one winter in Hancock county and one in Liberty township. He continued school teaching until 1859, when in the spring of 1860 he entered the preparatory department of Wittenberg College, passing examination in the Sophomore class of that school one year later, but did not return to school, answering his country's call to arms instead. He became a member of Company E, 83rd Ohio Infantry in August 1862, and saw active service and took part in the battles of Haines' Bluff, Port Hudson, Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge and in the seige of Vicksburg. On May 22, 1863, in the assault on the Vicksburg forts, he was severely wounded and sent to the hospital at Memphis, where he



WM. C. G. KRAUSS.

spent his time in studying medicine and pharmacy until July, 1864, when he passed an examination for enlistment as Hospital Steward in the regular army, when he was discharged from the volunteer and enlisted as Hospital Steward in the regular army, serving at Memphis until February, 1866, when he was transferred to Savannah, Georgia, remaining there until May, 1866, when he was assigned to duty at Atlanta, and in June of that year, at his own request, he received his discharge from the service and returned home, and entered the law office of Swan & Moore, where he remained until February 1869, when he was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Ohio. During his stay with Swan & Moore in 1868 he made a trip to Germany.

After being admitted to the bar, Mr. Krauss entered on the practice of law at Ottawa. For a number of years he paid special attention to real estate law and abstracting, but later his practice has been more general. He served one term as prosecuting attorney of Putnam county, has been village solicitor of Ottawa for one term and attorney for the Ottawa Home and Savings Association since its organization. In 1887 Mr. Krauss formed a partnership with E. R. Eastman, which partnership still exists, and they are one of the leading law firms of the county.

On December 23, 1869, Mr. Krauss was united in marriage with Rebecca J. Gordon, and two children bless their home, Bertha Katharine, born May 6, 1871, who graduated from the Ottawa high school with highest honors, and from the Ohio State University, with merit (the highest grade), and is now principal of the Ottawa High schools; and Edward C., now a student of the Ottawa High school, born September 16, 1883. Mr. Krauss has been active in encouraging public improvements, and has the reputation of promoting settlements of cases brought him rather than litigating.

JUDGE WILLIAM H. HANDY.

Judge Handy was born in Fulton county, Ohio, January 29, 1847. He received a common school education. On June 16, 1863, when the clouds of war hung heavily over the land, he, a mere boy of sixteen, answered to the call of President Lincoln for volunteers, by enlisting in the 86th regiment, O. V. I. He served during the term of enlistment which expired February 10, 1864, when he was discharged. He re-enlisted April 10, 1864, in company H, 67th regiment, O. V. I., and served until the close of the war and was honorably discharged as a sergeant in September, 1865. He was color guard during and in the battles around Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864-5.

He was admitted to the bar in 1869, and was nominated by the Democratic convention at Napoleon, January 27, 1885, for Common Pleas Judge to succeed Judge Moore. Was appointed



JUDGE WM. H. HANDY.

January 29, 1885, by Governor Hoadley to fill a vacancy on the Common Pleas bench, and was elected in the fall of 1885 and re-elected in 1889, both times without opposition. He served as Common Pleas Judge from February 1885 to May 10, 1894, when he became a member of the law firm of Handy & Ogan, at Ottawa, Ohio.

He was married to Isabel J. Van Arsdale, October, 1869. Three children were born to this union, Harry L., Clive C., and May B. Clive was admitted to the bar in April, 1895, and is an attorney in the office of the receiver of the Ohio Southern railroad at Lima, Ohio.

JULIUS S. OGAN.

Mr. Ogan, of the law firm of Handy & Ogan, was born on a farm near Columbus Grove, June 9, 1850. He went to a country school until he was nine years old when his father, N. W. Ogan, a well known resident of the county, moved to Columbus Grove,



JULIUS S. OGAN.

after which he attended school at that village. He afterwards entered college at Oberlin, Ohio, graduating from that institution in 1886. He then took up the study of the legal profession at Ann Arbor, Michigan, graduating in 1878. The same year he was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of law

at Columbus Grove. He moved to Ottawa in 1888 and in 1892 went into a partnership with John M. Sheets. This partnership continued until May 10, 1894, when he entered into a partnership with Judge W. H. Handy.

Mr. Ogan was married to Miss Estella Turner, daughter of William Turner, a prominent farmer of Pleasant township. To this union there are four children.

JOHN H. STRAMAN.

John H. Straman was born July 3, 1856, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and his early school years were spent in Cincinnati. He came to Putnam county, Ohio, June 15, 1870, and was a bound boy for two years. On August 7, 1877, he was married at Glandorf, Ohio, to Anna G. Reckfelder. Four children were born to



JOHN H. STRAMAN

them; Anna G., born May 9, 1878; Mary E. born January 10, 1880; Catharine A., born September 4, 1882, and Albert H., born May 1, 1884. For fifteen years he taught school in Putnam county, and during that time studied law, and was admitted to the bar in December 1892. He is now actively engaged in the practice of law and located at Ottawa, Ohio.

JOHN P. BAILEY.

John P. Bailey, son of George W. and Malinda (Driver) Bailey, was born at Singer's Glen, Rockingham county, Virginia, September 12, 1853. Later in the autumn of the same year the family removed to Allen county, Ohio, locating about



JOHN P. BAILEY

four miles north of Lima. In the spring of 1858 they removed to a farm just north of Rockport, Allen county, where they resided until the spring of 1868, when they removed to the vicinity of Beaver Dam, Allen county, where Mr. Bailey's parents still reside on a farm. John remained at home until 21 years of age and aided in the usual work on a farm and attending school in winters. After arriving at age he attended Normal School at Ada and Lebanon, Ohio. He began teaching in the autumn of 1875 and taught most of the time till January, 1882, having been principal of the public schools at Beaver Dam, Bluffton, Leipsic and West Leipsic. Mr. Bailey located at Leipsic August 21, 1878, and has ever since resided in Putnam county. He was married to Laura L. Edgecomb, daughter of Ezra and Louisa (Thayer) Edgecomb, September 2, 1875. The following named are their children: Arthur Clarence, born August 17, 1876, died November 9, 1879; Maggie May, born May 2, 1879, died October 5, 1880; Lena Belle, born July 21, 1881; Bessie Idella, born July 5, 1884; George Ezra, born August 16, 1886; Thayer Edgecomb, born July 8, 1890; Ralph Ewing, born December 8, 1893.

Mr. Bailey began reading law in the fall of 1878 and was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court at Columbus, January 4, 1881, and has also been admitted in the States of Indiana and West Virginia and some of the Federal Courts. He began the practice at Ottawa in January, 1882, with Charles N. Haskell, under the firm name of Haskell & Bailey. This firm continued till March, 1888. Mr. Bailey practiced alone until May 1890, when the present firm of Bailey & Bailey (John P. and Dan M.) was formed. Mr. Bailey was prosecuting attorney of this county from January, 1886 till January, 1892. He was the Democratic candidate for Attorney General of the state in 1891 and again in 1893.

CAPTAIN DAVID C. LONG.

Capt. Long was born at Ottawa, in this county, January 17, 1859. He is the eldest son of Jacob L'H. and Kate M. (Cox) Long. He was educated in the public schools of Ottawa. At the age of 18 he, in the employ of Bacon & Ewing, assisted in



CAPTAIN DAVID C. LONG.

the purchase and shipment of live stock to Buffalo and the eastern markets. He studied law in the office of his father and in the spring of 1881 was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Ohio. In the same year he went into partnership with his father in the practice of his profession, a partnership which has continued to the present time.

In 1887 Capt. Long was elected First Lieutenant of Co. I, 2d Regiment, Ohio National Guard, and in 1889 was made captain of that company, and by his energy and application coupled with his knowledge of tactics made that company one of the crack companies of the regiment. He held this position until 1893, when he resigned to accept an appointment in the Columbian Guards at Chicago during the World's Fair at that city. He remained in Chicago until October, 1893, when he returned to Ottawa and resumed his practice.

When Capt. Long was quite small, hardly yet out of petticoats, he was so fearless a rider that some one called him "Dick Turpin," and the nickname has stuck by him ever since, so that he is better known as "Dick Long" than by his legitimate patronymic.

Big hearted, full of the milk of human kindness, his energy in the transaction of business has carried him into every part of this and neighboring counties, and there are few men better known or better liked in Northwestern Ohio than "Captain Dick Long."



GEORGE FRITZ,

Attorney-at-Law, Ottawa, Ohio. Came to Putnam County, Ohio, in 1863; admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Ohio,, January 3, 1882.

DANIEL M. BAILEY.

The picture below represents a well known member of one of the leading law firms of Putnam county. He was born in Allen county, Ohio, March 4, 1862, and attended the country school of that county until 1879, after which time he spent two years at Lebanon, Ohio, and Valparaiso, Indiana, and from 1881 to 1887 taught school continually.

In 1887 he received the appointment as deputy clerk of the Probate Court of Allen county and continued in that capacity



DANIEL M. BAILEY.

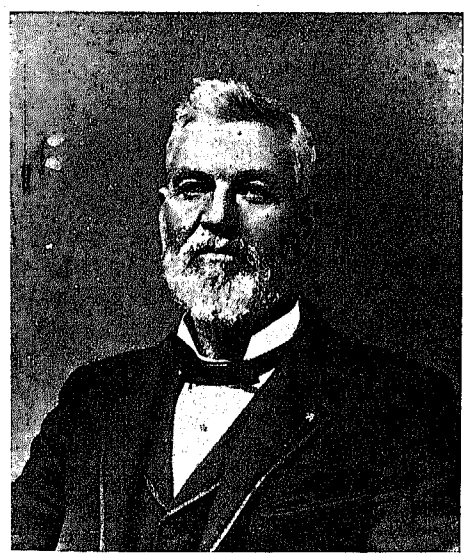
three years. After entering upon the duties of this office Mr. Bailey improved his leisure hours in reading law with such earnestness that he was admitted to practice March, 1890. Soon after being admitted to practice he located at

tawa, Ohio, and formed a partnership with his brother, John P. Bailey, and under the firm name of Bailey & Bailey they are now conducting a very successful law practice.

Mr. Bailey was married September 17, 1884, to Miss Laura Hadsell, of Allen county, Ohio.

DAVID IRWIN BROWN.

David Irwin Brown was born in what is now Ashland county, Ohio, on the 4th day of October, 1824. His parents, Henry Brown and Margaret (Knitz) Brown, with their family removed to Marion county, Ohio, in February, 1826, where they "squatted" on the Indian lands about four miles southwest of the Indian village of Pipetown, the old home of Captain Pipe, the Delaware chief. The family remained in that locality until the death of the mother, which occurred in August, 18-9, when the father with his family of five children, named respectively—Elizabeth, aged ten years; Abraham, aged eight years; David I., aged five years; Letitia, aged three years; Mahlon, aged three months—removed to Sycamore township, Crawford county, Ohio, on the north side and near the line of the Wyandot Reserve, where the subject of this sketch with the father and the family remained until the spring of 1839, when they removed to Grand Prairie township, Marion county, Ohio. In the meantime the father had married again, and David I., having lived



DAVID IRWIN BROWN.

with his uncle (Abraham Brown) for some years in Sycamore township, Crawford county, Ohio, having left his uncle's house and gone with his father's family to Marion county, where he lived in the family of his father until the 18th day of August, 1839, when he left without permission, bare-footed and without money, and entirely destitute of any of the comforts of life, and went back to his uncle's house. At the time he was a robust, healthy boy nearly fifteen years old.

He soon obtained employment in the neighborhood at fair wages among the Quakers until the winter set in, and he then attended district school about two and one-half months. This was a very new country and there were no schools in it, and but a few settlers, until the fall of 1836 when the settlers clubbed together and built a log school house in the wilderness.

Mr. Brown drove his uncle's oxen and hauled all the logs and material put into this school house; he also hauled all the wood that was burned in the school house that winter. This was his first attendance at school. There was no public fund at that time to pay the teacher. The house holders hired a cheap girl to teach three months at one dollar and a half a week, she boarding with the patrons of the school. The tuition and books used by the subject of this sketch were furnished by his uncle, except Webster's Elementary Spelling Book, a New Testament, then used in school, and an English Reader, also then used in school, which he earned money enough to pay for by making fires in the school house in the mornings for twelve and a half cents a week for ten weeks. He attended school that winter for ten weeks only, and in 1837 and 1838 he attended school ten weeks in each year, and in 1839, 1840 and 1841, three months in each year. In the winter of 1841–42 he attended a select school, taught in the neighborhood, for four months. In the winter of 1842–43 he taught his first school, in an old Indian log cabin standing on the south bank of Brokensword Creek, at Osceola, Crawford county, Ohio. This was the first winter school taught in Center township, in the county.

After this for several years he taught school in the winter and went to school a good part of the time in the summer and fall. In the summer of 1845 he attended school at the old Academy at Marion, Ohio, where he acquired some knowledge of the higher branches of an English education.

He came to Putnam county in August, 1847, stayed a short time at Kalida, and in October of that year he went to Gilboa where he made his home until he was married to Miss Elizabeth Shaw, of Hancock county, Ohio, on the 1st day of May, 1849. During the summer following he bought a lot in Gilboa and erected a small house upon it. He lived in this house with his wife and one child until January 8, 1852, when he with his family moved to Kalida. In August, 1851, Mr. Brown was nominated by the Democrats of Putnam county for Clerk of Courts of the county, and was elected at the October election of that year by a majority of seventy-seven votes over Dr. R. W. Thrift, the Whig candidate, who held the office at that time by appointment of the court. The new Constitution of the State was adopted, by vote of the people, on the 17th day of June, 1851, and by its provisions made the office an elective one. The people were therefore called upon to make the selection by vote. Mr. Brown served as Clerk for six years, having been re-elected in 1854.

He was a candidate for Representative for the counties of Putnam and Henry in the State Legislature in 1859, and was defeated for nomination by one vote by the treachery of a man whom he had befriended sufficiently to arouse his jealousy, and who induced three delegates of one township to stay away from the convention. The nominee of this convention was elected, but died in a short time, and Mr. Brown was nominated and elected in 1860. He was a member of the Legislature when the War of the Rebellion broke out, and being a Union man to the core, favored the prosecution of the war on the part of the United States to a finish.

The general government having failed to make the appropriations necessary to equip, feed and clothe an army to suppress the rebellion, the States had to either make such appropriations or permit the rebellion to succeed; therefore Ohio by its Legislature was called upon for her full share of money. The necessary appropriations were authorized by law and passed at once, Mr. Brown voting for all of them as is shown by the journals of the House of Representatives of 1861. He remained a war Democrat until the war was over. Four days before the October election of 1861, the war Democrats of Putnam and Henry counties placed his name on their tickets for re election against the anti-war element of the Democratic party, and he was defeated by a few votes only. At the October term of the Court of Common Pleas in 1861, Mr. Brown was appointed Prosecuting Attorney of Putnam county to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Captain James C. Gribben, who had enlisted in the 57th O. V. I. and gone into the service.

Mr. Brown served as Prosecuting Attorney until the first Monday in January, 1863. During the time of the war Mr. Brown was engaged in the recruiting service, holding two commissions for that purpose under the Provost Marshal General, and in the practice of law at Kalida, and after 1863 he dealt largely in stock and for some years handled nearly all the hogs and cattle sold in this part of Ohio. On the 7th of August, 1867, he moved with his family from Kalida to Ottawa, the county seat having been removed from Kalida to Ottawa by vote of the people at the October election, 1866.

In 1862 Mr. Brown was a member of the Convention that nominated M. R. Waite (late chief justice of the U. S.) for Congress against James M. Ashley, the regular Republican candidate. The extreme anti-war element of the Democratic party, assisted by Mr. Ashley's money, induced a Mr. Phelps, of Defiance, Ohio, to run on the Democratic ticket, and thereby defeated Mr. Waite and elected Ashley.

In 1875 Mr. Brown was one of the nominees of the Democrats for Senator of the 33rd Senatorial District of Ohio. He with his running mate, Clark McDonald, of Wood County, canvassed every township in the six counties of the District, and received as counted sixteen hundred and eighty more votes than was cast for Senator Joy in 1877; while in 1875 the Clerk and Justices of the Peace who canvassed the vote of Wood County refused to count the votes of Perrysburg Township, which in 1876 cast four hundred and thirty-two Democratic votes. This added to the sixteen hundred and eighty votes shows a vote of twenty-one hundred and twelve more than Joy received in 1877, when the Perrysburg vote was counted, for the same office. Joy was elected in 1877, while Brown and McDonald were defeated, or counted out, in 1875.

Mr. Brown was nominated for Representative in the State Legislature and was elected by the Democrats of Putnam County at the October election in 1877, and re-elected in 1879.

During his first term in the Legislature after this election he was made Chairman of the Committee of the House on ditches, drains, and water courses. The committee, under his supervision, amended, revised and codified the drainage laws of the State, every provision of which as revised proved effective and stood the test of the courts.

This law made it possible to drain the swamp lands of the State as well as to straighten, deepen and widen ditches already made, and creeks and natural water courses generally.

This law by its proper administration and application has redeemed and made productive thousands of acres of land, which were wholly worthless without drainage, and has made the wilderness to bloom as the rose.

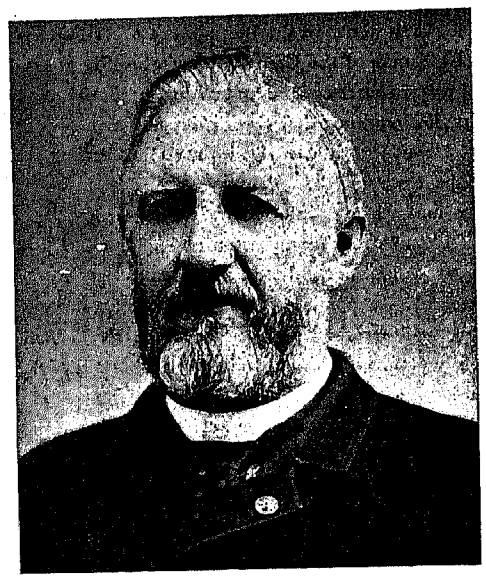
Mr. Brown has always taken an active part and a deep interest in all measures designed to advance the welfare of the general public. He became a Democrat before he was old enough to vote, and since his residence in Putnam County has attended more Democratic meetings and made more Democratic speeches than any other man in the County.

In 1856, when more than one hundred leading Democrats of the County became discouraged and left the party, and among those who left were nine of the fifteen committemen, the editor of the Democratic newspaper with his paper, the Chairman of the Central Committee, and some of the candidates for County officers already on the ticket. Through Mr. Brown's efforts and by his indomitable courage, push and determination, he reorganized the Central Committee, became its Chairman, called a mass convention of Democrats, which dismissed all such candicates from the ticket as refused to vote the whole Democratic ticket. This convention ordered others nominated to take the place of those dismissed; others were nominated by the Democracy and were elected by larger majorities than any Democrat had ever received in the county before. Mr. Brown is a Democrat from principle and not for boodle, and has always been ready and willing to spend his time for the good of the party, and has spent large sums of money in paying necessary expenses of political campaigns for the benefit of his party's candidates. He is a Democrat of the Jeffersonian school and has the esteem and confidence of the people of this county generally, without regard to politics or religion.

Mr. Brown is self reliant, takes the advice of others only when his better judgment directs him to do so, was a self educated boy, and to all intent and purposes a self made man.

JACOB L'H. LONG.

Col. Long, son of Jacob and Maria M. (L'Hommedieu) Long, was born at Franklin, Warren County, Ohio, June 28, 1833. In 1840 he removed with his family to Cincinnati, in which city he resided until he started in life for himself. He commenced his business life in the wholesale dry goods store of John W. Ellis & Co., in Cincinnati, continuing one year in that employment, at the expiration of which he went into the grist mill owned by his step father at Middleton, Ohio, until the summer of 1849, when he went to Iowa, remaining in that State until the spring of 1850. Having fitted himself for the position, he was engaged in the engineer corps of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad, which position he resigned to take a similar position on the Springfield, Mount Vernon & Pittsburg Railroad, having charge as Division Engineer of the construction of the division of that road between Delaware and Marysville. After the close of his work on that road he went to Memphis, Tennessee, to take charge of surveys upon the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, making his headquarters at Memphis. Work being suspended upon that road, during a portion of the time of his residence there, he made the original surveys for the Government of four townships of what was known as the Arkansas Swamp Lands, which were donated to the State to be sold and the proceeds applied to the construction of a levee for the purpose of reclaiming them from the overflow of the Mississippi River; and for some



JACOB L'H. LONG.

time he was engaged in superintending the construction of the levee.

In the fall of 1852 he accepted an offer from Mr. Huntington, the chief engineer of the Dayton & Michigan Railroad, to assist in the preliminary and locating surveys of that road from Toledo to Lima, and in the winter following assisted in making the preliminary surveys and the final locating survey of that road from Perrysburg through the Black Swamp to Lima He arrived at Ottawa on the first day of May, 1853, where he remained as engineer in charge of the construction of the portion of that road lying between Perrysburg and Lima, (a portion of the time in conjunction with J. W. Sylvester in the work) until work was suspended on the road for want of funds, when he went over to the Fremont & Indiana, now the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, and made some test surveys and estimates.

February 2, 1855, he was united in marriage to Miss Kate M. Cox, a daughter of David and Jane Cox, who were among the earliest settlers in Ottawa Township, Mr. Cox and his brother, John Cox, having opened the first store in the county about 1836.

In 1855 Col. Long, with his brother-in-law, William G. Cox, bought the Sniff saw mill at Leipsic, and moving out there ran the mill for about a year, when they sold out the mill and returned to Ottawa. In the summer of the same year he drove through to Iowa, spending the winter in that State, and through the summer of the following year was engaged in the survey of the Nebraska & South Iowa Railroad through the southern tier of counties of Iowa, returning to Ottawa in the fall. He then engaged in land surveying in the county until the spring of 1861, teaching during a part of the time in the schools of Kalida, Ottawa and the Leamaster district in Perry township.

When President Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 volunteers he volunteered with the company from this place which was afterward Company D, of the 21st regiment, O. V. I., and was mustered into service as a sergeant of that company. When the regiment was ordered up the Kanawha river later in the summer he was appointed regimental engineer, and was the only topographical engineer with General Cox's brigade upon that eventful march. He was with the company at the battle of Scarey Creek when Captain Thomas G. Allen and Lieutenant Guy Pomeroy were killed, and was mustered out with the regiment at Delaware in the fall of 1861. In the spring of 1862 he again volunteered with the company from Ottawa, which was afterward Co. C, 87th Regt., O. V. I., and was made first Lieutenant and Adjutant of the regiment. The regiment was ordered to Virginia and was one of those stationed at Harper's Ferry, which, after a three days' fight was surrendered by General Miles, and paroled. After the expiration of the term for which they enlisted, an effort was made to re-enlist the regiment, and Lieutenant Long was commissioned Major of the regiment. A sudden call for troops came before the regiment was filled and it was consolidated with the 125th regiment, and Major Long was consolidated out.

He then learned telegraphy and was appointed operator and freight, ticket and express agent of the D. & M. railway at Ottawa, continuing in that position until 1865, during which time he was admitted to the bar and tried some cases. In 1865 he was appointed ticket agent for all of the railroads centering at Dayton and removed with his family to that city, remaining there until 1867, when he returned to Ottawa and resumed the practice of law, in which he has been engaged eversince, having had as partners Hon. James T. Lentzy, Hon. W. H. Kinder, and his present partner, his son, Capt. D. C. Long.

Col. Long was the Republican candidate for Congress in the old 5th District in 1876, was elected one of the Garfield Presidential electors in 1880, and has taken an active part in politics, having been a member of the Republican State Central Committee for two or three years, and for ten or twelve years Chairman of the County Central Committee. He is an active worker in the Masonic Order, having been Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of R. A. M., of Ohio; Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of F. & A. M., of Ohio, and being now, by virtue of the offices he has held, a life member of all the Grand bodies of Masons in Ohio, except the Grand Commandery, and also of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

GEORGE H. KNUPP.

George H. Knupp, Attorney at Law, Ottawa, Putnam county Ohio, was born at Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, May 12, 1852. His parents were George Knupp, born in Virginia, and Frances Maria (Ritchie) Knupp, born in Frederick county, Maryland. Mrs Knupp was born in Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio, February 26, 1852. Her maiden name was Helen J. Brown, daughter of David I. and Elizabeth (Shaw) Brown. They were married at Monroe, Michigan, October 2, 1871. Their children are—Lillia F., born June 30, 1872; Emma E., born March 9, 1874; Blanche B., born December 5, 1875; Ella A., born August 11, 1883; George R., born May 30, 1885; Helen M., born February 17, 1892.

In August, 1865, George H. Knupp left Tiffin and went to Fremont, Sandusky county, Ohio, where in October of the same year he apprenticed himself to L. E. & R. A. Cross to learn the jeweler's and watch-making trade. He remained there up to November, 1868, when he went to Fostoria, Seneca county, Ohio, and entered the employ of Emanuel Fisher in the capacity of watchmaker and jeweler. Remaining at Fostoria but a short time he removed to Plymouth, Indiana, where he engaged in the jewelry business, where he continued in said business up to September, 1869, when, on account of poor health he was compelled to sell out and quit the business. October 10, 1869, he came to Ottawa, and on December 23d of the same year he engaged in the jewelry business at Ottawa and continued in said business up to the winter of 1874–75, when again on account of failing health he was compelled to quit the business.

In December, 1874, he entered the law office of Brown & Watts as a student, and in April, 1876, he was admitted to the bar by the District Court of said county. In April, 1878, he



GEORGE H. KNUPP.

was elected Mayor of Ottawa and served two terms as such, going out of office in May, 1882. In October, 1878, he was elected Justice of the Peace for Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, and served three full terms of the years each. He was three times elected member of the Board of Education in Ottawa Special School District.

CHARLES FRAYER.

Charles Frayer was born in Allegan, Michigan, November 21, 1859. Having lost his parents while he was very young, his boyhood was passed on a farm. He earned enough in summer to buy his clothes and books, and earned his board while attend-



CHARLES FRAYER.

ing the district school in winter by doing farm chores. Having improved every opportunity he possessed for learning, it enabled him at the age of eighteen to commence teaching school, which business he followed until his admission to the bar in 1887. In 1888, on the death of John H. Gordon, he was elected Justice of the Peace of Ottawa township, and in 1891 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney. The time for which he held the last

office was noted for the vast amount of criminal prosecutions instituted. Chief among them were those against some of the ex-officials for being connected with the treasury defalcations, all of which were successfully prosecuted by Mr. Frayer to final conviction and sentence. He was married in 1887 to Edith Wallen and they now have four children.

FRED H. WOLF.

Fred H. Wolf was born at Bluffton, Indiana, March 28, 1870, and moved from there with his parents when two years old to Montgomery county, Ohio, and lived there until 1876, when he moved on a farm in Shelby county, Ohio, where he remained until he was nineteen years of age, when he came to Putnam county on June 23, 1889. He came to Ottawa, Ohio, January

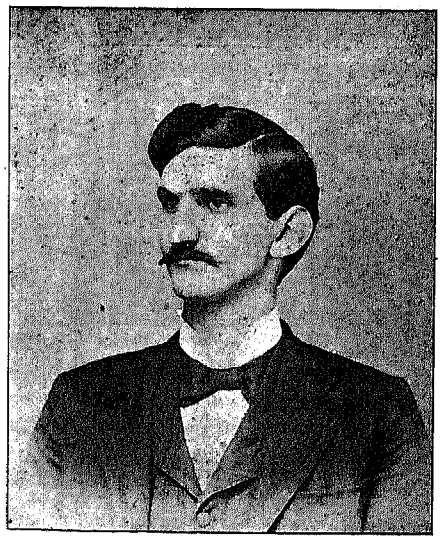


FRED H WOLF.

26, 1891. He attended short hand school a while and in August of that year entered the law office of Bailey & Bailey as stenographer, remaining in that position until March 6, 1894, when he was appointed Official Stenographer for Putnam, Henry, and Fulton counties, which position he still holds.

GEORGE W. RISSER.

George W. Risser was born on a farm near Pandora, Ohio, October 30, 1868. He is the oldest son of David and Margaret (Krohn) Risser, of Riley Township. His boyhood days were spent on the beautiful farm owned by his father, where he

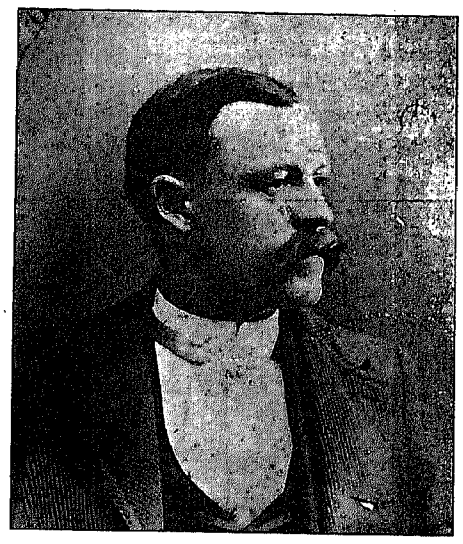


GEORGE W. RISSER.

learned those traits of industry and character so necessary for a young man to possess. He attended school in the country until eighteen years of age, afterwards attending school at Ada, Cleveland, and Delaware, where he graduated in the Science of Accounts and Penmanship. He taught three years in the meantime in order to assist himself in securing an independent education.

In October, 1891, he entered the Cincinnati Law School and graduated from that institution May 31, 1893. He was admitted to the practice of law, June 1, 1893, and afterwards spent two years in the law office of A. V. Watts, of Ottawa, Ohio.

On January 1, 1895, he opened a law office over the Bank of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ohio.



HON. W. W. SUTTON,
Attorney-at-Law, Ottawa, Ohio.

STANSBURY SUTTON.

Stansbury Sutton was born in Huron county, Ohio, September 13, 1816, and settled on what was known as the "Ottawa Green," on April 13, 1833, and from that time until the date of his death, February 5, 1879, remained a resident of Putnam county, Ohio.

Shortly after his arrival, his father, Moses Sutton, entered of the government the land adjoining the town of Ottawa and now known as the Godfrey farm, where he remained with his father until twenty years of age. After that he left the farm, going to Gilboa, and took up the occupation of mill-wright, under Elisha Stout. In the year of 1838 he was married at Gilboa, Ohio, to Jerusha Wickham, and shortly after his marriage entered, in a



STANSBURY SUTTON.

small way, into a general store conducted in the eastern portion of the town, and adjoining what was known as the McClure Hotel. He continued in that business until about the year of 1850, his quarters becoming too small he then constructed a larger building, known as the Sutton, now the McClure building. In his business transactions he gained the confidence of the people and was by them, in the fall of 1851, elected treasurer of the county. Closing out his dry goods business in the fall of 1852, he moved to Kalida, Ohio, where he served as treasurer for four years. During the time he was treasurer he assisted in the various county offices and also took up the study of the law with James McKenzie, then an attorney at Kalida, Ohio, and afterwards judge of the Common Pleas Court of this district. At the expiration of his term of office in 1857, he removed to Gilboa, Ohio, and again entered upon the mercantile business, forming a partnership with Simon Maple, under the firm name of Sutton & Maple. This he continued, together with practice of the law, until the winter of 1866-67, when the firm sold out their business, Mr. Maple going to Columbus Grove and Mr. Sutton to Ottawa, Ohio, to which place he finally moved on the 7th day of November, 1867, and entered upon the practice of the law exclusively. Shortly after his arrival at Ottawa, Ohio, formed a law partnership with Judge Thomas, under the firm name of Sutton & Thomas, which continued to the time of his death.

In the fall of 1870 he was elected Prosecutor of the county, which office he held until January, 1877. In the spring of 1876 he was appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the county its treasurer to fill the vacancy occurring by the death of William McClure, he being succeeded in that office by N. H. McCracken.

Probably no man in the county was held in higher respect and esteem than the subject hereof. While his qualifications as a speaker to a jury were not of the best, but by reason of his hon-



MRS. STANSBURY SUTTON.

esty in all matters, and the confidence had in him by the people of the county there were none at the bar more successful than he. He was alive to all public improvements, assisting the same by his time and means in all ways possible. Owing to the lack of educational advantages received by himself, he was more especially interested in the cause of education, contributing to this much of his time, serving as member of the Board of Education of Ottawa School district a number of years and up to and including the date of his death. His remains are interred at the Harmon cemetery in this county, where also lie those of his wife, Jerusha Sutton, who died on the 6th day of April, 1884.

HON. T. J. SWEENEY.

Mr. Sweeney was elected mayor of Ottawa, Ohio, in 1890, and the people have shown their appreciation of his services in that official capacity by re-electing him to this position, which he now holds, from time to time.

He was born in 1851, at Wheeling, West Virginia, of Scotch-Irish ancestors. He received his early education at Wheeling and completed it at West Alexandria Academy. After leaving school he was engaged with his father in the manufacturing of glass, brick and iron.

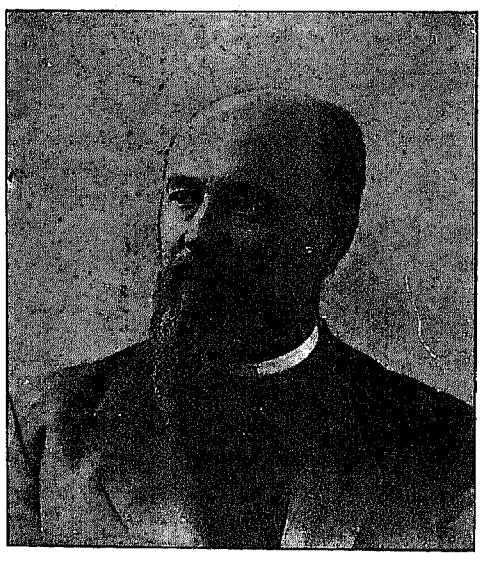
He was elected County Commissioner of his county but resigned that office in 1882 and came to Ottawa, and was connected with Ramey & Co., in which firm he remained until June, 1889.

His father came to America in 1828 and lived awhile in Baltimore and Philadelphia, finally settling in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1836, where he remained until his death. He married Miss Mary J. Redmond, of Philadelphia, who came to this country from the northern part of Ireland. There were born to this union ten children of whom three died in infancy. The



T. J. SWEENEY.

eldest, Margaret, and her sister Mary, are now living at Ottawa with their brother, the subject of this sketch. James W., major of the 36th brigade confederate cavalry, died at Ottawa, Ohio, in 1883. Robert E. was an attorney at law; he died at Martin's Ferry in 1886. Sarah C. (Sweeney) Rissell died at Sistersville, West Virginia. Lucy A., wife of Hon. O. B. Ramey, who lived for several years at Ottawa, Ohio, but is now living at Sistersville, West Virginia.



DR. C. E. BEARDSLEY.

Dr. C. E. Beardsley, Physician and Surgeon, Ottawa, Ohio.

DAVID R. JENKINS.

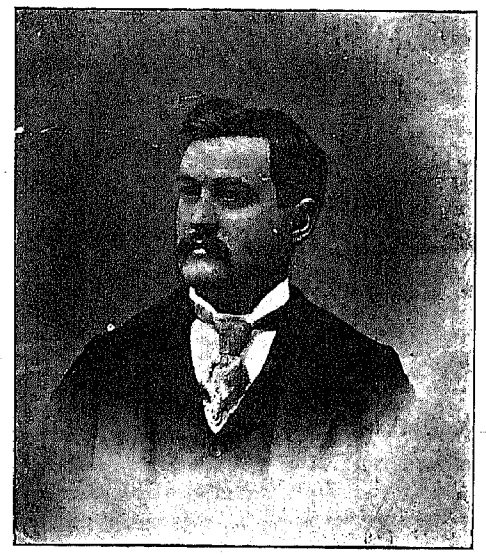
David R. Jenkins was born in Lima, Allen County, Ohio, September 28, 1844, where he lived until enlisting in the army in 1861 as a member of the 27th Regiment, Co. I.

Mr. Jenkins was taken prisoner at Little Blue River, Missouri, parolled the same day, and discharged December 23, 1861. Re-enlisted July 22, 1862, as a member of the 99th Ohio, Co. B. He was at Perryville, Ky., but his company was not engaged.

His next engagement was Stone River, Tenn., where his company did excellent service, and in every subsequent battle of the great army of the Cumberland. Mr. Jenkins was twice wounded in the battle of Stone River. He was absent one year from effect of wounds.

Mr. Jenkins stood with his company in the front ranks, and gives to posterity acts of heroism of which they may well be proud. He remained in the army until rebellion's last gun was fired, and received an honorable discharge June 25, 1865.

In 1882 Mr. Jenkins located at Ottawa, Ohio, and engaged in the stove and tin business, a business he has made successful and popular with a large class of customers. And after a continuous business career of thirteen years he still conducts, with increased popularity, his famous store.

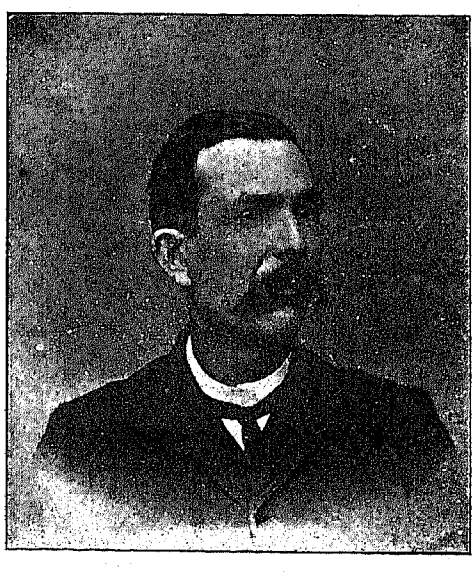


W. RENWICK MOFFITT.

W. Renwick Moffitt, Dentist. Office over Bank of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ohio.

DR. A. L. PAUL.

Dr. A. L. Paul was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1848; attended the Public Schools at Royalton, Ohio, also at Findlay, Ohio. Took an academic course at Greenfield Academy, then entered the Miami University where he took a partial course.



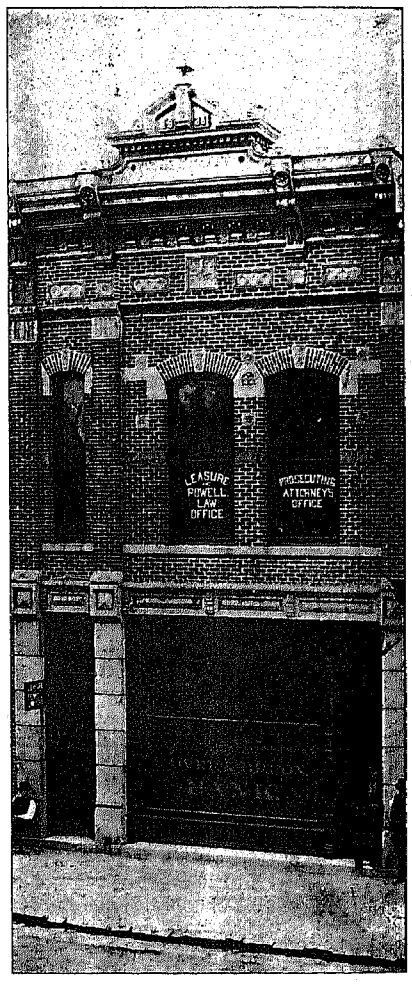
A. L. PAUL.

Attended the medical department of the Miami University and received his medical degree from the Long Island Medical College, New York. Located in Ottawa, Ohio, in 1875, where he has continued in the practice of his profession.

WILLIAM ANNESSER.

In January, 1879, Mr. Annesser commenced operating the Ottawa Flouring Mills, and has ever since conducted this business successfully. He finds ready consumers for nearly all of his products within the county and is not compelled to seek a foreign market.

He uses in his mills the Roller Process and a new bolting system known as the Plansiefter Bolting Process. His mills are operated by five men and have a capacity of one hundred barrels every twenty-four hours. Mr. Annesser also deals in all kinds of grain as well as flour and feed.



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A General Banking Business Transacted.

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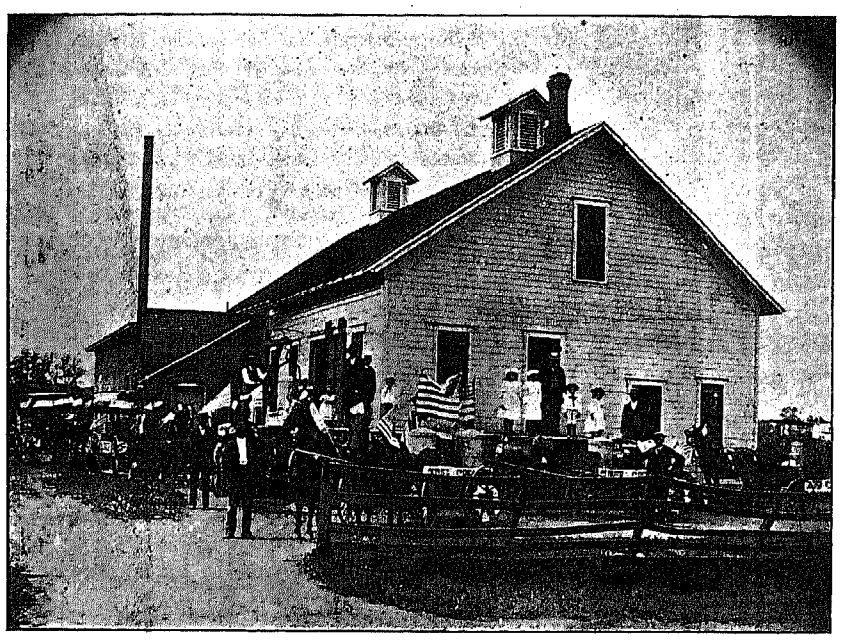
THE CLOVER CREAMERY COMPANY.

At a called meeting December 6, 1886, at A. V. Rice & Co's. bank at 7 p. m., there were present Dr. C. M. Godfrey, S. Slauson, A. Fipp, N. E. Matthews, L. L. Parker, J. H. Drerup, J. H. Uphaus, Theo. Verhoff, Jos. Nienberg, Wm. Rampe, Jr., N. H. McCracken, Geo. D. Kinder, W. W. Sutton, Wm. Verhoff, I. W. Larkworthy and S. F. De Ford. L. L. Parker was called to the chair and N. E. Matthews was elected secretary. Articles of incorporation were drawn up and subscriptions subsequently taken at Slauson & De Ford's Bank. December 11, 1886, five directors, consisting of L. L. Parker, S. F. De Ford, N. E. Matthews, J. Neinberg and A. Fipp, were elected. December 15, 1886, the Board of Directors met and organized by



THE CLOVER CREAMERY.

the election of S. F. De Ford, president, and L. L. Parker, secretary and treasurer. This constituted the permanent organization. At a subsequent meeting a system of by-laws were adopted and F. M. Ackerman employed as butter maker at a salary of $40 per month. This amount was increased from time to time until he now receives $65 per month and is now the general manager of the company, Six routes were mapped out and teams sent out daily to bring in cream. This number was afterward increased to nine routes during the busy season, and covers a territory with a radius of from eight to ten miles. The output of the factory the first year was 50,000 pounds, and the cost of cream, labor and supplies for the same period was $11,740. In the year 1888, 56,800 pounds of butter were made and marketed. In 1889, $1,200 were invested in hogs, and the net profit to the company from this source was $211. In 1891 the creamery produced 92,596 pounds of butter, averaging nearly 2,000 pounds per week, which found a ready sale in local and eastern markets, at times the local demand being greater than the company could supply. This shows a very healthy condition to the plant and also that F. M. Ackerman was evidently the right man in the right place.

On December 11, 1891, the creamery building, with most of its contents, was destroyed by fire. This was a heavy loss to the company, as it was only partly covered by insurance. The company took immediate steps to rebuild, appointing J. H. Drerup, F. M. Ackerman and L. L. Parker a committee on building and improvements. In less than a week the cream gatherers were sent out again, an ice house adjoining the creamery having been fitted up to use until the new building could be completed. By May, 1892, the present handsome, and commodious structure was ready for occupancy, supplied with all the latest and most approved pieces of machinery—a new 15 horse-power Brownell boiler, a 12 horse-power Atlas engine, one 400 gallon churn, one 300 gallon churn, three 300 gallon cream vats, a Mason power butter worker with a capacity of 100 pounds of butter in five minutes, and a complete set of test tubes so that every patron will receive pay for every ounce of butter that his cream will produce.

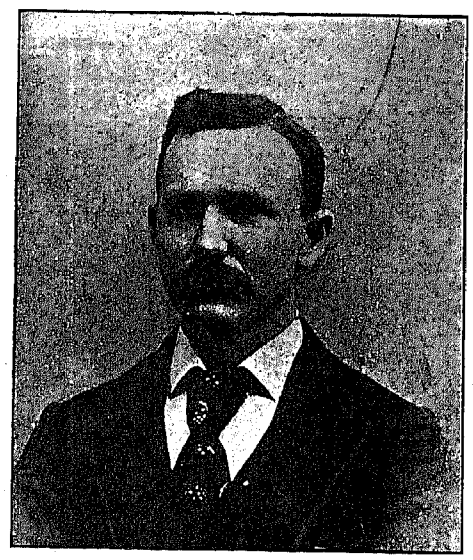
Semi-annual dividends have been declared from year to year after the first two years, and at this writing the Clover Creamery Company's stock will sell at par in the open market anywhere. This is largely due to the efficient management of Mr. Ackerman, who has held his position continuously since the organization. The present Board of Directors consists of Jos. Neinberg, N. E. Matthews, Theo. Verhoff, J. H. Uphaus and F. M. Ackerman, with N. E. Matthews, president, and F. M. Ackerman, secretary and treasurer. The authorized capital stock of the company is $10,000, the amount subscribed is $5,550, and the total cost of plant and improvement is $6,000.

Since 1893 an additional feature has been added—that of collecting eggs along the cream routes by the cream haulers for shipment. The surplus is also bought from the stores of Ottawa and shipped in crates to New York. Cash is paid weekly for eggs and monthly for cream. This enterprise puts money into the hands of the farmers' wives with the least labor to them instead of being compelled to cart their produce to town and be compelled to trade it out at the stores, often taking goods not really needed in the household, as was the custom before the creamery came.

For the success of this enterprise much credit is due Mr. L. L. Parker, who until his death, May 28, 1894, was one of the heaviest stock-holders, devoting most of his time, as health would permit, since retiring from the County Treasurer's office, to its upbuilding.

F M. ACKERMAN

F. M. Ackerman was born at Bryan, Ohio, December 25, 1858, son of Caleb and Lydia Ackerman. He is of German extraction, his grand parents emigrating to Pennsylvania from Germany in the early part of the present century, and afterwards removing



F. M. ACKERMAN.

to Ohio. At the age of seven his parents moved from Bryan to a farm in Fulton County, where the subject of this sketch grew to manhood, attending the district school and the village school at Fayette, Ohio.

In 1879 he taught his first term of school in his home district. As soon as the term closed he took up his studies in the Normal school at Valparaiso, Ind., alternating teaching and attending school until 1884. In the meantime he took the commercial course, graduating in 1882; also the scientific course. He withdrew from the latter course to accept the principalship of the Archibald Schools, which position he held one year.

On January 31, 1884, he was married to Cora A. Wightman, of Chicago, Ill., the elder daughter of L. E. and Sarah Wightman. Shortly after their marriage they began housekeeping on the farm in Fulton County, Ohio, where Mr. Ackerman followed farming for three years, teaching a term or two in the old district school during the winter.

In the spring of 1887 he took a position with the Clover Creamery Company of Ottawa, O., and moved to Ottawa. Since that time he has remained in their employ, serving as butter maker and clerk to that of general manager and is now the secretary and treasurer of the company.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman have been born four children, all of whom are living: Ethel Mae, Lyman Ernest, Genevieve Sarah, and Caleb Franklyn.

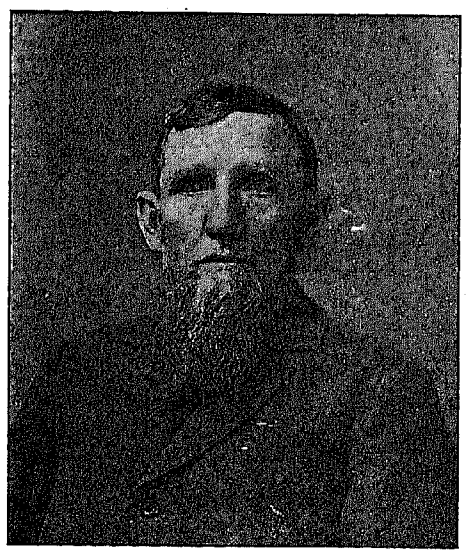
Politically, Mr. Ackerman is a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party, and fraternally is a member of the Masonic and K. of P. bodies—being the present S. D. of Ottawa Lodge No. 325 F. and A. M., and the C. C. of Ottawa Lodge No. 565 K. of P. of Ottawa, Ohio.

HON. SAMUEL S. BACON.

Judge Bacon was born July 11, 1833, in Licking county, Ohio, and when but three years old was brought by his father, George Bacon, to Putnam county where he located on a farm near Gilboa. Judge Bacon's boyhood days were spent upon a farm, attending the common school and helping with the farm work. As he grew to a suitable age he engaged in the work of teaching, having taught in the public schools of Gilboa, Pendleton (now Pandora) and in the country districts for five years.

He was married March 16, 1858, to Miss Emeline H. Stewart, a native of Huntington county, Pennsylvania, where she was born August 28, 1835. The year after his marriage, in the spring of 1859, Judge Bacon settled in Gilboa and engaged in mercantile business, continuing so engaged for about five years. He was appointed postmaster at Gilboa in the same year. He served the people of Blanchard township as justice of the peace for two terms of three years each.

In the fall of 1870 he removed to Ottawa and became interested in the purchase and shipment of live stock and followed



SAMUEL S. BACON.

that business until the spring of 1878. In the fall of that year he was elected Probate Judge of Putnam county, and re-elected in the fall of 1881. In 1885 he retired from that position and engaged in the drug business, in which he is still interested. He

served as mayor of Ottawa for one year to fill a vacancy caused by the death of John H. Gordon.

Judge and Mrs. Bacon have but one child living, Mrs. Gertrude Paul (Bacon) Robenalt, who was born January 4, 1871, and on the 18th day of March, 1891, was married to Alton R. Robenalt.

Judge Bacon is, and for very many years has been, a member and one of the ruling elders of the First Presbyterian church of Ottawa. His life as a conscientious teacher, a capable, efficient and faithful official and a successful business man marks Judge Bacon as one of the representative men of Putnam county.

JOSEPH R. BEACH.

The accompanying is a cut of the handsome and commodious livery barn of Joseph R. Beach, of Ottawa, Ohio. He is a son of and successor to H. F. Beach, the well known liveryman of Ottawa, who came to the county in 1866. The present brick



J. R. BEACH'S LIVERY STABLE.

structure was erected in 1886, and is thirty feet wide and one hundred and sixty-five feet long.

Mr. Beach was born in Licking county, Ohio, in 1865, and came to this county with his parents in 1866, where he has lived ever since, and by correct business habits has fully identified himself with the business interests of Ottawa.

H. & C. BRINKMAN.

The above firm name represents Henry J. Brinkman and Charles E. Brinkman, sons of Andrew Brinkman, of the well known firm of Brinkman Brothers, wagon and carriage manufacturers, of Ottawa, Ohio

These promising young business men were born and raised in Ottawa, and received their education in the Union Schools of this town. They commenced their mercantile career in the grocery business, handling fancy and staple groceries, August 14, 1895, in the room one door east of the Bank of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ohio.

J. W. BROWN.

The individual whom it is the purpose of this sketch to represent was born in the beautiful little city of Maumee, on the banks of the historic river bearing that name, thirty-six years ago. In 1861 his parents moved to Swanton, Ohio, and there our subject passed the years of childhood.

In 1878 his ambition led him in search of a broader field where he could cope with the vicissitudes of life with a chance to win on a meritorious basis.

In that year he located in Ottawa and entered the store of O. B. Ramey & Co. as a clerk, which position he held for four years with credit to himself and his employers.

He next entered the employment of C. A. Lockhart & Co, continuing with them until 1886, when he formed a partnership with Col. L. J. Hissong, of Fostoria, and at the early age of twenty-seven years began the active management of one of the largest and most prosperous mercantile concerns ever conducted in Putnam county.

This partnership continued with unabated success until the 23d day of January, 1894, when it became painfully evident to the junior partner of the firm and to the friends of Col. Hissong that the life of the senior member was nearing its close.

On the above date Col. Hissong purchasd the interests of Mr.



J. W. BROWN.

Brown to save him the loss that would necessarily follow the administratorship required to settle his estate.

In a few days the expected end to the busy life of Col Hissong came, and upon the settlement of his estate during August of the same year, Mr. Brown purchased the entire interests of the famous store of Brown & Hissong and assumed its sole management.

The store is located in the McCracken block, on the northeast corner of Walnut and Main-Cross streets, where a spacious room is filled with the best line of dry goods, carpets, notions and groceries that the markets of the world afford, and the purchasing or investigating public will find the genial proprietor and his splendid corps of clerks ever ready to accommodate their most intricate wants.

Mr. Brown's business views are broad and practical, his honor unquestioned, and his increasing desire is to please and satisfy his friends and customers. As a citizen he stands on the highest plane, commanding the respect of all the people of this prosperous town.

As a business man he holds the confidence of all who know him, and as a merchant he has stamped the assurance of success to his every act, and ranks fitly among the foremost merchants of his state.

O. H. ODELL.

In May, 1894, Mr. Odell commenced business in the line of staple and fancy groceries in the Beardsley & DeFord block, Ottawa, Ohio.

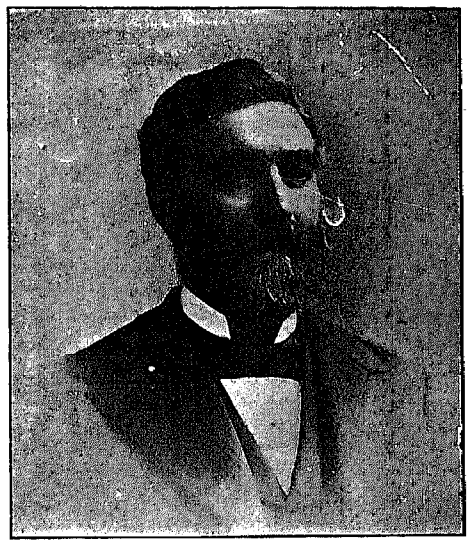
Mr. Odell was born September 23, 1853, in Lorain county, Ohio. His mother dying when he was but one year old he was adopted by his aunt, Mrs. Hopkins, of Huron county, Ohio, who lived on a farm, where he spent his boyhood days working and attending a country school regularly.

At the age of eighteen he started out in life for himself, following farming until 1871. He then commenced railroading as station agent on the W. & L. E. railroad at Brighton Station, Lorain county, Ohio. Soon after he left this place to take a clerkship for the same road at Wellington, Ohio, where he remained one year, when he accepted a position with the C. C. C. & St. L. road as chief clerk. Here he remained sixteen months, thence taking the agency of the W. & L. E., C. & M., and Valley railways at Valley Junction, Tuscarawas county, Ohio. Here he remained three years when he went into the train service for the W. & L. E. road, remaining in this service about eight months. He then took the agency for the C. H. & D. road at Ottawa, Ohio, remaining there four years, when he accepted the General Passenger and Freight agency for the F., Ft. W. & W. road. This position he held for several months, when he was appointed Superintendent and Treasurer of this line, which position he held about one year, when he entered his present business.

W. W. KELLY.

We have the pleasure of representing in this sketch one of the oldest and most successful men in business in Putnam county, Mr. W. W. Kelly, druggist and book-dealer, was born on a farm near Lewisburg, Pa., December 29, 1839. He learned pharmacy and in 1861 located in Ottawa county this State, where he entered into the drug business, continuing five years, when he moved to Putnam county, Ohio, locating at Ottawa.

Engaging at once in the drug business and remaining in the



W. W. KELLY.

business until the present date, a period of twenty-nine years distinguishes him as the oldest continuous druggist in the county and ranks him among a very few merchants who have followed business that length of time.

Mr. Kelly has served four terms in the council of Ottawa and has been a member of the school board of his town two terms. He was one of the chief promoters in the organization of, and was the first president of the Ottawa Building and Loan Association.

The firm of W. W. Kelley conducts two stores—a drug store and a book store, and in these lines handles every article salable to his trade.

THE OTTAWA HOME AND SAVING ASSOCIATION.

Authorized Capital $1,000,000. Organized July 28, 18[illegible]. Directors: Geo. D. Kinder, President; F. H. Brockman, Vice President; Geo. C. Williams, Geo. D. Hamden, Calvin P. Godfrey, Committee on Securities; O. H. Odell, H. W. Schultz. E. R. Eastman, Secretary; Wm. C. G. Krauss, Attorney; John F. Cover, Treasurer.

The purpose of this association is two fold. It is an institution in which people may deposit their savings in small sums and receive a fair rate of profit thereon and enjoy the satisfaction of absolute safety. The Secretary and Treasurer are under heavy bonds, and all officers are amenable to the State under the criminal law, to secure good faith. The money is loaned in small sums and the most rigid rules enforced for the protection of all concerned. No very large loss is possible in any one place and a large fund has accumulated and is set aside according to law to protect depositors from loss. The payments are easy for persons of small means who desire to secure homes. The actual assets, consisting of mortgages on real estate, loans secured by paid up stock of the association, and cash, are $[illegible]

000, in round figures. Fire insurance is taken as collateral security on all buildings upon which loans are made.

PLAN OF WORKING.

A depositor is required to pay no share fees. A pass book or stock certificate costs 25 cents, and upon that he may carry 20 shares of either $100 or $500 each, and thereafter pay dues on book or running stock at the rate of 25 cents per $100 per week. Paid up stock is sold at its par value in cash and requires no additional payments. Dividends are paid semi-annually on the second Monday of January and July.

Any stockholder may become a borrower by making a loan on stock upon which there is more money paid than will equal the amount loaned, or a mortgage loan on property approved by the committee on securities. The borrower pays for the examination of the property and the title thereto, and for the making and recording of the mortgage, but these expenses are low.

There are no salaried officers except the Secretary, and his salary is regulated by the directors from time to time as the necessity of the association requires.

The borrower may pay any sum he desires and will be allowed dividend thereon from the day of payment, or he may pay $100 or any multiple thereof, and have a corresponding number of shares canceled and thereby stop interest. A problem worked out shows that the interest and premium together, on a loan upon which dues are regularly paid, after credit is given for dividends, amount to less than 7 per cent.

This institution, like all others of its class, prompts people to save money and teaches systematic business habits, and hence exercises a wholesome influence in the community.

Since the organization nearly 400 loans have been made, many persons enabled to purchase and build homes, and investors have received a fair profit on their money.

HISTORY.

Since the organization Mr. W. W. Kelly, the first president of the association, retired from the Board of Directors and Mr. Samuel Slauson was elected successor, and on the retirement of Mr. Slauson, the second president, Mr. Kinder was elected president, which position he now occupies. W. H. Loy retired from the Board of Directors upon his removal from Ottawa, and Andrew Bruon was elected his successor, but owing to other engagements he refused a second election and O. H. Odell was chosen to succeed him. Upon the retirement of Mr. Slauson, Calvin P. Godfrey was elected to the office of director, and afterward placed upon the committee to examine securities, by President Kinder. Upon the retirement of John F. Cover from he Board, Mr. H. W. Schmitschulte was elected his successor, and at the election for 1895 Mr. Cover was elected Treasurer to succeed N. E. Matthews, who had faithfully served in that capacity from the date of organization. In the organization and management no notion of personal gain has ever actuated the officers. On the contrary they have rendered their valuable services freely for the good of the society until it has become a most potent factor for public good.

The Board of Directors meets every Monday evening at the office of Krauss & Eastman where the Secretary's office is kept and where, during all business hours, some competent person is ready to receive dues and transact business.

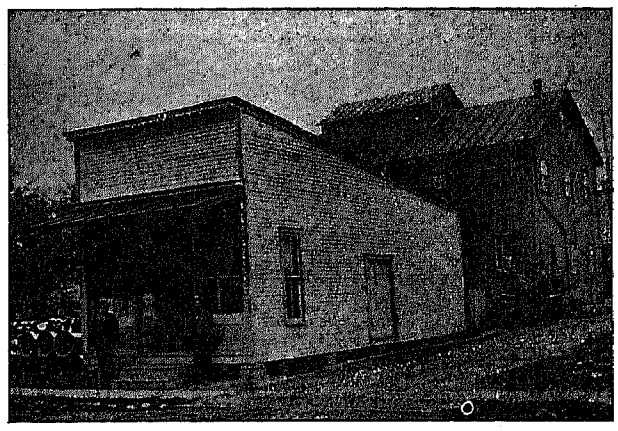
Information is furnished at the office free of charge on all matters pertaining to the workings of the association. The progress of the association is shown as follows:

The assets at the end of the first five months' business were $3,635.15; the second term, six months, $9,599.91; the third term, six months, July, 1890, $14,318.02; at the end of the year 1890, $25,276.82; at the end of the year 1891, $47,241.74; at the end of the year 1892, $89,402.14; at the end of the year 1893, $104.496.45; at the end of the year 1894, $110,951.57.

HERMILLER BROTHERS.

This reliable firm is represented by Joseph Hermiller, Jr., and John B. Hermiller. They deal extensively in all kinds of grain, flour, feed, sewer pipe, coal, lime and cement.

In 1884 Joseph Hermiller, Sr., and his son Joseph, of the above firm, commenced business at the place where the brothers now are located. On May 1, 1893, Frank Hermiller bought his



HERMILLER BROTHERS.

father out. He remained in the firm until his death, May 26, 1894. Soon after John B. Hermiller took his brother's place in the present firm.

The brothers are here to stay, they both having been born and reared in the county. Their interests are identified with Ottawa and Putnam county. Joseph, the senior member of the firm, served on the village council of Ottawa and held other positions of trust with credit to himself and to the people whom he represented.

CLINTON S. CARR.

Mr. Carr, dealer in groceries and provisions, commenced business April 1, 1895, in the Simon block, Ottawa, Ohio. Having been connected with the grocery business about twelve years and several years in the hardware and clothing business as a clerk, together with his genial nature, he possesses the experience and those traits of character necessary to success in a business enterprise.

He was born April 3, 1866, in Delaware county, Ohio. His father, H. C. Carr, moved to Ottawa in 1872. He received his education in the Ottawa schools.

THE BEE HIVE STORE.

This building was erected in 1894 by W. S. and T. C. Hipkins, doing business under the firm name of Hipkins & Bro.



THE BEE HIVE

The building is thirty five feet wide, one hundred feet long, two stories high, with basement.

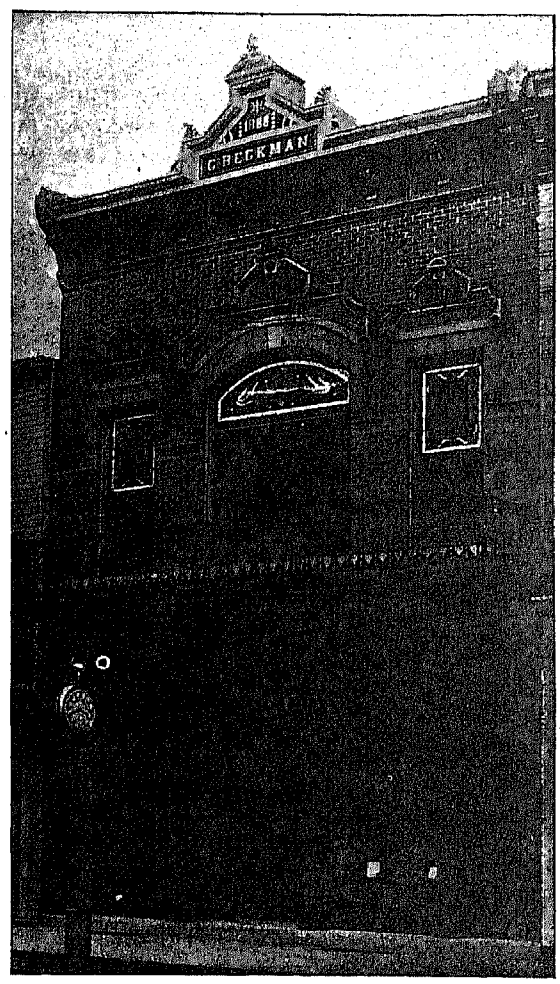
The entire building is occupied by Hipkins & Bro., in which they handle Dry Goods, Carpets, Groceries, etc.

ALEXANDER BECKMAN.

Mr. Beckman was born September 26, 1869, in the prosperous village of Ottoville, this county. He came of that sturdy and progressive German Catholic parentage which has so marked the progress of Putnam county in different localities and diffused to their posterity the elements of success.

In 1879 Mr. Beckman moved with his parents to Ottawa, and for ten years following ably assisted his mother, Mrs. Catharine Beckman, in the successful management of the Beckman House, and also in the numerous other enterprises which that lady engaged in and which has given her the reputation of being the possessor of one of the best business minds in the county.

In 1890 the subject of this sketch engaged in the jewelry busi-



ALEXANDER BECKMAN.

ness at Ottawa, and presented to the business interests of that town one of her most enterprising and reputable concerns. He has continued in the same business to the date of this writing, and we advise all visitors to Ottawa not to neglect a call in his store, first door east of A. V. Rice & Co's. bank, and there you will find one of the most complete and best selected stocks of jewelry and silverware, as well as one of the most affable and painstaking merchants.

Mr. Beckman was married October 24, 1893, to Miss Mary E. Grise, of Putnam county, and to them a son, Edward Joseph, was born October 18, 1894.

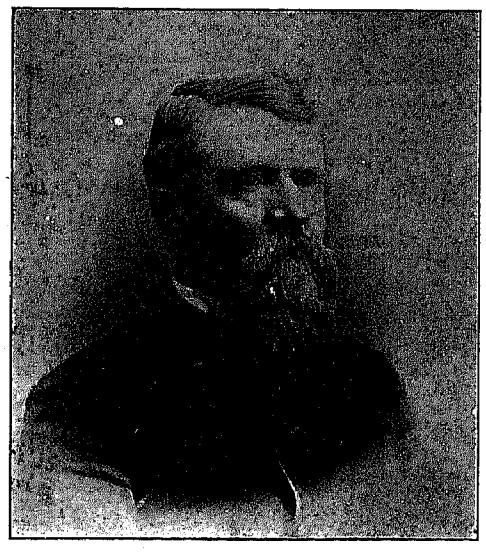
G. C. WILLIAMS.

G. C. Williams, of Ottawa, Ohio, has the largest lumber yard in Putnam county, and constantly keeps on hand all necessary building materials, kept by lumbermen, for the construction of buildings and is not undersold by any one in material of like quality. He guarantees all lumber and material as represented and will offer only such lumber and material as he can represent to hold paint and serve the purpose of the builder with satisfactory durability.

Persons contemplating building will do well to see Mr. Williams and get his prices.

JOHN J. ZELLER.

Mr. Zeller was born at Gilboa, in this county, November 7, 1842. He was the son of Andrew and Catharine Zeller. His father was one of the unfortunates of the cholera epidemic which swept away so many of the early citizens of Gilboa in 1852. He was educated in the common schools at Gilboa until he was sixteen years of age. He attended one term at common school in Livingstone county, Illinois, after which he taught school in Piatt county, in the same State, returning to Gilboa in December, 1861. In the spring of 1862, at the age of twenty years, in response to the call of President Lincoln for volunteers, he enlisted in the 85th O. V. I., and with several companies of that regiment was subsequently transferred to the 87th Ohio under the command of Col. Henry B. Banning, and with the regiment was stationed at Harper's Ferry, Va. He was appointed clerk to the regimental commissary—Lieutenant Bailes Carter. He was taken prisoner at that place immediately after the battle of Antietam in the fall of 1862, and was discharged with the regiment at Camp Delaware, October 1, 1862, at the expiration of his term of service. Upon being mustered out he returned to Gilboa where he remained until 1864, when he was married to Miss Eliza A. Ashenfelter. To this union there was born—William S., October 8, 1865; Nellie Kate, December 31, 1870, deceased; Mary A., January 6, 1874; George Frederick, June 29, 1876; Ralph Ashenfelter, November 24, 1878. For the two following years he was engaged in the mill of his father-in-law,



J. J ZELLER.

which was situated on the Blanchard river a mile or so below Gilboa, after which he went into the drug business at Gilboa.

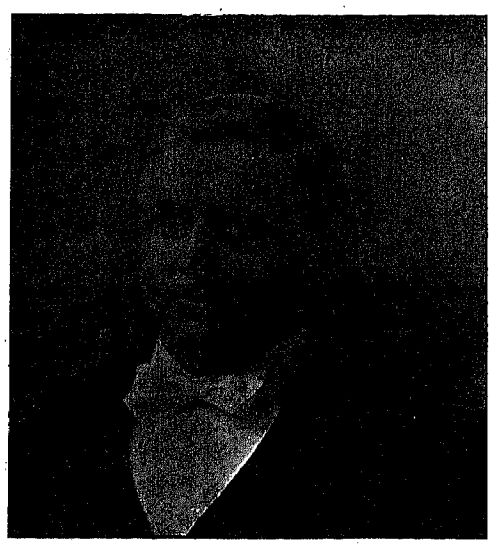
He served the public faithfully between that time and 1878 as Justice of the Peace, Mayor of Gilboa, Member of the Board of Education, and other offices. In the fall of 1878 Mr. Zeller was elected Clerk of the Courts of Putnam County, and on December 26th of that year removed with his family to Ottawa, commencing his official duties on February 9, 1879, serving in that capacity until 1885, having been re-elected in 1882. While he held that position he introduced into the office the admirable system of records and filings which so commended itself by its accuracy and the extent to which it facilitated the work of those who had occasion to make searches therein, that it has been followed by his successors and is still in use in the office. Shortly after retiring from office of Clerk he was appointed postmaster at Ottawa, a position which he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people for four years and eight months.

In 1889, at the close of his term as postmaster, Mr. Zeller formed a partnership in the insurance business with his son, W. S. Zeller, in which partnership he still retains his interest. In 1891 he was appointed statistical clerk in the office of the State Commissioner of Common Schools, his family remaining in Ottawa while he worked in Columbus, in which position he was employed for a year. Upon the appointment of Gen. A. V. Rice as pension agent for the Ohio Agency he selected Mr. Zeller for an important clerkship in that agency, which position he still holds. Although while engaged in his present position he has a portion of his family with him temporarily in Columbus, yet Mr. Zeller has never given up his citizenship in Putnam county, retaining his rights as an elector at Ottawa and never failing to be present and exercise his rights as such.

A brainy, energetic workingman, of genial, kindly nature and of pleasant address; the continued persistency with which his neighbors and fellow citizens have selected him to transact their business as a public officer shows that it was his strict integrity and the marked capability with which he performed the duties assigned to him which have caused these honors to be thrust upon him.

W. S. ZELLER.

Mr. Zeller was born on a farm near the old Ashenfelter mill, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on October 8, 1865. He received his education in the Ottawa schools, graduating from the High School of Ottawa in the class of 1885. He was appointed Railway Postal clerk under Cleveland. He was the first postal clerk on the Narrow Guage Railroad running from Delphos to Carey, but was soon thereafter transferred to the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad, where he remained for two years and nine months.



W. S. ZELLER

He was married to Miss Ella Hagenbaugh Musser, of Dayton, Ohio, December 17, 1890. They have one child, Anna Thomas Zeller, born September 19, 1891.

He went into the Loan and Insurance business with his father, J. J. Zeller, on February 20, 1889 and has continued in that vocation ever since. In 1894 Mr. Zeller wrote more insurance than all the other agencies of Putnam county combined.

They represent the following list of companies:

Home of New York.
Phœnix of Hartford, Connecticut.
National of Hartford, Connecticut.
Connecticut of Hartford, Connecticut.
Milwaukee Mechanics Insurance Co., of Milwaukee, Wis.
Firemans' Fund Insurance Co., of San Francisco, California.
Westchester Fire Insurance Co., of New York.
German Insurance Co., of Freeport, Illinois.
Columbia Insurance Co., of Dayton, Ohio
Commercial Insurance Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio.
Ohio Farmers' Insurance Co., of Leroy, Ohio.
Northern Assurance Co., of London.
London Assurance Corp., of London.
North British and Mercantile Insurance Co., of London and Edinburg.
Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Boston, Mass.
Preferred Accident Insurance Co., of New York.
Inter State Casualty Co., of New York.

Money to Loan! Money to Loan!

The Bank of Ottawa

OTTAWA, OHIO.

W. G. REED, President. *I. H. KAHLE, Vice-President.* *W. H. HARPER, Cashier*

A General Banking Business Transacted.

Every accommodation, consistent with safe banking, granted. Accounts solicited. Collections carefully handled. Exchange bought and sold.

NORTHWESTERN OHIO

Real Estate Exchange

AND LOANS,

WM. RAMPE, Manager. OTTAWA, OHIO.

Real Estate Bought, Sold and Exchanged.

I am in direct communication with all Real Estate Agents in Northwestern Ohio, which enables me to find a purchaser in short time. List your property with me if you want to sell or Exchange. I don't list properties and advertise them in papers. My lists I have only for agents who work with me.

P. S.—The largest body of agricultural land in Southeastern Gothland; just opened for settlement. GOTHLAND; 50,000 acres, 25 miles west of Galveston, and 30 miles south of Houston. For plats, pamphlets and further information write or call on

WM. RAMPE, OTTAWA, OHIO,
Emigrant Agent for Ohio, for Texas Colonization Co.

Excursion Rates! Excursions Monthly!

GILSON H. MOORE.

This enterprising and progressive young business man was born in Ottawa, Ohio, July 19, 1870, and is a son of Judge J. J. Moore, of that place.

He attended the public schools of his native town until fifteen years of age, when he entered Kenyon College, at Gambier, Ohio, and continued there until graduating in the scientific course. Later he graduated from the Mt. Union business college, at Alliance, Ohio.



Soon after his graduation at the latter place he returned to Ottawa, and in 1891 engaged in the clothing and gents' furnishing business, a business which he has successfully conducted since that time, and the genial young proprietor now finds himself in possession of the confidence and patronage of a large circle of friends and customers, and is triumphantly looking forward to an eminent plane of business success.

January 4, 1892, Mr. Moore was united in marriage to Miss Laura Craig, of Ottawa, Ohio.

MOORE & MOORE,

Clothiers and Gents' Furnishers,

OTTAWA, OHIO.

The firm of Fox & Moore was organized in January, 1892, and continued until February, 1894 when Mr. Fox was succeded by Judge J. J. Moore, and under the firm name of Moore & Moore the establishment has now grown to be one of the leading mercantile concerns of Putnam County.

With the motto that good goods brings good customers, they have made it their special object to allow only goods of the highest standard and best makes to be sold in their store. This was at first a risk to the firm, but their constantly increasing patronage have proven their method a grand success.

Gilson Moore has the entire management of the great store, being ably assisted by J F. Day, a popular young gentleman who has been in the employ of the firm since its organization; and to the purchasing public we recommend in highest terms both proprietors and goods.

AMOS J. BANNING.

The subject of this sketch was born February 15, 1860, on a farm in Hardin county, Ohio. His parents removed to Kenton, Ohio, when he was four years of age, where he received his education.

At nineteen years of age he selected the tailoring trade for his life occupation, and after fitting himself to master all its arts he



followed it at various places until March, 1894, when he came to Ottawa, Ohio, and entered the employ of Moore & Moore in their tailoring department. He continued in their employ until April 20, 1895, when in partnership with Mr. Howard W. Acker they purchased the tailoring department of Moore & Moore.

Mr Banning was married in September, 1895, to Miss Clara Anselman.

BANNING & ACKER,

Merchant Tailors

OTTAWA, OHIO,

WITH MOORE & MOORE.

In the spring of 1895, Howard Acker and Amos J. Banning formed a partnership and purchased the Tailoring Department of the famous store of Moore & Moore, and under the firm name of Banning & Acker they conduct one of the leading merchant tailoring concerns of Northwestern Ohio. Their motto is "Good goods, well made, on time when agreed." This principle always holds good at their place of business.

HOWARD W. ACKER.

Mr. Acker was born August 1, 1870, at Lehighton, Carbon county, Pennsylvania.

He attended the public schools of his native town until nineteen years of age, when he graduated. During his school days he spent his leisure moments in learning the tailor trade which he followed in his eastern home until 1892, when he moved to



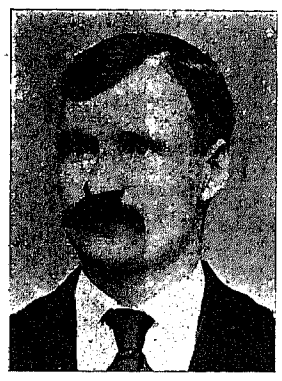
Ottawa, Ohio, and on April 4th of that year engaged with Fox & Moore, and on April 20, 1895, Mr. Acker formed a partnership with Amos J. Banning, and under the firm name of Banning & Acker they purchased the tailoring department of his old employer, and at this writing are conducting a very successful business at the old stand.

Mr. Acker was married on February 15, 1894, to Miss Zella Priest.



B. F. POPE.





H. CRAWFIS.

BENJAMIN F. POPE.

Benjamin F. Pope was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 22, 1838.

Mr. Pope was raised on a farm and has long ranked as one of Putnam county's most successful farmers, and was a Union soldier in the rebellion.

He was married November 12, 1863, to Angeline Stewart, of this county, and as a result of this marriage five children have been born: Ella, now Mrs. James Edwin Pierman, was born November 4, 1864; Vina, now Mrs. John C. Agner, born June 1, 1866; Fenelon F., born May 10, 1869; Agnes, born March 1, 1874; Byron W., born August 10, 1875.

Mr. Pope continued farming, stock raising, and stock dealing until 1894, when he moved to Ottawa, and on February 4, 1895, he formed a partnership with Mr. Crawfis, and entered into the furniture and undertaking business with the same energy and zeal that characterized his whole life.

This partnership still exists, and in the new Hauck Block, Ottawa, Ohio, may now be found a new and very successful furniture and undertaking establishment and two of Putnam county's most stable business men at the head of it.

HERMAN L. CRAWFIS.

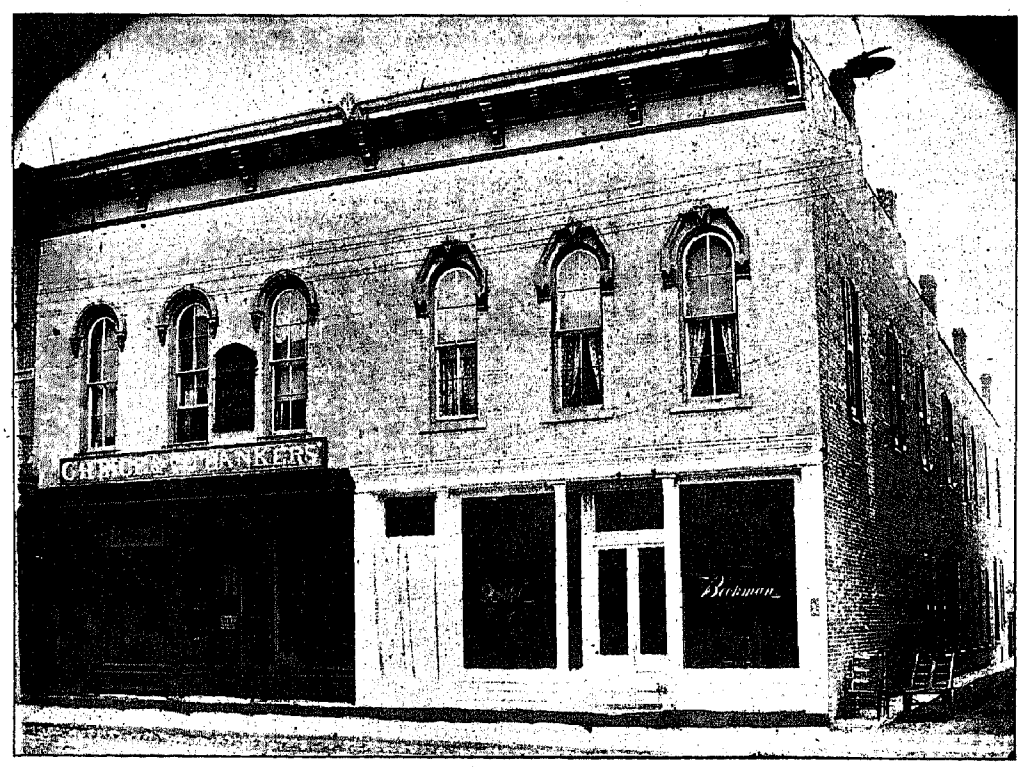
Herman L. Crawfis was born on a farm in Putnam county, November 22, 1858; spent his youth on his father's farm and at the country schools.

On December 14, 1881, Mr. Crawfis was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Darling, of Putnam county. Mrs. Crawfis is a native of Putnam county, having been born on a farm, September 7, 1862. To Mr. and Mrs. Crawfis have been born a happy family of four children: Joel Dalby, born September 3, 1882; Earl D., born September 15, 1883; Ralph E., born October 6, 1885, died February 17, 1887; Julius Roy, born July 4, 1890.

Mr. Crawfis followed farming until 1891, when he moved to Ottawa and purchased the furniture and undertaking establishment of Henry Ayers.

He continued alone in this business until February, 1895, when he formed a partnership with Mr. B. F. Pope, and now under the firm name of Crawfis & Pope they conduct one of the most enterprising furniture and undertaking establishments in the county.

In October, 1895, they moved their stock into the new Hauck Block.



A. V. RICE & CO., BANKERS,

OTTAWA, OHIO.

The Oldest Bank in Putnam County.

G. W. MEFFLEY,

Proprietor of Ottawa's Great Cash and One Price

Dry Goods House

Is the best place in the County to buy

DRESS GOODS,
CLOAKS.
SILKS,
VELVETS,
LACES,
RIBBONS,
DRESS TRIMMINGS
CARPETS, RUGS, LACE CURTAINS, ETC.

My line will be found more complete than ever before. There is is but one cash and strictly one price Dry Goods House in Ottawa, and you should not make your purchases until you have visited this store First door east of Court House.

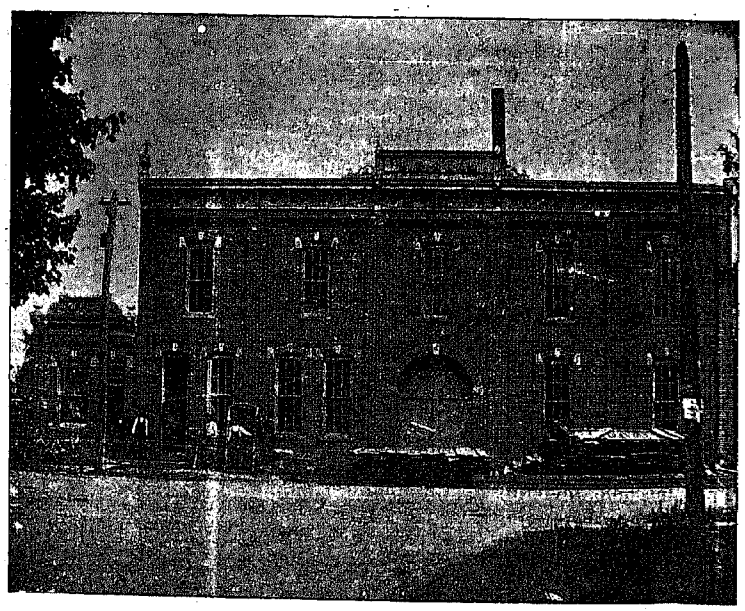
HENRY D. REAM.

The accompanying cut represents one of Putnam county's successful business men. He was born January 1, 1850, in Canton, Starke county, Ohio, and fifteen years after he moved to Ada, Ohio, engaging in the saw mill and lumber business, remaining at that place until 1877, when he moved to Putnam county, locating at Ottawa, where, preceding his moving, he had purchased the Ottawa Manufacturing Co.'s plant and immediately assumed the management of the concern.

This company manufactured all kinds of sash, doors, turning work of every description, and in fact every article necessary to complete any building.

For the long period of eighteen years he has conducted this business so successfully as to establish it among the most successful business enterprises of the county. He also owns and manages two large farms near Hartsburg.

Mr. Ream was married May 16, 1871, to Miranda Gilbert, of



Hardin county, and four children have been born to them: Harry C., born April 6, 1872; Alfred A., born July 26, 1874; Lillie L., May 16, 1878; Zelma Adelia, born March 6, 1883. His two sons ably assist him in the factory, and his eldest daughter is still at home.

In 1891 Mr. Ream reconstructed and remodeled his entire factory, and he now occupies the handsomest manufacturing building in the county.

History of Ottawa Public Schools.

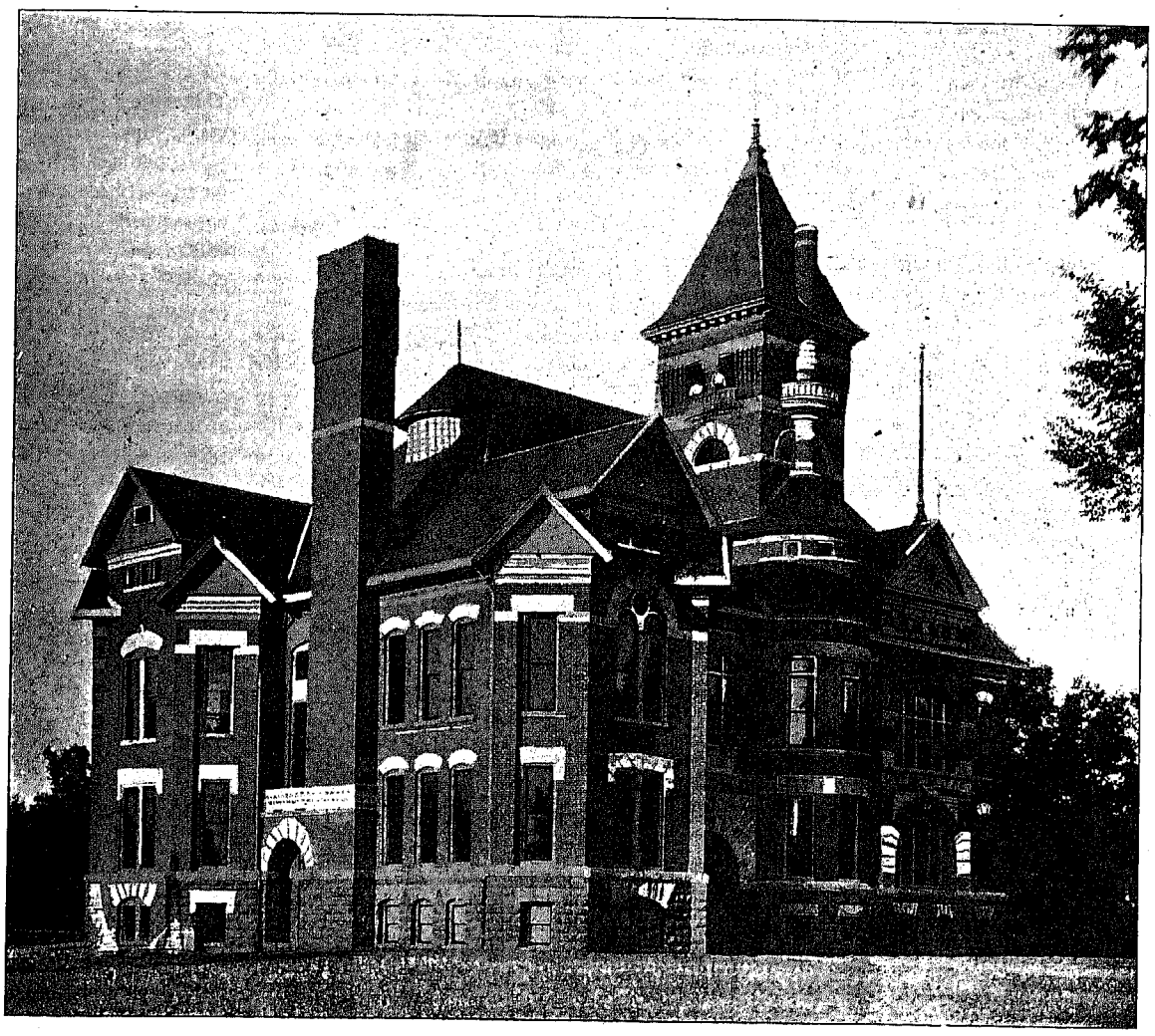
The history of Ottawa Public Schools would involve practically a history of the town. Ottawa was laid out, June, 1834, and the following winter witnessed the beginning of her school history. The schools passed through the usual vicissitudes of the formative stage, having for several years one school room only, when about the year 1862 two teachers were employed to teach the young idea how to shoot. In 1868 the West Union School building was erected at a cost of $15,000. This marked a great epoch in education. Prof. A. M. Brown (still a resident of this place) was employed to organize the school and put it upon the basis of a graded school, which he did, and to him Ottawa owes in a great measure its admirable system of graded schools. The Akron school law had been previously adopted, making the School Board to consist of six members with full power to adopt an extended course of study.

In 1870 J. Lee Gamble succeeded Prof. Brown as superintendent and remained in that capacity for one year. In the fall of 1871 S. F. DeFord was employed as superintendent, and four teachers were engaged. The course of study was somewhat changed. Chemistry, Trigonometry, Surveying, Geology, Zoology, Mental Philosophy and Logic being added to the course. The first class graduated in 1873 and consisted of eight members, viz: Julia Allen (first honor), Ralph Pugh (second honor), Ella Suayze, Mattie Slauson, Emma McBride, Zoe Godfrey, Jennie Long and Ella Brown.

Pupils graduated from the High School each succeeding year from 1873 to 1895, excepting 1875 and 1877. The whole number of Alumni at this date is one hundred and forty-four. In 1878 eight teachers were employed to supply the increasing school population. S. F. DeFord served as superintendent consecutively for fifteen years—from 1871 to 1886. In 1878 the Board appointed Hon. C. J. Swan, Dr. C. E. Tupper to act in conjunction with the superintendent in revising the course of study. The committee completed its work and made their report, which was unanimously adopted. Among the usual requirements of a course of study the course adopted required the pupil to attain 80 per cent in every branch. He must complete the full English branches; Latin was made elective; honors were conferred. The first given was for highest average per cent upon the branches studied and consisted of the valedictory address. The second was given to that pupil who had second highest per cent, and consisted of the salutatory address.

HONORS.

1873—Julia Allen, first; Ralph Pugh, second.
1874—Gertie A. Paul, first; Mary E. Holtz, second.
1876—Laura E. Holtz, first; C. G. Tupper, second.
1878—Nellie F. Tupper, first; Nettie Monroe, second.
1879—Delia Shoup, first; W. W. Sutton, second.
1880—Frank Light, first; Jennie Pugh, second.
1881—F. Bruce McGreevy, first; Cal. P. Godfrey, second.
1882—Lettie Tupper, first; Maurice Goetschius, second.



OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL.

1883—Julia Knowles, first; Charles Schierloh, second.
1884—Leroy A. Ellis, first; Anna Hayes, second.
1885—Winnie Light, first; Mary Beckman, second.
1886—W. E. Clippinger.
1887—Florence McClure, first; Mary Carr, second.
1888—Bertha Kraus, first; Charlotte Rice, second.s
1889—Olive Nicewarner, first; Will A. Kelley, second.
1890—Grace Ward, first; Howard B. Row, second.
1891—Guy P. Long, first; John H. Lehmkuhl, second.
No honors given after 1891.

Many foreign pupils patronized the schools during S. F. DeFord's administration. He collected, classified and labeled over 1500 specimens of minerals, thus making an invaluable aid to the study of minerology, and likewise to geology. He also, by direction of the School Board, purchased about $1,000 worth of philosophical, physiological, chemical, mathematical and geographical apparatus and charts, thus equipping the school most thoroughly for all the ordinary demands of experiment and demonstration. I am not exagerating when I say that no school in Northwestern Ohio was better equipped for successful and thorough work than the Ottawa Public Schools.

C. C. Miller succeeded to the superintendency in the fall of 1886 and held the position for four years, during which time the schools maintained their high order of excellence. J. M. Hall followed as superintendent in 1890 and 1891. D. W. Tussing in 1892 and 1893. Geo. E. Nelson in 1894 and 1895. During all these years the school did excellent work and furnished graduates of whom the town may well feel proud.

During the years 1891-92 the magnificent East School building was erected at a cost of $35,000, and perhaps no finer structure for its size is to be found within the limits of the State. It is a splendid monument to the deep and abiding interest our people have in the cause of education.

At this writing the Board of Education consists of S. F. DeFord, president; D. W. Seitz, vice president; C. H. Rice, clerk; Dr. H. Huber, treasurer; James A. Cartwright, George D. Hamden. Geo. E Nelson as superintendent, and ten able and earnest teachers.

During the winter of 1894-95 Albert M. Austin, the High School teacher, inaugurated and put into active and practical operation a gymnasium, using the entire fourth story of the new building for that purpose. This constituted quite an addition to the educational spirit of the advanced grades.

I also have the great pleasure of placing in this brief historical sketch the magnificent contribution of our esteemed and honored friend, Dr. E. W. Dimmock, of Dupont, this county, to our already hondsome collection of mineralogical and archeological specimens. Dr. Dimmock has thus added to the wealth, the interest and the permanent benefit of the Ottawa High School by his extensive and widely diversified collection (which

was made by his own hands). The Board of Education, fully appreciating the gift, tendered the Doctor the freedom of the schools, provided a handsome case for the use and protection of the minerals and engrossed upon the journal of its proceedings a full statement of the donation and ordered it called the "Dimmock Collection."

In closing this brief statement I must again say that under the present management, with Prof. Nelson at the head, our schools bid fair to rank with the best schools in the State.

Another feature which will contribute greatly to the progress of the schools is the creation of a Local Board of School Examiners. The enumeration of school youth having reached the gratifying number of seven hundred and five, thus entitling the District to a Local Board of Examiners, consisting of G. E. Nelson, S. F. DeFord and J. P. Bailey.

S. F. DEFORD.

OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

The first annual reunion of the Alumni of the Ottawa High School was held at the residence of Dr. C. M. Godfrey on the evening of May 17, 1874. No regular programme was arranged for the occasion, yet the following was the order of the exercises:

After partaking of an excellent supper Miss Jennie Long, on the part of the class of '73, greeted the class of '74 by reading a poem and giving as a toast, "The Class of 1874." Miss Gertrude A. Paul, on the part of that class, responded and gave the second toast, "Our Generous Hosts, The Class of 1873."

This was responded to by Miss Julia Allen, who then gave, "The Board of Directors." Hon. D. I. Brown responded for the directors and called for Prof. S. F. DeFord, who responded in an earnest manner and gave the fourth toast, "The Parents of the Pupils of Ottawa Union Schools." Mr. J. L'H. Long responded to this toast.

This, with music, constituted the entertainment of the evening, which is endeared to the heart of every charter member. The success of the evening was so complete that the idea of permanent organization was conceived. Accordingly the two classes, with Prof. DeFord as leader, repaired to another room and then and there was organized the "Ottawa High School Alumni Association," which had for its aim the advancement of the cause of education, the promotion of good fellowship among those who had completed the Union School course, and for the advancement of literature in our midst. The constitution was signed by the following graduates as charter members:

CLASS OF '73.—Misses *Julia Allen, Jennie Long, Emma McBride, Ella Brown, Zoe Godfrey, Ella Swayze, *Mattie Slauson; *Mr. Ralph Pugh.

CLASS OF '74.—Misses Mary Rollins, Etta Knowles, Mellie Holtz, Gertrude A. Paul. Mr. Ralph Pugh was chosen President, Miss Gertrude Paul, Vice President.

Below is a list of all the members who have added their names to the roll up to 1895:

CLASS OF '76.—Miss Laura Holtz, *Mr. Chas. G. Tupper.

CLASS OF '78.—Misses Helen F. Tupper, Nettie Monroe, Clara McBride, Alice Knowles, Celia McBride; Mr. Chas. L'H. Long.

CLASS OF '79.—Misses Francis Gallup, Delia Shoup, Elizabeth McGreevy, Nevada Shaffer, Nettie Williams; Messrs. Tupper L. Nicewarner, W. W. Sutton.

CLASS OF '80.—Misses Lillian Gallup, Jennie Pugh, Ella Clohesey, Mae Conrady; Messrs. W. A. Kober, Frank Light.

CLASS OF '81.—Misses Mattie Taylor, Dora Ewing; Messrs. Calvin P. Godfrey, T. L'H. Long, F. B. McGreevy.

CLASS OF '82.—Miss Lettie Tupper; Messrs. M. P. Goetschius, C. O. Beardsley.

CLASS OF '83.—Misses Julia Knowles, Sarah C. Knowles; Mr. Chas. A. Schierloh.

CLASS OF '84.—Misses Anna Hayes, Emma Kelly, Etta Milliman, Jennie Gallup; Messrs. Clark H. Rice, Leroy A. Ellis.

CLASS OF '85.—Misses Winnifred Light, *Mary Beckman, Laura E. Brooks, *Lizzie Frey, Agnes Long, Lizzie DeFord; Messrs. W. S. Zeller, B. F. Deniston, Frank Ewing, Ed. Beardsley.

CLASS OF '86.—Misses Mary F. Stout, Carrie Light, Dora Flint, Luella Allen, Lizzie Berkmier, Emma Row, Ida Goetschius; Messrs. E. C. Tupper, C. B. Ward, *W. E. Clippinger.

CLASS OF '87.—Misses Lizzie Brockman, May Carr, Florence McClure; Messrs. *Chester Galbreath, Mott Ewing, Clare G. Olney, Joel Spyker.

CLASS OF '88.—Misses Zella D. Kinder, Cora Bennett, Ella Hauck, Bertha K. Krauss, Mazie Hauck, Charlotte Rice; Messrs. Guy C. M. Godfrey, Will W. Ward.

CLASS OF '89.—Misses Myrtle Light, Iva Hamden, Mabel Wert, Olive Nicewarner, Mary Galbreath, *Cora V. Barr, Maude Merkley, Lida Powell, Zoe Allen; Messrs. Will A. Kelly, Chas. D. Beardsley, *Chas. E. Place.

CLASS OF '90.—Misses Grace Ward, Laura Craig, Esse V. Hathaway, Katharine Rice, Junia Wright, Nannie Ludwig; Messrs. Ben Umverferth, H. B. Row, LeRoy Day.

CLASS OF '91.—Misses Bertha Loy, Lillian Eastman; Messrs. John H. Lehmkuhle, Guy P. Long, Chas. G. Clippinger.

CLASS OF '92.—Misses Marguerite Ford, Harriet Gallup, Carrie Brown, Nona Light, Carrie Loy, Marie Zeller; Messrs. John T. DeFord, John Gosling.

CLASS OF '93.—Misses Lucy R. Bennett, Helen Sherrick, Edna G. Hathaway, Emma Knupp, Frances Shaw; Messrs. Herman Schmitschulte, Theodore Ludwig.

CLASS OF '94.—Misses Blanche Knupp, Anna Straman, Della Wightman.

CLASS OF '95.—Misses Amy Light, Lenore Rice, Ora Eastman, Zoe Brown, Esther Hornaday, Emma Brown, Zoe Kelly, Alice Hoskinson.

*Deceased.

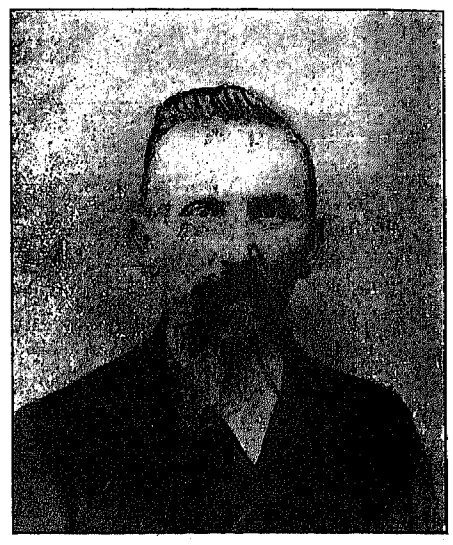
Total number of members one hundred and thirty-eight, from which death has claimed ten. It was the custom to hold a banquet after each school commencement until the year '81, when it was decided to hold them biennially instead. It is unusual for an Alumni Association of a Union School to be in existence so long, but through the earnest endeavor of the one who was the father of the society, Prof. S. F. DeFord, it has been able to weather the storms which have of necessity arisen, and at the present time is a healthy, full grown association which has sent out from its numbers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, business men and women, and many others whose humbler walks in life are no less useful and honorable. May its future be as successful as the past.

MRS. GERTRUDE A. PAUL.
Class of '74.

W. S. LENHART.

Mr. Lenhart was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in the year 1837, and was brought by his parents to Hancock county when he was eleven years old. He lived in Hancock county until he reached man's estate, and was married in 1864 to Miss Matilda Hall, daughter of Jesse and Margaret Hall, pioneers of this county, who at the time of the marriage resided near Webster. There were born of this marriage three children, two of whom, the eldest, Mrs. Lulu (Lenhart) Reese and Miss Della Lenhart, are still living. The second child, a daughter, Nettie, died young. After his marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lenhart moved to Webster, in this county, and then to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in farming and shipping live stock; for three years of the time being also in the hardware business in the town.

Mr. Lenhart's correct business habits and his genial, pleasant character, coupled with the wide acquaintance which he had formed and many friends he had made by his strict integrity in his business dealings while traveling over the country in his stock business, caused him to be unamimously selected by his party as the Republian candidate for county treasurer in 1889, and the same reasons coupled with some internal dissensions in the opposite party made his candidacy successful, and he was in that year elected county treasurer by a small majority, overcoming an adverse majority which usually ran from 1700 to 1900. He adopted while in that office several improvements in the system in vogue under former treasurers, by which he was enabled to meet the rush of taxpayers usual as the time for taxpaying neared its close, and was thus enabled to spare the taxpayers



W. S. LENHART.

the annoying delays which they had been wont to experience. This system recommended itself to his successor and is still in use by him.

Mr. Lenhart is essentially a self made man. His opportunities for an early education were such only as could be offered by the not too perfect common schools of his day, and such as he was able to acquire by reading in the spare moments of an exceptionally busy life. He is one of the prominent men of the county as an intelligent, active and energetic citizen.

S. F. DE FORD.

Samuel Fletcher DeFord, the subject of this sketch, is the son of John and Matilda (Littell) DeFord, and was born May 2, 1836, in Carroll county, Ohio. His father and mother were of the Huguenot French decent. He is of a family noted for longevity, his grandfather, John DeFord, having lived to the age of 103 years, and his father, John DeFord, was 86 years old and his mother 81 years old when they died.



S. F. DEFORD.

Mr. DeFord's early life was spent on the farm and in attending the country schools. Later he entered Mt. Union College and graduated in the scientific course in 1858, and in the classic course in 1859.

He was married November 5, 1859, to Miss Mary V. Duncan, of Scotch descent, and has a family of five children, four girls

and one son. The oldest, Clara Duncan, was born January 2, 1861; M. Elizabeth, November 17, 1867; Mary A., July 18, 1869; John T., June 30, 1874, and Susan Fletcher, December 30, 1881, all of whom are living except the oldest.

Mr. DeFord's real life work has been that of teaching, and in this work he threw his whole soul and energies, working because of his love for the work, and for 27 years was continuously employed as superintendents of schools, beginning at Newton Falls and next at Monongahela City, in the state of Pennsylvania. He was next employed at St. Marys, Ohio, and from there to Celina, where he held the position of superintendent six years. In 1870 he took charge of the Maumee Seminary. In 1871 he was offered the superintendency of the Ottawa Union schools which he accepted and moved to Ottawa the same year. He occupied this position for 15 years, during which time he became fully identified with the school interest of Putnam county. Through his influence the Putnam County Teacher's Association was organized and for a number of years Mr. DeFord was one of the instructors at the annual sessions of the institute.

His influence for good is manifested in the high rank Putnam county has taken in the cause of education. To Mr. DeFord, perhaps more than to any other one man, is due the honor of having brought our county up to the present proud position occupied by our public schools.

In 1886 Mr. DeFord retired from school, and engaged with Samuel Slauson in the banking business, under the firm name of Slauson & DeFord. In 1888 the partnership was dissolved, Mr. DeFord retiring. Since that time he has devoted his time to his farms and financial interests.

He has held several elective offices. He was township treasurer of Lordston township, Trumbull county, Ohio; justice of the peace of Jefferson (Celina) township, Mercer county, and for four years coroner of Putnam county. He held the office of county school examiner three years in Mercer county and 17 years in Putnam county, and is at the present time president of the city board of examiners of Ottawa, Ohio. In 1894 he was elected a member of the Ottawa school board. He holds a life certificate from the State Board of School Examiners and is now president of the board. He was president of the Northwest Teacher's Association, also secretary of the County Examiner's Association of Ohio.

In politics he has always acted with the Democratic party.

In his church relations he is a Methodist, having been a member of that denomination for 45 years. He was licensed a local preacher in 1856, and ordained an elder in 1859. He has been elected lay delegate to every session of the annual conference since lay delegates were admitted.

Fraternally.—He is an Odd Fellow, having been initiated in 1858, and has filled all the chairs of that organization.

He became a Mason in 1880 and belongs to Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Ottawa Chapter No. 115, and Putnam Council No. 69, and is Past High Priest of the Chapter. He is also a member of The Royal Arcanum.

Mr. DeFord occupies a very pleasant home located on Second Street, Ottawa, and bids fair for many years of life and usefulness.

JOHN BEARD.

Mr. Beard was born September 18, 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio. His father, John Beard, died in 1833 during that dreadful scourge of the cholera of that year. His mother, Mary (Carey) Beard, died in 1890 at the advanced age of nearly eighty-eight years.

His mother re-married in 1836 to a Mr. Allen. Mr. Beard lived with his mother until he was fifteen, going to school first at Hadley Corners one year, and afterwards at Reynoldsburg, Fairfield county, two years, and then at a place known as Seiver's Mills, on Blacklick creek of the same county. He went to school from two to three months each winter and assisted his step-father, Mr. Allen, in his mills the balance of the time.

At the age of fifteen he started out in life for himself, working on a farm by the month until he was twenty-five, when, on November 2, 1855, he was married to Mary C. Case.

There were born to this union two children— William H., who died in infancy, and Charles W., December 6, 1860.

Mr. Beard and his wife moved on what was known as the 'Squire Groves farm, in Greensburg township, Putnam county. He farmed during the summer and taught school in the winter until in 1865, when he sold his farm on account of the ill health



RESIDENCE OF JOHN BEARD.

of his wife and went back to Fairfield county, where in December of 1866 Mrs. Beard died.

Mr. Beard then, with his little boy, Charley, returned again to Putnam county and purchased a farm in Jennings township, farming and teaching school for four years. He married Mrs. Sophia J (Shank) Guyton, who was born February 15, 1840. To this marriage there was born six children—Christian S., born July 13, 1868; Lucy A., October 10, 1871; John F., December 23, 1872; Maggie, November 17, 1877; Ella, October 27, 1880, and Samuel S., December 23, 1882.

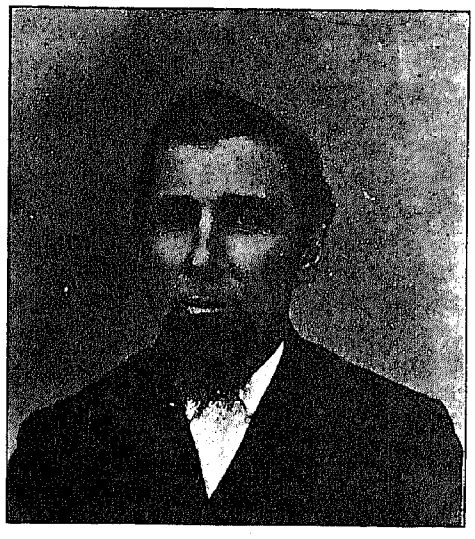
In 1872 Mr. Beard moved on the farm he now owns and on which he erected the substantial dwelling, of which we here give a cut. Besides clearing up and improving his farms, Mr. Beard has been one of the leading contractors in the county in road building and ditching.

That his neighbors have appreciated the ability and integrity of 'Squire Beard, as he is familiarly known, is attested by their calling upon him to serve them as Justice of the Peace twenty-seven years, and Land Appraiser in 1880, in Greensburg township, and one or two terms as Township Trustee, in Jennings township.

GEORGE C. WILLIAMS.

George C. Williams, a leading business man of Ottawa, is a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born September 19, 1845. His father, John Williams, also a native of Ohio, was of Welsh descent, and his mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Barkdoll, was descended from German ancestry. These parents were prominent members of the U. B. church and died at the ages of seventy-four and sixty-three, years respectively. They had a family of twelve children, nine of whom grew to maturity, viz.: Mary, deceased; Jane, widow of O. Meals; Sarah C., widow of James Meals; Amanda, wife of Henry Arnold; Maggie wife of John Kirk: Albert, deceased; Mahala, wife of Wm. Heffelmier, and Harriet, wife of Clark Ludwick.

George C. Williams was reared to farm life, and when but fourteen years old began the task of caring for himself, working as a farm laborer and coal miner. Being thrown upon his own resources at such an early age his educational advantages were, of necessity, somewhat limited, but always being a great reader, he has since amassed a store of valuable knowledge, and is now one of the well informed men of the community in which he resides. He not only supported himself when young, but contributed a portion of his meager earnings to the support of his father's family, and early learned the lessons of industry and economy by which his after life has been characterized.



GEORGE C. WILLIAMS.

Mr. Williams remained in his native county until seventeen years of age, when he came to Putnam County, locating two miles west of Columbus Grove, where he worked on a farm until entering the army in August, 1894. He entered the service in Company K, Fifth O. V. I., and was mustered out June 21, 1865, at Louisville, Ky., taking part in the meantime in the Atlanta campaign and Sherman's celebrated march to the sea. At the expiration of his term of service, Mr. Williams returned to Putnam County, and after spending one year with his parents learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed most successfully for a period of fourteen years. For some time he followed his chosen calling in the city of Toledo, where he was foreman for a large contracting firm, and in 1871 he removed to Columbus Grove, where he followed contracting and building until 1880, locating in the latter year at Ottawa, where he started a lumber yard, to which he has since given his attention. Mr. Williams has done a great deal of building in Ottawa and vicinity, and his lumber yard is the largest in the county. He keeps on hand a full stock of all kinds of building material, and is deservedly classed among the most successful and progressive business men of the city.

For many years Mr. Williams has been actively engaged in church and Sunday School work, and in 1889 made a tour of Europe as a delegate of the World's Sunday School Convention, which convened in the city of London in July of that year. He went as a State delegate and after transacting his business in the convention, visited the leading cities of the continent, among which were Paris, where he attended the world's exposition; Genoa, Italy; Pisa; the ruined cities of Pompei and Herculaneum; Rome, Florence, the principal points of interest in Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium; also Rotterdam, Holland; thence across the North Sea to England, spending a number of days in the great city of London. He spent spent some time in Scotland, visiting the Highlands and the important cities of that historic country; thence sailed to Ireland, making an extensive tour of the Emerald Isle, visiting its leading cities and other places of interest. A mere mention of the different points visited by Mr. Williams during this most interesting tour would tax the patience of the reader, but suffice it to state that he made intelligent observations in the different countries over which he traveled, and his descriptions of the same are given in the most interesting and charming manner to those with whom he conversed relative to his travels. Like his parents before him, Mr.

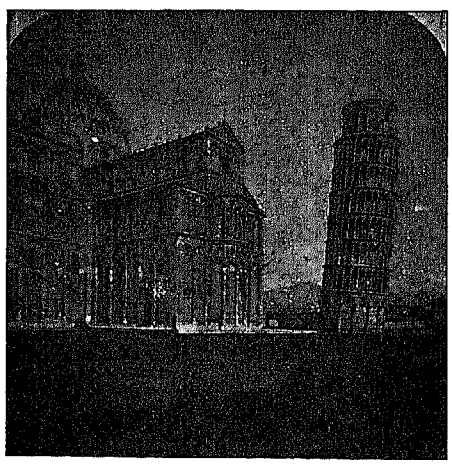
Williams subscribes to the creed of the U. B. church, and he has contributed liberally of his time and means towards the promulgation of religion in his own and foreign lands. He was chosen to represent his church in the General Conference at Dayton, O., in 1873, and since 1872 has been one of the most prominent Sunday School workers in the northwestern part of the state, having attended, during the past seventeen years, as delegate, a number of conventions, including the State's Sunday School Convention in Fostoria in 1882, the International Conventions of 1887 and 1890 inclusive respectively, and the International and World's Sunday School Convention at St. Louis, 1893.

In his local church he holds a position as class leader and trustee, and the amount of good he has accomplished in his various avenues of religious endeavor it would be impossible to estimate. Mr. Williams was married November 12, 1868, to Miss Elmina Kiefer, whose birth occurred in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, April, 1847.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams are the parents of five children, three living, viz.: Henry married Carrie Bennett and is associated with his father in business; Meda and Lesta, who are at home and attending the Ottawa Public Schools.

Mr. Williams furnished the writer some very interesting points of his travels in Europe, but space will not allow us to record, in full, the conversation and description of Mr. Williams, for his observations abroad were of the most scholarly nature and his memory and versatility enables him to give a minute description of the points of interest unnoticed by thousands of visitors to the same scenes.

While at Pisa he visited the leaning tower and made the ascent of that wonder of the world. We present a picture of the tower to our readers, the photograph for the picture having been purchased by Mr. Williams at Pisa and loaned to the



LEANING TOWER OF PISA.

publisher for this purpose. The tower is 180 feet in height, 30 feet in diameter and leans 13 feet from base to top. It is built of large sandstone, and by skilled workmen.

Mr. Williams made very close observations of the manner in which the tower was built, on account of the various theories set forth for the cause of the leaning of this tower. Was it intended by the designer of the tower that it should lean or was there a disturbance of the earth's crust that caused the tower to lose its verticle position, were the questions that confronted Mr. Williams. He finds the base to be level and the tower stands at an angle to its base. The column is straight from base to top. The base, which is nine feet high, rests upon the natural rock nine feet below the surface of the ground. This convinced Mr. Williams that the architect intended to build a leaning tower and that there was no interference of a volcanic nature or of any other kind that changed his plans.

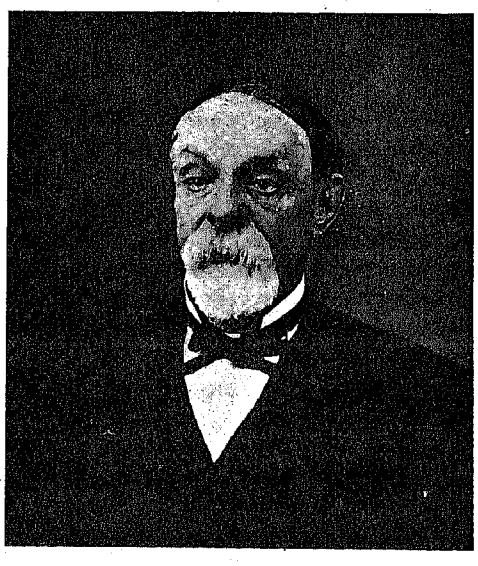
While at Rome he visited St. Peter's Cathedral, and vouches for the statement that it is the finest structure of its kind in the world. It is nearly 600 feet in height, and climbing to its dome he viewed the historic and ancient city of Rome, and gives it as his opinion that no city of the world so nearly compares, as regards to scenery, to that city as does our beautiful Queen City; but Cincinnati far exceeds it in improvements. After visiting the historical Collossium and Catacombs of Rome he proceeded to the ruined city of Pompeii, around and in which have been uncovered, in this century, proofs of an age of progress and wickedness ranking among the first in the world's history. He says that human bodies, in a petrified state, may be found throughout the city just as they had fallen on that fatal day when the wrath of Visuvius burst forth and covered the famous city and all her wickedness. While there he visited the world's most famous volcano and looked into that mouth which has belched forth death and destruction many times in its existence. The distance from Pompeii to Visuvius is about five miles and consumes about three and one-half hours time to reach it. Twenty-two hundred feet of this distance is traveled by cable, and four hundred feet, just before reaching the top of the mountain, which is the mouth or the volcano, the traveler has to walk over ground heated so as to readily roast an egg. The danger of making the ascent to Mt. Visuvius is so great that few visitors ever see its top.

NELSON HOWARD M'CRACKEN.

Mr. McCracken was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, November 7, 1827, and was brought when but four years old by his father, Robert McCracken (his mother having died when he was a babe) to Medina county, O., whence, after a brief residence in that county, he removed in 1834 and settled on a piece of land southeast of Kalida, which was then covered by an unbroken forest.

He received his education in the common school at Kalida, and in his earlier years taught school in the winter, working on the farm in the summer. At the age of twenty seven, in 1854, he was appointed by Auditor John Monroe as Deputy Auditor of the county, and from that time until 1863 continued to assist in that office and in the office of the County Treasurer.

Having been, at the fall election of 1862, elected County Treasurer, he took charge of that office in 1863 and (being re-elected in 1864) served as such for four years. It was during his term of office that the court house at Kalida was burned. Mr. Mc-



NELSON HOWARD M'CRACKEN.

Cracken and Mr. Maple, with another, made strenuous efforts to get out the safe containing the county's funds, but being unable to do so and at a loss for something in which to carry out its contents, Mrs. McCracken, with ready presence of mind, gathered her dress skirt into a receptacle into which they threw the money which was in the safe and carried it over to Mr. McCracken's house, where it was safely kept until a safe place was found for it. Not a dollar of the money was missing.

In 1875 Mr. McCracken was again elected County Treasurer, and re-elected in 1877, serving a second time for four consecutive years; and after his term expired, from time to time (generally at tax paying time) until 1891, he assisted the successive County Treasurers. He was married June 13, 1850, to Miss Sarah D. Shaffer.

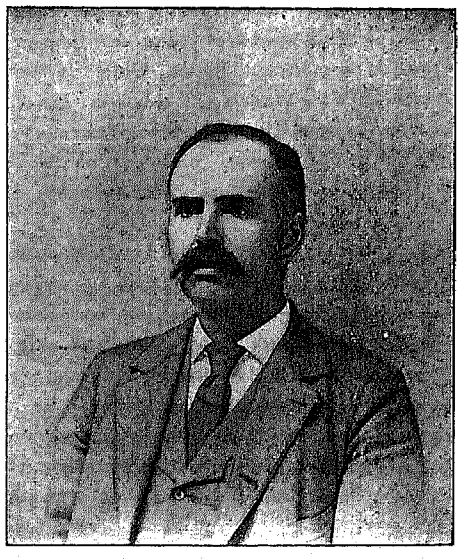
Quick at figures, thoroughly competent as a business man, of marked integrity and pleasant, genial nature, few citizens of the county have exercised so large an influence in both business and political circles throughout the county, and none have commanded more respect and consideration from all its citizens without regard to party, than has he. Successful in his business operations, he is, financially, one of the solid men of the county and several brick houses and blocks give evidence that he has borne his part in the improvements which have added to the growth and welfare of at least two of our thriving towns.

DANIEL W. SEITZ.

Mr. Seitz was born September 16, 1850, in Putnam county. His father, David Seitz, moved into the county in 1847 and settled on the farm in Union township where he now lives.

Mr. Seitz's earlier opportunities for obtaining an education were such as could be found in the country schools, which he attended until he was twenty-one years old, when he began teaching, first in his home district, in 1871, and the next year in the district adjoining. In 1873 and 1874 he attended the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, during the summer months, teaching in the winter, continuing to teach until 1879, when he took the Commercial Course at Lebanon. From 1879 to 1882 in connection with Prof. J. L. Geyer, he conducted a Normal School at Kalida, and during this time, in addition to teaching, carried himself through a thorough course in Surveying and Civil Engineering, familiarizing himself with the practical part of the profession during the four succeeding years.

In 1886 he was elected County Surveyor, which position, having been re-elected in 1889, he held until January 1, 1893. In 1885 Mr. Seitz became a member of the Ohio Society of Surveyors and Civil Engineers, a society organized by civil engineers of high standing and professional ability for the interchange of new ideas and the advancement of the profession, of which society he is still a member.



DANIEL W. SEITZ.

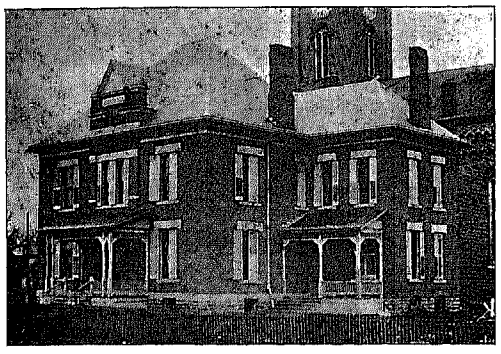
After his retirement from the County Surveyorship, during the summer of 1894, he was employed by the city authorities of Leipsic to construct in that town the first brick street pavement built in Putnam county.

He was married in October, 1882, to Miss Josephine R. Carey, of Kalida, and there have been born to them four children—Raymond C., November 13, 1883; Bessie I., December 19, 1885; Lydia L., May 22, 1890, and Cloyd H., February 5, 1893.

Mr. Seitz has for the past two years been occupied most of his time in gathering the material, both literary and topographical, and in preparing the maps for his Atlas of Putnam County.

OTTAWA CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Rev. Augustin Reichert, who died in Kansas, February 13, 1889, may justly be called the founder of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church at Ottawa, Ohio. June 14, 1868, the cornerstone of the above named church was laid with the usual ceremonies and solemnities, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Amadeus Rapp, first Bishop of Cleveland. Afterwards it was dedicated by his successor, Rt. Rev. Bishop Richard Gilmour.

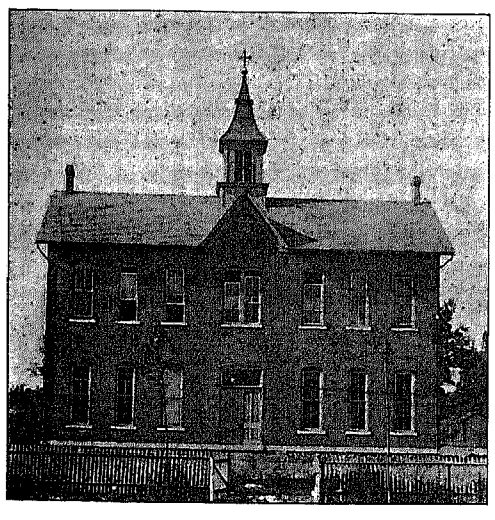


PASTORAL RESIDENCE.

From the very beginning great difficulties were encountered as there were about twenty-five families only to separate themselves from the old mother church (as it might be called in the county of Putnam) at Glandorf in order to organize a new parish. But good Father Reichert did not lose courage. He pushed the work and finally succeeded in erecting the church edifice which is still in use.

Rev. Fredric Schalk was the first pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church. He also had his difficulties. Under his pastorage the grounds for a cemetery were bought. Here the good people were again of different opinion; some wished to locate it east, others west of the church.

So they had a little fight over it (nobody was hurt though), each party wishing to have the peaceful dead



PAROCHIAL SCHOOL BUILDING.

as their neighbors. During the pastorage of Rev. F. Schalk a beautiful church bell and many other things necessary for divine service were purchased.

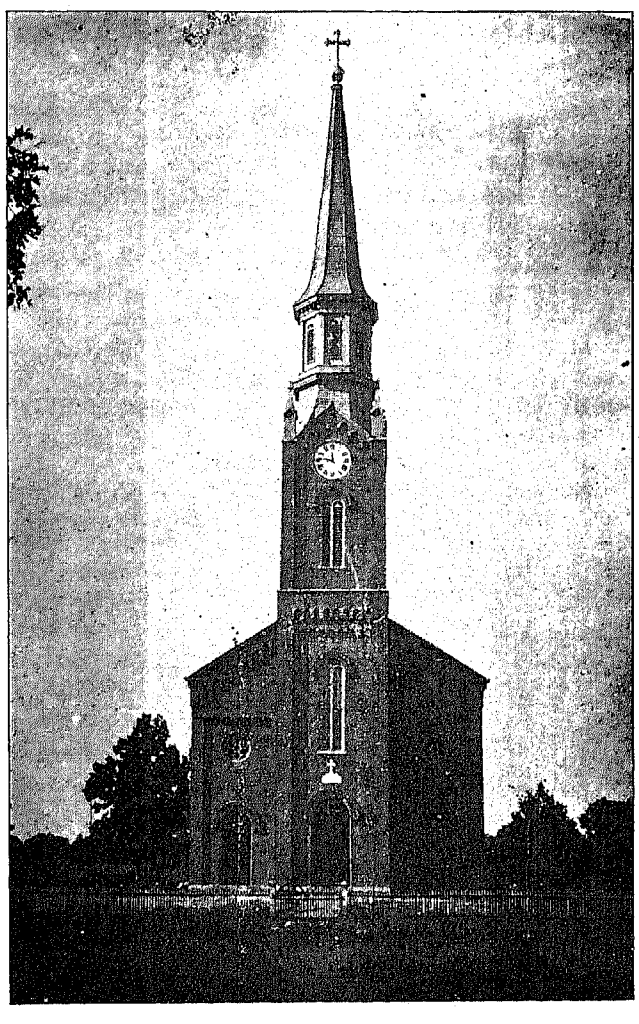
From February, 1876, to July, 1878, the pastorage of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church was entrusted to the Zealous Rev. Clemens Roessner, who died in Nashville, Tenn., October 2, 1887. He first started the parochial school at Ottawa. His zeal for instructing the children is evident from the fact that he undertook the tedious task of teaching school himself, making the trip on foot to and fro almost daily between Glandorf and Ottawa.

Rev. Rudolph Abbrederis succeeded Rev. Clemens Roessner as pastor of the Sts. Peter and Paul's parish at Ottawa. His pastorage lasted from July, 1878, to September, 1883. A beautiful pipe organ was procured during his stay, also a successful church fair was held under his supervision.

In September, 1883, Rev. Benedict Boebner took charge of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church. During his successful pastor-



REV. ANTHONY DICK.



STS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH.

age, which lasted till July, 1891, a handsome parochial school building of brick was erected and many other improvements made. His untiring zeal enabled him to surmount all the difficulties in the arduous undertaking of the erection of the above named school building. A very successful church fair under his management enabled him to cancel nearly all the debts. After a faithful service of nearly eight years at Ottawa, Ohio, Rev. B. Boebner was called to the professorship at St. Joseph's College, near Rensselaer, Indiana.

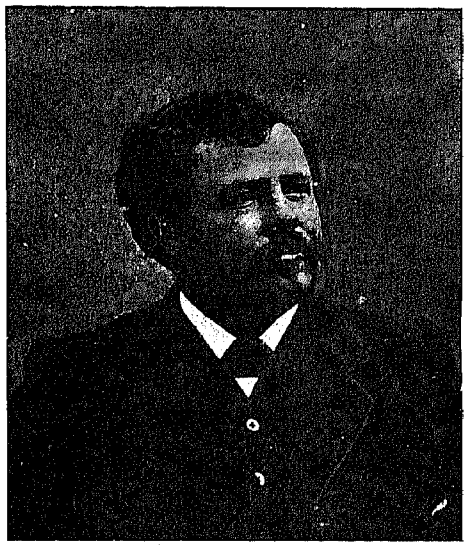
At the beginning of July, 1891, Rev. Anthony Dick received the appointment as pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church, and still holds his position as such. Soon after arriving here he visited all the members belonging to his parish, thus becoming acquainted with the most of his parishioners. Taking the census at the same time he found that one hundred and sixty some families were entrusted to his care. Up to this time Sts. Peter and Paul's church was attended to from Glandorf. Supported by the generosity of his good people he erected a handsome brick pastoral residence, in which he now dwells since about the middle of December, 1893. Thus he became the first resident pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul's church at Ottawa, Ohio. At present the parish is in a flourishing condition.

REV. ANTHONY DICK.

HON. IGNATIUS H. KAHLE.

Mr. Kahle, son of John Francis Kahle, was born August 22, 1850 upon his father's farm in Greensburg Township, this county. His father was one of the early settlers of the county, having been of the party who left the Fatherland with Professor Hortsman, the founder of Glandorf, in 1832, and settled in this county in 1833.

Ignatius obtained his education in the common schools of Greensburg Township, and at the age of fifteen himself became a teacher, teaching for three terms. At the age of twenty-one he was elected Clerk of Greensburg Township, and by successive elections was continued in that office until 1882, when he was nominated and elected Representative from Putnam County to the Ohio Legislature by a majority of 1,265, and re-elected two years later by 1,035. He was married November 24, 1875, to Mary A. Miehls, who was born October 23, 1853. They have nine children: Frank G., born August 22, 1876, Emma B., March 6, 1878, Adelia



HON. I. H. KAHLE.

B., June 11, 1880, Laura M., June 10, 1882, George W., January 27, 1885, Harry L., September 27, 1887, Albert L., June 15, 1890, Bertha M., September 30, 1892, and Mary P. M., February 22, 1895.

After serving his second term in the Legislature Mr. Kahle continued to farm for a year, when he and Theodore Leopold bought the Glandorf Grist Mills, which they run until 1893. In the meantime, in 1888, he and Joseph Kersting bought the general store now owned by Mr. Kersting in Glandorf, the partnership continuing until December, 1892, when he sold out his interest to Mr. Kersting.

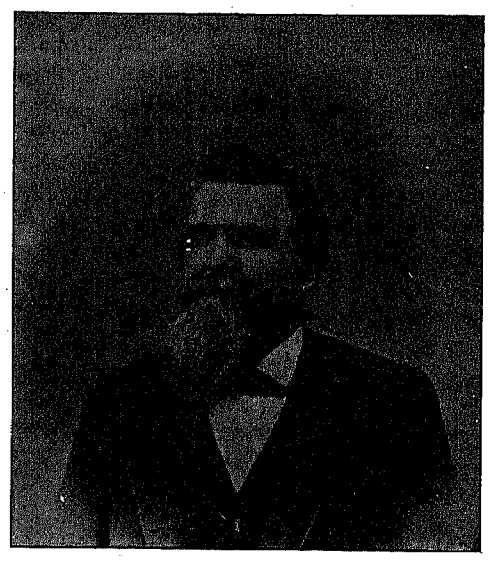
In 1893 Mr. Kahle and his son Frank made a voyage to Europe; in the course of their tour visiting Germany, France, Italy and Austria. On his return from Europe Mr. Kahle went into

the real estate business in Glandorf, and in 1894 in conjunction with Dr. W. F. Reed and W. H. Harper, Jr., established the Bank of Ottawa at Ottawa, doing a general banking business, Mr. Kahle being the Vice President of the bank.

That Mr. Kahle's course while in the Legislature was such as gained him the confidence and respect of his constituents is indicated by the increase of nearly seven hundred in his majority on his second term. Prompt in his attention to his duty as a Legislator, looking carefully after the interests of his people, of unswerving integrity, firm in his adhesion to his convictions, his legislative career is one that any man might well feel proud of.

J. C LIGHT.

Joshua C. Light, son of Samuel and Amy Light, was born April 23, 1839, in Berkley county, Va. With his parents he moved to Washington, D. C., in 1845, thence to Baltimore, Md., in 1846, from there to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1847, and settled in Urbana in 1848. Here he obtained a liberal high school education. At the breaking out of the Rebellion he quickly heard the call to arms and on the 17th day of April, 1861, he enlisted in Co. K., 1st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the first battle of Bull Run, June 21, 1861. Having completed his term of enlistment, he re-enlisted for three years, October 1,



J. C. LIGHT.

1861, in the 66th O. N. I. During this enlistment Mr. Light participated in the battles of Port Republic, Cedar Mountain, Second Battle of Bull Run, and the hard fought and hotly contested battle of Antietam. Having served faithfully his full term of enlistment he, at the expiration, re-enlisted in the spring of 1864 in the 134th, O. N. G., and served in the campaigns of the James and Appamatox rivers. During all these years Mr. Light proved himself a gallant soldier, quick, ready and brave to do when deeds alone counted, and he justly feels a commendable pride in his record as a soldier.

He was married to Miss Susan Thompson, in September, 1866. Moved to Ottawa in 1872 and for five years engaged in teaching school in the winter and farming in the summer. In 1877 he was employed as a teacher in the Ottawa Public Schools, in which position he remained for thirteen consecutive years. Here he developed a great faculty for his profession. I must say from my intimate relations with him, that he proved a model teacher. He would frequently have from sixty to sixty-five pupils to handle, and during his entire experience in Ottawa schools he exemplified those traits of character that constitute the real teacher—teaching not alone for the money that was in it, but bearing constantly in mind the welfare of his pupils.

The subject of this sketch has been honored time and again by fraternal societies of which he was an ardent member, having been elected secretary of each of the Masonic bodies every year continuously, with but one or two exceptions, since he became a member, and is at this writing serving his twentieth term. In politics Mr. L. is a Republican and was appointed postmaster of Ottawa by President Harrison in 1890, and served his full four years. In church relations he is a Methodist. Our subject is now engaged in insurance, loan and real estate, and is having a goodly share of patronage.

DANIEL ERNEST.

Mr. Ernest was born near Millgrove, Wood county, Ohio, September 17, 1846. After his removal to Putnam county he was, on the 13th of December, 1871, married to Miss Amanda Brower, a daughter of one of the pioneers of the county. He bought sixty acres of land in Palmer township, paying for it the sum of $800, and settled down to make himself a home. A



RESIDENCE OF DANIEL ERNEST.

steady, industrious application of his energies in this direction enabled him after eight years of judicious work and management to purchase the old home farm of John Crawfis, in Blanchard township, for $7,100, which he occupied until his removal to Ottawa, where he now lives with his family. The obtaining of the better education of his children, by reason of the admirable school facilities afforded by our schools being a large element in inducing him to make the change in his residence.

Mr. Ernest has been one of our active and intelligent farmers and has taken an active interest in our agricultural society and in the success of our county fairs.

OLIVER C. TALBOT.

Oliver C. Talbot was born May 11, 1868, at Kalida, Ohio. He received his education in the Union Schools of Kalida. Ex-



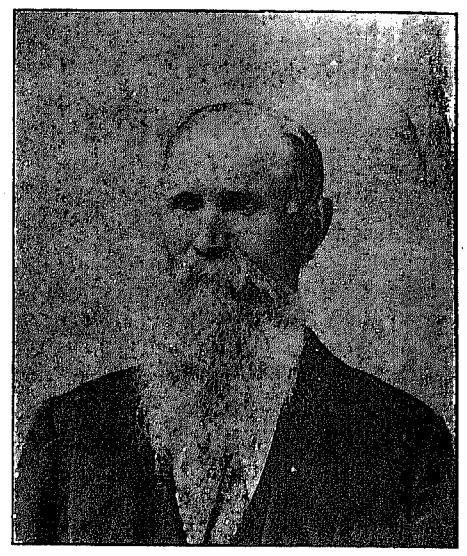
OLIVER C. TALBOT.

celling in the study of mathematics his inclination in this direction led him to the study of surveying and civil engineering. He assisted D. W, Seitz, County Surveyor, from 1889 to 1893, and at the expiration of Mr. Seitz's term of office he was deputy county surveyor under J. D. Huddle one year, and is now assisting in the management of The Electric Light Company of Ottawa. Mr. Talbot assisted in compiling the maps for the Putnam County Atlas.

Mr. Talbot was married to Miss Elnora Light, of Ottawa, on March 29, 1894. They have one child, Harriet Irene, born Jannary 8, 1895.

WILLIAM KOHLS.

The subject of this sketch, William Kohls, was born November 2, 1838, at Glandorf, Ohio, where he received a common school education. He was married to Anna Mary Rothman, of



WILLIAM KOHLS.

Glandorf, May 10, 1865. To this union there were born seven children. Mr. Kohls is one of the successful farmers of the county. His farm is situated a short distance southeast of Ottawa, where he and his wife live happily with their children, two girls and five boys.

DR. T. E PAUL.

Truman Edwin Paul, son of Doddridge and Roxana Whitney Paul, was born March 6, 1824, at Milan, now Erie county, O., in the block-house, or fort located at that place, where the settlers had taken refuge on account of Indian depredations and massacres which were frequent at that time. At the age of two years he removed with his parents to Crawford county, Ohio, at that time a dense forest with but one neighbor, and he three



DR. T. F. PAUL.

miles distant. At the age of eleven years he attended his first school, going four miles through the woods, and thereafter he attended school three months every summer until he left home when sixteen years old, then attended one year at the Green-

field Academy, in Fairfield county. Then he commenced the study of medicine with Drs. Paul & Frisby, of Royalton, Fairfield county, Ohio, where he continued, with intervening lectures, for four years, graduating from the Geneva Medical College, of New York City, since which time he has constantly engaged in the practice of his chosen profession.

In March, 1845, at the age of twenty-one years, he came to Gilboa, Putnam county, and engaged in the practice of medicine in its various branches. At that time the larger part of the county was an unbroken forest and the remainder but sparcely settled, with a log cabin here and there in the woods. His practice extended over the east half of Putnam and west part of Hancock counties, from the Blanchard river to the Maumee, long distances through an unbroken forest with no roads, and nothing but mud and swamps.

In the fall of 1848 he was married to Miss Mary Jane Britton, of the same county. Of this union there was born one daughter, Gertrude R. Paul, who is now married to Dr. A. L. Paul, of Ottawa.

In the fall of 1879 he removed to Ottawa and continued the practice of his profession. He has lived to see the county converted from a wilderness and mire and swamps to one of the best in the State; and the well known and much dreaded Black Swamp, which was a terror to all travelers, converted into the garden spot of the State. And now, at the age of seventy-two years, he is hale and hearty and still in the practice of his profession.

AMERICUS V. RICE

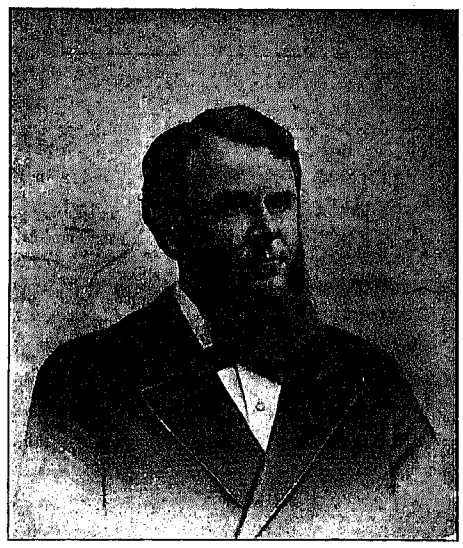
Hon. Americus V. Rice was born in Perrysville, Ashland county, Ohio, November 18, 1835. He is the son of Clark H. and Katherine (Mowers) Rice. His father was born in Essex county, New York, and removed with his father to Richland county, Ohio, in 1812. He lived there till the age of thirty-five, when he removed to Putnam county and engaged very successfully in the mercantile business. During the last two years of his life he was the head of the banking house of C. H. Rice & Co. He died September 27, 1870, nearly sixty-six years of age. Ebenezer Rice, grandfather of Americus V. Rice, was a captain of artillery in the war of 1812, and his father was an officer in the Revolutionary War. The family came to this country from England in 1637, settling in Worcester, Mass.

General Rice spent two years at Antioch College, Ohio, and then entered Union College at Schenectady, New York, graduating in the class of 1860. In September he began the study of law, pursuing it until the following spring, when he offered his services as a private soldier under the three months call of President Lincoln. April 29, 1861, he was elected 2d Lieutenant of Co. E, 21st Regt. of Ohio Infantry, and on the 16th of May he was elected Captain, serving as such in the campaign of western Virginia under General J. D. Cox, until the muster out of his regiment in August of the same year. During the month of September, next following, he recruited a company for the three year service and was mustered in as Captain of Company A, 57th Ohio Infantry. General Rice largely assisted in recruiting and organizing this regiment, and his sentiment for it has lasted throughout his entire life. He has always considered "57" a magical number, and even now, thirty years after the close of the war, his blue eye kindles with pride when this gallant regiment is mentioned.

February 8th, on the unanimous recommendation of the officers of his regiment, he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel by Governor Todd. He accompanied his command to Paducah, Ky., where it was made a part of what is proudly spoken of as "Sherman's Division."

At the ever memorable battle of Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862, he was in command of his regiment. In the thickest of the fight Lieutenant-Colonel Rice was ever to be found directing and encouraging his men, one third of whom, alas, were missing when the dreadful battle was over. During the engagement a shell burst above his head, knocking both officer and horse senseless by the concussion. In the advance of Corinth, Mississippi, and subsequent siege, he took an active part. He was in all the battles and led his regiment in such a manner as to elicit the encomiums of his superior officers. He followed the fortunes of Sherman's army during the summer and fall of 1862. At Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi, when Sherman was attempting to reduce Vicksburg, Lieutenant-Colonel Rice assumed command of his regiment during the different engagements from December 27, 1862, to January 2d, 1863. He distinguished himself at the battle of Arkansas Post, Arkansas, early in January, and durthe latter part of this same month and first half of February was with Grant at Vicksburg. In March he was placed in command of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 15th Army Corps, in the "Black Bayou Expedition," an effort of General Sherman to invest Vicksburg. On April 16th of this same year, 1863, he received his commission as Colonel of the 57th Regiment, having already been in command of a brigade through some of the most important engagements.

April 30th he took his command to Snyder's Bluff on the Yazoo river and assisted in making the diversion against that point, which enabled General Grant to capture Grand Gulf, Mississippi. By rapid marches his troops circled around Vicks-



AMERICUS V. RICE.

burg and reached Baker's Creek, Miss., in time to engage in the battle of Champion Hills, May 16, 1863. He led his men in the engagement at Big Black River, May 17th, and pushing on to Vicksburg was in the first assault on that place after its investment on the 19th of May. On the 22d of May he headed his command in the terrible charge against the enemy's works at Vicksburg.

In this battle he was severely wounded by a minnie ball received in his thigh, and a shot which broke his right leg below the knee. These serious wounds kept him out of active service until January, 1864. For his brave actions in the various campaigns about Vicksburg, General Sherman recommended him for promotion to Brigadier General. He was again with Sherman in his most notable campaign against Atlanta in 1864, taking part in the different battles of Sugar Valley, Resaca, Dallas, New Hope, Big Shanty and Little Kenesaw. At the battle of Little Kenesaw he received three wounds almost simultaneously. The first in the head near the temple and caused great loss of blood; the second badly shattered the left foot, while the third crushed the right leg, making amputation above the knee necessary. For his action at Resaca, Georgia, May 14, 1864, he again received an impromptu recommendation from the general officers for promotion to Brigadier General for "gallant conduct on the field under their personal observation;" but the appointment was withheld until May, 1865.

His terrible wounds at Little Kenesaw kept him from active service until April, 1865, when he again joined his army at Newburn, North Carolina. He passed with his command in the great review at Washington, May 24, 1865, and in June took them to Louisville, Kentucky. There he was assigned to the command of the 3d Brigade, 2nd Division of the 15th Army Corps, which he took to Little Rock, Arkansas, June 24th. They were mustered out August, 1865. General Rice was honorably discharged January 15, 1866, having given his best energies and nearly five years of the best part of his life, together with his good right leg to the service of his country. He has suffered ever since from his wounds, and those who know him best say that his bravery in fighting and bearing this pain without a murmur must be greater than that required to face the cannon in the heat and excitement of battle. But it was, and is, all for his country. This thought has strengthened and sustained him all through the long years.

Upon entering private life he went to Arkansas, where he spent two years in cotton planting, Not satisfied with the experiment he returned to Putnam county, Ohio, where in June, 1868, he became the manager of the banking house of C. H. Rice & Co., at Ottawa, giving the business his whole attention for six years. At the death of his honored father he became the head of the firm. The house has had a remarkably successful career and has always enjoyed a most enviable reputation.

General Rice was married October 11, 1866, to Miss Mary Metcalf, a lady of refined nature and rare social qualities, the eldest daughter of the late Judge Metcalf, of Lima, Ohio.

General Rice belongs to an old Democratic family of the Jeffersonian type. He was a war Democrat, and has never given his adhesion to any other school of politics. In 1872 he was a delegate to the Baltimore convention that nominated Horace Greeley. In 1874 he was elected to Congress, and re-elected in 1876. The quick intelligence and sunny, sympathetic nature of the young Congressman soon won the attention and hearts of the statesmen gathered at the National Capitol, as they had already won those of the officers in the army. After a time it gradually came to be known that the opinion of the quiet member from Ohio had weight. He then, as always, identified himself with the soldier interest. He was made chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, and his great work in Congress, to which he devoted his best energies, was the passage of the Arrears of Pensions bill. This secures to every old soldier who obtains a pension not only the money due him each quarter, but all that has accumulated to his credit since the war.

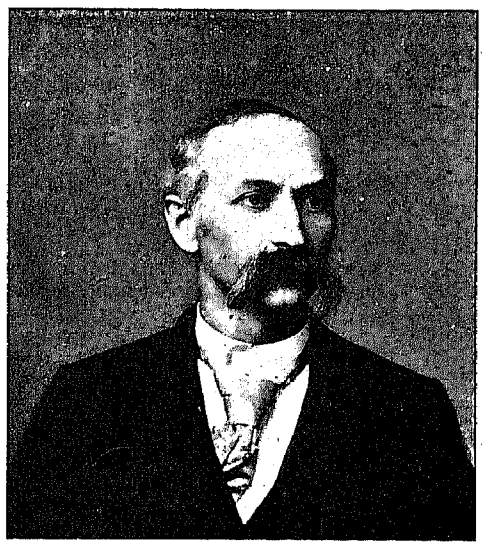
In 1880 General Rice was first alternate delegate for the State at large to the Cincinnati convention, at which General Hancock was nominated; and in 1888 he was delegate to the St. Louis convention, at which Grover Cleveland was nominated.

He has always been a public spirited citizen and has identified himself with all the principal movements in town and county. He has been a partner in most of our leading manufactories, and has ever thrown his influence on the side of progress and improvement. Church, town, county, schools, charities and society have always received his encouragement and his assistance. For a number of years General Rice has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, at Xenia, Ohio. This is a work of love with him that has received much of his time and labor.

On the 21st of March, 1894, he was appointed United States Pension Agent for Ohio, by the President. It was one of the most popular appointments that President Cleveland has made. After having devoted so much of his life to the interest of the soldiers, it is indeed fitting that the pleasant though arduous task of disbursing to them nearly sixteen millions of dollars each year in pensions should devolve upon General Rice. He took possession of his new office at Columbus, May 1, 1894. He is now, with his family (which consists of his ever devoted wife and two daughters), temporarily living in that city.

SAMUEL C. ARNOLD.

S. C. Arnold, the well known and efficient photographer of Ottawa, Ohio, and son of Christian J. and Sarah (Wilt) Arnold, was born September 10, 1850, at Delaware, Ohio. His parents removed to Kalida, Ohio, when he was one year old, but soon thereafter settled on a farm two miles east of Columbus Grove. Here the subject of this sketch was reared and taught those traits of character which have enabled him to pursue his undertakings in life with success. Assisting his father during the



SAMUEL C. ARNOLD.

busy seasons of farm life, he attended the country schools during the winter season until he arrived at the age of seventeen, when his father again removed to Sandusky county, Ohio, and there again located on a farm. At the age of twenty-one Mr. Arnold began teaching school, thus enabling himself to acquire an independent education, and with his means thus earned carried himself through a term or two in the Fremont high schools. He afterwards attended school at Republic, Ohio, two terms and one year at Oberlin and Berea.

In 1874 he took up the study of photography at Fremont, Ohio, and in 1881 he removed to Ottawa, Ohio, and entered at once the business of photography, which he has so ably conducted to the present time.

Mr. Arnold made a large number of photographs from which the half-tone plates used in the Putmam County Atlas were produced.

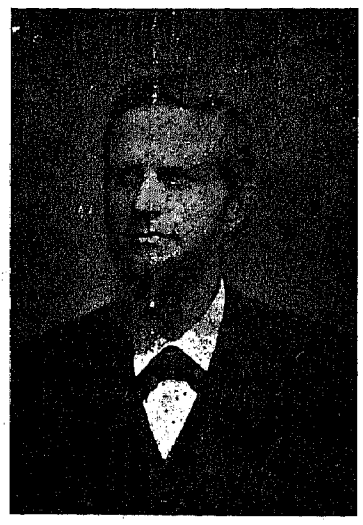
In the fall of 1881 Mr. Arnold was married to Miss Mary A. Davis, of Ottawa. They have one child, Effie Lenore, born September 19, 1882.

GEORGE B. CASS.

George Bailey Cass, the son of Levi A. Cass and Lucy A. Cass (nee Sanford) was born on a farm near Congress, Wayne county, Ohio, July 2, 1837. He was one of a family of eight children, five sons and three daughters. When quite young he removed with his parents to Galion, from which place he attended Oberlin College for two years. Being given a tract of wild land in Wood county, by his father, he removed thither and taught school a portion of the time, making the rails, fencing his land and getting it ready for cultivation. When about the age of twenty-one he was united in marriage to Katharine A. Kline, of near Gilboa. Nine children blessed this union, of which six are living at this time. The young couple lived on their farm for two years and then moved to Tontogany, where Mr. Cass was employed as railway and express agent for several years. After severing his connection with the railroad he went West, remaining for a short time, and on returning located at Hebron, Indiana, where he engaged in the hardware business for four years, when he sold out and re-embarked in the same business at Ottawa, continuing therein until 1882, when he disposed of it, after having built up an immense trade. He probably had the most complete store and enjoyed the largest patronage of any hardware dealer ever engaged in the business in Putnam county.

Mr. Cass' occupation since discontinuing in the hardware business has been superintending his large farming interests.

Religious affiliation began while in Tontogany, where he united with the Presbyterian church, continuing an active member in Ottawa until his death. He served the Sabbath school many years as superintendent. In 1879 he took his entire



GEORGE B. CASS.

corps of teachers, pastor and librarian to the Sunday school encampment at Lakeside; he also served the church several years as trustee. In 1861 he volunteered for service in the Union army, but was rejected on account of physical frailty.

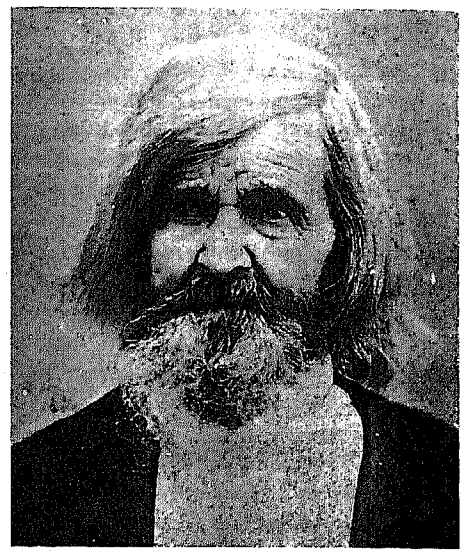
Mr. Cass was a man of great energy and determination, fearless and indomitable. By careful and active management and close application he succeeded in amassing quite a fortune. To the outside world he seemed wrapped in business, but in his home circle were abundantly manifested those traits which mark the solicitude and indulgence of a loving father. One controlling desire was to afford his children the advantages of a superior education, and to that end was unstinted. His private benefactions were large, but the left hand knew not the right hand's doing, so that most people were unaware of his many charitable acts.

He was cordial to friends, discreet in tongue, temperate in the strictest sense. Policy had no place in his character; he had the courage of his convictions, and when occasion demanded was fearless in their expression. He hated insincerity. If you could enlist him on your side he was loyal to the last degree; his time, abilities and means were at your disposal. His was a full life and a successful one.

He died July 3, 1895, at Battle Creek, Michigan, where his family had taken him in hopes of restoring him to health. He was just fifty-eight years old at the time of his death.

WILLIAM SCOTT.

Among the early pioneers of Putnam county only a few remain, and of the early county offiicials only two, known to the writer, are among us. James M. Lee, of Kalida, Ohio, was the first Court Constable, and William Scott, of Delphos, Ohio, was one of the early County Commissioners of the county, and served as such five or six years. He was also a pioneer Justice of the Peace for many years. Mr. Scott is of Scotch-Irish descent and was born February 19, 1796, and came to this county, settling on the bank of the Auglaize river, south of Ft. Jennings. Although nearly a centenarian, blind, and hard of hearing, he relates with interest many of the early events of the county. He presented the name of James McKinzie to the convention which nominated him for Prosecuting Attorney, and was a delegate to the Democratic congressional convention that nominated Congressman Blackburn. The "latch string" of his cabin door always hung out, and he had the honor of entertaining the late Gen. James B. Stedman (Old Chickamauga) over night in his cabin in 1840.



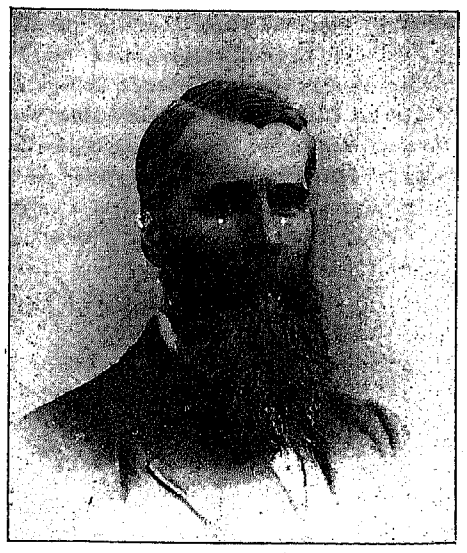
WILLIAM SCOTT.

He was a regular attendant of the Putnam County Pioneer Associations for many years, and his portrait will be recognized by many of our people.

DR. CHARLES E. TUPPER.

Although he has passed from earth, so intimately was Dr. Tupper connected with the growth of the county for many years that its history would scarcely be complete without some record of his life and work.

Dr. Tupper was born in Bernard, Vermont, September 13, 1829. While yet a boy he came to Ohio, settling near Cleveland. He studied his profession with Dr. Pixley, of Wooster, Ohio, graduating at the Cleveland Medical College in 1854, and commenced the practice of medicine immediately, in which he was continually engaged up to the time of his death. He practiced



CHARLES E. TUPPER

in Ohio and for a short time in Wisconsin, from whence he returned to Ohio, settling in Ottawa in 1860 in partnership with Dr. C. T. Pomeroy, continuing in the partnership until he was appointed in 1864 Surgeon of the 41st Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which capacity he served until the close of the war.

After his return from the army he formed a partnership with Dr. C. M. Godfrey, which continued until Dr. Godfrey retired from active practice.

An earnest and enthusiastic student in his chosen profession, the experience gathered in his army life made Dr. Tupper one of

the most trusted and skillful physicians and surgeons in the state, and brought to him a large and lucrative practice. His ability and sterling worth were recognized by his neighbors, as well as by those high in authority. As an appointee of three Presidents he served upon the County Board of Pension Examiners from its organization until his death. He was appointed by Governor Campbell as Superintendent of the Toledo Asylum for the Insane; by the voice of his fellow citizens he served upon the Board of Education of Ottawa for many years, and but that despite the persuasions he would not, he could have represented this district in the Congress of the United States.

He was a man of fine ability, positive in his convictions, and fearless in his advocacy of what he deemed to be right.

He was married June 9, 1857, at Strongsville, to Miss Mary A. Gallup; to this union were born three sons and two daughters.

Dr. Tupper died January 7, 1894, at his home in Ottawa.

EXTRACT FROM HOWE'S HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY IN 1840.

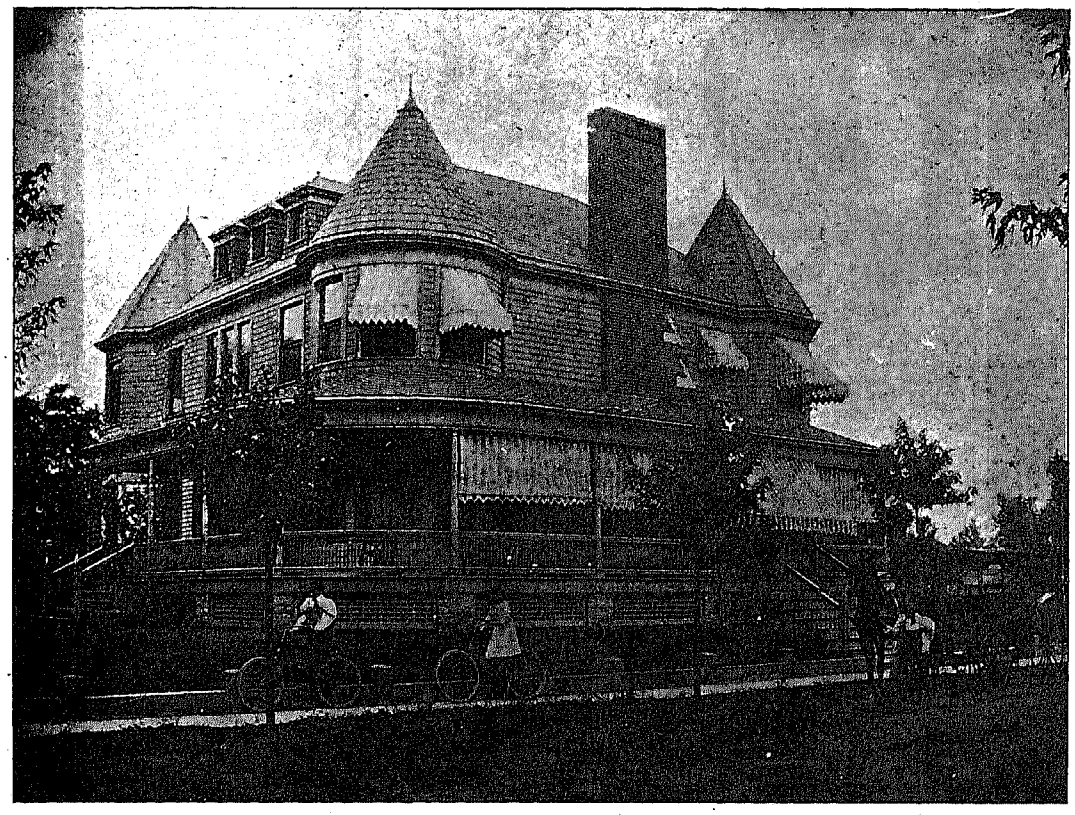
"A large portion of the population is from eastern Ohio, and of Pennsylvania extraction. In Ottawa, Greensburg, Riley and Jennings are many natives of Germany. The site of old Fort Jennings is in the southwest part. There were two Indian towns in the county of some note—the upper 'Tawa town was on Blanchard fork; two miles below, on the site of the present Ottawa village, was the lower 'Tawa town.

"Kalida, the [old] county seat, is on Ottawa river, 114 miles northwest of Columbus. It was laid out in 1884 as the seat of justice, and from a Greek word signifying '*beautiful*.' It contains a Methodist church, four stores, a newspaper printing-office, and thirty-six dwellings.

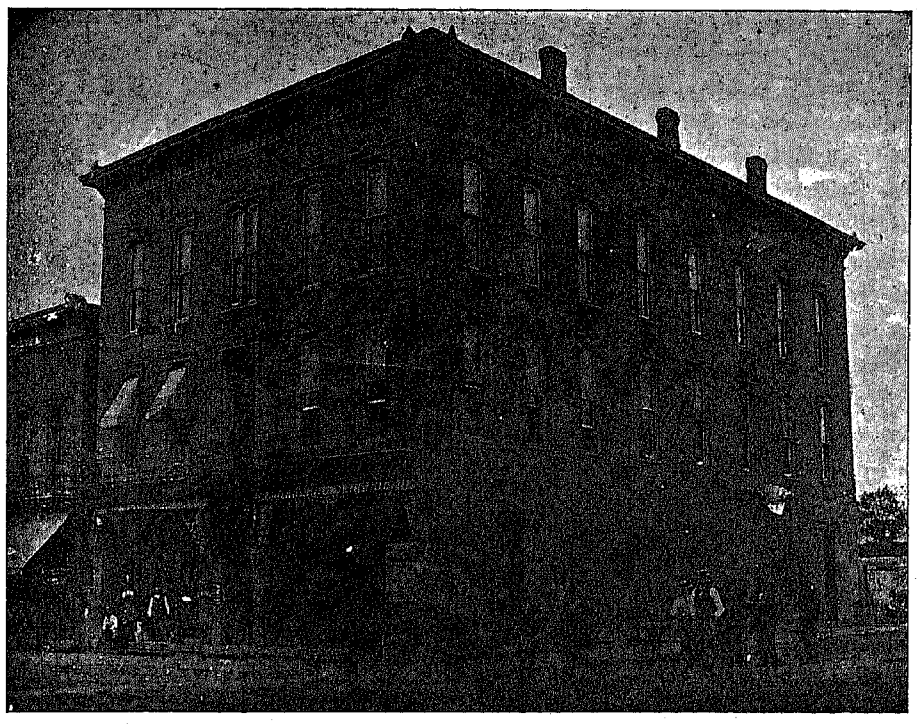
"In Riley is a settlement of 'Aymish or Omish,' a sect of the 'Mennonites or Harmless Christians.' They derive their name from Aymen, their founder, and were originally known as Aymenites. This sect wear long beards, and reject all superfluities in dress, diet and property. They have ever been remarkable for industry, frugality, temperance and simplicity. At an early day many of the Omish emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania. When they first came to the country they had neither churches nor graveyards. 'A church,' said they, "we do not require, for in the depth of the thicket, in the forest, on the water, in the field and in the dwelling, God is always present." Many of their descendents, deviating from the practice of their forefathers, have churches and burial grounds.

"The view, 'A Home in the Wilderness,' represents a log tavern in the western part of the county, on the road to Charloe. It was built about thirty years since, by two men, assisted by a female. It has long been a favorite stopping place for travelers, as many as twenty or thirty having, with their horses, frequently tarried here over night, when journeying through the wilderness. The situation is charming. It is on the banks of the Auglaize, which flows in a ravine some fifteen or twenty feet below. All around stand massive trees, with foliage luxuriantly developed by the virgin fertility of the soil, while numerous branches lave in the passing waters. We came suddenly upon the place on a pleasant day in June, 1846, and were so much pleased with its primitive simplicity and loveliness as to stop and make a more familiar acquaintance. We alighted from our faithful 'Pomp,' turned him loose among the fresh grass, drew our portfolio from our saddle-bags, and while he was rolling amid the clover in full liberty, and the ladies of the house were seated sewing in the open space between the parts of the cabin, fanned by a gentle breeze—we took a sketch as a memorial of a scene we shall never forget, and to present to our readers a view of 'A Home in the Wilderness.'

"Gilboa, Pandleton, Ottawa, Columbus Grove, Madeira and Glandorf are all small places in this county, the largest of which, Gilboa, contains about thirty-five dwellings."—*Old Edition.*



RESIDENCE OF J. F. COVER, OTTAWA, O.



DR. H. HUBER'S BLOCK, OTTAWA, O.



GEORGE D. KINDER,

Editor Putnam County Sentinel,

OTTAWA, OHIO.

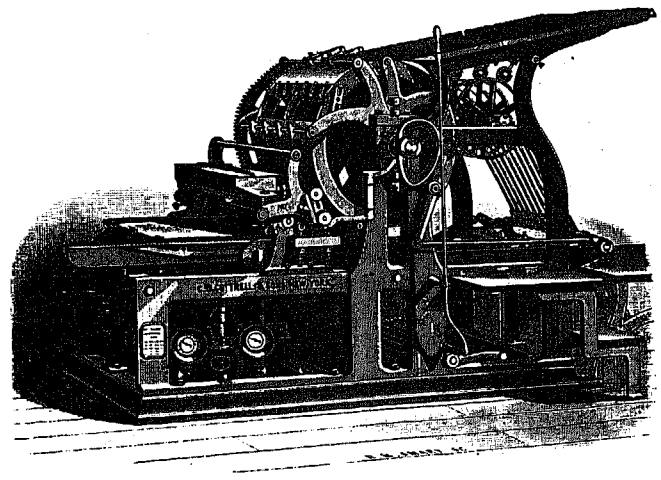
[From the Toledo Blade, December 12, 1894.]

"George D. Kinder, editor and proprietor of the *Putnam County Sentinel*, Ottawa, Ohio, is one among the oldest active newspaper men of the state, although not the oldest in years. He has been the editor and proprietor of the *Sentinel* since 1867. He was born in Franklin, Warren county, Ohio, in the year 1836, and commenced to learn the printing business in the office of the Hamilton *Telegraph*, at Hamilton, in the year 1851. With the exception of a couple of years spent at college, Mr. Kinder has ever since devoted his entire time to the printing business. In 1862 he started the *Erie County News*, at Sandusky City, which was one of the two Democratic papers published on the Western Reserve during the years 1862-63. After publishing the *News* for about two years he moved the material to Port Clinton, Ottawa county, and started the Ottawa *County News*, which he soon disposed of to G. W. Clark. In the year 1865 he purchased the Greenville *Democrat*, and published it for over a year and sold it to the present owner. For a short time he was connected with the Bucyrus *Forum* as business manager, and while there, in 1867, purchased the *Putnam County Sentinel*, which he has owned and conducted ever since, being very successful, and building up an extensive and profitable business. The *Sentinel* is one of the most complete and finest newspaper and job office plants in the state, having been made so by the never ceasing efforts and industry of its proprietor. The paper is regarded as among the leading Democratic county papers of this part of the state, and has the confidence and support of the Democracy of Putnam county.

Mr. Kinder is a Democrat who always is a good fighter, and in the councils of his own party he is free to criticise what he believes to be wrong. He is a good newspaper man and a good and fearless citizen."

To this may be added that during his life he has always refused to become a candidate for public office, believing the post of honor to be the private station. With the exception of being a member of the School Board for five years he has never held a public office. He is at present connected with the Ottawa Home and Savings Association, of which he is President.

He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being a Sir Knight of Shawnee Commandry. He is also a Knight of Pythias, and a member of the Royal Arcanum.



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Programs, Records, Blanks,
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The Putnam County Sentinel.

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.

PRICE, $1.50 A YEAR.

The oldest paper of the County and printed entirely at home. It contains the official advertising of the County and gives the local news from all points, having a local correspondent in every township.

The *Sentinel* is a Democratic County paper, being Democratic fifty-two weeks in the year, and true to the cause it advocates. Now is the time to subscribe.

GEORGE D. KINDER,

OTTAWA, OHIO.

Der Demokrat,

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

The Official German Paper

OF PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO.

Office: Star Block, second floor, opposite the Court House.

THE BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

German and English Job Work

NEATLY DONE.

Subscription, per year, - - -	$2.00
If paid in advance, - - -	1.50

Der Demokrat was founded in 1887 by C. W. Bente, and published by him until September, 1890, at which time Henry Holterman became its editor and proprietor. In 1891 Mr. Holterman sold out to Carl Wohlfarth, who kept control of the paper until May, 1892, at which time he sold a half interest to H. F. Rauh. The new firm, under the name of Demokrat Publishing Company, continued its publication until March 4, 1893, when H. F. Rauh, at receiver's sale, purchased the paper and became the sole proprietor. Through his judicious management the paper gained rapidly in favor, enjoys a large circulation and advertising patronage and is now one of the leading German newspapers of the Northwest.

Der Demokrat has always been, and is yet, an earnest and able advocate of the party whose cause it espouses—the party whose undying principles were laid down by Jefferson and promulgated by Jackson. Its course is always straight-forward, open and fearless, and it never turns aside to worship at the shrine of false gods, nor take part in the petty political wrangles in which members of its party may sometimes indulge. Pure and undefiled Democracy is the theme for which its harpstrings are attuned, and it neither sings nor listens to any other song. *Der Demokrat* is ably edited and is a welcome visitor among the German reading people.



H. F. RAUH,

EDITOR OF DER DEMOKRAT.

H. F. Rauh was born on the 4th day of October, 1860, on a farm in Washington township, Mercer county, Ohio. His parents were Ignatius Rauh, a mill-wright by trade, who came to this country when a young man, and Mary Anne (Weigelt) Rauh, who came to this country with her parents when quite young, both were natives of Germany. Their union was blessed with six boys, of whom the subject of this sketch is the fifth. The three older brothers are farmers, two chose the profession of teaching, and the youngest became a priest. Their father died in May, 1869; their mother is still living.

Mr. Rauh attended the district school until fourteen years of age, afterwards attended high school, one year at Ft. Recovery, Ohio, and two years at Celina, the seat of Mercer county. At the age of seventeen he began teaching, and taught three years in Mercer county and two years in Auglaize county. Wishing to equip himself with a higher and a more thorough education, he resigned teaching, attended school at Ada and at Lebanon a number of terms, afterwards spent two years in the Pio Nono College, near Milwaukee, Wis., from which he was graduated with honors. It is chiefly here where he received his German and musical education, though having already studied German in the district school. Entering again upon the duties of teacher, Mr. Rauh, in 1885, took charge of an academy in Denison City, Texas. After one year of successful labor he resigned to accept the superintendency of the Glandorf Public Schools and organist of the St. John's Catholic Church, which positions he still holds. He re-disciplined the schools and raised the standard of instruction so that the school now ranks as one of the foremost in the county.

In 1887 he helped to organize the Glandorf German Building and Loan Company, and served as its first secretary for two years. In 1889 he was appointed School Examiner, and, after serving two terms, was re-appointed in 1895, and enjoys the confidence of the teachers. He has always taken an active part in educational meetings, and was elected president of the Putnam County Teachers' Institute in 1893. In May, 1892, he became associated with *Der Demokrat*, and since March, 1893, is the sole proprietor.

July 26, 1893, Mr. Rauh was united in marriage to Miss Mamie Anne, eldest daughter of John M. and Elizabeth (Wilhelm) Preisendorfer, of Defiance, Ohio. Two sons, John Clarence, born September 18, 1894, and who died two weeks later, and Carl Hugo Michael, born November 7, 1895, blessed their union.

Mr. Rauh is always ready to help along a new enterprise for the public good, is an earnest and untiring worker and achieves success.

Der Demokrat,

Erſcheint jeden Freitag,

Die offizielle deutſche Zeitung

von Putnam Co., Ohio.

Office: Star Block, Hauptſtraße, eine Treppe hoch, gegenüber dem Gerichtsgebäude.

Das beſte Anzeige-Medium im County.

Deutſche und engliſche Druckarbeit wird prompt und zufriedenſtellend ausgeführt.

Subſcriptionspreis, per Jahr = =	$2.00
We n im Voraus bezahlt = =	1.50

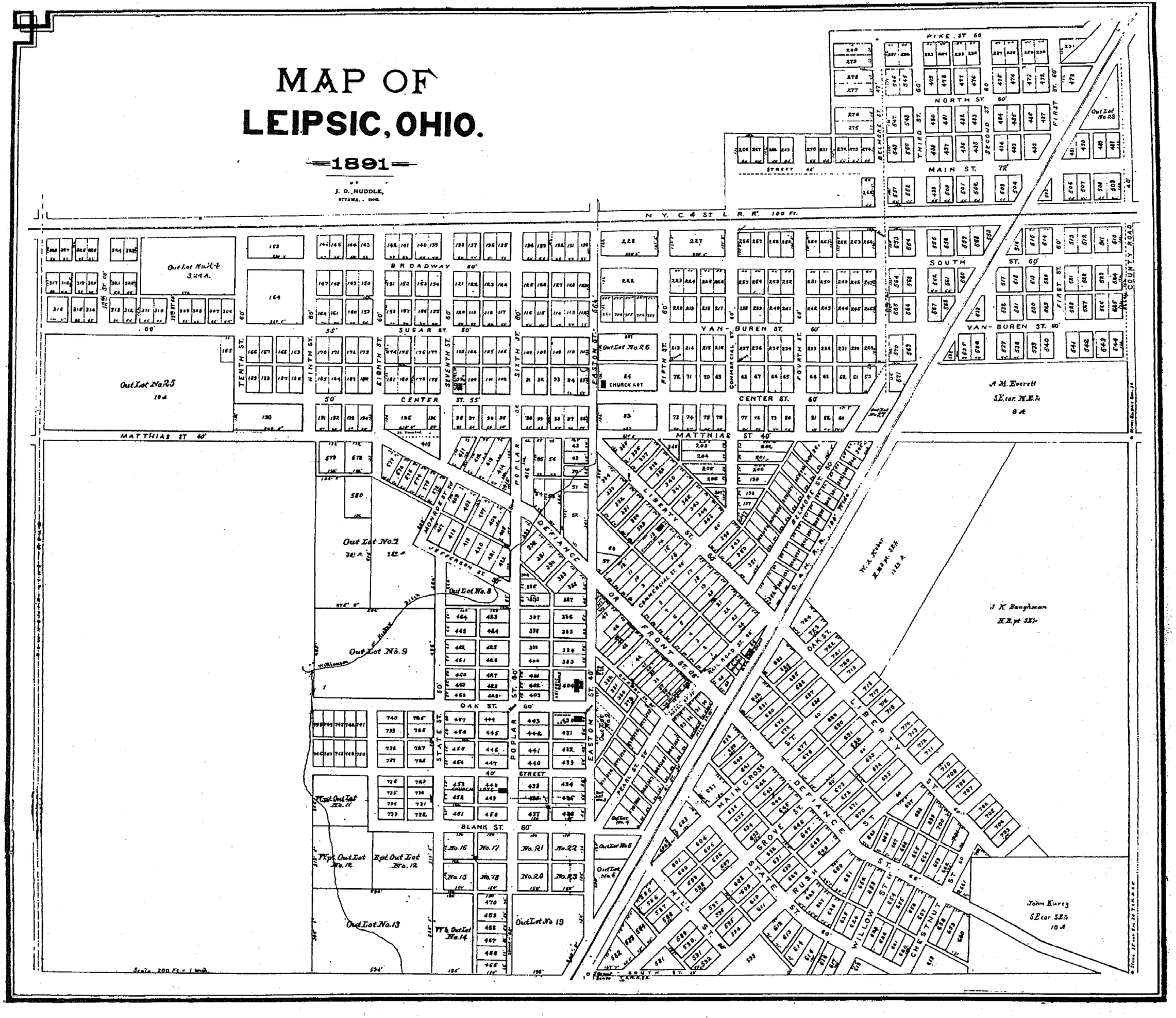
Der „Demokrat" wurde im Jahre 1887 von C. W. Bente gegründet und von ihm bis September 1890 herausgegeben, zu welcher Zeit Henry Holterman deſſen Herausgeber und Eigenthümer wurde. Im Jahre 1891 verkaufte Herr Holterman die Zeitung an Carl Wohlfahrt, welcher dieſelbe bis Mai 1892 weiterführte. Im Frühjahr 1892 verkaufte er ein halbes Intereſſe an H. F. Rauh. Die neue Firma ſetzte die Publikation unter dem Titel „Demokrat Publiſhing Co." bis 4. März 1893 fort, worauf H. F. Rauh die Zeitung im Concursweg kaufte und alleiniger Eigenthümer wurde. Durch ſeine geſchickte Leitung gewann die Zeitung raſch an Anſehen und erfreut ſich einer zahlreichen Circulation und Anzeigen-Patronage und iſt jetzt eines der leitenden deutſchen Blätter des Nordweſtens.

Der „Demokrat" hat zu jeder Zeit und verficht auch jetzt noch in geſchickter Weiſe die Partei, deren Prinzipien er vertritt — die Partei, deren unſterblichen Grundſätze von Jefferſon erdacht und von Jackſon verbreitet wurden. Sein Ziel geht gerade aus, offen und ohne Furcht, und hat ſich nie vor falſchen Götzen gebeugt oder in kleinliche politiſche Angelegenheiten hineingemengt, welche Politiker ſo gerne zum Spielball ihrer Laune machen. Echte und wahre Demokratie iſt ſein Ziel, für welches er mit aller Kraft eintritt und kennt keinen andern Sang als dieſen. Der „Demokrat" iſt editoriell in guter Hand und ein willkommener Gaſt unter dem deutſchen Publikum.

MAP OF
LEIPSIC, OHIO.

1891

J. D. HUDDLE,
OTTAWA, OHIO.



History of Leipsic.

BY HENRY EDMISTER.

We fear that this attempt to chronicle a history of so thriving and prosperous a town as our subject will be void of that tint of literature necessary to include admiration with interest, and do justice to the lives and acts of the individuals who constitute the progressive history of the town.

Comfortably situated on a rise in the surface at the southern edge of what is known as the Black Swamp, a region destined to become famous throughout the world for the wealth of its productiveness, Leipsic has the advantage of a beautiful and healthy location as well as being the outlet for one of the best agricultural districts in the United States.

These are its natural advantages; now let us note some of the artificial advantages with which it has been endowed from time to time by its own citizens and others in the way of public and private improvements in general.

RAILROADS.

In 1859 the Dayton & Michigan railroad was constructed. The first train passing over this road signaled the denizens of an almost impenetrable forest, where Leipsic now stands, while thirty-six years after, the last one has signaled the citizens of one of the most thriving towns in the Buckeye state.

By the construction of this road the outlet for the timber and other products of this country was assured, and settlers began to arrive and progression became visible. The road and the country became inseparably linked together, and hand in hand they have pushed forward until the Dayton & Michigan, now managed by the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad Company, has become the greatest north and south road on the western continent, and this section a marvel of progress and productiveness.

In 1882 the New York, Chicago & St. Louis railroad (better known as the Nickel Plate) was constructed through Leipsic, and now ranks as the leading freight road from Chicago east, and the best connecting link between the two great metropolises of the New World.

At this writing the voice of teamsters and the sound of the sledge as they pile up the grade and fasten down the rails are plainly audible, and the last days of the year 1895 will mark the construction of the Lima Northern railroad giving us direct communication with the great coal fields of Southern Ohio and West Virginia and the lumber regions of the North.

EARLY SETTLERS.

The first settler in Van Buren township was Abraham Baughman, who settled on a farm just east of Leipsic in 1835. He was soon followed by Hiram Hull, Ludwig Hull, Elviriton A. Hull, Wm. Killpatrick, James Reed, James Davis and John Broadsword, who settled on farms in the vicinity of Leipsic.

Several attempts were made to organize a township but failed for lack of voters. Finally Abraham Baughman gave satisfactory bond securing the county against loss, and an order was given by the Commissioners to organize a township.

The first election was held February 18, 1843, at the residence of Abraham Baughman, twelve votes being cast, nine of which were actual residents and three having been imported for the occasion. The officers elected were A. Baughman, E. A. Hull and J. Davis, Trustees; M. L. Thrapp, Clerk; E. A. Hull, Treasurer; Jacob Nemire and Adam Krites, Overseers of the Poor; A. Baughman and David Tyner, Fence Viewers; Lemuel Hickerson, Constable. On May 20, 1843, at a special election, E. A. Hull was elected first Justice of the Peace of the township. At an election in October, 1848, nineteen votes were cast in Van Buren township. While in November, 1895, 825 vote were cast for Governor.

EARLY SETTLERS OF LEIPSIC.

The first settlers of Leipsic were J. B. Swartz, Wellington Hurd and David McClung, who settled here in 1859, at which date the present site of the town was a dense wilderness. The former gentleman then owned the southeast quarter of section 30, which includes all that part of the town east of Eastom street and south of Mathias street; and Messrs. Hurd and McClung were owners of the southwest quarter of section 30. In the same year C. W. Askam and wife and Al. Tingle swelled the population of the town, and in 1860 Messrs. S. and W. P. Young and D. G. Leffler settled here. The year following, Mrs. John Foltz, G. D. Foltz, Jacob Werner and Absalom Foulk risked their fortunes with the progress of the new town.

In 1863 the new recruits were A. F. Eastom and wife, T. J. Werner, Samuel Waters and wife, and in 1865, J. H. Askam, Andrew C. Askam and F. Leffler completed the list of pioneer residents, and at this time these men of brawn and courage had placed on the map of the world a thriving little village. Many of the above list of pioneers are still living, and many and long are the stories of hardships and privations, attending the early settlement of Leipsic, they can truthfully tell.

THE PLAT AND ITS ADDITIONS.

On January 26, 1857, James E. Creighton platted the lands lying east of the C. H. & D. railroad, and both north and south of the Nickel Plate and east to the east line of section 30, and named it Creightontown (Deed book 9, page 298.) This was the first ground platted into lots in the corporate limits of Leipsic, and this example has been followed from time to time until at the present writing there are 804 numbered lots, over 500 of which are improved with good modern business blocks and homes.

On August 29, 1859, Joseph Swartz laid out a plat of land east of the C. H. & D. railroad and on either side of Defiance street and called the place Leipsic station. On August 30, 1860, he laid out an addition to the same; these two additions are recorded in County Surveyor's office. The following additions have been added since, and recorded in Plat Book 1:

J. E. Creighton, June 18, 1860, page 290; David McClung, July 7, 1864, page 22; Foulk & Youngs, December 12, 1870, page, 84; McClung's 2nd addition, April 24, 1871, page 98; McClung's 3d addition, November 28, 1871, page 100; Creighton's 2nd addition, November 6, 1871, page 102; Eastman's 1st addition, December 19, 1871, page 114; Eastman's 2nd addition, May 18, 1872, page 124; Eastman's 3d addition, April 25, 1873, pages 138-139; McClung's 3d addition, June 14, 1873, pages 144 145; Young & Fike's sub-division, April 25, 1874, pages 160-161; Bruners & Waters' addition, June 29, 1874, pages 166-167; Heckford and others addition. February 4, 1876, page 192; John Kurtz, survey No. 1, October 31, 1879, pages 254 255; W. H. Hickey addition, April 29, 1882, pages 314 315; P. H. Turner addition, May 8, 1882, pages 316-317; P. H. Turner's addition, June 23, 1882, pages 350 351.

The following additions are recorded in Plat Book No. 2:

McClung's 2nd sub-addition, November 19, 1885, page 88; J. K. Baughman's addition, May 1, 1890, page 182; M. C. Woodruff's sub division, October 27, 1890, page 202; F. J. Maehlmann's sub division, November 27, 1892, page 247; C. H. Huber's sub-division, October 18, 1893, page 282; J. P. Barton's sub division, May 27, 1895, page 302; Eastman's sub division, June 21, 1895, page 306.

The above additions and sub-divisions constitute, with a few small unplatted parcels of land, the plat of the village of Leipsic, and in no town in the country has realty held a firmer grasp upon prices established in prosperous times.

INDUSTRIES.

Chief among the industries now operating in Leipsic is the Buckeye Stave Company. In point of success this company ranks first in the county and among the very first in Northwestern Ohio. The members of the company are Messrs. John, W. W. and Joseph Edwards, and I, N. Bushong. The company was organized in 1886, and now operate seven large stave factories. The company employs about 1,000 persons, and the pay roll amounts to about $175,000 per year. In 1887 this company purchased the Bank of Leipsic, and under their able management it has grown to be one of the strongest private banks of its size in the State.

The Leipsic Flouring Mill, now owned and operated by W. C. Miller, was erected in the year 1872, and with the improvements which have been added since, it ranks as one of the most

complete and extensive milling plants in a town of this size in the country.

The Leipsic Planing Mill has long since secured recognition in the front rank of prosperous institutions. It is owned and operated by Messrs. O. E. Townsend and John Zahrends. They have three factories, two of which are located in Leipsic The two employ thirteen men and have a pay roll of about $150 per week.

Leipsic Machine Works commenced operating under the control of Andy Bachle in 1889. They manufacture the Leipsic wind engine, steam engines, and various other machines, besides doing an extensive business in repairs of all kinds.

A. F. Eastom & Son own and operate one of the largest and most successful sawmill plants in this section of the State. In 1894 they added to their milling interests a factory to manufacture trunk slats, and their concern now gives employment to twenty-one men and have a weekly pay roll of $150.

The Leipsic brick-yard is now owned and operated by A. Foulk, and the progress and reputation of this concern has long since become indisputable. The output for the year just ending has been near one million bricks, and one can judge of the progress of this place by the statement, that this vast nnmber has been sold for use in Leipsic and immediate vicinity. During the summer season the yard gives employment to thirteen persons and has a pay roll of about $70 per week.

The Leipsic tile yard, owned and operated by C. C. Nutter, ranks high in the estimation of its many patrons and is a creditable part of the town's business enterprises.

The Leipsic Creamery Co. was organized in 1893, and the commodious buildings and extensive machinery were constructed and placed in operation the same year. The company originally consisted of a number of the most enterprising farmers in this locality, but in September, 1895, Messrs. Chas. Huber and Chas. Spray purchased the plant, and these gentlemen are now operating the same on a basis of universal satisfaction.

Leipsic boasts of two good elevators and two good men to conduct them. One is operated by C. W. Franklin, located on the C. H. & D. railroad, and the other, operated by E. W. Huntsman, located on the Nickel Plate railroad

A. Stechschulte, merchant tailor, employs eight people; pay $100 a week; established 1884.

The above comprises the industrial institutions of this magic town, and if indications and expectations count for anything, this list can be increased wonderfully five years hence.

CHURCHES.

There are five active church organizations in Leipsic: Methodist, Catholic, Lutheran, Christian, and Presbyterian.

The Leipsic Methodist church was organized in September, 1859, and the enrollment is now 350 members. This denomination is now completing a church building at a cost of $18,000.

The St. Mary's Catholic church was organized 1875, and has a membership of 250. In 1891 this denomination erected a church at a cost of $7,000.

The Christian church of Leipsic was organized 1876, and has 175 members.

The Lutheran church was organized 1868, and has 282 members.

The Presbyterian church was organized in 1868, and has 175 members.

SCHOOLS.

The school facilities of the town are first-class and the management of the same is of a high order. The Leipsic Public School was organized in 1867 with Dr. J. C. McClung as principal, and had an enrollment of 34 schoolars. In 1880 it had reached that grade entitling it to the position of a high school. In 1878 the school board erected a commodious building, but in 1885 the enrollment had grown so rapidly that it became necessary to increase the size of the former structure, and with the addition then made the present substantial building was completed and the school now has an enrollment of 350. C. M. Lewis is now superintendent of the school.

In 1894, Prof. L. S. Lafferty purchased the old Methodist church building and organized the Leipsic College. The institution is founded upon the highest educational principles, and is rapidly gaining strength and patronage.

Leipsic parochial school; organized 1890; H. B. Huffman, principal; enrollment, 65 scholars.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

All improvements, both public and private, which have been made in Leipsic are emblems of progress. In 1894 Defiance or Main street was paved with brick from Eastom street on the west to a point nearly one thousand feet east of the C. H. & D. railroad, and at the same time nearly one mile of fine sawed stone sidewalk was laid. The entire cost of the street improvement exceeded $21,000, and it gave to Leipsic the honor of having the best improved street in the county, and one of the best in the State. Additional street improvements of the same character have now reached the point of council ordinance, and anticipations for the future in this direction are very bright. A year prior to the pavement, Main street was sewered from Eighth street to Willow street, and Pearl street was sewered from Main street south to its junction with Eastom street.

NEWSPAPERS.

Among tne monuments which mark the progress of Leipsic none rears its head more lofty than that represented by our newspapers.

The Free Press, a weekly paper founded September 13, 1878, by W. W. Smith, has excelled even the marvelous growth of its town, and today ranks among the newsiest and best edited papers of its rank in the country, and the job office of this paper has no superior in any town of like population.

The Tribune was founded in 1891 by Messrs. Pratt and Fred Kline, who conducted it until 1894, when Messrs Horn & Wendell purchased it. This firm was soon after dissolved, by Mr. Wendell purchasing the interests of Mr. Horn, and the entire business is now very ably conducted by H. F. Wendell, who, in the short space of one year, has made his paper one of the brightest and newsiest of country papers.

PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS.

The chances of and example for first class improvement in all business or residence construction was inaugurated by Mr. D. G. Leffler, when in the year 1871 he constructed the two story brick business block on the northeast corner of Defiance and Pearl streets, now occupied by John P. Rampe's boot and shoe store. This building at that time was a long step above the improvements then existing, and it was father of the determination on the part of the capitalists and business men to create every additional improvement in excellence. This idea has been followed with scarcely a variance, until at the present date Leipsic challenges all competion in this line and stands the proud possessor of many buildings which would do credit to a city of ten thousand people.

In 1883 Messrs. D. G. Leffler, George Kober, Nelson McCracken and F. J. Maehlman constructed the Union block. This block fronts one hundred feet on Main street and includes the four business rooms now occupied by Pfister & Co.'s hardware, Leffler Bros.' grocery, J. H. Arnold's dry goods store, and F. J. Maehlmann's boot and shoe store. The two west rooms are three stories high and one hundred feet long, and the two east rooms are two stories high and eighty feet long.

The year 1889 witnessed the erection of two business blocks in Leipsic. The Bank of Leipsic, constructed in that year, their present bank building, which is located on the southwest corner of Main and Pearl streets, is, both in its interior and exterior, a model of architecture.

W. A. Kober constructed in that year the two story brick building on the south side of Main street, east of Pearl.

In 1890 the last named gentleman continued his work of improvement and constructed the two store rooms now occupied by Isaac Levison, clothier, and Pratt Kline's flour and feed store; and in 1892, still confiding in the opportunity of investment which the town afforded, he erected the handsome two story brick block opposite the opera house, and he has at this writing plans for additional buildings during 1896.

This year witnessed a disastrous fire in the business portion of the town, sweeping away in the course of a few hours two hundred feet of her business blocks; but before the ashes had cooled arrangements were made for rebuilding, and Messrs. A. J. Lowry, O. E. Townsend, John Zahrend, A. Foulk and Chas. Huber constructed, during that year, four splendid two story rooms.

The year following witnessed another fire of no less import to business affairs of Leipsic. On the night of June 23, 1893, fire swept away one hundred and forty two feet of the business houses of the town, entailing a loss of many thousands of dollars, but again the spirit of triumph rose, and before that year had closed Messrs. A. Stechschulte, Leonard Woods, John Keuper, Edwards Brothers, and Dr. J. D. Timmermann had constructed and were occupying eight modern business rooms.

The year 1894 did not pass without a contribution to the improvements of Leipsic. During the summer of that year H. H. Lampe erected the handsome building on the northwest corner of Main and Pearl streets, and Messrs. O. E. Townsend and John Zahrends erected an opera house; both buildings surpassed all former efforts, and were monuments to the enterprise of their builders. This year also witnessed the erection of the elegant implement room of Lewis & Alford.

The year 1895 was heralded in with the spirit of improvement still trending upward, but scarcely had its welcome sounded when the citizens of the town were awakened to behold the most disastrous fire in its history. This time the handsome new opera house block, A. J. Lowry's drug store and the building occupied by Clark & Salbreiter were swept away, entailing great loss, especially to O. E. Townsend & Co., whose loss reached $14,000. For a time the hopes of the most sanguine drooped and a cloud hung over the future, but the spirit of triumph again rose and before the first anniversary of the great fire the public will behold the entire burned district covered by buildings far exceeding their predecessors.

A. J. Lowry has completed and is now occupying the finest drug building in the county. Charles Huber has completed a handsome three story building, and it is now occupied by Clark & Salbreiter's restaurant. O. E. Townsend & Co. are now erecting on the sight of their former building one of the handsomest opera houses in the State.

In addition to the improvements just mentioned, D. G. Leffler has erected a hotel at a cost of $15,000, thus dedicating to the town an emblem of architectural progress and a monument to his memory. The same gentleman has also constructed, on east Defiance street, one of the handsomest residences in the county. Frank Smith has erected a very neat and modern three story building just east of the new hotel and is now occupying the same with his meat market.

In 1893 a petition was presented to the County Commissioners praying for an outlet for the northeastern portion of the town. This prayer was granted and in 1894 the outlet was constructed commencing on the west side of Belmore and in the center of South street to the D. & M. R. R. with twenty inch sewer pipe thence eastward to the east line of the corporation, and then northeasterly about 500 feet to the south line of right of way of the N. Y. C. & St. L. R. R. with twenty-four inch sewer pipe. From that point a large open ditch was constructed to Yellow Creek.

Thus is Leipsic and her progression. No local disaster or national stress has yet been able to check the impetus of her progression; and with the candle of improvement still burning she looks forward to the day when she can mingle with cities of the third rank.

ABRAM BAUGHMAN.

Mr. Abram Baughman was born May 3, 1809, at Dover, Pennsylvania; removed with his parents to Stark county, Ohio, when about twelve years of age, his father being one of the pioneers of that county, and the first actual settler in the township that now bears his name. Father Baughman was married to Jane Boke in 1834 and at once moved with his young wife to the wilds of Putnam county, settling on the farm just east of where Leipsic now stands. He was the first white settler in the township. Here amid one unbroken forest abounding in swamps and marshes, with no neighbor except the red man, he and his



ABRAM BAUGHMAN.

wife began the battle of life with courageous hearts and willing hands. The beautiful farm they cleared and improved was the reward of their untiring zeal and industry.

Mr. Baughman was the prime mover in the organization of Van Buren township, giving his bond to the county commissioners to secure the county against loss in case of a failure to organize the township. He succeeded, and to him the township owes a debt of gratitude for his unremitting efforts in securing the organization of the township and paving the way to progress. On February 18, 1843, at his house was held the first township election. At this election he was chosen as a member of the first board of trustees of the township.

There were sixteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Baughman, eight of whom are still living.

Mr. Baughman became a member of the M. E. church in 1845 and was a faithful member of that church up to the time of his



MRS. ABRAM BAUGHMAN.

death, which occurred August 25, 1880, at his home in Leipsic, he having removed from the farm in 1870.

Mrs. Baughman was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, December 26, 1811, and died at her home August 24, 188 She, too, had joined the M. E. church when young, having been a faithful member for forty-eight years.

The endurance of the many privations and arduous struggles to raise a large family in those pioneer times vanished away to nothingness to Mrs. Baughman when, on the call of President Lincoln for troops to protect the stars and stripes of our flag, five of her sons, whom she had so kindly nurtured from the cradle to manhood, enlisted in the cause of their country. They were:

O. P. Baughman, Co. D, 21st O. V. I. Taken prisoner September 20, 1863, at the Battle of Chicamauga. His last letter to his relatives is presented on this page.

Theo. J. Baughman, Co. D, 21st O. V. I. Was drowned June 3, 1863, in the Elk river while in the service.

A. W. Baughman, Co. D, 21st O. V. I. Served four years. Died in Birmingham, Alabama, since the war.

J. K. Baughman, 87th O. V. I.

Isaac J. Baughman, Co. I, 88th O. V. I. Served during entire war.

Below we copy a letter written by O. P. Baughman when he was in the Andersonville Prison, to his brother-in law, George Askam, and his sister Sabilla. This was the last letter or word his relatives ever received from him:

ANDERSONVILLE, March, 27, 1864

Friend George:

Now for a few words to you. I am well, living in Georgia a prisoner, and that is bad enough, aint it? for prisoners have hard times everywhere, living on Johnnie grub. George, I sent some time ago for a box; I still want it very bad, and hope you will aid in sending it soon. I gave father a list of what I wanted; I will add a little more. I have the scurvey bad by having nothing sour. So send me some horse radish in tin boxes, some thread to mend my clothes, pair of shears and a knife of some kind. The cooking bucket that I sent for can be one half smaller—four quarts—a little soap. George, I would write often if I had something to write on. I had to give my rations to get this, so you can't think hard of me. You write what you like and it will be all right. Tell me all the news, where John is and ——— Fike. I will give you a full list of what I want for fear you did not get the other: One ham dried and covered, one cheese not cut, for they spoil cut. The bucket of butter and 10 lbs. of salt, one small frying pan, some dried beef in one side of the box and that well packed with beans, some coffee, tea, sugar, 3 lbs. pepper, 2 pair socks, some kind of an old Bible, and newspapers from the time of our capture. Tell Crist to send them, for he takes pains to have the news. Tell him I said so, and some medicine if you can pack it any way at all. Something to cleanse the blood. * * * my hide is as rough as a poor cow's in the sp ing of the year. Some writing material to write to all of you. That side of the box well packed with dried fruit. Now do as I tell you. Make it in two parts and put hoops on it and loops on the ends to handle it. Put things in dry and tight and not anything that wont stand six weeks' shipping. I need it or I would not call on you for the favor—so great a one. I mean all my friends that will take a part in it. I can't write much this time, but I will say, if I live to get out of this place I will know how to appreciate home and friends. I don't see what reason our people don't let us ont of this place. We are in out doors camp this summer; very hot. James Lowry died some time ago with the scurvey at this place, Sabilla.

Direct, O. P. BAUGHMAN, Co. D, 21st Ohio Infantry,
Andersonville, Camp Sumpter, Ga.
Confederate States.
In care of Capt. H. Wirts, Commanding Prison

P S —Sabilla; remember your brother, so I will say to mother, I can't write to you, but I think of my kind friends often since I have got in this predicament. No one can tell only those that have to [stand] it when you are deprived of your liberty. You are in a manner dead; had better be.

O. P. BAUGHMAN.

JAMES K BAUGHMAN.

The subject of this sketch, a son of Abram and Jane Boke Baughman, was born February 5, 1845, on his father's farm east of Leipsic. His only opportunity for an education was such only as could be had at the then poorly equipped country schools. Attending school a few months during the winter time, he worked upon his father's farm until he arrived at his majority.

He was married to Emma Foulk, of Hancock county, April 5, 1866. Mrs. Baughman was born June 21, 1846. To them were born two children; Eva May, September 27, 1868, died December 20, 1885; William Rush, October 22, 1873.

Mr. Baughman served as treasurer seven years and trustee two years, in Palmer township of this county, he having moved to that township in 1873, where he lived ten years, when he returned to Leipsic. He served as Township Trustee two years in Van Buren township, and was a member of the school board of Leipsic six years, being the president of that board five years. He was also a member of the village council of Leipsic six years.

To the call of the President for more troops. Mr. Baughman responded by enlisting in May, 1862, in the 87th O. V. I. He, with 12,000 Union soldiers, was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry, September 15, 1862, but was paroled the next day. He



JAMES K. BAUGHMAN.

served with his company until they were mustered out in October, 1862, the term of enlistment having expired in August of that year.

WILLIAM RUSH BAUGHMAN.

Rush, as he is familiarly known, the only child now living of James K. and Emma (Foulk) Baughman, was born October 22, 1873, in Van Buren township of this county.

He graduated with first honors in 1892 in the High School of Leipsic, and in the following year entered Oberlin College,



WILLIAM RUSH BAUGHMAN.

where he remained two years. In the fall of 1894 he entered the University of Michigan, where he remained until the close of the year and where he expects to complete his collegiate course.

Mr. Baughman is a fine specimen of manhood and fond of athletic exercises for recreation. He won the gold medal on the Athletic Field Day of the University of Michigan, of 1894, in the sprinting contest.

DR. G. W. BAUGHMAN.

The subject of this sketch is a member of a family known as one of the oldest and most progressive families of Putnam county. He was born on the old Baughman homestead east of Leipsic, October 15, 1850. In his youth he attended country school, where he gained a fair education, afterward completing the same by several terms at the Ada Normal school and Oberlin College.

For several years he followed the calling of a Buckeye school-

master in the country schools of Putnam county, and in 1876 he began the study of medicine with Dr. E. J. Reed, of Leipsic, after which he attended the Louisville Medical College, of Louisville, Ky., graduating from this college with highest honors in 1879. He then began the practice of his profession, and during the interim of that date and this writing he has very successfully practiced his profession in the cities of Atlanta,



G. W. BAUGHMAN.

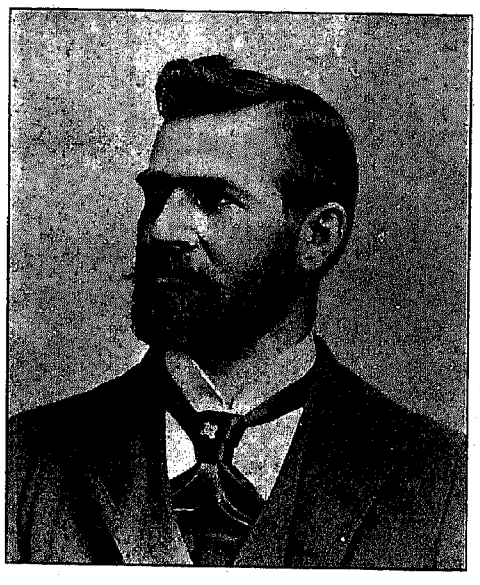
Savannah and Augusta, Georgia, being located in the last named city at present, where he enjoys the patronage of the highest class in that progressive southern city.

In 1895, becoming desirous of better fitting himself for the highest scientific principles of his profession, he became a student in and graduate of The Post Clinical Institute, of New York City.

Dr. Baughman has always enjoyed a lucrative practice and now enjoys a comfortable fortune..

DR. H. C. RULE.

This brilliant young physician was born December 4, 1864, in the village of West Point, Morrow county, Ohio. He spent his early years on a farm and in the country schools until 1879 when he moved with his father to Michigan, where he followed farming and lumbering until 1885, when he returned to Morrow county, Ohio, where he worked on a farm in the summer and attended school in the winter until 1889, in which year he graduated from the high school of Edison, Morrow county, Ohio. The



H. C. RULE.

year following he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. J. H. Jackson, of Edison, and devoted the next year of his time to teaching school and studying medicine. He had followed school teaching at various times prior to 1890.

In 1891 he entered the Pulte Medical College of Cincinnati, from which institution he graduated March 29, 1894. On the 4th day of May, 1894, he purchased the practice and good will of Dr. George A. Light, of Leipsic, and on November 1, 1894, he formed a partnership with Dr. George A. Light and they began the practice of medicine under the firm name of Light & Rule.

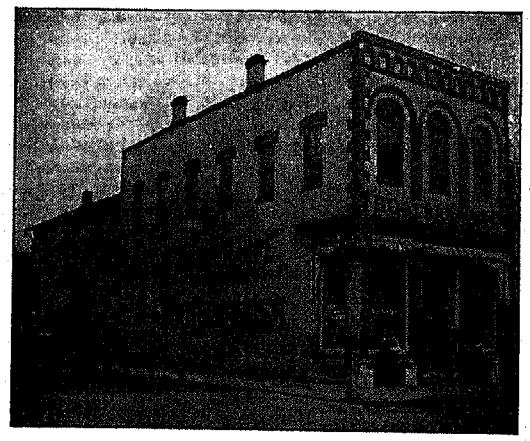
Dr. Rule was married to Miss Anna Morr, of Columbus Grove, Ohio, on July 18, 1894, and two children have been born to them,—Neal Clifton, born June 16, 1895, died July 28, 1895; Neva J., born June 16, 1895.

Dr. Rule is a fine specimen of a self made man, the possessor of unceasing energy and thoroughly devoted to the practice of his profession.

JOHN P. RAMPE.

The subject of this sketch is a product of that prosperous old German town, Glandorf, at which place he was born June 29, 1867, and is the son of Wm. Rampe, Sr., the pioneer boot and shoe man of Putnam county. He attended school at his native town, only ceasing when he had reached the limit of education her schools afforded, and in 1885 he farther completed his education by taking a full course in the Nelson Business College, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

He then returned to Putnam county and worked three years for his brothers, Frank B. Rampe, of Leipsic, and Wm. Rampe, of Ottawa, in their boot and shoe store. He had learned this trade while young with his father, and his aptness proved so great



JOHN P. RAMPE'S SHOE STORE.

that at the expiration of this three years service he secured the position of manager of the boot and shoe department of J. Munch & Co., East Toledo, which position he filled one year, and then resigned to accept a position with The Simonds Boot and Shoe Company, of Toledo, as traveling salesman. He remained in this position two years, when he resigned, and forming a partnership with his brother, Frank B. Rampe, engaged in the boot and shoe business at North Baltimore. He ably conducted this store two and one half years, when they sold the North Baltimore store, dissolved partnership and he purchased the boot and shoe store of Frank B. Rampe, in Leipsic, the latter gentleman having moved to Cincinnati and engaged in the same business on a larger scale.

On the 25th of October, 1894, John P. Rampe assumed control of the Leipsic store, and time has demonstrated that the loss occasioned by the removal of Frank B. Rampe has been supplied in the person of his brother, John P.

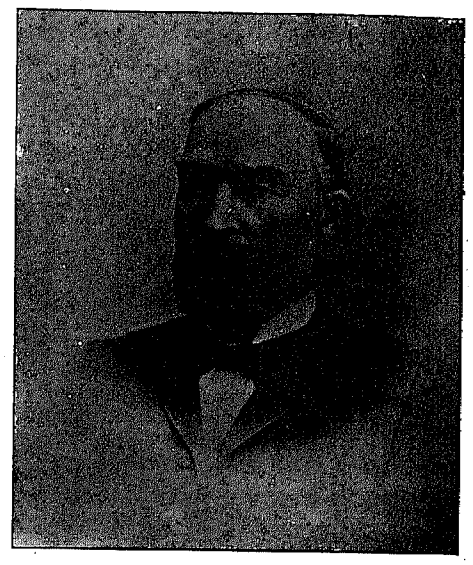
DR. JOHN C M'CLUNG.

It is a pleasure to record the biography of an individual when you know that those who read it and comment upon it will corroborate, in perfect harmony, your highest words of praise of the life and deeds of the individual represented.

Dr. John C. McClung, one of the leading physicians and citizens of Putnam county, was born on a farm in Eden township, Seneca county, Ohio, on the 26th day of January, 1843. He received his education in the district school of his native township and the high school of Findlay, Ohio, in which last named school he spent the year 1863, and in 1864 and 1865 he studied under his brother, Col. D. W. McClung, of Cincinnati, as tutor, and also attended commercial college in Cincinnati.

In 1866 he located in Leipsic and began the study of medicine but abandoned this study soon after on account of the time and responsibility required in the management of his father's estate which duty had devolved on him at the time of his father's death in 1867 The next three years were spent in teaching school and settling his father's estate. He had followed teaching prior to this time in the district schools of Hancock and Putnam counties, and was the first teacher in the public schools of Leipsic.

In 1870 he resumed the study of medicine with Dr. C. E. Tupper, of Ottawa, as preceptor, and in 1873 was graduated



JOHN C. M'CLUNG

from the medical department of the Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio. He at once began the practice of his profession in Leipsic and has ever since ranked as one of the leading physicians of Putnam county, and now ranks among the oldest practitioners of his profession in the county.

Although a Republican, living in a strong Democratic precinct, Dr. McClung has been almost continually in public service during the past eighteen years. He served as a member of the Leipsic council from 1878 to 1884, and as Mayor of Leipsic from 1885 to 1889, and since 1878, excepting three years, he has served in some official capacity in connection with the public schools of Leipsic. He was postmaster of Leipsic from May 1, 1885, to September, 1885, and from April, 1890, to May, 1894.

At this writing he is again filling the office of Mayor of Leipsic, having been appointed by the village council to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Capt. S. B. Webber. He is also president of the Leipsic school board.

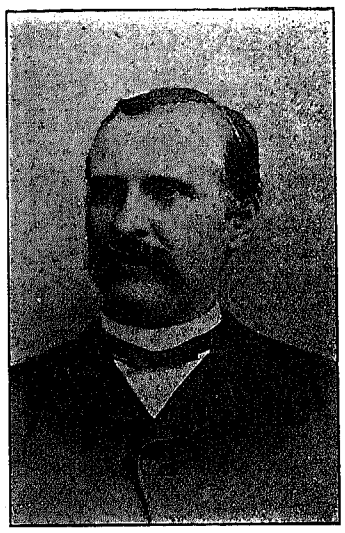
Dr. McClung is a life-long member of the United Presbyterian church, having been a ruling elder in that church for many years, but the shibboleths of parties or sects do not enter into the formation of his estimate of character, truth or duty. He has little love for the religion which, while it leads its possessors to pay tithes of mint and anise, "and cummin," does not lead them to observe such "weightier matters" as charity and fairness in judgment and dealing.

He is a member of several medical societies, among which we mention: The North-Western Ohio, The Ohio State Medical and the American Medical Association of Railway Surgeons.

He was married in 1868 to Sarah Margaret Newlin, daughter of Nathan and Elizabeth (Funk) Newlin, of Liberty township, this county, and to them the following children have been born: David Albert, born January 27, 1869; Anna, October 17, 1870; John Brown, January 23, 1872, died March 24, 1895; Nathan Boyd, February 25, 1874; Robert Clark, September 23, 1876, died October 5, 1877; William Hattley and Sarah, twins, March 19, 1878; Elizabeth, February 12, 1880; James D., March 10, 1882; Charles Harvey, July 10, 1885, and a son and daughter who died in early infancy.

W. W. EDWARDS.

A successful man who is the architect of his own fortune, a citizen who has the interests of his town at heart, a responsible individual who becomes enthusiastic at the mention of creditable



W. W. EDWARDS.

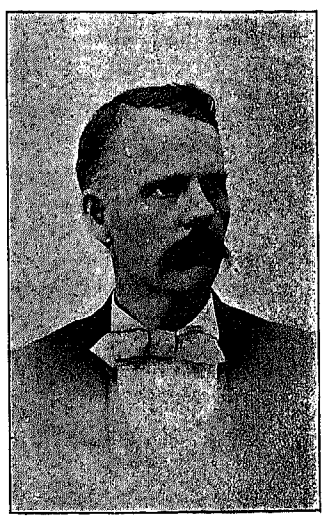
improvements to the extent of contributing of his own energy and means, and a great banker, is certainly a creditable part of the highest social and progressive element of any town.

Such qualifications are imbued in the personage of W. W. Edwards, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, December 19, 1847, When fourteen years of age he moved with his father to Putnam county, settling on a farm east of Leipsic. Here he attended country school and assisted in farming until seventeen years of age, when he began teaching school during the winter season and worked on the farm during the summer.

This occupation he continued until twenty three years of age, when, becoming possessor of farming interests of his own, he engaged in the stock business, which, with the management of his farms, occupied his energies for the next twelve years.

In 1882 he moved to Leipsic and engaged in the hardware business as a member of the firm of Edwards Bros. He also purchased interests in the stave business of Lenhart & Edwards, and in 1886 he became one of the organizers and chief promoters of the now famous Buckeye Stave Company.

In 1887 his company purchased the Bank of Leipsic and he as-



JOSEPH EDWARDS.

sumed control and has continued in this capacity until the present time, having made this bank one of the leading private banks in the state. He has continued an active member of the Buckeye Stave Company since its organization, and to his energy and judgment this company is greatly indebted for its marked success.

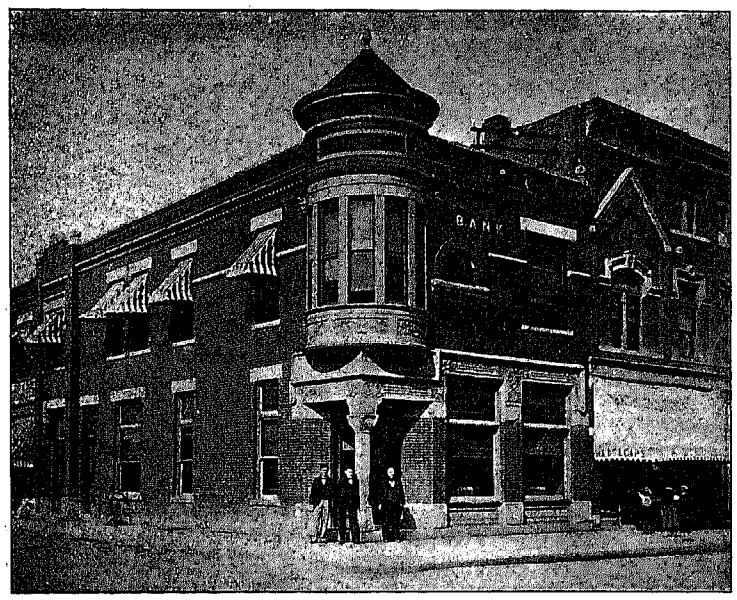
Mr. Edwards has served several terms on the Leipsic council and has ranked among the first and chief promoters of our finest public improvements. He is married and has five children, four of which are living at home, and one married to Dr. B. J. Emery, of Defiance, Ohio.

THE BUCKEYE STAVE COMPANY.

In 1886, with but little pretentions or ceremony, there was organized in the village of Leipsic a manufacturing concern whose growth has been so marvelous as to surprise even the highest ambitions of its promoters. The Buckeye Stave Company was organized in this year with a paid up capital stock of $50,000. At the time of its organization the company controlled three factories, located at Leipsic, Columbus Grove and Continental, and employed about 100 men.

The original members of the organization were Messrs. John and W. W. Edwards, I. N. Bushong, J. S. Lenhart and D. L. Critten, all of whom were residents of Leipsic. The year following, 1887, this company purchased the Bank of Leipsic.

In 1890 they built the factory at Pleasant Bend, Ohio. In 1891 they built two mills, one at Kalida and one at Avis, Ohio, and in 1892 they purchased the stave factory at Elm Center, and in the same year they located a large factory at Mancelona,



BANK OF LEIPSIC.

Michigan, but removed this during 1894 to Gladstone, Mich. In 1891 they organized the Bank of Continental.

Thus in the short space of nine years this company has grown from the owners of three mills employing about 100 men, with a pay roll of $35,000 per year, to be owners of seven large mills and two banks, giving employment to 1,000 persons, with a pay roll of $175,000 per annum, and a paid up capital stock of $530,000.

In addition to their large stave and banking interests the company now owns about 8,000 acres of land, nearly 3,000 of which is located in Putnam, Henry and Defiance counties, Ohio. A large portion of their Ohio lands are improved and a conservative estimate of its average value is fifty dollars per acre. Their other lands are located in the vicinity of Gladstone, Michigan, and are heavily timbered.

In 1888 the interests of Messrs. Lenhart and Critten were purchased, and in 1893 J. H. Edwards purchased a one-fourth interest and the stock of the company is now owned by John, W. W., and J. H. Edwards and I. N. Bushong.

As a company it ranks first of its kind in the world. It has grown beyond comparison. It has been liberal to its employes. It has been fair in its dealings. It has contributed liberally to public and private improvements, and it stands today in the full confidence of the business world.

JOHN EDWARDS.

Occupying an exalted position in the business, religious and citizens' record of Northwestern Ohio, and holding his own en-



JOHN EDWARDS.

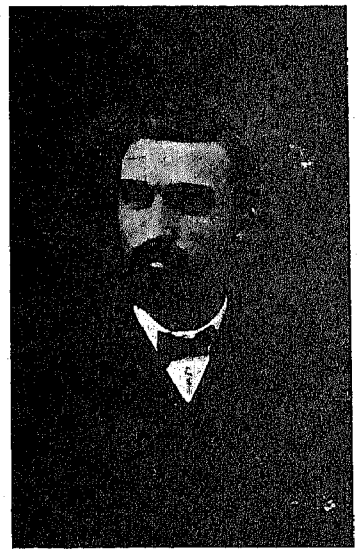
ergies and judgment accountable for this position, the subject of this biography is a fitting type of the self made man.

John Edwards, son of Thomas W. and Isabella Houston Edwards, was born on a farm in Licking county, Ohio, January 27, 1850. He moved with his father to Morrow county in 1858, and from there to Putnam county in 1861, where his father located on a farm in Section 27, Van Buren township, and on this farm our subject gained those rudiments of character and industry which so mark his after life.

He followed the calling of a farmer until 1878, when he purchased interests in the stave business with Messrs. Henry and Jonas Lenhart, and continued in this partnership until 1886, when together with W. W. Edwards, I. N. Bushong, J. S. Lenhart and D. L. Critten he organized the Buckeye Stave Company, an organization which has brought both wealth and fame to its members.

In 1889 the interests of J. S. Lenhart and D. L. Critten were purchased and J. H. Edwards became a member. In 1887 this company purchased the Bank of Leipsic of Alvin Rosecrans, and John Edwards became its president, a capacity he has filled with marked ability.

Mr. Edwards was married August 21, 1873, to Miss Mary E. Lenhart, daughter of Henry Lenhart, and to them have



ISAAC N. BUSHONG.

been born four children: Henry C., born June 10, 1874, now attending school in New York City; Thomas C., born November 10, 1876, now a student in the Ohio Wesleyan University

at Delaware, Ohio; W. E. and O. P., (twins) born November 4, 1881, now students in the Leipsic high school.

He has long been an active member of the Methodist church and to his liberal contributions and earnest endeavor this religious organization in Leipsic is indebted for that progress so marked in its history.

The writer feels secure in stating that no citizen of Putnam county outside the realm of business chance, and within the lines of legitimate methods, has attained greater success. He is public spirited in the highest sense and every legitimate enterprise or public improvement, tending towards the advancement of Leipsic, receives his ready support.

JOSEPH H. EDWARDS.

Forming an important factor in the management of the vast interests of the Buckeye Stave Company and the progressive spirit of Leipsic is Mr. Joseph Edwards, youngest son of Thomas W. and Isabella Houston Edwards, and junior member of his company.

Joseph Edwards was born on a farm in Licking county, Ohio, October 13, 1852, and like his two older brothers, is possessed of that business ability which wins success.

He moved, with his father, to Putnam county in 1861 and spent the early years of his life on a farm, where he remained until 1880, when he moved to Leipsic and engaged in the grocery and drug businsss with Mr. E. J. Lenhart, under the firm name of Lenhart, Edwards & Co. He continued in this business two years, when he disposed of his interest and immediately engaged in the hardware business in company with H. B. Rose; but Mr. Rose's interests were soon purchased by John and W. W. Edwards, and the firm name became Edwards Bros. J. H. Edwards had full management of this store until June 23, 1893, on which date the second great fire of Leipsic destroyed the famous store, and with that event he purchased a one-fourth interest in the Buckeye Stave Company and has since been actively engaged in the management of that concern.

In 1888 he purchased an interest in the Bank of Leipsic. Mr. Edwards has contributed some of the finest private improvements to Leipsic.

In 1889 he completed a modern residence on the corner of Defiance and Poplar street at a cost of $6,500, and after the fire of 1893, in company with Messrs. Byron Folk and S. E. Perry, he constructed one of the finest business blocks ever built in the town.

He is an enthusiastic supporter of all legitimate public improvements and his name will be found among the first in petitions and subscriptions to accomplish this object.

He was united in marriage December 24, 1874, to Miss Mary Folk, daughter of Lorenzo Folk, one of Putnam county's leading farmers, (now retired) and to them have been born four children: Flossie, born November 28, 1875; May, born February 11, 1879; Serge, born April 25, 1883; Helen, born August 29, 1893.

ISAAC N. BUSHONG.

The subject of this sketch was born two miles north of Columbus Grove, Ohio, September 18, 1855. He is the eldest son of John and Sarah Bushong, who at the time of his birth were living on a farm, and his early youth was spent between farm labor and attending country school. Before young Isaac had reached his majority his parents moved to Columbus Grove and he received the advantage of a year's schooling at the public schools of that town.

After this he taught one term of school but did not fancy that calling, and after further fitting himself for a business life by taking a course in the Toledo Business College, showing such aptness as to complete a three months' course in six weeks, he turned his attention to railroading by learning telegraphy, but being exceedingly ambitious he came to regard this as too slow a means of building a way to fortune, and in 1881 he abandoned it and became interested with Messrs. Lenhart and Edwards, of Leipsic, in the manufacture of staves, and continued in this partnership, being located at Columbus Grove, until 1886, when he became one of the original organizers of the Buckeye Stave Company, and from that time to this he has displayed most remarkable energy and business ability, and has been one of the chief instruments in placing his company on its enviable plane of success and in making the largest stave company in the world.

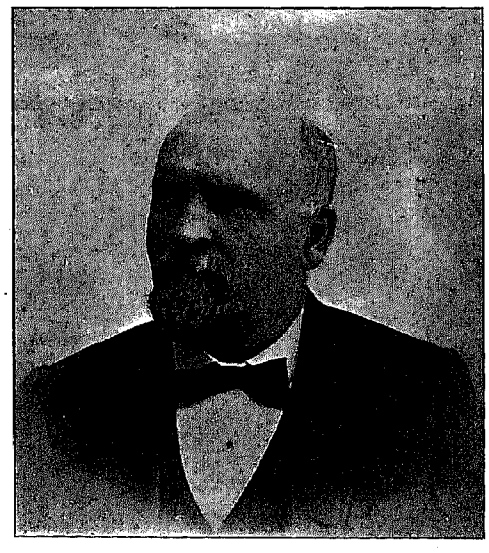
On February 2, 1882, Mr. Bushong was united in marriage to MissAlice Scott, of Ada, Ohio, who was then teaching school at Columbus Greve. To this union four children have been born—Paul, born October 10, 1883; Lena, born March —, 1885; Helen and Juno, both of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Bushong is a lady of rare attainments and has done much to advance the interests of her husband. Mr. Bushong and his family now reside at Gladstone, Michigan, where he has personal charge of the largest single factory of his company, which they located there in 1894.

During his residence in Leipsic Mr. Bushong proved himself a most worthy citizens and an earnest christian. He labored to elevate society. A great business man, he has helped make the name of Leipsic known through all the country. The most active man in the largest company of its kind in the world, he has accumulated for himself a comfortable fortune without losing the respect of any and gaining admiration of all.

JACOB WERNER.

We are about to record the biography of an individual who stands in the front ranks of Putnam county's professional men, an individual who, beginning life under humble circumstances, has by his own energies carved his way to a plane of success and honorable recognition.

Jacob Werner was born near Sandyville, Tuscarawas county, Ohio, August 20, 1839. Attended school at Oberlin and Carey



JACOB WERNER.

and taught several terms prior to 1861, in which year he located at Leipsic, and in partnership with A. Foulk he engaged in the mercantile business. This partnership continued until the spring of 1863, when he was appointed station agent for the Dayton & Michigan Railroad Co., at Leipsic, retaining this office until 1878, a period of fifteen years.

In 1867 he formed a partnership with R. C. O'Donald in the hardware business, and continued in this business until 1882. Mr. Werner served as postmaster of Leipsic from 1863 to 1881. He was admitted to the bar as an attorney at law in 1878, and since 1882 has devoted his entire time and energies to the practice of his profession.

In 1888 Mr. Werner served as a Presidential elector from the Fifth Congressional District, and he has served as solicitor for the village of Leipsic since 1884, and is now filling that position with credit to himself and the town.

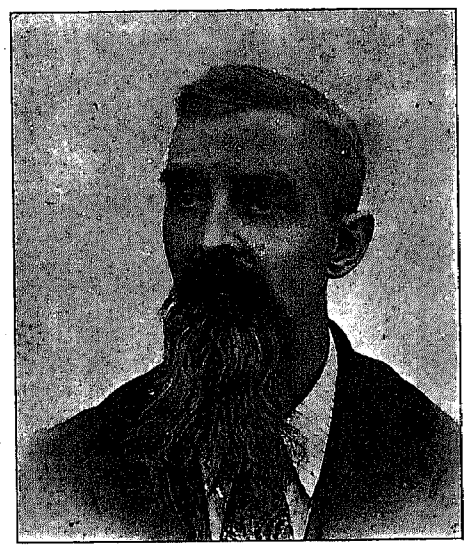
While yet in the prime of life he now finds himself in possession of the confidence and patronage of a long list of clients and a host of friends, jubilant over the prospects of his future.

In 1862 Mr. Werner was married to P. C. Eastman, and they now have two children—Edith, born August 15, 1879; John, May 30, 1882.

GEORGE C. SHIFFER.

The subject of this sketch was born in the village of Seven Mile, Butler county, Ohio, on the 18th day of October, 1847. he attended the village school of that place until May 1, 1864, when, at the age of sixteen, he entered the service as a member of the 167th O. V. I. and was honorably discharged during the latter part of September on account of expiration of service.

In 1867 Mr. Shiffer moved to Indiana, where he engaged in the mercantile business until 1874. In March of that year he



GEORGE C. SHIFFER

entered the railroad service in the employ of the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago railroad, and was stationed at Valparaiso, Indiana. In October of the same year he moved to Auburn, Indiana, and entered the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad as agent at Auburn, Junction, remaining in this position until September, 1883, and two months later he located in Leipsic, having received a position from the New York, Chicago & St. Louis railroad at this town.

In January, 1887, he was transferred to Bellevue as agent at that place for the same road, and in July of the year following was again transferred to Leipsic as joint agent for the New York, Chicago & St. Louis and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad companies at Leipsic Junction. He remained in charge of this position until March 3, 1893, when he resigned and devoted his entire attention to the grocery business, having formed a partnership with W. T. Cole two years prior to this time, under the firm name of Shiffer & Cole.

At a special election held December 18, 1894, he was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace by a large majority. In January, 1895 he disposed of his mercantile interests and devoted his entire time to the duties of his office, and to the duties of Corporation Clerk, to which office he was elected April 1, 1895.

He is a member of the I. O. O. F., K. of P., Red Men, and G. A. R. On September 19, 1875, he was married to Laura Swihart, of Auburn, Indiana, and they have two children, W. P., born June 9, 1876; Georgia, (now Mrs. O. P. Fike) born February 16, 1879.

As a citizen, as a friend and as a business man he stands in the highest estimation of all who know him. He has acquitted every charge, both public and private, to the full satisfaction of all concerned, and has gained that class of distinction which will bring laurels and higher trusts in future years.

DR JOSEPH S. EMERY.

Numbered among the leading citizens and professional men of Putnam county; numbered among those who have fought their own way to success, who are the possessors of a comfortable business and a happy family, and numbered among those who are earnestly anxious to elevate the morals, increase the happiness and advance the progress of the human race, is the subject of this sketch.



JOSEPH S. EMERY.

Dr. Emery was born in Carroll county, Ohio, December 29, 1844. He worked on a farm and attended country school during his youth. In 1855 he moved with his parents to Hancock county, and in 1863 became the employe of a ship yard in Lake county, Ohio, and from this county he enlisted in the Union army during the winter of 1864, serving on the iron clad gunboat, Mound City, in the Mississippi river until he received his discharge.

On his return from the army he spent one year in recuperating his health, and then engaged in farming, an occupation he continued until 1883 when he moved to West Leipsic, and in the following year, determining to fit himself for a profession, he moved to Cincinnati and began a course in The Ohio College of Dental Surgery. Two years later he graduated from this college and at once returned to Leipsic and engaged in the practice of his profession. Dr. Emery has conducted this practice ever since upon the most advanced scientific principles and now enjoys an enviable reputation and a long list of patrons.

His character is such as to win for him a high place in the citizenship of Leipsic, and he is now serving on the Leipsic council and school board.

He was married March 11, 1869, to Louisa M. Lowry, of West Leipsic, whose biography accompanies this, and to them have been born two children—Myrtle E., born August 10, 1872, Anna May, born August 12, 1877. Anna May is now a student in Oberlin College.

DR. LOUISA M. EMERY.

Mrs. Louisa M. Emery, daughter of Johnson and Olive A. Lowry, was born in West Leipsic, September 29, 1852, being the first white child born in that town.

Mrs. Emery attended school at West Leipsic public school during her early years, and on March 11, 1869, she was married to Joseph S. Emery, and from 1869 to 1883 she lived on a farm. In the latter year she moved to West Leipsic, and in 1884 she moved with her husband to Cincinnati, Ohio. and became a student of the Eclectic Medical Institute of that city, from which school she graduated in 1886. During her residence in Cincinnati she completed a special course in the optical department of the Pulte Medical College of that city.

In 1887 she began the practice of her profession in Leipsic, being the only lady practitioner in the county. Her success has been marvelous and she can safely be rated among the foremost female doctors of the Buckeye State. She has ever been alert to the advancement of her chosen profession and has held to the idea that, "What is worth doing, is worth doing well." With this opinion prevailing, she has cultivated every creditable dis-



LOUISA M EMERY.

covery of science and has constantly promoted her own knowledge by untiring home study, and as a farther benefit to her practice, in 1894 she took a course in the Post Graduate School, of Chicago.

Apt, and devoted to her profession, earnest and practical in her methods, progressive and attentive in her practice, she possesses all the qualities of a modern physician and is destined to rank among the leading lady physicians and surgeons of the land. She is the possessor of a beautiful home and happy family which, with her large practice, consume all the time of her busy life.

FRANCIS W. UNDERHILL.

Francis W. Underhill was born at Ogdensburg, New York, October 7, 1836, of English descent and New England parentage. He is a descendent of Capt. John Underhill, who came from England in 1632. In 1840, when three years of age, he moved with his father to Brooklyn, Ohio, and from there his family moved to a farm in Ridgeville township, Lorain county, Ohio. Mr. Underhill's father was the pioneer marble man of Lorain county, Ohio, having been the first man to engage in that business in that county.

In the year 1842 they moved to Elyria, Ohio, where he engaged in the marble business. He remained there until 1846, and worked for the father of Senator Jones, of Nevada, when he moved to Monroe, Mich., where he established a marble works, but died soon after and his second son assumed control of his business.

About this time the subject of our sketch returned to La Grange, Lorain county, Ohio, where he lived with his uncle, Dr. George C. Underhill, until 1854, when he located in Piqua, Ohio, and entered the employ of his brother, P. S. Underhill, in his marble works. He remained in this position three years, until he had mastered his trade, then he moved with his brother to Ft. Wayne, Ind., where he worked for his brother as journeyman and salesman. The firm of P. S. Underhill operated four branch stores. They were located at Defiance, Toledo and Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and Warsaw, Ind., and for many years F. W. Underhill had full control and management of these four stores, with headquarters at Defiance five years and Toledo four years.

Prior to the death of P. S. Underhill in 1871, our subject and A. J. Matison purchased the great marble business, but soon after Mr. Matison lost his life in the Chicago fire and the full control and management devolved upon the other partner, and with marked success he conducted the business until 1880, when he sold out to his uncle and moved to Elyria, O., where he engaged in the marble business with a gentleman by the name of James Wooldridge. This partnership continued five years when



F. W. UNDERHILL.

Mr. Underhill purchased the interests of his partner and continued business in that place four years longer, in the meantime opening up branch stores at Leipsic, Ohio, and Ft. Wayne, Ind. During his residence at Elyria he had conducted a leading hotel of that town very successfully.

In 1889 Mr. Underhill sold his Elyria store to his son-in-law, moved his Leipsic branch to Ft. Wayne, Ind., and in the same year located there himself, where he continued until May 18, 1891, when he moved his entire stock to Leipsic, Ohio, where he engaged in the marble business, but soon after added building stone of every description, and he now carries an immense stock of sidewalk stone, cut and wall stone, marble and monuments of every design. He has furnished the stone since that time for many of the finest buildings in Putnam county, among which may be mentioned the Hipkins block and the Catholic parsonage, in Ottawa, and the Methodist church and Opera House block, in Leipsic. He has completed many thousand feet of fine cut stone sidewalk in Leipsic, with universal satisfaction.

Mr. Underhill purchases his stone from the best quarries in Ohio, among which may be mentioned sidewalk stone from Berea, Amherst, Elyria, Grafton, Plymouth, Whitehouse, Puyma and Findlay, and this fact together with his life-long experience and close attention enables him to fill all contracts with the greatest satisfaction.

He has purchased liberally in Leipsic property and has become one of the fixtures of this town, a fact the town may well be and is proud of. He offers the best material, by the most skillful workmen at legitimate competing prices with all.

WILLIAM A. KOBER.

William A. Kober was born on a farm in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, September 8, 1860. He is the eldest son of George Kober, and at an early age he ably assisted his father in buying and shipping live stock, thus early in life he gained the practical and experimental knowledge of a business education. He attended the country schools and so attentively devoted himself to his studies as to enable him to begin teaching at fifteen years of age. He graduated from the Ottawa High School in the class of 1880.

In 1883 Mr. Kober purchased the hardware stock of Werner & O'Donald, at Leipsic, and continued in that business, with remarkable success, until 1890, when he sold his store and de-

voted his entire time to real estate transactions and the management and improvement of his own and a part of his father's estate.

On October 11, 1883, Mr. Kober married Miss Lizzie O'Boyle, of Ottawa, who died May 15, 1886; and on October 18, 1888, he married Miss Gertrude A. Simonds, who was born September



WILLIAM A. KOBER.

17, 1869, and is the daughter of George Simonds, a well known and highly esteemed farmer of Van Buren township, this county.

Mr. Kober filled the office of Clerk of Van Buren township for two terms and was clerk of the village of Leipsic nine years. Every trust, both public and private, he has discharged with universal satisfaction. His name will ever be linked with the rapid progress of Leipsic, as he has contributed many of her finest and most substantial improvements, and at a time when her future was held in a balance.

JOHN S. ESELY.

J. S. Esely, the Leipsic jeweler and one of the town's most honorable and prospective young business men, was born in Loudonville, Ohio, June 10, 1867, where he attended school until 1882.

At nine years of age he began learning the jewelry trade with his father, remaining with him and attending school until his father's death in 1882, after which time he settled up his father's



JOHN S. ESELY.

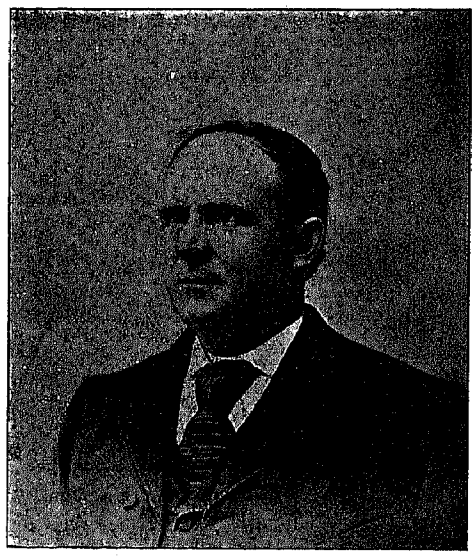
estate and on July 1, 1884, went to La Grange, Ind., and worked at his trade in that place two years, when he returned to Loudonville and followed his trade there for the next year.

In 1887 he located in McComb, Ohio, where he remained until June 1, 1891, continuing to work in the jewelry business. On the above date he came to Leipsic and on the 17th of the same month engaged in the jewelry business in this place. During his four years of residence here he has been found an exemplary citizen, and his business, with its able and efficient management, has proven a creditable addition to the business directory of Leipsic. His store is located in the east room of the Union Block with F. J. Maehlmann, and here the public will find a first-class merchant with first-class goods.

GEORGE GORES.

Among the self-made, substantial and progressive business men of Putnam county the subject of this article is entitled to a high position.

Mr. Gores was born October 23, 1850, at Huscheid, Rhein Province, Prussia. He attended the schools of his native country and worked on a farm until 1881, when in July of that year he came to America, locating at Fremont, Ohio. He remained at the latter place two years, then moved to Auburn, Indiana, where he engaged in the tubular well business, continuing in this business in the vicinity of Auburn two years. He then moved to New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, where he remained until April, 1886, when he moved to Leipsic and soon established himself in an extensive well drilling and wind pump business, a business he has since continued with marked success and satisfaction.



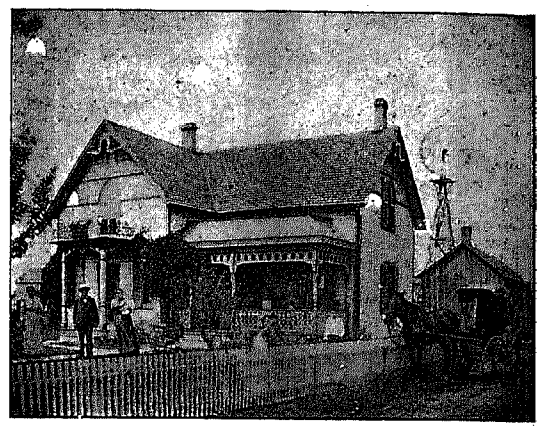
GEORGE GORES.

He is the pioneer of that business in this section and his operations have extended over DeKalb and Steuben counties, Ind., and Putnam, Henry, Hancock, Defiance and Paulding counties, O. No man in his line of business in this country has conducted a larger business or been more successful, or received more universal endorsement.

He has proved himself an exemplary and progressive citizen, and as such he has been recognized by his fellow townsmen. In 1887 he was elected a member of the Leipsic council, and in 1889 was re elected. He now owns and lives in one of the handsomest residences in Leipsic, on South Eastom street, a cut of which we present to the reader.

Mr. Gores was a partner in the Leipsic Machine Works the years 1892-3, and during this time displayed remarkable abilities for management. Selling his interest in this he now devotes his entire time to drilling wells, erecting wind pumps, managing an extensive agency for the sale of agricultural implements and vehicles and managing one of Putnam county's banner farms, which he owns and it is located one mile southwest of Leipsic. He purchased this farm of eighty acres when it was in a dilapidated condition, but his energy has been so untiring that it now ranks as one of the best improved farms in the State. In 1889 he erected a good farm residence, and in 1895 a large, modern barn on the farm. These with other substantial improvements in the way of judicious and complete under-draining, fencing, clearing and good farming, make it one of the best kept and best improved farms in the county.

Mr. Gores was married to Mary Hoffman, of New Bavaria, Ohio, November 19, 1885, and she has proved an able assistant to the business undertakings of her husband. Mrs. Gores was born in Nachsheim, Rhein Province, Prussia, December 21, 1860, and came to this country with her parents when seven



GEORGE GORES' RESIDENCE.

years old. They have four children—John G., born August 27, 1886; Anna S., born March 14, 1888; Katie M., born May 12, 1891; Eva R., born July 18, 1894.

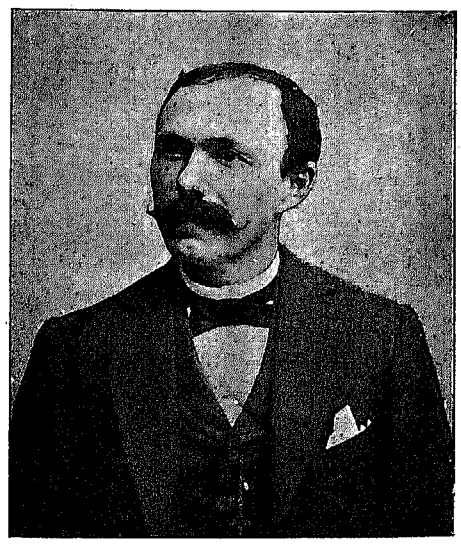
Mr. Gores is industrious, frugal, energetic and honorable; he has fought his own way to business success, and while yet a young man, enjoys the full confidence of the community. He is an earnest and devoted member of the Catholic church and subscribes liberally to the progress of his denomination.

F. J. MAEHLMANN.

The highest eulogium which can be accorded to any private citizen of this country is to charge him with being a good citizen and furnish proof to substantiate your charge.

We here enter this charge against our subject and offer the testimony of any and every responsible citizen who has formed his acquaintance.

F. J. Maehlmann was born January 27, 1854, in Cappelan, Germany, where he attended school until sixteen years of age. He then learned the trade of a shoemaker with his father, remaining in this position until April 1871. Twenty-six days later



F. J. MAEHLMANN.

he bid adieu to his native country and embarked on the steamer Baltimore for America, landing at Baltimore, Md., May 14th of the same year. He turned his face westward, locating in Cincinnati, where he remained until June 13, and then came to Ottawa, where he worked at his trade one year, when he returned

to Cincinnati and worked at his trade until June 1, 1873, on which date he returned to Ottawa.

On April 1, 1874, he formed a partnership with his brother, William Maehlmann, and engaged in the boot and shoe business in Leipsic.

This partnership continued until February 10, 1881, when he purchased the interest of his brother and since that date has been conducting the same business with marked success, until now he has the honor of being one of the oldest as well as one of the most reliable continuous merchants of Putnan county, and his store has had the longest life of any store in this line in the county.

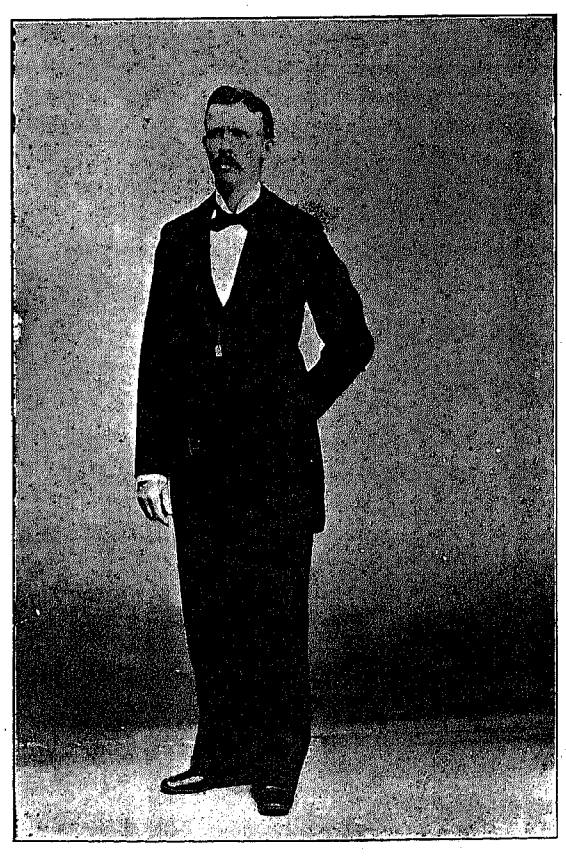
Mr. Maehlmann was married April 17, 1877, to Miss Elizabeth Laubenthal, of Ottawa, and to this union four children were born: Julia Etta, born January 8, 1880; Harry Nelson, born August 12, 1881, (now deceased); Eda Elizabeth, born July 8, 1888; Clara Isabella, born December 31, 1886.

On December 7, 1890, Mrs. Elizabeth Maehlmann died, and on September 12, 1893, Mr. Maehlmann was remarried to Miss Margreth Gores, of Fremont, Ohio, and to them have been born two children: Helen Gertrude, born July 8, 1894; Louisa Mary, December 15, 1895.

Through Mr. Maehlmann's close attention to business and judicious investments in Leipsic property, he has amassed a comfortable fortune, and now enjoys the highest esteem of his fellowmen. He is a life long, devout and active member of the Catholic church.

A. STECHSCHULTE.

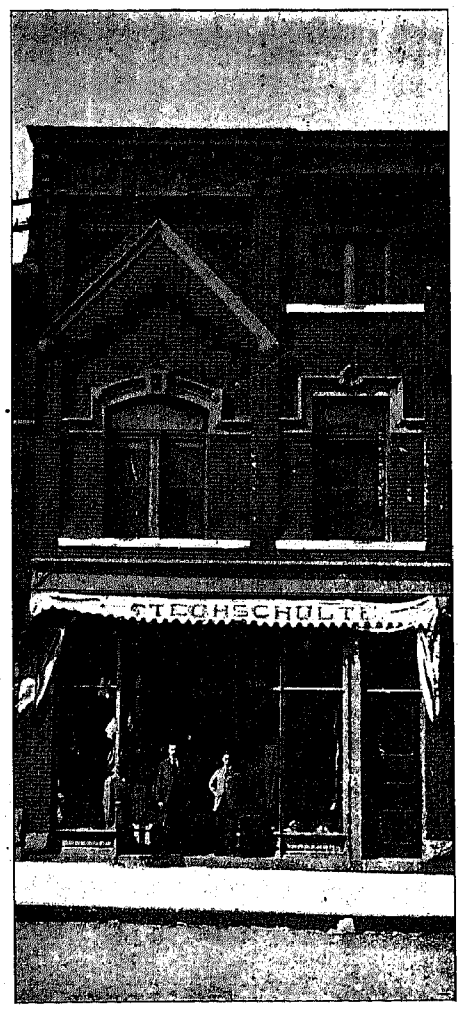
To comprehend the full extent of the business qualifications and meritorious success of the subject of this sketch, would lead out of the real and into the imaginary. August Stechschulte was born on a farm near the prosperous village of Glandorf,



A. STECHSCHULTE.

Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, in December, 1862. There he spent the early years of his life, fitting himself while young with a good book and business education. He entered the battlefield of life dependent upon his own energies as an armor. Mr. Stechschulte learned the merchant tailor trade and began business in this line in Leipsic in 1884. Soon after locating in Leipsic he received the appointment as assistant sergeant at arms of the Sixty-Sixth General Assembly of Ohio, under the administration of George Hoadley. After filling this position with great credit to himself and the office, he returned to Leipsic and resumed his business on a larger scale. About this time in his career Mr. Stechschulte married the estimable daughter of Wm. Rampe, Sr., of Glandorf, Ohio, and he now has one of the happiest families in Putnam county, consisting of himself, his wife and three children. There is nothing lacking in the character and ability of our subject to win success, and at the end of eleven busy years he now stands in full possession of that much coveted position, enjoying a remunerative trade bounded only by the limits of Northwestern Ohio. In June, 1893, Mr. Stechschulte suffered a heavy loss by fire, when his building, with many others, was burned to the ground. But with the stamp of a Leipsic hustler indelibly printed upon his energies, he arose to the occasion and within nine months had constructed on the site of the ruins one of the most substantial and handsomest business rooms in the county, a cut of which we hereby present to our readers.

In this commodious room the purchasing public will find the most complete line of piece goods, gents' furnishings, ready-made clothing, and genial, accommodating and painstaking proprietor and clerks. He now gives steady employment to nine people. As a citizen Mr. Stechschulte stands in the front rank, being ever ready to lend a helping hand to all legitimate enterprises and improvements tending towards the advancement of his town and county. Owing to this fact he is seldom free from public trust, having been elected Clerk of Van Buren township



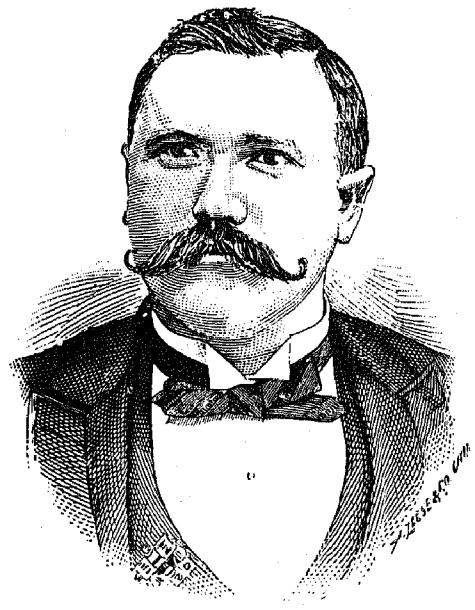
STECHSCHULTE'S CLOTHING STORE.

in 1888, and a member of the Leipsic council in 1891; re elected in 1893. During his terms of service in the last named office, Leipsic received her most substantial improvements in the way of good sewers, paved streets, stone sidewalks, steam fire engine, etc., which improvements were made to the entire satisfaction of the tax-paying public and are marked monuments to the progress of this growing village, and perpetual emblems to the genius of our subject. Mr. Stechschulte is still a young man —all the possibilities of a lifetime are before him. No eulogism can speak too highly of his past, no prediction foretell the limit of his future, but we will say that to whatever plane of success Leipsic or Putnam county may attain, inseparably linked to their progress will be the name and energies of August Stechschulte.

T. F. HUMMON.

Mr. Hummon was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, August 17, 1868. He is a son of our well known citizen, Adam Hummon.

He was married November 29, 1888, to Miss Sarah E. Mack, daughter of Christ. Mack, Esq., of Liberty township. To this marriage was born one daughter, Edith May Hummon, on April 22, 1893. Mr. Hummon moved to Leipsic, December 1, 1890,



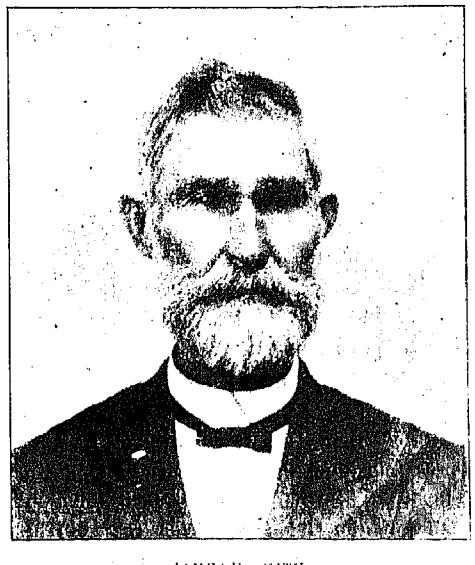
T. F. HUMMON.

and engaged in the hardware business, which he carried on until quite recently, when he became interested in the hardware and agricultural implement trade with Pfister & Co., in which he is now engaged.

Coming of one of the solid and substantial families of the county Mr. Hummon, though still young, has shown by his career that he is one of the active, rustling business men of the county.

JAMES H. SMITH.

The subject of this sketch, son of James H. and Martha (Davis) Smith, was born in Knox county, Ohio, August 28,



JAMES H. SMITH.

1818. He moved to this county in 1842, having visited the county with his father in 1837, when the land, on which he

afterward settled and made one of the most beautiful farms of the county, was entered.

His wife, Harriet, who survives him and is now living on the farm with a son and daughter, is a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Todd) Todd, who came to this county from Seneca county, Ohio, in 1834, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio. They were married in this county in April, 1844, and had seven children, six of whom are living; Lafayette N., born October 14, 1849; Maria L., August 14, 1852; Kossuth, March 13, 1855; Julia R., May 15, 1858; Jefferson D., December 12, 1862; Annie C., October 11, 1868.

Mr. Smith was Land Appraiser for Liberty, Ottawa and Pleasant townships in 1853; County Auditor from 1857 to 1861; County Commissioner from 1878 to 1881, and from 1888 to the time of his death, which occurred November 24, 1891. Noted for integrity and imbued with the spirit of public improvement, Mr. Smith was largely instrumental in converting the swamps of the county into beautiful and fertile farms, and the impassible roads into good, passible driveways. It was he who induced the County Commissioners to make a practical use of the engineer's level, when they employed Mr. Holtz to level a ditch, make a profile and establish a grade for the same.

DANIEL M. LEFFLER.

The subject of this sketch was born December 21, 1869, at Leipsic, Ohio. He is the second son of D. G. and Lavina Leffler, and is an heir to that business progress and ability which has placed his father among the very first of Putnam county's business men. He attended the public school of Leipsic, from which he graduated in the class of 1889. For the two years following his graduation he worked for his father in his famous grocery store, and on April 14, 1891, he formed a partnership with his brother, Charles H., and purchased the grocery store of his father, and since that, under the firm name of Leffler Bros., the old-time success and standard reputation of Putnam county's greatest grocery and queensware store has been conducted on the highest line of mercantile progress.

He was married May 7, 1891, to Emma M. Pfister, of Leipsic, a lady of great character and attainments, and who is in thorough accord with the progressive ideas of her husband. They have two children—Ray Victor, born February 28, 1892, and Gladdis Arletta, born March 2, 1894.

Mr. Leffler is a young man of good character, great energy, unceasing honor; and now, at the early age of twenty-six years, ranks as one of the ablest and most successful business men of Putnam county.

CHARLES H. LEFFLER.

Endowed with all those faculties which win success, and imbued with that spirit which wins the admiration and esteem of all who meet him, the subject of this sketch stands on the threshhold of a business career attended by the highest standard of success.

He was born April 10, 1868, at Leipsic, and is the eldest son of D. G. and Lavina Leffler. His early life was spent in assisting his father in his grocery store and attending the public schools of Leipsic, from which he graduated in the class of 1889. For two years following his graduation he worked in his father's store and on April 14, 1891, he formed a partnership with his brother, Daniel M., and purchased the store in which he had spent his youth and in which he had acquired those rudiments of business which so mark his business career.

Under the firm name of Leffler Bros., the high reputation of the great grocery of D. G. Leffler has been conducted in accordance with its old time standard, and its able and efficient management has stamped our subject as a prince among merchants. In April, 1895, the firm purchased, of their father, the three-story building in the Union block, constructed by him in 1881 and made famous by the fact that he and his sons have conducted, for the long period of fifteen years, the most successful grocery and queensware business in Putnam county.

WILLIAM A. LEWIS.

Our subject first saw the light on the 1st day of August, 1866, on a farm near Leipsic. He spent his youth working on a farm and attending school.

In 1885 he formed a partnership with Levi B. Alford and engaged in the implement and buggy business in Leipsic under the firm name of Lewis & Alford. The energy and success of our subject since that date has been phenomenal, and he stands today in the front rank of Putnam county's most popular and successful business men.



WILLIAM A. LEWIS.

In 1887 the firm built a commodious business room, but their business grew so rapidly that they were compelled to remodel it, and in 1894 added a handsome brick front and at this writing they have just completed a spacious room at the rear of their former establishment, giving them the advantage of a room 24x200 feet and the reputation of having the largest and handsomest implement room in the county.

We are sorry to state that at this writing we are unable to record any nuptials in Mr. Lewis' life, but we assure the public that his friends are expectant.

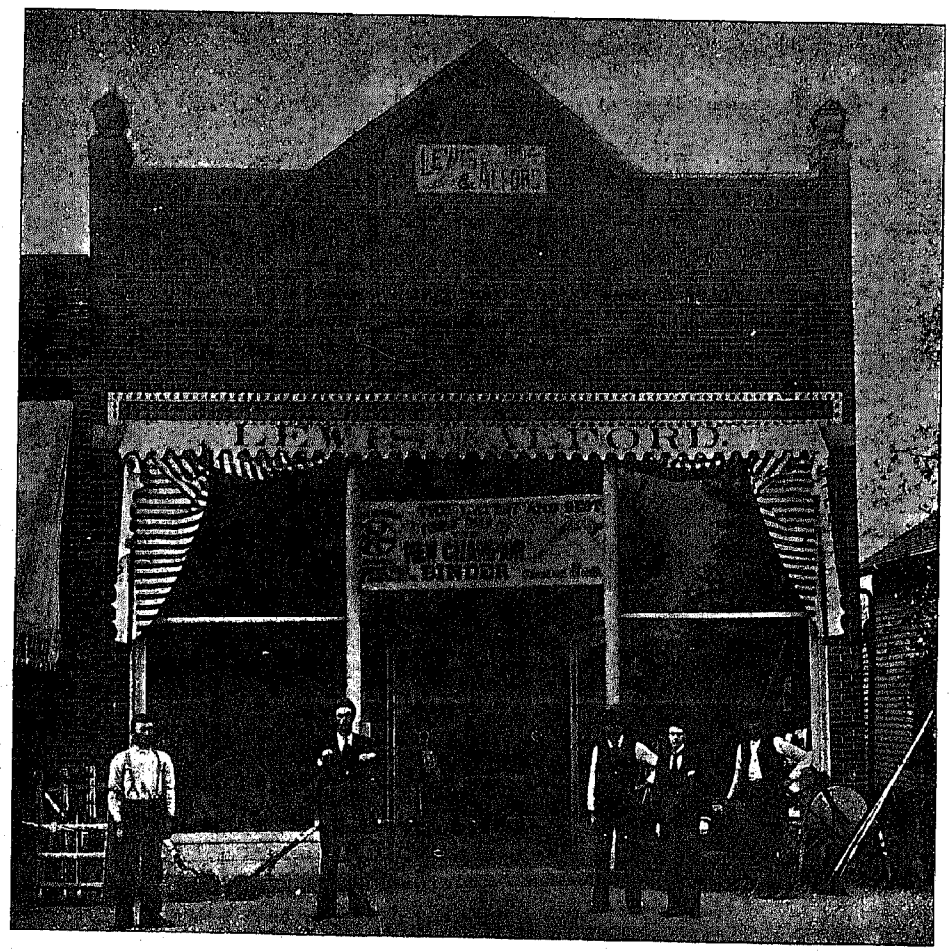
LEVI B. ALFORD.

Levi B. Alford was born on a farm near Leipsic, Ohio, August 23, 1861. He spent his early years working on a farm and attending school. In 1879 Mr. Alford began teaching school, an occupation which he followed almost continuously until 1887 with marked success and with entire satisfaction to many of the best districts in northeastern Putnam county.



LEVI B. ALFORD.

In 1885 he formed a partnership with William A. Lewis and engaged in the implement and buggy business at Leipsic, Ohio, and to him is due one-half the credit of the remarkable success of the firm of Lewis & Alford.



Mr. Alford was elected Clerk of Van Buren township, in April, 1894, and is now filling that position with credit to himself and the office. Although a young man Mr. Alford stands high in the estimation and confidence of a large circle of friends and patrons, and the future of himself and firm are most promising.

On December 25, 1893, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucretia Simons, of Dupont, this county, and they have one child—Nina Bess, born January 27, 1895.

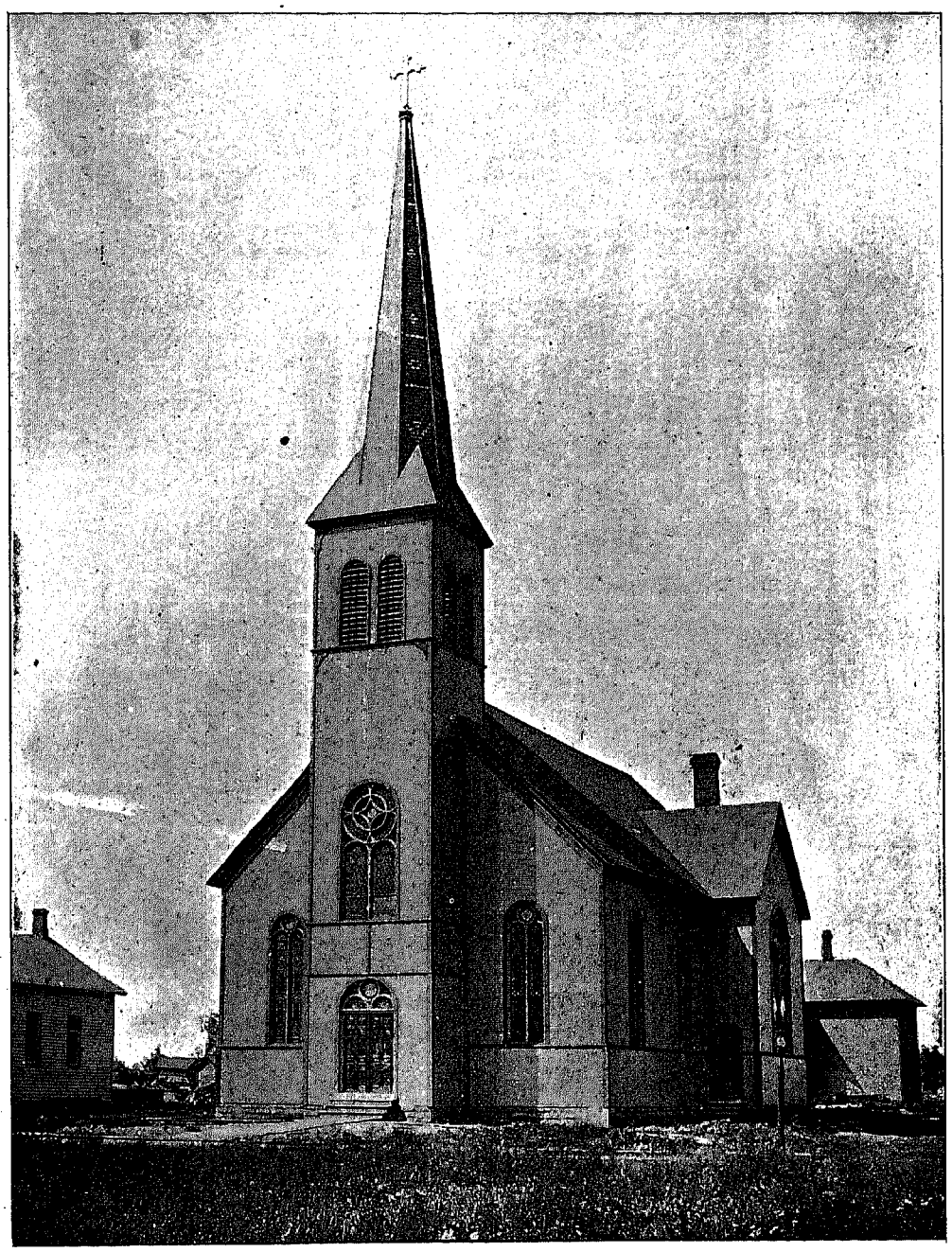
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Playing an important part in the conversion of Putnam county from savagery and a dense wilderness, in the development of our rich lands and modern homes, in the elevation of our institutions and society, is that element constituting the Catholic church. Their axes were among the first to fell our mighty forests, their spades have sunk deep into our ditches and their steeples were among the first marks of our christian civilization. They have penetrated our wilds, burnished our progress and helped to make possible our proud condition and glorious future.

Their churches in this county are among the finest church edifices in the State, and wherever a colony of Catholics may locate, there and then is reared a house of worship. Twenty-three years ago, under adverse circumstances, a small colony of these hardy people had located in the vicinity of Leipsic, and in that year, 1872, Messrs. Albert Bussing, H. W. Schmitschulte, Henry Bauhaus, Sr., Peter Grise and John Alt organized the St. Mary's Catholic Church.

A foundation for a church building was laid in this same year, but for lack of funds the work was discontinued until 1876, when a reorganization was made and placed under the charge of Rev. Henry Kempker, resident pastor of New Cleveland. By the co-operation of this exemplary man the congregation, then grown to about ten families, succeeded in constructing a church, 22x40 feet, on lot No. 448, in Leipsic, the same year, and in this structure the denomination continued to worship until 1893, and until their membership had grown to near five hundred. This church cost four hundred dollars and still stands by the side of the handsome new building and is a fitting comparison of the wonderful progress of the church and of civilization.

Rev. Kempker was succeeded by Rev. Edward Hipilius in May, 1878, who remained until June, 1880, when he was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Rosenberg. The services of this last named gentlemen were continued until April, 1888, when Rev. Joseph Eiler assumed his duties until January, 1889, when the administration of the present pastor, Rev. John Bertemes, began. The above gentlemen were all resident pastors of New Cleveland.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

In 1888 the church constructed the handsome parsonage now occupied by their pastor, and in 1891 Rev. Bertemes became resident pastor of Leipsic with a charge at Miller City.

Rev. Bertemes was born December 24, 1861, in Luxemberg, a small independent country of Europe, and received his education in the schools of that country, having spent eight years in securing the same. In September, 1884, he came to America and during the next four and one-half years he completed his education in the Cleveland Seminary. Having completed his theological studies he was ordained priest December 19, 1888, by Rev. Bishop Richard Gilmore, D. D., of Cleveland. Soon after came to New Cleveland as a pastor, where he remained until coming to Leipsic in March, 1891.

Immediately after his locating here that energy, characteristic of his pastorage, became visible and within two years, by the co-operation of the active members of his church, he had dedicated one of the handsomest churches in the county. On August 30, 1891, the corner-stone of the new church was laid by the Rev. Phelix M. Boff, Vicar General of the diocese of Cleveland, and on May 14, 1893, the church was dedicated by Rt. Rev. Ignatius F. Hortsman, Bishop of Cleveland. The cost of this building exceeded eight thousand dollars, and the committee of construction consisted of Messrs. A. Stechschulte, M. Schroeder, Frank Kapel and Theodore Hazelman. Owing to the fact that all the members of this committee, except Mr. Stechschulte, resided in the country, the great responsibility devolved upon Mr. Stechschulte and Rev. Bertemes, and never did two men acquit themselves of so important a work with greater credit or more universal satisfaction. They solicited the subscription, collected the funds, guaranteed the liability, regulated the plans and were executors of the whole possibility of the construction, and the whole fact of the constructed. To their energy, ability and popularity Leipsic is indebted for one of her finest churches.

In 1889 the Parochial school of Leipsic was established, employing at the time but one teacher. This school has grown so rapidly that at the present time it has been found necessary to employ two teachers and occupy two rooms. The former church building is used as a school house and the enrollment shows an attendance of sixty two scholars, who are now under the able and efficient superintendency of Prof. Henry B. Hoffman, of Glandorf, Ohio.

LEIPSIC M. E. CHURCH.

The growth and advancement of religious denominations and societies have been marvelous during the century now drawing to a close. The observer of today must admit that the "progress of civilization" can only lay the fundamental base of its success to the influence wielded by the different religious orders of civilized christendom. Hand in hand they have marched onward, the former acting as benefactor, father and guide to the latter until they stand today side by side masters of the greatest epoch in the world's history. The writer gives impartial credit to the glorious work of all religious sects, and were it his privilege to chronicle the efforts and success of any among them the work would be done with the same enthusiasm and good will as that accorded to the exemplary works and workers of the Leipsic M. E. Church in this article.

This church was founded in 1859 and made a part of the Findlay District with missions at (West) Leipsic and Ottawa, and F. L. Harper received the appointment as first pastor, in September, 1859, with a salary of $400 per annum. At the beginning of the year 1860 the church had a membership numbering 142 souls, and the two Sunday schools had 110 scholars. Rev. Harper remained pastor of the two charges until 1861, when they were transferred to the Lima District and P. A. Drown appointed pastor. Rev. A. C. Barnes, D. D., served as pastor in 1862. The years 1863–64 found Rev. Barnes still pastor, with H. M. Shaffer as Presiding Elder; it also found the pastoral charge grown to four churches, five Sunday schools and six classes.

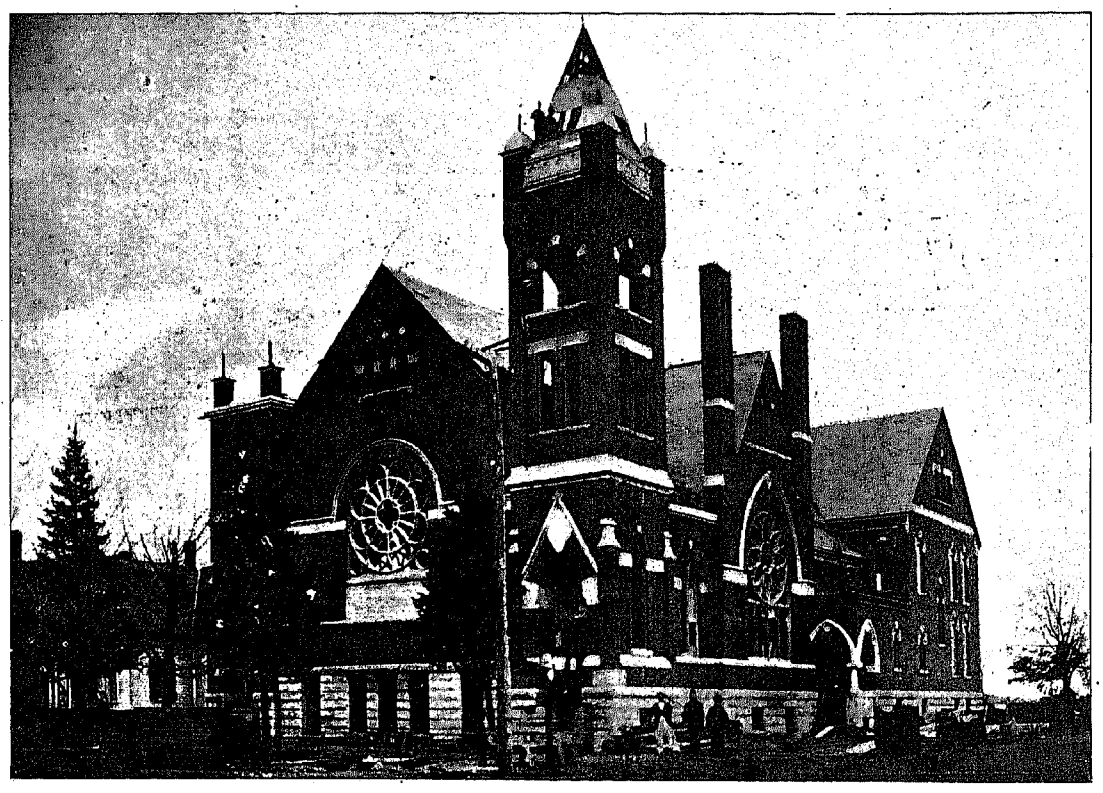
In 1864–65 Franklin Mariott was Presiding Elder and L. A. Belt pastor, with the same societies and classes; the salary was fixed during this year at $600. In 1866–67 I. N. Smith, pastor; three churches, salary $630. In September of the latter year these charges were transferred to the Defiance District. In 1867–68 Joshua Smith was pastor, Ottawa circuit. In 1868 was transferred to Findlay District, L. C. Webster, Presiding Elder; H. M. Shafer, pastor. In 1869 G. W. Miller was pastor. In 1870 Ira M Jameson supplied (West) Leipsic circuit. (West) Leipsic circuit was placed under Ottawa again in 1871, with Jason Young as pastor; remained the same in 1872. In 1873–74, Lima District, A. Harmount, Presiding Elder; John T. Davies, pastor. In 1875, Lima District, A. Harmount, Presiding Elder, Leipsic and Deshler charges; Harrison Maltbie and Oscar E. Moore, pastors. In 1876, Leipsic circuit to Findlay District, Jeremiah McKeen, pastor, and W. W. Winter, Presiding Elder; 1877–78, Findlay District, A. Harmount, Presiding Elder, James Long, pastor at Leipsic. In 1879, John C. Miller, pastor, five societies—Leipsic, West Leipsic, Gilboa, Centenary and Pleasant Hope. In 1879–80, Findlay District; A. Harmount, Presiding Elder, R. M. Culver, pastor. In 1880–81, R. M. Culver, pastor; I. R. Henderson, Presiding Elder. In 1881–83 Wm. R. Seuman, pastor; 1883–84 James C. Reader, pastor; 1884–90, Defiance District, S. L. Roberts, Presiding Elder; John L. Rusbridge, pastor from 1884 to '87. George Matthews, pastor from 1887 to '92; Gershem Lease, Presiding Elder from 1891 to '93; P. P. Pope, D. D., Presiding Elder from 1893 to '95. He is a graduate of Berea College and has all the interests of the district well in hand. A. A. Thomas, pastor from 1892 to '96.

The last named gentleman is, at this writing, pastor of the church, and it is during his pastorate and administration that the glorious work of the church has reached such an exalted position. During the past year Rev. Thomas, with the assistance of the active members of the church, has raised the enormous sum of $15,000 for the construction of the handsome edifice now nearing completion, and which will stand a lasting monument to the active progress and religious magnanimity of its promoters and donors. The corner stone of the new structure was laid amid imposing ceremonies August 25, 1895.

Below we give to our readers a list of the names of those who contributed to this great and good work. And for all religious people, without regard to creed or sect, and for the progressive spirit of Leipsic we extend to all the most sincere thanks.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR M. E. CHURCH—1895.

Buckeye Stave Co.,	$7,000 00	C. C. Nutter,	100 00
Ladies' Aid Society,	1,000 00	Lorenzo Folk,	100 00
Perry & Parsons,	500 00	G. W. Eicher,	100 00
Townsend & Zahrend,	450 00	B W. Ginther,	100 00
E. J. Reed,	250 00	A. F. Eastom,	100 00
Mrs Louisa Emery,	200 00	Frank Hammett,	100 00
H. S. Lenhart,	200 00	Epworth League,	75 00
B. C. Folk,	100 00	A. A. Thomas and wife,	75 00
Solomon Sands,	100 00	Dr. J. S. Emery,	50 00
Thomas W. Edwards,	100 00	J. S. Esely and wife,	50 00
N H. Hiner,	100 00	W S Archer,	50 00
A. J. Lowry,	100 00	J. Werner,	50 00
J. B. Updike,	10 00	Mrs. R. A. Glancy,	5 00
Frank Rosenberger,	10 00	R. A. Glancy,	5 00
F. J. Maehlmann,	10 00	M. A. Foltz,	5 00
Levi Hunter,	10 00	Joseph Butler,	5 00
L. Wood,	10 00	J H. Fisher,	5 00
W. A. Kober,	10 00	A. J. Young,	5 00
Schweitzer & Son,	8 00	J. A. Wood,	5 00
F. E. Mills,	6 00	Gust. Fisher,	5 00
Adelia M. Irwin,	5 00	C. F. Patterson,	5 00
P. W. Gallogly,	5 00	E. P. Stone,	5 00
D. W. Seitz,	5 00	A B. Keuper,	5 00
A. Edmister,	5 00	H Woodruff,	5 00
H. R. Waters,	5 00	Mary Brumley,	5 00
E. E Trott,	5 00	C. M. Lewis,	5 00
W. H. Edwards,	5 00	Lettie Patterson,	3 50
N. W. Knepper,	5 00	Lettie Hammett,	3 50
Elizabeth Boucher,	5 00	Martin Bowman,	3 00
W. W. Hammett,	5 00	W. B Davis and wife,	3 00
F. B. Lewis,	5 00	George Askam,	3 00
W. B. Bryan,	5 00	J Trott,	3 00
D. B. Miles,	5 00	F. W. Underhill,	3 00
E W. Huntsman,	5 00	J. S Boxwell,	3 00
Whittington Bros,	5 00	D. A. Folk,	3 00
Ben M. Mann,	5 00	T. B. Blakely,	3 00
James Anderson,	5 00	E W Roberts,	3 00
George Massey,	5 00	E. S. Kirby,	2 00
Henry H Lampe,	5 00	Emma Davidson,	2 00
Alpha, Ezra and Emery Blair,	5 00	J. F Arnold,	2 00
		Emma Sackett,	2 00
		Mrs. M. A. Dotterer,	2 00
		Chas. F. Heidley,	2 00
		E. E Cripe,	1 50
		W. S. Sears,	1 50
		H. E Bowman,	1 50
		A. A. Weaver,	1 50
		Jay Pitney,	1 00
		Harry W. Buckley,	1 00
		Frank Sherman,	1 00
		Jacob Meyers,	1 00
		Brumm & Baum,	1 00
		H. Workman,	1 00
		M. L. Pritchard,	1 00
		F. L. Wood,	1 00
		Russel Meyers,	1 00
		Charles Meyers,	1 00
		Chester Lowry,	1 00
		G. W. Klinker,	1 00
		O. P. Edwards,	1 00
		Mrs Durling,	1 00
		W. W. McCreary,	1 00
		Henry Close,	1 00
		W. K. Abbott,	1 00
		W. Park Shiffer,	1 00
		C. W. Folk,	1 00
		Cora Clark,	1 00
		W. R Lewis,	1 00
		Mrs. Therwechter,	1 00
		Fred Krebs,	1 00
		J B Case,	1 00
		James Krersher,	1 00
		William Beiber,	1 00
		Frank Klausing,	1 00
		Charles Kroeger,	1 00
		O. O'Donnell,	1 00
		Jos. Wortman,	1 00
		Harrison Stechschulte,	1 00
		Charles Kuntz,	1 00
		A. D. Hammett,	1 00
		E. C Devenport.	1 00
		Mrs. E. C. Devenport,	1 00
		Wm. Kline,	1 00



LEIPSIC M. E. CHURCH.

S A. Dudley,	50 00	John Evans,	15 00
G. W. Lafferty,	50 00	J. V. Donaldson,	15 00
S. B Webber,	50 00	Chas. S. Buckley,	15 00
L. S. Lafferty,	50 00	C. C. Cass,	10 00
T. C. Edwards,	50 00	H. F. Wendall and wife,	10 00
D. H. Richards and wife,	50 00	Dr. H. C Rule and wife,	10 00
J. H. Arnold,	50 00	H. S. Conrad,	10 00
Junior League,	50 00	A. J. Hoffman,	10 00
Gerding & Enck,	30 00	J. A. Mastick,	10 00
Mr. and Mrs. Timmerman,	30 00	G. C. Shiffer,	10 00
C. W. Franklin and wife,	30 00	Pratt Kline and wife,	10 00
H. C. Edwards,	25 00	C. O. Evans,	10 00
A. Harris,	25 00	G. W. Baughman,	10 00
Ike Levison,	25 00	E. B. Folk,	10 00
Leffler Brother,	25 00	W. H. Edwards,	10 00
Thomas Buckley,	25 00	Dr. G A. Light and wife,	10 00
John M Stuter,	25 00	E S. Weaver,	10 00
William Palmer,	25 00	L. W. Kuntz & Co.,	10 00
A Stechschulte,	25 00	Dr J. C. McClung,	10 00
Lewis & Alford,	25 00	John P. Rampe,	10 00
A M. Cole & Co,	25 00	A A. Carter,	10 00
B. Harris,	25 00	J F. Leffler and wife	10 00
Pfister & Co,	25 00	A. J Karcher,	10 00
Julia A. Davis.	25 00	Mrs. S. M. O'Donald,	10 00
A. Folk,	25 00	Ed. O'Donald,	10 00
W. W. Smith and wife,	25 00	George Eastom,	10 00
Thos H. Trott and wife,	25 00	Fockler Bros.,	10 00
C. C. Huber,	25 00	G. W. Harris,	10 00
F. C. Baughman,	20 00	A. Bachle,	10 00
E. E. Hammett,	15 00	Daniel Leffler,	10 00

Such is the recorded history of the Leipsic M. E. Church, and such is the splendid manner in which the citizens of this town respond to creditable improvements. It was one of those undertakings whose success bespeaks the progress and magnanimity of a community, and under like circumstances, the whole fact of its construction challenges comparison.

Its chief promoter, Rev. A. A. Thomas, to whom is due the highest credit accorded by christian progress, did not anticipate the ready response to his efforts which he received, and its most enthusiastic supporters did not dream of existing results. But it is now a fact. In the early spring the great work will be dedicated. Its promotion and construction forms one of the greatest chapters in the history of Leipsic and in the life of Rev. A. A. Thomas.

REV. A. A. THOMAS.

Of all the pictures, made grand by the successful work of man, in any earthly calling or occupation, that of an intelligent, ambitious young man striving to promote the present happiness and future salvation of his fellowmen is the most sublime and exalting.

Rev. Aaron A. Thomas, B. S. and A. M., was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, June 28, 1857, of Welsh and English descent. His great grandfather was born near Harper's Ferry in 1781 and was the direct descendant of European ancestors. John Thomas moved to Pickaway County, Ohio, in 1799, and in this county Joseph Thomas, grandfather of our subject, was born June 17, 1805; he was married to Miss Elizabeth Kemp on October 8,



REV. A. A. THOMAS.

1832, and there was born to this union Martin L. Thomas. He was married to Miss Sarah E. Dick, and of this union Rev. A. A. Thomas is the oldest.

Rev. Thomas was born on a farm June 28, 1857, and attended the country schools of Pickaway county until 1869, when he moved with his parents to Allen County, Ohio. After locating in Allen County Mr. Thomas was engaged during the next thirteen years in teaching school, attending school at Ada, and fitting himself for his future life work. A part of this time was spent in the superintendency of public schools. He is a graduate of Ada in the class of 1887.

In 1885, while still attending school, Mr. Thomas was chosen by the Philomathean Literary Society to debate the question, "Which is the greater evil, Intemperance or Mormanism?" with Rev. John Montgomery, member of the Franklin Literary Society, and now a bright and successful minister of the Presbyterian church This debate ended with opinion and comment favorable to our subject and elicited the admiration of his hearers. In the year 1890 the Ohio Normal University conferred on him the title of A. M. in recognition of his success in his chosen calling.

In 1878 Mr. Thomas was united in marriage to Miss Sarepta A. Wonnell, of Allen county, and of this union three children have been born: Mabel Carol, born January 20, 1880, and died at the age of seven weeks and three days; Otis Byron, born August 1, 1883; Lulu Frances, born August 24, 1885.

Rev. Thomas was received on trial in the M. E. church at Fremont, Ohio, in the year 1887 and was at that conference appointed by Bishop Bowman to the North Baltimore charge, and here is where the brilliant work of the young preacher began to throw its shadow on the canopy of progress. For five years he filled this calling with universal satisfaction and praise, and during the latter part of this mission it was his energy that secured for that city the splendid M. E. church, which was dedicated July 12, 1891, at a cost of over $10,000.

In 1889 he was ordained Deacon at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, by Bishop John F. Hurst. Two years later he was ordained Elder by Bishop John P. Newman at Toledo, Ohio. He was appointed to his second charge at Leipsic, Ohio, by Wm. X. Ninde in 1892. With his coming, that energy that characterized him at North Baltimore began to exhibit itself here, and within one year he had purchased for his denomination a suitable site for a new church and parsonage at a cost of $3,000.

The first year of his ministry here he received in the church eighty eight accessions, the second year two hundred and twenty-five, and the third year fifty by letter and on probation. Early in the year of 1895 he began the promotion of a plan to construct a new church. He had made the acquaintance of all our people. He had endeared himself to all classes, gained the respect, esteem and confidence of his own denomination, and they answered to his call by liberal contributions. Scarcely a year has passed since the birth of this enterprise; but nearly $15,000 have already been raised. A building has been erected to a point of enclosure, which, when completed, will cost nearly $20,000, and Rev. Thomas has added another brilliant chapter to his career. He is now serving his ninth year in the ministry and fourth year on this charge. He is a member of the First Normal Bible Class of Leipsic, which will graduate at Columbus, Ohio, in June, 1896.

W. W. SMITH.

At the head of one of the best equipped and most successful printing offices in any country town in the United States, and having worked his way from a poor boy, the subject of this sketch occupies no mean position in the progressive history of Putnam county.

W. W. Smith, son of John and Mary Jane Boylen Smith, was born on a farm in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, on April 5th, 1850, where he remained until 1855, when he moved with his parents to Putnam county, locating on a farm one mile east of Gilboa. He attended country school and studied with so much zeal that he was able, at the early age of fifteen years, to get a certificate and in 1865 began teaching. He followed this calling until 1878, with the exception of a few years spent in attending school at the Findlay high school and Heidleberg College, at Tiffin, where he completed his education.

In 1870 he came to Leipsic and in September, 1878, he founded the Leipsic Free Press, a paper ranking today as one of the foremost country newspapers of the state. The first issue of this paper bears the date of September 13, 1878, and a comparison of that issue with the last one will establish the progressive theories of its proprietor. Since that date the great ambition of Mr. Smith has been to become proprietor of a model printing office, and his great energy has led him to the proud position his ambition sought. By degrees he has builded his way from an humble start to be sole proprietor of an office which is a pride to Northwestern Ohio, and his diligence has brought its remuneration. He now enjoys one of the most beautiful homes in Leipsic, having constructed the same after his own modern idea during the year 1894.

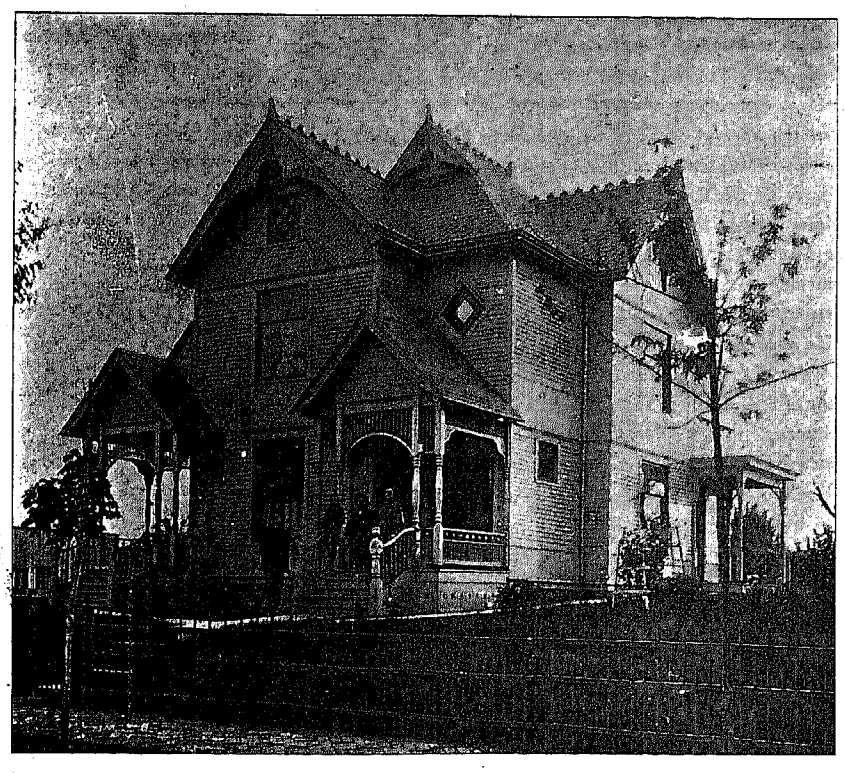
His paper has a very liberal list of subscribers, and his job department is largely patronized, both at home and abroad. Politically he subscribes to the doctrines of Democracy, and has long ranked as one of her ablest supporters in Putnam county. He has filled the offices of Corporation Clerk, President and Secretary of the Leipsic School Board, and at present is filling the responsible position of Postmaster of Leipsic.

He was married August 27, 1874, to Miss Viola A. Baughman, youngest daughter of Abram and Jane Boak Baughman. Mrs. Smith has inherited the great energy of her family and has been an able assistant to the ambitions and undertakings of her husband. They have two children: Clyde L., born August 30, 1878; George F., born June 14, 1888.

Mr. Smith is a member of Leipsic Lodge No. 548 F. and A. M.; Ottawa Chapter and Council, F. and A. M.; Leipsic Encampment I. O. O. F., No. 212; Leipsic Lodge No. 536, I. O. O. F., and Leipsic K. of P. No. 78. He is public spirited and has formed an important factor in the progress of the town.



W. W. SMITH.



RESIDENCE OF W. W. SMITH.

THE LEIPSIC FREE PRESS,

W. W. SMITH, Proprietor.

The only semi-weekly paper in Putnam County; it circulates in the best agricultural section of the State, and is an excellent advertising medium.

FINE JOB WORK A SPECIALTY.

JOHN ZAHREND.

A self made man is always a creditable part of any community, and especially when the community shares the energy and ambition of such an individual. The subject of this sketch was born in Wolde, Mecklenberg, Germany, June 22, 1858. He attended the schools of his native town until twelve years of age,



JOHN ZAHREND.

when he came to America with his parents and settled on a farm near Napoleon, Ohio.

At the age of sixteen he went to Bluffton, Ohio, and clerked in the general store of Frank Scott for twelve years, or until 1885, when he engaged in the mercantile business on his own account at Bluffton, but soon sold his business and moved to Lima, where he clerked for two years in the boot and shoe house of M. L. Michael.

In the spring of 1888 he moved to Leipsic and became engaged in the planing mill and lumber business with his brother-in-law, O. E. Townsend. Since that time his energies have helped greatly toward developing the great success accorded to the firm of O. E. Townsend & Co. He has been especially identified with the hardware branch of the firm, and a more complete stock of building hardware cannot be found anywhere.

He now owns interests in all the milling business of O. E. Townsend & Co., and by a satisfactory and successful management of the same has proved himself worthy of high recognition in business circles. He was interested in the Opera House block which burned last winter and was a heavy loser by the fire.

Undaunted at this misfortune, he increased his energy in business, broadened his field of operation by purchasing additional interests in the milling business, and is today one of Leipsic's ablest business men.

Mr. Zahrend was married June 25, 1884, to Anna Hall, of Bluffton, Ohio, who was born at Gilboa, December 22, 1861. They have four children: Marie, born June 16, 1886; Robert Hall, born January 14, 1888; Eugene, born January 30, 1891; John, Jr., born May 18, 1894.

O. E. TOWNSEND

In the front rank of Putnam county's foremost business men, and an exultant promoter of first class improvements, both public and private, the subject of this sketch occupies a high position in the business realm of Northwestern Ohio.

O. E. Townsend was born January 8, 1859, at Bluffton, Ohio, and is the son of I. N. and C. M. Townsend of that place. He attended the public schools of that place and at Ada. Early in life he engaged in the lumber business at Fort Recovery, Ohio, and later with his father at Bluffton.

In the spring of 1887 he moved to Leipsic and purchased the planing mill and lumber yard of D. A. Foulk, and since that time the remarkable ability and energy of the man has been visible in the conduct of his own business and in numerous deals and enterprises which he has promoted. In 1891 he purchased the east half of lot number six, in Leipsic, and constructed one of Leipsic's finest business rooms on it.

In 1872, in partnership with his brother Charles, he purchased the McComb planing mill and lumber yard. In 1893 he purchased the west half of lot number four, in Leipsic, and during 1894, in company with John Zahrend, he constructed a modern opera house. In 1894 he purchased the business room of A. Foulk on the west one-half of lot six, and the Townsend block was known as the finest block ever built in Leipsic.

In February, 1895, Leipsic's greatest fire destroyed the entire building, entailing a loss of fourteen thousand dollars to its promoters and shadowing the prospects of the town; but the shadows did not long remain. By the first anniversary of the great fire O. E. Townsend will have dedicated, on the site of the ruins, one of the handsomest opera buildings in the state and a lasting monument to the energy and spirit of its builders. In the spring of 1895 he purchased the planing mill at West Leipsic, and the management of his mills and his numerous outside enterprises make him one of the busiest men in the state.

Mr. Townsend was married December 16, 1879, to Miss Jennie Hall, of Bluffton. They have three children: Lulu, born October 10, 1880; Harry Hall, born April 6, 1885, and Grace, born December 4, 1891.

H. C. TINKHAM.

Mr. Tinkham was born at North Brookfield, Connecticut, July 14, 1842. His parents moved to Fredonia, N. Y., in 1847, where they lived until 1862, during which time he occupied himself in attending country school three months in winter and working on a farm in summer.

During the years 1861–62 he was engaged in collecting garden seeds, roots, etc. In the fall of 1861 he started from Pittsburg, Pa., via the Ohio river on a tug boat for Louisville, Kentucky, a distance of 600 miles, stopping at all the harbors and landings on the route. During this time the journey was a very perilous one on account of the bushwhackers who lined the Ohio river during the war, and of these persons and their deeds our subject saw much.

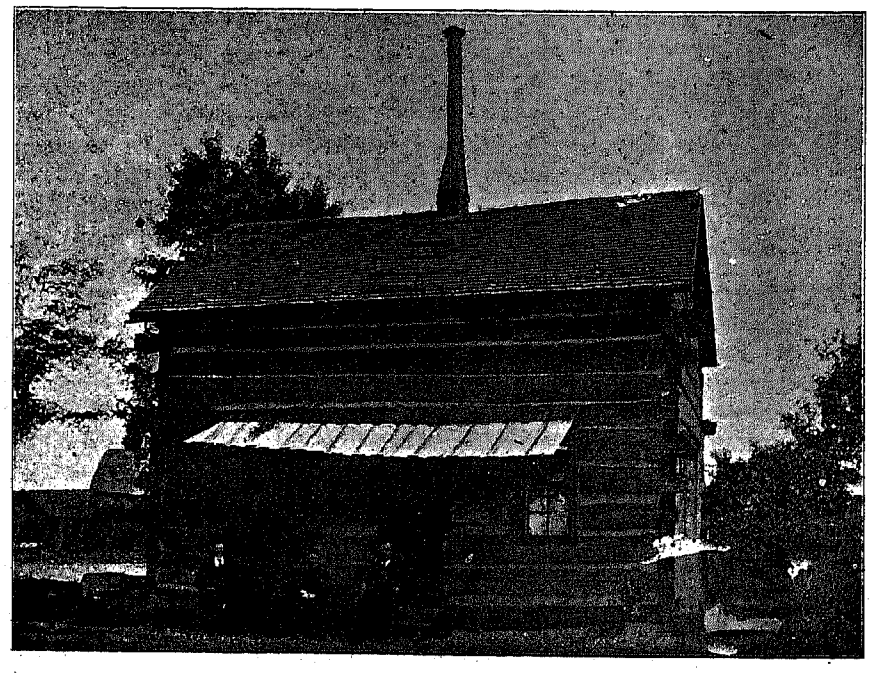
In 1865 he went to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he attended school six months, and in April, 1867, was married to Roxie Eliza Webster, of Fredonia, N. Y., and in April, 1868, moved to Monroe county, Mich., where he engaged in farming one year, at the end of which time he sold his farm and moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he engaged in factory work, continuing the same for the long period of fourteen years, twelve of which were spent in the employ of one firm. During this time he served in the Toledo Council as a member from the Fourth ward.

In 1882 he purchased timber lands in Van Buren township, Putnam county, near Spitzer, now Townwood P. O., where he erected a sawmill and has since operated one of the most extensive milling concerns in the county. He has cleared over six hundred acres of the county's best land of as heavy timber as ever grew, and improved the same for the highest stage of cultivation, having buried over thirty miles of tile on the tract. This land is now divided up into farms and constitutes as fine and productive farms as can be found in the northwest part of Ohio.

The town of Townwood, of which Mr. Tinkham is the principal citizen, has 150 inhabitants, and he has been postmaster thirteen years. He is also agent for the New York, Chicago & St. Louis R. R. and the National Express Co. He owns an elevator from which he ships about 100,000 bushels of grain per year; there is also over one hundred cars of live stock shipped from Townwood each year.

The family of Mr. Tinkham consists of three children, two of whom are living, the oldest, born in 1871, having died when nine months of age; Ina L. and Lea Boyce W. Tinkham were born in Toledo, Ohio, in the years 1873 and 1876, and are now living with their parents.

Mr. Tinkham is a business man of extraordinary capacity and judgment and has long since been recognized among the first citizens and business men of Putnam county.



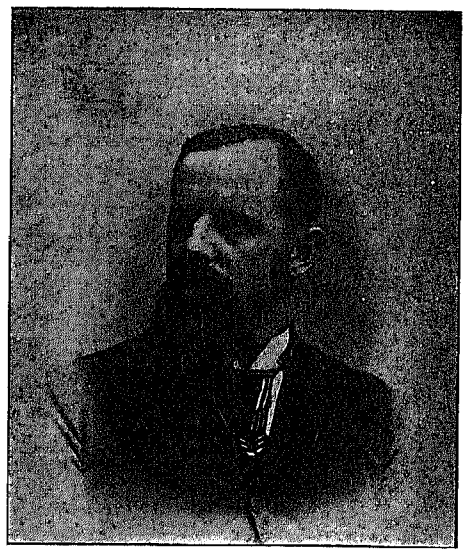
RESIDENCE OF H. C. TINKHAM, TOWNWOOD, OHIO.

SAMUEL W. ROBERTS.

The subject of this biography was born December 17, 1848, in Ashland county, Ohio. He is the son of Gersham and Catharine Roberts, now well and favorably known residents of Putnam county, Ohio. In 1850 his father moved to Putnam county, O., locating in what was then a wilderness, one and a half miles north of Columbus Grove, and here young Samuel spent his boyhood attending school and helping his father clear and improve his farm. He remained on the farm until eighteen years of age, when he began learning the carpenter trade which he followed with success until 1873, when he moved to his father's farm and spent the next six years of his life in the able management of this farm.

In 1879 he purchased a photograph gallery at Columbus Grove and moved to that place. He remained in this business at that place nine years, when he sold his gallery and moved to Leipsic, engaging in the same business.

Mr. Roberts was married November 4, 1869, to Miss Marilla Farnam, of Putnam county. She is the daughter of George and Sarah Farnam, of near Columbus Grove, and was born November 4, 1849. They have five children—Laura, born September 13, 1870, died September 11, 1895; Alice Z., born December 6, 1872, died when three months and fourteen days old; Ellis W.,



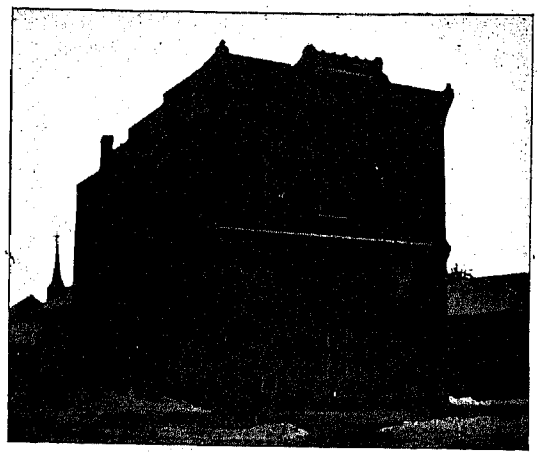
SAMUEL W. ROBERTS.

born June 30, 1876; Clara A., born June 15, 1879; Paul S., born June 23, 1892.

Mr. Roberts is a first class photographer; he is an up to date man in all the improvements and advancements of his calling and produces work not surpassed by any. He has taken many of the best pictures for the use of this book, and his work receives the highest commendation from every source.

JOHN V. HUBER.

No merchant in Putnam county has contributed more energy or given to the mercantile business a more reputable name than has the individual represented by this biography. John V. Huber was born in Shelbyville, Shelby county, Indiana, April 18, 1854. He is the son of Fredolin and Magdolin (Stefney) Huber, both natives of Germany. When eleven years of age his father moved to Franklin, Ind., and here John attended school until sixteen years old, when he began learning the cabinet trade with his father, remaining in the store at Franklin ten years.



J. V. HUBER'S BUSINESS BLOCK.

In 1880 he accepted a position in his brother's furniture and undertaking establishment of Columbus, Ind., having exclusive charge and management of the undertaking department, and assisting in the furniture department. He remained in this position until May 20, 1885, when he came to Leipsic and at once entered in the furniture and undertaking business in the room now occupied by Ed. Marks. He remained in this room three years—until it had become too small for his growing business—when he arranged with F. J. Maehlmann to build a larger room, being the one now occupied by the Cottage restaurant, and in 1887 moved to this room. Five years later he purchased a lot on the northeast corner of Defiance and Eastom streets, and during the summer of 1892 constructed on this lot, one of the handsomest and most commodious of Leipsic's many business rooms, and in the fall of the same year moved his immense stock of furniture and undertaking goods to this building.

In 1894 he constructed on Defiance street, near Eastom street, one of the finest residences in the county, thus giving his adopted town the advantage of his past energy and success, and proving himself one of Leipsic's most progressive citizens as well as business men. He was married February 24, 1883, to Miss Mary A. Higgins, of Franklin, Indiana, who has been an able assistant in her husband's business. They have one child—Homer Victor, born February 3, 1885. In the spring of 1895 Mr. Huber sold his undertaking interests, but has recently repurchased the same, and the public will still find Leipsic supplied with its old reliable undertaker, who, by eleven years of continuous work in this line, has been proven one of the ablest and most satisfactory undertakers ever in the county. The purchasing public will also find as complete a line of choice furniture at his store as can be found in Northwestern Ohio.

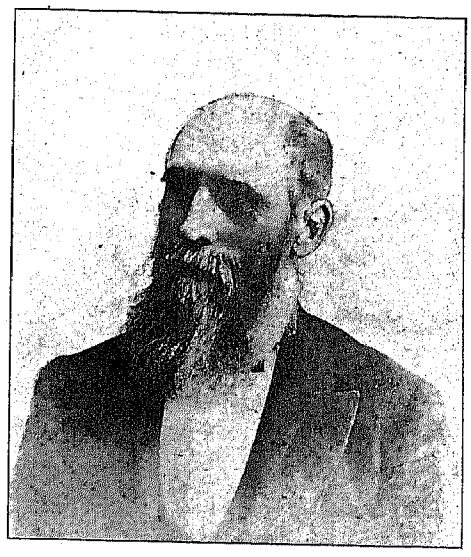
HOTEL LEFFLER.

In the spring of 1895 there was begun the most needed and important improvement ever made to or in the growing village of Leipsic. The town had long needed a new and modern hotel, and at the time mentioned Mr. D. G. Leffler, one of the town's oldest and most successful merchants, undertook the enterprise, and how ably he has succeeded can by verified by the accompanying illustration or by a visit to the best hotel in Putnam county.

The building stands on the corner of Defiance and Commercial streets, is 120 feet long by 50 feet wide, three stories high and has pressed brick fronts on both streets. It contains a spacious office, dining room, kitchen, sample room, barber shop and a number of bed-rooms on the first floor, while the second and third stories consist of bed-rooms entire, except the private parlors of the landlord.

The building is heated throughout by steam, has private water works and is thoroughly furnished for the comfortable accommodation of the traveling public. It contains fifty-five rooms and is one of the handsomest buildings in the county.

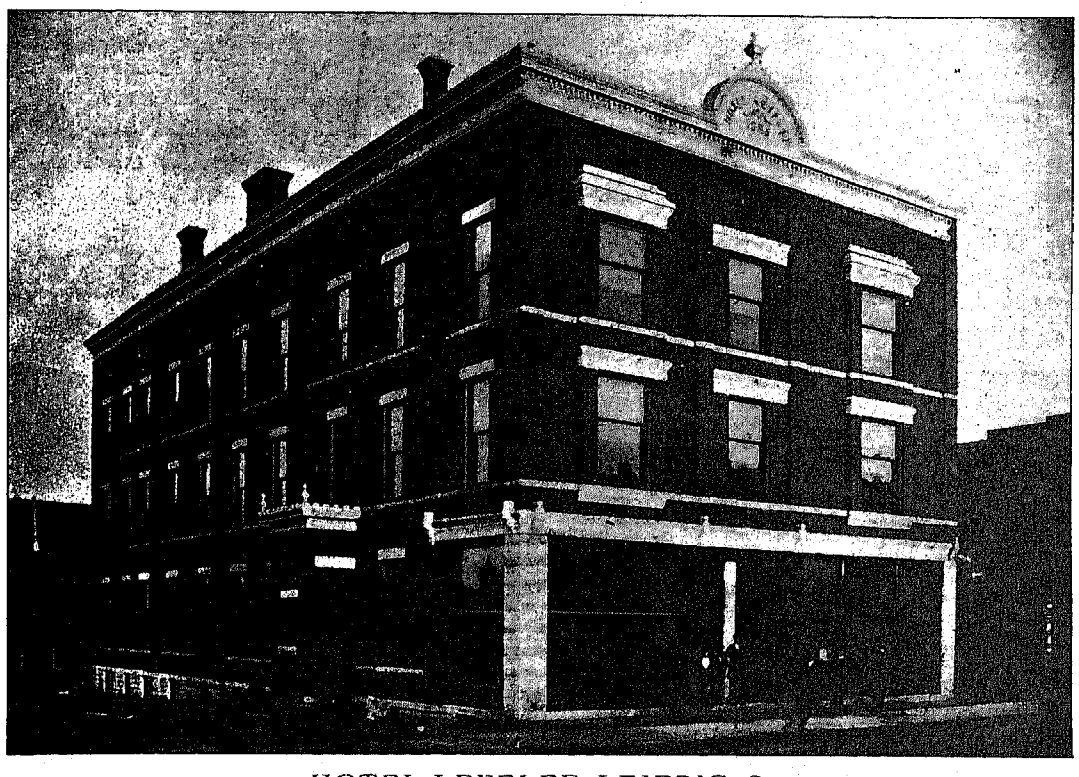
J. I. Hale, of Defiance, Ohio, is the architect, and to his genius and taste the new building is a fitting emblem and commends to the building world this worthy architect.



J. I. HALE, ARCHITECT.

By the construction of this building Mr. Leffler has given to his town one of her finest improvements, has proven himself progressive beyond the progress of the town, and it will long stand as a fitting monument to the energy of one of Leipsic's most sucessful and honorable citizens, and as an emblem to the rapid development of the town.

The hotel is now under the able management of W. S. Archer, who by seven years of hotel management in the Central House of Leipsic, has proven himself one of the most pleasing and popular landlords of the State, and the traveling public will find Leipsic supplied with as good hotel facilities and as accommodating a landlord as can be found in any city. Mr. Archer has a pleasant and entertaining family, who take pleasure in assisting to advance the comforts and interests of the hotel patrons, and his tables are always well filled with choice edibles prepared by first class and experienced cooks.



HOTEL LEFFLER, LEIPSIC, O.

H. H. LAMPE.

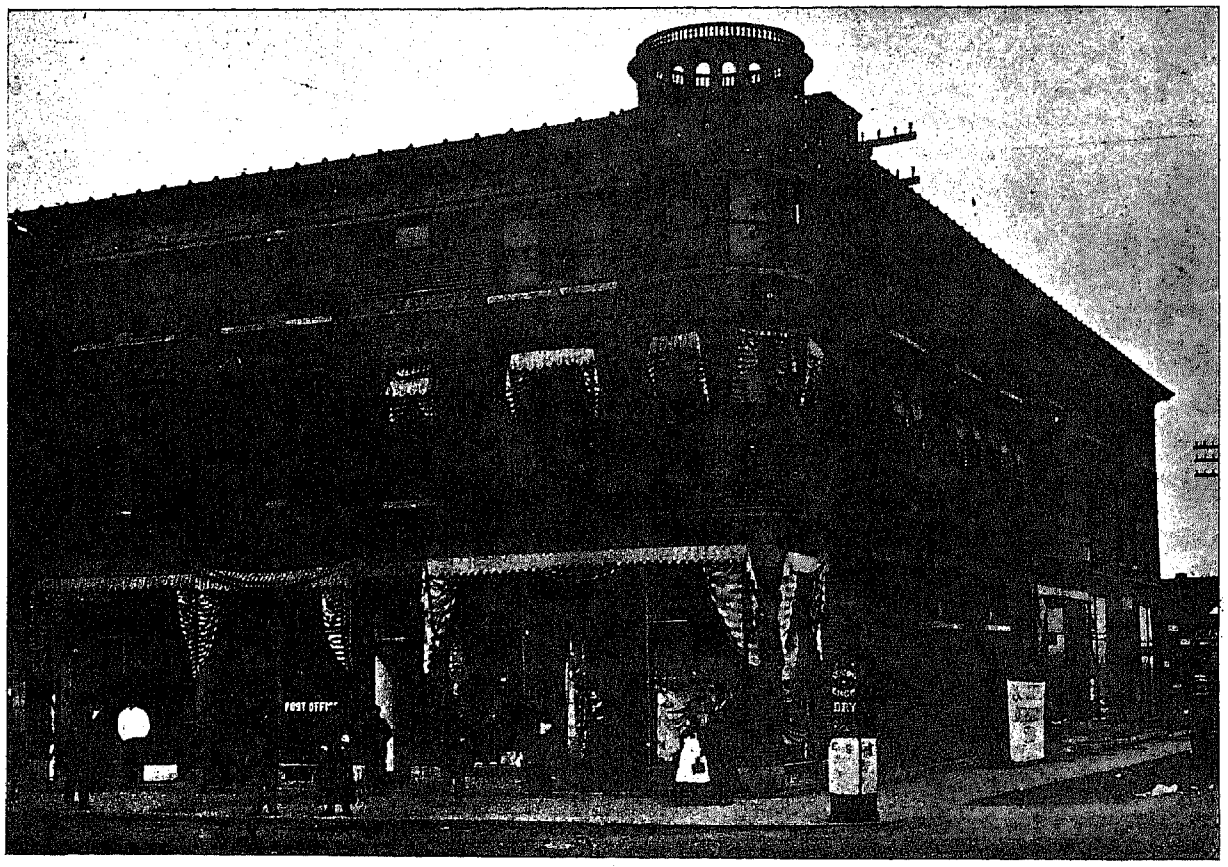
It is a privilege of ours to now record the biography of an individual who forms as fitting a type of the self-made man as can be found in the long and honorable list of Putnam county's business men.

H. H. Lampe was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 24, 1855, and comes of that old German ancestry whose courage, thrift and progress have aided materially the rapid advance of the western world.

He is a son of Barney and Mary (Osterhaus) Lampe, both natives of Osterfina, Germany, the former having been born there May 13, 1825, and the latter, May 24, 1826. Barney Lampe came to America in 1849, settling in Baltimore, Md. One year later Mary Osterhaus followed, and they were married in the city of Baltimore in May, 1850, and continued to live in that city until 1854, when they moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they lived until 1855, in which year they moved to Minster, Ohio, at which place they continued to live until their deaths. The death of the father occurred July 27, 1858, and that of the mother, November 15, 1863.

Four children were the fruits of this union—Barney Lampe, born in Baltimore, Md., February 23, 1851, now in business at Glandorf, Ohio, and married to Miss Tracy Mormann, of that place; Amelia H., born at Baltimore in 1853, died in infancy; Henry H., born in Cincinnati, February 24, 1855; Mary, now Mrs. Theodore Kempker, of Minster, Ohio, born at Minster, October 7, 1858.

After the death of his father, the subject of this sketch worked on farms near Minster until sixteen years of age, when he went to Toledo, Ohio, and obtained employment in a sash factory, in which he worked two and a half years and then resigned this position to accept one on the Miami & Erie canal where worked two years, at the end of which he secured a position in the sawmill of Hoffman Brothers, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, as sawyer and filer. He worked for this firm at Ft. Wayne for two and one-half years with such great credit and satisfaction as to cause his employers to send him to Kansas City as manager of their large milling interests at that place, and after filling this responsible position two and a half years he went to Wisconsin, where he worked eight months for Pitcher, Healey & Co., large lumber dealers. At the end of this term of service so great had been his adaptability in learning the trade of a sawyer, and so great had become his proficiency as to enable him to secure a position as foreman and filer in the extensive mills of Clark & Smith, of Boston, Mass., who were among the largest and most reputable manufacturers and dealers in fine lumber in New England. This position he filled with great credit for six years. Three years after going to Boston he returned to Ottawa, O., and on September 6, 1883, was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Huber, second daughter of Dr. H. Huber, now of Ottawa. Mrs. Lampe was born at Glandorf, Ohio, March 7, 1858.



LAMPE BLOCK, LEIPSIC, O.



H. H. LAMPE.



CORNELIA E. S. LAMPE.



MRS. H. H. LAMPE.

She is a lady of estimable character, whose energy and fine business ability have materially aided her husband in obtaining that remarkable success which the business world now accords to him.

Immediately following his marriage he returned to Boston and completed his six years' term of service for Clark & Smith, at the end of which time, or in 1886, he returned to Putnam county and purchased the Commercial House, at Leipsic, Ohio, of Frank Heyne, changing the name to the Lampe House. Under this name he conducted, for the next six years, one of the most successful and popular hotels in Northwestern Ohio, and proved himself one of the most capable and efficient of landlords.

In 1892 he sold his hotel to John Walker, and in December of the same year purchased the east half of inlot number one, in Leipsic, this being the best business corner in the town. He was in business in the room on this lot until the fire of December 27, 1893, when his building was totally destroyed. In May, 1894, he purchased the west half of inlot one, and during the summer of that year he constructed one of the handsomest and most substantial business blocks ever built in the county.

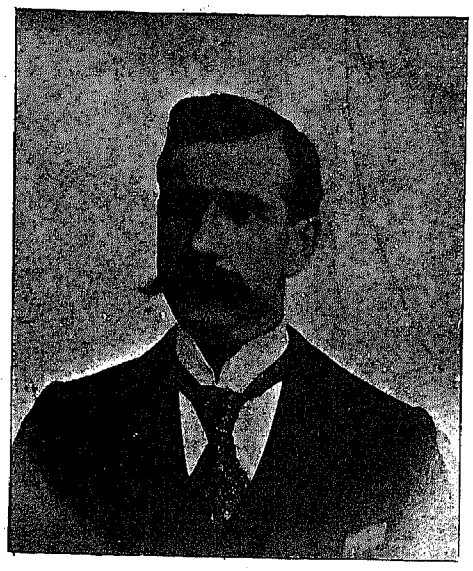
The building is 50x120 feet, three stories high, with beautiful pressed brick fronts on both Main and Pearl streets. There is a basement under the entire building, and the foundation is of stone. It contains five business rooms which are all well rented to the following firms: Gerding & Enck, dry goods and groceries; post office; Fockler Bros., barbers; Otho Agner, undertaker, Jacob Schmidt, meat market. The building is of the most modern architecture, its design and plan having been drawn by Louis Welker, of Toledo, and the work of construction done by such able contractors as Frank Shoemaker, contractor for stone and brick work, and Dudley & Leffler, carpenter contractors. We present an illustration of the building to our readers, and take pride in saying that it is one of the finest business blocks in the county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lampe have been born two children: Cornelia E. S. Lampe, born at Glandorf, Ohio, August 21, 1885, who is now a beautiful and interesting child; a very true picture of her appears on this page; Olga, born at Leipsic, August 5, 1889, died January 27, 1890, and is buried at Ottawa.

Such has been the life struggle of one of the leading citizens and business men of Putnam county, and so indelibly stamped on the pages of our history are the triumphs of his energy and the marks of his success, as to place him among the foremost of our citizens.

NELSON H. HINER.

Leipsic furnishes no more reputable or able representative of her business progression than the individual represented by this



N. H. HINER.

biography. Nelson H. Hiner, son of Herbert and Hannah (Edgar) Hiner, was born on a farm near Findlay, Ohio, July 15, 1859.

He continued to live on a farm and attended country school until 1878, when he moved to Columbus Grove and began learning the saddlery trade with his uncle, David Jones. He remained at Columbus Grove and in the store of his uncle six years, when in 1884 he moved to Leipsic and engaged in the harness and buggy business, having ever since been conducting the same business on the highest plane of honor and success.

Mr. Hiner was married November 23, 1886, to Miss Emma L. Herrick, a lady of great accomplishments and a daughter of Captain Cyrus Herrick, of Forest, Ohio. Capt. Herrick was a soldier of distinction from the beginning to the end of the late rebellion, and one of the foremost citizens of Hardin county since the war. They have two children—Halbert, born March 3, 1888; Lewis, born April 4, 1890.

He not only holds the esteem and confidence of the business fraternity of this community, but he holds a high place in the citizenship of Leipsic. He was elected a member of the Leipsic council in the spring of 1894, and in the councils of the administrators of this progressive town he is presenting that judgment and business ability which has so marked his private affairs.

He has won his own way to success and holds his position among our best citizens, our ablest business men and our chief promoters. His business room is always filled with the choicest selections of harness, robes, buggies of all styles and the famous Osborne binders, and its proprietor is worthy of the most liberal confidence and patronage.



BUSINESS ROOM OF W. A. KOBER.

Kieferville.

In 1870, D. A. Kiefer laid out the original town plat of Kieferville, which lies north of the old Continental railroad grade and on both sides of the Defiance pike, which crosses the Nickel Plate railroad at that place, this railroad having been built on the old Continental grade. In 1871 he laid out an addition lying just west of the original plat, and in 1872 he laid out his second addition, which lies south of the railroad. John O. Snyder, in 1873, laid out an addition to the town south of the railroad.

The original town and all the additions were surveyed and platted by Ex-County Surveyor Lewis E. Holtz. The town, in 1895, has two general stores, a hotel and a church.

A. A. KOBER,

Real Estate and Exchange



AGENT.

6 Per Cent Farm Loans

A SPECIALTY.

Abstractor of Titles.

I have a large list of choice farms for sale at a bargain. Parties wishing to sell; parties wishing to buy; parties wishing to exchange, are kindly asked to call and see me.

Renting, Collecting and Taxes Paid.

Private and reliable information as to value of lands.

For anything in the real estate line call or address.

A. A. KOBER,
Leipsic, Ohio.

This is a Fac Simile of a 2 lb Package of Kline's Pancake Flour.



Always ready for immediate use.

Kline Milling Co.,

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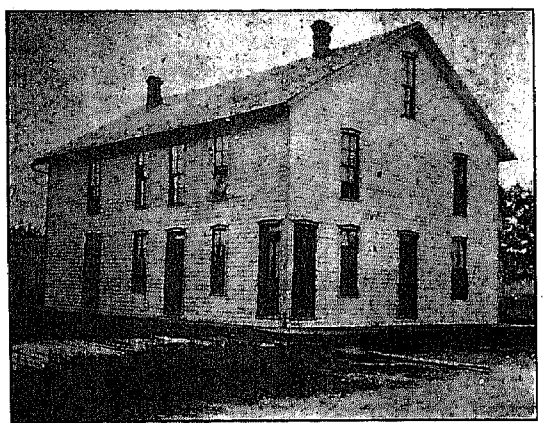
Kline's Prepared Graham Gem Flour,
Kline's Prepared Biscuit Flour,
Kline's Boston Brown Bread Flour,
Kline's Cereal Breakfast Food,

ESTABLISHED 1889.

NOTE.—The articles mentioned above are worthy of the highest recommendation and most liberal patronage.—EDITOR.

WILLIAM G. BRUGMAN.

The subject of this sketch was born at Fremont, Ohio, December 29, 1851. He is a son of William G. and Wilmina (Stout) Brugman, who came to this county from Germany in 1845 and settled in Sandusky City, Ohio, and moved to Fremont in 1849. Here young Brugman attended school until about twelve years



BRUGMAN HOUSE, KIEFERVILLE.

of age, and when not in school worked on his father's farm. He attended at the High School of Toledo in 1869 and commercial Lynker's Commercial College of New York City during 1870-71, assisting his brother-in-law in the hatter's business when not in school. He came to Ohio in 1872, and on September 18, 1873, was married to Miss Anna Miller, daughter of Peter and Rhoda Miller, who came to this county in 1845. Mrs. Brugman was born April 18, 1848. To this marriage was born Frederick W., July 16, 1874; Adolph A., April 19, 1876; Maximillian C., January 3, 1878; Arie, August 17, 1879, died August 31, 1879; Edwy F., April 3, 1884; Era, March 28, 1886; Mona R., January 25, 1888, and Laura Ellen, January 21, 1890.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Brugman engaged in the dry goods business at Gilboa, Ohio, and continued in that vocation until 1879, when he moved to Keiferville, Ohio, and opened a general store. In 1882 he was appointed railroad agent for the New York, Chicago & St. Louis railroad, and was twice appointed postmaster under President Cleveland, which position, together with that of railroad agent, he now fills with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the public. He is also the proprietor of the Brugman House, at Keiferville.

DAVID C. WILLIAMSON.

Mr. Williamson is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Moore (Godfrey) Williamson, who came to this county in 1841. His mother was a sister of the late Dr. C. M. Godfrey, of Ottawa, Ohio. The subject of this sketch was born on a farm near Leipsic, Ohio, February 19, 1850. He attended district school and



DAVID C. WILLIAMSON.

worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-one, and on August 26, 1873, he married Miss Ruth E. Prentiss, daughter of A. F. and Ruth (McConnell) Prentiss, of West Leipsic, who came to this county in 1836. Mrs. Williamson was born November 4, 1856, at West Leipsic, Ohio. To this marriage was born: Amy, July 8, 1874, died December 12, 1884; L. Elexena, March 1, 1877; L. Clare, June 24, 1880; David Prentiss, December 15, 1885, died June 30, 1890; Ruth Elizabeth, February 5, 1894.

Mr. Williamson was interested in the Leipsic Foundry from 1878 to 1880, and then in the sawmill business until 1884, when he sold his mill and went into the employ of the Buckeye Stave Company as fireman and engineer, where he remained until 1890. He having been elected in the fall of 1889, to the office of County Sheriff, took that office on the first Monday of January, 1890, in which office he served one term, discharging his duties, as an officer, honestly, promptly and with ability. He now lives on his farm near Kieferville.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH.

In 1859 a small colony of pioneer citizens of New Cleveland assembled in order to organize and build a Catholic Church, the nearest place of worship at that time being Glandorf. The roads being impassable nearly two-thirds of the year made it al-



CATHOLIC PARSONAGE, NEW CLEVELAND.

most impossible for them to attend to their religious duties. At the meeting above mentioned three of the most worthy members, Messrs. John Wejs, Sr., Herman Schmenck, Sr., and Folmering, were chosen as trustees or building committee. These worthy men, under the superintendency of Rev. Anton Kramer, then resident pastor at Glandorf, organized the Holy Family Church.

Soon after timbers were cut, hewed and hauled, also saw-logs cut and hauled to mill, so that in the spring of 1860 the foundation of the church was laid, and in June of the same year the first Holy Mass was read by Rev. Joseph Bihn, pastor at Tiffin, Ohio. In October, 1862, the church was dedicated by Rt. Rev. Rappe, Bishop of Cleveland.

In 1862 regular services were held, the first priest being Rev. Sebastian Gander. The first child baptized was Gebina Frank, on December 8, 1862, and on the 12th day of February, 1863, the first marriage, that of John F. Konst to Mary Westrick, was solemnized.

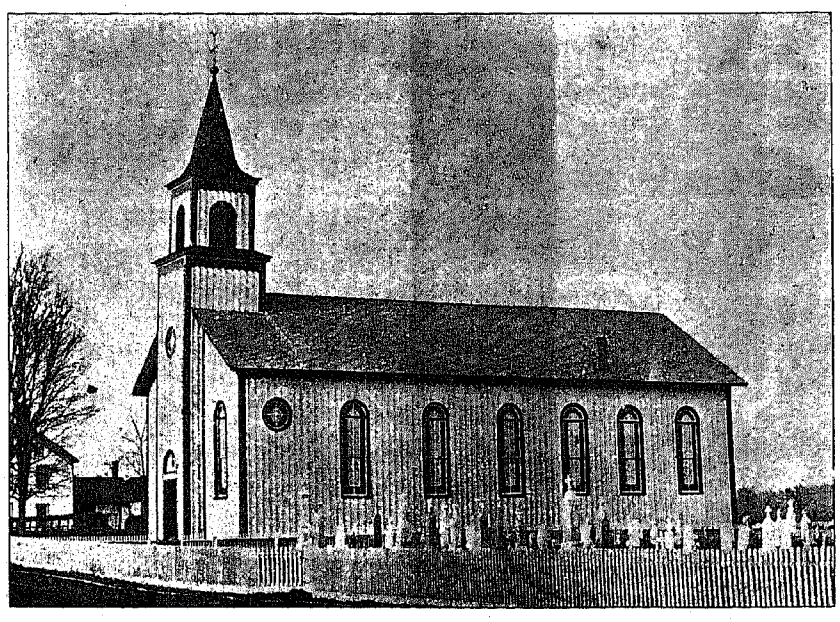
Rev. Sebastian was succeeded by Rev. Engelbertus Roof, of Mary Camp. It was a very hard task for the above named gentleman to attend to their pastoral duties, whereas they resided on the other side of the river and no bridge near to cross Rev. Engelbertus was succeeded by Rev. Jacob Marti, pastor at Glandorf. Rev. Jacob Marti was succeeded by Rev. Charles Barbier, in 1873. In the same year the church constructed a



REV. DAMBACH, PASTOR HOLY FAMILY CHURCH.

handsome parsonage which, after being furnished, was occupied by Rev. Barbier. Rev. Barbier was succeeded by Rev. Henry Kempker in 1874.

In 1876 a parochial school was organized. Rev. Kempker was succeeded by Rev. Edward Hippilius in 1878. Rev. Hippilius was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Rosenberg in 1880,

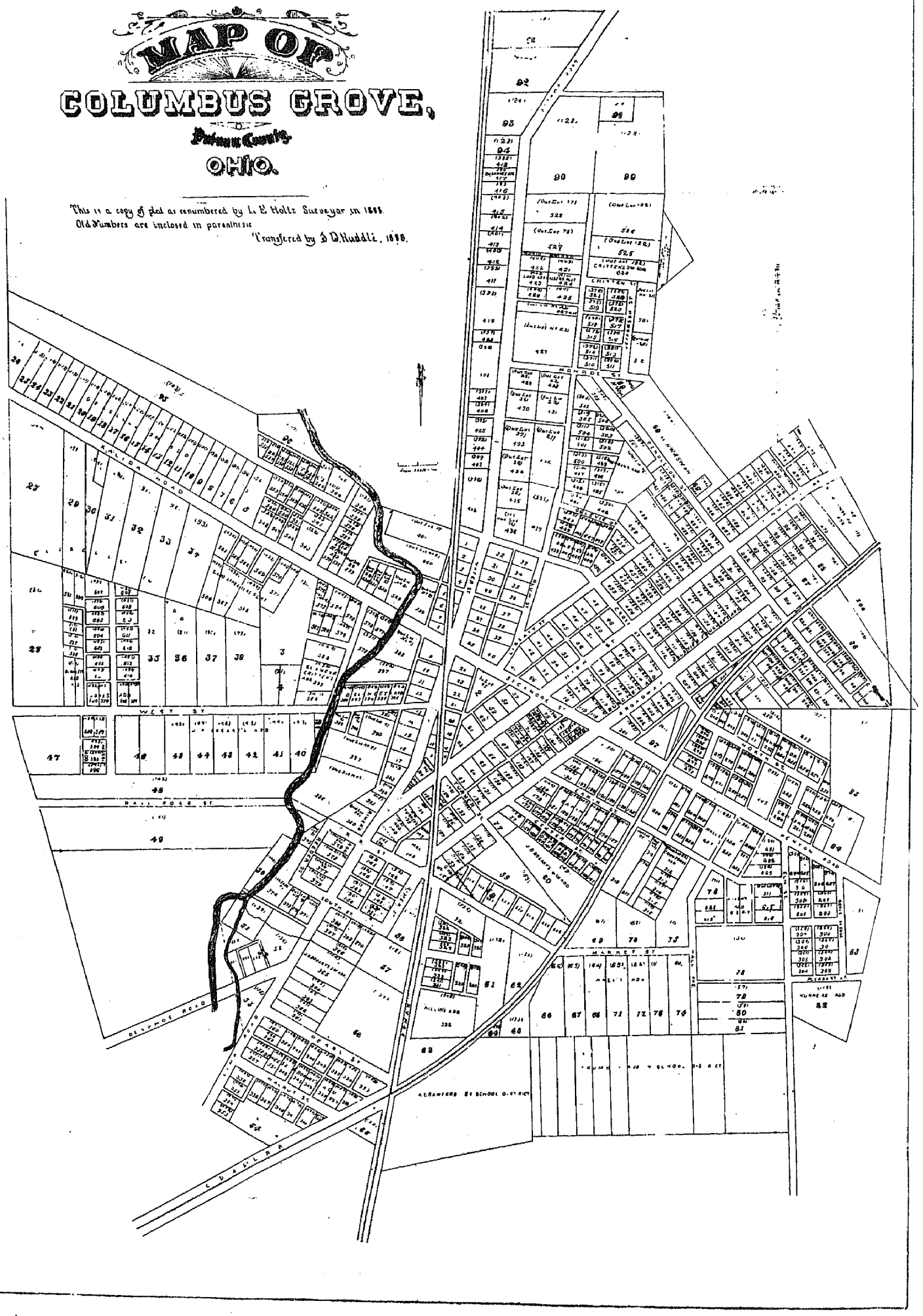


HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, NEW CLEVELAND.

who remained until April, 1888, when Rev. Joseph Eiler assumed his duties until January, 1889, when he was succeeded by Rev. John Bertemes. In 1891 Rev. Bertemes became resident pastor of Leipsic and was succeeded by Rev. Dambach, present pastor of the congregation of New Cleveland

MAP OF
COLUMBUS GROVE,
Putnam County
OHIO.

This is a copy of plat as renumbered by L. E. Holtz Surveyor in 1888.
Old Numbers are inclosed in parenthesis
Transfered by S. D. Huddle, 1898.



History of Columbus Grove.

BY JAMES BELFORD.

The first settlement made in what is now know as Pleasant Township was in the spring of 1832. In that year came first William Turner and Elias Feathringill. In 1833 came Adam Turner, John Feathringill, Nahum Smith, Abram Fuller, and William Casebolt. In 1834, '35, and '36 the members of this colony were further increased in numbers by the addition of William McComb, Samuel McComb, James Pier, James Turner, John B. Bogart, David Bogart, Joseph Sterlin, John Momea, John Parrish, Joseph Cox, and Joseph Belford and families.

The township was organized in 1834, with J. B. Bogart, William Turner, and John Feathringill the first trustees. Joseph Cox was the first Justice of the Peace, which office he held but a short time, as he was accidently killed at a house raising for David Bogart in the spring of 1837, and was the first person buried in the Bogart cemetery—his coffin being made of rough puncheons split and hewn from a black walnut log.

The town of Columbus Grove was laid out in December, 1842, by Capt. Fredrick Fruchey, the proprietor. It was surveyed and platted for the proprietor by Benjamin Dunning.

Capt. Fruchey and most of the first settlers came from near Columbus, Franklin county, and the site of this town being a famous Indian sugar grove, hence the name. Columbus in memory of the town they had left, and grove united with Columbus, made the name "Columbus Grove." Thus was the name for the town suggested and selected.

The first house built in Columbus Grove was a log dwelling, built on the lot where the Lenhart block now stands, by John Momea. The first frame dwelling was built by Samuel Sterlin, who also erected the first brick. The first manufacturing establishment here was an ashery and pottery, built and operated by the Durfey Brothers on the lot now occupied by the Gessell brick residence. They manufactured black salts and pearl ash, and in the pottery, crocks, jugs and other earthen wares. In 1843 Sheldon Guthrie erected a small building on a lot near the Durfey's establishment and opened a small supply store, exchanging goods for furs, there being but little money in this new country.

In 1842 the township was divided into two school districts. A part of Monroe township, Allen county, and a part of Union township, Putnam county, were annexed to this district, it being on the west side of the township, making a special district and called number 2. A log school house 18x20 was built in this district on land afterward taken into the town. The first teacher in this new district was the Rev. Wm. M. Gookin, a Presbyterian minister. As the country improved and increased in population the territory was clipped off and other districts formed, leaving what is now known as the special district of Columbus Grove.

Columbus Grove has furnished the county with some noted men; men who have sat in the Legislative halls of our own and other States, and also the United States Senate; men who in their youth were enrolled as scholars and attended school in that first little log school house. Among that number was Senator C. S. Brice.

The first part of our present school building was built in 1871, and was enlarged in 1884. Columbus Grove was incorporated in 1864, with David Jones as mayor. The graded system of instruction was proposed by Prof. J. F. Jones, and adopted by the Board of Education in 1875, he being the superintendent of the schools at this time and for some years thereafter.

The first church organized in the township was the Truro Presbyterian church. It was organized September 9, 1836 by Rev. James Coe, of Piqua, Ohio, with fifteen members. Samuel and Anna McComb, Adam and Martha Turner, Joseph and Eleanor Belford, Joseph and Hannah Nichols, Martha Nichols, William and Elizabeth McComb, Job Combs, Jane Combs, Wm. Combs and Jane Pier.

The first hotel or tavern, as it was then called, was built by James Pier. It was a hewed log structure, three rooms on the ground floor and two on the second. Among the men doing business here prior to 1850 we have, in addition to those named, Leeman Woodruff, J. B. Jones, Evan R. Davis and E. W. Greene.

Theodore Kunneke came to this place in 1853. He had taken the contract to build, and built the sawmill for Jonathan Brice, to which was added a mill to grind corn and buckwheat. This mill was located on the lot now occupied by the United Brethren church. After finishing his contract for Mr. Brice, Mr. Kunneke purchased two corner lots at the junction of High and Sycamore streets, upon each of which he erected a two story frame building for business and dwelling. The commodious brick—the Kunneke block—now stands upon one of these lots. He has been actively engaged in business in this place for over forty years.

A. H. Day has been in business in this place thirty-five years and has contributed as much in the way of substantial buildings as any of its citizens, for the proof of which we have his elegant brick residence, the "New Grove House," and the Opera House block.

W. W. Williams and Thomas Jones occupied and opened a dry goods, clothing and grocery store on the corner of High and Sycamore streets, where the Mapel block now stands, from 1859 to 1868, when they sold the property and business to Simon Mapel, who continued the business at the old stand for a number of years, and in 1886 he erected the elegant brick structure which was afterward occupied by W. T. Mapel, and others.

David Jones is the veteran manufacturer and dealer in harness and all goods pertaining to that line of business, and has been a resident and actively engaged in business here since 1859.

Robert, and J. M. G. Patterson, his son, of Bellefontaine, Ohio, opened a store here in 1853 and continued in the business until 1865.

The D. & M. railroad was built through this place in the year 1859. The first train came into town July 12th of that year. In 1882 the railroad now known as the Pittsburg, Akron & Western was constructed, and in 1895 the Lima Northern was built.

Located in one of the most fertile regions of Northwestern Ohio, crossed by three railroads and furnished with substantial Macadam roads from all points of the compass, Columbus Grove is equal to the best and is excelled by no other town in Ohio for live, energetic, hustling business and professional men. Good schools and fine churches with large congregations bespeak the moral and religious tone of her society.

PROF. J. F. JONES.

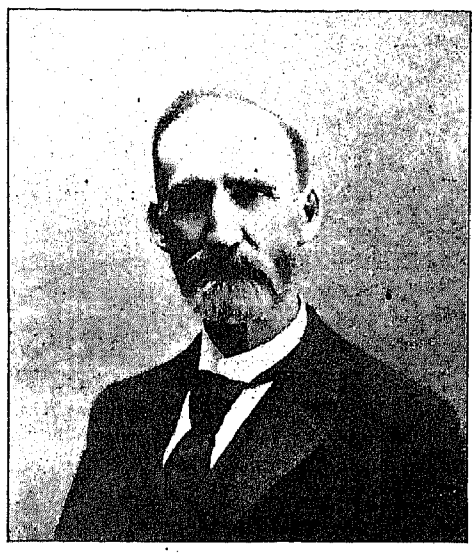
Prominently identified with the educational interests of northwestern Ohio has been the name of J. F. Jones for near a third of a century. He was born in Elizabeth township, Miami county, Ohio, December 31, 1832, and is the son of George W. and Eleanor (Gearhardt) Jones.

George W. Jones was born in Bath county, Kentucky, June 9, 1808, and Eleanor (Gearhardt) Jones was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, (now West Virginia) in September, 1812. Mrs. Jones' father settled in Miami county, Ohio, in 1816, and Mr. Jones located there in 1827, and there they met and were married, and there the subject of this sketch first saw the light.

He attended the country schools until nineteen years of age, when he began a course in the Linden Hill Academy, of New Carlisle, Ohio, which institution was at that time under the able direction of Prof. Thomas Harrison, a graduate of Oxford University, England. Mr. Jones remained at this school two years, when in the fall of 1853 he began teaching school in Champaign county, this State, remaining in that county one year. He then returned to his native county and was a teacher in her public schools until 1863, when he moved to Putnam county and soon after was employed as superintendent of the public schools of Delphos, Ohio.

He continued in this position until the fall of 1867, when he moved to Anderson, Indiana, and became principal of the First

Ward school of that town. After filling that position one term he moved, in January, 1868, to Pendleton, Indiana, and took charge of the school of that town as superintendent. This position he filled with great credit during the years 1868–69 and then returned to Delphos, Ohio, where he had been employed to superintend the schools. Here he remained three years, two of which were spent as superintendent of the public schools and one year (1872) he was the principal of a select school. The



PROF. J. F. JONES.

years 1873–74 he spent in traveling and adding to that fund of knowledge so marked in his career.

In August, 1885, he moved to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and in September of the same year began a three years' term of teaching as superintendent of the schools of this place. During the school years of 1879–80 he was superintendent of the Deshler schools, and the year following he served in the same capacity at Belmore. He then returned to Columbus Grove and was principal of the "A" Grammar school for two years when, in 1883, he retired from teaching after having given thirty years of the best part of his life to this calling and stamped his name and character indellibly upon the annals of original, progressive education.

In 1879 Mr. Jones became engaged in the manufacture of handles, and upon retiring from teaching he devoted his entire attention to this business. Soon after this his two sons, Charles H. and G. E., became engaged in business with him, and under the firm name of J. F. Jones & Sons they have since conducted a very successful and constantly growing business, until, at this date, they employ about fifty persons, manufacture 16,000 dozen handles per year and are the happy proprietors of one of the largest and most reputable handle manufactories in the State.

Mr. Jones was united in marriage on April 10, 1855, to Miss Martha J. Hart, of Miami county, Ohio, who was born in that county, May 22, 1833. They have three children, all of whom are living—Delia D., (now wife of G. A. Richardson, chief clerk to the General Manager of the B. & O. R. R. at Chicago) born November 5, 1858; Charles H., born May 24, 1861; G. E., born March 21, 1872.

As a citizen Mr. Jones is imbued with all those qualities necessary to make him an important factor in his town and county, and to create the highest respect and recognition of all who know him. As a business man he is careful, energetic and successful, but in the line and light of an educator he is most distinguished. Under the motto, "Make haste slowly," which is original with him, he has endeavored to unveil the fact that the most useful and most substantial education is derived by a cultivation of originality instead of by the quotations and repetitions of others.

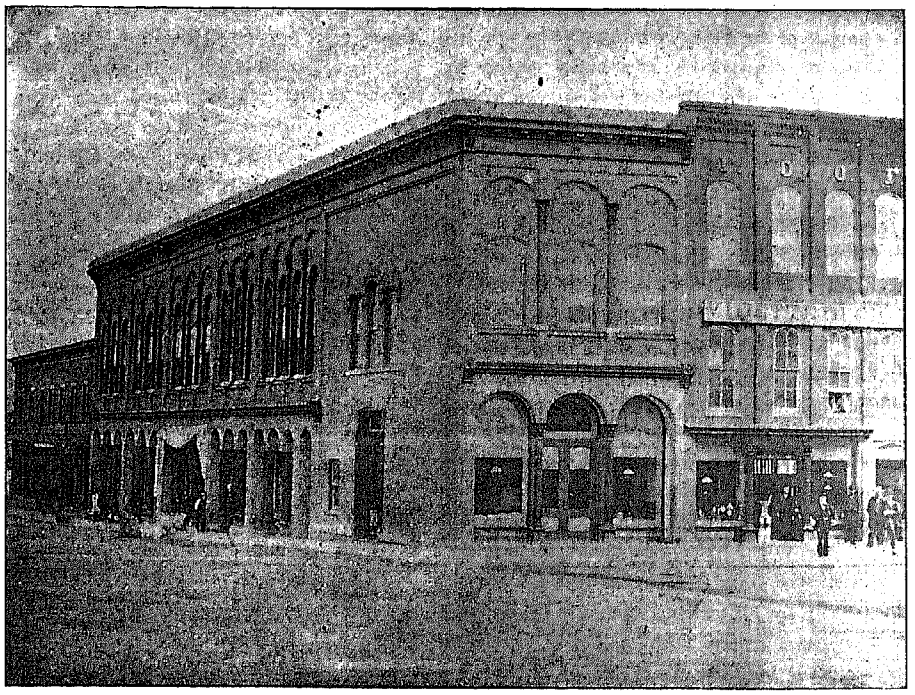
His great works have preceded this biography; they have been recognized by men and institutions; they will remain, having promoted their author to the exalted position of being Putnam county's foremost educator. Mr. Jones is a member of the Masonic order, and here too he has distinguished himself.

A. H. DAY.

The annals of Putnam county have never, and never will furnish a name or history more honorable, or linked with greater business progress and success than that furnished in the true biography of the subject of this sketch.

A. H. Day was born in Wilbraham, Mass., January 25, 1840. He is the son of Alvin and Anna Day, and dates his ancestry to one of the oldest and most respectable families of New England, his ancestors having emigrated from Wales to Massachusetts in 1640. He attended the schools of his native town until sixteen years of age, when he decided that the west would furnish a broader field for the development of the energies of a young man, and armed with a great energy, increasing industry and an indomitable will to succeed, he bade adieu to his boyhood home and turned westward, locating first at Rockport, Illinois, where he attended school during the winter season, and clerked in a store and worked in a mill during the summers for the next year and a half, when he came to Lima, Ohio, and secured employment in a warehouse at that place. He remained in this position until the summer of 1861, when he moved to Columbus Grove and engaged in the warehouse business. He followed this business for two years and then purchased the lot on the northwest corner of High and Sycamore streets and engaged in the mercantile business, handling dry goods and groceries. He has continued this business at the same stand from that time to this, and no man or store in Northwestern Ohio has gained and retained a more honorable and reputable standing. Through the long period of a quarter of a century the good name and business reputation of A. H. Day has never been challenged, and the quality of his goods has never been questioned.

He is an enthusiastic incumbent of the most advanced ideas of progression, and his improvements from time to time rank



THE DAY BLOCK.

among the most substantial and modern in Putnam county. In 1872 he constructed in Columbus Grove one of the handsomest private residences ever built in the county, and in 1883 he constructed the famous Day Block on the same lot where he has conducted his store so long and with such marked success. We present to our readers a picture of this block, and the energetic and progressive spirit of the man needs no greater introduction.

This block includes the store room occupied by the proprietor, four other business rooms facing on Sycamore street, an opera house, K. of P. lodge room, and the Grove House, the leading hotel of the town.

He was married in September, 1865, to Miss Addie L. Peas of Monson, Massachusetts, and they have two children: Rose E (now Mrs. Dr. Frank Pugh, of Bryan, Ohio,) born in Septem ber, 1866, Homer R., born April 9, 1873, now a partner in th store. Mr. Day has served as Township and Corporation Trea urer and member of the School Board, and his good judgmen and honor have been distinguishable in public as well as privat life. He is now the possessor of that business reputation an success, that record of exemplary citizenship, and that confidenc and esteem of his fellowmen which enable us to accord to hi a leading place in the most honorable records of the county.

HOMER R. DAY.

The subject of this sketch is the son of A. H. and Addie L Day, and was born at Columbus Grove, Ohio, April 19, 187 In his youth he attended school in his native town, and grad ated later at the Eastman Business College of Poughkeepsie, N Y., and early in life became the assistant of his father in h store; thus at an early age he became the possessor of a stan ard business education. In 1893 he formed a partnership wi his father, and the firm became known as A. H. & H. R. Day.

Mr. Day is a young man of fine business ability and goo habits, thus assuring himself a leading position in the futu business progress and history of Putnam county.

GUY B. KILLEN.

Putnam county has been the birthplace or adopted home many men who have made a mark of honor and success upon th field of professional strife, and it is today the home of a numb of young men who will leave a proud record upon the comin age of professional progress. Among this number we reck the prospects of our subject, Guy B. Killen, of Columbus Grov Ohio. He was born June 2, 1870, in the city of Canton, Ohi and is the son of Norris and Mary J. Killen.

He moved with his parents to Columbus Grove, O., in 187 and spent his youth in the public school of this town, fro which he graduated in May, 1888. He completed his educati at the Tri-State Normal College, of Angola, Ind., from whi he graduated March 29, 1890. The following summer he studi law with S. Sanders, of Columbus Grove, and in the autumn the same year he began a course of law study in the Universi of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. Here he remained until June, 189 when he graduated in this institution, having been admitted the bar of Michigan on June 3d of the same year. He then l

cated at Ottawa, O., where he entered the law office of Haskell & Sutton and remained with them until fall, when he was admitted to the bar of Ohio.

He then formed a partnership with James P. Leasure, and under the firm name of Leasure & Killen he practiced law in Ottawa for one year, when the partnership was dissolved and



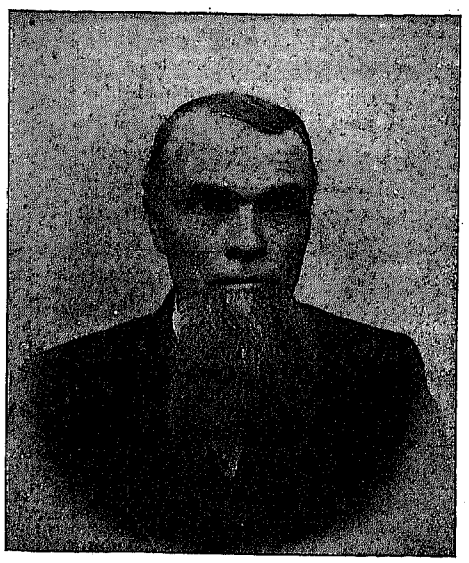
GUY B. KILLEN.

he traveled through the west for several months. During the year he was located in Ottawa he acted as city solicitor, and his services in this office mark his character as imbued with those traits necessary to discharge public duties and trusts with entire satisfaction.

Upon his return from the west he located in Columbus Grove, and in May, 1894, began the practice of law. Mr. Killen is a young man of fine abilities; he is master, early in life, of a complete education; he is bold in the assertion of what he deems to be right. He is true to his friends, honorable and ambitious to the possibilities of his profession Although a born Republican, he affiliates with the Democratic party and is worthy of the highest trusts of his party.

DAVID JONES.

A review of business or historical facts of Putnam county would be incomplete if it lacked a prominent mention of the life and business of David Jones. He is the son of Daniel and Eleanor Jones and was born in South Wales, England, January 22,



DAVID JONES.

1835. When eight years of age he came to America with his father, settling in 1843 at Granville, Licking county. He lived in Granville one year and then came with his family to Kalida, this county.

He attended the public school of that town for the next four years, having for his schoolmates Gen. A. V. Rice and John McClure. At the end of four years he moved to Vaughnsville, and there learned the saddlery trade.

In 1855 he was married to Miss M. E. Hiner, of Columbus Grove, and in 1858 settled in the latter place. Columbus Grove then had three hundred inhabitants and the D. & M. railroad had just been constructed through the town.

Mr. Jones established his present business, that of harness and saddlery, in 1858; and the continuation of that business until the present time distinguishes the proprietor as being the oldest merchant in his line in the county and as one of the oldest continuous merchants in the county.

In 1863 he was elected first Mayor of his adopted town, and during the next twenty-five years of his life he held the office of Mayor or Justice of the Peace, and at different times, both offices at the same time. He holds a commission as Justice of the Peace or Notary Public from all the Governors of Ohio since 1864, or from John Brough to William McKinley.

In 1874 he purchased the site of his present beautiful home on Sycamore street, and since that time he has so improved the residence and grounds as to make it one of the finest homes in the county, He subscribed to the creed of the Presbyterian church many years ago, and for the past twenty five years has been an elder in the church at Columbus Grove and has represented his church in all its courts from that to the present time.

He has one child, D. F. Jones, born August 12, 1871, now an able partner and assistant in his father's business. Among his fellow townsmen, and by all who know him, David Jones is regarded as an exemplary citizen, an earnest christian and a great business man.

He has discharged a long series of public trusts, and has so conducted himself in public and private life and so managed his affairs as to give him rank in the highest citizenship of his county. His mother is living at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

SIMON MAPEL.

We are about to record the biography of an individual whose life and acts are closely related to the progress of Putnam county for the past half century. Simon Mapel was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, June 9, 1814, where he lived until 1839, when he moved to Marysville, Ky., remaining there until 1842, when he moved to Bluffton, Ohio.

He was a citizen of Bluffton only one year, and in the latter part of 1843 he became a resident of Putnam county, locating at Gilboa. At the latter place he formed a partnership with Wm. Hughes and engaged in the mercantile business, which, together with the management of the Gilboa mill, formed his occupation until 1855, when he formed a partnership with the late Stansbury Sutton, and under the firm name of Maple & Sutton continued his mercantile pursuits until 1873, when, disposing of the same, he moved to Columbus Grove, and from that time to the day of his death no man was more active in aiding the progression of this town than was Simon Mapel.

He engaged in the mercantile business in his new home, but in 1874 abandoned these pursuits and organized the Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove, an institution of which he was at the head until the day of his death, and which has ranked since the date of its organization as one of the leading private banks of the State.

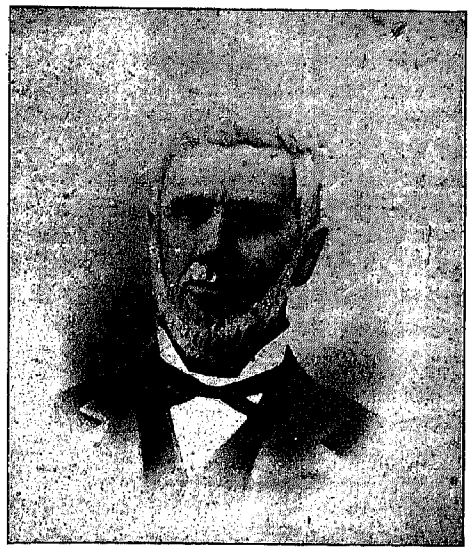
Mr. Mapel was married three times and was the father of thirteen children, nine of whom survive him. His first marriage was to Miss Johanna G. Maguire, on July 9, 1836, with whom he had five children—Elizabeth, born August 1, 1837; James, born January 24, 1840; Martha G., born April 7, 1842; Thomas G. and Stephen, twins, born July 29, 1844. His second marriage was to Rachel Thrapp, and occurred May 27, 1845. By this marriage seven children were born: William T., born August 1, 1846; Sarah T., born September 22, 1848; Lewis, born July 23, 1850; Mary Alice, born May 1, 1852; Simon Cortes, born January 26, 1854; Edward M., born April 17, 1856; Charles, born November 14, 1859. His third marriage was to Catharine McClure, of Putnam county, on March 5, 1861, who survives him, and by whom was born Zoa, (now Mrs. Dr. Breckbill) December 19, 1861.

Mrs. Maple, *nee* McClure, proved an able assistant to the great undertakings of her husband, and to her is due much of the credit for that judgment, energy and able business management which made the name of Simon Mapel famous and accumulated for his family one among the largest fortunes ever distributed in the county.

At the age of nineteen years he united with the Methodist Protestant church at his home in Pennsylvania, with which church he remained until 1873, when he became a member of the Protestant Episcopal church at Columbus Grove, and was identified as the leader of the progress of that church throughout his life.

In politics Mr. Mapel adhered to the principles of Democracy, and ranked as one of the leaders of his party in Putnam county. In business he was active to the extent of endangering his own health, honorable, painstaking, sagacious, progressive and worthy of the highest trusts, he drew about him that class trending towards the highest social and business elevation.

In private life he produced all the elements of a good citzen, husband, father and friend, and his last hours were marked by a



SIMON MAPEL.

due recognition of these qualifications by his neighbors, friends and posterity. In religion he is worthy of the highest praise, having been the most active member in one of the county's most progressive churches for twenty years.

He lived a christian, he taught his neighbors christianity, he aided the needy, he elevated the financial condition of his church and by the universal sanction of his congregation he beheld the dedication of one of the finest church edifices in the county to his memory. Besides contributing liberally of his own energy to the erection of this chapel, he gave, unsolicited and unstintingly, during the course of erection the large sum of $1,200; and on the eve of death, with his hand trembling beneath the last throes of the grim monster, he fixed his signature to a check for $200 more. Nor was this all. His widow, no less devoted and enthusiastic in the cause of religion than her illustrious husband, has since his death contributed five hundred dollars additional.

The church is known as the Simon Mapel chapel; his name is carved in its corner stone; his acts are a part of its history, and it will ever stand as a fitting monument to one of Putnam county's most distinguished and foremost citizens. He died November 3, 1891, at his home in Columbus Grove.

THEODORE KUNNEKE.

A greater energy, a more remarkable progress, or a higher standard of citizenship has distinguished no son of Putnam county more than the subject of this sketch. Theodore Kunneke, son of Christian and Eleanor Kunneke, was born in Hanover, Germany, March 24, 1824. He attended the schools of his native place until fourteen years of age, when he learned the cabinet trade and came to America at the age of seventeen, landing in Baltimore during the Harrison campaign.

His first work at his trade in the new world was at Pittsburg, from which place he went to Cincinnati where he worked a short time and then entered into a three years' engagement with John Flanharty, a millwright of considerable note. His first work under this contract was in the Ozark mountains, in Missouri, where he assisted in constructing a mill, the material for which was taken from Cincinnati in a canal boat down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and as far up the White river as it was navigable, by the workmen under Mr. Flanharty. He continued to fill his part of the contract with Mr. Flanharty until its expi

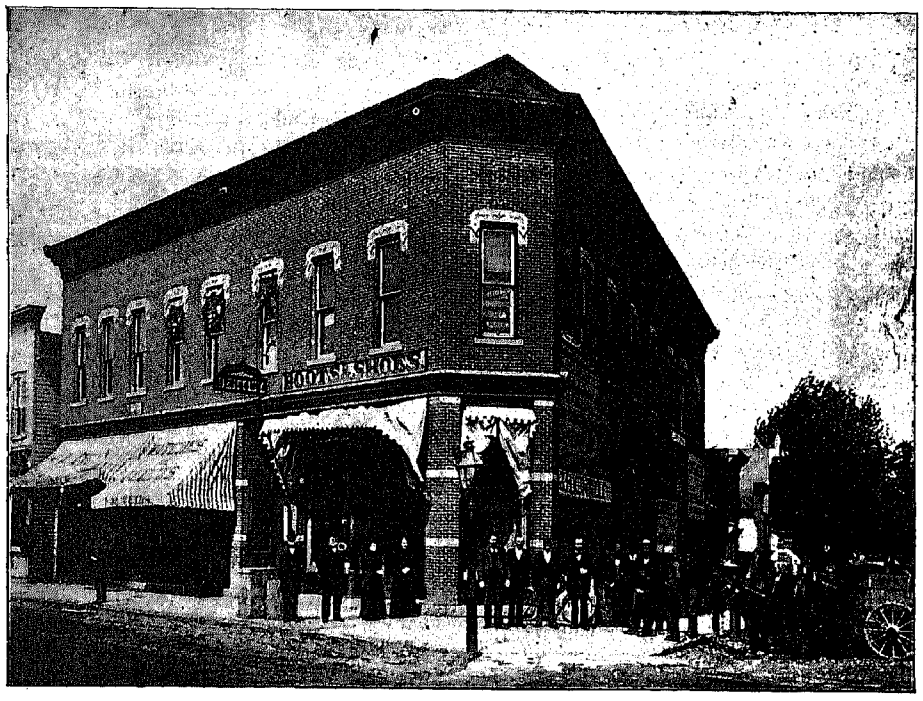


THEODORE KUNNEKE.

ration, working during the period at various places in the south and west, and at the end of his service he had mastered every art of his trade.

He then went to Dayton, Ohio, where his parents had settled in the meantime, and for the next few years his busy hammer figured in the construction of every mill on the Miami canal from Cincinnati to Delphos. Mr. Kunneke was a passenger on the first packet boat which made a continuous trip from Cincinnati to Toledo on the Miami canal. When this boat entered Toledo the only business street in the town was Water street.

In 1850 he came to Columbus Grove to build a mill for Jonathan Brice, and when it was completed he returned to Dayton, but only remained a short time, and in 1851 returned to Columbus Grove, and since that date has been a citizen of Putnam county, and his great energies have been identified with many of the best improvements of the county. On coming to Columbus



THE KUNNEKE BLOCK.

Grove he established himself in the mercantile business, which he continued for five years, when he sold out and engaged in contracting and building. He followed this from 1856 to 1893, in which latter year he retired from active life the incumbent of a comfortable fortune and lasting honors.

He has constructed many of the most substantial improvements to his adopted town on his own account, and they will long remain, bespeaking the wonderful progress of their promoter. In 1870 he constructed his handsome brick residence on East Sycamore street. In 1873 he built the brick block on the northeast corner of High and Sycamore streets, which was one of the first brick business rooms constructed in the town. Nine years later, in 1882, he superseded all his former efforts at improvement when he constructed his handsome brick block on the southwest corner of High and Sycamore streets, a cut of which we present to our readers, and which is now partially occupied by his son, J. H. Kunneke, for his general store.

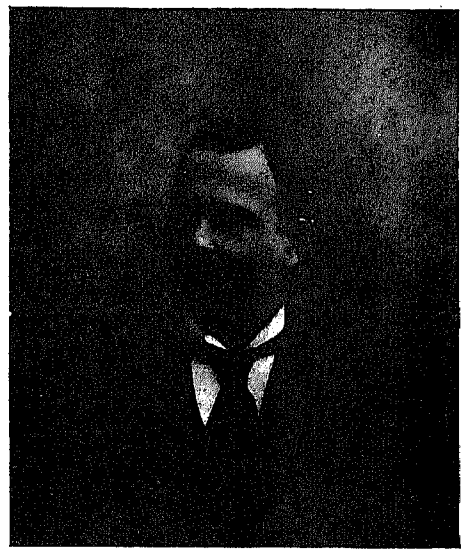
In addition to the vast business enterprises and transactions which he has promoted and executed, he has owned and managed two of Putnam county's banner farms, and in the line of an agriculturist has displayed the same good judgment used in his other business, and has demonstrated a remarkable adaptability for successfully managing whatever he undertakes.

He was married in 1848 at Dayton, Ohio, to Miss Margaret Dubner, of that city, with whom he had one son, Louis, born in 1849, died at Columbus Grove in 1891. Three years later his wife died, and in 1853 he married Miss Mary E. Featheringill, of Putnam county. To this union there was born two children: Martha E., born 1855, died at Anderson, Indiana, in 1894; John H., born January 13, 1858, now in business at Columbus Grove.

Mr. Kunneke has been contractor and builder of many of the finest buildings of Columbus Grove and southern Putnam county. His work has given universal satisfaction, and his great energy and industry have never been excelled by any citizen of Putnam county, and as long as the name of Putnam county fills its place on the map of Ohio, so long will the name of Theodore Kunneke be inseparably linked with the highest business and social element.

JOHN H. KUNNEKE.

John H. Kunneke, son of Theodore and Mary E. Kunneke, was born January 13, 1858, in Columbus Grove, Ohio. He is of German and Scotch-Irish parentage. After taking the course of instruction in the public schools of his native town, he began clerking in the general store of Day & King, in the same town, where he worked six years. In the spring of 1873 he left their employ to attend the National Normal School, at Lebanon,



JOHN H. KUNNEKE.

Ohio, where he took a commercial course, after which he attended Baldwin University, Berea, Ohio, one year and a half and then entered the employ of Calvin Halladay, of Lima, O., in the dry goods business, where he remained until the fall of 1882, when he returned to Columbus Grove and opened up a dry goods and general merchandise store in the Kunneke block, in which business he is engaged at present.

On June 19, 1888, he was married to Miss Belle McComb, of Columbus Grove, Ohio, daughter of R. C. and Margaret McComb, well known residents of this place, Mr. McComb being one of the pioneers of this township, as was Mr. Kunneke's mother who came here in 1833, when a baby, and with her father and mother, John and Martha Featheringill, found lodging in an Indian tent until a cabin could be erected.

Mr. and Mrs. Kunneke have two children—John Wendell, born April 21, 1889, and Helen McComb, born May 16, 1893. Through hard work, integrity and close attention to business Mr. Kunneke has gradually built up his business until now it is in rank with the best stores in northwestern Ohio.

REV. WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK BRICE.

While the personal life and works of the subject of this sketch are familiar to but few citizens of Putnam county now living, yet his life and the record he made during twenty years of citizenship is a part of the history of the county, and no man, living in his time, contributed more or grander work toward the development of our institutions or the onward march of our progressive civilization.

Rev. W. K. Brice moved to Putnam county from the village of Denmark, in Ashtabula county, Ohio, and settled on a small farm two miles southwest of Columbus Grove, on the Vaughnsville road adjoining Truro cemetery, and then the site of Truro church, in 1848. Truro Church was a product of Presbyterianism and Rev. Brice was one of the most learned, energetic and progressive ministers of that denomination in his time. He

became stated supply of Truro church February 1, 1849, and in May, 1850, pastor, which pastorage was continued until September 3, 1868, nearly twenty years.

During this long period of pioneer ministry no village church in the northwest developed a higher stage of progression, and no minister attained a more devoted or worthy name. At a time when the undertaking seemed beyond human courage and far beyond human success, he reorganized Truro church, moved



REV. WILLIAM K. BRICE.

the site to Columbus Grove, and in 1851 erected a new church building at that place at a cost of eighteen hundred dollars.

Three years following the beginning of his ministry of Truro church he was at the head of one of the most prosperous religious organizations in the northwest, and he held the unbounded confidence and esteem of his church and of all who knew him untilthe day of his death, July 10, 1870.

Rev. Brice continued to live on his farm during the time of his ministry and reared his family there, superintending their early education and fitting them early in youth for entrance to a collegiate course. As a parent and educator he distinguished himself to such an extent as to give to the world one of her most successful and illustrious sons, Calvin S. Brice, now junior United States Senator from Ohio.

FIRST ROADS AND MAIL ROUTES.

"The first road in the county was the one cut through from Fort Recovery to Defiance, by Anthony Wayne, in 1794. This passed along the west side of the Auglaize River, and has ever since, with few variations, been used as a public road. At the intersection of Jennings Creek with the Auglaize, on this road, Colonel Jennings erected, in 1812, a stockade for the protection of supplies between Fort Recovery and Fort Defiance; and, on this road, the first mail route was established and the mail carried between Piqua and Defiance, once a week, on horseback, supplying between the termini the offices of Hardin, Wapakoneta, and Sugar Grove (this was at the house of Sebastian Sroufe, near Hover's Mills), the only office in the county. The mail was carried by a boy, C. C. Marshall, from September, 1829, to December 31, 1831. And here permit me to say, that the boy, C. C. Marshall, has since then filled the office of Justice of the Peace for twenty-three years; Mayor of the town of Delphos for ten years; Commissioner of Allen county for three years; Superintendent of the Miami and Erie Canal for seven years, and was a member of the House of Representatives, as well as of the Senate, of the State of Ohio.

THE FIRST MINISTER.

"Rev. J. J. Hill was the first minister that had regular work. This was in 1830 and 1831. He was a Methodist, and took a circuit commencing at St. Marys, thence to Wilshire, Shane's Crossing, Fort Amanda, Hog Creek, near Elida; Cochran's on the Auglaize; Defiance, Antwerp; thence down the Maumee to Florida; thence back to St. Marys—a distance of three hundred miles—making the circuit once in four weeks, at a salary of one hundred and fifty dollars per annum.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.

"The first school house was built on the high ground, on the west side of the Auglaize River, at the mouth of the Blanchard, in 1829, with Louis Sroufe, teacher.

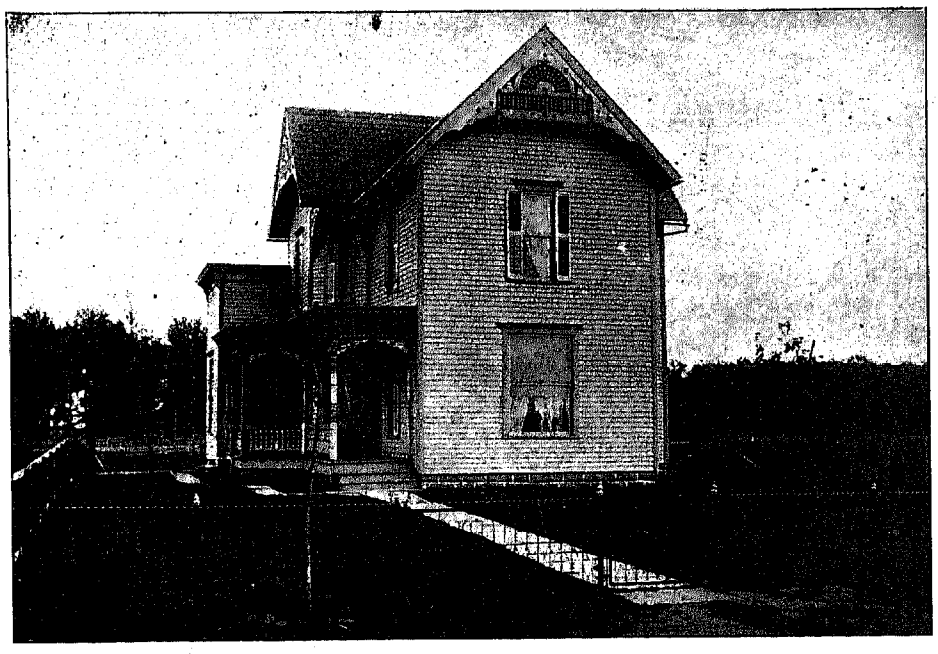
"In 1831 or 1832 Benjamin Clevenger built a mill on Sugar Creek, and Jacob Ridenour a horse mill, on the Blanchard. The first was a "wet weather mill," the other could grind about a bushel of corn an hour. In 1836 Guthrie & Sarber erected a mill at Kalida, and in 1837 Elisha Stout built one at Gilboa.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"The first marriage on record in the county was that of George Mell and Mary Ord, Sunday, June 15, 1834. The second was that of John Tegardin and Diana Ord, Thursday, October 2, 1834.

"The first bond (except official bonds) on file in the county was given by Daniel L. Goble, with Ebenezer Goble as surety, in the penal sum of five hundred dollars, the conditions of which were that a negro girl, named Rachel, whom he had brought into the State of Ohio, should not become a public charge.

"The first naturalization papers were granted to John Francis Kuhle, a native of the Kingdom of Hanover, and to James Watkins, a native of Wales, November, 1835.



RESIDENCE OF CHRISTIAN BASINGER.

"The first order of notice by publication made by the courts was at the May term, 1835, in a case between Joshua Waggonseller vs. Jacob Dewees, when the court ordered that 'notice of the pendency of this suit, and the substance of the bill and the prayer thereof, be published for four consecutive weeks in the *Saturday Evening Post*, a newspaper published in Philadelphia; the first publication to be two months previous to the next term of this court, and a copy of the same to be posted on the door of the Court House four months previous to the next term of this court.'"

CHRISTIAN BASINGER.

Mr. Basinger was born in Putnam County, March 12, 1846. He is a son of John D and Elizabeth (Musser) Basinger, who came to this county in 1835. His first wife, who died November 5, 1871, was Ragane Lugabill, daughter of David and Catharine Lugabill, who settled in the county in 1834. The second marriage occurred June 9, 1873, to Barbara Bucher, daughter of Christian and Anna (Amstutz) Bucher, who settled in the county in 1832. His children are—William, born March 9, 1868, married Miss Minnie A. Risser, daughter of David Risser; Levi, born March 29, 1870, married Miss Elizabeth Amstutz, daughter of Christian B. and Catharine Amstutz; Susanna, born May 29, 1874, living with her parents; Mary, born July 24, 1876, died in infancy.

Mr. Basinger is one of Putnam county's prominent farmers and stock raisers. He has also for many years been engaged in dealing in live stock, and in 1887 he visited Europe and bought in France and imported a number of Percheron and French coach horses. This he followed up during the years 1888–89–90, importing in all fifty head of those famous horses. His son William is one of the county's energetic and prosperous young men and is engaged in farming and stock raising. Levi, his second son, is occupying the responsible position of book-keeper and assistant cashier in the People's Bank, of Columbus Grove, of which our subject is president.

WILLIAM BASINGER.

Mr. Basinger, son of Christian Basinger, was born March 9, 1868, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio.

He was united in marriage to Miss Minnie A. Risser, daughter of David Risser. Mrs. Basinger was born April 27, 1873. To this union there was born two children: Leonard William, March 22, 1894, and Marguerite Barbara, May 30, 1895.

Mr. Basinger is one of Putnam county's energetic and prosperous young men, and is engaged in farming and stock raising.

C. BASINGER, President. L. J. LEMLEY, Vice-President. G. W. CORE, Cashier.

DAVID CORE, LOUIS LEMLEY.

The Peoples Bank

A General Banking Business Transacted.

LENHART BLOCK,

COLUMBUS GROVE, OHIO.

JUDGE HENRY MORRIS.

Henry Morris was born in Kentucky in 1806. He was a son of Joseph and Levina (Drake) Morris. Joseph Morris was born in Virginia and his wife in New Jersey. They were married in Virginia and moved to Kentucky and lived on a farm until 1812, when they moved to Clark county, Ohio, near South Charleston, on a farm, where they lived and raised a family of fourteen children—seven boys and as many girls.

Henry Morris was married to Miss Margaret Weaver in 1832, and in that year they moved to Putnam county and settled on the southwest quarter of section six, of Monroe township, which is now in Allen county. Here they cleared and improved the farm on which they lived and reared a family of ten children. They were the first settlers in that vicinity, having for their nearest neighbors George, Samuel, John and Isaac Clevenger, who lived three miles west of them.



JUDGE AND MRS. HENRY MORRIS.

Father Morris being noted for his intellect and integrity was chosen as Associate Judge of the first court of the county. Politically he was a Democrat, and his religious affiliations were with the Old-school Baptists, having served as minister of the gospel for many years.

In 1877, after a short illness, he departed this life to inherit that home which his Savior had gone to prepare, and on September 7, 1891, his faithful and devoted wife went to join him in that eternal home.

DR. JOSEPH MORRIS.

Dr. Morris, son of Henry Morris, who was one of the first three Associate Judges of the county, was born in Monroe township, then Putnam county but now Allen county, Ohio, December 10, 1838. He received his education in the then poorly equipped country schools. He attended school about twenty days each year, but his leisure hours were not idled away, for we find him teaching school at the age of nineteen.

Having procured a medical work he commenced the study of medicine in 1858, at home on the farm at the age of twenty, and in 1859 he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, graduating from that institution in 1861. He has since attended two partial courses in the medical colleges of New York City.

On September 30, 1860, he came home from college and was married to Sarah C. Smith, daughter of James and Mary (Stover) Smith, of Sugar Creek township, this county. He with his young wife returned to college and completed his medical course.

On his return from college he moved into a house built on the farm on which he was born, he having purchased an acre from his father for a home. He here entered upon the practice of medicine and continued in that practice until in September, 1864, when he was commissioned First Assistant Surgeon of the 173d Regiment, O. V. I. He joined this regiment at Gallipolis on September 20, 1864, and served in that capacity with his regiment, except two months, during which time he was on detached duty at the Post hospital, of Nashville Tenn., until July 5, 1865, when he was discharged with his regiment.

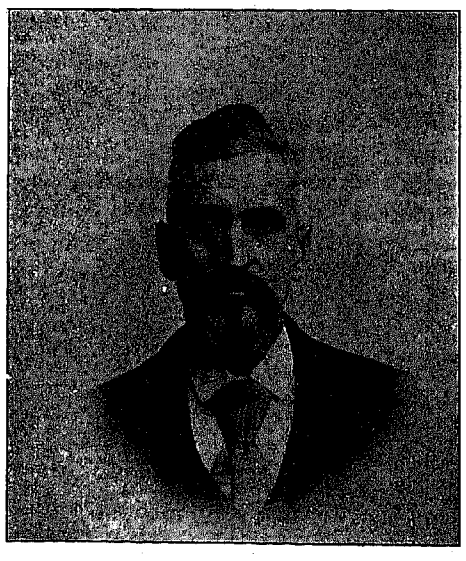
On returning home he again took up and continued his practice from his farm residence until 1870; when he established an office in Columbus Grove where he has followed his profession to the present time. In addition to his practice Dr. Morris has been somewhat engaged in public enterprises. He, in connection with Mr. Isaac Holmes, constructed the first mile of macadam road built in the county, and has since constructed several miles of macadam road in Pleasant and Sugar Creek townships.

On July 14, 1875, his wife died at the age of 36 years, 2 months and 7 days. To them were born—Galenus, July 23, 1861; Alfred, October 1, 1862; Josephine, July 11, 1864, deceased; Sarah Lucinda, September 24, 1866, died August 5, 1877; Frank, May 25, 1868; Rosella, January 17, 1870, who is now a teacher in the Columbus Grove schools.

Mr. Morris was married July 3, 1876, to Miss Diana Seitz, born May 8, 1837, daughter of Daniel and Catharine Seitz, of Fairfield county, Ohio. To them were born Robert D., May 28, 1877; Lizzie, July 20, 1879.

CALVIN A. M'DOWELL.

The subject of this sketch was born in Licking county, Ohio, January 14, 1835. He is a son of John and Eliza (Ackley) McDowell, who came to this country in 1836. Mr. McDowell was married in Allen county, Ohio, February 7, 1861, to Miss Elizabeth A. Caddy, who was born in Morrow county, Ohio, December 6, 1840. She is a daughter of Charles and Mary (Dyer) Caddy. To them were born: Mary G., December 7, 1861, married to Thomas C. Rimer January 28, 1885; Anna C., February 17, 1865, married to Frank B. Lewis, February, 1888;



CALVIN A M'DOWELL.

Clifford, November 14, 1866, died September 5, 1869; Charles C., September 27, 1870, married Anna Jones, daughter of Philip and Arie (Buckingham) Jones, March 20, 1895; Lee V., March 17, 1875.

Mr. McDowell is a farmer, but has filled numerous positions of public trust. In his earlier years he was engaged as teacher in the public schools of the county, and has taught, in all, about thirty terms of school.

He was twice elected to and served two terms in the office of County Surveyor. He was Superintendent of the Putnam County Infirmary from 1885 to 1892. Served as Justice of the Peace and Constable in Riley township, Township Clerk of Union township, and Township Trustee of Pleasant township. His neighbors, on numerous occasions, have chosen him to place an equitable value on their properties, to be returned for taxation. These places our subject has filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people who entrusted him with these duties.



DR FRANK MORRIS,
Physician and Surgeon, Columbus Grove, Ohio.

DWIGHT A. ELWELL.

The subject of this sketch is a product of Putnam county, having been born at Columbus Grove June 28, 1871, and is the son of Hiram S. and Mary Jane Elwell.

He attended the public school of his native town, graduating from the same in the spring of 1888. He then entered the dental office of Dr. H. S. Sanders, of Columbus Grove, as an apprentice, remaining in that office two years. In the fall of 1890 he began a course in the Indiana Dental College of Indianapolis,



DWIGHT A ELWELL.

and continued a student in this school until March 4, 1892, on which date he graduated and immediately returned to Columbus Grove and began the practice of his profession. He has since followed his chosen calling with unabated success, and now ranks as one of the first dentists in his county.

On June 19, 1895, Mr. Elwell was married to Miss Della F. Roberts, who was born at Columbus Grove January 23, 1875, and is the daughter of J. E. and Nora E. Roberts. He is a young man of fine abilities, good character, and is the possessor of a knowledge equal to the highest standard of his profession.

We regard him as a young man whose prospects are very brilliant and of whom Putnam county should be proud. He has branch dental offices at Leipsic and Gilboa.

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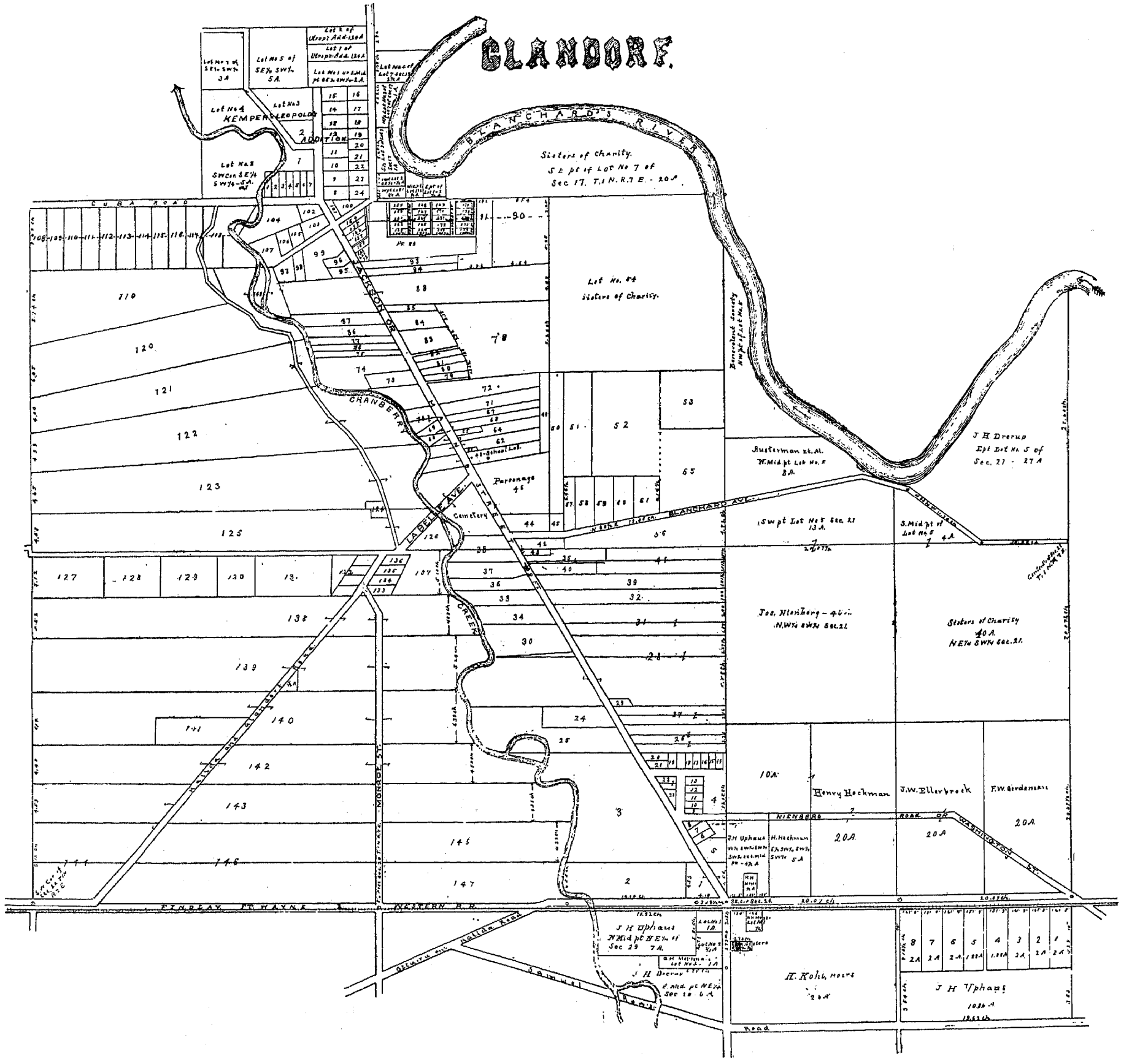

GLANDORF.
BLANCHARD'S RIVER
Sisters of Charity.
Lot No. 54
Sisters of Charity.
Parsonage
Cemetery
CUBA ROAD
CRANBERRY
LABELLE AVE.
BLANCHARD AVE.
MONROE ST.
NIENBERG ROAD OR WASHINGTON ST.
FINDLAY FT. WAYNE & WESTERN R.R.
Henry Hockman
J.W. Ellerbrock
F.W. Gerdeman
J H Uphaus
H. Kohl, Heirs
J H Uphaus
J H Drerup
Austerman et. Al.
Sisters of Charity
40 A.
20 A.
10 A.

History of Glandorf.

This village was named in honor of Glandorf, Germany, the native town of Prof. William Horstman, John F. Kahle, William Guelker, Christian Stropè, Mathias Bockrath F. Wischman, Ferd. Bockrath and Ferdinand Brodeick, who formed a colony and settled where Glandorf now stands in 1834. In that year a church was erected which was also used as a school house.

This village was built up somewhat in the manner of a German village and had no municipal form of government until August 7, 1891, when it was incorporated as a village with William Altekruse, as Mayor; F. W. Hoffman, Clerk; Joseph Nienberg, Treasurer; Fred Franks, Marshal; T. F. Burger, Street Commissioner; W. F. Hoffman, Henry Kemper, Henry Merseman, Dr. A. Borman, B. F. Wortkoetter and Joseph Winkleman, Councilmen.

The village officers at this time (1896) are as follows: Joseph Roof, Mayor; F. W. Hoffman, Clerk; Joseph Nienberg, Treasurer; Fred Franks, Marshal; John Smith, Street Commissioner; Henry Merseman, T. R. Heckman, Frank Morman, Joseph Winkleman, Anthony Sommers and W. F. Hoffman, Councilmen.

Glandorf for many years was the great boot and shoe trade center of the county and can boast of the only Woolen mills in the county and of the first flouring mill in the state to use the new system of rollers known as the Allfree system now (1896) being put in the Glandorf mill by Mr. Nartker. The large bending works, operated by F. N. Ellis, is an industry of which the village and the county may well feel proud. The other lines of business and trade are well represented in this Americanized German village.

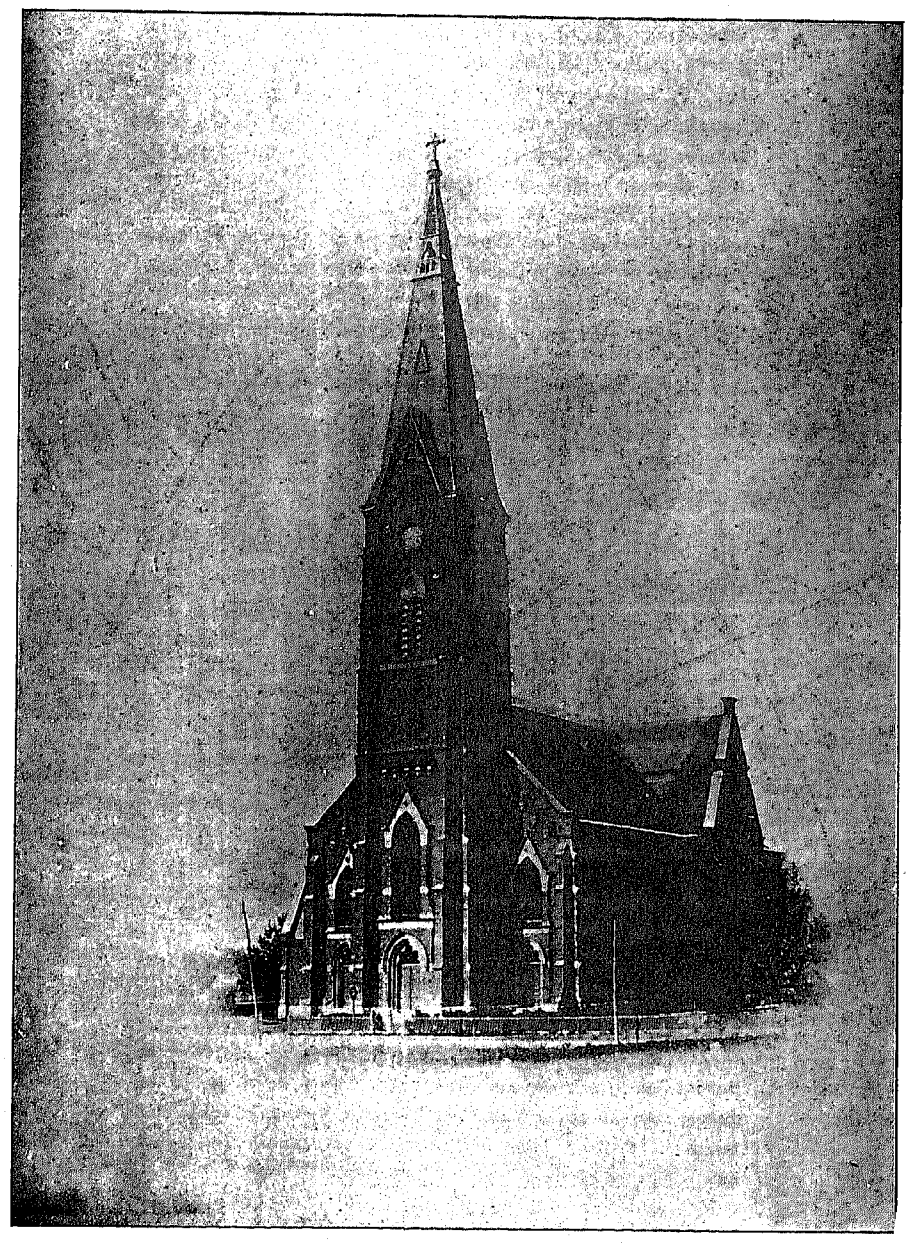
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, GLANDORF.

The Rev. William Horstman resigned his professorship at Osnabruck, Germany, April, 1833. At a meeting held in Glandorf, the following persons volunteered to accompany him to America with the intention of founding a colony: John F. Kahle, William Guelker, Christian Strope, Mathias Bockrath, F. Wischmann, Fred Bockrath, and Ferd. Brodeick. These left their fatherland August 28, embarked on the boat "Columbus," September 7th, and arrived at New York November 6th. From there they went via Albany and Buffalo to Detroit. Rev. Hortsman, or the professor, as he was familiarly called, and Mr. Kahle, in order to find a suitable place for the whole party, traveled, partly on foot and partly by stage, through Western Ohio, passing Ft. Defiance, Ft. Jennings, Wapakoneta, and reached Cincinnati December 12, 1833. Returning by the same route, they paid a short visit to the colonists of Stallo (Minster).

Samuel Meyer, of Ft. Jennings, directed them to John Meyer in Greensburg township, where Mr. Kahle bought section fifteen. Prof. Hortsman procured 560 acres in Ottawa township, in section twenty, and 160 in section twenty-nine. The rest of their party, whom they had left at Detroit, were brought here after a wearysome journey, the latter part of January, 1834. Here these few men were in mid-winter in the wild forests, surrounded and visited only by homeless Indians; but they had an undaunted courage and muscular arms. They lowered trees, tilled the ground around the remaining stumps, and constructed their primitive log houses. One of them, 16x18 feet, served as church, school and dwelling for the pastor. It was located on the western bank of Cranberry creek, near the present site of H. Nartker's home. Here Professor Horstman celebrated, on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1834, mass for the first time.

It will be readily understood that these years of colonization were years of trials and painful privations. The scanty provisions, which had been taken from Detroit, were soon exhausted; corn and potatoes, which the poorly cultivated soil could yield, were scarce; roads were not yet opened, and the woods that had to be penetrated to reach any market abounded in swamps, and rendered traveling almost impossible. All farming utensils had to be brought from great distances, and often their transportation caused as much anxiety as did the means of securing them.

H Kolhoff, H. Schroeder, H. Duling, Ed. Mueller, Jos. Utendorf, B. H. Unverferth, C. Gerding, C. Schirloh, T. Meyer and Wm. Feldmann increased the colony in 1834. J. B. Drerup, J. B. Lehmkuhle, J. H. Hoffman, J. H. Moening, J. G. Uphaus and H. Recker arrived in 1835. J. F. Verhoff, T. Ellerbrock, B. Erhart and others came in 1836.



THE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, GLANDORF, OHIO.

By this time the old church was too small, and a new one 22x40 was built on the northwest corner of Jackson street and La Belle avenue, where at present is the house for the organist. This church was dedicated February 26, 1837. A dwelling, 28x36, for the priest, was built by Prof Horstman in 1838, where the present pastoral residence is.

Prof. Horstman, seeing himself unable to comply with all the demands of an increasing congregation at home and the extensive missionary field abroad, obtained in 1841 an assistant in the person of Rev. Geo. Boehne, who worked here zealously till 1848, when he was transferred to Ft. Jennings, where he died in 1860. The arduous work had undermined the strong constitution of the Professor and his health failed in the spring of 1842, and the Almighty called his untiring and faithful servant February 21, 1843, to a better home. He had reached the age of sixty-five and was loved by all. In 1883 the congregation erected a monument to the noble and self-sacrificing priest. This monument he well deserved, for he was a kind father to all. When his end drew nigh he willed all his land to the congregation for whom he had worked so many years. The proceeds of the Professor's estate were devoted to the building of the present beautiful church.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, visited Glandorf in 1841, and when he came again in 1845 he encouraged Father Boehne to build a larger and more durable church. The foundation was built in 1846, and the church, 90x50 feet, was dedicated December 3, 1848. The cash expenses for this building had been reduced to a minimum by gratis labor. Every member of the parish had his appointed days to work, thus all the foundation stones were quarried and brought to the place, all the bricks were made and much of the other material was furnished free of cost. The church was considered in those times the *ne plus ultra*, and spacious enough for centuries. In the meantime all northern Ohio was separated from the diocese of Cincinnati and formed into a new diocese with its first bishop, Rt. Rev. A. Rappe, at Cleveland. He requested Father Brunner, founder and superior of the Society of the Precious Blood in America, to take charge of the parish at Glandorf. Revs. H. Obermueller, A. Kunkler, A. Herbstritt, Max Homburger, Al. Schelbert, A. Kramer, have successfully worked as pastors of Glandorf from 1848 to 1861, when Rev. August Reihert was appointed for the position. In 1862 he built the present pastoral residence, and in 1864 procured the pipe organ still in use. He also built the St. Peter and Paul's church at Ottawa, in 1868.

It may be mentioned here that the church members of Glandorf furnished not less than fifty four men to the Union army in the late rebellion. Thirty-three were volunteers, and twenty-one were drafted. Glandorf's patriotism can therefore not be called in question.

Hitherto all Catholics living in Greensburg, Ottawa, in North Union and Pleasant townships, attended church in Glandorf. In 1862 the church of New Cleveland was built; 1868 in Ottawa; in 1878 in Kalida; still the necessity for a more spacious church was imperative.

Rev. B. Dickman, who succeeded, in May, 1874, Rev. August Reihert, undertook the laborious task of raising the necessary funds to build the new church. During his first year he succeeded in raising a subscription of $25,000, notwithstanding the great financial difficulties felt at that time. The foundation of the new church was laid in 1875, and the building put under roof in 1876. The tower was finished in 1877, and the interior of the church completed in 1878. The dedication took place December 15, 1878, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Gilmour. The church is cruciform, in Gothic style, constructed of brick and ornamented with white sandstone. It is 175 feet long, with a general breadth of 70 feet; the transept is 86 feet, the spire 225 feet high. The outside is imposing, with the most perfect symetry, and the inside fills the visitor with awe and reverence. With its

lofty pillars, its high arches and beautiful windows, its rare fresco and paintings, together with the rich altars and the devout representations of Christ's way of the cross and with its magnificent pulpit, it has indeed all the sacredness of the house of God. This," exclaims the stranger, "is no other but the house of God and the gate of Heaven." Gen. 28:16.



REV. FRANCIS NIGSCH, PASTOR GLANDORF CHURCH.

Innumerable are the merits due to Rev. B. Dickman for rearing such a temple. His grand ideas were an impulse to Delphos, Ft. Jennings and Ottoville. The church is a lasting proof of his enterprising spirit, abilities, courage and perseverence. The members of the congregation faithfully supported their pastor, and universal was the regret when, in May, 1881, Father Dickman went to Nashville, Tenn., and was succeeded by Rev. M. Kenk, who, however, remained only a few months.

The writer of this article received his appointment as pastor of St. John's church, Glandorf, in October, 1881, and he has stuck to it ever since. By the generosity of his people he was enabled to procure the stations of the cross in 1885, the side altars in 1887, the magnificent main altar and the church pews in 1888. Two beautiful shrines in honor of the Sacred Hearts



THE HOUSE FOR THE CHURCH ORGANIST AT GLANDORF.

of Jesus and Mary were placed in the sanctuary in 1888 and 1891. By this time the debt which had been incurred in building the church was paid, so in 1892 the congregation owed not a cent. The furnaces originally placed in the basement of the church were insufficient in cold weather to heat the building comfortably, and were therefore, in 1892, replaced by Smead's heating and ventilating apparatus. In 1893 a house was built opposite the church for the organist. The house is a two story brick building and is an ornament to the town.

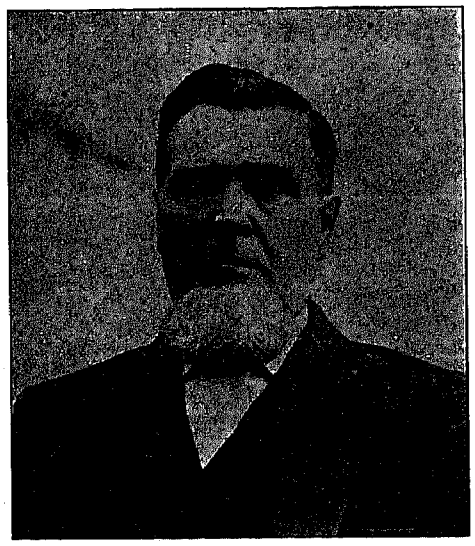
In looking back sixty-one years we find, though there is still room for improvement, that the St. John's congregation of Glandorf has kept pace with the general progress of the county. May it prosper for all generations to come.

JUDGE JOHN H. UPHAUS.

John H. Uphaus was born in Oldenburg, Germany, September 26, 1832, and emigrated with his parents, John G. and Katharine (Poeppelman) Uphaus, and settled in this county in the year 1835.

He was married at Glandorf, Ohio, October 26, 1858, to Volentine E. Drerup, daughter of John B. and Anna L. (Verning) Drerup, who also emigrated from Germany and settled at Glandorf, this county, in 1835. She was born in this county, February 14, 1837. Twelve children were born to them, eight of whom are now living—Frank H., born May 9, 1860, died June 4, 1860; Bernard H., born June 11, 1861, died May 23, 1862; Mary E., born October 28, 1862, now married to John H. Moening; Gerhard H., born February 5, 1865; Charles William, born October 26, 1866; Mary A., born December 7, 1868, died July 2, 1871; Bernard Joseph, born December 24, 1870; Caroline Catharine, born October 18, 1872, now married to William Heckman; John Frank, born December 8, 1874; Anthony F., born January 8, 1877, died January 15, 1877; Charles A., born December 9, 1878; Anna M., born June 19, 1881.

In former years Mr. Uphaus followed the carpenter trade for



JUDGE J. H. UPHAUS.

about fifteen years. In 1866 he was one of the founders of the Glandorf Woolen Mills, and in which he is interested to this time. In 1864–65 he was Assessor of Ottawa township, this county; served two years as Township Clerk; six years on the School Board; twelve years, from 1872 to 1884, as Justice of the Peace; six years, from February, 1885, to February, 1891, two terms, as Probate Judge of Putnam county, Ohio; and again elected Justice of the Peace, in April, 1894.

He was one of the founders of the Glandorf German Building and Loan Company, of Glandorf, Ohio, in October, 1887, and has been its president for over seven years, which position he holds at this time. Religiously, a Catholic; politically, a Democrat. Postoffice address, Glandorf, Ohio.

HENRY WOERTKOETTER.

The gentlemen who is to be represented by this article is the oldest continuous merchant tailor in Putnam county and holds a place, with honor, in the county's list of oldest continuous merchants. He was born on a farm, two and one-half miles south of Glandorf, in Pleasant township, this county, on the 12th day of July, 1846, and is the son of B. H. and Elizabeth Woertkoetter who are among the oldest and most honorable residents of the county.

Our subject attended school at Glandorf until fourteen years of age, walking the long distance from his father's farm to that village each day. After leaving school he worked on the farm until seventeen years of age, when he went to Ottawa and began learning the tailoring trade with Jacob Lentzy. There he remained four years, at the end of which time he had mastered every branch of his trade except cutting and fitting. He proceeded at once to Bucyrus, Ohio, where he learned this art of his

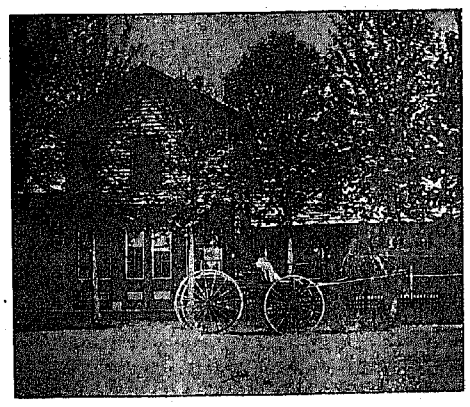


MR. AND MRS. HENRY WOERTKOETTER.

trade and at the age of twenty-two he pushed out into the world to fight his own way, the posessor of great energy and a proficient master of his chosen trade. For the next year he worked at Toledo and Delphos, Ohio, and in November, 1868, he located at Glandorf and established that business which is now well and favorably known far beyond the boundaries of Putnam county.

Mr. Woertkoetter was married February 23, 1870, to Miss Mary Schroeder, of Delphos, and to this union nine children have been born, eight of whom are living.

He is an enthusiastic promoter of the Glandorf Building and Loan Association and has held the positions of Director and Assistant Secretary in that organization. As a business man, no person has ever questioned his honor, integrity, or progress. As to his proficiency in all the arts of his trade, there are hundreds of his customers who stand ready to testifiy in his favor; as to his standing as an honorable citizen, no man disputes his right.



BUSINESS ROOM AND RESIDENCE OF HENRY WOERTKOETTER.

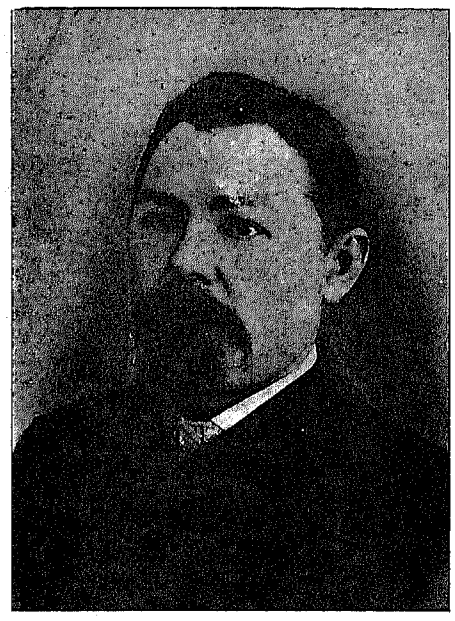
He is one of the best citizens and business men of his county, and one of the best cutters and tailors in Northwestern Ohio. The most fastidious customer will find satisfaction in his work.

JOSEPH KERSTING.

No business man of Putnam county is more favorably known or more highly reputed for his advanced business judgment and qualities than the subject af this sketch. Joseph Kersting was born April 14, 1856, at Wuennenberg, Province of Westphalia, Germany. He is the son of Anthony and Catharine Kersting.

The boyhood of young Kersting was spent in attending school in his native town until 1870, when he went to Cologne and se-

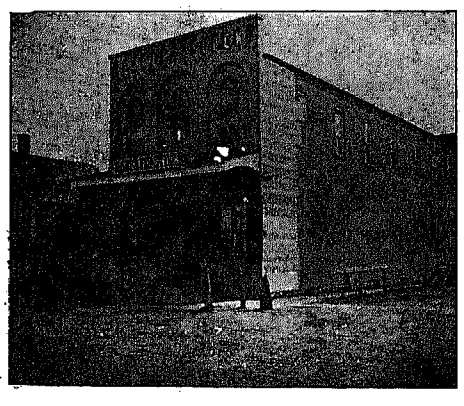
cured a position in a wine store, continuing his studies at night. For the next four years he worked and attended school in Cologne and the great college town of Bonn, and in 1874 he turned to the New World as a field for his life's work, landing in New York on the 12th day of October in that year. He immediately came to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he attended school four months, when he secured a position with a newspaper and



JOSEPH KERSTING.

continued to work in that position and for the well known book firm of Benziger Bros., of Cincinnati, until 1876, still continuing to attend school at night.

In 1876 he secured a position as book keeper in the wholesale leather house of A. B. Ratterman, in whose employ he remained seven years, resigning his position in 1882 on account of the inroads which his close application to his duties and the necessary confinement of the work were making on his health. In the latter part of the above year he secured a position as traveling salesman for the tailor trimming house of Kallmeyer, Kruthanp & Co. Soon after he found a better engagement with Allberger, Stoer & Co., of Philadelphia, Pa., in the same line and continued with that firm until 1888, when on May 1st of that year he formed a partnership with Hon. I. H. Kahle, of Glandorf, Ohio, and engaged in the general mercantile business in that village.



BUSINESS BLOCK OF JOSEPH KERSTING.

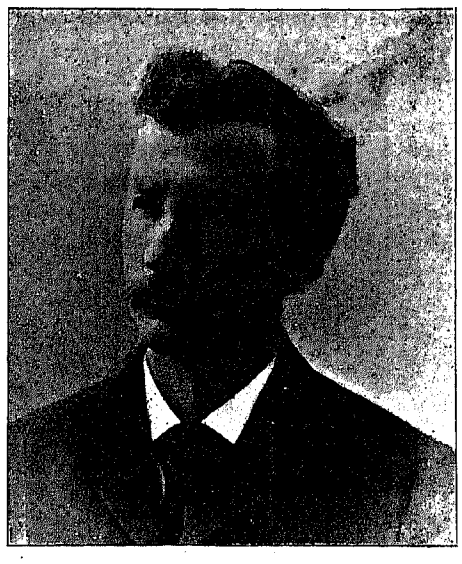
The reader can judge of the wonderful business progress and capacity of Mr. Kersting by a statement that during the first year of his management of this store the sales were increased from five to twenty-two thousand dollars per annum. He has since been engaged in this business at the same place, constantly increasing his trade and displaying that marked business ability which entitles him to a position in the very front rank of Putnam county's merchants. In 1892 he purchased the interests of Mr. Kahle.

He was married June 3, 1879, to Miss Anna Gieringer, of Cincinnati, Ohio. To this union has been born eight children—Joseph F., born June 3, 1880, now assisting his father in the store; Julia E., November 24, 1881; Stella M., September 20, 1884; Edwin J., November 25, 1886; Frances M., January 5, 1889; Albert A., February 8, 1891; Alphonso V., June 5, 1893; Carl A., August 9, 1895.

In 1886 Mr. Kersting moved to Glandorf, Ohio, and although still engaged as traveling salesman he at once showed a great interest in the progress of his adopted town and demonstrated the fact that he would form an important factor in the progress of any town or community. He was the principal organizer and promoter of The Glandorf Building and Loan Association, an organization whose reputation and worth are too well and favorably known to require extended mention here. He was elected secretary of the association in October, 1889, and has since filled this position with universal satisfaction. He holds undisputed rights to to the highest standard of citizenship and within his grasp the unquestioned esteem and confidence of the business world.

F. N. ELLIS.

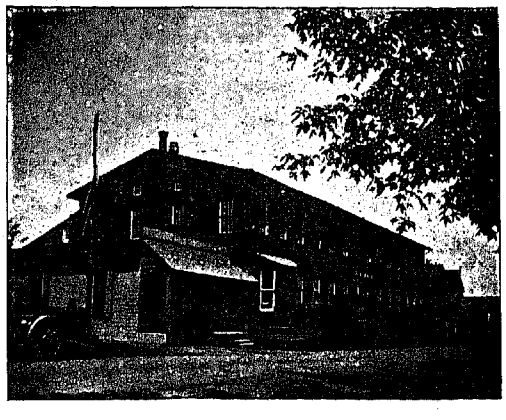
The subject of this sketch, son of Smith A. and Elizabeth P. Ellis, was born March 31, 1855, at Townsend, Huron county, Ohio. He attended the public schools of that place until he was nineteen years of age, when he moved to Putnam county with his parents. His father established the Glandorf Bending Works, and he and his son, F. N. Ellis, operated these works until 1888,



FRANK N. ELLIS.

when he purchased his father's interest and has since that time been the sole proprietor of the works.

He was united in marriage September 8, 1882, to Miss Catha-



GLANDORF BENDING WORKS.

rine M. Hornung, who was born in Cincinnati in 1861, and is a daughter of Eberhart and Theresa Hornung. To this union there has been born one child—Cornelius H., March 8, 1887.

JOSEPH ROOF.

Mr. Roof, Mayor of Glandorf, Ohio, was born March 24, 1853, near that village His parents, Marcus, born in 1811, and Mary Anna Roof, were born in Prussia.

Mr. Roof received his education in the schools of Greensburg township. He was married to Miss Lizzie, daughter of Bernard Rampe, June 17, 1884. She was born April 30, 1866.



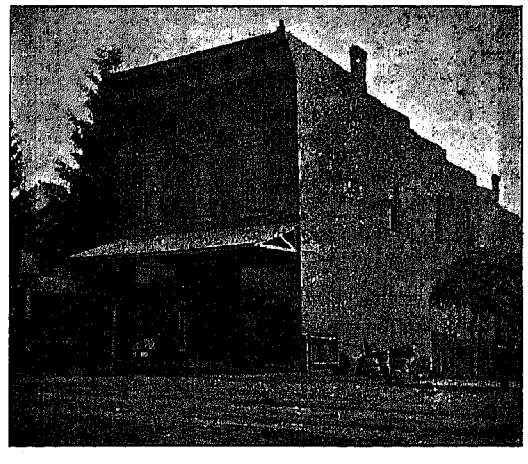
RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH ROOF, MAYOR OF GLANDORF.

There were born to this union four children: Frances, August 20, 1886; Joseph, July 9, 1889; Alma, August 2, 1892; and Rudolph, September 18, 1894.

JOSEPH THOME.

In the steady-going village of Glandorf is to be found a mercantile business which would do credit to any town in the county. It is the hardware store of Joseph Thome & Co., and its manager ranks as one of the most active and progressive business men of the county.

Mr. Thome was born in the village of Glandorf, Ohio, October 1, 1864. He is the son of Nicholas and Agatha Thome, two well known and highly respected citizens of that city. He attended school at Glandorf until twelve years of age, when he began working on a farm, and continued to so work until twenty years of age. In 1884 he entered the store of Joseph Nienberg to learn the tinner's trade; five years later he became a partner of Mr. Nienberg's in the tinning business, and continued to



BUSINESS BLOCK OF JOSEPH THOME & CO.

conduct this business until 1893, when they established the hardware business of Joseph Thome & Co., and at this date Mr. Thome is manager of one of the largest, best regulated and most successful general hardware and implement stores in Northwestern Ohio. In 1892 the company built a handsome two story brick store room, 24x80 feet, which is one of the most substantial improvements in Glandorf. They handle the best goods, implements and vehicles offered in the marts of trade and their reliability and honor is unquestioned. Mr. Thome was married August 19, 1890, to Miss Anna Hoffman, who was born April 18, 1870, and is a daughter of Hon. W. F. Hoffman, present member of the Ohio Legislature from Putnam county, and one of the

leading citizens of the county. To this union have been born three children: Albert, born July 18, 1891; Walter, born December 10, 1892; and Clarence, January 10, 1894.

Although a young man, Mr. Thome has shown remarkable business ability and holds, in right, a distinguished place in the best business circles.

WILLIAM RAMPE, SR.

The accompanying illustration represents one of the leading citizens and business men of Putnam county during its growth from pioneer days to its present condition of marvellous development and agricultural supremacy. He was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, December 11, 1827, where he attended school and learned the shoemaker's trade until twenty years of age. In 1847, in company with his two elder brothers, he came to America, settling in Cincinnati, where he worked at his trade two years, and in 1849 he moved to Glandorf, Ohio, where he



WILLIAM RAMPE, SR.

remained until 1850, moving thence to Dayton, Ohio. After living in Dayton six months he returned to Glandorf and established the boot and shoe business, which won a reputation superior to the progress of the community, and won for its proprietor a worthy and honorable name as a merchant of the highest type.

He was married to Theresa Ellerbrock, of Glandorf, in 1850, who died March 17, 1875, and to this union were born twelve children, six of whom are living: William Rampe, Jr., born January 11, 1853, now in the boot and shoe business and real estate business at Ottawa, Ohio; Theresa, May 26, 1855, now Mrs. Herbert Smith, of Leipsic; Frank B., September 24, 1861, now in the wholesale and retail boot and shoe business in Cincinnati, Ohio; Anna, April 8, 1864, now Mrs. A. Stechschulte, of Leipsic; John P., June 29, 1867, in the boot and shoe business in Leipsic, and Louis J., September 20, 1872, now in business at Glandorf. On November 16, 1875, he was married to Mrs. Wilhelmina Schmidt, which marriage was also a happy one until death separated them. William Rampe, was an able business man, broad in his views, enterprising in spirit, and progressive in action. He was honorable and painstaking in his work and trade, and consequently drew a large patronage from his own county and even beyond her limits, and for many years his energies held for Glandorf the distinguished position of being the greatest shoe town in the county. He employed from twenty-five to thirty shoemakers and manufactured boots and shoes for other retail dealers in a radius of 25 to 40 miles. He was known broadcast as a great shoe man, and his sons are today following his footsteps with the highest honors.

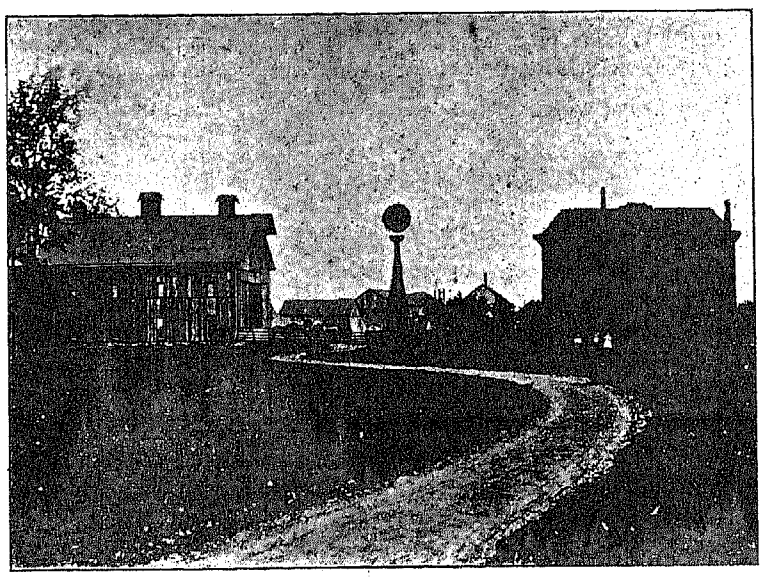
He died at Glandorf November 28, 1893, aged 65 years, 11 months and 17 days, full of honor, and bequeathing his posterity a fitting example of success.

JOHN D. BUSCHER.

The subject of this sketch holds his rank among the leading farmers of Putnam county, and the farm he owns and operates is one of the best improved and most beautiful in the county. He was born September 2, 1857, near Ottawa, Ohio, and is the son of John H. and Elizabeth (Fenger) Buscher, the former having come to this country in 1845 with his parents from Hanover, Germany, and the latter in 1835. He spent his youth in attending school at Glandorf and working on his father's farm.

On Oct. 12, 1887, Mr. Buscher was united in marriage to Jane Maria Hoffman, daughter of Ferdinand and Catharine (Feldman) Hoffman, the former born in Glandorf, Germany, September 8, 1832, came to Putnam county in 1835; the latter came to this county in 1832, and was born in 1832. To this union have been born the following children: Katharine Luella, February 4, 1889; John Henry, August 6, 1891, and Ferdinand Albert, November 18, 1893.

Mr. Buscher constructed one of the handsomest farm residences in the county in 1887; it is brick, two stories high, commodious and modern. This, with the erection of a large and substantial barn building later, and with other improvements of a similar character, present an imposing and remarkably thrifty appearance. We present our readers with a cut of the beauti-



RESIDENCE OF JOHN D. BUSCHER.

ful premises. Politically he is a Democrat and religiously a Catholic, and every act proves him one of our most practical and successful men.

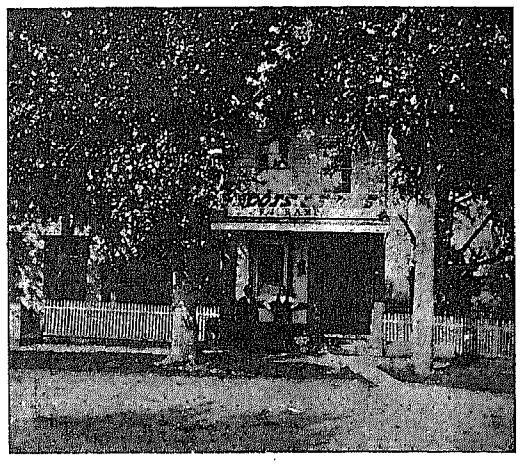
FRED J. RAMPE.

The successor to the oldest and widest known boot and shoe store of Putnam county is Fred. J. Rampe, of Glandorf. He is a young man of remarkable activity and business ability, and the standard reputation of the famous boot and shoe store founded by his uncle, William Rampe, Sr., near a half century ago is not likely to wane under his management.

He was born November 5, 1863, in Covington, Kentucky, and is the son of Barney and Mary Rampe, who moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, in 1875, where our subject attended school four years and then began learning the shoemaker trade with his brother, J. J. Rampe, of Ottawa, Ohio, with whom he continued to work until 1883, when he entered the employ of his uncle, William Rampe, Sr., of Glandorf. Since that date he has been connected with this store as employee until his uncle's death in 1892, and since that date as proprietor.

Mr. Rampe was married September 4, 1888, to Miss Mary Smith, of Glandorf, daughter of Jacob L. and Wilhelmina Smith. To them have been born six children—Herbert, July 4, 1885; Wilhelmina, October 26, 1887; Emmeline, January 30, 1889; Mary F., October 24, 1890; Odelia, June 23, 1892; Philis, May 26, 1894.

We present our readers with an illustration of the business room in which the well known and highly esteemed William Rampe, Sr., worked himself up to such extensive confidence and patronage, and where one of his posterity is continuing the business on the same creditable plane.



BUSINESS HOUSE OF F. J. RAMPE

Mr. Rampe is an heir to the well known business activity and progression of the Rampe family. He is the possessor of a happy home and family, and the proprietor of one of the county's most successful mercantile concerns.

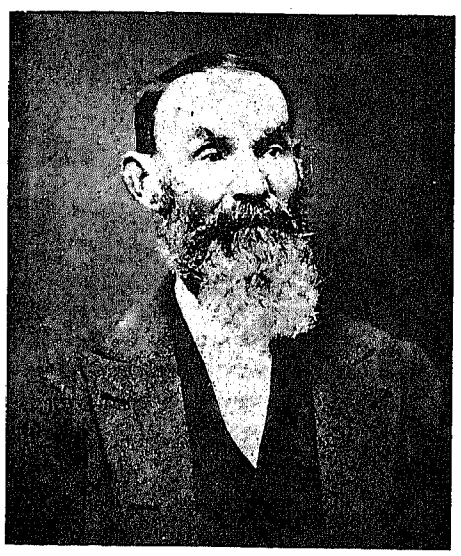
History of Gilboa.

This town was laid out in 1837 by Elisha Stout, who about that time built the first grist mill on the Blanchard river in this county. The first frame house in the town was built by Nelson McCallister. It was not long after the town was laid out that persons began to locate there. Benjamin Stewart opened a tavern and Edward Mercer started a store; a blacksmith and other mechanics gathered in and in time it became a thriving village; in fact it had the most rapid growth of any town in the county and in the times between 1840 and the early fifties was one of the most, if not the most, thriving towns of the county, making in 1852, at the time the first surveys were run for the Dayton & Michigan railroad an active and persistent contest with Findlay and Ottawa for the location of that road through Gilboa. Among the earlier prominent and active citizens of Gilboa were Matthew Chambers, Sr., who built the brick hotel; Col. M. C. Ewing, who owned what was then the largest general store in the county; Dr. T. E. Paul, who settled in the practice of medicine in 1845; William McClure, who also kept tavern and was afterwards our county treasurer; Simon Mapel and Stansberry Sutton, storekeepers, the first named being county commissioner and the last afterward Prosecuting Attorney and then county treasurer; Dr. Lyman W. Moe, who came in 1847. In 1848 an epidemic of cholera almost decimated the village.

The town was incorporated in 1848 by act of Legislature and has, so far as we can ascertain, kept up its corporate life ever since. Situated as Gilboa is in the center of what was the earliest settled and is still among the best agricultural portions of the county, surrounded by splendid farms, occupied by intelligent and well-to-do farmers, it has always kept a good trade and even in its darkest years, after its failure to secure the D. & M. railroad, it did not go back in its business so much, but it failed for awhile to progress as rapidly as some of the other towns in the county. While the construction of the Findlay, Fort Wayne & Western Railroad through its limits in 1888 has given an impetus to the growth of the town and its business, evidenced by the construction of new business buildings and dwellings, which gives bright promise of future prosperity.

JOHN MAIDLOW.

Mr. Maidlow was born in England, February 17, 1812, and came to this country with his parents in the year 1820, landing at Baltimore, Maryland. When thirteen years of age he came to this State and settled in Knox county, and on February 18, 1834, was married to Miss Lucinda A. Dowd, at the home of her parents about three miles north of Mt. Vernon. He came to

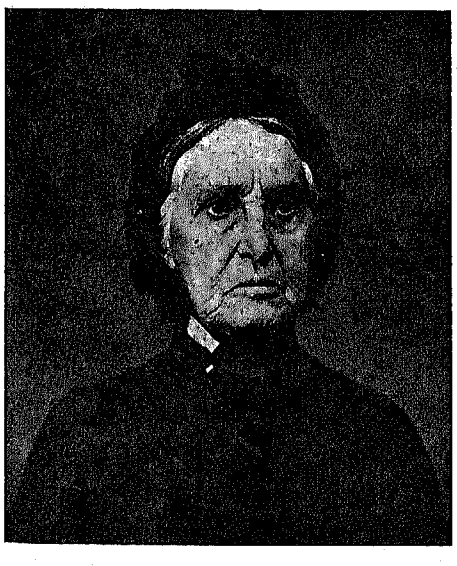


JOHN MAIDLOW.

Putnam county, March 8, 1837, and settled on the farm where he resided at the time of his death, which occurred December 6, 1889.

He was strictly honest in his dealings and generous to those in whom he had confidence, and a man of more than ordinary intelligence, being a great reader of books and newspapers. He was the pioneer in the matter of gravel road improvements of the county, as well as that of the drainage of lands, being a warm advocate of the utility of this class of improvements to develop the agricultural interests of the county. He was an extensive and successful farmer, and his lands were among the very best improved in the county.

In the year 1868 he was selected by the Democracy of the 10th Congressional District as one of the delegates to the National Democratic convention, held in New York, which nominated



MRS. JOHN MAIDLOW.

Horatio Seymour for the Presidency. While always taking an active part in politics, he frequently refused to accept nominations for office, claiming that the post of honor was the private station.

He and his devoted wife, who are now (1896) living at the old homestead, celebrated their golden wedding on February 18, 1884, upon which event a very large number of relatives and devoted friends were present. Among the guests who delivered addresses on the occasion were Judge J. J. Moore, Cortes Ewing, James H. Smith, Dr. Tupper and S. P. Weaver. There were present eleven children, thirty-eight grand children and one great grandchild.

Mrs. Maidlow was born in Knox county, Ohio, February 11, 1816. Their children are James A., born in Knox county, September 16, 1836, married to Mary Ann Buckland; Elizabeth Sophia, born in Putnam county, November 25, 1838, married to N. Conine; Ann, born August 18, 1840, married to D. E. Sandles; C. Edmond, born July 21, 1842, married to Belle Kline, deceased, and to Chloe Rogers, deceased; William Franklin, April 29, 1844, died December 5, 1891, married to Miranda Conine; Rebecca Jane, July 10, 1846, married to E. H. Buckland; Agnes Padwick, April 10, 1848, died April 23, 1888, married to Thomas Walford; Alice, March 27, 1850, married to R. L. Brooks; Laura, March 8, 1852; Martha Maria, February 20, 1854, married to Herman McDougle; Alford Spencer, February 26, 1855, married to Emma Carpenter; Putnam, November 25, 1858, married to Mary Cartwright.

Mr. Maidlow was a member of the Masonic order, and when he received the summon of the Great Master to appear in his eternal presence, this order, with the usual Masonic ceremonies, committed the body of their brother to its kindred dust and left him in the hands of a Being who has done all things well.

DR. A. C. MATTHIAS.

Dr. A. C. Matthias was born in Nimishillen township, Stark county, Ohio, May 19, 1844. His great grandfather, Daniel Matthias, Sr., came to this country from Germany prior to the Revolutionary War, in which he was a soldier. His grandfather,



DR. A. C. MATTHIAS.

Daniel Matthias, Jr., and grandmother (nee Saner) emigrated from Fayette county, Pennsylvania, to Stark county, Ohio, in 1806, where they resided until they died. His father and mother, Jacob and Mary (Stambaugh) Matthias, were married in Stark county, Ohio, and moved to Hancock county, Ohio, in 1849, where they lived until 1866, when they moved to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where they lived until death took them to their reward. His grandfather Matthias and grandfather Stambaugh were both ministers in the United Brethren church.

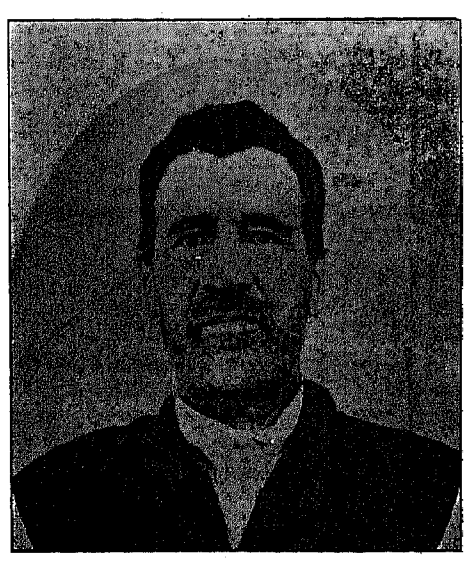
He served from 1861 to 1865 in the War of the Rebellion, in Company K, 65th O. V. V. I., enlisting at the age of seventeen. Was mentioned in orders for conspicuous bravery in the face of the enemy, May 11, 1864, and was severely wounded in the right arm, May 14, 1864, at Resacca, Georgia.

He was educated in the common schools. Studied medicine and graduated at Cleveland Medical College, February 6, 1869. In 1866 he was married to Elleanor Harris, who was born November 12, 1845, in Stallbridge, England. They have four children. Alva C. and Everett H. are druggists in Gilboa, O.; Mary M., wife of Dr. M. A. Darbyshire, McComb, O., and Edward S., attorney-at-Law, Van Wert, Ohio.

He has served two terms as President of the Putnam County Medical Society, is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society and the Ohio State Medical Society. Served four years as a member of the Ottawa Board of U. S. Examining Surgeons, was re-appointed to the same in 1894 and is its president. He is president of the Gilboa Building and Loan Company; is a member of Ottawa Lodge, Chapter and Council, F. and A. M.; Gilboa Lodge, I. O. O. F., of which he has been Recording Secretary ten years; of Lindsay Post, No. 75, G. A. R., of which he has been Commander nine years. He served the G. A. R. of Ohio as its medical director in 1884, and as delegate to the national encampment held at Boston, Mass., in 1870; A. D. C. to Commander in Chief two years, and delegate to the State encampment, G. A. R., for fifteen years consecutively. Residence—Gilboa, Ohio.

JOHN CRAWFIS.

Mr. Crawfis was one of the earliest of the pioneer settlers of this county. He was the son of Nicholas and Polly (McElroy) Crawfis and was born in Berne township, Fairfield county, Ohio, August 1, 1809, coming to Putnam county when he was twenty-four years old. He with his brothers, Lewis, Otho and Henry M., with Samuel Hall, the Harmons, Hardins, Moorheads and the Popes constituted the first settlers of that part of the county now known as Blanchard township, and formed the nuclus around which gathered the sturdy pioneers who developed the resources of its eastern portion. That portion of the county was settled before the Ottawa Indian reservation, which covered the



JOHN CRAWFIS.

greater portion of Ottawa township and a part of Blanchard, Riley and Pleasant townships, had been opened up for entry by the government. They were pioneers indeed, when they came there were no roads and nothing to guide them on their way through the forest save the Indian trails. Their only meat was the game which their rifles shot; their bread made from corn raised by themselves and grated while yet soft or pounded in stone mortars or ground in a primative hand mill, and their only fields those which their axes, wielded by brawny arms, wrenched from the primitive forest. Not the least prominent and useful among these hardy settlers was John Crawfis, the subject of this sketch. A keen hunter, a sure shot with his rifle and cunning in decoying the finny tribe from the waters of the Blanchard, he was also an industrious and faithful worker in clearing the forest trees from the fields which were to render him a rich reward for his labors. He was chosen as the first clerk of Blanchard township upon its organization in the fall of 1833, at which time it formed a part of Williams county and

included in its limits the present townships of Van Buren, Riley Blanchard and Richland, (now in Allen county.)

Mr. Crawfis was a man of strong natural capacity and exercised a large influence throughout the portion of the county in which he lived. He was never a seeker after office, yet notwithstanding his objections he was sometimes compelled to serve the public in an official capacity. But his industry and attention to business had their reward in making him at the time of his death the owner of several hundred acres of land and a large (for the time and locality) amount of money. His marriage with Sarah (Moorehead) Crawfis having proved untruitful, some time before his death, after consultation with his wife, he made his will, leaving, after providing for his wife, to the Masonic body of Ottawa, of which he was a member, the sum of $1,000 and to the township in which he was born and to Blanchard township each land, or lands and money estimated by him at $25,000, to be expended in the institution of a high school in each of the townships for the higher education of the children of such townships. The "Crawfis College" in Blanchard township in this county and a similar institution in Berne township, Fairfield county, were the result of that donation. Mr. Crawfis died at his home in Blanchard township, in the fall of 1880, and his wife survived him but a short time.

P. C. STATELER, V. S.

The subject of this sketch was born in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1858. He followed farming for a livelihood until 1886 when he left the farm and for the next two years attended Veterinary College at Toronto, Canada. When completing his college course Dr. Stateler moved to Gilboa, Ohio, and spent the next seven years of his life in the exclusive practice of Veterinary Surgery in Putnam and adjoining counties. Being a very close student the Doctor has elevated himself to the standard of his profession and enjoys an enviable reputation for his knowledge of disease and medicine and his skill as a surgeon.



P. C. STATELER.

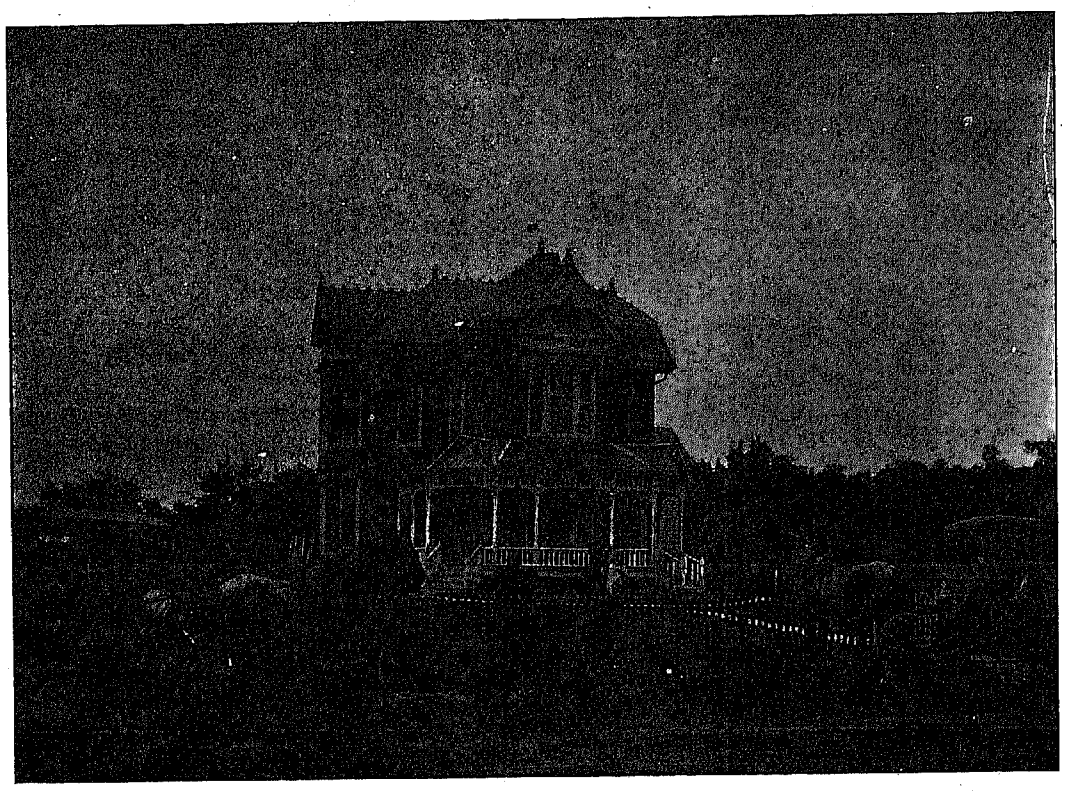
In 1894 he began to handle real estate in connection with veterinary surgery and medicine and in this line too he has proved himself very proficient and at any and all times you can find him with a large list of valuable farm and town property at very reasonable prices.

GEORGE KOBER.

George Kober was born in Stark county, Ohio, November 5, 1832, and came to Putnam county in 1860. He was a man of remarkable energy, activity, thrift and endurance. Starting in life a poor boy, with nothing but good health, strength and pluck to recommend him, he purchased a large farm in Riley and Blanchard townships on the base line which he immediately cleared and improved, making it one of the best farms in the county. Mr. Kober was also engaged in buying, feeding and shipping stock in which he was very successful. He purchased another large farm in Blanchard township, soon after buying two other farms adjoining.

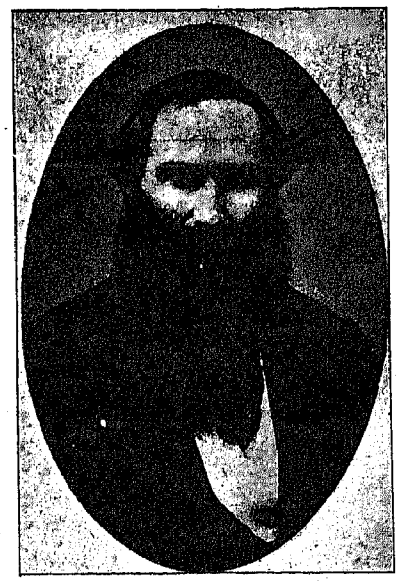
It was through his efforts that the Union Block, erected in 1883, which gave Leipsic a "new start," was built of brick and made a two and three-story building instead of a one story frame building.

He was married October 20, 1859, to Sarah J. Moffitt, of Hancock county, Ohio, who was born February 14, 1838, and died August 17, 1875. Seven children were the fruits of this union: William A., born September 8. 1860; Mary J., February 14, 1862; John D., April 21, 1864; Andrew A., November 1, 1865; Clara E., September 5, 1867; George C., September 23, 1870; Sarah V., March 23, 1875, died September 15, 1875.



RESIDENCE OF L. S. HARRIS.

Clementine Dumont, whom he married February 5, 1877, was born in Paris, France, and came to this country in 1858. Two children were born to them: Sarah J., born December 4, 1878; James C., December 5, 1881.



GEORGE KOBER.

Previous to coming to Putnam county, Mr. Kober was engaged in ditching, constructing one ditch nine miles long. Through exposure and extreme hard labor he lost his health and died December 4, 1889, at his home on the base line, five miles east of Ottawa, Ohio.

LLOYD STANSBURY HARRIS.

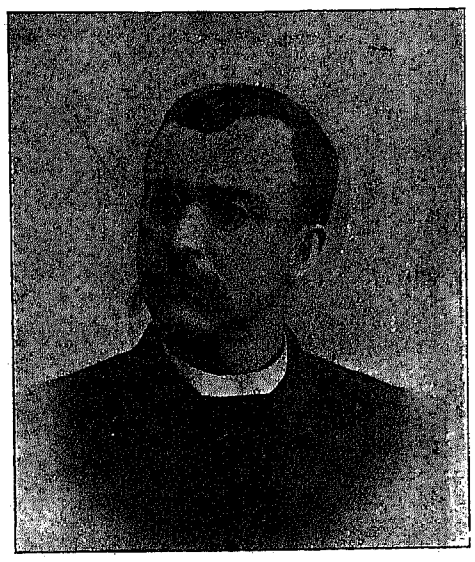
Mr. Harris was born June 30, 1846, on the farm he now owns and on which he has lived all his lifetime, except two years. He is a son of Samuel and Mary (Bateson) Harris. He received his education at the home district, now known as the Infirmary school.

On March 11, 1868, he was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Wilkins, by Samuel Bacon, then Justice of the Peace of Blanchard township, Putnam county. She is a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Kretsinger) Wilkins. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have adopted as their child, Anna Gertrude Genette, the youngest daughter of Jacob and Anna (Weaver) Rosenberger. Gertie was born May 6, 1894, and in October of that year the angel of death summoned her mother from her cradle; but Gertie has found a rare home and indulgent parents in Mr. and Mrs. Harris.

In 1889 Mr. Harris erected the elegant brick residence, a picture of which we present to our readers. Through industry and economy he is prepared to enjoy the shady side of life.

PROF BERNARD J. BEACH.

The trite expression, There is no royal road to Geometry, and we are the Architects of our own Fortunes, have a meaning which too many of our youth do not comprehend. The writer well remembers hearing the subject of this sketch saying on many occasions: Don't tell me how to demonstrate that proposition; I want to dig it out for myself. Although frequently his problems were not all solved, his propositions not all demonstrated, and his translations not all made, what he had his in "scratch book" was his own. He believed in doing his work as Commodore Perry did: "We have met the ene ny and they are ours." I will meet the subject and master it, was his motto in action, if not in word.



PROF. BERNARD J. BEACH.

Mr. Beach was born May 30, 1861, in Porter township, Delaware county, Ohio. In 1868 his parents moved to Union county where his mother died, and in 1873 he moved with his father to

Paulding county, Ohio. His father having only limited means, he, at the age of thirteen, was thrown upon his own resources. He worked on a farm one year and then at the age of fourteen went to Kalida, Ohio, to seek employment. Prior to this time he had attended only three or four short terms at sub district schools. He now worked as a farm hand in the summer and attended the Kalida High School during the winter, doing chores evenings and mornings to pay board. He began in 1880 teaching in country schools successively in Paulding, Putnam and Allen counties. He taught one year in the Kalida union schools; five years in the public schools of New Bremen, Ohio, as special teacher in reading; two years at Columbus Grove, Ohio, as principal of High schools, and accepted the position of Superintendent of Crawfis College High School, September 1, 1893, and is now Principal and Superintendent of the Blanchard township schools. He attended Normal school at Kalida and Ada during the vacations of his schools.

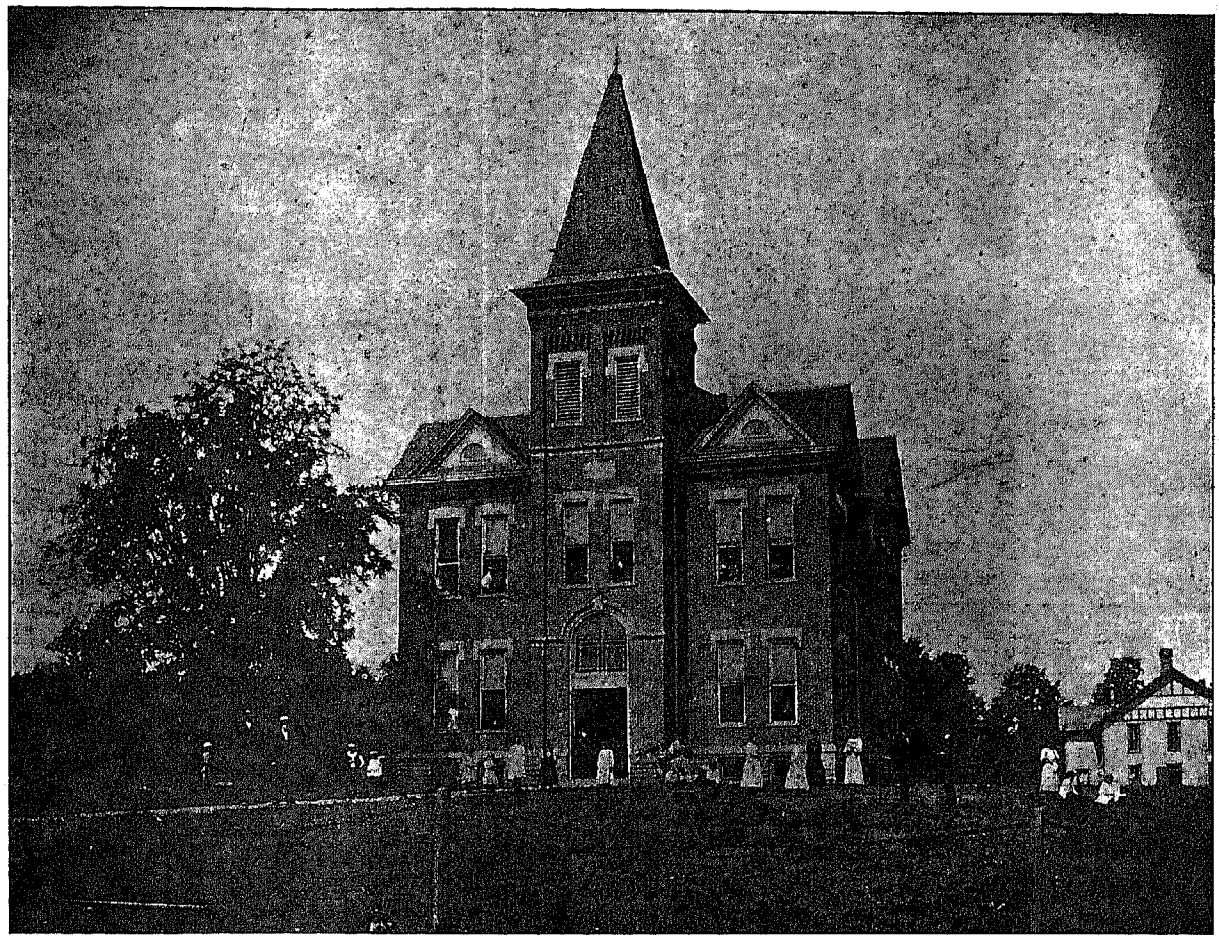
He married Miss Ida B. Crain, of Kalida, Ohio, August 24, 1884. Five children were born to them: Nellie Grant, June 8, 1885; Gladys M., September 18, 1886; Harmon W., November 2, 1888; Bernard M., January 25, 1892, and Margy, April 19, 1894.

CRAWFIS COLLEGE.

The year 1880 is designated in the history of Putnam county by the most splendid public gift ever given, in will or donation, by any citizen of the county. In the fall of this year John Crawfis, a wealthy and distinguished citizen of Blanchard township, died and bequeathed to that township the large sum of $25,000 for the purpose of instituting a high school with the object of affording the avenue to a higher education by the way of our district schools.

As a result of this gift there was constructed in 1888, in the southeastern portion of Section 20, Blanchard township, the handsome building represented by the illustration at the head of this article. Its total cost was $11,000, and it was named Crawfis College in honor of the man who made its erection possible. During the following year, 1889, two dormitories were built at a cost of $2,087, making one of the most complete public schools in the State and furnishing accommodations for higher education to about five hundred students each year.

A. C. Hall, N. Conine and B. O. Robinson formed the building committee, and A. Faeth, of Delphos, Ohio, had the contract, with E. Zoll, of Findlay, architect. The first superintendent was Prof. I. L. Harmon, from 1888 to 1891; Prof. Job Hill, from 1891 to 1892; Prof. L. S. Lafferty, from 1892 to 1894; Prof. B. J. Beach, from 1894 to 1897.



CRAWFIS COLLEGE.

The following teachers have assisted: O. C. Wright, commercial department; Florence B. McClure, language; Mrs. O. C. Wright, elocution, with Charles Harbaugh, assistant; B. F. Finkel, mathematics; May Banfield, shorthand and typewriting; J. Krider, penmanship; Charlotte Rice, common branches; A. V. Miller, German; C. C. Miller, assisted in Normal institute; Ettie Compton, pianist; Blanche Adams, O. V. Todd and Emma Everett, assistants in common branches; L. D. Hook, penmanship; G. R. Miller, J. C. Light, common branches; Bessie Ashbaugh, elocution; Flora McCray, pianist; —— Wisley, telegraphy; N. O. Harmon, violin; Mrs. Lafferty, Katharine Oren, Captolia Oren, Ida Barto, Phoebe Oren, common branches; and Mr. Black, penmanship.

Under the able managements of the above superintendents and teachers, the school has flourished and is on the way to meet the ambition of its promoter.

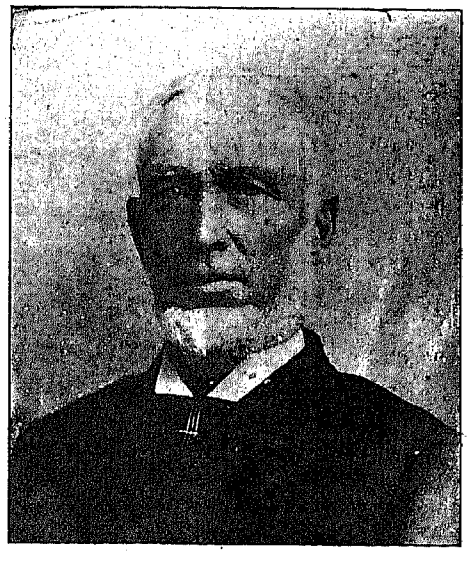
McCulloughville.

This town is located on the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western Railroad, in Blanchard township, and was laid out and platted by L. E. Holtz, civil engineer, for D. U. McCullough, the proprietor, in 1888. This town is the site of Crawfis College.

There has been a postoffice established here for the convenience of the school and surrounding country, named Crawfis College.

S. P. WEAVER.

S. P. Weaver was born near Lancaster, Ohio, January 20, 1820, and received such education as the common schools of that period afforded. At the age of twenty-one years he was convinced that to successfully fight the great battle of life and properly discharge the duties of a good citizen of the United States, further mental culture was necessary, and accordingly became a student of Greenfield Acadamy and later of Granville College, after which for a number of years he engaged in teaching in the common and select schools. May 25, 1848, he was married to Savilla Pence, of Fairfield county, Ohio, and on October 9, 1849, he settled in Putnam county, Ohio. Here he found, for want of natural drainage, large portions of the country



S. P. WEAVER.

covered with water during the greater portion of the year. The miasma arising from the stagnated water and decomposition of vegetable matter caused much sickness. For want of sufficient

fall all artificial drains would necessarily have to commence at some stream and be extended back through the dense forest where no channel, such as are found where the land is less flat exists. For those persons owning lands remote from natural water courses, to drain them without some thorough system by which ditches or drains could be located and constructed was impossible. For this purpose the legislature of Ohio in 1843 enacted a law which mainly through the influence of Mr. Weaver was enforced for the first time since its passage.

Mr. Weaver has held many important public positions, among



RESIDENCE OF S. P. WEAVER.

which was serving as land appraiser, serving as member of the board of county school examiners, county auditor during two terms and represented Putnam county in the convention called to revise the constitution of Ohio in 1872 and 1873. He and his devoted wife are now (1895) living on their farm in Blanchard township, enjoying together the evening of their well spent years. We here present a picture of their comfortable home. There two sons, David and James own farms adjoining the old homestead and both, like their father, are model farmers.

History of Pandora.

As early as 1835 Joseph Stout built on Riley Creek one of the first grist mills of the county; a small affair, and yet a great convenience to the neighbors for miles around. In 1837 he platted a few lots, calling the town Columbia.

Situated as it was upon the Ridge road leading from Findlay southwesterly to Kalida and to Delphos, and about half way between the county seats of Hancock and Putnam counties, it was for many years the place where the lawyers and judges, while "traveling the circuit" in the early days before 1851, stayed over night on their way from Findlay to Kalida, and many a legend is still current among the lawyers of the jolly times they had at the tavern kept by Henry Kilheffer.

The name of the town was changed to Pendleton, and in 1850 Brice W Viers laid out a first addition. In 1852 Henry Kilheffer, who owned the only general store in the place, laid out East Pendleton, which was surveyed by Henry Blosser, then county surveyor. About the year 1882 the narrow guage railroad, since become a standard guage road and known as the Pittsburg, Akron & Western Railroad, was proposed and constructed through the town, and Kiene and Suter laid out their addition, the surveying being done by our present efficient County Auditor, Aaron Oberbeck, who was at the time County Surveyor. The name of the town was changed to Pandora, and in 1891 H. M. Day laid out what is known as H. M. Day's Addition to Pandora.

In 1893 R. N. McAdams laid out and dedicated McAdams' Addition to Pandora, and S. P. Krohn laid out his addition. In May, 1894, H. M. Day laid out his second addition to the town, the survey being made by J. D. Huddle, our present County Surveyor.

Situated as it is in the center of one of the best improved sections of our county, surrounded with magnificent farms improved with fine houses and out buildings, surpassed in value and convenience by no other portion of the State, settled principally by sturdy Menonites, whose faith forbids quarreling and litigation, the numerous additions to the town and the rapidity with which the more recent ones have been made, indicate a degree of growth and prosperity which promises well for its success.

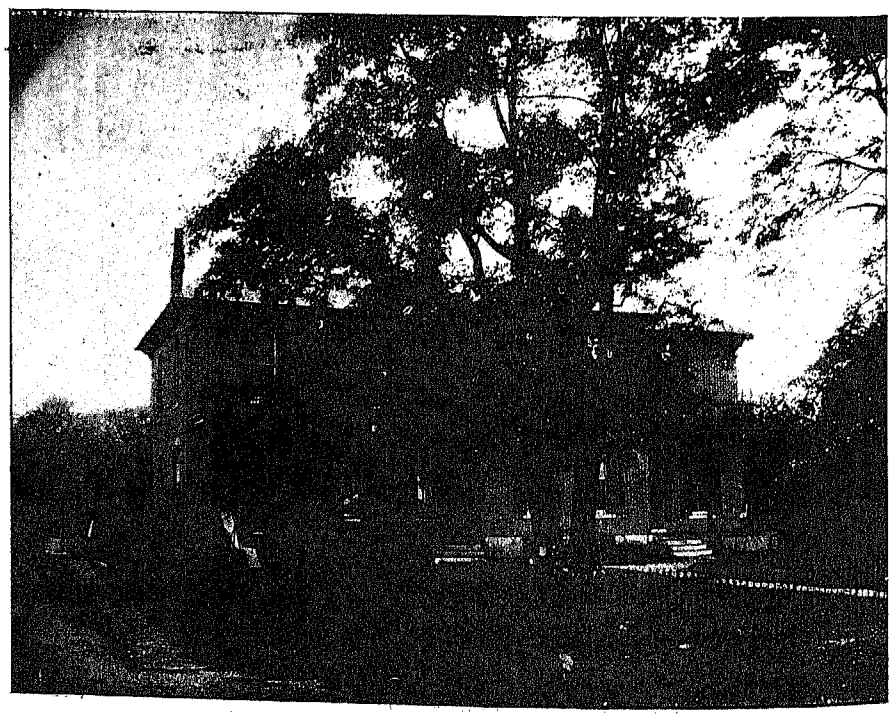
Pandora and its vicinity have furnished several county officers, and among its more prominent citizens, more especially of the olden times, were Dr. Hiram Day, Elam Day, Henry Kilheffer, the Krohns and Kienes.

DAVID RISSER.

Mr. Risser was born in Germany, April 5, 1840, and came to this country in 1856. When our country became involvod in civil war he responded to the call of the president for volunteers to prc ect the union, by enlisting in Third New York Cavalry and served his country in that struggle nearly five years. At the close of the war he came to Putnam county and in 1866 purchased the farm on which he now lives.

On May 24, 1866, he was married to Miss Margaret Krohn, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Weaver) Krohn, who came to this country in 1844. Mrs. Risser was born in Butler county, January 5, 1844. To this marriage were born, George W., October 30, 1868; William M., March 29, 1871—married to Miss Lizzie Lemley; Minnie A., April 27, 1873—married to William Basinger; Elizabeth, July 15, 1878; Lena, August 13, 1880; Otillie, September 11, 1882; Lewis, October 19, 1884; Edwin, May 26 1887.

Mr. Risser is one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of the county, and was the principal promoter of the splendid system of the macadam roads of Riley township, being one of the township trustees at the time these roads were constructed, and as evidence of the approbation of his ably directed energies in these permanent public improvements, the tax payers of that township have ever since kept him in that official capacity.



RESIDENCE OF DAVID RISSER.

History of Belmore.

The village of Belmore is situated in the northern part of Van Buren township, and on the Dayton & Michigan Railroad. The original plat, consisting of seventeen lots east of the D. & M. railroad, was laid out in 1862 by Deputy County Surveyor John Shakely for Wesley G. Montgomery, acting under the power of attorney for Benjamin and Mary Ann Plummer as proprietors, naming the town Montgomeryville. The same year County Surveyor C. A. McDowell laid out for the same proprietors lots 18 to 20, inclusive, west of the railroad.

Additions to the village were laid out by the following proprietors: Dayton & Michigan Railroad Company, in 1869; Knoke & Speaker, in 1869; John H. George, in 1874, and Alexander Williamson in 1874.

The village was incorporated in 1882, with O. Judson, mayor; P. L. Baker, clerk; W. Winkler, treasurer; Theodore Ludwig, marshal; A. J. Showers, D. Ensminger, J. H. Ensminger, W. Mull, I. B. Hathaway, Nimrod Speaker, councilmen.

The present officers are: W. F. Critchet, mayor; R. C. Lamb, clerk; W. F. Sherman, treasurer; R. E. Phipps, marshal; John Hunter, Thos. Newell, J. W. Grince, L E. Powell, W. M. George and Wm. Glosser, councilmen. W. S. Spencer is Justice of the Peace. W. M. George, postmaster.

W. S. SPENCER.

William S. Spencer was born April 28, 1870, at Monroeville, Allen county, Indiana, and when four years of age, with his parents, James J. Spencer and Maria A. Spencer, moved to Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, living on a farm one-half mile south of Belmore and attended school at Belmore.

After the death of his father, May 2, 1885, he worked for the Eagle Stave & Heading Co. until December 17, 1888, on which date he entered the Belmore office of the Postal Telegraph Cable Co. to learn telegraphy and May 1, 1890, he was appointed manager and electrician of that office and division. In connection with the telegraph office he is a real estate and loan agent;



W. S. SPENCER.

also representing numerous fire and life insurance companies and associations, among them being the Ætna, of Hartford; Insurance Company of North America, of Philadelphia; Phœnix, of Hartford, and Ohio Farmers. The Union Central Life Insurance Co., of Cincinnati, and the Manhattan Life, of New York.

He was elected Justice of the Peace in the spring of 1895 and is now filling that office with marked ability and satisfaction. He was married June 15, 1890, to Miss Sadie Monthaven, of Belmore, and has two children: Percy H. Spencer and Beulah L. Spencer, respectively.

Mr. Spencer is a self made young man. He has worked his way to a position of trust in a large company. He has so conducted his private business in real estate and insurance as to gain the confidence of a large list of patrons and so conducted himself, both privately and publicly, in his business and social environments, in his home and in the world, as to gain the respect and esteem of his neighbors and cause them to elect him at the early age of twenty five to the responsible position of Justice of the Peace.

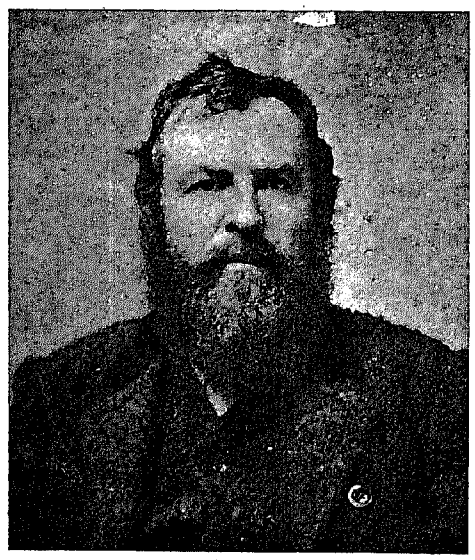
NIMROD SPEAKER.

Were it the custom of this country to title its most successful subjects, we would ascribe to and recommend that the subject of this sketch be titled "The Duke of Belmore." Nimrod Speaker, one of the foremost citizens, business men and politicians of Putnam county, was born in Licking county, Ohio, March 21, 1841, where he lived and attended district school until 1857, when he came to Putnam county with his father, locating on a farm three miles south of Belmore.

He remained with his father on the farm until 1861, when he came to Belmore and engaged in contracting and furnishing cord wood to the Dayton & Michigan Railroad Company. This occupation he continued until 1868, when he engaged in the general mercantile business which he has followed ever since, and in the conduct of which he has proven himself one of the county's ablest merchants.

In 1875 he was elected Treasurer of Van Buren township, and re-elected in 1876. He served two terms as Clerk of Van Buren township, in 1886–87, and has been a member of the Belmore School Board twenty-seven years, and now is treasurer of the board. He was postmaster under President Cleveland's first term, serving the four years of the administration and one year of the Harrison administration.

He was married April 16, 1865, to Miss Ettie Ward, of Licking county, with whom he had two children—George, born July



NIMROD SPEAKER.

15, 1866, and Mary Catharine (now Mrs. Alvin Hook), August 16, 1868. In 1872 his wife died, and in 1874 he was married to Miss Matilda Paden, of Ottawa, Ohio. To this union two children were born—John Bergen, born November 10, 1876, now assisting his father in the store, and Harvey, born August 15, 1878. In 1878 Mrs. Speaker (nee Paden), died, and on November 30, 1879, Mr. Speaker was united in marriage to Ellen Ellenburger, with whom one child was born—William, August 28, 1881.

He is a business man of seemingly unlimited capacity, and no man of Putnam county has secured and retained the confidence of his community in a higher degree. Besides conducting his great store he buys thousands of bushels of grain every year, and



N. SPEAKER'S BUSINESS HOUSE.

so famed has become his fairness of dealing that it has enabled him to make Belmore one of the leading grain markets of the county. He is also largely interested in farming, and in this capacity he has also proven himself a success. In politics he subscribes to the principles of Democracy and is one of the leaders of his party in the county.

History of West Leipsic.

About the year 1850 John W. Peckenpaugh purchased the land where the village of West Leipsic now stands, and in 1852 he made the first survey of twenty lots on the west end of Main street. This survey was made by Samuel Parker, County Surveyor, and was followed in 1853 by Peckenpaugh's second survey and first addition. A third survey and second addition was made by Mr. Peckenpaugh in about the year 1854, by which he completed the platting of all the lands now included in the town lying north of the Nickel Plate Railroad.

The first house built in the village still stands and is known as the old Shakely house and is in the extreme western part of the village, fronting south on Main street. It was built by John Shakely about 1850, and was long used as a hotel and drug store.

Among the first settlers of the town were J. J. Lowry, who was the first Justice of the Peace and the first merchant in the town. John Dehnart, first blacksmith; Joseph Faber, first wagon-maker, and Dr. Samuel Emery was the first physician; George Haskell, cooper. These men had settled in the town from 1850 to 1855, and in the latter year they were conducting the different branches of business as mentioned above. The first white child born in the town was Louisa M. Lowry, daughter of J. J. Lowry, born September 29, 1852, now Mrs. Dr. Emery, one of the leading physicians of the county.

The town was incorporated in 1882, and R. Haskell elected first Mayor; W. J. White, clerk; M. L. Pritchard, marshal; Thomas James, Treasurer.

The town today has two churches, a good public school, an elevator, three good stores and about 500 busy people. A. J. Nichols is mayor; David White, marshal; W. J. White, clerk; M. L. Pritchard, treasurer; James H. Sackett, J. F. Arnold, George Burkholder, George Close, W. R. Baker and J. B. Updike, councilmen.

GEORGE KRATZER.

Mr. Kratzer was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, October 17, 1845. In 1859 he came to Putnam county with his parents and settled on the Medary farm, in Liberty township, and four years later they moved onto the farm which he now owns and which



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE KRATZER.

was then a dense forest, but has since been converted into one of the best farms of the county, adorned with beautiful and commodious buildings, a cut of which we here present to our readers.

In the year 1881 Mr. Kratzer was married to Miss Mary M. Mack, daughter of Christian Mack, one of Putnam county's most prominent and respected farmers. To this union were born three children—two boys and one girl.

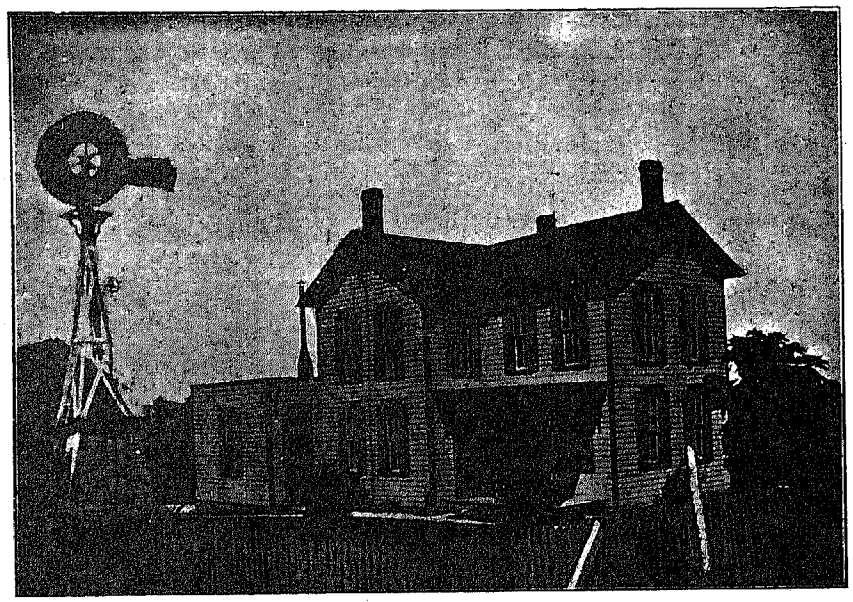
Years of unceasing toil in clearing and draining his farm have made an inroad upon the health of Mr. Kratzer, and in April, 1894, he, with his devoted wife and children, moved to Mancelona, Michigan, hoping that a change of climate might improve Mr. Kratzer's health.

L. F. KONST.

Among Putnam county's self-made men the name and personage of L. F. Konst holds a leading rank. He was born in Holland on the 8th of August, 1837, and is the son of Frank and Pheoma Konst. He attended school at his native place from 1842 to 1845, when he came to America with his parents and

settled with them at Liverpool, Medina county, Ohio, where he attended school from 1847 to 1852, in which last named year he came with his parents to Ottawa township, Putnam county, and attended school there until 1855, when he commenced learning the carpenter trade, which he followed with satisfaction and success until 1873.

He lived in Ottawa township until 1866, when he moved to Henry county, remaining there one year, during which time he built a school house. In 1867 he moved back to Putnam county and followed his trade at various places in the county until 1873, when he moved on a farm in Allen county, Ohio, and one year later moved to the John Beck farm in this



RESIDENCE OF I. F. KONST.

county, where he remained until 1878 and then moved to the Theodore Kunneke farm in Allen county. He lived on this farm until 1882, when he moved to Elm Center, Ohio, and purchased forty-seven acres near that village, and also a half interest in the sawmill at that place.

The next few years of his life were spent in cultivating and improving his land and managing his mill. He built a commodious farm residence, and with his other substantial buildings and improvements he has one of the most beautiful farm homes in the county. He was appointed postmaster at Elm Center in 1885 and still retains that position. In 1886 he sold his milling interests to his eldest son. In 1891 he was elected Township Trustee, and re-elected in 1894.

Mr. Konst was married November 7, 1861, to Miss Caroline Burkhart, who was born in Ottawa township, April 25, 1844, and is the daughter of Adam and Frances Burkhart. The following children have been born to this union: Frank Adam, October 8, 1862; Charles, August 23, 1864; John, February 25, 1866; Joseph Albert, June 25, 1870; Louis Augustus, February 19, 1872; Thomas, November 22, 1874; Martha Frances, October 7, 1877; Rudolph, March 11, 1882; William Edward, September 27, 1885; Mathias, July 16, 1887.

History of Spitzer.

The village of Spitzer is situated on the Nickel Plate Railroad, about four miles east of Leipsic. It was platted in 1886 by Aaron Oberbeck, surveyor, for Howard C. Tinkham, whose biography appears on another page of this book.

Owing to the fact that there was another town of the same name in Ohio, the postoffice address of Spitzer was changed to Townwood, but the town retains its original name of Spitzer, having received its name in recognition of the Spitzer Brothers, of Toledo, Ohio, who were largely interested in lands adjoining the village.

It is located in one of the best farm districts in the county, has about one hundred inhabitants, a general store, a large sawmill, an elevator, stock yards, and one of the best business men of Putnam county, Howard C. Tinkham, to direct her interests.

MICHAEL BRECHT.

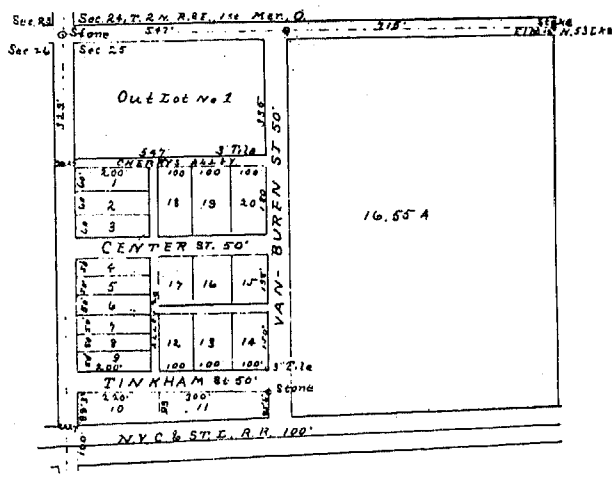
The subject of this sketch is truly a self-made man, having worked his way from a poor boy to be possessor of one of Putnam county's banner farms.

Michael Brecht, son of Michael and Elizabeth (Black) Brecht, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, July 25, 1845. When six years of age his parents moved to Putnam county, settling on a farm six miles northwest of Leipsic. Here young Michael attended school and worked on a farm until nineteen years of age, when, in 1864, he enlisted in the army as a member of Company D, 182nd Ohio, and served until 1865, when he returned home and operated his father's farm until the fall of 1866, when he went to Wood county and worked for two years on his uncle, Charles Broom's farm. At the end of this term of service he purchased forty acres of land in Wood county and lived on this place one year, when he sold out and rented the old John Vansickle farm east of McComb. He lived on this farm one year; on the farm of Henry Pennington, near McComb, one year; on the farm of John Cooper three years, and on the farm of Henry Byal, in Putnam county, one year, and in 1875 he purchased forty acres near Shawtown, where he lived two years, when he purchased his present home in Section 25, Van Buren township, and has added to his original purchase from time to time until now he has a farm of 240 acres under a high state of cultivation and well improved. In 1893 he constructed one of the handsomest farm residences in the county.

He was married in 1868 to Miss Mary Pingle, daughter of John and Mary B. Pingle, well-to-do and highly esteemed farmers of Pleasant township, Hancock county, Ohio. Mrs. Brecht was born August 15, 1849. To this union have been born twelve children, all of whom are living. John F., born August 1, 1869; Jemima, March 11, 1871; Carter E., March 1, 1873; Elmer, March 1, 1875; Della May, July 24, 1877; Harley J., November 20, 1879; Clara M., August 16, 1882; Myrl E., June 24, 1884; Ray G., March 25, 1887; Chloe I., February 15, 1889; Lettie C., May 7, 1891; Blanche, June 3, 1893.



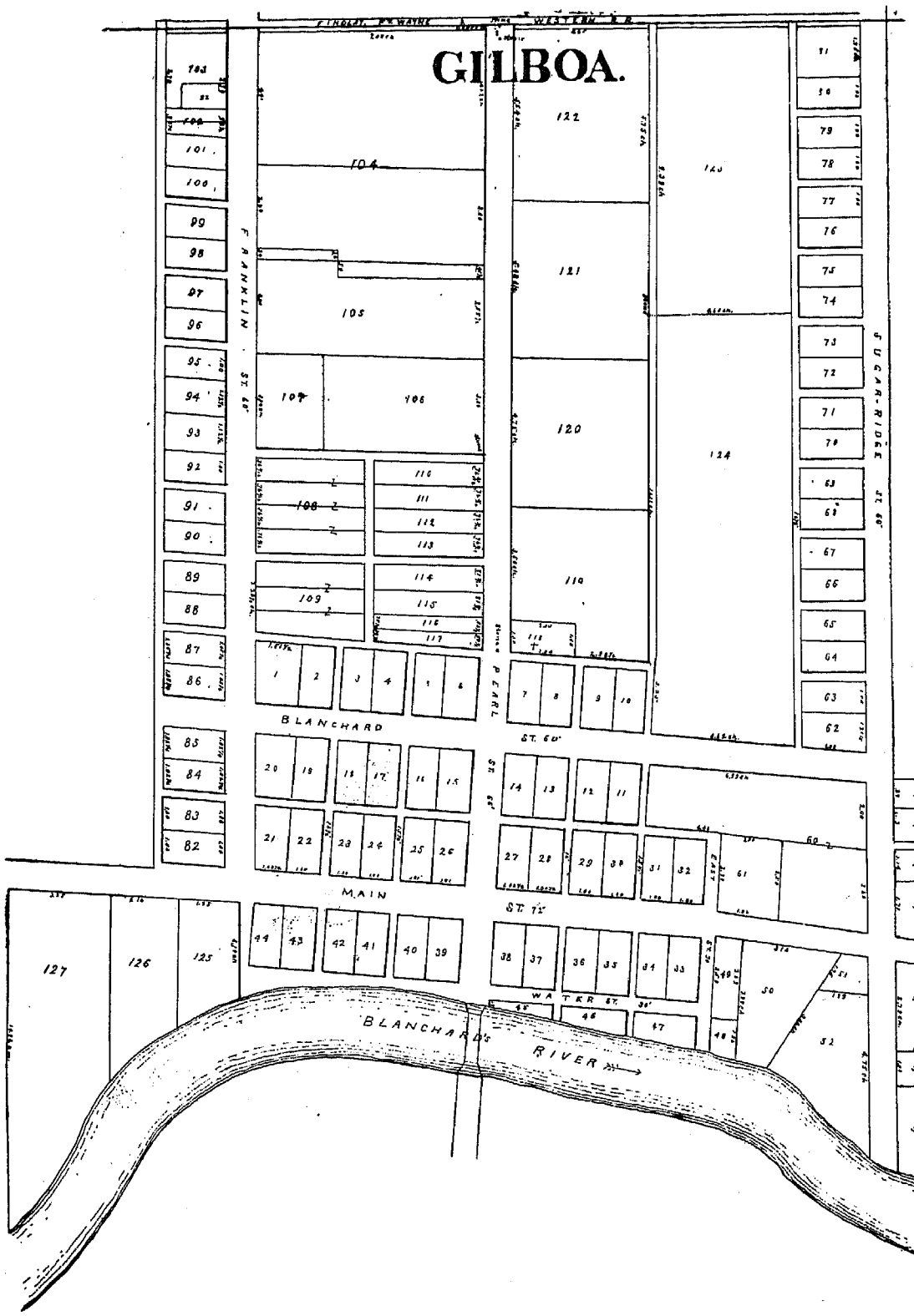
RESIDENCE OF MICHAEL BRECHT.



SPITZER (TOWNWOOD).

THE BUSINESS KINGS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Theodore A. Havemeyer, sugar king, $60,000,000.
Anthony N. Brady, gas king, $30,000,000.
Phillip D. Armour, beef king, $40,000,000.
Cornelius Vanderbilt, railroad king, $100,000,000.
John W. Mackay, silver king, $30,000,000.
Andrew Carnegie, steel king, $60,000,000.
J. Pierpont Morgan, money king, $50,000,000.
John D. Rockefeller, oil king, $180,000,000.
Henry Miller, cattle king, $35,000,000.
W. S. Stratton, gold king, $30,000,000.
Mrs. Richard King, land queen, 25,000,000.


GILBOA.
FINDLAY, FT. WAYNE & WESTERN R. R.
FRANKLIN ST. 66'
SUGAR RIDGE ST. 66'
BLANCHARD ST. 60'
MAIN ST. 72'
WATER ST.
BLANCHARD'S RIVER
104
105
106
107
108
109
120
121
122
124
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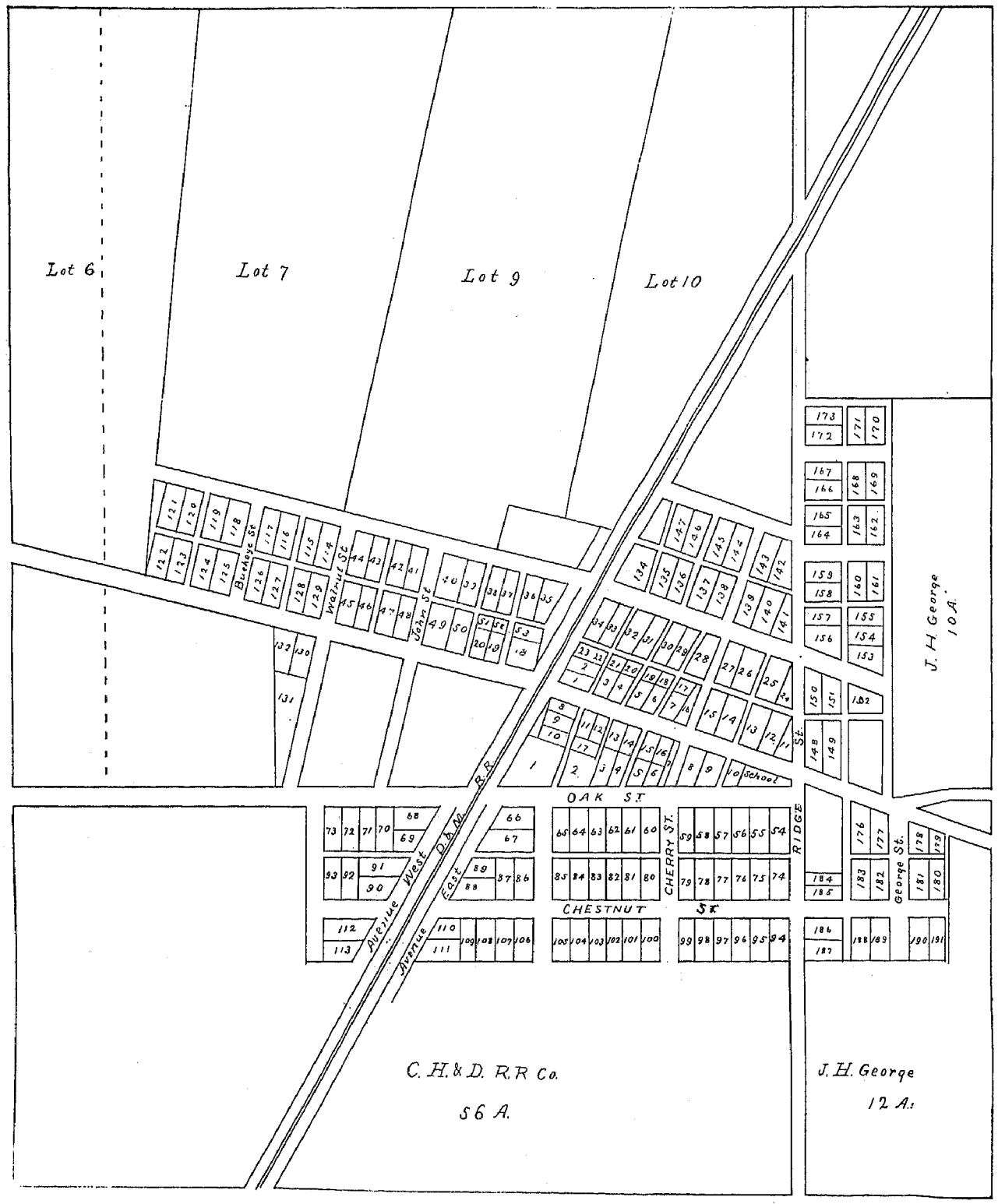
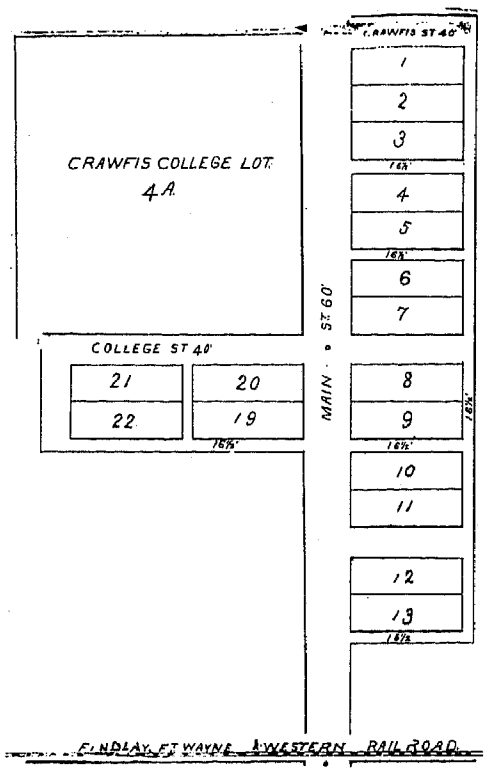
BELMORE.


Lot 6
Lot 7
Lot 9
Lot 10
Buckeye St
Walnut St
John St
OAK ST
CHERRY ST.
RIDGE St.
CHESTNUT ST
George St.
Avenue West
Avenue East
D. & M. R.R.
School
J. H. George
10 A.
C. H. & D. R.R Co.
56 A.
J. H. George
12 A.

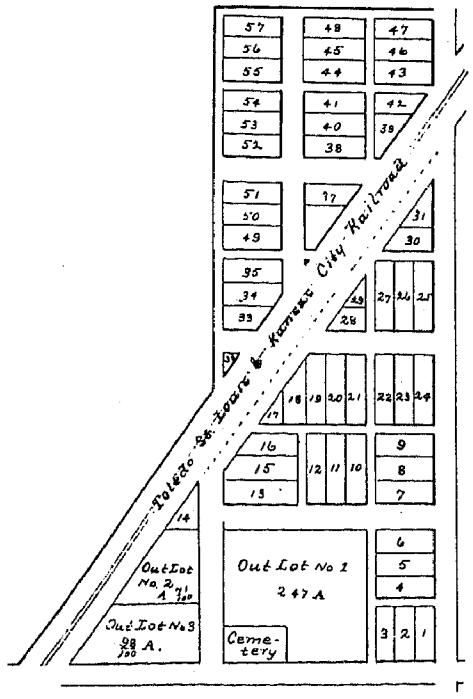
WEST LEIPSIC.

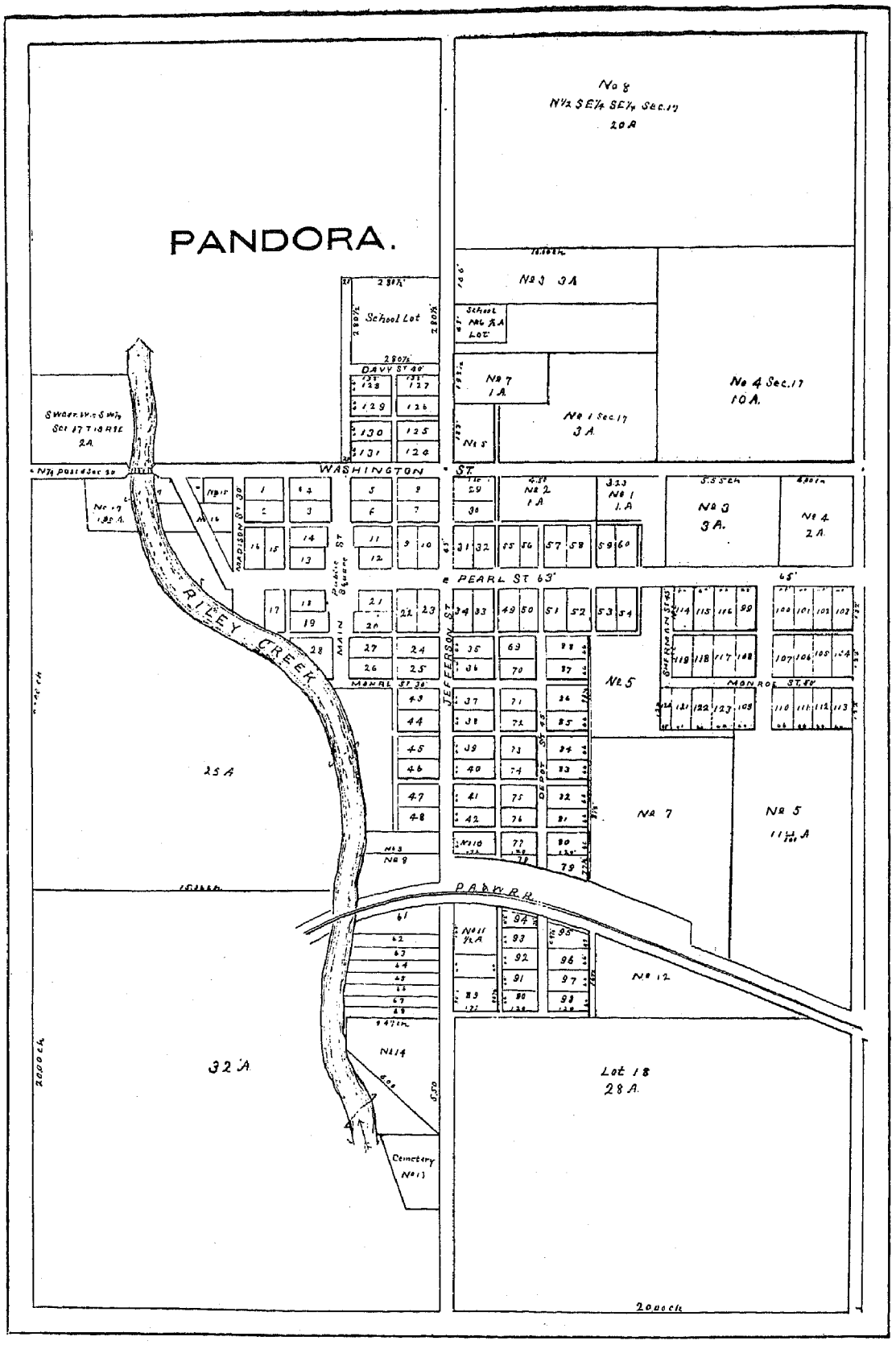


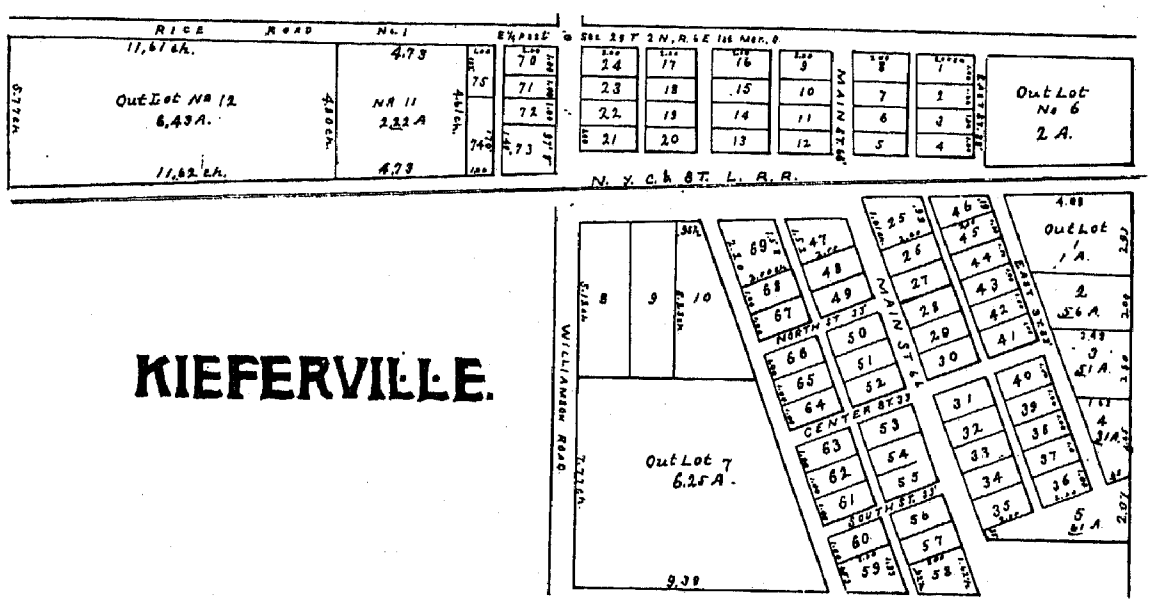
M'CULLOUGHVILLE.

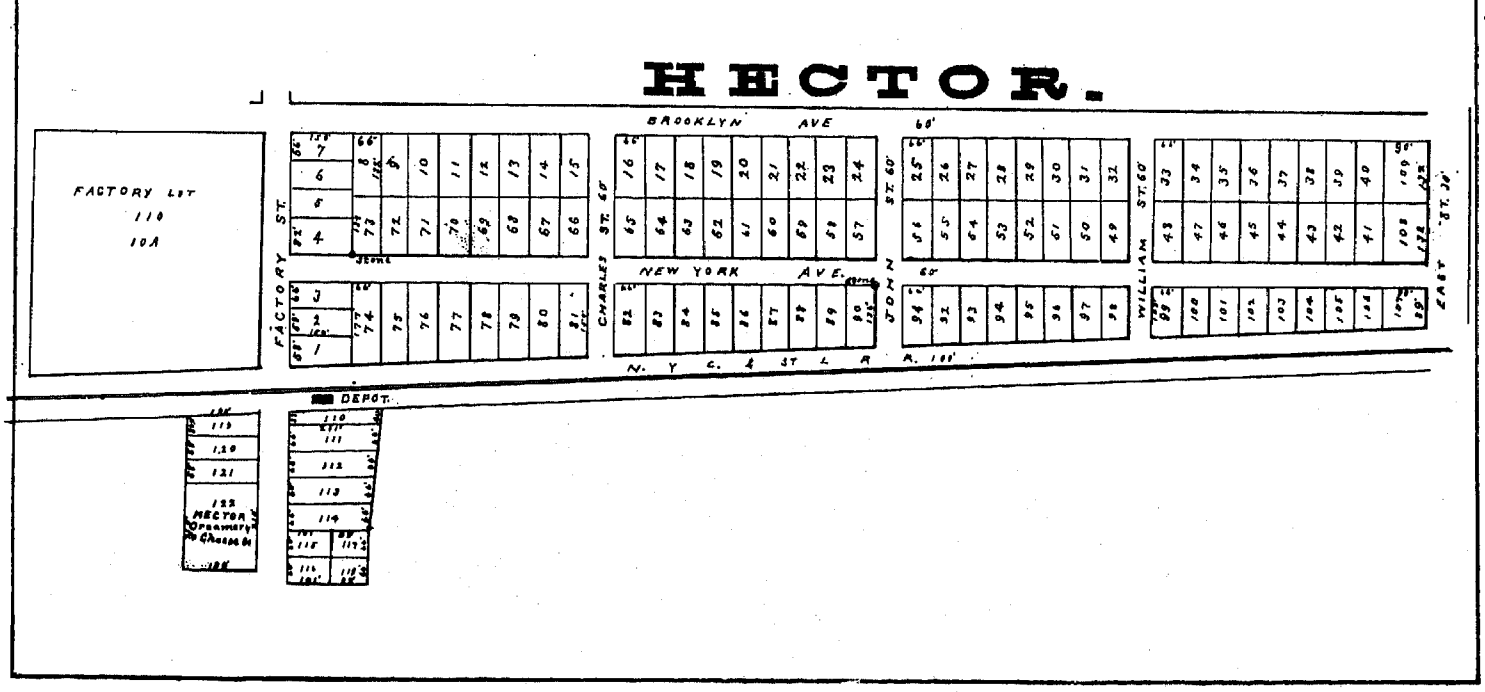


NORTH CREEK.

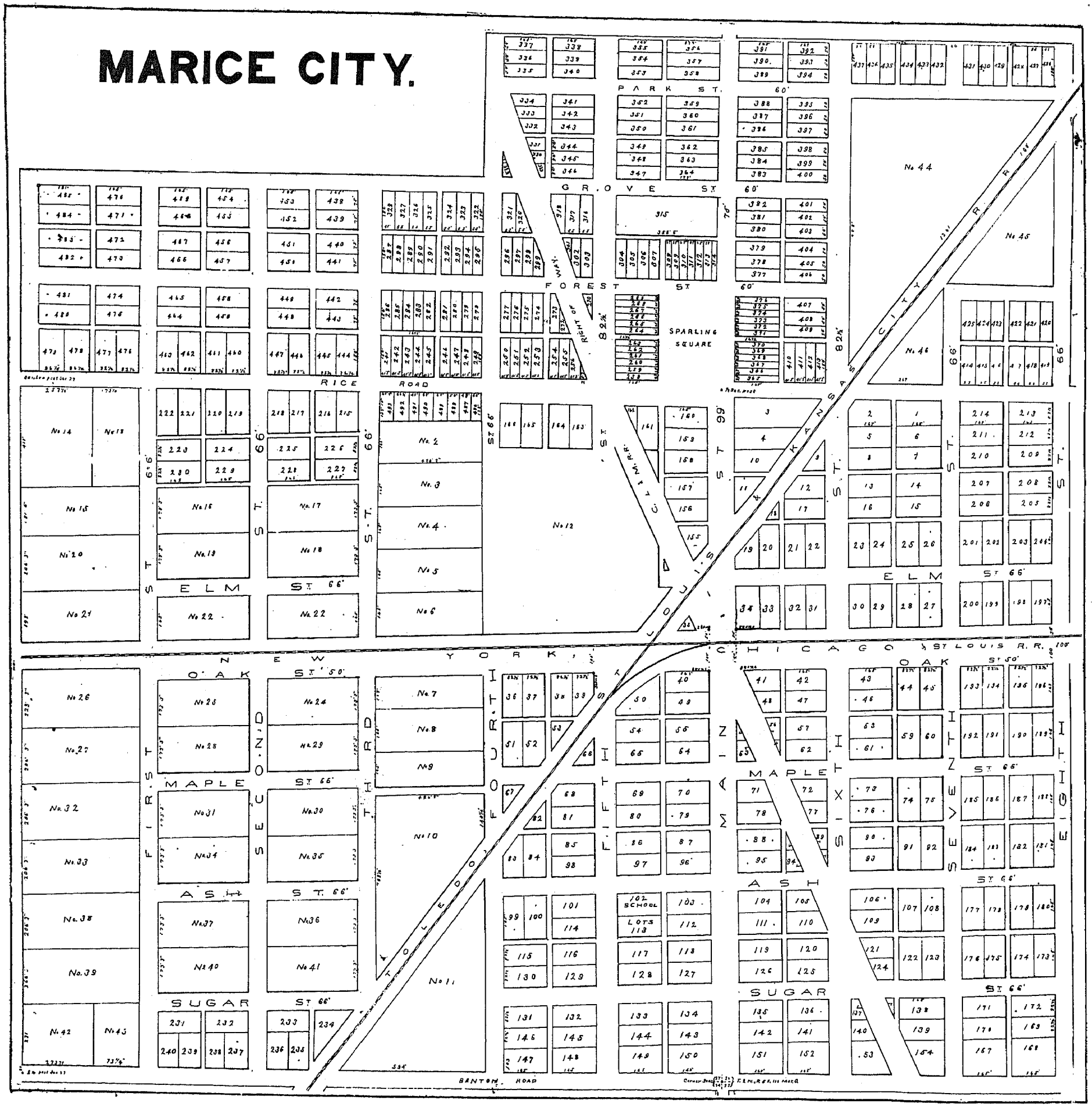



PANDORA.
No 8
N½ SE¼ SE¼ Sec. 17
20 A
No 3 3 A
School Lot
DAVY ST 40'
No 7
1 A
No 1 Sec. 17
3 A
No 4 Sec. 17
10 A.
WASHINGTON ST.
No 2
1 A
No 1
1 A
No 3
3 A.
No 4
2 A
PEARL ST 63'
RILEY CREEK
MAIN ST
JEFFERSON ST
MONROE ST 50'
No 5
No 7
No 5
25 A
No 9
P.A.&W.R.R.
No 12
No 14
32 A
Lot 18
28 A.
Cemetery
No 13
2000 ch


RICE ROAD No. 1
11,61 ch.
Out Lot No 12
6,43 A.
11,62 ch.
4.79
NA 11
2,32 A
4.79
E½ PEET
70
71
72
73
74
75
Sec. 29 T 2 N, R. 6 E 1st Mer. 8
MAIN ST.
24
23
22
21
17
18
19
20
16
15
14
13
9
10
11
12
8
7
6
5
1
2
3
4
Out Lot No 6
2 A.
N. Y. C. & ST. L. R. R.
KIEFERVILLE.
WILLIAMSON ROAD
Out Lot 7
6.25 A.
9.39
NORTH ST.
CENTER ST.
MAIN ST.
Out Lot
1 A.
2
2.56 A.
3
2.61 A.
4
3.14 A.
5
2.97 A.


HECTOR.
FACTORY LOT
110
10A
FACTORY ST.
BROOKLYN AVE
NEW YORK AVE.
CHARLES ST.
JOHN ST.
WILLIAM ST.
EAST ST.
N. Y. C. & ST. L. R. R.
DEPOT
HECTOR Creamery & Cheese Co

MARICE CITY.


PARK ST.
GROVE ST.
FOREST ST.
RICE ROAD
SPARLING SQUARE
RIGHT OF WAY
KANSAS CITY R.R.
ST. LOUIS
ELM ST.
NEW YORK, CHICAGO
ST. LOUIS R.R.
OAK ST.
MAPLE ST.
ASH ST.
SUGAR ST.
FIRST ST.
SECOND ST.
THIRD ST.
FOURTH ST.
FIFTH ST.
MAIN ST.
SIXTH ST.
SEVENTH ST.
EIGHTH ST.
TOLEDO
BANTON ROAD
No. 44
No. 45
No. 46
No. 12
No. 11
SCHOOL LOTS

History of Marice City.

When the Nickel Plate Railroad was constructed through Putnam county its junction with the railroad now known as the Clover Leaf made it necessary for these companies to employ a man to attend the target which is required at all railroad crossings, and Thomas Sullivan was employed as target man and agent for this station. A rude structure was erected for the double use of depot and dwelling for the agent. One vast and unbroken wilderness and swamp surrounded this depot.

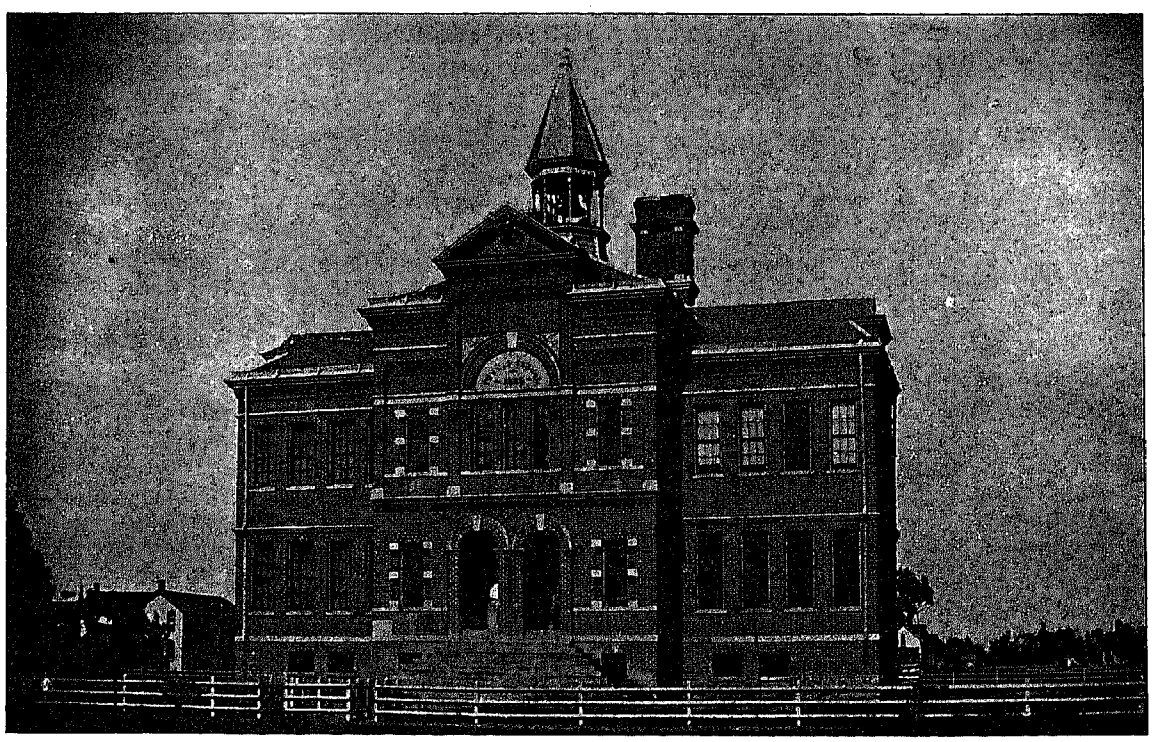
In 1865 the Rice road improvements were constructed through the present site of Marice City, and in 1886 George Skinner laid out and platted the original town for A. V. Rice, the proprietor, and in the same year the Buckeye Stave Company employed James Belford, surveyor, to lay out and plat their first addition to the town. That company, in the same year, erected their stave factory on their addition. Dr. B. D. Sparling also in that year employed A. Oberbeck, surveyor, to lay out and plat his first addition. In 1887 D. W. Seits laid out and platted an addition for Gen. A. V. Rice, and in 1888 the same surveyor platted a second addition for Dr. B. D. Sparling. The Buckeye Stave Company, in 1890, had D. W. Seitz, surveyor, plat their second addition, and the same surveyor sub-divided outlot No. 1, of Rice's addition, for the District Assessor, H. B. Pierce. In 1895 D. W. Seitz, surveyor, platted a sub-division for W. H. Miller.

James Sullivan was the first merchant that opened up a store in the town. The Buckeye Stave Company soon followed with a general store, but sold out soon after to H. B. Rose and Alvin Poe. In 1887 James Bell built his present store room and opened up a general store. Soon after C. Rosenberger and others erected business rooms and went into business.

In 1888 the town was incorporated, with Polk Berbage as mayor; C. G. Ballman, clerk; James Bell, treasurer; C. S. Parrish, marshal; W. B. Miller, John Hutchison, Hiram Dellinger, George Hahn, Silas Colvin and John Shamberger, councilmen. The present (1895) officers are, R. B. McClung, mayor; L. C. Rosenberger, clerk; James E. Robinson, treasurer; I. C. Wallace, marshal; Ash Jackson, H. A. Neff, E. Benton, G. L. Mader, W. B. Miller and R. Bryan, councilmen. Water Works Trustees—A. E. Lowden, G. W. Longsworth and C. E. Chapin.

In 1890 a system of sewerage was constructed which was in the aggregate four miles in length, including the outlet, at a depth of from four to thirteen feet and constructed with pipe ranging from ten to twenty-four inches in diameter, at a cost of nearly $10,000. Two other drains have since been constructed. One on the south side, principally for a cut off, and one as a drain for the northwest part of the town. A system of water works was constructed in 1895 at a cost of about $5,000, and an electric light plant has since been erected by a company.

Surrounded with an excellent farming district, crossed with two good railroads, and with good business men at the helm, Continental is rapidly becoming one of the leading towns of the county.



CONTINENTAL SCHOOL BUILDING.

CONTINENTAL SCHOOLS.

Prior to 1888 the only school division which included Continental was the township sub-district, established by the Township Board of Education. In 1888 a petition was circulated and an election held for the purpose of making a Village district, (under Sec. 3888, Revised Statutes of Ohio). The territory included is two miles north and south from the township line to the Sullivan road, and three miles east and west from half mile west of Palmer and Monroe township line to one-half mile west of Troyer road.

The district was formed and the beautiful brick building shown in the cut was built in 1890 by Jacob Spiker. The building is provided with the most approved modern conveniences for lighting and ventilation, and is heated by the Smead heating system. It stands on the corner of Fifth and Ash streets and is within four hundred feet of the center of the school district. This is the second finest school building in the county, the only one surpassing it being the new $30,000 one at Ottawa.

The district includes more miles of railroad track and more taxable railroad property than any other district in the county. In consequence of this and the careful and efficient management of the school board, they have a surplus of over one thousand dollars in the treasury and have reduced their levy four mills. All the money the first year after the organization of the school that could be raised within the limits of the levy was about seven hundred dollars with which to pay the salaries of the teachers and the running expenses; while at the present time, with a levy reduced four mills, it reaches over three thousand and five hundred dollars.

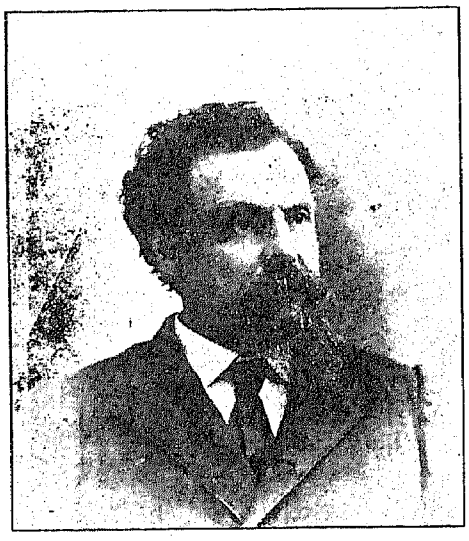
The first School Board was composed of W. B. Miller, president; John Shambarger, W. A. Miller, James Bell, James Sullivan and W. J. Conklin. Michael Bergen was the clerk, appointed by the Board. The first corps of instructors was D. S. Myers, superintendent, Emma Davis, Jennie Sherman, Nettie Gallup and Mrs. Powell, teachers.

The present Board is I. C. Wallace, president; George H. Sealls, I. L. Ackley, E. O. Benton, John Ernst; A. Morris, clerk. clerk. L. E. Huston is superintendent; Mrs. Baxter, Nettie Harmon, Mrs. Powell and Harriett Campbell are the teachers.

DR. B. D. SPARLING.

A man with an idea in advance of his profession, and with scientific principles and arguments in his favor, is an important factor in this age of progression, and destined to advance the interests and welfare of the age.

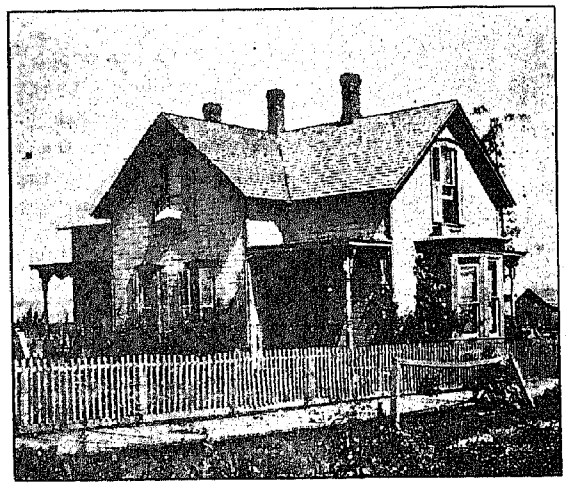
Such a condition we find in the active mind of Dr. B. D. Sparling, who was born in Harrison county, Ohio, May 13, 1848.



DR. B. D. SPARLING.

When he was three years of age his parents moved to Richland county, and six years later removed to Hancock county. In the schools of Hancock county he secured his education, continuing to be a resident of the county until 1872, when he moved to Belmore, Putnam county, and began the practice of medicine He practiced his profession here with marked distinction and success for ten years, when he moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he lived one year. He then returned to Belmore and continued the practice of his profession until 1886, when he moved to Continental, and has since been the chief promoter of that progressive town.

His time has been devoted to the practice of medicine and handling of real estate. Two large and important additions to the thriving town of Continental bear his name as proprietor, and their rapid improvement bear marks of his untiring energy. He was married in May, 1863, to Miss Manelia Wells, and to



RESIDENCE OF DR. B. D. SPARLING.

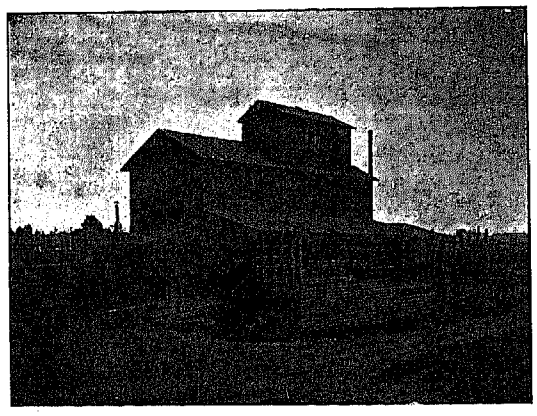
this union has been born nine children: Ella M., February 20, 1863—now Mrs. P. S. Fitch; Addie D., October 29, 1865—now Mrs. F. B. Curtis; Cora A., September 29, 1867—now Mrs. D. E. Olds; B. D. Jr., March 13, 1861; Mary, November 9, 1871—died March 3, 1877; Grace E, June 17, 1874—now Mrs. W. C. Herrick; Amy L., April 2, 1877—now Mrs. R. B. Markwith; Blanche E., September 20, 1879; Mabel M., January 23, 1882; Dwight Moodey, April 30, 1886.

Dr. Sparling has given up the practice of acute medicine and is now devoting his entire time to the practice of the human ailments known as chronic diseases, and the preparation of his special medicines. He believes in a separate remedy for separate diseases, and does not believe or represent that human genius has ever been able to invent or prepare a remedy applicable to more than one disease, especially when the disease becomes rooted in the system of man. He is a great student of human nature, an indefatigable worker in his chosen profession, and a scientific searcher into the present developments and hidden possibilities of his chosen calling.

Every remedy he places upon the market and every prescription of his order are based upon the scientific principles of remedies and their relation to the ailments of the human system. As a citizen he is held in the highest respect of his fellowmen; as a business man he has been honorable, active and progressive, and to whatever degree of importance the town of Continental may reach, inseparably linked with her beginning and her possibilities, will be the name and energies of B. D. Sparling. He has recently moved to Toledo, and in that busy, growing city the world may expect he will stamp his name high on the annals of scientific progression. His address is Room 7, Adams Block, Toledo, Ohio.

CLARENCE E. CHAPIN.

Forming an important part in the development and progress of northwestern Putnam county and occupying an exalted position in the business world, the subject of this sketch is entitled



CHAPIN'S ELEVATOR.

to recognition by any worthy publisher, and the struggles and successes of his busy life are worthy of example.

Clarence E. Chapin was born at Kewanee, Illinois, July 11, 1861, and is the son of Izerah and Lucy Chapin. He attended country school at his native place until 1878 when he entered the high school at Riverton, Iowa, where he remained two years and became a student of the Tabor College, at Tabor, Iowa. From this institution he went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and entered, as a student, the civil engineer's department of the famous University of Michigan. He spent the next four years, from 1882 to 1886, in mastering the problems of this important profession.

In 1886 he secured employment in the city engineer's office of Toledo, Ohio, but six months later resigned to accept a position as assistant engineer for the Clover Leaf Railroad, a position he held for six years, when in 1893 he resigned and engaged in the grain business on his own account, with headquarters at Continental, Ohio. He now has twelve elevators on the Clover Leaf Railroad and does a vast volume of business.

Mr. Chapin is a fitting type of a self made man. He is the possessor of great business capacity and untiring energy. By his own efforts he has fitted himself early in life with an excellent education and with extensive business experience, and consequently he holds his place among the foremost business men and the highest progressive element of Northwestern Ohio. He was married October 17, 1893, to Miss Ellen M. Kear, of Sycamore, Ohio.

RUFUS E. GILBERT.

Rufus E. Gilbert was born in Summit county, Ohio, February 21, 1844. His parents, Jacob C. and M. A. Gilbert, moved to Cleveland in April, 1856, where they resided until December, 1858. They then moved to Monroe township, this county, where he has resided ever since. Mr. Gilbert enlisted in Co. H, 118th O. V. I., on August 22, 1862, as a private, and was discharged at Willmington, N. C., May 26, 1865.

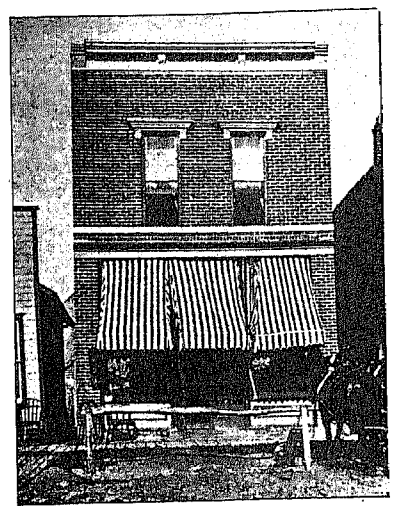


RUFUS E. GILBERT.

He was married August 19, 1868, to Mary A., daughter of George and Fanny Pope, of Pleasant township. He served one term as Clerk of Monroe township in 1880, was Census Enumerator for Monroe township, and has served as Infirmary Director two terms, from January, 1889, to January, 1895.

JOHN H. ANDREWS.

The subject of this sketch was born in Union county, Ohio, May 2, 1844. He lived in Union and Marion counties until June 20, 1889, when he came to Putnam county, locating at Continental, where he engaged in the bakery business, but sold out six months after and was engaged for a number of years in the poultry business.



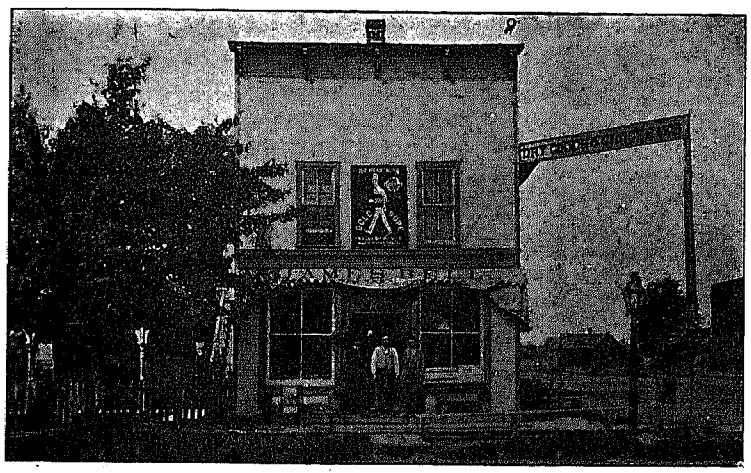
FIRST BRICK BUILDING OF CONTINENTAL.

In 1890 he purchased lot No. 78 in Continental, and during the summer of that year he constructed on this lot the first brick business room in Continental, a cut of which we present with this article. The building is a handsome two-story structure, 19x60 feet and modern throughout. Its erection was

JAMES BELL.

James Bell, son of Joseph and Esther (Johnson) Bell, was born on a farm in Ashland county, Ohio, October 22, 1844. His father saw the early advantages and promises of rapid development afforded by Putnam county, and during the early youth of our subject moved his family to this county, settling on a farm, where, with a few months at country school in the winter, the boyhood days were spent.

At the age of eighteen he enlisted in Company C, 129th, O. V. I., serving in General Burnside's division in east Tennessee.



BUSINESS HOUSE OF JAMES BELL.

As a soldier he acquitted himself with great credit, and after the war was ended he returned to Putnam county and followed farming and mercantile pursuits in Hamer, Paulding county, and Cascade, this county, until 1886, when he moved to Continental and engaged in the mercantile business, being one of the pioneer merchants of the town.

Mr. Bell was married October 18, 1866, to Miss Mary Ann Walls, of this county, and to this union have been born the following children: Johnnie M., born September 24, 1867; Willie N., June 18, 1869; Wintonia Mellville, August 3, 1871; Jennie May, February 6, 1874; Albert W., June 1, 1876; Orpha Leona, January 25, 1879; Ora Amanda, April 8, 1882; Loyd Leroy, July 4, 1884; Eve Verna, October 6, 1886; Goldman M., December 23, 1888.

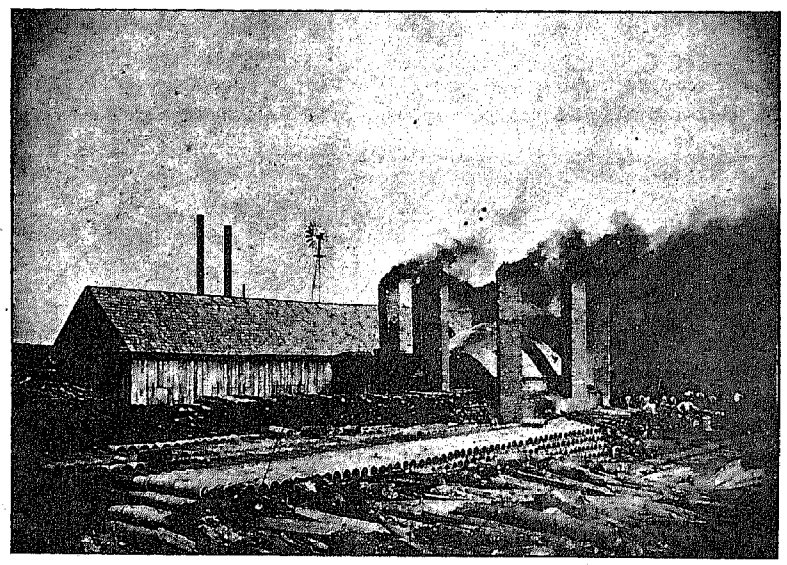
He established himself in the general mercantile business on the southwest corner of Main and Rice streets, and here, since 1886, has been conducting one of the leading stores of Putnam county. Within this store is a complete line of general merchandise, and one of the best merchants of the county deals them out with honor and success to a long list of patrons. He is a good citizen, public spirited in the highest sense and has done much toward the progress of his adopted town.

He has served two terms as Treasurer of Monroe township, two terms as Treasurer of the Village of Continental, two terms as Treasurer of the school board, and has been many times re-elected a member of the school board. He is a good merchant, wholly responsible, and alive to the idea of substantial modern public and private improvements. Owing to this fact he is destined to play an important part in the future growth and development of Continental.

KONST BROTHERS.

Under the above firm name two of Putnam county's most able young business men are conducting one of her most successful and prospective business enterprises. Frank and Chas. Konst were born near Ottawa, Ohio, the former on October 8, 1862, and the latter, August 23, 1864. They are the sons of Lucas Konst, of Elm Center, one of the county's most successful farmers and business men. The boys were reared on a farm, and there gained those rudiments of industry and perseverance which have so marked their business career.

At the age of nineteen years Charles Konst engaged in the saw mill business. He followed this business six years, and then worked at the tile business, at Elm Center, three years. In 1893 he formed a partnership with his brother Frank, and began the manufacture of tile and brick at Continental. This industry, though not four years of age, now ranks as one of the leading enterprises of its kind in Northwestern Ohio. They manufac- all kinds of draining tile, from 3 inch to 18 inch; also tile flower stands, building brick, paving brick, and square paving tile.

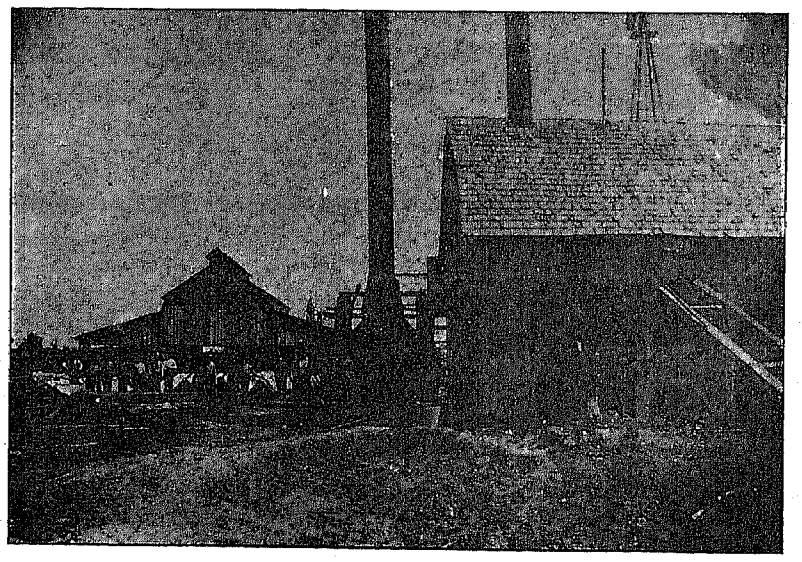


KONST BROS.' TILE WORKS.

They carry in their business a well equipped factory, experience, responsibility and an indefatigable energy.

Charles was married to Miss Anna L. Yenner on November 17, 1887, and they have two children: Mabel, born April 6, 1890, and Hazel, born October 13, 1892. Frank was married to Miss Caroline Yenner, July 17, 1895.

The material they manufacture has been placed on the market extensively and has given universal satisfaction. During the summer season they employ about twenty men, and always endeavor to manufacture ahead of their orders, so that those contemplating the purchase of tile or brick will find them ready and able to supply an order at any time on short notice. They are good citizens, industrious, public spirited and enterprising, and the town which they have adopted as their home and field of work should be, and is, proud of the accession.



KONST BROS.' BRICK WORKS.

H A. NEFF.

Among Northwestern Putnam county's foremost citizens and business men ranks the subject of this sketch. Mr. Neff was born April 2, 1861, in Miami county, Ohio. He is the son of Warren and Eliza (McPherson) Neff. His early years were passed on a farm and attending country schools. He completed his education by a two years' course in the public schools of Van Wert, O., and was married to Miss Bertie Zeigler, of Van Wert county, January 25, 1885, who was born July 11, 1868. They have two children: Grace, born October 19, 1886, and Russell, December 26, 1887.

In 1888 Mr. Neff came to Putnam county and followed the lumber business at Continental and Hartsburg until 1891, when he engaged in the drug business in Continental, and since that date has been recognized as one of the leading merchants of his county. His spacious store is the first on the west side of Main street, north of the Clover Leaf railroad, and is filled with as complete a line of drugs, books, wall paper, paint, etc., as one will find in any town, and the goods are dispensed by one of the county's best business men.

Owing to Mr. Neff's personal character, his fine business ability and great success, the town has naturally turned to him as one of her leading guides and promoters, and we consider her trusts as having been placed in safe hands.

L. C. ROSENBERGER.

Continental affords no better citizen or business man than the one represented by this sketch. L. C. Rosenberger, son of Michael ael and Louisa A. Rosenberger, was born near Kansas, Seneca county, Ohio, June 22, 1857. When seven years of age his parents moved to Michigan, where they remained until 1874, when they returning to Ohio, and in 1876 located at Weston, Wood county, where our subject clerked in a store and conducted mer-

a notable addition to the progress of the town and a marked page in the enterprising life of its builder.

Mr. Andrews is one of Continental's most enthusiastic supporters and lends a helping hand to every legitimate enterprise.

GEORGE H. SEALLS.

The subject of this sketch, who was born in Monroe county, Indiana, June 28, 1850, is a son of Henry and Margaret (Butler) Sealls, of Millettsville, Indiana. They were pioneers of that town. Here in the Millettsville schools Mr. Sealls received his education.

At the early age of nineteen he began contracting. His first contract was on the construction of the Indianapolis & Vincennes railroad. After that road was completed he took contracts and managed them successfully with the Vincennes & Cairo, Indianapolis & Terre Haute, and Terre Haute & Vandalia. Having accumulated a snug little fortune in these contracts, he next took a large one with the Cincinnati Southern, but he, like so many other contractors on that road, had not sufficient means at hand to stand the heavy demands on him, and was crowded out at a loss of twenty-two thousand dollars. On settlement with the company he received two thousand five hundred dollars, but he owed this to his men. He was advised by a friend to keep this and "skip," but young Sealls refused to let his men suffer loss, and on the following morning paid them their wages and left the work with twenty five cents in his pocket. He then successively worked contracts with the Cincinnati & Lebanon, Nickel Plate, Wheeling & Lake Erie, and the Cincinnati Northern.

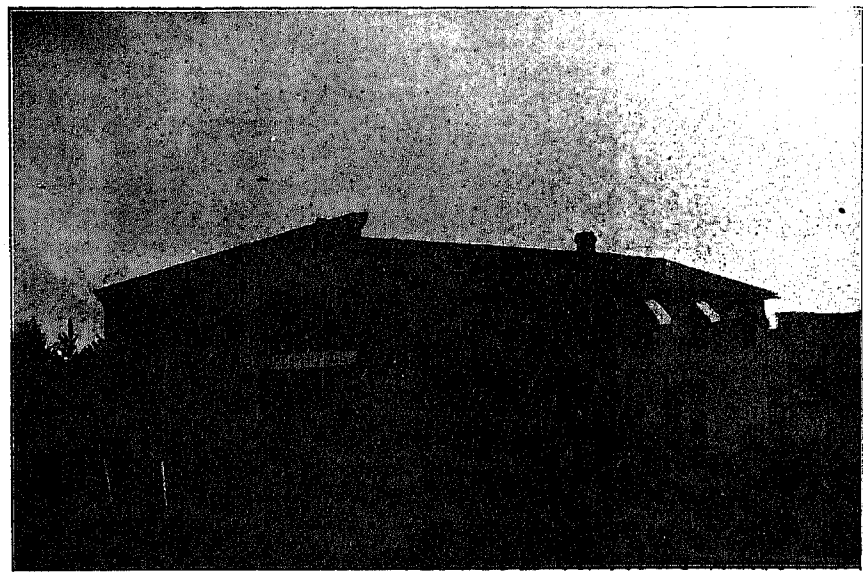
In 1880 he came to Putnam county and engaged for several years in the ship timber business and conducted a general store at North Creek. In 1888 he moved to Continental and opened the Mapel House, which he has conducted ever since to the entire satisfaction of his numerous patrons. Few towns afford better equipped hotels than the Maple House. This fact is evidenced by the large number of traveling men who make it a point to stop with "George," as he is familiarly called by the "hustlers of the grip."

Mr. Sealls has served as Township Trustee of Monroe township four years and is at present a member of that board; as village councilman one term, and is now a member of the village school board. In March, 1873, Mr. Seals was married to Miss Laura Sleeper, of Jeffersonville, Indiana.

ALFRED MORRIS.

The subject of this sketch was born on a farm in the northern part of Allen county, October 1, 1862. He is the son of Dr. Joseph Morris, now of Columbus Grove, one of the leading physicians and best known citizens of Putnam county, and a grandson of Judge Henry Morris, one of the first three Associate Judges of the first court held in the county.

When Alfred was nine years old his father moved to a farm one mile west of Columbus Grove, where he attended school until thirteen years of age, when he moved with his father to Columbus Grove, and in the schools of that place received a good education during the winter season, and during the summer season gained on the farm, of his father that education most useful to an ambitious young man—industry. He continued to attend school in winter and work on the farm in summer until 1880, when his father entered into a contract to construct several miles of pike on the roads of Pleasant township, and he was placed in charge of the machinery used for the work. The work on this machinery animated him with the desire to equip himself with a full knowledge of machinery, and perhaps it will have settled the problem of his whole life work; for since that time his energies have been mostly devoted to this line.



MAPLE HOUSE, CONTINENTAL, OHIO.

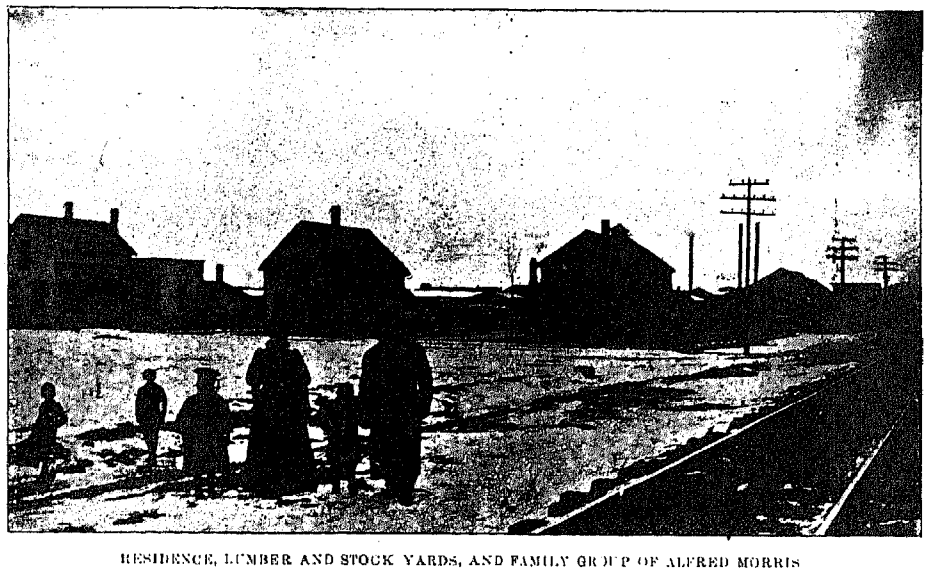
When this work was completed he entered the Lima machine works where he showed remarkable adaptability in the art of machinery, working his way from a casting bench to a lathe, the next to the last step of his trade, in less than six months, and superceding all his associates' records. At the end of six months, through the solicitation of his father, he resigned his position and took charge of the employes of a contract for the macadamizing of some of the streets of Columbus Grove. In this position he worked one year, having proved his remarkable ability for managing men and labor, and having given entire satisfaction with his work.

He now became desirous of broadening his knowledge of the business world, and embarked in the saw mill business at Moberly, Missouri, where he remained one year, and then sold out and returned to Putnam county in July, 1883, and immediately became the assistant of his father in filling a contract for the building of a pike on the Pandora road. When this work was completed he purchased the ice business of his father in Columbus Grove, and at the same time began the erection of a residence in that town. For the next two years he was engaged in the ice business and farming, and in the spring of 1885 he moved on a farm near Columbus Grove and was engaged in farming for the next three years. During the latter year he purchased a farm and improved it, but soon sold it and engaged in the saw mill business at Rimer, Ohio, where he remained four years. In 1891 he sold out and moved to Continental, and since that date his great energy has been discernable in his own business and in the advancement of his own town.

He has added to his saw mill business a complete lumber yard and planing mill, and at his busy plant today may be found any and every kind of lumber and building material, and his extensive machinery enables him to prepare, satisfactorily and on short notice, any order he may receive. In 1895 he added a stock yard to his plant, which adjoins the Nickel Plate railroad, and already this enterprise is receiving extensive patronage.

He is showing his confidence in the future of his town by liberal investments in her real estate and by extensive improvements. He has constructed a handsome residence just west of his mill and is the owner of several residence properties in the town.

On January 1, 1884, he was united in marriage with Miss Muggie A. Billheimer, of Columbus Grove. Mrs. Morris was the daughter of Joseph and Loraine Billheimer, highly respected residents of Pleasant township. Her father having died when she was young, she was thrown upon her own resources, and fitting herself for teaching she found employment in the primary department of the Columbus Grove schools, where she was teaching at the time of her marriage. She is a lady of great refinement, and is an able assistant to her enterprising husband as well as an important factor in the best social circles of her home, and an indefatigable worker in the United Brethren church of Continental, with which she affiliates. They have a happy family of four children—Joseph F., born January 9, 1885; Clarence A., September 10, 1886; Gladys E., September 29, 1888; Homer E., September 23, 1891.

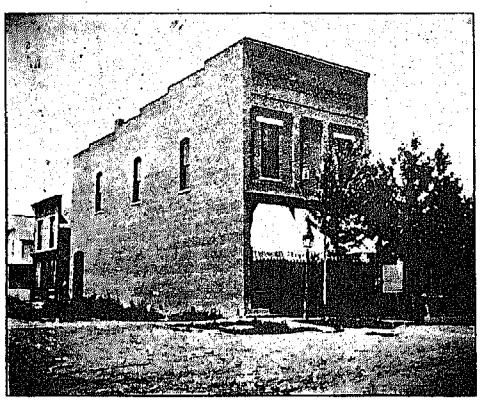


RESIDENCE, LUMBER AND STOCK YARDS, AND FAMILY GROUP OF ALFRED MORRIS

Mr. Morris has a titled claim to a position in the highest business element of Putnam county, and his adopted town may well feel proud of the reputable business he established and is so ably conducting. He is an enthusiastic supporter of every legitimate enterprise, a great worker in the United Brethren church, and a medium through which the society, business and advancement of his town will be elevated.

cantile pursuits of his own until march, 1887. He then moved to Continental, entering at once into the mercantile business, establishing one of the largest general stores in Western Putnam county, and has since conducted the same on a basis which has created for its proprietor the reputation of being one of the county's ablest business men.

In 1893 he constructed, on the northwest corner of Main and Mapel streets, a very handsome and commodious brick business



BUSINESS BLOCK OF L. C. ROSENBERGER.

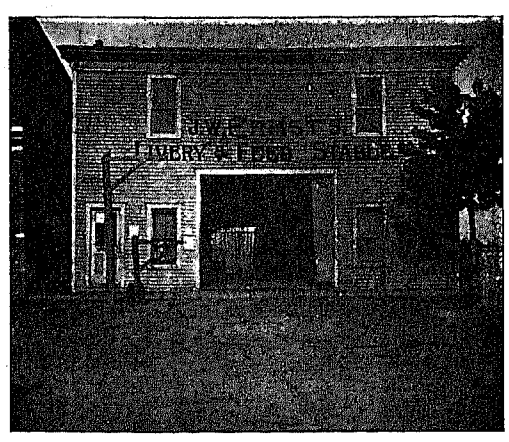
blocks, which he now occupies, and which was the second brick structure erected in the town for business purposes. It is two stories high, the upper room being occupied by the K. of P. lodge.

Mr. Rosenberger was united in marriage January 1, 1885, to Miss Etta M. Wilson, of Weston, Ohio. They occupy one of the most beautiful homes in Continental, located on Mapel street, near his store. He is one of the town's most enthusiastic supporters, and being public spirited, he is one among a number of business men destined to place Continental on that plane which her location and posibilities demand.

He is a good citizen, an energetic business man, and is accorded the highest esteem and patronage which his adopted town affords. The interior of his place of business is a model of neatness and taste, and his large assortment of first class goods enables him to supply, with satisfaction, his long list of patrons and hold his position among the first merchants of the county.

JOHN W. ERNST.

The well known and accommodating liveryman, J. W. Ernst, of Continental, was born near West Cairo, Allen county, Ohio, October 1, 1864. His parents, David and Mary Jane (Sybert)



JOHN W. ERNST'S LIVERY STABLE.

Ernst, live on a farm, and here our subject remained until 1885, when he went to Kalida, Ohio, engaging in the livery business and carrying the mail and freight from Ottawa to Kalida. In 1887 he moved to Continental, and engaged in the livery business; here he now enjoys a lucrative business. We here present a view of his livery barn.

He is a member of the Continental school board, and was twice chosen a member of her village council. He was married on October 11, 1892, to Miss Mary E. Varner, daughter of Isaiah Varner. On November 1, 1893, there was born to them a son, George F. Ernst.

ARTHUR E. LOWDEN.

We take great pleasure in introducing the history of the life of a successful young man, and especially so when we know that our subject is the architect of his own fortune.

Arthur E. Lowden, son of William and Eve Lowden, was born in Michigan Town, Indiana, May 26, 1867. He received his education in the public schools of his native town and at an early age began the study of telegraphy in the office of the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City railroad at Michigan Town. His studious nature and business ability soon secured for him a position as operator and agent at that place, which for two years he filled with great satisfaction At the expiration of this term of service he turned his face westward, locating at Parker, Minnesota, where he worked two years as agent and operator for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. He then entered the employ of the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City railroad at Charleston, Illinois, where he remained one year, then locating at Continental, Ohio—this was during the year 1889. During the first seven months after coming to Continental he was in the employ of the same railroad from which he received his first instructions, acting as operator and bill clerk. He then entered the employment of the Nickel Plate as bill clerk at Continental, which position he filled for five months, and then resigned to engage in business upon his own responsibility.

Early in the spring of 1891 he formed a partnership with George Wagner and engaged in the hardware and implement business at Continental. This partnership continued until 1893, when Mr. Lowden sold his interest and immediately engaged in the same business on his own account. Since that time he has proved himself one of the greatest merchants of Putnam county, and one of the most successful of his adopted town.

He was married November 25, 1890, to Miss Carrie Rose, daughter of H. B. and Eliza Rose, well known citizens of this town. To this union was born one child—Otha Elsworth, September 15, 1894, and died in infancy.

Mr. Lowden served as Corporation Clerk from 1893 to 1895; was elected first president of the waterworks board, which position he still holds. In 1895, in company with R. E. Perrine, he organized the Continental Electric Company, and at this writing the plant has just been placed in operation, the very successful accomplishment of which establishes the enterprise of our subject.

Mr. Lowden's store is one of the largest in the county. He occupies two large rooms; its shelves, counters, and floors are filled with as complete and fine a line of hardware, stoves, implements and vehicles as can be found in any town of the size in the county. He is considered by the citizens of his town and her tradesmen to be a young man of fine business ability and untiring in his industry. These qualification have made him an important factor in the Continental of the past, and will make him one of the most distinguished personages in her future.

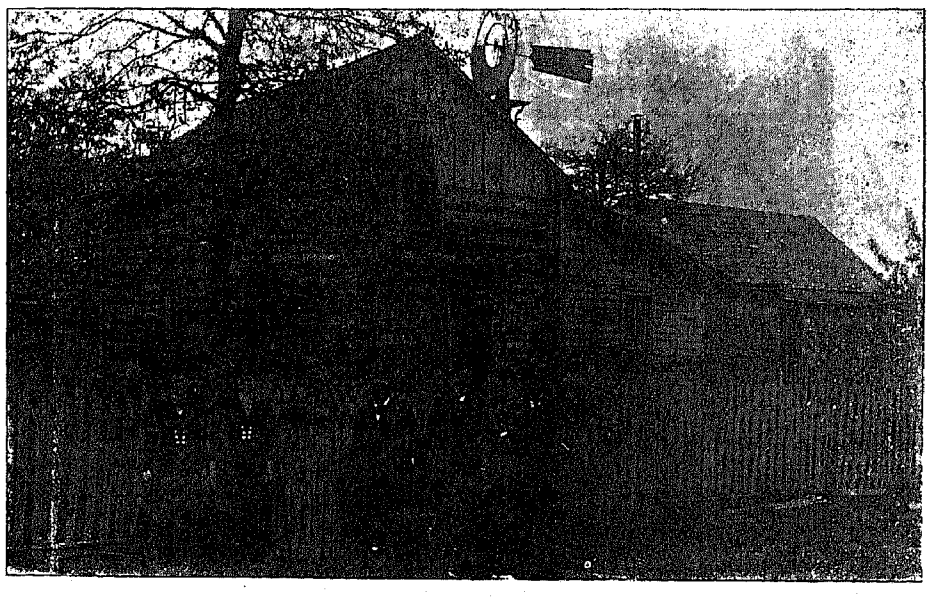
GUY P. LONG.

Mr. Long was born at Ottawa, this county, February 3, 1878, which place has been his home all his life until 1895, when he removed to Continental, also in this county. He was educated in the public schools of Ottawa, graduating from the High School of that place with first honors of his class, when eighteen years old.



GUY P. LONG.

He commenced immediately the study of law in the office of Long & Long, his father and elder brother. The only interruption to his studies were a few months spent in Livermore, Kentucky, where he was engaged in a mill, and some three months spent as assistant manager of a cafe at the World's Fair at Chicago. In



RESIDENCE OF A. J. TROYER.—GLENDALE FARM.

December, 1894, he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Ohio, and in February, 1895, settled in Continental, where he has been serving as City Solicitor ever since.

ANDREW J. TROYER.

Mr. Troyer was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 23, 1846, a farmer's boy. Shortly after he

reached man's estate he commenced contracting as a business and has, during the time he was engaged in that business, been interested in contracts for ditching, road building and railroad work to the amount of twenty thousand dollars.

In September, 1870, he was married to Caroline Brower, who was also a native of Greensburg township, born there July 12, 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Troyer have five children, three boys and two girls.

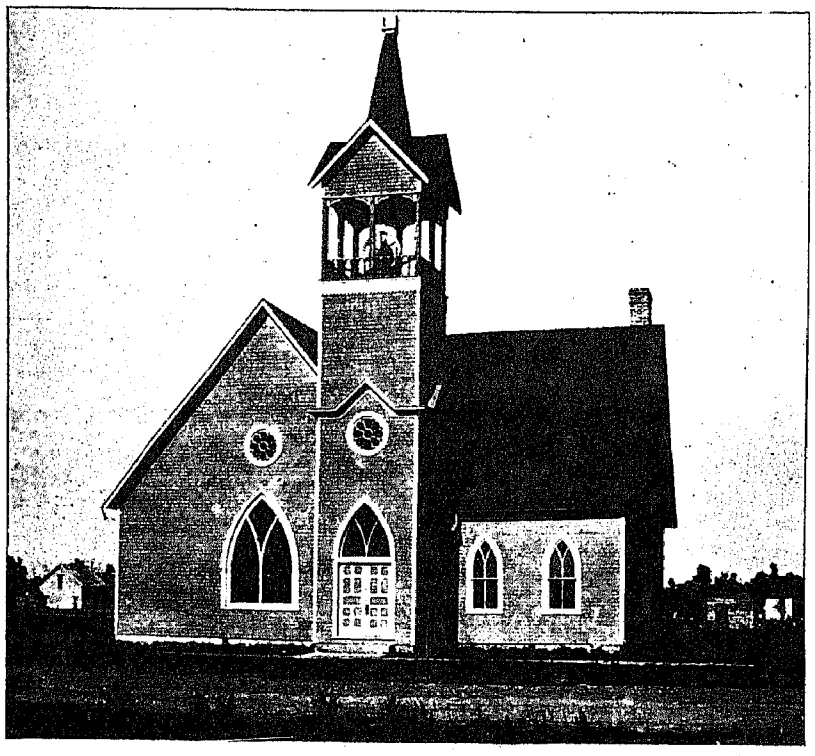
In 1873 he obtained an interest in the farm on which he now resides, and in 1877 became the sole owner. In March, 1886, he moved upon the farm and has since resided there. The energy and business capacity of Mr. Troyer have been recognized by his neighbors and fellow citizens by his election to the office of Justice of the Peace for two terms, and to that of Township Trustee for three or four terms, while he is now serving a three year term as President of the Farmers' Independent Institute of Putnam county.

THE CONTINENTAL U. B. CHURCH.

Under like circumstances, no religious congregation in Putnam county is deserving of higher praise than the one which worships in the beautiful edifice represented by the accompanying picture. Six years ago the congregation existed only in the hearts of a few individuals who had subscribed to the creed of the United Brethren church and who foresaw the prospects of of the town and the possibility of a good religious organization, and had the patience to await their time.

In 1891 the organization consisted of fifteen members, but at this time there was appointed a minister, and the right man was chosen. The pastor appointed in this year was Rev. A. F. Light, who began his pastoral duties in such a manner as to meet the ready response and co-operation of the active members of the church and the approbation of every well doing and well wishing citizen of the community. Through the energy of Rev. Light, ably assisted by such young men as Alfred Morris, Wm. J. Ludwig, David Wisterman, M. James, and others, a permanent organization was affected, the membership began to grow, and in the spring of 1892 a suitable lot for the erection of a church was purchased at a cost of $200—the same being on the northeast corner of Main and Sugar streets. Owing to the spring being exceedingly wet, work on the constrction of the church was not begun until July of that year, but the work having once been commenced, was pushed with such vigor that in January, 1893, the church was dedicated by Bishop J. Weaver, D. D., of Dayton, Ohio, the total cost being $2,500. The building is of modern architecture, handsome and imposing in appearance, and is a fitting example of the progress of the people of Continental.

The United Brethren church now has about one hundred and twenty-five members. In 1894 Rev. G. R. Fisher was appointed to the charge and is pressing the good work on with a vigor characteristic of the people of this busy town.



CONTINENTAL U. B. CHURCH.

REV. A. F. LIGHT.

The subject of this sketch was born August 21, 1862, in Allen county, Ohio, where he lived until 1869, when he moved with his parents to a farm seven miles southwest of Findlay, Hancock county, Ohio, and on this farm he spent his boyhood, which he avers, and I think a great majority of the world will agree with him, is one of the happiest periods of man's existence. During this time young Light acquired a good common school education.

In October, 1882, his father died, and the death of his loved parent, together with the appeals of his friends and the influence of a meeting held in the old home church by Rev. J. W. Powell, succeeded in converting him, and by so doing dedicated to the cause of religion one of her most energetic and progressive aid-de-camps. On January 1, 1883, he became a member of the United Brethren church and at once began the study of theology, and by a close application to the private study of all good books he has acquired a knowledge which enables him to take rank with the foremost young ministers of the State. His knowledge has all been acquired by home study as he never attended ought but country schools.

In 1886 he was united in marriage to Miss Della Fox, and to this union two sons have been born respectively on June 28, 1887, and December 3, 1889.

We present a picture of his happy and interesting family to our readers. April 20, 1889, he received a license from Rev. W. A. Keesy, P. E., at a meeting of quarterly conference, to preach, and at the session of the annual conference which convened at Bowling Green, Ohio, September 22, 1889, he was assigned to the Bluffton circuit by the Presiding Elder, Rev. J. Crouse, and began to discharge the duties of this position at once.

During the first year of his ministry he held three special meetings and received forty-seven accessions. Early in the spring of 1890 it was decided to repair the church at Pandora, Ohio, which was a charge in the Bluffton circuit, but upon an examination of the old building it was decided to build a new church from the foundation, and during that summer the young preacher performed the arduous task of raising $1,335 for the construction and had the pleasure of witnessing the dedication in September, 1890, by Rev. E. B. Mauer, of his first triumph in church building.

At the annual conference held at Findlay, September 18, 1890, Rev. Light was admitted to full membership in that body and was returned to the Bluffton circuit. During the year following he had three special meetings, received seven accessions and repaired the church at Mt. Pisgah.

At the annual conference held at Fostoria, Ohio, in September, 1891, he was appointed to the Continental mission, and was returned to the same mission by the conferences of 1892–93. Upon assuming the duties of his new charge he found it in bad condition. The Continental church had an enrollment of fifteen members, but only seven could be found who were active, but with this small nucleus he began a reorganization and reconstruction, and two years later he beheld his energies develop into one of the most prosperous congregations in the county, with the beautiful new church building, a cut of which we publish, to worship in.



FAMILY GROUP OF REV. A. F. LIGHT.

The Continental mission had four appointments: Kiefer ville, Wisterman, Forest Grove, and Continental, and during the first year Rev. Light held four special meetings, receiving one hundred and twenty one conversions, and during the spring of 1892 it was decided to build a church, services being then held in an old hall. This arduous task Rev. Light began, and by the magnanimous co-operation of the active members of the congregation he was enabled to dedicate, on January 1, 1893, by Bishop J. Weaver, one of the handsomest church edifices in the county. The structure had cost $2,500, and its building, under the circumstances, forms a glorious chapter in the works of a consecrated and energetic young man. Two special meetings were held during his second year, with sixty-seven accessions, and the third year, two meetings and fifty accessions. Rev. Light was appointed by the conference of 1894 to the charge at North Robinson, Ohio, where he is at this writing, and with a glorious past, an energetic and persevering present, we accord to him an honorable and useful future.

WILLIAM J. LUDWIG.

Prominently identified with the leading citizens and business men of northwestern Putnam county is the individual whose life and works are to be chronicled in this biography.

William J. Ludwig was born September 26, 1857, on a farm near Providence, Lucas county, Ohio. He is the son of Isaac and Christiana Ludwig, who moved to Ohio from York county, Pennsylvania, in 1849. He is a descendant of German ancestors, his great gran lfather having settled at Philadelphia about 1780.



W. J. LUDWIG AND FAMILY.

Twenty years later his grandfather moved to York county, Pa., where his father was born and lived until 1849, when, as related, he moved to Ohio.

Our subject attended school at Providence until 1877, when he attended school at Grand Rapids until the spring of 1878, when he went to Iowa and remained until the latter part of 1880, when he returned to Providence, and on January 1, 1881, he assumed the management of his father's flour mills at Providence Lock, Ohio. He discharged the duties of this position with great credit and success for five years, and at the end of that time engaged in farming, having in charge one of his father's farms.

This occupation he continued until April 5, 1888, when he moved to Continental and engaged in the grain and feed business, and soon after added groceries and provisions. Two years later he sold out to E. C. Prettyman and purchased a meat market which he conducted one year, and then worked two years in the grocery store of J. W. Willis, at the end of which time, or on January 1, 1893, he purchased the stock of Mr. Willis, and since that date he has been conducting a very successful business under the firm name of W. J. Ludwig.

His store is always filled with a complete and select line of groceries and provisions, and his meat market is filled with the best meats the rich farms of Putnam county afford. The great and growing patronage of his store indicates the confidence in which the busy proprietor is held, the quality of his goods and the integrity of his dealing.

He was married December 18, 1881, to Miss Emma R. Walgenback, of Grand Rapids, Ohio, daughter of Henry and Catharine Walgenback, highly esteemed residents of that place. To this union have been born three children—George A., born May 26, 1883; Floyd E., born September 14, 1890, died November 9, 1890; Lloyd L., born October 20, 1892.

Mr. Ludwig is a young man of fine business ability, unflinching integrity and reliably progressive. He is the architect of his own fortune, and by his energy he has worked his way to a leading position in the best business realm of Putnam county. He is public spirited and is liberal with his energy, influence and means toward the progress of his adopted town.

In 1878 he united with the Reformed church of which he was a member until 1893, when he subscribed to the creed of the United Brethren church and he has since been a leading instrument in the rapid development of this church at Continental.

OTTO L. PLETTNER.

Merit wins success, and in a review of the life of the subject of this sketch this fact is most discernable. Otto L. Plettner was born at Swanton, Fulton county, Ohio, July 7, 1862. He attended school at the village of Ai, in his native county, during his youth, and in 1885 began learning the trade of a blacksmith and wagonmaker with Eugene Wales, of Ai. At the end of two years he had mastered his trade, and spent the next year working at his trade in Holgate.

On November 17, 1888, he came to Continental and established a general machinery repair shop. So great is his ability, so indefatigable his industry and so wonderful his progress, that now, at the end of seven years, he finds himself the proprietor of one of the largest, best equipped and most liberally patronized machine shops in Northwestern Ohio.

He was married on July 4, 1888, at Waterman, Indiana, to Miss Minnie V. Holmes, of that place. To them have been born two children: Mildred E., born November 20, 1890, and a son, November 6, 1894—died in infancy.

Mr. Plettner is a young man of good character, unflinching energy, and a will of progression. He has built up his business to such a proportion in so short a time as to demand the respect and pride of his adopted town. He repairs any and everything in the machinery line and does a general blacksmithing business.

His machine works gives employment to two men all the year, besides the ever busy proprietor, and during the summer season four men are employed. Considering the record he has made in the past, the good standing of which he is at present possessed, and the prospects of his adopted town, we concede to him a useful and successful future.

Hector.

THE HECTOR STAVE COMPANY.

The Hector Stave Works was organized in 1881 as a branch of the Brooklyn Cooperage Company and was placed under the management of Mr. W. H. Thrall. The concern continued to transact its business under the above arrangement until 1889, when it was incorporated under the laws of Ohio as the Hector Stave Company, with a capital stock of $100,000, by Hector C. Havemeyer, John E. Searles, Jr., F. Havemeyer, W. H. Thrall, W and E. C. Thrall, with W. H. Thrall, President; J. E. Searles, Vice President; E. C. Thrall, Secretary and Treasurer.

The same officers have since that time retained their respective offices in the concern, and under their able management the company's great volume of business has been transacted and some of the most rapid developments and most substantial improvements of Putnam county have been due to their energy.

In 1881 Mr. W. H. Thrall and E. C. Thrall came to Ohio in search of stave timber, and in the fall of 1881 and spring of 1882 they purchased nineteen hundred acres in Palmer and Monroe townships, Putnam county, and began at once the erection of an extensive stave mill which has been operated since that time by these two gentlemen with an annual production of 10,000,000 staves and 4,000,000 hoops, furnishing employment to one hundred men.

In 1882 W. H. Thrall and E. C. Thrall had about thirty-two acres lying on the north side of the Nickel Plate railroad, platted by E. W. Dimmock, County Surveyor, and began to build the town of Hector, having given it that name in honor of Hector Havemeyer, one of the members of the company. The plat was recorded December 26, 1882, and by the energies of its founders Hector has experienced a very rapid and substantial growth since that date and has become the center of a large mercantile trade.

The proprietors of Hector have been liberal in contributing their efforts and means toward the development of the town. By their liberal contributions a fine church and school buildings have been erected, a K. of P. lodge has been organized and a suitable hall built exclusively by the company. They have constructed from time to time numerous and modern homes and sold them to their employes and others on very liberal terms.

In 1891 they organized the Hector Creamery and Cheese Company and constructed one of the first and largest creameries in the county. They have used unceasing energy in the development and improvement of their rich lands and now find themselves the possessors of some of Putnam county's most productive lands.

The business energies of W. H. and E. C. Thrall seem not measurable by volume for, besides the personal management of their vast stave business, the rapid improvement of their lands and the development of their town, they have conducted, on the most successful basis, one of the largest mercantile concerns in Northwestern Ohio, known as the Hector Store, which has long since become famous throughout Putnam and adjoining counties

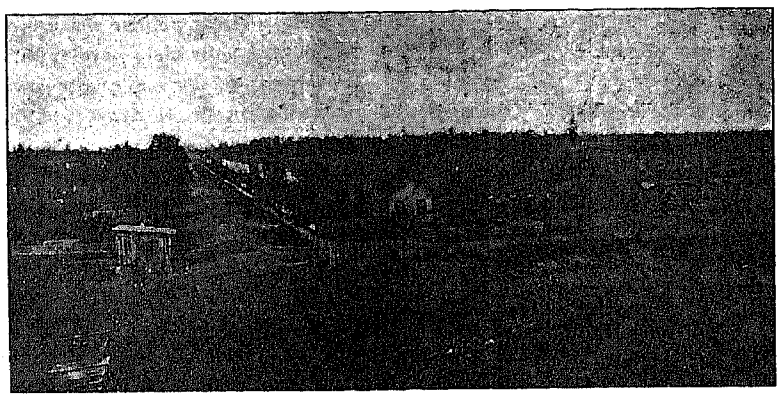


HECTOR STAVE WORKS VIEW.

for the immense volume of business it has done, and the standard business methods of its owners and managers.

We take pride in asserting that no individual or organization in the history of the county has done more to develop its re-

sources or made substantial or rapid progress in this direction. They have converted thousands of acres of land from swamps into the best improved farms, they have given hundreds of her laborers constant employment and aided them in securing homes; they have placed on her map one of the most prosperous villages,



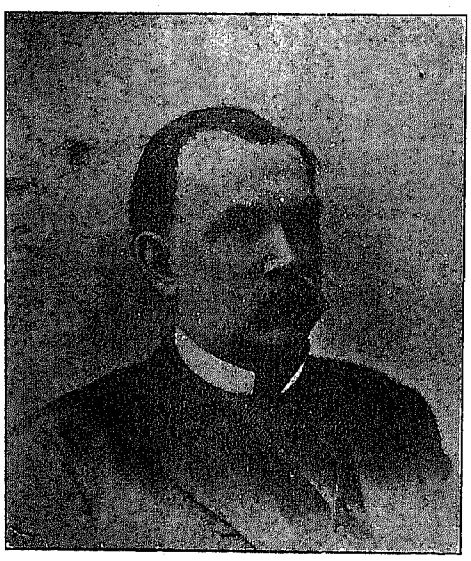
VIEW OF HECTOR, OHIO.

and inseparably linked with the county's highest stage of progression will ever be the names of W. H. and E. C. Thrall.

W. H. THRALL.

The subject of this sketch was born in Ridgefield, Connecticut, June 10, 1827, but moved to Onondago county, New York, with his parents when eight years old, where he attended school until 1842, when he moved to Oswego county, New York, where he lived until 1853, working on a farm and for the Humphrey & Dodge Cooperage Co., one of the largest cooperage companies of its day.

In 1853 he moved to New York City and became interested in the Yonkers Barrel Company, one of the largest concerns of the kind in the world, of which he became president, with whom he remained until the organization of the Brooklyn Cooperage Co., of which he was elected president, and as president of this



W. H. THRALL.

company he came to Ohio in the year 1881 to secure a suitable site for the manufacture of staves. This he found in the northwestern part of Putnam county, and in the latter part of that year and the following year he purchased 1,900 acres in Palmer and Monroe townships and at once began the management of one of the most successful stave manufactories in the country.

The county of Putnam may well be proud of the day W. H. Thrall decided to locate within her borders, for no man in her history has contributed as largely to her development.

Mr. Thrall was married in 1848 to Miss Narcissa P. Fair, of Pulaski, N. Y., and to this union has been born one child—E. C. Thrall, born in New York City, August 22, 1856.

E. C. THRALL.

No man ever claiming citizenship within the limits of Putnam county has demonstrated a more remarkable adaptability for the reputable and successful management of vast business interests and undertakings than has the subject of this sketch.

E. C. Thrall, son of W. H. and Narcissa (Fair) Thrall, was born in New York City, August 22, 1856. He was educated in the Yonkers Military Academy, of New York, from which institution he graduated in 1873. After graduating he became engaged with his father in the manufacture of staves, and in 1882 came to Ohio and became the financial manager of the Hector Stave Works, and remained in this position until the incorporation of the Hector Stave Company in 1889, when he was elected to the responsible position of secretary and treasurer of



E. C. THRALL.

the company, and has discharged the important duties of this office until the present writing with universal satisfaction to his company and commendable praise from the business world. He has been equally identified with his father in all the vast improvements of their lands, in the founding and building of Hector, and in the management of the great Hector store.

He was married to Ella L. Sharp, of New York, in 1887, and to them have been born two children—W. H., aged eleven years, and E. C., Jr., aged ten.

The great factory of the Hector Stave Company was burned in 1895.

MANRAS R. DETROW.

Manras R. Detrow was born at Lykem, Crawford county, Ohio, May 3, 1866. He received his education in the schools of that county, where he continued to live until November 14, 1887, when he came to Putnam county, locating at Hector. Soon after locating there he engaged in the drug business at Continental, remaining in that business in that place for five years, when he sold out and engaged in farming until September 19, 1894, when he engaged in the drug business at Hector.

In addition to conducting his drug business and farming interests near Hector, he is handling very extensively the "Vegetable Boiler Compound," an invaluable compound for cleaning steam boilers, and one which is receiving universal recommendation.



M. R. DETROW.

Mr. Detrow was married August 2, 1893, to Miss Lizzie J. Laird, of Putnam county, and they have one child—Doctor Dale Detrow, born September 29, 1894.

He is one of the county's most prosperous young business men, being energetic, industrious and progressive.

Miller City.

Miller City was, on August 22, 1882, laid out and platted by Aaron Oberbeck, surveyor, and dedicated under the name of St. Nicholas, by Nicholas Noriot and Nicholas Miller, the proprietors of the two parcels of land upon which the village plat was located. One hundred and three lots were contained in the first plat. Situated as it was upon the line of the New York, Chicago & St Louis Railroad, it soon became the center of trade for the occupants of that exceptionally fertile portion of our county which composed what is known distinctively as the South Prairie, and which, as it became thoroughly drained, produced crops of onions, corn, potatoes and other produce unequaled by any land in Ohio.

Miller City became the shipping point for these enormous crops as well as for much of the timber and lumber manufactured in its vicinity. Under the impetus of this trade stores were established, lots were sold and the town grew with such rapidity that in 1884 Mr. Miller found it necessary to lay out an addition containing forty-five lots; and again, in May, 1887, a second addition containing eighty one lots.

The growth of the town was such that upon petition to the County Commissioners and proceedings had pursuant to law thereon, that on the 26th day of November, 1890, the town with its additions was duly incorporated as a village, under the name of Miller City, being so named for the original proprietor, the well known and esteemed citizen, Nicholas Miller, to whose energy and business tact the growth and progress of the village is largely due. Hogan Brower was the first postmaster, and Dr. Lewis Deuble was the first mayor.

With a territory so fertile to draw from and the facilities which it possesses for shipment, it would seem probable that at no great distance in the future Miller City may look for the establishment of canning and starch factories, which will afford a home market for the produce which the deep muck soil of the prairie is so well fitted to produce.

North Creek.

North Creek lies in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, upon the line of the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City railroad, commonly called the Clover Leaf route. The town was orig-

inally platted and laid out by William Schafer in April, 1879, and at that time consisted of thirty-one (31) inlots and three (3) outlots. Mr. Schafer afterwards, between the years 1879 and 1883, laid out three (3) separate additions to the original town in order to meet the great demand there was for lots, and today North Creek is a thrifty little village, having the snap and energy of places much larger in population than it is, and to William Schafer, more than any other, is due the prosperity and growth of North Creek. Mr. Schafer is a representative Putnam county man; has been Justice of the Peace of Palmer township for twenty-nine years, was elected County Commissioner in 1875, and served two terms, going out of office in 1881. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of Putnam County Agricultural Society from 1893 to 1896. Being a man of energy and push, always up and doing, it is therefore not much of a wonder to those intimately acquainted with him, that in starting the town of North Creek, he succeeded far in excess of the most sanguine.

A. T. STEINER.

Andrew T. Steiner, son of Rev. Isaac and Nancy (Thut) Steiner, was born April 1, 1853, and was married by Rev. J. V. Updike, V. D., to Iantha F. Crow, born July 21, 1856, daughter of William R. and Beersheba (Brower) Crow. They have four children—Anggie Ottello, born in Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, January 27, 1875; Isaac Richardson, born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, O., October 12, 1882; James Albin, born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, O., May 6, 1885; Benjamin Harrison, born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, October 3, 1888.



A. T. STEINER—RED OAK FARM.

He attended the Northwestern Ohio Normal School at Ada, and taught seven terms of school with success. He was appointed postmaster at Sheridan, Ohio, under President Harrison's administration, in 1891, but refused the honor. Soon after he was employed to carry the mail from Sheridan to Ottawa until August 30 1892. In July, 1892, he petitioned to Postmaster-General Wannamaker to have the postoffice at Sheridan discontinued, he receiving one month's extra pay.

His grandfather, John Steiner, was one of Napoleon Bonaparte's soldiers; and his grandfather, John Thut, was a bishop in the Menonite denomination, and his father, Elder Isaac Steiner, a minister in the Church of God. His occupation is farming.

Postoffice address, Hector, Ohio.

Dupont.

Dupont, an incorporated village in Perry township, was laid out in the year 1877 by Dr. M. M. Hixon, Joseph Wollam, E. W. Dimock and others, as the proprietors, the survey being made by E. W. Dimock. The town plat includes a portion of sections eight and nine in that township.

The town was named in honor of Rear Admiral S. F. Dupont, of the United States Navy, a postoffice of that name having been established about the year 1864, with E. W. Dimock as postmaster, the mail route being from Ottawa to Charloe—twenty six miles once a week. In 1877 the Toledo, Delphos & Indianapolis narrow guage railroad was built through the village, and about 1888 the entire route was changed to a standard guage and known as the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad.

Dupont was incorporated in 1888 and E. W. Dimock chosen as mayor, who served two years. It contains at present about 700 inhabitants, has a graded school with a large and commodious school building, and is the center of a special district. The town contains two churches, two hotels, two sawmills, one tile factory, five stores of general merchandise, one hardware store, one drug store, one harness and buggy dealer, two agricultural implement dealers, one grain and feed store, one axhandle factory. There are two physicians of extensive practive, and many other professions and trades are represented. The Auglaize river passes about one-half mile south of Dupont, and is there spanned by two fine bridge structures; the county bridge having cost about $25,000, and the steel bridge of the T., St. L. & K. C. Ry., situated a short distance down stream from the county bridge, being a massive and most substantial specimen of bridge building.

Dupont enjoys a thriving trade, the agricultural advantages of the surrounding country affording a healthy business. There are many fine residences in the village, the town is generally well cared for, and society is good.

ELIAS W. DIMOCK.

Elias W. Dimock was born in Otsego county N. Y., November 24, 1831; was educated at Gilbertsville Collegiate Institute, New York, graduating therefrom in 1844; emigrated the same year with his parents to Central Ohio, and in 1848 the family settled in Perry township of this county, near the confluence of Blanchard and Auglaize rivers. He followed farming in summer and school teaching in the winter season, and in 1854 married Miss Mary Ridenour, of which union was born six children, four of whom are now living.

In 1854 be superintended the opening of five miles of the then Tiffin & Ft. Wayne railroad (now the Nickel Plate), and in 1870 engaged in surveying and civil engineering. In 1876 was projected the Toledo, Delphos & Indianopolis railroad, and through the efforts of himself and many more of the people of Dupont and vicinity, the company was induced to carry their line through that village.

In 1877 he received the appointment of Chief Engineer of that line, and at once surveyed and established the route as far as Grand Rapids, remaining with the company till the road changed hands in 1880. Mr. Dimock subsequently acted as



ELIAS W. DIMOCK.

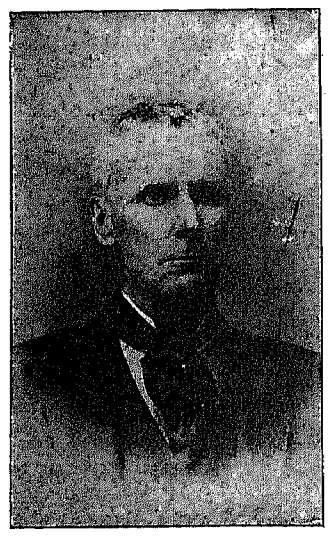
Chief Engineer in the location and construction of the Delphos & Kokomo railroad, the C. & D. narrow gauge, the Frankfort & State Line railroad, and the Delphos & Southren line.

In 1881 he was elected Surveyor of Putnam county, and served two terms, during which time he located and built seventeen improved roads under the two mile assessment plan, besides the work of county ditching—at that time very general.

Mr. Dimock was the first postmaster of Dupont office (1866); he laid out and surveyed the village of Dupont, was its first Mayor, acting in that capacity for six years. His faithful wife passed away March 24, 1895, and he now resides at his old home with two of his daughters.

DR. ELI DIMOCK.

Dr. Eli Dimock was born in Otsego county, N. Y., in 1822. He studied medicine under Dr. R. Stillman, in Burlington, of that county, completed his medical education at New York University, and has been a practitioner of medicine forty-nine years.



DR. ELI DIMOCK.

He came to this region in 1849 and practiced his profession for three years at Junction, Ohio, subsequently becoming a resident of Perry township, Putnam county, where he has followed the calling of physician ever since. His residence is at Dupont, Putnam county. He was married in 1847 to Miss Mary Guile, one daughter being born to them—now deceased.

The Doctor is a well known resident of this county; he has been identified with every public interest in his neighborhood, and of his benevolent and friendly disposition it is superfluous to speak. In 1895 he donated his large and well preserved geological and archiological cabinet to the Ottawa School Board. He has now retired from active practice.

NOAH W. PROWANT.

We present an interior view of the store room of Noah W. Prowant, of Dupont, Ohio, druggist and dealer in Paints, Books,



INTERIOR VIEW OF NOAH W. PROWANT'S DRUG STORE.

Wall Paper, and such other articles as are found in all completely equipped drug stores.

Mr. Prowant was born January 31, 1864, near Dupont, and is a son of Ephraim and Mary (Myers) Prowant. His father being a farmer, he acquired his early education in the country schools. He, while working on his father's farm, learned those traits of character, industry and economy, which are so essential to a successful business career.

He entered the Normal University of Ada, Ohio, and graduated from the Pharmaceutical department of that school on July 13, 1894.

He was married to Miss Lois Marriott, daughter of W. P. and Saloma Marriott, December 25, 1889. They have one child—Mary Saloma, born November 12, 1890.

Cascade.

This town lies on the west bank of the Auglaize river and on the north side ef the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, and was laid out and platted by E. W. Dimock, ex-County Surveyor, in 1892, for Charles Andrews, the proprietor.

Huntstown.

Huntstown is a thrifty little place, situated in Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was platted and laid out in twenty-two town lots by Samuel Stukey, in 1883, and lies on the T., St. L. & K. C. Ry., commonly known as the Clover Leaf Route. While it is not much of a town at present, yet it is destined to become quite a trading point in the near future, having as it has a thrifty, live, wide-awake farming community surrounding it on all sides and in all directions. Time only can tell to what proportions it may attain in coming years.

Cloverdale.

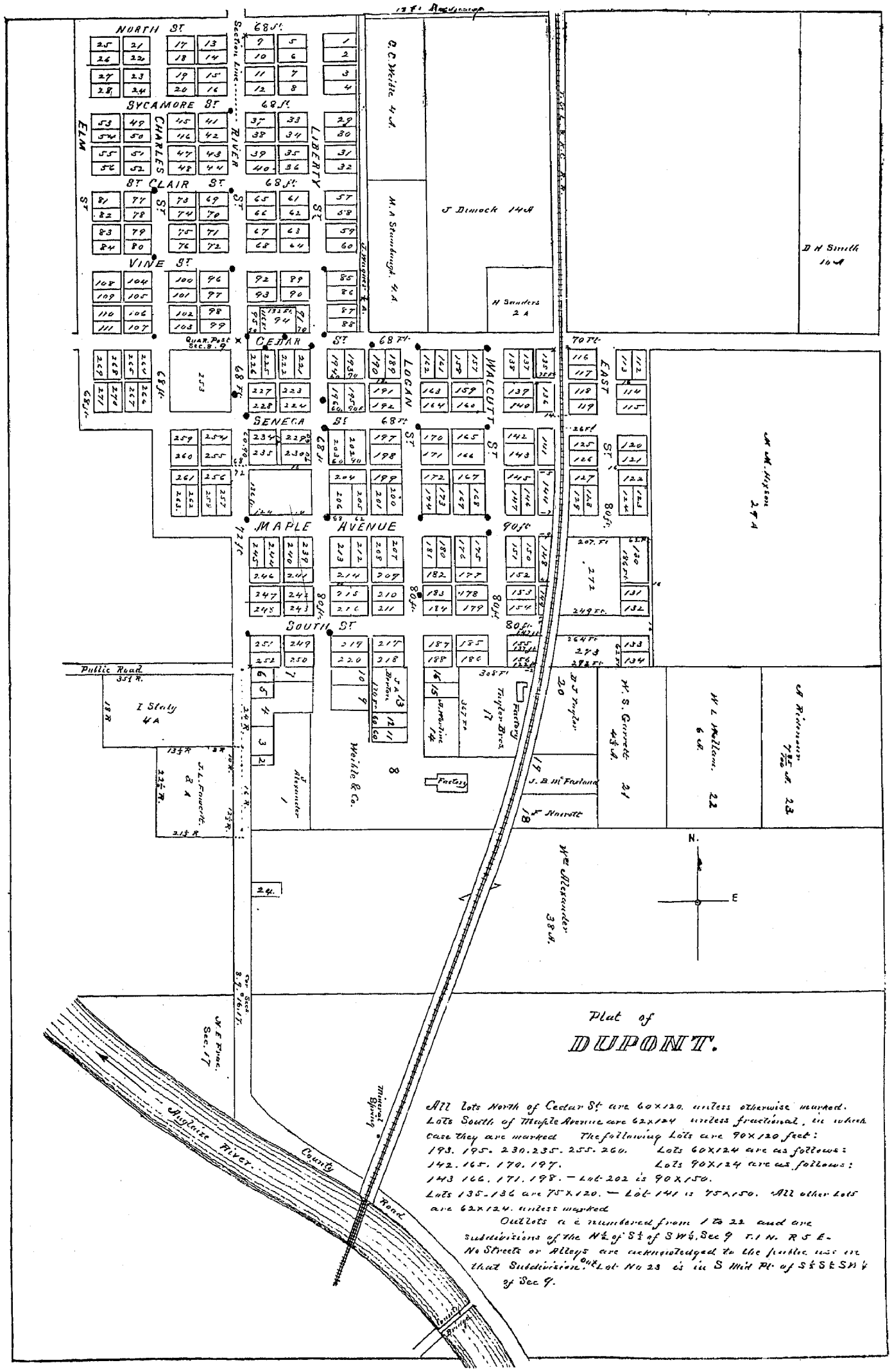
Cloverdale is located at the junction of the Clover Leaf and The Tangent (Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western) railroads and was surveyed and platted by E. W Dimock, civil engineer, for the proprietors, W. H. Mozier, E. M. Mozier, Tunis Truax, Nora Truax, Austin Combs and Mary Combs, in 1892. The name of the postoffice at that place is Drucilla.

Muntanna.

The town of Muntanna is situated in Section Four, of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, and on the Clover Leaf railroad. It was surveyed and platted by George Skinner, surveyor, for George H Calkins, proprietor, in 1881.

Wisterman.

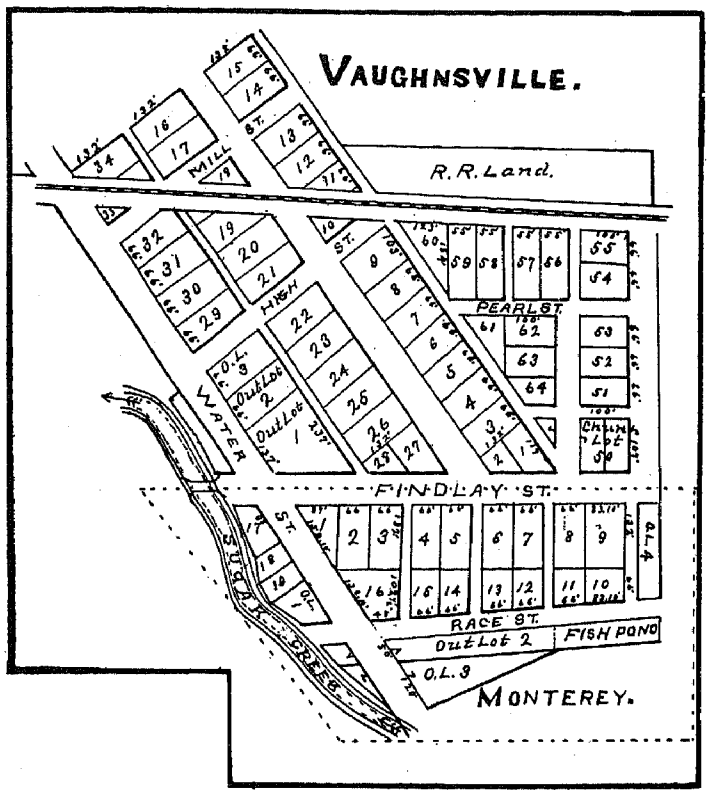
This village is located in Section Thirteen, of Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, and on the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City railway. It was surveyed and platted by E. W. Dimock in 1883, for W. S. Daly, E. R. Eastman and Jane James, the proprietors.

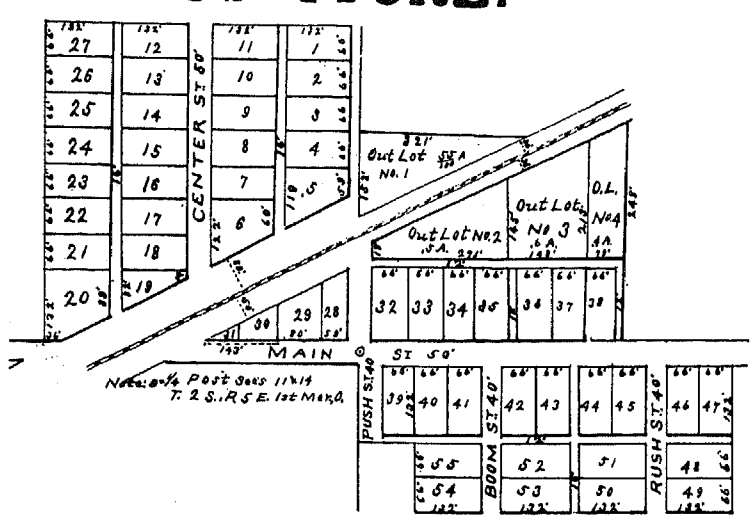


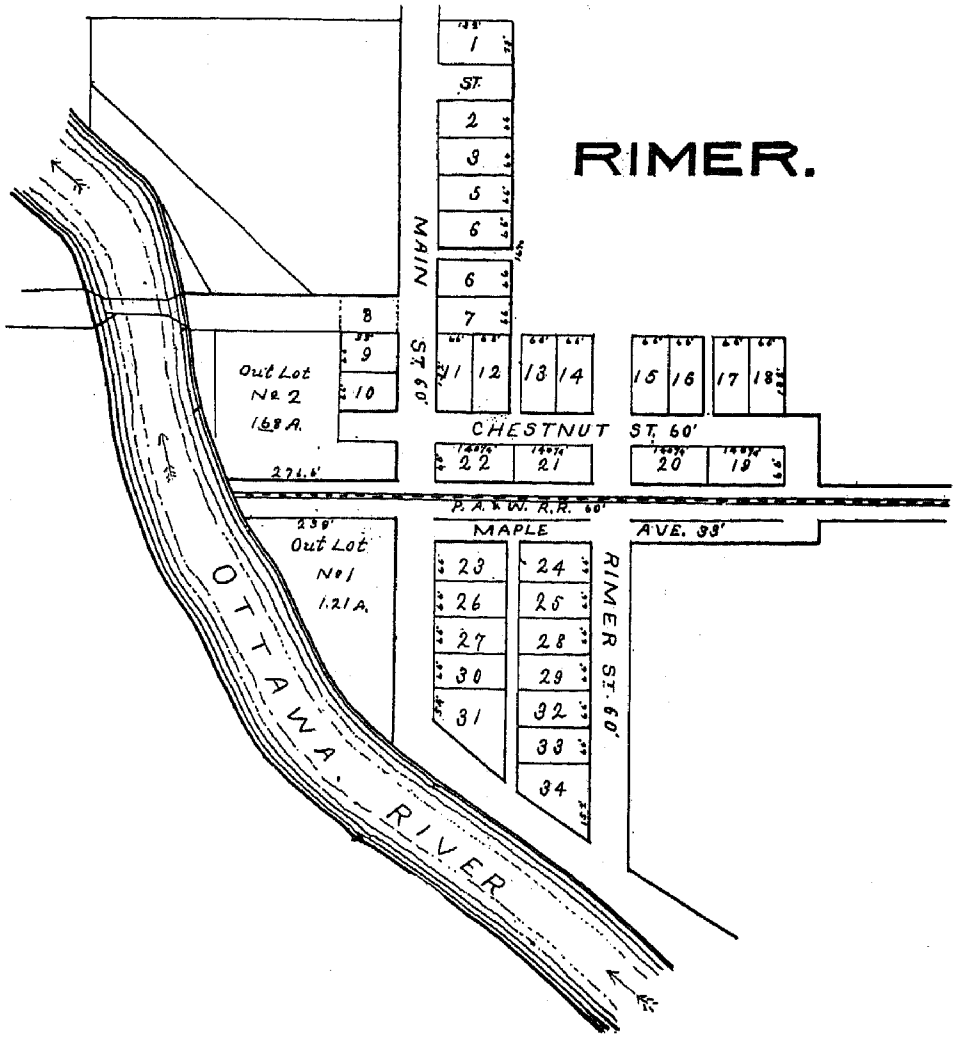
Plat of
DUPONT.

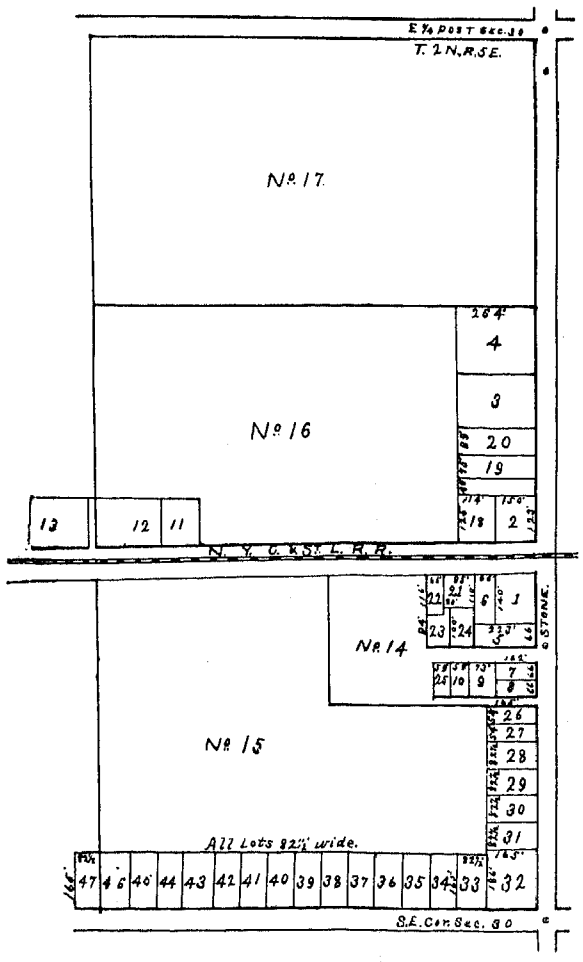
All lots North of Cedar St are 60×120. unless otherwise marked. Lots South of Maple Avenue are 62×124 unless fractional, in which case they are marked The following Lots are 90×120 feet: 193. 195. 230. 235. 255. 260. Lots 60×124 are as follows: 142. 165. 170. 197. Lots 90×124 are as follows: 143 166. 171. 198. — Lot 202 is 90×150. Lots 135-136 are 75×120. — Lot 141 is 75×150. All other Lots are 62×124. unless marked

Outlots are numbered from 1 to 22 and are subdivisions of the N½ of S½ of SW¼, Sec 9 T. 1 N. R 5 E. No Streets or Alleys are acknowledged to the public use in that Subdivision. Out Lot No 23 is in S Mid Pt. of S½ SE¼ SW¼ of Sec 9.

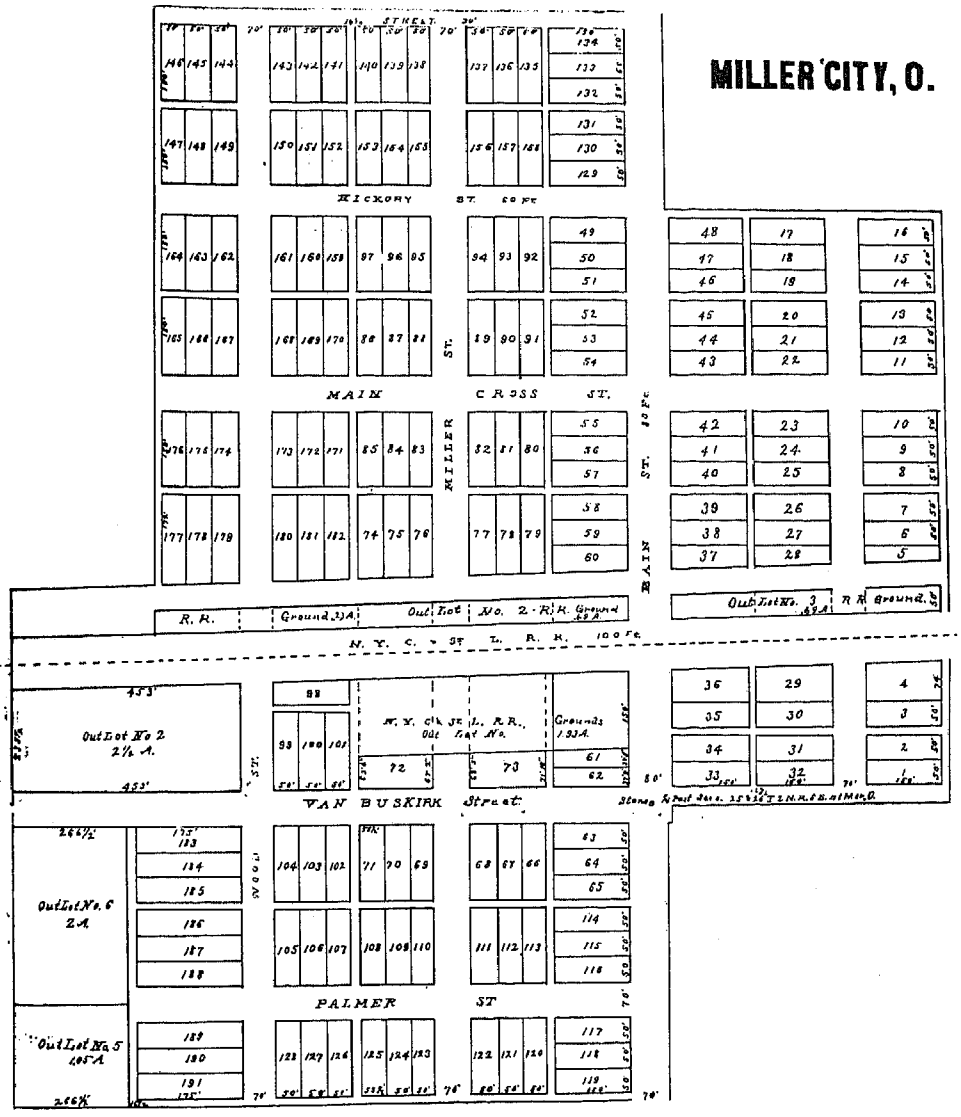

VAUGHNSVILLE.
R.R. Land.
MILL ST.
HIGH ST.
PEARL ST.
WATER ST.
FINDLAY ST.
RACE ST.
Out Lot 2
FISH POND
O.L. 3
MONTEREY.


RUSHMORE.
CENTER ST. 50'
Out Lot No. 1
Out Lot No. 2
Out Lot No. 3
O.L. No. 4
MAIN ST. 50'
PUSH ST. 40'
BOOM ST. 40'
RUSH ST. 40'

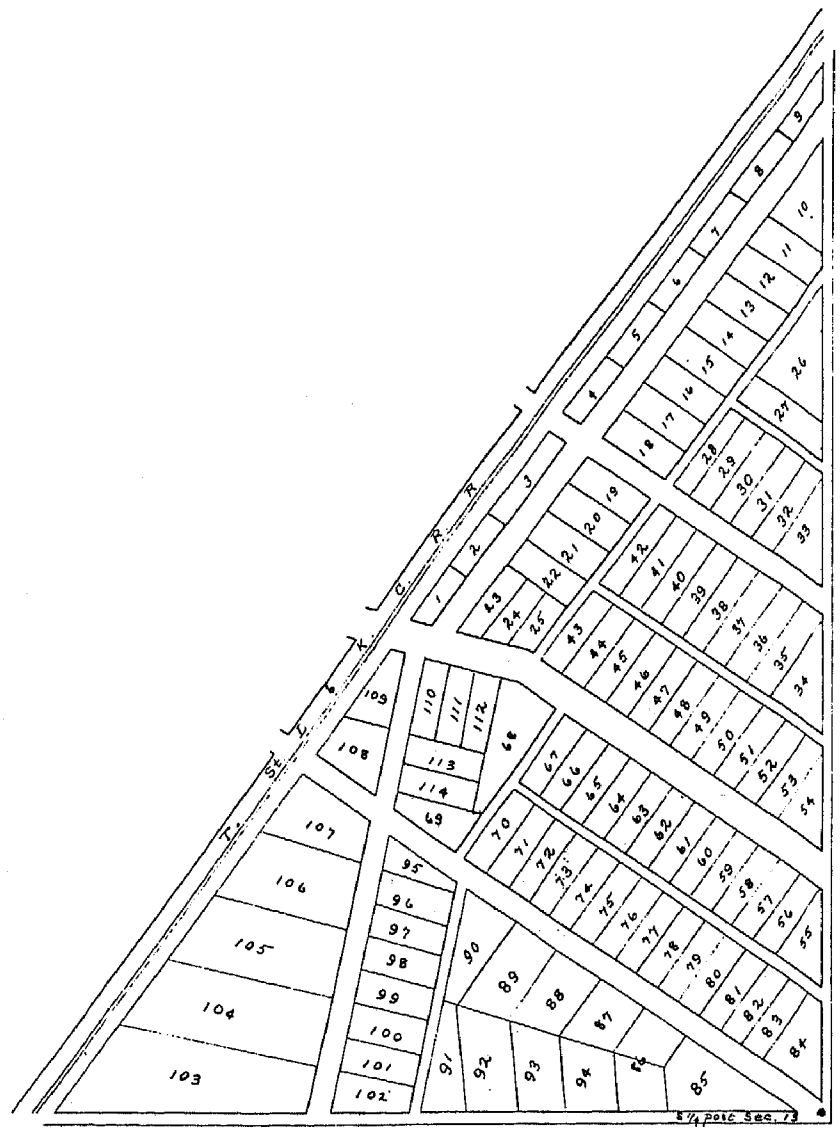

RIMER.
MAIN ST. 60'
Out Lot No. 2 1.68 A.
CHESTNUT ST. 60'
P. A. & W. R.R. 60'
MAPLE AVE. 33'
Out Lot No. 1 1.21 A.
RIMER ST. 60'
OTTAWA RIVER


HARTSBURG.
T. 2 N. R. 5 E.
No. 17
No. 16
No. 14
No. 15
N. Y. C. & St. L. R.R.
All Lots 82½' wide.
S.E. Cor. Sec. 30

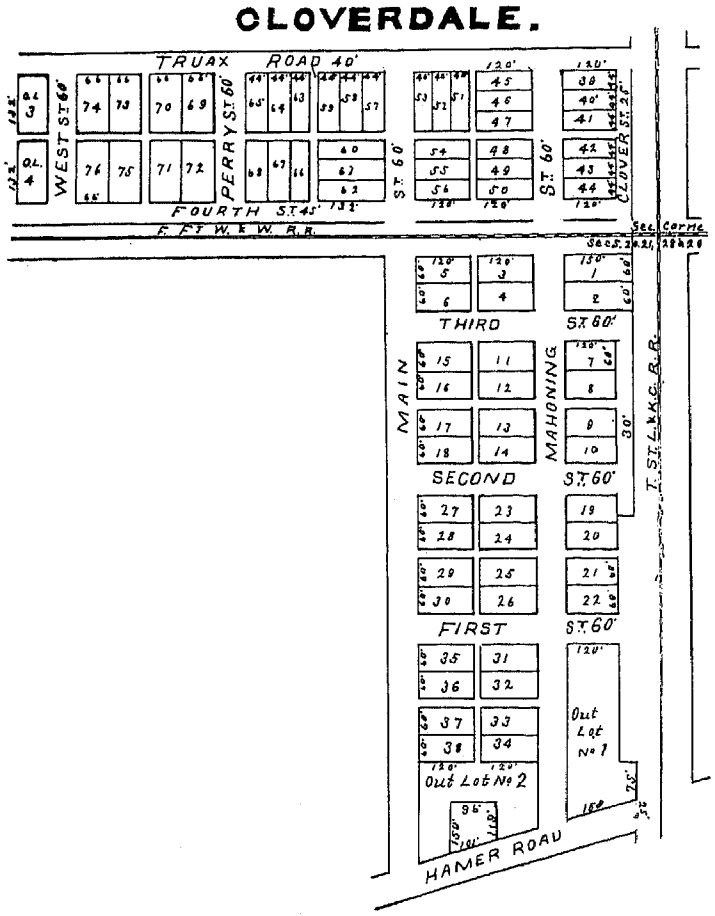
MILLER CITY, O.



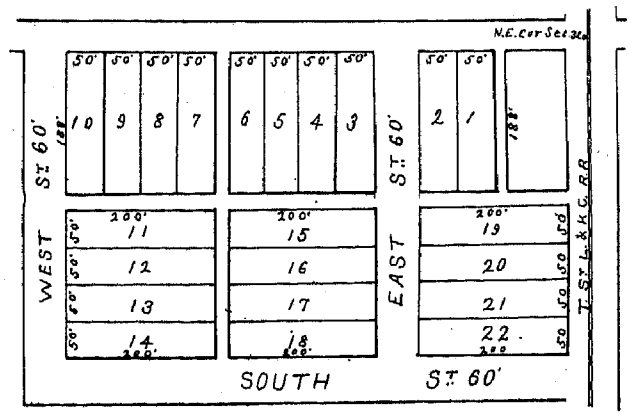
WISTERMAN.



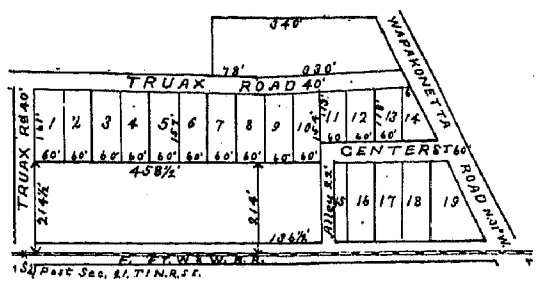
CLOVERDALE.



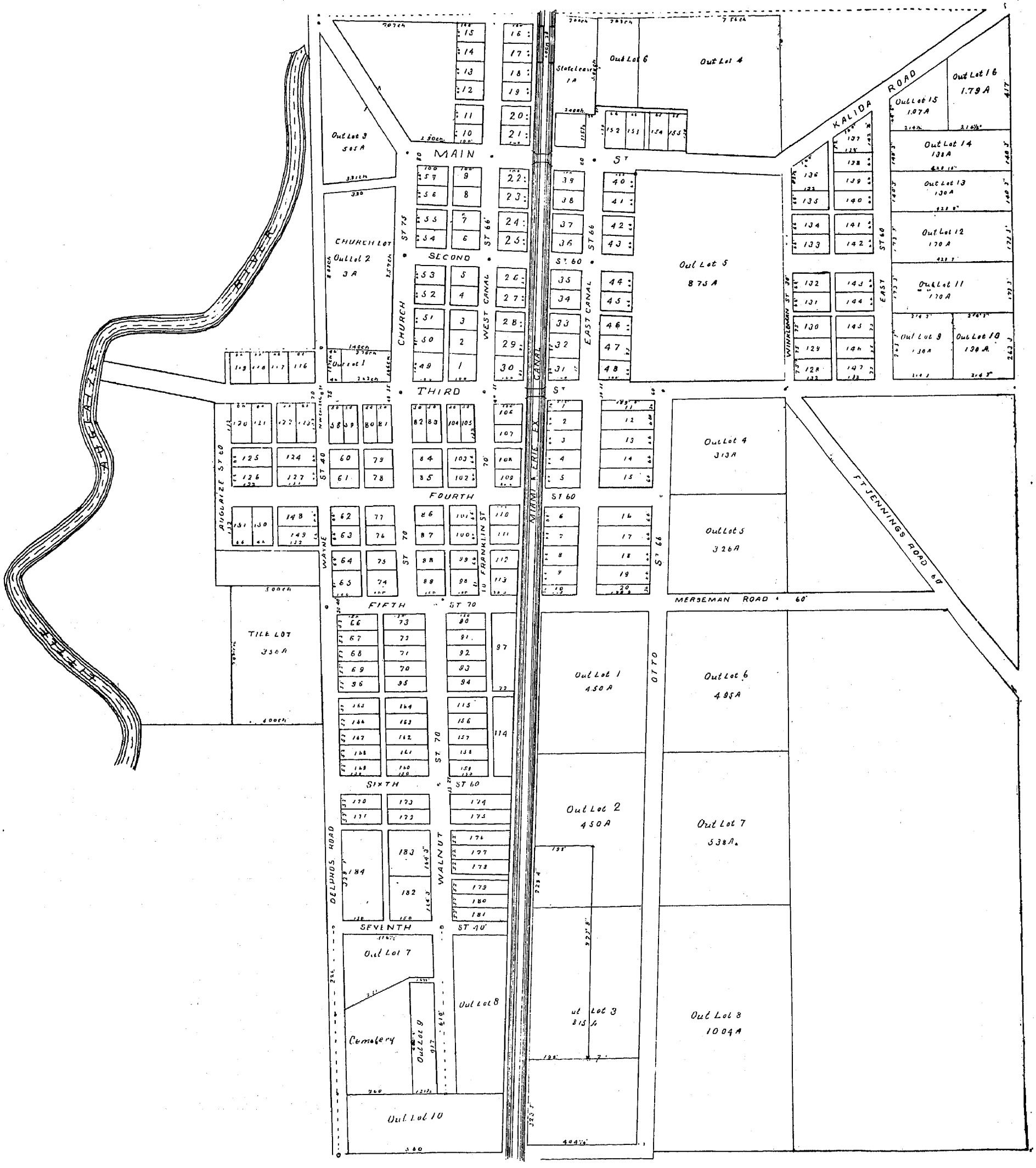
HUNTSTOWN.



CASCADE.



OTTOVILLE.


MAIN ST
SECOND
THIRD
FOURTH
FIFTH
SIXTH
SEVENTH
CHURCH
WEST CANAL
EAST CANAL
MIAMI & ERIE CANAL
WAYNE
FRANKLIN ST
WALNUT
DELPHOS ROAD
KALIDA ROAD
EAST
WINNEBAGO ST
FT JENNINGS ROAD
MERSEMAN ROAD
OTTO
CHURCH LOT
Out Lot 2
3 A
Out Lot 3
565 A
State Lease
1 A
Out Lot 6
Out Lot 4
Out Lot 5
875 A
Out Lot 15
1.07 A
Out Lot 16
1.79 A
Out Lot 14
138 A
Out Lot 13
130 A
Out Lot 12
170 A
Out Lot 11
170 A
Out Lot 9
130 A
Out Lot 10
130 A
Out Lot 4
313 A
Out Lot 5
326 A
TILE LOT
336 A
Out Lot 1
450 A
Out Lot 6
488 A
Out Lot 2
450 A
Out Lot 7
538 A.
Out Lot 3
815 A.
Out Lot 8
1004 A
Out Lot 7
Out Lot 8
Out Lot 9
Out Lot 10
Cemetery
BLANCHARD RIVER

History of Ottoville.

In 1845 Elias Everett, County Surveyor, platted for Rev. John Otto Bredeick a parcel of land in the northeast corner of Sec. 30, T. 1, S. R. 5, E., Putnam county, Ohio; but this survey was abandoned and the same lands resurveyed by Charles Wannemacher in 1873.

In 1863 Samuel Parker, County Surveyor, surveyed for Christ Martin, proprietor, that part of the original town plot lying in the southwest part of Sec. 19, T. 1, S. R. 5, E. This survey has been changed somewhat since that time. In 1865 F. J. Lye laid out an addition west of the canal in Section 30; George Skinner, surveyor. In 1874 Peter Wannemacher laid out an addition to Ottoville in the northeast corner of Sec. 25, T. 1, S. R. 4, E.; Aaron Oberbeck, surveyor. In 1883 Aaron Oberbeck, at the instance of Richard Gilmour, bishop of Cleveland, Ohio, resurveyed all that part of Ottoville originally laid out in Section 19. The same surveyor platted an addition in Section 19 for Max Winkleman during the year 1892.

In 1894 D. W. Seitz, surveyor, platted an addition in Section 25 for Peter Wannemacher, and later in the same year the same surveyor platted a sub-division of part of outlots numbers 4 and 6 for Messrs. Schulien and Wannemacher.

The town was incorporated in 1890, with Joseph Wannemacher, Mayor; J. C. Wannemacher, Clerk; John Branderhoff, Marshal; Matt. Schulien, Treasurer; V. H. Otte, Peter Wannemacher, B. Wannemacher, J. B. Mersman, J. J. Miller, and William Gasser, Councilmen. The present officers are J. J. Miller, Mayor; J. C. Wannemacher, Clerk; Frank Miehls, Marshal; Matt. Schulien, Treasurer; Max. Winkleman, S. S. Vinke, Ben. Wannemacher, J. B. Mersman, and William Gasser, Councilmen. It is the center of a most prosperous farming community, and the home of the St. Mary's Immaculate Conception church, one of the most beautiful and costly church edifices in the state.

There are two good hotels, two first-class general stores, one of the best hardware stores in the county, a drug store not surpassed in the county, a harness store, grist mill, creamery, tile factory, and one of the largest and best equipped saw mills in the state; and all of these mercantile concerns and factories are conducted by as good a class of business men as the county affords.

OTTOVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

On March 25, 1869, a notice of a petition was posted in the most public places of Monterey township. This petition was to the trustees of that township and prayed for the organization of a special school district for the village of Ottoville. It was signed by Charles Wannemacher, William Rekart, Mathias Winkleman, Joseph C. Fournier, Gerhard H. Otte, Joseph Rekart, Mathias Wrocklage, Peter Wannemacher, John Freyburger and Christopher Kortokrax, and was created on April 8, 1869. The special district includes all of Sections 30, 31, 36, 25, 19 and parts of 13, 18 and 24, in Monterey township. The first school house for the special district was built in 1869, on lot number 116, in Peter Wannemacher's addition. The first board of directors consisted of Mathias Wrocklage, president; William Rekart, secretary, and Charles Wannemacher, treasurer. Barney Helmkamp was contractor for building the first school house, which cost $380. John D. Reisfelder was the first teacher, at a salary of forty dollars per month, and one hundred scholars to teach.

On April 1, 1895, the board of education met and resolved that the old building had become inadequate to supply the needs of the district, and a proposition to build another was voted on and carried. The board consisted of W. J. Rekart, J. B. Mersman, and Frank Pohl, and it was further resolved to begin the construction of said building at once. A suitable site, consisting of three acres of land in the southeast corner of section 24, was purchased, and a contract for a building to cost $8000 was let to W. A. Fisher, of Ottawa, Ohio. The contract was let June 1, 1895, and work began on the fifteenth of the same month, and the building was completed January 1, 1896. It is a handsome and imposing brick building standing on a knoll of ground on the banks of the Little Auglaize river and overlooking the beautiful village of Ottoville. It is two stories high and has four rooms, the two on the first floor being 30x34 feet each, and those above, 30x30 feet each. The building is of modern architecture, very substantially built, contains the Smead system of heating and ventilating, and is finished with the best of seasoned lumber from the famous mill of J. B. Mersman. There is about 250 scholars enrolled, and the building they have to study in is a fitting monument to the thrift and progress of the people of Ottoville.

THE PEOPLES' DRUG COMPANY.

The Peoples' Drug Company, Ottoville, Ohio, was organized in 1893, and purchased July 1, 1894, by Messrs. Mathias Wannemacher and W. T. Remlinger, the latter gentleman having charge and management of the business.

W. T. Remlinger was born March 23, 1873, in Pleasant Valley, Putnam county, and is the son of Andrew and Mary Remlinger, highly esteemed residents of Jackson township. When one year old his parents moved to a farm two and one-half miles northeast of Fort Jennings, and our subject attended school at the Hetrick school house until sixteen years of age, when he went to Crawfis College, where he remained one year and then engaged in teaching, which he followed for three years. May 23, 1893, he entered the Ohio Normal University, at Ada, Ohio, and graduated from the Pharmaceutical department of that institution March 8, 1894. After receiving his certificate at Columbus he came to Ottoville and purchased an interest in The Peoples' Drug Company, in which he continued to work until July 1, 1894, when, in partnership with Mathias Wannemacher, he purchased the entire interests of the company and assumed the responsibility of its management. He is a young man of good character, great energy and unswerving purposes to win. He carries into his business the elements of learning and industry, which must necessarily succeed, and subscribe for him a leading place in his chosen calling. The stock has recently been moved into the handsome brick business room constructed by Mathias Wannemacher in 1895, and here can be found a choice stock of drugs, as well as one of the ablest and most satisfactory dispensers in the county.

WILLIAM GASSER.

Occupying an exalted position in the business progression of southwestern Putnam county and indebted to his own energies for this position, the subject of this sketch is worthy of prominent notice.

He was born December 23, 1859, in Tyrol, Austria, and is the son of Ferdinand and Rosa Gasser. He attended school at his native place until fourteen years of age, when he began learning the carpenter trade, and continued working at that trade until 1881, when he decided to risk his fortune in the New World, and on September 24th of that year he landed in New York and proceeded at once to Ottoville, Putnam county, Ohio.

He purchased a farm of fifty-five acres in Monterey township and was engaged in farming this place until 1887, when he sold it to his brother and purchased a large farm in Jackson township, in the same county, in the management of which he spent the next two years, and then sold out. Forming a partnership with Frank Gmeiner they purchased the Ottoville planing mill and lumber yard, in which business he has since been engaged.

The reputation of the firm of Gmeiner & Gasser is so great as to demand but little mention here. They have an extensive plant, carry a large stock of lumber and building material and are well equipped for furnishing any order on short notice. They employ fifteen men and do general contracting and building. They are wholly responsible, largely enterprising and wonderfully progressive.

Mr. Gasser was married October 25, 1887, to Miss Theresia Gruber, daughter of Joseph and Mary Gruber, highly respected farmers of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio. They have six children—Joseph F., born October 15, 1888; Theresia

E., October 15, 1889; Rosa M., November 25, 1890; Mary, August 31, 1892; William F., November 17, 1893; Victoria S., February 6, 1895.

He is held high in the confidence and esteem of his neighbors, which fact is proven by the responsible positions of public trusts he holds. He has served as a member of the Ottoville council since the incorporation of the town in 1890, has been treasurer of Monterey township since 1893, and is first assistant foreman of the village fire department.

ST. MARY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH.

The congregation who now worship in the magnificent edifice represented by the accompanying illustration, was organized in 1846 by Rev. John Otto Berdeck, at that time resident pastor of Delphos, Ohio. At the time of its organization the congregation consisted of ten families, scattered on small cleared oases within a dense forest swamp. In the year mentioned Rev. Berdeck purchased forty acres on the banks of the Little Auglaize river in Monterey township, now forming a part of the town site of Ottoville, and gave it to the congregation as the property of the church.

Rev. Berdeck held services once a month in the home of Joseph Fournier until 1858, when he was succeeded by Rev. Westerholt, who continued his ministry until 1860. During the time he secured the erection of a frame church forty feet wide and eighty feet long, at Ottoville, at a cost of $3,000. The church was built near the present site of the new church, by Frederick Heitz, contractor, of Delphos.

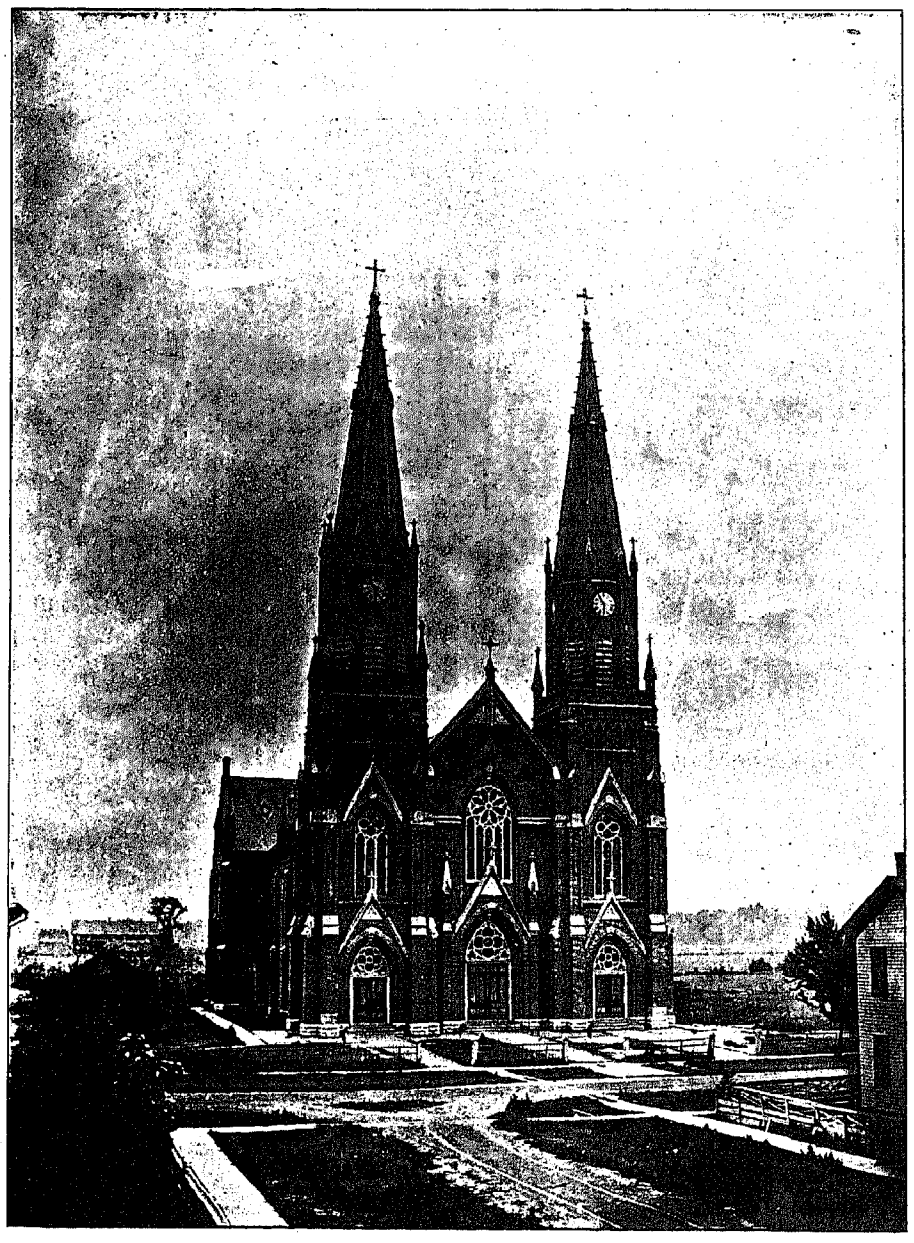
In 1861 Rev. Westerholt was succeeded by Rev. Geobles, who continued his ministry until 1864, when he was succeeded by Rev. Abel, who was the first resident pastor of Ottoville, and who in 1865 constructed the present parsonage at a cost of $700, Barney Helmkamp, contractor.

Rev. Abel was succeeded in 1866 by Rev. Dominick H. Best, who in turn was succeeded in 1868 by Rev. Michael Mueller, who has continued as pastor to the present time. During the long term of twenty-eight years he has served this congregation as pastor, and discharged his duties as such in an exemplary and laudable manner, and no congregation in Northwestern Ohio has developed a higher stage of progression than has the St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Church under the able administration of this man. Rev. Mueller has beheld his congregation grow to two hundred and fifty families, with one thousand communicants, which marvelous growth created a necessity for the erection of a more commodious house of worship, and in 1885 the great task was begun.

In that year plans for the present church were drawn by A. Drueding, architect, of Chicago. The building was contracted to Frederick Heitz, of Delphos, who died before its completion, and a new contract was let to Anthony DeCurtis, of Cottagena, Ohio, who completed the construction, the corner-stone being laid June 20, 1885.

This great and beautiful structure is one of the most imposing and substantial church edifices in the State. It is 175 feet long, 78 feet wide, built in gothic style with two massive steeples rising 180 feet high. Its exterior presents the appearance of modern architectures' highest attainments and its interior is an emblem of beauty. The great ceiling is supported by two rows of massive columns nearly fifty feet in length, frescoed and decorated to the most factidious taste The highest part of the room is sixty feet, and it has a seating capacity of nearly one thousand people. The construction cost over $50,000.

Rev. Michael Mueller, Charles Wannemacher, Wilhelm Rekart, John Kalt and G. H. Otto formed the building committee, and the church was dedicated September 30, 1888, by Richard Gilmour, bishop of Cleveland. No grander monument to the thrift and progress of a sturdy people has been planted on American soil under like circumstances.



ST. MARY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH.

FRANK GMEINER.

No man in the active business circles of Southwestern Putnam county holds a higher place in the confidence of his fellowmen than does the subject of this sketch, and no man has spent a more honorable or busy life in working himself up to this position.

Frank Gmeiner was born at Tyrol, Austria, December 3, 1853, and is the son of George and Mary A. Gmeiner, who emigrated to this country when Frank was six years old, settling in 1860 near Fremont, Ohio, on a farm. Shortly afterwards the elder Gmeiner enlisted in the Union army and served as a soldier until 1864, when he returned home, sold his farm near Fremont, and moved to Monterey township, Putnam county, settling on a farm in Section 11—then all in the woods. Frank Gmeiner had attended school and assisted in improving his father's farm at Fremont; his work on the Putnam county farm was identical with this, and he continued it until 1867, when he returned to Sandusky county and worked on a farm until 1870, when he returned home and assisted his father two years, at the end of which time he went to Fremont and worked for a contractor and builder until 1875. In this year his parents both died, and by request of his father he was called home and assumed the responsibility of managing the farm and rearing the family to ages of self support. At this time his eldest sister was only fourteen years of age, but assumed the duties of the household in such a womanly manner as to elicit the highest eulogy, and at the end of five years, through the efforts of Frank and his sister, the brothers and sisters had been educated, and at this time they mutually divided the estate and separated.

For the next three years Frank was engaged in farming and threshing, and then, in 1883, in partnership with J. J. Miller and A. Kehres, he engaged in the manufacture of tile at Ottoville. This partnership was continued until 1889, when he sold out, and forming a partnership with William Gasser, purchased the Ottoville planing mill and lumber yard, which he has since been conducting on the highest plane of business success. They have an extensive and perfectly equipped plant, and carry a large stock of lumber and building material. They also do an extensive contract work in this line, are wholly reliable, and their work is attended with the greatest satisfaction.

He was married June 7, 1893, to Miss Mary Mallifsky, of Ottoville. As a citizen he is held in the highest esteem, and has scarcely ever been free from public trust. In 1875 he was elected Justice of the Peace—when only twenty-two years of age—and filled the office for six years with universal satisfaction. He has since filled the offices of Road Supervisor and School Director, and has been chosen administrator of a large number of estates. He is now a Notary Public.

REV. MICHAEL MUELLER.

The personage represented by the accompanying portrait is entitled to a high place in the ministerial realm of Northwestern Ohio, not alone for his worthy performance of his extensive pastorial duties, but as well for the extraordinary progress his congregation has made under his administration.

He was born January 21, 1833, in the kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Frey) Mueller. During his boyhood he received a good common school education in his native country, and in 1852 embarked for America, landing in New York on July 5th of that year. He came to Ohio at once and taught school in Huron, Washington, and Crawford counties for four years, and then entered St. Mary's Seminary at Cleveland, remaining there six years as a student. He then attended, for one year, at the noted St. Vincent Seminary, in West Moorland county, Pennsylvania, going from there to Assumption College at Windsor, Canada, where he remained one year, finishing his education by a course of philosophy at St. Benedict's College and a course of theology at St. Mary's Seminary, Cleveland, Ohio.

On June 25, 1865, he was ordained priest and assigned to a congregation at Rockford, Ohio, and ministered to that charge two and one-half years, and on March 15, 1868, received the appointment as pastor at Ottoville. He has served in this capacity since that date, and during these years has given to the world a triumphant example of christian duty. As will be noted in the

history of the St. Mary's Immaculate church, of Ottoville, he was the great factor in planning, promoting and constructing this model church, and it will ever stand as a monument to his untiring energy and perseverence.



REV. MICHAEL MUELLER.

Rev. Mueller is a finished scholar, a good citizen, an untiring and devoted pastor, and has gained and retained the esteem of all who have formed his acquaintance.

WILLIAM SCHLAGBAUM.

The subject of this sketch may truly be placed among the foremost and most progressive farmers of Putnam county. He was born in Monterey township, this county, July 17, 1863, and is a son of George and Dorotha (Hill) Schlagbaum. The former



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM SCHLAGBAUM.

was born at Ibbenburen, Prussia, in 1820, and came to America in 1844, and secured employment in a coal mine at Wheeling, West Virginia; the latter was born at Hanover, Germany, in 1828, and came to America in 1844, locating at Cincinnati, O., where she continued to live until her marriage with George Schlagbaum, which occurred on May 14, 1848. For two years after their marriage they lived in Cincinnati, during which time Mr. Schlagbaum was an employe of the *Enquirer* office.

In 1850 they moved to Delphos, Ohio, where they lived until 1854, when in the fall of that year they moved to Ottoville, locating on the eighty acre farm just east of town, which has been in their possession since then and which is known as the homestead. This place was then a wilderness, and its very successful clearing and improvement places the names of George and Dorotha Schlagbaum among our most energetic pioneers.

To the union of George Schlagbaum and Dorotha Hill have been born ten children—Bernard, February 26, 1849; Henry, January 27, 1852, died April 17, 1873; William, November 20, 1853, died December 4, 1853; Louisa, August 24, 1855; Mary, October 4, 1857; John, September 12, 1859, died April 5, 1873; Thrase, January 19, 1862, died October 4, 1862; William, July 17, 1863; Anna, September 26, 1866; Elizabeth, June 17, 1869, died June 3, 1873.

William Schlagbaum is the youngest son of two of Putnam county's most honorable pioneer citizens, and comes of that thrifty old German Catholic stock which constitutes many prosperous communities in this State. He was born on the beautiful farm he now owns and successfully cultivates and lived with his parents on the farm until ten years of age when they moved to Ottoville, and his eldest brother, Bernard, rented the farm for a period of eight years during which time William remained on the farm and worked for him.

Between the age of seven and twelve years he secured a common school education in the schools of Monterey township. At the expiration of the eight years rental period of the farm the parents decided to remove to the farm, and the services of William were retained to assist in the management of the place. From that time but few young men of Putnam county have shown as great energy and spirit of progression. He has cleared and fenced and ditched until the broad, rich fields of the Schlagbaum homestead farm are among the most beautiful, best cultivated and most productive lands of the county.

In the spring of 1886 a barn 40x70 feet was erected on the place, and in 1890 he constructed one of the handsomest farm residences in southwestern Putnam county, a cut of which we publish. In 1886 George Schlagbaum died and the sole management of the place was left to William, who purchased, in 1892, twenty four acres of land adjoining the old place and has placed that under first class improvements.

On may 21, 1895, he was married to Louisa Kehres, daughter of August Kehres, of Monterey township. On June 11, 1895, his mother died and the old home is now owned by the young man whose energy and untiring industry have made it one of the most beautiful and productive farms in the county.

Mr. Schlagbaum subscribes to the creed of the Catholic church, as did his parents, and is a leading member in the prosperous congregation at Ottoville

FERDINAND F. VINCKE.

In Gretesch, Hanover, Germany, was born, May 22, 1851, an individual who was destined to become one of Putnam county's leading merchants. It was Ferdinand F. Vincke, now of Ottoville, Ohio.

He attended school at his native place until fourteen years of age when he engaged in farming, which he continued until twenty years of age. He then entered the German army and served two years in an infantry corps, after which he continued



BUSINESS BLOCK OF F. F. VINCKE.

farming three years, and then, in 1879, he turned to the New World as a more fitting field to develop the energies of a progressive young man, and landed at Baltimore, August 28th of that year. The objective point of his journey was Ottoville, O., and he proceeded at once from Baltimore to this place, stopping a few days at Cincinnati and Delphos, and reaching Ottoville September 22, 1875.

He immediately entered the service of G. H. Otto as a farm hand and continued in his employ three years, at the end of which time, in 1879, he formed a partnership with Max Winkelman, of Ottoville, and by the assistance of the latter gentleman's mother they purchased the general store of G. H. Otto in Ottoville, and continued to conduct the same in this manner until the death of Mr. Winkleman's mother in 1891, when Mr. Winkleman purchased his mother's interest and the business was continued under the old firm name of Winkleman & Vincke until August 15, 1895, on which date Mr. Vincke purchased the entire stock and changed the firm name to F. F. Vincke.

He was married November 5, 1878, to Miss Mary Schlagbaum, of Ottoville, and their family consists of seven children—Joseph G., born August 9, 1879; Frank B., April 7, 1881; William F., July 23, 1883; Anna M., November 10, 1885; George G., March 15, 1888, died August 15, 1888; George J., February 17, 1892; Ferdinand N., October 28, 1893.

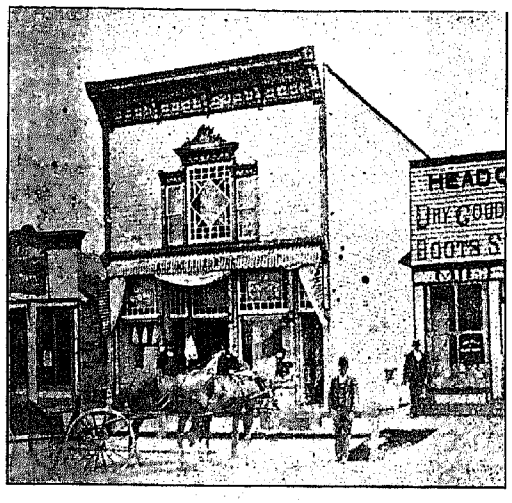
J. J. MILLER.

The prosperous village of Ottoville is represented by no more able business man or more reputable business than can be found in the person and occupation of J. J. Miller. He was born April 14, 1854, at Fremont, Sandusky county, Ohio, and is the son of John and Johanna Miller, highly esteemed farmers of Monterey. He attended school at his native place until nine years of age, when his parents moved to Monterey township, Putnam county, and he attended school at Delphos, Ohio, until fourteen years of age, after which time he worked on his father's farm until twenty one years of age, when he traveled through the west for one year and then returned to Ottoville and engaged in operating his father's farm for the three years ensuing.

He was married August 28, 1879, to Miss Margarette Laner, of Ottoville, and they now have a happy family of six children: Elizabeth, born August 2, 1880; Alexander, September 21, 1881; Mary, August 2, 1883; Edward, July 31, 1885; Katie, August 2, 1888; Maggie, May 5, 1890.

After his marriage he continued farming until 1882, when, in

partnership with Frank Gmeiner and Andrew Kehres, he engrged in the manufacture of tile under the firm name of Frank Gmeiner & Co. He remained in this position until 1890, when he sold his interest and purchased the Beckman Hotel, at Ottoville, and was proprietor of this well known house until 1892 when he engaged in the general mercantile business, and since



BUSINESS ROOM OF J. J. MILLER.

that date no merchant of the county has shown more marked ability or enjoyed greater success. His handsome and spacious business room is filled with an immense stock of choice dry goods, boots and shoes, hats, caps, clothing and notions, and the busy proprietor finds himself in possession of the highest confidence and most liberal patronage. He is ably assisted by Mr. Joseph Otte, of Ottoville. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster of Ottoville.

REV. JOHN OTTO BREDEICK.

Father John Otto Bredeick, a native of Westphalia, was born at Verl, January 23, 1789. After the collegiate and theological course of studies he was ordained at Osnabrueck, Hanover, in 1822.

For twenty-two years he held various ecclesiastical positions in his native country, notably that of the Cathedral Chapter at Osnabrueck. On August 15, 1844, with a view to devoting



REV. JOHN OTTO BREDEICK.

himself to the American mission, he left his native country for America, landing in New York September 15th of that year, and came to Northwestern Ohio, October 17th, and on November 1st following landed at Section Ten, where he established the town of Delphos, Ohio. Here he built a log church, and in 1846 began the erection of a larger church, which served that congregation until the present church was erected in 1879.

In 1850 Father Bredeick took the first step to organize a church at Ottoville, Ohio. Here he found b.. six families; these he called together at the house of Mr. Fournier and said mass for them in a small room. Later he purchased forty acres of land for church purposes, paid for it himself, and laid it out into lots, selecting one suitable for a church, and sold those remaining, devoting the proceeds toward the erection of a church. The town was named Ottoville in honor of this worthy Father and benefactor.

On August 19, 1858, Father Bredeick departed this life, in his seventieth year. His remains were interred in the Delphos Catholic cemetery, where a suitable monument was erected to his memory.

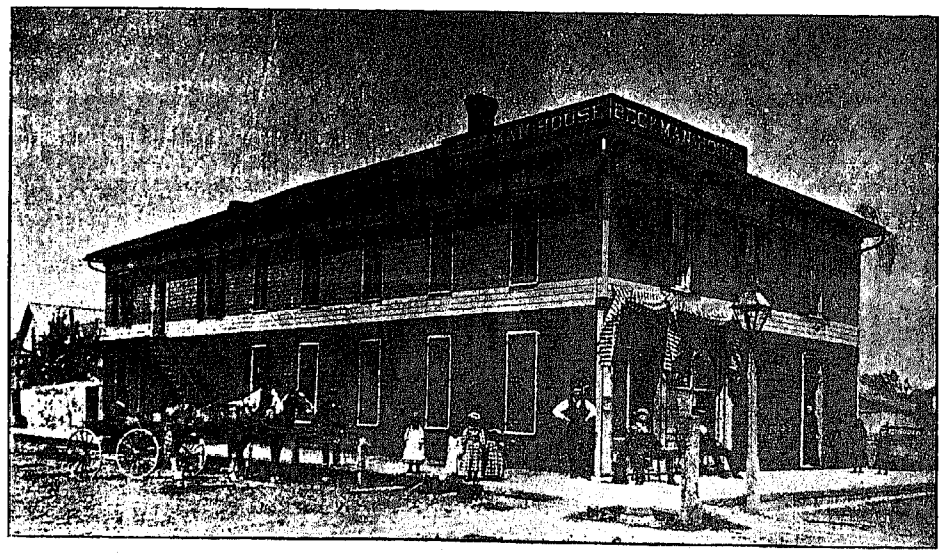
ANDREW KEHRES.

The hotel interests of Putnam county furnishes no more able or popular landlord than the subject of this sketch. Andrew Kehres was born at Bloomville, Seneca county, Ohio, November 30, 1853, and is a son of Sebastian and Barbara Kehres.

When one year old his parents moved to New Reigel, in the same county, and at this place he attended school until 1860, when he moved with his parents to Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, settling on a farm one mile east of Ottoville. He attended country school until 1865, and then worked continuously on his father's farm until twenty-one years of age when he went to Tiffin, Ohio, and worked in a warehouse three years, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and engaged in farming and threshing until the spring of 1881.

He was married May 3, 1881, to Miss Mary A. Miller, of Ottoville, daughter of John D. and Johanna Miller, well known and highly esteemed residents of Monterey township. To this union have been born eight children—Regina L., March 12, 1882; Elizabeth J., September 16, 1883; Barbara J., August 1, 1885, died March 27, 1886; Barbara, K., July 28, 1888, died in 1891; Clara B., August 9, 1890; Amelia R., August 10, 1892; Ada A., October 3, 1894.

After his marriage he lived on a farm and followed threshing until 1883, when, in partnership with J. J. Miller and Frank Gmeiner, he engaged in the manufacture of tile under the firm name of Frank Gmeiner & Co. He continued in this firm until the spring of 1888, when he sold out and purchased the store at Douglas, becoming station agent at that place also, and remained



THE BECKMAN HOUSE, OTTOVILLE.

in that position until 1891, when he sold out and moved to Ottoville, where in 1892 he purchased the Beckman Hotel and has since been engaged in the able management of this noted house, the reputation of which has never been greater or more creditable than during his administration.

He is the highly esteemed landlord of the popular and well patronized Beckman hotel, a cut of which appears with this biography.

CHAS. WANNEMACHER & SON.

Under the above firm name is conducted one of Putnam county's greatest mercantile concerns. This famous hardware and implement store was established by Charles Wannemacher in 1880, who sold a one-half interest to his son, Joseph C., in 1887, and since that date the store has been under the manage-



STORE OF WANNEMACHER & SON.

ment of this enterprising young business man, who has so conducted the business as to entitle him to the first rank in his county's business directory, and his store to a leading place among the best mercantile institutions of the county.

He was born at Ottoville, Ohio, December 23, 1861, and is the son of Charles and Fannie Wannemacher. He attended school in his native place until 1877 when he entered the high school of Ottawa, Ohio, where he remained during the years of 1877-78 and then secured a position in the general store of Ramey & Co. He continued in this position two years when he returned to Ottoville and was engaged for the next two years in teaching school and working in the hardware and implement store of his father.

In 1882 he became a steady employee of his father's store and remained in this position until 1887 when he purchased a one-half interest in the store and assumed the management of the business and has conducted it on an enviable plane of success.

The firm of Charles Wannemacher and son handle a large and choice line of hardware, stoves, paints, all kinds of vehicles and farm implements and transacts a business second to none in the county. He was appointed agent for the National Express Co. in November, 1893, and is now holding this position.

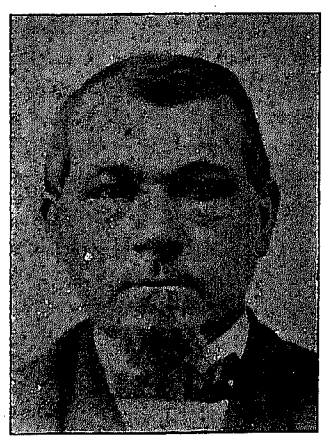
In 1895 the firm constructed a handsome new brick business

room which is one of the finest improvements of the town and which they are now occupying. He was married May 8, 1888 to Miss Anna Schneider, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Schneider, of Jackson township, this county, and to them have been born four children: Martin J., born June 24, 1889; Urban F., July 18, 1891; Monilsa K., June 21, 1893; Arnold A., December 25, 1895.

He was elected first corporation clerk of Ottoville, August 4, 1890, and has ever since filled this office with great credit.

CHARLES WANNEMACHER.

Mr. Wannemacher was born January 7, 1837, in Rangeningden, Hohenzoller, Hechengen, a province of Prussia. He came to America in 1852 with his parents, who settled at Ottoville in this county, where Mr. Wannemacher has lived ever since except the period from 1853 to 1858, during which time he was at Cincinnati working at his trade as a shoemaker, at which business he worked at Ottoville, after his return from Cincinnati, until 1873, when he was elected County Commissioner of Putnam county, being re-elected in 1876, serving in that capacity altogether six years. In 1880 he went into the hardware business at Ottoville in which he is still engaged.



CHARLES WANNEMACHER.

He was married July 9, 1860, to Miss Fannie Fournier, the only daughter of Joseph Fournier, one of the pioneer German citizens of the county, with whom he lived happily until her death in 1890 at the age of fifty years.

Mr. Wannemacher has especially interested himself in public improvements. As County Commissioner he paid particular attention to the proper drainage of the county, being exceptionally careful in the establishment of the public ditches which came under his jurisdiction as County Commissioner and in supervising their construction and during his occupancy of the office many of the best outlets for the water which formerly prevented the proper cultivation of the richest lands of our county were constructed into and through adjoining counties. Nor did his interest in public improvements cease with his work as Commissioner, for he has laid out several additions to Ottoville and has always been among the foremost men of the county in supporting and aiding the improvements which have so added to the growth and development of the county.

Mr. Wannemacher is a fine example of the pleasant, good natured liberal, yet thrifty, German citizen. A fine specimen of manhood he "carries weight" physically as well as mentally. The writer remembers on one occasion when he, with the Board of County Commissioners, of Putnam county, attended a ditch hearing upon a joint county ditch with the Board of County Commissioners of an adjoining county. The Putnam County Board consisted of Jarvis Postlewaite, William Shaffer and Charles Wannemacher, they three with the writer, weighing in the aggregate one thousand pounds. The board of the other county only averaged 150 pounds each and didn't make much showing with the Putnam County Board.

The number of minor offices in the township and district which Mr. Wannemacher has been selected by his neighbors to fill, give evidence of his popularity and the thorough manner in which he has performed his duties although he had no advantages of an education other than could be obtained in the common schools, show the extent of his natural business capacity.

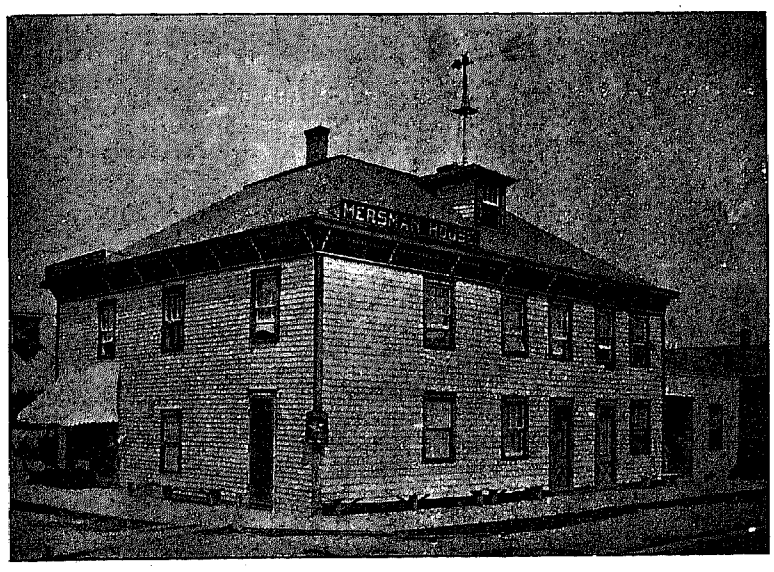
JOHN BERNARD MERSMAN.

The subject of this sketch was born in Glandort, Ohio, July 24, 1851, where he lived and attended school until twenty years of age when he drifted out into the world to fight life's battles on his own account. He located at Kendallville, Indiana, where he engaged in the lumber business which he continued at that place for twelve years. Selling out in 1883 he moved to Lagrange, Ind., and engaged in the planing mill business and for six years he operated the same with great success.



RESIDENCE OF J. B. MERSMAN.

In 1889 he sold his plant at Lagrange and moved to Ottoville, Ohio, engaging at once in the manufacture of lumber. Scarcely seven years has passed since he located in Ottoville, and yet so great has been his energy that today he is at the head of the largest sawmill business in the county and one of the largest and most reputable in the State, employing continuously eighteen



MERSMAN HOUSE.

men and manufacturing millions of feet of first class lumber every year.

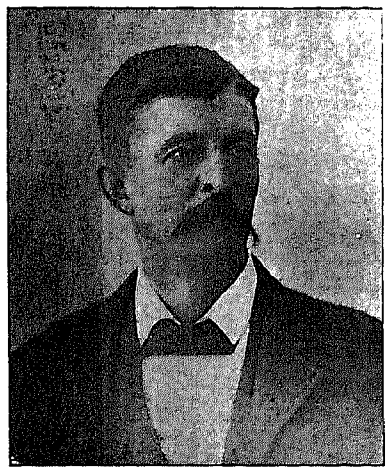
Mr. Mersman has connected with his mill one of the most complete and best equipped dry kilns in the State. It has a capacity of 20,000 feet and can be so operated as to dry green lumber from the stump in thirty days and prepare it for use equal to two years' drying in stacks. Mr. Mersman guarantees the work of his kiln and challenges superiority in any other method of seasoning lumber. He manufactures all kinds of lumber and his production is sought after by many of the best lumber dealers of the northwest. He is a business man of wonderful readiness and capacity, and his energies are visible in many other enterprises.

In 1892 he purchased the Beckman House at Ottoville, which he conducted one year and sold it to A. Kehres and immediately leased the Mersman House in the north part of town and furnished it new throughout, making it one of the leading hotels in the county. He has since operated this very successfully, and the traveling public will find in him a first class landlord and in his hotel first class accommodations. In 1893 he constructed on Church street the most beautiful residence in the town of Ottoville.

As a citizen he is public spirited, progressive and retains the highest confidence of his neighbors after a long series of public trusts and the successful discharge of numerous and responsible public duties. He was elected a member of the Ottoville council at the time the town was incorporated and has been retained in that position ever since, being one of the leaders of the body and one of the chief promoters of the numerous public improvements in one of the most substantial villages of the state. He was elected a member of the Ottoville school board in 1884 and has been largely instrumental in securing for Ottoville the splendid new school house just completed at a cost of $8,000. He is clerk of the board.

In 1871 he was married at Ft. Wayne, Ind., by Rev. Koenig,

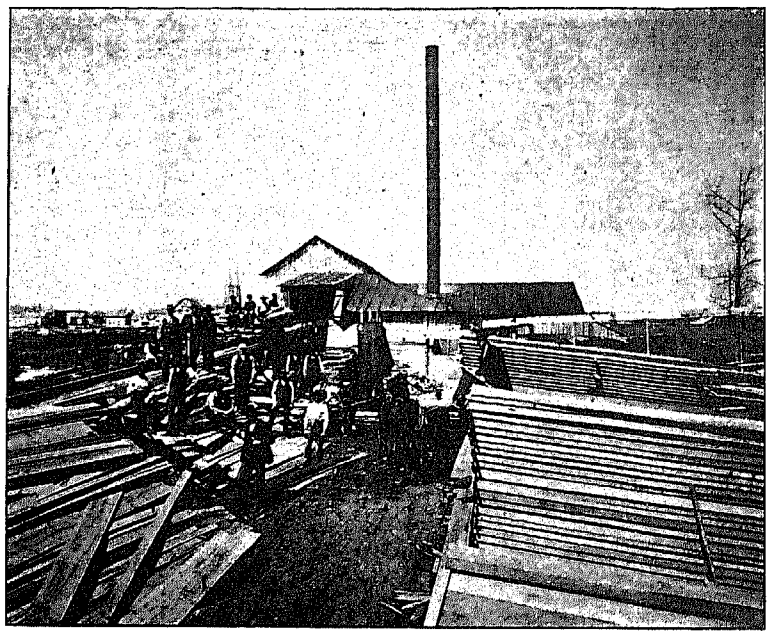
of St. Paul's church, of Ft. Wayne, to Miss Mary Magg, of Glandorf, Ohio. To this union have been born five children, two girls and three boys, the daughters both dying in infancy and buried at Avilla, Ind. The elder son Edward, now twenty-two years old, is superintendent at his father's mills and he is



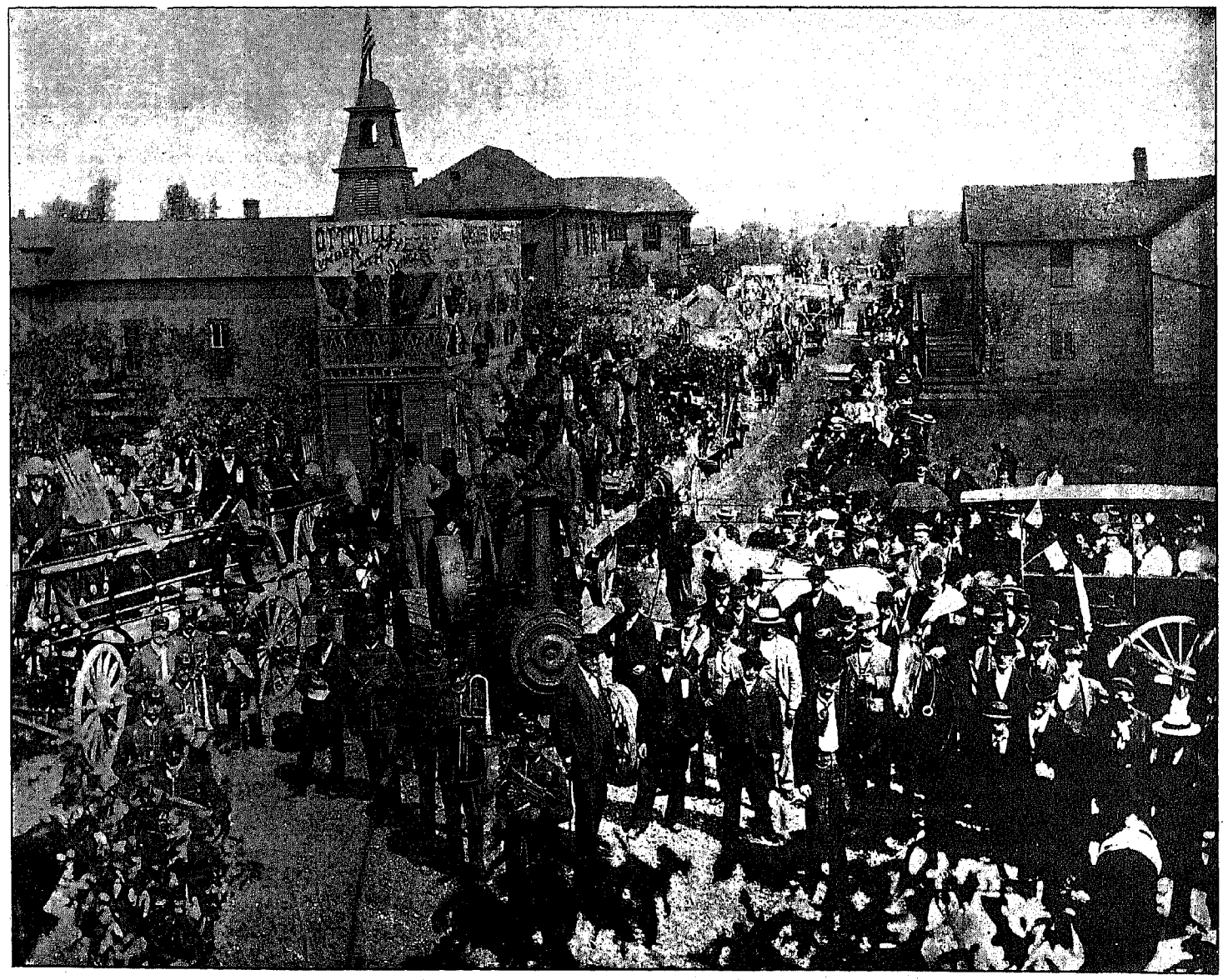
J. B. MERSMAN.

ably assisted in his work by his two younger brothers, Walter, aged nineteen years and Albert, fourteen.

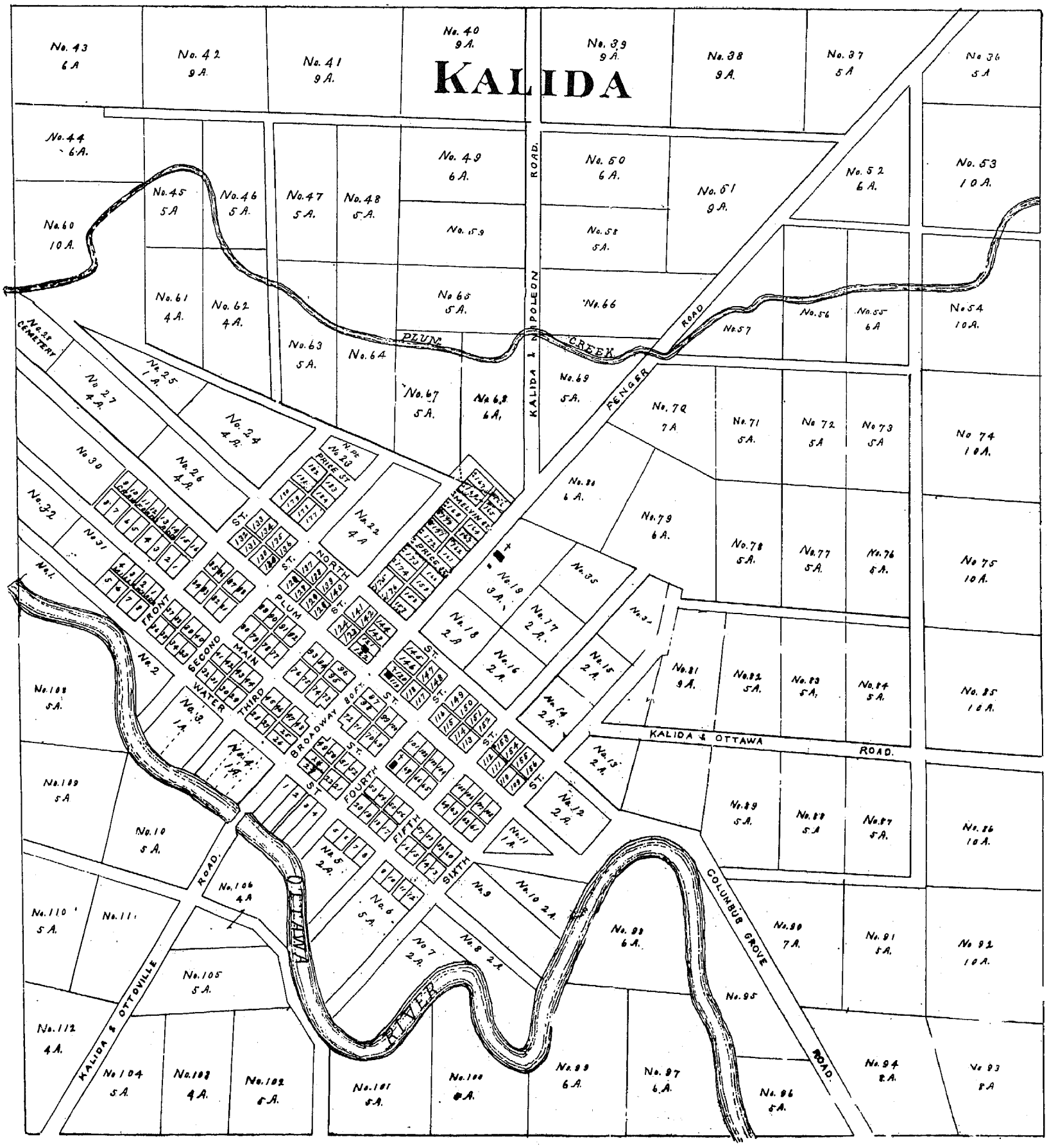
John Bernard Mersman may justly be placed in the leading ranks of Putnam county's most successful and progressive business men and the illustrations which we here present of his business and improvements will commend this assertion.

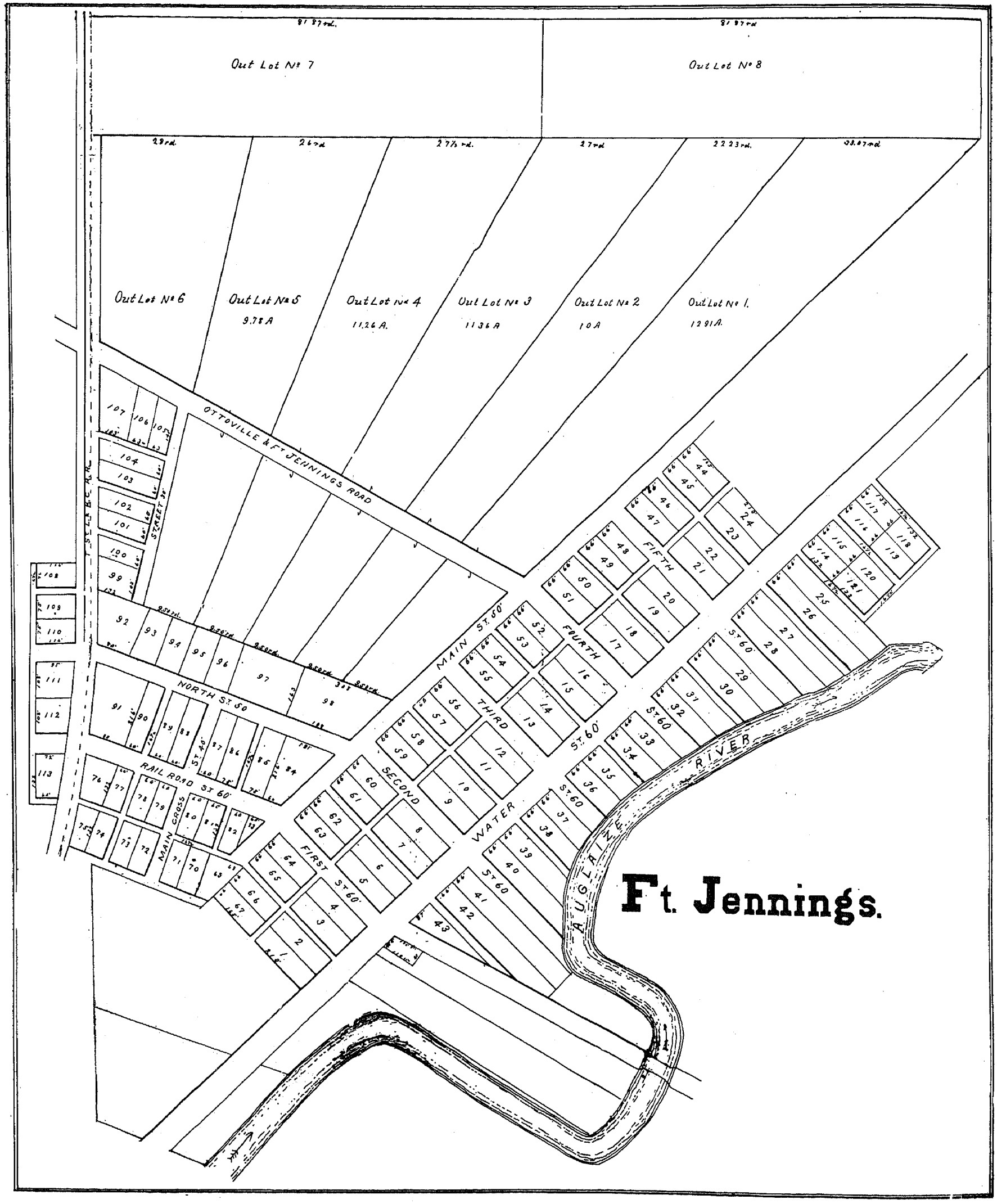


SAW MILL OF J. B. MERSMAN.



VIEW OF STREET PARADE AT THE GERMAN PIONEER MEETING OF 1894, AT OTTOVILLE.


KALIDA
PLUM CREEK
KALIDA & NAPOLEON ROAD.
FENGER ROAD
KALIDA & OTTAWA ROAD.
COLUMBUS GROVE ROAD.
KALIDA & OTTOVILLE ROAD.
OTTAWA RIVER
CEMETERY
PRICE ST.
MELVIN ST.
NORTH ST.
PLUM ST.
FRONT ST.
SECOND ST.
MAIN ST.
WATER ST.
THIRD ST.
BROADWAY
FOURTH ST.
FIFTH ST.
SIXTH ST.
No. 43 6 A
No. 42 9 A.
No. 41 9 A.
No. 40 9 A.
No. 39 9 A.
No. 38 9 A.
No. 37 5 A
No. 36 5 A
No. 44 6 A.
No. 45 5 A
No. 46 5 A.
No. 47 5 A.
No. 48 5 A.
No. 49 6 A.
No. 50 6 A.
No. 51 9 A.
No. 52 6 A.
No. 53 10 A.
No. 60 10 A.
No. 59
No. 58 5 A.
No. 61 4 A.
No. 62 4 A.
No. 63 5 A.
No. 64
No. 65 5 A.
No. 66
No. 57
No. 56
No. 55 6 A
No. 54 10 A.
No. 28
No. 27 4 A.
No. 25 1 A.
No. 24 4 A.
No. 26 4 A.
No. 67 5 A.
No. 68 6 A.
No. 69 5 A.
No. 70 7 A
No. 71 5 A.
No. 72 5 A
No. 73 5 A
No. 74 10 A.
No. 30
No. 32
No. 31
No. 23
No. 22 4 A
No. 80 6 A.
No. 79 6 A.
No. 78 5 A.
No. 77 5 A.
No. 76 5 A.
No. 75 10 A.
No. 1
No. 19 3 A.
No. 35
No. 18 2 A
No. 17 2 A.
No. 16 2 A.
No. 15 2 A.
No. 14 2 A.
No. 81 9 A.
No. 82 5 A.
No. 83 5 A.
No. 84 5 A.
No. 85 10 A.
No. 108 5 A.
No. 2
No. 3 1 A.
No. 4 1 A.
No. 13 2 A.
No. 12 2 A.
No. 11 1 A.
No. 89 5 A.
No. 88 5 A
No. 87 5 A.
No. 86 10 A.
No. 109 5 A
No. 10 5 A.
No. 5 2 A.
No. 6 5 A.
No. 9
No. 10 2 A.
No. 98 6 A.
No. 90 7 A.
No. 91 5 A.
No. 92 10 A.
No. 110 5 A.
No. 111
No. 106 4 A
No. 7 2 A.
No. 8 2 A.
No. 105 5 A.
No. 95
No. 112 4 A.
No. 104 5 A.
No. 103 4 A.
No. 102 5 A.
No. 101 5 A.
No. 100 8 A.
No. 99 6 A.
No. 97 6 A.
No. 96 5 A.
No. 94 8 A.
No. 93 8 A


Out Lot No 7
Out Lot No 8
Out Lot No 6
Out Lot No 5
9.78 A
Out Lot No 4
11.26 A.
Out Lot No 3
11.36 A
Out Lot No 2
10 A
Out Lot No 1.
12.91 A.
OTTOVILLE & FT JENNINGS ROAD
NORTH ST 50
RAIL ROAD ST 60'
MAIN CROSS ST 40'
FIRST ST 60'
SECOND
WATER ST 60'
THIRD
FOURTH
FIFTH
MAIN ST 50'
AUGLAIZE RIVER
Ft. Jennings.

Ft. Jennings.

Situated on the west banks of the Auglaize river about nine miles south of the junction of that river with the Blanchard river is the beautiful town of Ft. Jennings.

It was laid out in 1847 for H. J. Boehmer by Lucius E. Hawley, county surveyor, the acknowledgement having been taken by Wm. Scott, a pioneer Justice of the Peace of Putnam county.

The town was resurveyed some years later under the direction of Mr. Boehmer when some slight changes were made, but this survey does not appear on record, or the records were destroyed by fire and have never been restored. In 1878 Amos Boehmer laid out an addition to the town on the east side of the Clover Leaf railway, the survey being made by George Skinner, surveyor, and in 1883 Amos Boehmer laid out his second addition including all of that part of town lying west of the railroad. The survey was also made by Mr. Skinner John Allemire laid out an addition in 1894 which included lots 114 to 121 inclusive, John Cowen surveyor. The town is located in Sec. 33 and 34 in Jennings township. The land was purchased in 1845 by Henry J. Boehmer and Frederick Wellman, who built the first house in the town which is still standing on lot No. 1 in the south part of town.

The house was built, as near as can be ascertained, in the year 1845 and later in the same year Ferdinand Vondesembse constructed a residence. Two religious denominations create the religion of the community: the Catholic and Lutheran.

The former constructed the first church in the place in 1842, Mr. Boehmer having donated the ground on which it was built. The Lutheran congregation was organized in 1848 by Rev. Wm. Fuhrman, father in-law of Ralph E. Spencer, of Kalida, and the present church was built in 1861.

The streets of the town are sewered and piked and her people have the advantage of a complete water works system. The Clover Leaf Railroad was built through the town in 1876.

Ft. Jennings has one of the oldest and most reputable general stores in the county, it being founded in 1852 by Christian Raabe and is now conducted by his two sons, Charles C. and John C. Raabe, and the largest music store in the county, that of Peter Kramer.

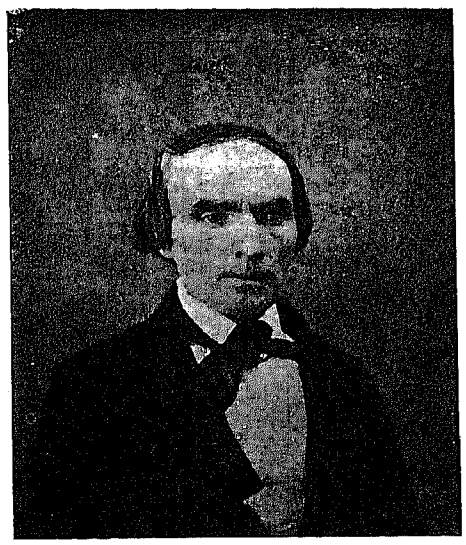
There is a saw mill, two hotels, a good elevator, a tile mill, stores representing all the different lines of merchandise and about four hundred busy people. The new Catholic church, one of the leading religious edifices in the county, was built in 1884 at a cost of $21,000.

The town was incorporated in 1881 and now surrounded by the most productive lands, tilled by most energetic and prosperous farmers, she enjoys a proud place in our most progressive municipalities.

HON. H. J. BOEHMER.

Mr. Boehmer was born on the 17th day of November, 1807, in the City of Vechta, in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Germany. While yet a boy, and after having served some time as a clerk in the office of a Justice of the Peace, he attended the Normal School at Minster, in Westphalia, for the purpose of becoming a teacher. His principal professor at Minster was the celebrated Bernhard Overberg. After graduating with distinction he was employed as teacher in the town of Steinfeld until the year 1832, when he emigrated to the United States and landed in Baltimore, and in the same year located at Ft. Jennings, Putnam county, Ohio—then only known as an old military station on the Auglaize river. He then went back to a town in Auglaize county called Minster, where he taught school till about the year 1836, when he was married and came back to Ft. Jennings and permanently settled there. He then commenced to improve the land which he had previously entered at Ft. Jennings and devoted himself to agriculture, and in connection with it, started a country store, trading with the Indians, who were still there, taking in exchange for his goods the fur and deer hides which the Indians would bring in.

He served as County Commissioner from 1842 to 1851, and as Justice of the Peace in Jennings township for twenty-four years. In the year 1850 he laid out what is now known as the village of Ft. Jennings. In the year 1855 the people of the counties of



HON. H. J. BOEHMER.

Putnam and Henry elected him to represent them in the House of Representatives during the years 1856-7. In 1860 his party gave him the nomination for the Senate, in his district, but he suffered the fate of his party at the election, and was defeated. He was again returned to the House of Representatives and served during the session of 1864-5, and was again re elected in the fall of 1867 to serve for two years. In November, 1868, he was called to Columbus to a special session of the Legislature, and while there took sick. He came home, and died on the 5th day of December, 1868.

P. KRAMER,

... DEALER IN ...

Pianos and Organs

LEADERS:

STEGER PIANOS,

MASON & HAMLIN PIANOS,

PACKARD ORGANS,

AND OTHERS.

EUROPEAN HARMONIUMS.

No canvassing, but lowest prices. Call and see for yourself.

HON. AMOS BOEHMER.

Mr. Boehmer is a native of Putnam county, having been born at Ft. Jennings in this county in 1838. He is the son of Hon. H. J. Boehmer, one of the most prominent of the pioneer German citizens of the county, and who for four years represented the district composed of Paulding and Putnam counties in the Ohio House of Representatives.



HON. AMOS BOEHMER.

Mr. Boehmer's early days were spent upon a farm. He commenced his education in the common schools, but continued his studies in the schools of Findlay and Cincinnati. After he was eighteen years old he, for a short time, attended St. Xaviers College at Cincinnati.

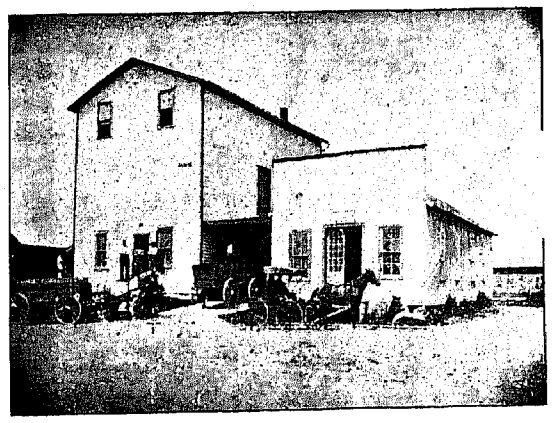
Mr. Boehmer was admitted to the bar about 1862, and practiced his profession in the courts of Putnam, Allen and Van Wert counties, all of which, cornering near Ft. Jennings, where he resided, gave him clients in each of those counties. In 1866 Mr. Boehmer was married to Miss Mary Kleekamp.

Assisting his father in his large and complicated business interests, practicing law and filling many positions of trust, both public and private, Mr. Boehmer's has been a busy and useful life, useful not only to himself and his family, but to the community.

In 1884 he was selected by the people of this county to represent them in the State Legislature, and served in the House of Representatives of Ohio for two terms, extending from 1885 to 1889, where he was, though not noted for much speaking, one of the most useful and influential working members of that body.

THE FT. JENNINGS ELEVATOR.

The accompanying illustration represents the working place of an individual who forms an important figure in the business of Western Putnam county. The elevator was constructed in



FT. JENNINGS ELEVATOR.

1881 by C. F. Raabe and William Suever, but four years later Mr. Raabe purchasd the interest of Mr. Suever and conducted

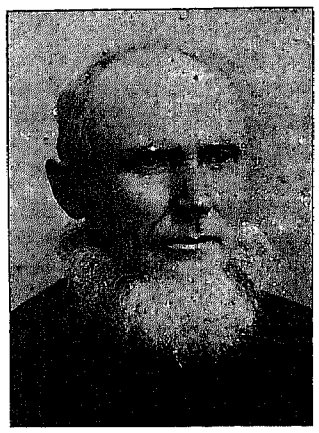
the business until 1887, when he sold out to his sons, Arnold H. and John C., and the business has since been conducted under the firm name of Raabe Brothers, but is now entirely under the management of Arnold H. Raabe.

This gentleman is the second son of Christian and Arnolde Raabe and was born at Fort Jennings December 16, 1861. He attended school at his native place until 1879, when he entered the employ of his father in the famous general store which formed the subject of the preceding article. Here he remained until 1892, when he engaged in business for himself. On June 11, 1889, he was united in marriage to Louisa Kimmerle, of Jackson township, this county. To this union have been born two children: Olga A., February 14, 1892, and Frederick C., April 7, 1894.

His elevator ships about two hundred carloads of grain per year, and its busy proprietor holds the confidence of a large list of patrons and represents an important branch of business most worthily.

CHRISTIAN RAABE.

Christian Raabe was born in the German Empire, July 28, 1831. His parents, Conrad and Eva Elizabeth (Stemler) Raabe, settled in Putnam county in 1833, and died in 1851 and 1854, respectively. His wife, Arnolde, daughter of Cornelius and Arnolde (Haverhals) Kortier, was born in Holland, November 2, 1837. Her parents came to this county in 1848.



CHRISTIAN RAABE.

Mr. and Mrs. Raabe were married at Ft. Jennings, November 19, 1856. To this union were born, Christian F., December 17, 1858, died April 7, 1893; Arnold Henry, December 16, 1861; John Conrad, November 7, 1864; Charles Cornelius, August 18, 1868; Catharine Arnolde, November 27, 1872; Emilie Johanna, May 30, 1874, died October 30, 1875; Rudolph, June 6, 1877, and Amelia Matilda, February 27, 1880.

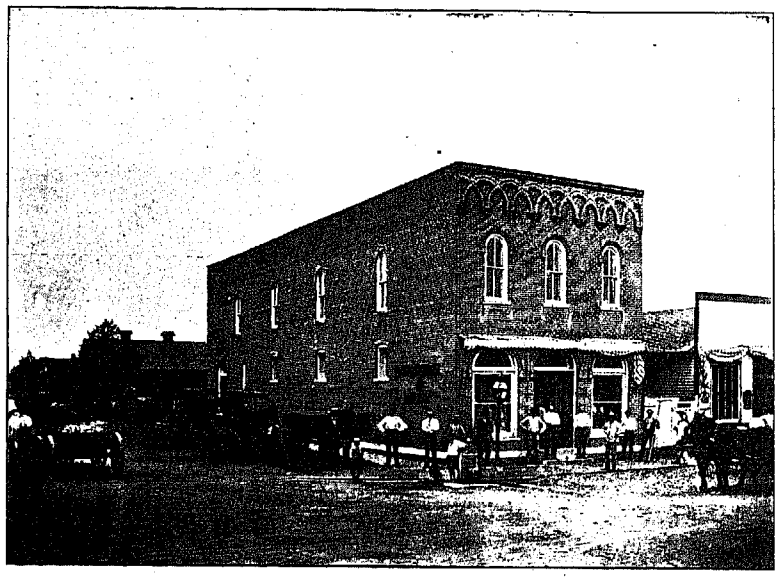
He has served as Township Treasurer seven years, Justice of the Peace six years, Coroner four years, and Assessor from 1855 to 1857.

C. RAABE & SONS.

On the northwest corner of Water and Second streets in the village of Ft. Jennings, is conducted one of the oldest, most famous and most reputable general stores in Putnam county. It was founded in 1852, forty-four years ago, by Christian Raabe, who has long since become one of the foremost citizens of his county. The business was conducted by him until 1889, when he sold an interest to his son, John C., and under the firm name of C. Raabe & Son the business was conducted until October 1, 1892, when Charles C. Raabe, brother to John C., purchased his father's interest, and at this writing these two able young business men find themselves the proprietors of the great store which was formed by their father so long ago and which has never varied from the highest plane of business standing. Its established rule of business progression has never wavered, and throughout its long existence its proprietors have exceeded even the rapid progress of the fertile country of which it is the most noted mercantile figure.

JOHN C. RAABE.

John C. Raabe was born at Ft. Jennings, Ohio, November 7, 1864. He is the third son of Christian and Arnolde Raabe and has inherited the energy and business qualifications so marked in the life of his parents. He attended school at his native town until 1879, at which time he entered the Lebanon Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, where he remained until 1880, afterwards attending the business department of the Normal School at Valparaiso, Ind.



BUSINESS ROOM OF C. RAABE & SONS.

Upon leaving school in 1882 he entered the employ of his father in his store at Ft. Jennings, where he remained two years, and in July, 1885, he entered the United States mail service, working on the Clover Leaf railroad one and a half years between Toledo and Delphos, Ohio, and two years on the Wabash between Toledo and St. Louis. On December 24, 1888, he resigned this position and purchased an interest in his father's store, remaining in this partnership until October 1, 1892, when he formed a partnership with his brother, Charles C., and purchased the entire store.

The business reputation of Christian Raabe will not deteriorate while the store, where he made it, is in the hands of his sons.

John C. Raabe was married April 29, 1889, to Miss Fredaricka Kimmerle, of Jackson township, this county. They have one child, Aaron Carlisle, born April 1, 1892.

CHARLES C. RAABE.

Our subject was born at Ft. Jennings, Ohio, August 18, 1868, and is the fourth son of Christian and Arnolde Raabe. He attended school at his native town until 1890, when he entered the Normal School at Middlepoint, Ohio, where he remained until 1892 and then entered a business college at Lexington, Ky., from which he graduated, and on returning to his native place engaged in the insurance business which he followed until 1893, when he formed a partnership with his brother, John C., and purchased the famous store of his father, and has since contributed his part toward maintaining the long continued honor and reputation of this store.

He is a young man of great energy, of unceasing diligence, and has carried into business an indomitable will to succeed and to perpetuate the name of Raabe in the leading line of Putnam county's merchants.

He was married October 11, 1892, to Miss Elida H. Jamison, who was born August 24, 1873. As a result of this union three children have been born—Florence A., May 11, 1893; Edith C., September 12, 1894; Elmer, January 15, 1896.

Such are the characters of the men into whose hands has fallen one of the oldest and most reputable mercantile concerns of Putnam county.

JOHN COWAN.

John Cowan was born March 18, 1861, in Marion township, Allen county, Ohio. His father was Moses C. Cowan, who served in Co. F, 118th O. V. I. His mother was Watrena (Kortier) Cowan, who came from Holland when but eight years old. John is one of nine children, of whom only three survive. He was left an orphan at the age of twelve, and after the death of his parent, which occurred in 1874, he was taken to Jennings township, Putnam county, and there worked on a farm until the age of twenty years. In 1882 he attended the Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, and while there fitted himself for the vocation of teacher, and subsequently taught eleven years in the schools of Jennings township. In 1884 he was appointed guard at the Ohio penitentiary and served two years, he being the youngest guard then in that institution.



JOHN COWAN

He took a course in surveying and civil engineering at Lebanon, Ohio, and has done considerable surveying and township ditch engineering in his vicinity.

He was married August 15, 1889, to Jennie Dunlap. Four children bless their union—Trena M., Chloe J., Ray M. and Grace C. He has served two terms as Assessor, one as Supervisor and one as Justice of the Peace. At the primary election in the spring of 1895 he was nominated for County Recorder on the Democratic ticket, and in the following November was elected almost without opposition.