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.

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History of Putnam County.

BY HON. D. I. BROWN.

This 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 McGillivray, commissioners of the United States, with full power and authority to hold conferences and conclude and sign treaties with all the tribes or nations within the boundary of the State of Ohio, and theanches, chiefs and warriors of the Wyandot, Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, Potawatomie, Ottawa and Chippea tribes of Indians.

Putnam County was bounded and established by act of the Legislature, passed and took effect February 19, 1820, and included town 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 southwestern 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 1824.

William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClain 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 Barber and organized the court by electing Daniel W. Gray, Clerk, and Amos Evans, Prosecuting Attorney.

Abraham Barber was appointed Town Director; Thomas Gray, William Friddle and Samuel Myers, County Commissioners; F. S. Pick, County Surveyor; Samuel Myers, John Cochran, Isaac Owen, 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 28, 1834, court met at the house of Abraham Stebbins. Present, William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClain, 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 30, 1834, at the house of Sheldon Guthrie, in Kalida. Present, Cochran, Morris and McClain, 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 G. Holt, President Judge; Cochran, Morris and McClain, Associate Judges. At this court the first grand jury of the county was empanelled. Its members were John Giffy, James Turned, Peter Bussert, James W. Waskley, William Ramsey, Moses Sutton, Caleb Gas-kill, Obad Martin, John Hand, McDaniel Osborn, Benjamin Cleverenger, Isaac McCracken, Robert McCracken, John Link and John Ridler, with Benjamin Cleverenger, foreman, and James M. Lee, constable. (James M. Lee is the only one of this court now, 1895, living.)

At the Octobrer election of 1834, William Friddle, Benjamin Cleverenger and Sheldon Guthrie 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. Pitch, Surveyor. At this election only 183 votes were cast, as follows: Sugar Creek township cast 84 votes; Union, 23; Perry, 21; Jennings, 17; Riley, 18; Blanchard, 82; 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 detaching the entire southeastern township (Richland) with one tier of sections of the south side of Riley township, the entire township of Monroe—town two, south of range seven east—three tiers of sections 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 476 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 Del-
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 1859 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; but, however, 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 20th of March, 1859, all of which acts proved ineffectual, the Supreme Court having decided portions thereof unconstitutional. In 1890 the first general drainage law conferring jurisdiction upon the County Commissioners to locate and establish ditches was enacted, and at

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 swamp and swale lands of Putnam county, so that today the swamps are cleared 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 tilling 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 was one of the early roads along which the settlements were made.

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

The Poplar Ridge Road, leading across the north end of the county and into Defiance county. These roads constitute 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 Gilbert to Ottawa, where it crossed the Blanchard River, thence extended to Kalida.

The Williamsburg State Road, starting at Williamsburg, Hancock county, running in a northwesterly direction through

A THE COURT HOUSE.

the session of the Legislature of 1861, the act of 1850 was modified so as to make the law more practicable and capable of being enforced. From that date up to 1870 various amendments were made to the law of 1851, and in the meantime the law upon that subject became so revised 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 effectively 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 drainage, but the health of the people has been greatly benefitted. As far back as 1860, 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 scour 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 swamps 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 northw est.

The South Ridge Road, leading from Findlay to Ft. Wayne through Pandora, Columbus Grove, Vaughnsville and Delphos, 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 to the west side of the Auglaize River through Fort Jennings to Fasco 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 northwesterly 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 designated rather than the points of the compass, so that, as a rule, they run diagonally, and along the rivers follow the banks with out reference to course. Many of them have been straighten
ATLAS OF PUNTAM COUNTY.

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

On April 12, 1850, 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 the acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, the following townships proceeded topike the roads, viz.: Ottawa, Blanchard, Ritzy, Pleasant, Sugar Creek, and Van Buren; and completed their roads in 1850 and 1881, at a cost to the townships ranging from $10,000 to $50,000 each.

To define 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 gravelled, 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 Monroeville 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.

Ran a portion of the way along and near the west line of the county for six miles through Monterey township in said county, at the north part of which it turns 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 1846, 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 1846, 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 1846 the Ohio & Indiana railroad, extending from Crestline, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, Indiana, began to run its cars and carry freight over its track. This infringed a market for the southern portion of this county at Lima, Ohio, but in 1859 the Dayton & Michigan railroad was completed and running through Columbus Grove, Ottawa, Leipsic and Belmore, furnishing a market within the

THE COUNTY JAIL.

Crawford, Darlington, (the last three have not been platted), Coscoda and Cleverdale. These railroads furnish to all parts of the county convenient shipping points.

Another railroad, the Lima Northern, is now, 1885, being built through Columbus Grove, Ottawa, and Leipsic.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

By Rev. T. J. Harrach.

Of the eighteen counties comprising the Maumee Valley, none is more worthy of note and favorable comment than Putnam. The unpersued 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 in 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 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 souls who made it possible for them to have so godly a heritage.

People who withstand the test of the world's evolutions are those who prove by the wisdom and virtues of those who have gone before them, and as we contemplate the life 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 states 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 cut 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 outdoes, joined with good cheer and thrift in deeds, 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 married 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 pioners of fifty or sixty years ago, having so many things in common to contend with, it began 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 were homespun clothing and filled their lamps with oil and wood. When a new person would move in, they were welcomed 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 casing year.

When sickness or death, or any other misfortune befell a home, the spirit of the Good Samaritan was practically manifested. Socialiities 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 men who, at a log-rolling, barn-raising, shopping or having a bee, distinguished themselves by out-fighting, out-singing or out-haising 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 skill in the management of household duties, had increased 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 trusted seats, were cardinal virtues with the old and young in those days, and the names of our
was dust of the eye and nose; 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
breed 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
1833-34 I was employed by the school directors to build fires in
the school houses 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 Daybolli’s arithmetic, C. A. Goodrich’s his-
tory of the United States, the Elementary spelling book and
those above named are very scarce in this country. In June
1855, accepted a deputyship under Marcus Schuyler, then County
Surveyor of Seneca county, O. Then bought a new Verrill
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 fre-
cently 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
the county infirmary.

Kirkham’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 way he had to do it. I then dis-
covered that the boys and why 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 boundar-
ies, 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 Glazey’s geography. A good neighbor, Dennis F. Cra-
mer, a practical surveyor, gave me instructions on surveying.
At the age of eighteen years I commenced the practice of
surveying machines were known of in Seneca county. Our wheat
crops were generally good in quality and quantity. The same
section 15, township 1 north, range 7 east, first meridian of Ohio,
containing 40 acres of land according to the official plat returned,
etc., it good. Again, the following described tract of land, inten-
ded for the same tract, commencing 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-run on 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.
0 acres, according to the official plat, etc. More or less in
a description is of no account, while the common view is that
it curea a multitude of errors. Again, a patent issued by the
Government for the west half of the southwest quarter of sec-
section 16, township 2 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
of the southwest quarter of section 8, 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 20.85 chains as the width of the west part of said southwest quarter, and 30.00 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 patent. While the plat indicates the west part to contain 83.38 acres and the east part to contain 80 acres, the patents recognize 163.38 acres in the quarter section. The patents should describe the land in said southwest quarter as the west part of said southwest quarter containing 83.38 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 plotted under the "Manassas 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 more 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 denominations 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 left side and two notches on the right 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 miles squares.

Now we come to the subdivision 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 25 and 26 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 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 townships noting the offset in links either east or west of the section corner to 85 and 86, 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 35 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 80.30 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 55 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. Youngstown 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 east. If we ship 2 north, in range 15 east, first principal meridian, Ohio, the section was not fall 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 Reserve 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 interpretation of deeds; and when we meet a case of a deed as inaccurately worded, we must sometime 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 each standard, as 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 sections 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 30 chains, should be 30.05. Now the same principal holds good, that if a proprietor of land lays it out into town or village lots and his measure of 80 feet is found to be 81 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. Baunt's heirs, Wright's Report of Supreme Court of Ohio, page 570, also 9th Pickering, page 531, Massachusetts.)

In November, 1882, 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, 1885, 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 fields and grade lines 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 humbug." But the act of Congress required on proposed ditches were required to be accompanied with a profile and grade line, (See Ditch Record No. 4, page 164,) since that time have surveyed many miles of ditches. One ditch in particular which I have in mind in sections No. 1 and No. 3 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-
The result of my action may be found in the 41st O.S. Report, page 420, 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 wandered miles of swamp, surveying land and engineering ditches, until I can now look forward toward my 75th millennium 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 30, 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.

Sheets graduated in 1879, having completed a four years course in three years, being also during those three years, in addition to the regular course, several elective branches. His special force 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, 1883, he formed a partnership with J. S. Ogan, which continued until Judge Sheets was elected to the bench.

In 1884 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 Putnam, Henry and Wood, 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 an extraordinary degree of 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.
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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 maintained 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, 1886, and his election in 1884 as Commissioner for the term commencing September, 1886.

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 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 Chickamauga. 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; Arabelle J., born April 16, 1879.

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. SCHMITSCHULE.

Mr. Schmitschule is a native of Germany, having been born January 14, 1845, at Borghorst, Province of Westphalia, in that Empire. He is the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Wilken) Schmitschule.

On June 8, 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. Schmitschule 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 Zellers and three years under his successor, R. J. Spellman, until Mr. Spellman's death in 1887, when, in November of that year, Mr. Schmitschule 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, 1886, 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. Schmitschule 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 Beuttler, 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. Schmitschule 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. Schmitschule has been exceptionally faithful in the performance of his official duties, and his gentle nature and readiness to oblige, although he is a little hasty in his temper, has made 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.

CHAS. G. LEFFLER, Commissioner.

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. Prayor, this partnership con-
tinuing until Mr. Prayor's election as Prosecuting Attorney in
1832, when it was dissolved and Mr. Leasure formed a partner-
ship with Guy Killen. This partnership was succeeded in 1830
by one with David N. Powell, under the firm name of Leasure &
Powell.

At the November election of 1846 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 recog-
ned a common school education while he remained at home with his
father working upon the farm. When about the age of nine-
teen years, his father having given him his time, he then en-
gaged in the occupation of school teaching for a period of two or
three years, and thereafter entered the Alleghany College at
Aleon, Pa., as a student and completed a classical course at
that institution, graduating therefrom in a class of seventeen in
June, 1830. 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 Richard & Moss, well known law-
yers at Warren, Ohio, during the years of 1835 to 1855, and
was admitted to the bar at Canfield, Ohio, in 1855. In June, 1866,
he came to Putnam county, where he has resided ever since.

On March 9, 1870, he was married to Ann R. Hagenbaugh, daughter of John Hagenbaugh of Green County, Ohio. He was
the first taught a school at West Leipsic, and afterwards at Killia, until
1857, when he formed a law partnership with Stanislaus
Sutton at Ottawa, Ohio, under the firm name of Sutton & Thom-
as, 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 partner-
sip 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 6th day of February, 1891,
and was re-elected to that position in 1896, and which office he holds at the present time.

He was appointed School Examiner of the county in 1870,
which position he held until 1875, 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 high 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 dependents 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 expiration of his term. He now resides in
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, 1845, 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 there-
by, they changed location to a point above the Delaware Rapids,
where war ships were ineffective and where the great-grand-
father of the subject of this biography was born and raised. His
great-grandfather, Conrad Oberbeck, served as a captain in the war
of 1812, and died at the advanced age of 94 years. John Ober-
beck, father of Aaron, was born February 23, 1812, on the "old
bone farm," and at the age of 28 years married Sophia Beck,
dughter of Phillip 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
1854, since when 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: Louis, wife of F. R. Mills, of Leipsic, Ohio; Sarah, wife of William
L. Baxter, of Convoy, Van Wert County; Christena, wife of John
Werner, of 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 Ohio, and
being at the time less than 18 years of age, on account of
being sick with lung fever was not mustered for service. But
nothing daunted, he collected again and was mustered into service
September 5, 1861, in Company A, 97th Regiment, O. V. L., 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 de-

tachement 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 over-
powering column of eight to ten hundred Confederate cavalry
charged down upon and through the Union skirmish line, terrify-
ing 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 Battle'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 conflict 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 comb and a nestly 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 then
 commenced anew by attending school and teaching during the
winter season for two or three years, and in 1866 the position
he held was employed in the County Recorder's office, and during the
sume
of 1866 was employed as Deputy County Clerk of Ottawa,
and at intervals before and after was employed as clerk of the
County Auditor's office. In the year 1896 he took up
the study of surveying, to which he devoted all his energies at
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 two
years on the School Board, during which time Ottawa's spe-

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

Mr. Oberbeck was married December 5, 1871, to Miss Jane
Curtwright, daughter of Ex-Sheriff W. W. Cartwright, of
Pauline (Bowman) Cartwright. Mrs. Oberbeck was born in
Putnam County, July 14, 1851, and died April 3, 1889, of

tube.

After returning from the army he had no occupation but that
of a soldier. Three years gone and no profession, he then

Mr. Leopold, the eldest son of Bernard and Elizabeth
Leopold and Stein, early German settlers of this county, was
born at Glendora, Putnam County, Ohio, September 22, 1825.
He was educated in the common schools of that place and

JOSEPH LEOPOLD.
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Deputy County Surveyor, which position he filled under D. W. Selts, County Surveyor, from 1888 to 1894, at which time, having been elected at the November election in 1893, he succeeded Mr. Seits 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 draftsman who ever held the position of County Surveyor, and his record books and reports are 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, 1888, 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 Bureau of the United States, accepted the appointment of observer for this locality and has in charge the instruments furnished by the government 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 15th day of February, 1866, removing with his parents to Putnam county at the age of thirteen years. Until he was eighteen 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 school.

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 31st 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, 1885, after the close of the war, to Miss Rebecca Norton. They have four children—Eva A. (Burgess) Gehman, Cora V. (Burgess) Smith, Frances N. Burgess, and Zoe 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.

MRS. 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 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, 1869, at which place he attended school, and afterwards taught fourteen terms in the schools of Pleasant township.

He was elected justice of the peace in 1892, 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 practice a constantly progressive one.

Dr. Light was elected coroner of Putnam county as a Democrat in 1891, and has filled the office with credit.

He is again a candidate for that office, and will be elected in 1888.

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

Mr. Sherman was married in 1874 to Miss Frances Wildermood, 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 Bucyrus, where "mine host" he dispenses hospitality to all who require it.

In 1893 he was elected Inferior 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 unambitious 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 community 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 Inferior director of Putnam county and will hold his office until 1908. His father, William P. Summers, patriotically and yet all the fun out of it that he could. He was mustered out with his company at Rome, Georgia, October 18, 1864. After his return home, on the 15th day of May, 1866, he was married to Matilda Deepker. There were born of this marriage eleven children, of whom seven are now living.

During the past ten years Mr. Kreiger has been the junior at the court house in Ottawa, and by his thorough attendance at 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, 1864, in South Wales, and was brought by his parents to Putnam county in March, 1866. He was educated in school district No. 6 of Syracuse township, in this county. This school is familiarly called "Bryant College" in that township.

He was married in 1892 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, Byron Milton and Thomas Walter, born August 27, 1888, July 4, 1896, and March 22, 1898, respectively.

Mr. Williams served as trustee of Sugar Creek township, for three years, and at the general election of 1906 was elected Primary Director of Putnam county, in which capacity he is still serving.

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

BERNARD KREIGER.

Mr. Kreiger was born at Dayton, Montgomery county, Ohio, September 4, 1837. He was the son of Matthias and Mary (Hopkins) Kreiger who emigrated from Hanover, Germany, in 1834. In 1841 he was brought to Glendora, in this county, by his parents, with whom he lived at that town until October 5, 1851, 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 was forager, a decided success. Barney was a bright example of the volunteer soldier who went into the army from the energy, industry and capacity have aided to largely in building up the agricultural standing of Putnam county among the quilted states in the state.
History of Ottawa.

HON. DAVID L. 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 Reservoir in Ohio, and on the site of the old Indian town of Lower Tawa in 1824, 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 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 original plat there has been platted additions to the village; one in 1850 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 1864. Judge John Cox laid out another addition some time after this. In 1869 the firm of Sluson & Ewing made an addition on the east and again in 1886, 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 1835. Soon after that they left for Indian Territory, beyond the Mississippi (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 1856, 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, in 1825. He moved his new dwelling house to the present site of the town about 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 Agate, who settled two miles east of Ottawa, in 1822. William Galbraith, William and Jonathan Y. Sackett, Henry Crawford, Christian Heuber and Meredith Parish settled here about the same time. James Agate and Henry Ridgeon settled on the west side of the Blanchard, below Ottawa, in 1822. James Agate 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 Horsteman. In 1838 Prof. Horsteman located and procured patents for 550 acres of land in section twenty-one. 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 gaudy structure, built mostly by the membership of the church at a cost of many thousands of dollars. Father Horsteman was accompanied here by John Francis Kable, William Guilder, Christian Strope, Mathias Beckrath, F. W. Schuman, Fred Beckrath and Fred. Brodrick, who left Glandorf, Germany, on the 25th day of August before. A small portion of the 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 Horsteman laid the foundation of wealth to many poor families who settled on these lands. After he settled here, Father Horsteman built the first grist mill on Cranberry creek, within the present limits of Glandorf, in 1837. In 1841 the Rev. George David came to Glandorf and remained there until 1846, when he was transferred to Ft. Jennings, where he died in 1860. Father Horsteman 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 in April 6, 1835. The first officers were: Treasurer, George Agate, William Galbraith, James Agate; Treasurer, Michael Row; Clerk, William Sackett; Constables, William Bowman; Supervisor, Michael Row and William Galbraith; Overseers of the Poor, Meredith Parish and Samuel Clark; Fence-viewers, Michael Row and Samuel Runyon, and by order of the court for an election held May 5, 1835. John Cox and William Williams were chosen as the first Justices of the Peace for the township. In 1855 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 Malsmore, 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. 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 1824, with a fair prospect of a road, paralleling the Dayton & Michigan, being constructed during the season. The present population of Ottawa is 4,300; this is based upon the school enumeration of 1880, of seven hundred and three (705) pupils. The public buildings consist of two public union school buildings, one located on the original plat, west of the D. & M. R., consisting of eight rooms, was completed for school in the year 1866, the other located on the Sluson & Ewing addition, east of the D. & M. R., was completed and used in September, 1879. 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., 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 1877. The Common Pleas Court room, with the Clerk's office, Consultation room, Patent and Grand Jury rooms are in the second story, all offices belonging to the county are on the first floor. The Jail and Sheriff's residence are in the same building 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 1865, 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 Utopia'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 notions store, two Saddler shops, three wagon and buggy shops, two blacksmith shops, one machine shop and foundry, two shaft 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 hardware stores, two photographic galleries, two dentists, one marble shop, one tile factory, two brick yards, two furniture and undertaker's shops, two steam laundries, two cigar manufacturers, two crematories, one electric light plant, two warehouses, one flooring mill, one saw mill and lumber yard.

Orders in the village: Masons—Masons 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. B. Blekesman; Clerk, Louis H. Huber; Treasurer, Cha. Schichtel; Street Commissioner, Jas. A. McDowell; Council, Frank Brinkman, A. T. Fox, B. Beckman, Frank Kern, Herman Crawford, James D. Hiddle.

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 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, 1868, and immediately entered into the practice with Hon. S. W. Gulson, a well known and distinguished lawyer at Canfield, Ohio, and so continued until the fall of 1868, 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 Criminal 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 Criminal 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.

ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

Ohio, forming a partnership with A. V. Watts, under the firm name of Watts & Moore.

In 1885 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, Gillion Moore, who resides at and is in business in Ottawa, Ohio.

As a judicial officer he gave eminent and entire satisfaction as a 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, 1852, and on a farm and in the public schools he spent a busy boyhood.

He graduated from the high school at Leipzic in May, 1888, and in August, 1890, he attended the Northern Indiana school at Valparaiso, Indiana, and graduated from the Commercial department in 1885 and from the Law department in 1887.

After graduating in the law department he returned home and entered the law office of Messrs. Sheets & Ogan, where he re-

JUDGE J. J. MOORE.

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 maintained for two years. In 1893 he was admitted to the bar and soon after entered into a partnership with James P. Lenage for the practice of law and is junior member of that promising firm of Lenage & 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 1888, occupying his vacations 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 home in Putnam county until he was admitted to the bar, June 2, 1886.

He resided at Danopol from June, 1886, until August, 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. Krasna, which partnership still continues.

A. V. WATTS.

August 20, 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,
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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. McClinton, of the University of Chicago.

Mr. Eastman was united in marriage October 13, 1874, to Edith Ellen Parrett, of Putnam county, and to them have been born ten children, eight of whom are now living. Lillie

school, answering his country's call to arms instead. He became a member of Company E, 86th 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 siege 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

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, 1861, 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. B. Eastman, which partnership still exists, and they are one of the leading law firms of the county.

On December 23, 1889, Mr. Krauss was united in marriage with Rebecca J. Garden, 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 school; and Edward C., a student of the Ottawa High school, born September 13, 1888. 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. HANDEY.

JUDGE WM. H. HANDEY.

Mr. Organ, of the law firm of Handy & Ogan, was born on a farm near Columbus Grove, June 6, 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, January 26, 1858, by Governor Hoadley to fill a vacancy on the Common Pleas bench, and was elected in the fall of 1886 and re-elected in 1889, both times without opposition. He served as Common Pleas Judge from February 1855 to May 10, 1884, when he became a member of the law firm of Handy & Ogan, at Ottawa, Ohio.

He was married to Isabel J. Van Arsdale, October, 1890. Three children were born to this union, Harry L., Clive C., and May B. Clive was admitted to the bar in April, 1890, and is an attorney in the office of the receiver of the Ohio Southern railroad at Lima, Ohio.

JULIUS S. OGAN.

JULIUS S. OGAN.

Mr. Ogan, of the law firm of Handy & Ogan, was born on a farm near Columbus Grove, June 6, 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,

which he attended school at that village. He afterwards entered college at Oberlin, Ohio, graduating from that institution in 1883. 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. Shutes. 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 8, 1858, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and his early school years were spent in Cincinnati. He came to Putnam county, Ohio, June 15, 1876, and was a bond boy for two years. On August 7, 1877, he was married at Glandorf, Ohio, to Anna G. Reckfelder. Four children were born to 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 in Ottawa, Ohio.

JOHN P. BAILEY.

John P. Bailey, son of George W. and Malinda (Driver) Bailey, was born at Singers Glen, Rockingham county, Virginia, September 12, 1833. Later in the autumn of the same year the family removed to Allen county, Ohio, locating about four miles north of Lima. In the spring of 1838 they removed to a farm just north of Rockport, Allen county, where they resided until the spring of 1865, 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 the 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 until January, 1893, 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. Ridgecomb, daughter of Ezra and Louise (Thayer) Edgecomb, September 3, 1876. The following named are their children: Arthur Clarence, born August 17, 1876; Edward, born December 10, 1877; Maggie May, born May 2, 1879; Oscar Jan, born October 5, 1880; Lena Belle, born July 21, 1881; Beulah Idella, born July 8, 1884; George Ezra, born August 16, 1886; Thayer Edgecomb, born July 8, 1890; Ralph Ewing, born December 8, 1890.

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 of law in Ottawa, in January, 1883, with Charles N. Haskell, under the firm name of Haskell & Bailey. This firm continued until March, 1888. Mr. Bailey practiced alone until May 1893, when the present firm of Bailey & Bailey (John P. and Dan M.) was formed. Mr. Bailey was prosecuting attorney of this county from January, 1893, till January, 1896. He was the Democratic candidate for Attorney General of the state in 1892 and again in 1893.

CAPTAIN DAVID C. LONG.

Capt. Long was born at Ottawa, in this county, January 17, 1850. He is the eldest son of Jacob L'He and Kate M. (Cox) Long. He was educated in the public schools of Ottawa. At the age of 18 he, in the employ of Ream & Ewing, assisted in 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 at 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, 3d Regiment, Ohio National Guard, and in 1888 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 Canadian Guards at Chicago during the World's Fair at that city. He returned to Chicago until October, 1893, when he returned to Ottawa and resumed his practice.

When Capt. Long was quite small, but atly gave out of pet coats, he was so fearless a rider that some one called him "Dad Turpin," and the nickname has stuck by him ever since, so that he is better known as "Dick Long" than by his legitimate name.

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

GEORGE FRUTZ.

Attorney-at-Law, Ottawa, Ohio. Came to Putnam County, Ohio, in 1863; admitted to practice by the Supreme Court, Ohio, January 28, 1863.

DANIEL M. BAILEY.

The picture below represents a well known member 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 1878, after which time he spent two years at Lebanon, Ohio, and Zeigler, Illinois, and from 1879 to 1887 taught school continually. In 1887 he received the appointment as deputy clerk of Probate Court of Allen county and continued in that cap
DENVER, Colorado, 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 Haskell, of Allen county, Ohio.

DAVID IRVING BROWN.

David Irving Brown was born in what is now Ashland county, Ohio, on the 4th day of October, 1824. His parents, Henry Brown and Margaret (Kelso) Brown, with their family removed to Marion county, Ohio, in February, 1826, where they "settled" on the Indian lands about four miles southwest of the Indian village of Tipetown, 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, 1830, when the father with his family of five children, named respectively—Elizabeth, aged ten years; Abraham, aged eight years; David Jr., aged five years; Littie, 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 1835, when they removed to Grand Prairie township, Marion county, Ohio. In the meantime the father had married again, and David Jr., having lived 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 Ocoee, 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 1846 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 Hascocock 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, 1850, 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. 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 1856, and was defeated for nomination by one vote by the treachery of a man whom he had befriended sufficiently to censure 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 1859. He was a member of the Legislature where 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 1851. 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. Grignon, who had enlisted in the 87th 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 President and General, and charged with the practical enforcement of law at Kalida, and after 1868 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 1880 Mr. Brown was a member of the Convention that nominated M. R. Waite (late chief justice of the U. S.) for Congress against James A. Ashley, the regular Republican candidate.

The extreme anti-war element of the Democratic party, assisted by Mr. Ashby'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 33d Congressional District of Ohio. He ran on the ticket, and Mr. 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 Perryburg 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 Perryburg 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 he was elected he was made Chairman of the Committee on House of Stitches, prisons, and water courses. The committee, under his supervision, was enlarged, revived 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 create new and natural water courses generally. This law by its proper administration and application has re-deemed 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 committeemen, the editor of the Democratic newspaper with his paper, the Chairmen 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 candidates 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 bollide, 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 intents and purposes a self made man.
JACOB L.H. LONG.

Col. Long, son of Jacob and Maria M. (L'Honmedieu) Long, was born at Franklin, Warren County, Ohio, June 28, 1828. 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 grit 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 of 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 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, 1856, 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 1830.

In 1856 Col. Long, with his brother-in-law, William G. Cox, bought the Mill Creek mill at Lima, 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 went through 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 that time in the schools of Kalida, Ottawa and the Leanor district in Perry township. When President Lincoln issued his call for 70,000 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 Kansawa 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 Averas 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 12th 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. railroad at Ottawa, continuing in that position until 1866, during which time he was admitted to the bar and tried some cases. In 1880 he was appointed ticket agent for all of the railroads centering at Dayton and removed with his family to that city, remaining there until 1897, when he returned to Ottawa and resumed the practice of law, in which he has been engaged ever since, having had as partners Hon. James T. Lestay, Hon. W. H. Kinder, and his present partners, 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 F. & 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. KNAPP.

George H. Knapp, Attorney at Law, Ottawa, Putnam county Ohio, was born at Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, May 12, 1829. His parents were George Knapp, born in Virginia, and Frances Maria ( Ritchie) Knapp, born in Frederick county, Maryland. Mrs Knapp was born in Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio, February 26, 1832. Her maiden name was Helen J. Brown, daughter of David J. and Elizabeth (Shaw) Brown. They were married at Monroe, Michigan, October 2, 1871. Their children are: Lilla F., born June 30, 1872; Reona E., born March 9, 1874; Blanche B., born December 5, 1875; Ella A., born August 11, 1883; George R., born May 30, 1883; Helen M., born February 17, 1889.

In August, 1869, George H. Knapp left Tiffin and went to Fremont, Bucbesky 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 until November, 1868, when he went to Potosi, Seneca county, Ohio, and entered the employ of Emanuel Fisher in the capacity of watchmaker and jeweler. Remaining at Potosi 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 28th 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, 1876 he 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 next. He was three times elected member of the Board of Education in Ottawa Special School District.

CHARLES FRAZIER.

Charles Frazier was born in Allegan, Michigan, November 18, 1839. Having lost his parents while he was very young, his boyhood was passed on a farm. He earned enough in some to buy his clothes and books, and earned his board while attending the district school in winter by doing farm chores. Here he improved every opportunity he possessed for learning, until he was at the age of eighteen to commence teaching school, when business followed him until his admission to the bar in 1857. In 1869, 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
office was noted for the vast amount of criminal prosecutions in
situat. Ohio 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. Fryer to final
conviction and sentence. He was married in 1877 to Edith
Wollen and they now have four children.

PHEG 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 1879, 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 26, 1889. He came to Ottawa, Ohio, January

GEORGE W. BISHER.
George W. Bisser was born in farm near Pandora, Ohio,
October 20, 1888. He is the eldest son of David and Margaret
(Krohn) Bisser of Riley Township. His boyhood days were
spent on the beautiful farm owned by his father, where he

RICHARD H. WOLF.
90, 1891. He attended short hand school a while and in August
of that year entered the law office of Bailey & Bailey as steno-
grapher, 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.

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

STANSBURY SUTTON.
Stansbury Sutton was born in Huron county, Ohio, September
13, 1819, and settled on what was known as the "Ottawa
Green" on April 13, 1838, and from that time until the date of
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county, Ohio.

HON. T. J. SWEESEY.
Mr. Sweesey was elected mayor of Ottawa, Ohio, in 1892, 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 1831 at Wheeling, West Virginia, of Scotch-
Irish ancestry. 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
Raney & Co., in which firm he remained until June, 1890.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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 eldest, Margaret, and her sister Mary, are now living at Ottawa with their brother, the subject of this sketch. James W., major of the 88th 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.

W. RENWICK MOFFITT.


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.

WILLIAM ANNESER.

In January, 1879, Mr. Annesser commenced operating the Ottawa Flouring Mill, and has ever since conducted his 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 belt system known as the Plantsifter Bolting Process. His mills are operated by five men and have a capacity of one hundred bbls. every twenty-four hours. Mr. Annesser also deals in all kinds of grain as well as flour and feed.

COVER & BRUON,
BANKERS,
OTTAWA, OHIO.

MONEY TO LOAN

On approved collateral security. Exchange bought and sold. Collections made. Deposits received.

Telephone connections with all principal points in Putman and Paulding Counties.

Prompt and careful attention given all business entrusted to us.
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 everywhere. 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. Neilsberg, 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 $5,500, and the total cost of plant and improvement is $6,000. Since 1888 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 Otto 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 store, 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 26, 1894, was one of the heaviest stockholders, 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 Brynwood, Ohio, December 23, 1888, 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 to Ohio. At the age of seven his parents moved from Bryn to a farm in Fulton County, where the subject of this sketch grew up 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 1885; also the scientific course. He withdrew from the latter course to accept the principalmanship of the Archibald Schools, which position he held one year.

On January 31, 1884, he married to Cora A. Wightman, of Chillicothe, 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 Max, Lyman Ernest, Genevieve Sarah, and Caleb Franklin.

Politically, Mr. Ackerman is a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party, and financially is a member of the Masonic and K. of P. bodies—being the present S. D. of Ottawa Lodge No. 328 F. and A. M., and the C. C. of Ottawa Lodge No. 656 K. of P. of Ottawa, Ohio.

HON. SAMUEL S. P. CON.

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 18, 1858, to Miss Eunice 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 that business until the spring of 1875. 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 had one child living, Mrs. Gertrude Paul (Bacon) Rehbnurt, who was born January 4, 1871, and on the 18th day of March, 1891, was married to Alton R. Rehbnurt.

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 H. BEACH.

The accompanying is a cut of the handsome and commodious livery barn of Joseph H. 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 1896. The present brick

structure was erected in 1885, 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 1869, 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 Massillon, on the banks of the historic river bearing that name, thirty-six years ago. In 1891 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. Atwood & Co. as a clerk, which position he held for four years with credit to himself and his employers.

Next he entered the employment of C. A. Lockhart & Co., continuing with them until 1885, when he formed a partnership with Col. L. J. Hissong, of Tuscawars, 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 28th day of January, 1884, 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 purchased the interests of Mr. Brown to save him the loss that would necessarily follow the administration 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 Browe & 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 lines 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 hunch unquestioned, and his increasing desire is to please and satisfy his friends and customers. As a citizen he stands on the highest place, 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 fifty among the foremost merchants of his state.

O. H. ODELL.

In May, 1884, Mr. Odehl commenced business in the line of staple and fancy groceries in the Beardsley & Deford block, Ottawa, Ohio.

Mr. Odehl was born September 23, 1855, 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 telegraphing until 1871. He then commenced railroad work 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. C. M., and Valley railways at Valley Junction, Tuscawars 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 Green Passenger and Freight agency for the P. & W. road at 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 presenting 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, 1830. He learned pharmacy and in 1861 located in Ottawa county this State, when 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 it,

V. 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 the very few merchants who have followed business that length of time.

Mr. Kelly has served four terms in the council of Ottawa, and also 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. Kelly conducts two stores—a drug store and a book store, and in these lines handles every article sold to his trade.

THE OTTAWA HOME AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

Authorized Capital $1,000,000.00. Organized July 28, 1876. Directors: Geo. D. Kinder, President; F. H. Brinkman, Vice-President; Geo. W. Williams, Geo. D. Hooper, Colasos F. Curley, Committee on Securities; O. H. Odehl, H. W. Schaefer, E. R. Rehbnurt, Secretary; Wm. C. G. Krassov, Attorney: John F. Cover, Treasurer.

The purpose of this association is to hold in which people may deposit their savings in small amounts and receive a fair rate of profit thereon and enjoy the safety of absolute safety. The Secretary and Treasurer are sure to heavy bonds, and all officers are assembled to the State and the criminal law, to secure good faith. The money is loaned on small sums and the most rigid rules enforced for the protection of all concerned. No very large loan is possible in any one place and a large fund has accumulated and is set aside according to law to protect depositories from loss. The payment is easy for persons of small means who desire to secure these.

The actual assets, consisting of mortgages on real estate, but secured by paid up stock of the association, and cash, are $41,000.00.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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 pipes, coal, lime and cement.

In 1894 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 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 H. CARR.

Mr. Carr, dealer in groceries and provisions, commenced business April 1, 1883, 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, 1860, in Delaware county, Ohio. His father, H. C. Carr, moved to Ottawa in 1872. He received his education in the Ottawa schools.

THE HIVE STORE.

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

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 followingably assisted his mother, Mrs. Catherine Beckman, in the successful management of 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-
JOHN J. ZELLER.
Mr. Zeller was born at Galboa, in this county, November 1, 1842. He was the son of Andrew and Catherine Zeller. His father was one of the unfortunate victims of the cholera epidemic which swept away so many of the early citizens of Galboa in 1835. He was educated in the common schools at Galboa until he was sixteen years of age. He attended one term at common school in Livingston county, Illinois, after which he taught school in Platte county, in the same State, returning to Galboa in December, 1851. In the spring of 1852, at the age of twenty years, in response to the call of President Lincoln for volunteers, he enlisted in the 80th O. V. L, and with several companies of that regiment was subsequently transferred to the 87th Ohio under the command of Col. Henry B. Rennie, and with the regiment was stationed at Harper's Ferry, Va. He was appointed clerk to the regimental commissary—Lieutenant Balles 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 Delawars, October 1, 1863, at the expiration of his term of service. Upon being mustered out he returned to Galboa where he remained until 1866, when he was married to Miss Eliza A. Ashenfelter. To this union there was born—William B., October 8, 1865; Nellie Kate, December 31, 1870, deceased; Mary A., January 6, 1874; George Frederick, June 29, 1875; Ralph Ashenfelter, November 24, 1878. For the two following years he was engaged in the mill of his father-in-law, which was situated on the Blanchard river a mile or so below Galboa, after which he went into the drug business at Galboa.

He served the public faithfully between that time and 1878 as Justice of the Peace, Mayor of Galboa, Member of the Board of Education, and other offices. In the fall of 1875 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, 1876, serving in that capacity until 1886, having been re-elected in 1882. While he held that position he introduced into the office the admirable system of records and files 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 he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people for four and eight months.

In 1888, 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 special agent for the Ohio Agency he selected Mr. Zeller for an important clerkship in that agency, which position he still holds. Although engaged in his present position he has a portion of his time devoted to temporary in Columbus, yet Mr. Zeller has never given up his citizenship in Putnam county, retaining his rights as a voter at Ottawa and never failing to be present and exercise his rights as such.

A hearty, energetic workmanlike, of genial, kindly nature and of pleasant address; the continued persistence 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 Gauge 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.
GILSON H. MOORE.

This enterprising and progressive young business man was born in Ottawa, Ohio, July 10, 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 place of business success.

January 4, 1899, Mr. Moore was united in marriage to Miss Laura Craig, of Ottawa, Ohio.

AMOS J. BANNING.

The subject of this sketch was born February 15, 1869, 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, 1884, 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, 1886, when in partnership with Mr. Howard W. Acker they purchased the tailoring department of Moore & Moore. Mr. Banning was married in September, 1893, to Miss Clara Antelman.

BANNING & ACKER,

Merchant Tailors

OTTAWA, OHIO.

WITH MOORE & MOORE.

In the spring of '84, 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.

MOORE & MOORE,

Clothiers and Gents' Furnishers.

OTTAWA, OHIO.

The firm of Fox & Moore was organized in January, 1890, and continued until February, 1894, when Mr. Fox was succeeded 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 Pultnam County.

With the motto that good goods bring good customers, they have made it their special object to allow only goods of the highest standard and best make 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.

Gillon 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 police we recommend in highest terms both proprietors and goods.

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, 1896, 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 Zelma Priest.
A. V. RICE & CO., BANKERS,
OTTAWA, OHIO.

The Oldest Bank in Putnam County.
History of Ottawa Public Schools.

The history of Ottawa Public Schools would involve practicality a history of the town. Ottawa was laid out in 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 1852 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 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 1878 and consisted of eight members, viz: Julia Allen (first honor), Ralph Pugh (second honor), Ellis Suyss, Martin Slaun, Emma McBride, Zoe Godfrey, Jennie Long and Ella Brown.

Pupils graduated from the High School each succeeding year from 1873 to 1885, excepting 1876 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, which was unanimously adopted. Among the usual requirements of a course of study the course adopted required the pupil to attain 90 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.

1872—Julia Allen, first; Ralph Pugh, second.
1874—Genter A. Paul, first; Mary E. Holts, second.
1876—Laura E. Holts, first; C. G. Tupper, second.
1878—Nellie F. Tupper, first; Nettie Moreton, second.
1879—Delia Shoup, first; W. W. Sutton, second.
1880—Frank Light, first; Jennie Pugh, second.
1881—F. Bruce McGrawley, first; C. P. Godfrey, second.
1882—Lettie Tupper, first; Maurice Gostaches, second.

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 mineralogy, 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 exaggerating 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. Tusing 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 1901-92 the magnificent East School building was erected at a cost of $36,000, 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; H. M. Seitz, vice-president; C. H. Rice, clerk; Dr. H. Huber, treasurer; James A. Cartwright, George D. Hammond. Geo. E. Nelson as superintendent, and ten able and earnest teachers.

During the winter of 1904-5 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 Hopeton, this county, to our already handsome collection of mineralogical and archological specimens. Dr. Dimmock has thus added to the wealth of 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 arranged upon the journal of its proceedings a full statement of the donation and ordered it called the “Dimnock Collection.”

In closing this brief statement I must again say that under the present management, with Prof. Nelson at the head, our school 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 qualifying 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 Research 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 parading 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 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 ’73.”

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 Parentes 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 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 McBridge, Ella Brown, Zoe Godfrey, Ella Swasey, Mattie Stouason; Mr. Ralph Pugh.

Class of ’74—Misses Mary Rollins, Etta Knowles, Mabelle Holts, 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 ’75—Miss Laura Holts, Mr. Chas. G. Tupper.

Class of ’76—Misses Helen P. Tupper, Nettie Moore, Chas McBride, Alice Knowles, Celia McBride; Mr. Chas. L. H. Long.

Class of ’77—Misses Frances Gallup, Della Shoup, Elizabeth McGrew, Nevada Shaffer, Nettie Williams; Misses Tupper, Linnie Holts, W. W. Sutton.

Class of ’78—Misses Lilian Gallup, Jennie Pugh, Ella Chouesey, Mrs. Conrady; Messrs. W. A. Kobler, Frank Light.


Class of ’83—Misses Julia Knowles, Sarah C. Knowles; Mr. Chas. A. Scherbat.

Class of ’84—Misses Anna Hayes, Emma Kelly, Etta Milliman, Jennie Gallup; Messrs. Clark E. Rice, Lewis A. Ellis.


Class of ’87—Misses Lillie Brockman, May Carr, Florence McClure; Messers. Chester Galbreath, Matt Ewing, Chris G. Osey, Joel Spiker.


Class of ’89—Misses Myrtle Light, Iva Hendm, Mabel Wert, Olive Nieswanger, Mary Galbreath, Cora V. Byst, Maude Markley, Lida Powell, Zoe Allen; Messers. Will A. Kelly, Chas. D. Beardley; Chas. E. Place.


Class of ’93—Misses Lucy R. Bennett, Helen Sherick, Edna I. Hathaway, Emma Knopp, Frances Shaw; Messrs. Herman Schmitz, Theodore Ludwig.

Class of ’94—Misses Blanche Knopp, Anne Struman, Della Wightman.


*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 1891, 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, fully grown association which has sent out from its members, lawyers, doctors, teachers, business men and women, and many others whose humble walks in life are no less useful and honorable. May its future be as successful as the past.

Miss Gertrude A. Paul. Class of ’74

W. S. LENHART.

Mr. Lenhart was born in Columbus county, Ohio, in the year 1827, 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 1844 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 Dellah 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 unanimously selected by his party as the Republican candidate for county treasurer in 1835, and the same years coupled with some internal dissensions in the opposite party made his candidacy successful, and he was in

ATLAS OF PUINAM COUNTY.

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 avoid the rush of taxpayers usual as the time for taxing

The annoyances 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 afforded 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 exasperating busy life. He is one of the prominent men of the county as an intelligent, active and energetic citizen.

S. F. DEFORD.

Samuel Fletcher DeFord, the subject of this sketch, is the son of John and Matilda (Littel) DeFord, and was born May 1, 1836, in Carroll county, Ohio. His father and mother were the Huguenot French descent. He is of a family noted for its

virtue, his grandfather, John DeFord, having lived to the age of 108 years, and his father, John DeFord, was 86 years old at his mother 81 years old when they died.

W. S. LENHART.

Mr. DeFord’s early life was spent on the farm and in atten

Dung the country schools. Later he entered Mt. Union Collp

and graduated in the scientific course in 1856, and in the clas

course in 1859.

He was married November 5, 1859, to Miss Mary V. Durck

of Scotch descent, and has a family of five children, four gi
and one son. The oldest, Clara Duncan, was born January 2, 1821; M. Elizabeth, November 17, 1827; Mary A., July 16, 1829; 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 has 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 Newtown Falls and next at Monroe Falls, City, in the state of Pennsylvania. He was next employed at St. Mary’s, Ohio, and from there to Celiers, 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 this county now holds 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 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 then he has devoted his time to his farm and financial interests.

He has held several elective offices. He was a township treasurer of Lorain 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 1896 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 1858. He has been elected by delegate to every session of the annual conference since lay delegates were admitted.

Patronally,—He is an Odd Fellow, having been initiated in 1856, and has filled all the chairs of that organization.

He became a Mason in 1880 and belongs to Ottawa Lodge No. 295, Ottawa Chapter No. 115, and Putnam Council No. 68, 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 use.

JOHN BEARD.

Mr. Beard was born September 18, 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio. His father, John Beard, died in 1823 during that dreadful scourge of 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 1830 to a Mr. Aitkens. Mr. Beard lived with his mother until he was fifteen, going to school first at Hanley Corners one year, and afterwards at Reynoldsburg, Fairfield county, two years, and then at a place known as Selver’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. Aitkens, in his mill’s 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 3, 1846, he was married to Mary C. Case.

They were born in this union two children—William H., who died in infancy, and Charles W., December 8, 1860.

Mr. Beard and his wife moved on what was known as the 'Squire Grove' farm, in Greenbush township, Putnam county. He farmed during the summer and taught school in the winter until 1855, when he sold his farm on account of the ill health of his wife and went back to Fairfield county, where in December 1860 his wife 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 18, 1846. To this marriage there were born six children—Charles S. born July 15, 1855; Lucy A., October 10, 1871; John F., December 2, 1872; Maggie, November 17, 1877; Eliza, October 27, 1880, and Samuel S., December 32, 1889.

In 1872 Mr. Beard moved from 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 as Justice of the Peace at least twenty-seven years, and Land Appraiser in 1851, in Greenbush 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 10, 1865. His father, John Williams, also a native of Ohio, was of Welsh descent, and his mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Barkdall, was descended from German ancestry. These parents were prominent members of the U. B. church and died at the ages of seventy-four and eighty-three years respectively. They had a family of twelve children, nine of whom grew to maturity, viz. Mary, deceased; Jane, widow of O. Means; Sarah C., widow of James Means; Amanda, wife of Henry Arnold; Maggie wife of John Kirk; Albert, deceased; Mahala, wife of Wm. Jeffersiman, and Harriet, wife of Clark Lofwick.

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.

Mr. Williams remained in his native county until seventeen years of age, when he came to Putnam County, locating two miles west of Columbiana 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, 1896, at Louisville, Ky., taking part in the massacre 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 1895, 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 1886 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; Florence, Italy; Pisa; the ruined cities of Pompeii 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 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 more 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 intimate and interesting 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 1870, 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 Fortuna 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 13, 1866, to Miss Rhina 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 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 enable him to give a minute description of the points of interest annexed 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 leaned to the publishers for this purpose. The tower is 180 feet in height, 30 feet in diameter and leans 15 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 vertical 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. This 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 vocally for the statement that it is the finest structure of its kind in the world. It is nearly 900 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 Colosseum and Catacombs of Rome he proceeded to the railied city of Ponsfeti, around and in which have been discovered, in this century, prove stone in this century, prove rocks, proving 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 Viscovius 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 Vesuvius 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 heaved so as to readily roast an egg. The danger of making the ascent to Mt. Vesuvius is so great that few visitors ever see its top.

NELSON HOWARD MCCRACKEN.

Mr. McCracken was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, November 7, 1857, and was brought when but four years old by his father, Robert McCracken (his mother having died when he was a baby) to Medina county, O., whence, after a brief residence in that county, he was removed in 1864 and settled on a piece of land southeast of Kilada, which was then covered by an unbroken forest.

He received his education in the common school at Kilada, and in his earlier years taught school in the winter, working on the farm in the summer. At the age of twenty-seven, in 1884, he was appointed by Auditor John Monroe as Deputy Auditor of the county, and from that time until 1892 continued to assist in that office and in the office of the County Treasurer.

Having been, at the fall election of 1889, elected County Treasurer, he took charge of that office in 1889 and (being re-elected in 1894) served as such for four years. It was during his term of office that the court house at Kilada was burned. Mr. McCracken 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, Mr. 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 1892 Mr. McCracken was again elected County Treasurer, and re-elected in 1897, serving a term of time for four consecutive years; and after his term expired, from time to time (generally at tax paying time) until 1893, he assisted the successive Court Treasurers. He was married June 13, 1850, to Miss Sarah Shaffer.

Quick at figures, thoroughly competent as a business man, marked integrity and pleasant, genial nature, few citizens of the county have exerted so large an influence in both business and political circles throughout the county, and more have commanded more respect and consideration from all in 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. NEITZ.

Mr. Seitz was born September 10, 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 he could find 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 1878 and 1874 he attended the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, during the summer months, teaching in the winter, continuing to teach until 1876, 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 Kilada, 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, he has continued to hold, 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 interest of new ideas and the advancement of the profession, of which society he is still a member.

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 ever built in Putnam county.

He was married in October, 1881, to Miss Josephine C. Ray of Kilada, and there have been born to them four children: Raymond C., November 18, 1883; Bessie L., December 19, 1885; Lyda L., May 22, 1890, and Floyd H., February 6, 1895. 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.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

Rev. Augustine Reichert, who died in Kansas, February 18, 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. Frederick 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 opinions; 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 as their neighbors. During the pastorage of Rev. P. Schalk a beautiful church bell and many other things necessary for divine service were purchased.

From February, 1872, to July, 1878, the pastorage of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church was entrusted to the zealous Rev. Clemens Roesser, 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 from almost daily between Glandorf and Ottawa.


Rev. B. Bohnner 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 gathered in 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, 1890. 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. KAHLER.

Mr. Kahlé, son of John Francis Kahlé, 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 Hertman, 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 1883, 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, 1876, to Mary A. Mieth, who was born October 23, 1853. They have nine children: Frank O., born August 22, 1878, Emma B. March 6, 1878, Adella

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL BUILDING.

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In September, 1886, Rev. Bohnner took charge of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church. During his successful pastorage, which lasted till July, 1891, a handsome parochial school building of brick was erected and many other improvements made. His persistent 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,

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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. Kable being the Vice President of the bank.

That Mr. Kable’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 adherence 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 28, 1839, in Berkeley 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, 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 Appomattox 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 Thompason, 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

OLIVER C. TALBOT.

Oliver C. Talbot was born May 11, 1868, at Kalisia, Ohio. He received his education in the Union Schools of Kalibia. Ex-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 Crowell, in Blanchard township, for $7,000, 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 Kalisia, Ohio. He received his education in the Union Schools of Kalisia. Ex-
field Academy, in Fairfield county. Then he commenced the study of medicine with Drs. Paul & Frisby, of Royton, 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, 1855, at the age of twenty-one years, he came to Gibbons, 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 sparsely 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 Blascher river to the Muskingum, long distances through an unbroken forest with no roads, and nothing but mud and swamps.

In the fall of 1859 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 1859 he removed to Ottawa and continued the practice of his profession. He has lived to see the county converted from a wilderness and mist 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 Perryville, Ashland county, Ohio, November 18, 1831. He is the son of Clark H. and Katherine (Moore) Rice. His father was born in Essex county, New York, and married 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. Phenice 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 1847, 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 30, 1861, he was elected 2d Lieutenant of Co. B, 31st Regt. of Ohio Infantry, and on the 18th 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 year service and was mustered in as Captain of Company A, 13th Ohio Infantry. General Rice largely assisted in recruiting and organizing this regiment, and his enthusiasm for it has lasted throughout his entire life. He has always considered "27th" 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 Tod. 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 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 24, 1863. He distinguished himself at the battle of Arkansas Post, Arkansas, early in January, and during the 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 87th Regiment, having already been in command of a brigade through some of the most important engagements.

April 30th he was made by his command to Swayne's Bluff on the Yazoo river and assisted in making the division against that point, which enabled General Grant to capture Grand Gulf, Mississippi. By rapid marches his troops circled around Vicksburg and rescued Baker's Creek, Miss., in time to engage in the battle of Champion Hills, May 16, 1863. He led his men in the engagement in 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 23rd 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 minie 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 8th 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, 1865, he became the manager of the banking house of C. H. Rice & Co., at Ottawa, giving the business in his absence control 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 31, 1865, 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 1876 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 Arrows 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 1903 General Rice was first alternate delegate for the State at large to the Cincinnati convention, at which General Hunsicker was nominated; and in 1905 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 manufactures, 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 served 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 million dollars each year in pensions should devolve upon General Rice. He took possession of his new office at Columbus, May 3, 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, where 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 busy season of farming, 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 school. 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 Putnam County Atlas were produced.

In the fall of 1881 Mr. Arnold was married to Miss Mary A. Davis, of Ottawa. They have one child, Elsie Lenore, born September 10, 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, 1827. 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. Klein, 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 1883, 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 1870 he took his entire corps of teachers, pastor and librarian to the Sunday school encampment at Lakeside; he also served the church several years as treasurer. 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 8, 1885, at Battle Creek, Michigan, where his family had taken him in hopes of restoring him to health. He was just eighty-eight years old at the time of his death.

WILLIAM SCOTT.
He was a regular attendant of the Putnam County Pioneer Associations for many years, and his portrait will be recognizable 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 his history would scarcely be complete without some recollection of his life and work.

Dr. Tupper was born in Bernard, Vermont, September 12, 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 continuously engaged up to the time of his death. He practised in Ohio and for a short time in Wisconsin, from whose 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 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, to 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 1846.

"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 1834 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 'Aymen 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 over 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 thickets, in the forest, on the water, in the field and in the dwelling, God is always present.' Many of their descendants, 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 hang 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 loneliness as to stop and make a more familiar acquaintance. We alighted from our faithful 'Pony,' 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, hashed 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, Peketon, Ottawa, Columbus Grove, Medina and Glandorf are all small places in this county, the largest of which, Gilboa, contains about thirty-five dwellings."—Old Edition.
GEORGE D. KINDER,
Editor Putnam County Sentinel.

OTTAWA, OHIO.

(From the Toledo Blade, December 13, 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 newspapers 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 criticize 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 Commandery. He is also a Knight of Pythias, and a member of the Royal Arcanum.

The Putnam County Sentinel.

†THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.†

PRICE, $1.50 A YEAR.

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GEORGE D. KINDER.
OTTAWA, OHIO.
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Der Demokrat was founded in 1887 by C. W. Beers, and published by him until September, 1890, at which time Henry Holtermann became its editor and proprietor. In 1891 Mr. Holtermann sold out to Carl Wohlfarth, who kept control of the paper until May, 1893, 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 underlying principles were laid down by Jefferson and propagated by Jackson. Its course is always straightforward, 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 unfeigned Democracy is the theme for which its harpings 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 millwright by trade, who came to this country when a young man, and Mary Anne (Weigel) 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, 1890; 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 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 high honors. He 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 Defiance 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 position he still holds. He re-organized 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 been an active part in educational meetings, and was elected president of the Putnam County Teachers’ Institute in 1890. In May, 1892, he became associated with Der Demokrat, and since March, 1893, is the sole proprietor.

July 26, 1894, Mr. Rauh was united in marriage to Miss Mamie Amor, eldest daughter of John M. and Elizabeth (Wilhelm) Freienduch, of Defiance, Ohio. Two sons, John Clareon, 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 unswerving worker and achieves success.

Der Demokrat,

Erschien jeden Freitag.

Die offizielle deutsche Zeitung
von Putnam Co., Ohio.

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

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Durch seine gelehrte Zeitung gewann die Zeitung beim Wählerkreis und erfreut sich einer großen Geltung und Respekt vor anderen Zeitungen und ist jetzt einer der bedeutendsten Bildwerke des Landes.


Seine Zeitung ist gerecht und offen und berichtet, was sich von den zentralen Gebieten in der Innere Weltgeschichte ereignet. Die Zeitung ist ein Gegenstück zu den anderen Zeitungen und bietet daher dem Leser einen wertvollen Dienst an. Der Demokrat ist heute wie zu jeder Zeit und wird gesucht und gehört, weil es diejenigen geben, die das Wesentliche berichten und das Wesentliche verwenden.

Die Zeitung ist in der Tat eine der bedeutendsten Zeitungen des Landes und ihre politische Bildung ist ein wertvolles Mittel, das die Bevölkerung in der politischen Welt zu einem gerechten und informierten Leser macht. Der Demokrat ist einzigartig in seiner Art und ist ein entscheidender Faktor in der politischen Welt der Zukunft.
MAP OF LEIPSIC, OHIO.
1891
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 the population began to increase. 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 1892 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 steamers and the sound of the sledge as they pile up the grade and fastest down the rails are plaintively audible, and the last days of the year 1895 will mark the completion 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 Horace Hull, Ludwig Hall, Elviroton A. Hull, Wm. Kilpatrick, James Reed, James Davis and John Broadwater, 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 satisfaction by securing the county against loss, and an order was given by the Commissioners to organize a township.

The first election was held February 18, 1849, 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 Nemitz and Adam Krites, Overseers of the Poor; A. Baughman and David Tyner, Assessors; James A. Cresswell; L. W. Hickman, Constable.

On May 30, 1849, 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, 285 votes were cast for Governor.

EARLY SETTLERS OF LEIPSIC.

The first settlers of Leipsic were J. B. Swarts, Wellington Hard 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 southwestern quarter of section 30, which includes all that part of the town east of Eastom street and south of Mathias street; and Means, Hard and McClung were owners of the southwest quarter of section 30.

The same year C. W. Askam and wife and A. C. Tingle sold the population of the town, and in 1860 Means, S. and W. P. Young and D. G. Leiffer settled here. The year following, Mrs. John Foltz, C. D. Follins, Jacob Werner and Abraham Foulk raised their fortunes with the progress of the new town.

In 1863 the new recruits were A. P. Easton and wife, T. J. Werner, Samuel Waters and wife, and in 1866, J. H. Askam, Andrew C. Askam and F. P. Leiffer completed the list of pioneer residents, and at this time these men of brave and courageous spirit 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 plotted 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 Creighton's Town (Deed book 9, page 298.) This was the first ground platted into lots in the corporate limits of Leipsic, and this example has followed from time to time until at the present writing there are 804 numbered lots, over 600 of which are improved with good modern business blocks and homes.

On August 20, 1869, Joseph Swarts 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. R. Creighton, June 18, 1860, pages 200; David McClung, July 7, 1864, page 25; Fouh & Youngs, December 12, 1870, page 84; McClung's 2nd addition, April 24, 1871, page 98; McClung's 3rd addition, November 28, 1871, page 100; Creighton's 2nd addition, November 8, 1871, page 110; Eastman's 1st addition, December 19, 1871, page 114; Eastman's 2nd addition, May 18, 1872, page 124; Eastman's 3rd addition, April 25, 1876, pages 138-139; McClung's 4th addition, June 14, 1876, page 144-145; Young & Pikes' sub-division, April 25, 1876, pages 160-161; Brunt's & Waters' addition, June 21, 1876, pages 160-161; Hickford's and others addition, April 13, 1876, page 192; John Karta, Survey No. 1, October 31, 1879, pages 354-355; W. E. Hickey's addition, April 29, 1880, pages 314-315; W. E. Turner's addition, May 8, 1882, pages 318-317; P. E. Turner's addition, June 32, 1889, pages 350-351.

The following additions have been made since, and recorded in Plat Book 3:

McClung's 2nd sub-addition, November 19, 1860, page 88; J. K. Baughman's addition, May 1, 1880, page 150; M. C. Woodruff's sub-division, October 27, 1880, page 202; F. J. Masclam's sub-division, November 27, 1892, page 247; C. H. Huber's sub-division, October 18, 1880, page 292; J. P. Barton's sub-division, May 27, 1880, page 308; Eastman's sub-division, June 31, 1894, page 300.

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 unity held a firmer grasp upon prices established in prosperous times.

INDUSTRIES.

Chief among the industries now operating in Leipsic is the Buckeye State 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. S. and Joseph Edwards, and I. N. Bushong. The company was organized in 1886, and operates seven large stone 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 Planning 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 operation under the control of Andy Bechle in 1899. They manufacture the Leipsic wind engine, steam engines, and various other machines, besides doing an extensive business in repairs of all kinds.

A. F. Easton & 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 employs twelve to twenty-one men and has a weekly payroll 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 number has been made within Leipsic and immediate vicinity. During the summer season the yard gives employment to thirteen persons and has a pay roll of $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 1891, 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 enterprising farmers in this locality, but in September, 1895, Messrs. Chas. Hunter and Chas. Spray purchased the plant, and these gentlemen are now operating the business. The Leipsic creamery has a daily capacity of one hundred and fifty gallons of milk, a daily maximum of 200, and a maximum of 300 gallons of cream. The dairy is located on the Nickel Plate railroad.

A. Stechempole, merchant tailor, employs eight people; pay $100 a week; organized 1897.

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

CHURCHES.

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

The Leipsic Methodist church was organized in September, 1856, and the enrollment is now 300 members. This denomination is now completing a church building at a cost of $15,000.

The St. Mary's Catholic church was organized 1876, and has a membership of 250. In 1881 this denomination erected a church at a cost of $8,000.

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

The Lutheran church was organized 1885, and has 289 members.

The Presbyterian church was organized in 1888, and has 179 members.

SMOILES.

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 1857 with Dr. J. C. McClung as principal, and had an enrollment of 48 scholars. In 1880 it had reached that grade entitling it to the position of a high school.

In 1879 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 850. 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 prominence.

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 and Main street was paved with brick from Easton 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 five 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 saturated from Eighth street to Willow street, and Pearl street was saturated from Main street south to its junction with Easton street.

Among the monuments which mark the progress of Leipsic none bears its burden more lofty than that represented by our newspaper.

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 newest 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 and Wendl purchased it. This firm was soon after dissolved, by Mr. Wendell purchasing the interests of Mr. Horn, and the entire business was then very ably conducted by E. F. Wendell, who, in the short space of one year, has made his paper one of the brightest and newest of country papers.

PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS.

The chances of example for first-class improvement in all business or residence construction was inaugurated by Mr. D. G. Laffler, 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 competition 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. Laffler, George Kober, Nelson McCracken and F. J. Meichlman 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, Laffler Bros' grocery, J. H. Arnold's dry goods store, and F. J. Meichlman'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 1890 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 modern 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 late named gentleman continued his work of im-
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 Bode in 1824, and at once moved with his young wife to the wilds of Putnam county, settling on the farm just east of where Lepic now stands. He was the first white settler in the township. Here amid one unbroken forest standing in swamps and marshes, with no neighbor except the red man, he and his

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 13, 1848, at his house was held the first township election. At this election he was chosen as one 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 1846 and was a faithful member of that church up to the time of his

death, which occurred August 25, 1850, at his home in Lepic, where he removed from the farm in 1870.

Mrs. Baughman was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, December 30, 1811, and died at her home August 24, 1885. 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 the grave, enlisted in the cause of their country. They were:

- O. P. Baughman, Co. D, 21st O. V. I. Taken prisoner September 9, 1861, at the Battle of Chickamauga. His last letter to his relatives is presented on this page.
- A. W. Baughman, Co. D, 21st O. V. I. Served four years. Died in Birmingham, Alabama, since the war.
- J. K. Baughman, 8th O. V. I.
- Isaac J. Baughman, Co. I, 8th O. V. I. Served during entire war.

Below we copy a letter written by O. P. Baughman when he was in the Andoverville 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:

Andoverville, 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, why? for prisoners have hard times everywhere, living on the plantation. George, I sent some time ago for a box, I still want it very bad, and hope you will get it as soon as you can. I am in very low spirits, having nothing new to write. I send you some horn medals in the box, some thrashed to mend my clothes, pair of shoes, and a knife of some kind. The cooking basket that I eat out of was one half smaller, four quarters a little soup. George, I would write often if I had something to write on. I have to give away relations to get this, so you can't think how sad it is. You write what you like, and you will all be right. Tell all the news, where John is and Fisk. I will give you a full list of what I want for you. I did not get the other. I have dried and covered one cheese out of it, and it turned sweet. The basket of butter and oil, salt, one small frying pan, some dried bread in one side of the box and that well packed with beans, some coffee, tea, sugar, 3 lbs. pepper, 3 pair socks, some kind of an old bible, and newspapers from the time of our capture. Tell Collins to send them, for he takes pay to have the news. Tell him I said so, and nothing is more important. I wish you good health. When you get this, give me a letter of your health and comfort. I am very much attached to 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 out of this place. We are in out doors camp this summer; very hot. James Lowry died some time ago with the scurvy at this place, Sabilla.

Direct, O. P. BAUGHMAN, Co. D, 8th Ohio Infantry, Andoverville, Camp Sumpter, Ga.

In care of Capt. H. Witts, Commanding Prison.

P. S. — write! 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 those that have to stand it when you are deprived of your liberty. You see in a minor state, better than we.

O. P. BAUGHMAN.

JAMES K. BAUGHMAN.

The subject of this sketch, a son of Abram and Jane Bode Baughman, was born February 5, 1845, on his father's farm east of Lepic. His only opportunity for an education was such only as could be had at the then poorly equipped country school. 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 Fouk, of Hancock county, April 5, 1866. Mrs. Baughman was born June 21, 1846. To them were born two children; Eva, May, September 27, 1875, died December 30, 1885; William Rush, October 23, 1873.

Mr. Baughman served as treasurer seven years and trustee two years in Palmer township of this county, having moved to that township in 1877, where he lived ten years, when he returned to Lepic. He served as Township Trustee two years in Van Buren township, and was a member of the school board of Lepic six years, being the president of that board five years. He was also a member of the village council of Lepic six years. To the call of the President for more troops. Mr. Baughman served 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

WILLIAM RUSH BAUGHMAN.

Rush, as he is familiarly known, the only child now living of James K. and Emma (Fouk) Baughman, was born October 29, 1878, in Van Buren township of this county.

He graduated with first honors in 1897 in the High School of Lepic, and in the following year entered Oberlin College, 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 food 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 Lepic, October 15, 1860. 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 school teacher.
master in the country schools of Putnam county, and in 1870 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, 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 1885, 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, 1866, 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. That 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 1880. In 1891 he entered the Pulte Medical College of Cincinnati, from which institution he graduated March 28, 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 Moore, of Columbus Grove, Ohio, on July 15, 1894, and two children have been born to them,—Neva J., born June 16, 1896, died July 28, 1898; and Anna J., born June 16, 1898. 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 B. RAMPE.

The subject of this sketch is a product of that prosperous old German town, Glindorf, at which place he was born June 29, 1847, 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 1855 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 Otawa, in their boot and shoe store. He had learned this trade while young with his father, and his aptness proved so great that at the expiration of these 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 Simonoff Boot and Shoe Company, of Toledo, as traveling salesman. He remained in this position two years, when he resigned, and formed a partnership with his brother, Frank B. Rampe, engaged in the boot and shoe business at North Baltimore. He ably conducted this store two years 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. McCLEARY.

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

Dr. John C. McCleary, one of the leading physicians and citizens of Putnam county, was born on a farm in Eden township, Seneca county, Ohio, on the 20th day of January, 1845. 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 1868, and in 1864 and 1865 he studied under his brother, Col. D. W. McCleary, 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 immense responsibility required in the management of his father's store 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. Tyler, of Ottawa, as preceptor, and in 1873 was graduated from the medical department of the Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio. He at once entered 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 elder practitioners of his profession in the county. Although a Republican, living in a strong Democratic precinct, Dr. McCleary 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 1886, 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 1885; to September, 1885, and from April, 1885, to May, 1886.

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. Weller. He is also president of the Leipsic school board.

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

He is a member of several medical societies, among which may be mentioned: 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 (Pusley) 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 29, 1872, died March 24, 1876; Nathan Boyd, February 35, 1874; Robert Clark, September 29, 1875; died October 5, 1877; William Haskell and Sarah, twins, March 19, 1878; Elizabeth, February 35, 1880; James D., March 11, 1882; Charles Harvey, July 10, 1888, 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 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, 1841. 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 possessed 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 1853 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 stove business of Lenhart & Edwards, and in 1866 he became one of the organizers and chief promoters of the now famous Buckeye Stove Company.

In 1887 his company purchased the Bank of Leipsic and he assumed 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 Stove 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 STOVE COMPANY.

In 1866, 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 Stove 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, L. 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 Bead, Ohio. In 1891 they built two mills, one at Kalida and one at Avon, Ohio, and in 1892 they purchased the stove factory at Eliz City, and in the same year they located a large factory at Muncie, Indiana, 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 $30,000 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 $750,000.

In addition to their large stove and banking interests the company now owns about 8,000 acres of land, nearly 2,000 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 1892 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 L. 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 employees. 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.
at Delaware, Ohio; W. E. and O. P., (twins) born November 4, 1881, now students in the Lepicp 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 Lepicp 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 Lepicp, receives his ready support.

JOSEPH H. EDWARDS.

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

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

He moved, with his father, to Putnam county in 1881 and spent the early years of his life on a farm, where he remained until 1890, when he moved to Lepicp and engaged in the grocery and drug business 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. R. 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 he moved to the new fire of Lepicp destroyed the famous store, and with that event he purchased a one-fourth interest in the Buckeye State Company and has since been actively engaged in the management of that concern.

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

In 1888 he completed a modern residence on the corner of Defiance and Freep street at a cost of $5,500, and after the fire of 1893, so company with Messrs. Byron Folk and S. F. 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: Florence, born November 28, 1875; Mary, born February 11, 1879; Sergei, born April 25, 1883; Helen, born August 29, 1889.

ISAAC N. BUSCHONG.

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 Buschong, who at the time of their 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 briskness as to continue 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 Lepicp, in the manufacture of stoves, and continued in this partnership, being located at Columbia Grove, until 1886, when he became one of the original organizers of the Buckeye State 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 stove company in the world.

On February 2, 1889, Mr. Buschong was united in marriage to Miss Alice Scott, of Ada, Ohio, who was then teaching school at Columbia Grove. To this union four children have been born—Paul, born October 10, 1883; Lena, born March 15, 1885; Helen and June, both of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Buschong is a lady of rare attainments and has done much to advance the interests of her husband. Mr. Buschong 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 Lepicp Mr. Buschong proved himself a most worthy citizen and an earnest Christian. He labored to elevate society. A great business man, he has helped make the name of Lepicp 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 place of success and honorable recognition.

Jacob Werner was born near Sandusky, Tuscawas county, Ohio, August 20, 1859. Attended school at Oberlin and Carey.

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 1882 Mr. Werner was married to P. C. Eastman, and they now have two children—Edith, born August 15, 1889; John, May 30, 1892.

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, 1851. He attended the village school of that place until May 1, 1862, when, at the age of sixteen, he entered the service as a member of the 17th O. V. I. and was honorably discharged during the latter part of September on account of expiration of service. In 1870 Mr. Shiffer moved to Indiana, where he engaged in the mercantile business until 1874. In March of that year he 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 Lepicp, having received a position from the New York, Chicago & St. Louis railroad at this town.

In January, 1887, he was transferred to Bollolus as agent; that place for the same road, and in July of the year following he was again transferred to Lepicp as agent for the New York, Chicago & St. Louis and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad companies at Lepicp Junction. He remained in charge of this position until March 3, 1889, 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, 1890 he disposed of his mercantile interests and devoted his entire time to the duties of his office, and to the duties of the office of a railroad agent.
being the only lady practitioner in the county. Her success has been marvellous 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-

ness and advance the progress of the human race, is the subject of this sketch.

Dr. Emery was born in Carroll county, Ohio, December 29, 1854. He worked on a farm and attended country school during his youth. In 1858 he moved with his parents to Harrods county, and in 1863 became the employe of a shipyard in Lake county, Ohio, and from this county he enlisted in the Union army during the winter of 1864, serving on the iron clad gun-boat, 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, determined 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, 1889, to Louisa M. Lowry, of West Leipsic, whose biographic 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.

LAURA R. EMERY.

Mr. Underhill purchased the interests of his partner and continued business in that place for 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 1896 Mr. Underhill sold his Elpria 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 Hopkins 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, Ashtabula, Elyria, Grafton, Plymouth, Whitehouse, Payns 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. Kohr was born on a farm in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, September 8, 1860. He is the eldest son of George Kohr, and at an early age he 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 1882.

In 1883 Mr. Kohr purchased the hardware stock of Werner & O'Donald, at Leipsic, and continued in that business, with remarkable success, until 1880, 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'Byle, of Ottawa, who died May 15, 1886; and on October 18, 1888, he married Miss Gertrude A. Simonds, who was born September 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 in the 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 E. ERELY.

J. B. Erely, 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 he settled up his father's 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 1897 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 27th 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. He is owner in interest in the Union Block with F. J. Machmiller, 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 Hirschberg, 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 lumber 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.

F. J. MACHMILLAN.

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 many and every responsible citizen who has formed his acquaintance.

F. J. Machmiller was born January 27, 1854, in Cappelton, 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 he bided 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 15, and then came to Ottawa, where he worked at his trade one year, when he returned...
A. STECHSCHULTE.

To comprehend the full extent of the business qualifications and meritorious success of the subject of this sketch, would lead us from the real into the imaginary. August Stechschulte was born on a farm near the prosperous village of Glendorf, to Cincinnat and worked at his trade until June 1, 1873, on which date he returned to Groes.

On April 1, 1874, he formed a partnership with his brother, William Stechschulte, 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 he 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 concerns of Putnam county, and his store has had the longest life of any store in this line in the county.

Mr. Mintsch was married April 17, 1877, to Miss Elizabeth Laubeuhl, of Ottawa, and to this union four children were born: Julia Bue, born January 8, 1880; Harry Nelson, born August 12, 1881, (now deceased); Eda Elizabeth, born July 8, 1885; Clara Isabelle, born December 31, 1886.

On December 7, 1890, Mrs. Elizabeth Mintsch died, and on September 12, 1893, Mr. Mintsch was remarried to Miss Margaret Grose, of Fremont, Ohio, and to them have been born two children: Helen Gertrude, born July 8, 1894; Louise Mary, December 15, 1895.

Through Mr. Mintsch's close attention to business and judicious investments in Leipsic property, he has amassed a considerable 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.

August Stechschulte was born on a farm near the prosperous village of Glendorf, and 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. Rams, Sr., of Glendorf, 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 his 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 stoop of a Leipsic hustler industriously 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 handomest 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 up-to-date goods. He is the leading clothing, and general, 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.

JAMES H. SMITH.

The subject of this sketch, son of James H. and Martha (Davis) Smith, was born in Knox county, Ohio, August 28, 1845. He moved to this county in 1842, having visited the county with his father in 1837, when the land, on which he
WILLIAM A. 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 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 1886. For the two years following his graduation he worked for his father in his famous grocery store, and on April 14, 1894, 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 Gladys Arletta, born March 8, 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 threshold of a business career attended by the highest standard of success.

He was born April 10, 1866, 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 school of Leipsic, from which he graduated in the class of 1885. 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, 1886, the firm purchased, of their father, the three-story building on 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 at 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.

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 80 x 30 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 matters in Mr. Lewis’ life, but we assure the public that his friends are expert.

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 1878 Mr. Alford began teaching school, an occupation which he followed almost continuously until 1883.

In 1885 he formed a partnership with William A. Lewis and engaged in the implement and buggy business at Leipsic under the firm name of Lewis & Alford. The energy and success of our subject since that date has been phenomenal, and he stands with marked success and with entire satisfaction to many of the best districts in northeastern Putnam county.

In 1885 he formed a partnership with William A. Lewis and engaged in the implement and buggy business at Leipsic, Ohio. He and his brother, Daniel M., and purchased the store in which they had spent their youth and in which they had acquired those rudiments of business which so mark their business career. Mr. Alford has never been averse to hard work, and his success is due to his energy and ability.

We are sorry to state that at this writing we are unable to record any matters in Mr. Alford’s life, but we assure the public that his friends are expert.

Despite the passage of years, Mr. Alford has never been averse to hard work, and his success is due to his energy and ability.

On December 25, 1903, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucretia Simonis, 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, is 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 stoves were among the first marks of our Christian civilization. They have penetrated our wilds, nourished 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 a church, Dewittville, on lot No. 448, in Leipsic, is the same, and in this structure the denomination continued to worship until 1855, and until that membership had grown to near five hundred. This church cost four hundred dollars and stands by the side of the handsome new building and in a fitting comparison of the wonderful progress of the church and of civilization.

Rev. Kemper was succeeded by Rev. Edward Hipilus in May, 1878, who remained until June, 1880, when he was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Rosenberg. The services of this last named gentleman were continued until April, 1888, when Rev. John Bertemes, began. The above gentlemen were all resident pastors of New Cleveland.

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

In 1880 a church building was laid in this same year, but for lack of funds the work was discontinued until 1878, when a reorganization was made and placed under the charge of Rev. Henry Kemper, 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, Dewittville in the same year, and in this structure the denomination continued to worship until 1855, and until that membership had grown to near five hundred. This church cost four hundred dollars and stands by the side of the handsome new building and in a fitting comparison of the wonderful progress of the church and of civilization.

Rev. Kemper was succeeded by Rev. Edward Hipilus in May, 1878, who remained until June, 1880, when he was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Rosenberg. The services of this last named gentleman 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.

In 1880 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, 1865, in Luxemburg, 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 a priest December 19, 1888, by Rev. Bishop Richilmore, 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, character, 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 responsibility of the completion of the construction, and the whole cost of the constructed. To their energy, ability and popularity Leipsic is indebted for one of her finest churches.

In 1889 the Parish 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 superintendence of Prof. Henry H. Huffman, of Glandorf, Ohio.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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. Hard in hand they have marched onward, the former acting as benefactors, 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. J. 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. Drowne 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 Marriott was Presiding Elder and L. A. Belt pastor, with the same societies and classes; the salary was fixed for this year at $600. In 1866-67 I. N. Gospel was pastor, three churches, salary $500. 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. Shaffer, pastor. In 1869 G. W. Millar was pastor. In 1870 Rev. M. Jameson supplied (West) Leipsic circuit. (West) Leipsic circuit was placed under Ottawa again in 1871, with Jason Young as pastor; recessed the name in 1872. In 1872-74, Lima District, A. Harmer, Presiding Elder; John T. Davies, pastor. In 1875, Lima District, A. Harmer, Presiding Elder, Leipsic and Deshler charges; Harrison Maltbie and Oscar E. Moore, pastors. In 1876, Leipsic circuit to Findlay District, Jeremiah McKee, pastor, and W. W. Winter, Presiding Elder; 1877-78, Findlay District, A. Harmer, 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. Harmer, Presiding Elder, R. M. Colver, pastor. In 1880-81, R. M. Colver, pastor; L. R. Henderson, Presiding Elder. In 1881-82 Wm. R. Bevan, pastor; 1882-83 James C. Reader, pastor; 1884-85, Defiance District, S. L. Roberts, Presiding Elder; John L. Rusbridge, pastor from 1884 to ’87. George Matthews, pastor from 1887 to ’92; George Leazer, Presiding Elder from 1891 to ’95; P. P. Pope, D.D., Presiding Elder from 1895 to ’98. He is a graduate of Berea College and has all the interests of the district well in hand, A. A. Thomas, pastor from 1899 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 exciting 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 magnificence of its promoters and donors. The corner stone of the new structure was laid amid imposing ceremonies August 25, 1885.

Before 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—1885.

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Such is the recorded history of the Leipsic M. E. Church, as such is the splendid manner in which the citizens of this town respond to charitable improvements. It was one of those undertakings whose success bespeaks the progress and magnificence of a community, and under like circumstances, the whole fact 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 most enthusiastic supporters did not dream of existing results. But it is now a fact. In the early spring the grand work will be dedicated. Its promotion and construction form 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 worker of man, is 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.
The first year of his ministry here he received in the church eighty-eight successes, the second year two hundred and twenty-five, and the third year fifty by letter and on probation. Early in the year of 1886 he began the promotion of a plan to construct a new church. He had made the acquaintance of all our people. He had counseled himself to all classes, gained the respect, esteem and confidence of his own denomination, and they answered to his call by liberal contributions. Sufficiently a year has passed since the birth of this enterprise; but nearly $15,000 have already been raised. A building has been erected to the point of walls, which, when completed, will cost nearly $20,000, and Rev. Thomas has added another brilliant chapter to his career. He is now serving his sixth 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, 1886.

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 Boyten Smith, was born on a farm in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, on April 8th, 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 much zeal that he was able, at the early age of fifteen years, to get a certificate and in 1866 began teaching. He followed this calling until 1875, with the exception of a few years spent in attending school at the Findlay high school and Heidelberg 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 county 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 doctrines 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 he has reached. By degrees he has built up his way from a humble start to be sole proprietor of an office which is a pride to Northwestern Ohio, and his diligence has brought its renumeration. He now enjoys one of the most beautiful homes in Leipsic, having constructed the same after his own modern ideas during the year 1884. 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 his 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 31, 1874, to Miss Vich A. Boughman, youngest daughter of Abraham and Jane Hook Boughman. 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 80, 1878; George F., born June 14, 1888.

Mr. Smith is a member of Leipsic Lodge No. 548 F. & A. M.; Ottawa Chapter and Council, F. & A. M; Leipsic Encampment 1, O. F., No. 310; 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.
JOHN ZAHREN.
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 Weide, Mecklenburg, Germany, June 29, 1858. He attended the schools of his native town until twelve years of age, 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 came 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 satisfactorily 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 29, 1884, to Anna Hall, of Bluffton, Ohio, who was born at Gibson, December 22, 1861. They have four children: Marie, born June 15, 1886; Robert Hall, born January 14, 1888; Eugene, born January 30, 1891; John, Jr., born May 16, 1894.

ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY

blie in the conduct of his own business and in numerous deals and enterprises which he has promoted. In 1881 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 1888 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. Fish on the west one-half of lot six, and the Townsend block was known as the finest block ever built in Leipsic.

In February, 1896, 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 1896 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; Grace, born December 4, 1891.

H. G. 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 1892, 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 Pittsburgh, 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 those 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 Rosie Bluma 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 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 burned over thirty miles of tile on the tract. The land is now divided up into farms and constitutes 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 his 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; Joe L. and Las Boyce W. Tinkham were born in Toledo, Ohio, in the years 1878 and 1879, 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.

SAMUEL W. ROBERTS.

The subject of this biography was born December 11, 1845, in Ashland county, Ohio. He is the son of George and Catherine Roberts, now well and favorably known residents of Putnam county, Ohio. In 1868 his father moved to Putnam county, Ohio, 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 1878, when he moved to his father's farm and spent the next six years of his life in the management of this farm.

In 1879 he purchased a photographic gallery at Columbus Grove and moved to that place. He remained in the business at that place nine years, when he sold his gallery and moved to Leipsic, engaging in the same business.

O. E. TOWNSEND.
In the front rank of Putnam county's foremost business men, and an exalted promoter of first class improvements, both public and private, the subject of this sketch occupies a high position in the business arena 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 A. D. Foulk, and since that time the remarkable ability and energy of the man has been vis-

J. A. RENHOLD.
REMEMBERH OF H. G. TINKHAM, TOWNWOOD, OHIO.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

Mr. Roberts was married November 4, 1869, to Miss Marilla Farran, of Putnam county. She is the daughter of George and Sarah Farran, 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 8, 1872, died when three months and fourteen days old; Ellis W., when he arranged with F. J. Marshmull 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 Easton 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 Easton street, one of the finest residences in the county, thus giving his adopted town the advantage of his best 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 2, 1885. In the spring of 1896 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.

J. B. HALE, ARCHITECT.

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, 1864. He is the son of Fredolin and Magdolin (Steinley) 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.

In 1889 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, 1889, 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—

HOTEL LEFFLER.

In the spring of 1885 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 accompanving 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, supper 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. B. Hale, of Defiance, Ohio, is the architect, and to his genius and taste the new building is a fitting memorial and commemoration to the building world this worthy 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 successful 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 travelling public will find Leipsic supplied with as good hotel accommodations and accommodating 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.
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, 1856, 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 15, 1836, and the latter, May 24, 1826. Barney Lampe came to America in 1846, 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, 1859.

Four children were the fruits of this union—Barney Lampe, born in Baltimore, Md., February 23, 1853, now in business at Glandorf, Ohio, and married to Miss Tracy Murnen, of that place; Amelia H., born at Baltimore in 1853, died in infancy; Henry H., born in Cincinnati, February 24, 1850; Mary, now Mrs. Theodore Kempfier, of Minster, Ohio, born at Minster, October 7, 1856. After the death of his father, the subject of this sketch worked on firms near Minster until sixteen years of age, when he went to Toledo, Ohio, and obtained employment in a saw 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 Hoffmann Brothers, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, as sawyer and fler. 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 in that place, and after filling this responsible position two and a half years he went to Wisconsin, where he worked eight months for Pitcher, Hayley & Co., large lumber dealers. At the end of this term of service he went to St. Louis, and in the course of the next year went to Chicago, and entered the employ of a large firm of lumber manufacturers and dealers in fine lumber in New England.

LAMPE BLOCK, LEIPSIC, O.

This position he filled with great credit for six years. Three years after going to Boston he returned to Minster, 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, 1859. 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 accord 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 Heyer, 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 lot number one, (i) Leipsic, this being the best business corner in the town. He was in business in the room on the first floor of this building until the fire of December 27, 1893, when his building was totally destroyed. In May, 1894, he purchased the west half of lot one, and during the summer of that year he constructed one of the handsome 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: Garding & Glock, dry goods and groceries; post office; Rockler Bros., barbers; Otto Agner, undertaker, Jacob Schmidt, meat market. The building is of the most modern architecture, its design and plan having been drawn by Louis Walker, of Toledo, and the work of construction done by such able contractors as Frank Sheemaker, 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. R. Lampe, born at Nunnel, 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 3, 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 as 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 progress than the individual represented by this

Kieferville.

In 1870, D. A. Kiefer laid out the original town plat of Kieferville, which lies north of the old Continental railroad and on both sides of the Delaware pike, which crosses the Nickel Plate railroad at that place, and 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 R. Molts. The town, in 1888, has two general stores, a hotel and a church.

Note.—The articles mentioned above are worthy of the highest recommendation and most liberal patronage—Ednor.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

WILLIAM G. BRUGMAN.
The subject of this sketch was born at Fremont, Ohio, December 26, 1851. He is a son of William G. and Williamsa (Stout) Brugman, who came to this county from Germany in 1846 and settled in Sandusky City, Ohio, and moved to Fremont in 1849. Here young Brugman attended school until about twelve years 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 Lyneker'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 23, 1872, 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 18, 1874; Adolph A., April 19, 1876; Maximillian C., January 3, 1878; Arie, August 17, 1879; died August 31, 1879; Edwin F., April 3, 1884; Eva, March 23, 1886; Mona H., January 20, 1889, and Laura Ellen, January 21, 1900.

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 Keifferville, 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 Keifferville.

DAVID G. 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 worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-one, and on August 20, 1873, he married Miss Ruth E. Prentiss, daughter of A. F. and Ruth (McConnell) Prentiss, of West Leipsic, who came to this county in 1828. Mrs. Williamson was born November 4, 1856, at West Leipsic, Ohio. To this marriage were born: Amy, July 8, 1874, died December 12, 1884; L. Elexa, March 1, 1877; L. Clara, June 24, 1880; David Prentiss, December 16, 1883, died June 20, 1890; Ruth Elizabeth, February 5, 1884.

Mr. Williamson was interested in the Leipsic Poultry farm from 1878 to 1880, and then in the sawmill business until 1884, when he sold his mill and went into the employ of the Hickory Store Company as foreman and engineer, where he remained until 1901. He then went to work in the fall of 1899, 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 Keifferville.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH.
In 1850 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 Glendorf. The roads being impassable near two-thirds of the year made it impossible for them to attend to their religious duties. At the meeting above mentioned three of the most worthy members, Messrs. Jens Weig, Sr., Herman Schmeck, Sr., and Fohner, were chosen as trustees or building committee. These worthy men, under the superintendence of Rev. Anton Kramer, then resident pastor at Glendorf, organized the Holy Family Church.

Soon after timbers were cut, hewed and hauled, saw logs cut and hauled to mill, so that in the spring of 1890 the foundation of the church was laid, and in June of the same year the first Holy Mass was read by Rev. Joseph Birk, pastor at Tiffin, Ohio. In October, 1852, the building was dedicated by the Rev. Bishop of Cleveland.

In 1862 regular services were held, the first priest being Rev. Sebastian Gander. The first child baptized was Gabriel Frank, the child of his name, on December 8, 1862, and on the 12th day of February, 1863, the first marriage, that of John F. Kenzle to Mary Westrick, was solemnized.

Rev. Sebastian was succeeded by Rev. Bogolbert Barst, 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. Bogolbert was succeeded by Rev. Jacob Marti, pastor at Glendorf. Rev. Jacob Marti was succeeded by Rev. Charles Barbier, in 1877. In the same year the church constructed a 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 Hipplin in 1878. Rev. Hipplin was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Rosenburg in 1850.
History of Columbus Grove.

By James Belford.

The first settlement made in what is now known as Pleasant Township was in the spring of 1832. In that year came first William Turner and Elias Feathrington. In 1833 came Adam Tuner, John Feathrington, 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 McCobb, Samuel McCobb, James Pier, James Turner, John B. Bogart, David Bogart, Joseph Sterlin, John Mose, John Parrish, Joseph Cox, and Joseph Belford and families.

The township was organized in 1854, with J. B. Bogart, William Turner, and John Feathrington the first trustees. Joseph Cox was the first Justice of the Peace, which office he held but a short time, as he was accidentally 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 hunchback split and hewn from a black walnut log.

The town of Columbus Grove was laid out in December, 1833, by Capt. Frederick Frechbe, the proprietor. It was surveyed and platxed for the proprietor by Benjamin Dennison. Capt. Frechbe 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 Leshart block now stands, by John Mose. The first frame dwelling was built by Samuel Sterlin, who also erected the first brick. The first manufacturing establishment here was an ashery and potterry, built and operated by the Deery Brothers on the lot now occupied by the Gesell brick residence. They manufactured black sand and pearl ash, and in the potteries, crooks, jugs, and other earthen wares. In 1836 Sheldon Quinicci erected a small building on a lot near the Quinicci's establishment and opened a small supply store, en-couraging goods for sale, 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. Gooch, a Presbyterian. As the country improved and increased, a 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 1874, 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 Con, 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 log building, 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, Leman Woodruff, J. B. Jones, Evan R. Davis and E. W. Greene.

Theodore Kuncke came to this place in 1838. 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. Kuncke 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 Kuncke 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 Maple block now stands, from 1852 to 1865, 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 1868 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 1850.

R. Roberts, and J. M. G. Patterson, his son, of Beljefontaine, Ohio, opened a store here in 1855 and continued in the business until 1856.

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 1886 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, bustling business and professional men. Good schools and fine churches with large congregations bear the moral and religious tone of her society.

Prof. J. F. Jones.

Prominent 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, 1822, and is the son of George W. and Eleanor (Gearhardt) Jones.

George W. Jones was born in Bath county, Kentucky, June 9, 1809, 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, at 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 1830 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 the public schools until 1835, 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 1837, when he moved to Anderson, Indiana, and became principal of the First
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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 Wilberham, Mass., January 35, 1840. He is the son of Alvin and Anne 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 Secamore 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 booster of the most advanced ideas of progress, and his improvements from time to time rank 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 business so long and with such marited 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 Secamore 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. Frank of Monson, Massachusetts, and they have two children: Rose E. (new Mrs. Dr. Frank Pugh, of Bryan, Ohio,) born in September, 1888, Homer R., born April 9, 1873, now a partner in the store. Mr. Day has served as Township and Corporation Treasurer and member of the School Board, and his good judgment and honor have been distinguishable in public as well as private life. He is now the possessor of that business reputation and success, that record of exemplary citizenship, and that confidence and esteem of his fellowmen which enable us to accord to him 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, 1873. In his youth he attended school in his native town, and graduated later at the Eastman Business College of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and early in life became the assistant of his father in his store; thus at an early age he became the possessor of a store and business education. In 1890 he formed a partnership with his father, and the firm became known as A. H. & H. R. Day.

Mr. Day is a young man of fine business ability and good habits, thus assuming himself a leading position in the future business progress and history of Putnam county.

GUYS B. KILLEN.

Putnam county has the birthplace or adopted home of many men who have made a mark of honor and success upon the field of professional strife, and it is today the home of a number of young men who will leave a proud record upon the calendar of professional progress. Among this number we rank the prospects of our subject, Guy B. Killen, of Columbus Grove, Ohio. He was born June 5, 1870, in the city of Canton, Ohio, and is the son of Norris and Mary J. Killen.

He moved with his parents to Columbus Grove, O., in 1872 and spent his youth in the public school of this town, from which he graduated in May, 1888. He completed his education at the Tri-State Normal College, of Angola, Ind., from which he graduated March 29, 1890. The following summer he studied law with S. Sanders, of Columbus Grove, and in the autumn of the same year he began a course of law study in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. Here he remained until June 10, 1891, when he graduated in this institution, having been admitted to the bar of Michigan on June 3d of the same year. He then

PROF. J. H. JONES.

years 1873-74 he spent in traveling and adding to that fund of knowledge so marked in his career.

In August, 1886, 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 1876-80 he was superintendent of the Drablers schools, and the year following he served in the same capacity at Belmores. He then returned to Columbus Grove and was principal of the "A" Grammar school for two years when, in 1888, 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 indelibly upon the annals of original, progressive education.

In 1870 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. H. Jones & Sons they have since conducted a very successful and constantly growing business, until, at this date, they employ about fifty persons, manufacture 10,000 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 April 10, 1855, to Miss Martha J. Hart, of Miami county, Ohio, who was born in that county, May 23, 1833. They have three children, all of whom are living—Della D. (now wife of G. A. Richardson, chief clerk to the General Manager of the B. & O. R. R. at Chicago) born November 8, 1868; 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 a prominent 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 reveal 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 service is a precedent to this biography; they have been recognized by men and institutions; they will remain,
cated at Ottawa, O., where he entered the law office of Haskell & Sutton and remained with them until 1871, when he was ad
mitted to the bar of Ohio.

He then formed a partnership with James P. Leasure, and
under the firm name of Leasure & Kilien he practiced law in
Ottawa for one year, when the partnership was dissolved and

He attended the public school of that town for the next four
years, having for his schoolmates Gen. A. V. Rice and John Mc-
Clure. 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. Eliese, of Columbus
Grove, and in 1858 settled in the latter place. Columbus Grove
then had three hundred inhabitants and the D. & R. railroad had
just been constructed through the town.

Mr. Jones established his present business, that of harness and
saddlery, in 1856, and the continuation of that business until the
present time distinguishes the proprietor as being the oldest mer-
chant in his line in the county and as one of the oldest con-
secutive merchants in the county.

In 1868 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 1856, or
from John Brough to William McKinley.

In 1874 he purchased the site of his present beautiful home on
Syca ore street, and since that time he has so improved the resi-
dence 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 councils from that time to the present.

He has one child, D. F. Jones, born August 12, 1871, now an
able partner and assistant in his father's business. Among his
neighbors in town, 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
conduct ed 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.

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 Elea-
nor Jones and was born in South Wales, England, January 22,
1846; Sarah T., born September 29, 1846; Lewis, born July 29,
1850; Mary Alice, born May 1, 1862; Simon Cottis, born Janu-
ary 26, 1864; Edward M., born April 17, 1861; Charles, born
November 14, 1869. His third marriage was to Catherine Mc-
Clure of Putnam county, on March 5, 1881, who survives him,
and by whom was born Zoe, (now Mrs. Dr. Brackhill) December
19, 1891.

Mrs. Maple, see 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 manage-
ment which made the name of Simon Mapel famous and accumu-
lated for his family one among the largest fortunes ever distrib-
uted 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 1878, 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 and worthy of the highest
trusts, he drew about him that class trend-
ing towards the highest social and business elevation.

In private life he produced all the elements of a good citizen,
husband, father and friend, and his last hours were marked by a

David Jones

1833. When eight years of age he came to America with his
father, settling in 1840 at Granville, Licking county. He lived
in Granville one year and then came with his family to Kalida,
this county.

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 un-
til 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 Stan-
bury Stotler, and under the firm name of Mapel & Sutton con-
tinued 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 pro-
gression of this town than was Simon Mapel.

He engaged in the mercantile business in his new home, but
in 1874 abandoned those 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
day 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, 1843; Thomas
G. and Stephen, twins, born July 24, 1844. His second marriage
was to Rachel Thropp, and occurred May 27, 1846. By this
marriage seven children were born: William T., born August 1,
1846; Sarah T., born September 29, 1846; Lewis, born July 29,
1850; Mary Alice, born May 1, 1862; Simon Cottis, born Janu-
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he had five children—Elizabeth, born: August 1, 1837; James,
born January 24, 1840; Martha G., born April 7, 1843; Thomas
G. and Stephen, twins, born July 24, 1844. His second marriage
was to Rachel Thropp, and occurred May 27, 1846. By this
marriage seven children were born: William T., born August 1,
THEODORE KUNNENKE.

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 Kunnene, son of Christian and Eleanor Kunnene, was born in Hanover, Germany, March 24, 1834. 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 Pittsburgh, from which place he went to Cincinnati where he worked a short time and then entered into a three years' engagement with John Flanhtary, 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 materials 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. Flanhtary. He continued to fill his part of the contract with Mr. Flanhtary until its expi

ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

figured in the construction of every mill on the Miami canal from Cincinnati to Delphos. Mr. Kunnene 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 Bine, 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 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 Kunnene be inseparably linked with the highest business and social element.

JOHN H. KUNNENKE.

John H. Kunnene, son of Theodore and Mary E. Kunnene, 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,

THE KUNNENKE 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 1869 to 1873, 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 its promethe. In 1870 he constructed his handsome brick residence on East Sycamore street. In 1879 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 hotel which we present to our readers, and which is now partially occupied by his son, J. H. Kunnene, 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 best farms, and in the line of an agriculturist he 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 1846 at Dayton, Ohio, to Miss Margaret Debeer, of that city, with whom he had one son, Louis, born in 1846, died at Columbus Grove in 1891. Three years later his wife died, and in 1860 he married Miss Mary E. Featheringill, of Putnam county. To this union there were born two children: Martha E., born 1860, 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 Kunnene be inseparably linked with the highest business and social element.

JOHN H. KUNNENKE.

Ohio, where he took a commercial course, after which he attended Baldwin University, Berea, Ohio, one year and a half and then entered the employment of Calvin Halladay, of Lima, O., in the dry goods business, where he remained until the fall of 1883, 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 10, 1888, he 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 1835, 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, 1888, and Helen McComb, born May 16, 1889. 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 so must living in his time, contributed more or less 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 Denham, in Ashbeulba county, Ohio, and settled on a small farm two miles southwest of Columbus Grove, on the Vaughs ville road adjoining Turo cemetery, and then the site of Turo church, in 1845. Turo 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
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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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 brought in from France and imported a number of Percheron and French coach horses. This he followed up during the years 1888-90, importing in all fifty head of these 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 bookkeeper 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 8, 1866, 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 28, 1884, and Margarette Barbers, May 26, 1886.

Mr. Basinger is one of Putnam county’s energetic and prosperous young men, and is engaged in farming and stock raising.

THE FIRST ROAD 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 junction 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 Defiance and Fort Wayne, once a week, on horseback, supplying between the termini the offices of Hardin, Wapakoneta, and Sugar Grove (this was at the house of Sebastian Slaw, near Haver’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, as 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 Defiance 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 Willshire, Shann’s Corner, Fort Amanda, Hoy Creek, near Elida; Cochrane’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 Brouse, teacher.

“In 1831 or 1832 Benjamin Clevenger built a mill on Sugar Creek, and Jacob Rider a saw mill, on the Blanchard. The first was a ‘wet weather mill,’ the other could grind a bushel of corn an hour. In 1836 Guthrie & Barber erected a mill at Kalida, and in 1837 Elijah Storrs built one at Gibson.

Miscellaneous.

“The first marriage recorded in the county was that of George Mell and Mary Ord, Sunday, June 16, 1824. The second was that of John Tegard 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 Kuble, a native of the Kingdom of Hanover, and to James Watkins, a native of Wales, November, 1834.

RESIDENCE OF CHRISTIAN BASINGER.

C. BASINGER, L. J. LEMLEY, G. W. CORC
President. Vice-President. Cashier.

LOUIS LEMLEY.

THE PEOPLE’S BANK.

DAVID CORC.

A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

LEMMAY BLOCK.

COLUMBUS GROVE, OHIO.

the site to Columbus Grove, and in 1861 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 until the day of his death, July 10, 1870.

Rev. Brite 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 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. Brite, now junior United States Senator from Ohio.

"The first order of notice by publication made by the courts was at the May term, 1833, in a case between Joshua Wagonneller vs. Jacob Dovers, when the court ordered that notice of the pendency of this suit, and the existence of the bill and the prayer thereof, be published for four successive weeks in the Saturday Evening Post, a newspaper published in Philadelphia; the first publication to be made five 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, 1840. He is a son of John D. and Elisabeth (Maner) Basinger, who came to this county in 1826. His first wife, who died November 5, 1871, was Regine Legallub, daughter of David and Catharine Legallub, 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 8, 1868, married Miss Minnie A. Risser; Levi, born March 28, 1870, married Miss Elisabeth Amsas, daughter of Christian B. and Catharine Amstutz; Sussanna, born May 29,
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

JUDGE HENRY MORRIS.

Henry Morris was born in Kentucky in 1808. 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 1819, 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 1822, 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 Cleavenger, who lived three miles west of them.

JUDGE AND HIS HUSBAND 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 7, 1830. 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 is a young man with a fine 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, 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 173rd Regiment, O. V. I. He joined this regiment at Gallipolis on September 29, 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 25, 1861; Alfred, October 1, 1862; Josephine, July 11, 1864; deceased; Sarah Lucinda, September 24, 1866, died August 6, 1877; Frank, May 26, 1868; Rosella, January 17, 1870, who is now a teacher in the Columbus Grove school. 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; Linnie, July 20, 1879.

CALVIN A. MCDOWELL.

The subject of this sketch was born in Licking county, Ohio, January 14, 1855. He is a son of John and Eilis (Ackley) Mc- Dowell, who came to this county in 1836. Mr. McDowell was married in Allen county, Ohio, February 7, 1881, 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 26, 1889; Anna C., February 17, 1865, married to Frank B. Lewis, February, 1888; andCalvin, November 14, 1866, died September 6, 1869; Charles C., September 27, 1870, married Anna Jones, daughter of Philip and Azie (Buckingham) Jones, March 20, 1902; Lee V., March 17, 1876.

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 Literacy from 1855 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 taxes. These places our subject has filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people who entrusted him with these duties.

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, COLUMBUS GROVE, OHIO.

DR. FRANK MORRIS.

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 H. B. Simmons, 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, and continued a student in this school until March 4, 1892, at 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 unremitted success, and now ranks as one of the first dentists in his county.

On June 19, 1895, Dr. Elwell was married to Miss Dellia F. Roberts, who was born at Columbus Grove January 23, 1876, and is the daughter of J. E. and Nora N. 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 at whom Putnam county should be proud. He has branch dental offices at Leipsic and Gilmore.
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THE CLIPPER,
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Office Corner High and Sycamore Streets, up stairs.
History of Glandorf.

This village was named in honor of Glandorf, Germany, the native town of Prof. William Horstman. John F. Kahle, William Guetker, Christian Streps, Mathias Bochbrat F. W. Hofmann, Fred Barth and Ferdinand Brodbeck, who formed a colony and settled where Glandorf now stands in 1824. 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, 1851, when it was incorporated as a village with William Albrecht, as Mayor; F. W. Hofmann, Clerk; Joseph Nienberg, Treasurer; Fred Franke, Marshal; T. F. Berger, Street Commissioner; W. F. Hoffman, Henry Kerper, Henry Merzmen, Dr. A. Born, E. W. Wortkeffer and Joseph Winklemann, Councilmen.

The village officers at this time (1896) are as follows: Joseph Koef, Mayor; F. W. Hoffman, Clerk; Joseph Nienberg, Treasurer; Fred Franke, Marshal; John Smith, Street Commissioner; Henry Merzmen, T. R. Heckman, Frank Morin, Joseph Winklemann, Anthony Sommers and W. F. Hoffman, Councilmen.

Glandorf for many years was the great boot and shoe trade center of the county and was the first flouring mill in the state to use the new system of rollers known as the Altliez system now (1896) being put in the Glandorf mill by Mr. Natterer. 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 Onaschburg, 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 Guetker, Christian Streps, Mathias Bochbrat, F. W. Wiesmann, Fred Barbrick, and Fred Broddeck. These left their fatherland August 23, 1833, embarked on the boat "Columbus," September 7th, and arrived at New York November 8th. From there they went via Albany and Buffalo to Detroit. Rev. Horstman, 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, Wapakona, and reached Cincinnati December 13, 1833. Returning by the same route, they paid a short visit to the colonies of Stilts (Minster) and Nolmeyer, of Ft. Jennings, directed them to John Meyer in Greensburg township, where Mr. Kahle bought section fifteen. Prof. Horstman procured 500 acres in Ottawa township, in section twenty, and 160 in section twenty-nine. The rest of their party, whom they had left at Cincinnati, were brought here after a wearisome journey, the latter part of January, 1834. These few men were in mid-winter in the wild forests, surrounded and visited only by harmless Indians, but they had an undetermined courage and muscular arms. They lowered trees, tilled the ground around the remaining stumps, and constructed their primitive log houses. One of them, 18x18 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 St. John's church. 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; meat was 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. Koehler, H. Schroeder, H. Dalling, Ed. Mueller, Joe. Uten-

Rev. B. Dickman, who succeeded, in May, 1874, Rev. August Reibert, 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 Rev. Bp. Bishop Gidmore. 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 symmetry, and the inside fills the visitor with awe and reverence. With its

ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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JUDGE JOHN H. UPHAUS.

John H. Uphaus was born in Oelsnitz, Germany, March 26, 1825, and emigrated with his parents, John G. and Kathyrine (Stogel) Uphaus, and settled in this county in the year 1836.

He was married at Glandorf, Ohio, October 28, 1868, to Valentina H. Dremp, daughter of John B. and Anna L. (Versing) Dremp, 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, 1880; Bernard H., born June 11, 1861, died May 28, 1882; Mary E., born October 28, 1862, now married to John H. Meaney; Gerhard H., born February 6, 1863; Charles William, born October 26, 1866; Mary A., born December 7, 1868; died July 12, 1871; Bernard Joseph, born December 24, 1870; Caroline Catharine, born October 18, 1872, now married to William Eckman; John Frank, born December 8, 1874; Anthony P., born January 3, 1877, died January 15, 1877; Charles A., born December 9, 1878; Anna M., born June 13, 1881.

In former years Mr. Uphaus followed the carpenter trade for a while, and at the age of twenty-two he pushed out into the world to fight his own way, the possessor 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, 1861, he located at Glandorf and established that business which is now well and favorably known far beyond the boundaries of Putnam county.

Mr. Uphaus was married February 28, 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 Company, 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 testify in his favor; as to his standing as an honorable citizen, no man disputes his right.
He was married June 3, 1879, to Miss Anna Geringer, 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 9, 1881; Stella M., September 30, 1884; Edwin J., November 3, 1888; Frances M., January 5, 1889; Albert A., February 8, 1891; Alphonso V., June 5, 1893; Carl A., August 9, 1895.

In 1886 Mr. Kesting moved to Glandorf, Ohio, and although still engaged as traveling salesmen 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 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, 1848, 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 Bondsing 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, 1889, to Miss Catha-

JOSEPH ROOF.
Mr. Roof, Mayor of Glandorf, Ohio, was born March 34, 1855, 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 Groesbeck township. He was married to Miss Linnie, daughter of Bernard Rampe. Jan., 1874. She was born April 30, 1858.

JOSEPH THOME.
In the steadily-growing 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, 1884. 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 seventeen 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 conduct this business until 1889, 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, 24 x 80 feet, which is one of the most substantial improvements in Glandorf. They handle the best goods, implements and vehicles offered in the markets of trade and their reliability and honor is unquestioned. Mr. Thome was married August 29, 1890, to Miss Anna Hoffman, who was born April 18, 1870, and is a daughter of Hon. W. F. Hoffmans, 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, 1881; Walter, born December 10, 1883; and Clarence, January 10, 1894.

Although a young man, Mr. Thone 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, he moved to America, settling in Cincinnati, where he worked at his trade two years, and in 1849 he moved to Glandorf, Ohio, where he 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 Ellenbrock, 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 28, 1855, now Mrs. Herbert Smith, of Leipsig; Frank B., September 24, 1858, now in the wholesale and retail boot and shoe business in Cincinnati, Ohio; Anna, April 8, 1864, now Mrs. A. Stechschulte, of Lebanon; John P., June 29, 1867, in the boot and shoe business in Leipsig, and Louis J., September 30, 1872, now in business at Glandorf. On November 16, 1875, he married to Mrs. Wilhelmina Scholz, which marriage was also a happy one until death separated them. William Rampe, Sr., 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 20 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 29, 1898, aged 65 years, 11 months and 17 days, full of honor, and bequeathing his posterity a fitting example of success.

ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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 3, 1867, near Ottawa, Ohio, and is the son of John H. and Elizabeth (Feeger) Buscher, the former having come to this country in 1840 with her parents from Hanover, Germany, and the latter in 1836. He spent his youth in attending school at Glandorf and working on his father’s farm.

On Oct. 11, 1887, Mr. Buscher was united in marriage to Emma Marius Hoffman, daughter of Ferdinand and Catherine (Feldman) Hoffman, the former born in Glandorf, Germany, September 8, 1839, came to Putnam county in 1843; the latter came to this county in 1852, and was born in 1839. To this union there have been born the following children: Katherine Louella, February 4, 1889; John Henry, August 6, 1891, and Ferdinand Albert, November 18, 1899.

Mr. Buscher constructed one of the handsomest farm residences in the county in 1897; 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-

FRID 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 6, 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 1893, 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, 1883, 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; Emma, January 25, 1890; Mary F., October 24, 1890; Odella, June 26, 1892; Philba, May 26, 1894.

We present our readers with an illustration of the business room in which the well-dressed 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.

HISTORY OF GILBOA.

This town was laid out in 1827 by Eliza Stow, 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 Massey 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 made for the Dayton & Michigan railroad an active and prominent 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. S. Powell, who settled in the practice of medicine in 1845; William M. McClure, who also kept tavern and was afterwards our county treasurer; Simon Mapel and Stanberry Sutton, storekeepers, the first named being county commissioners 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 devastated 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 early unsettled 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 1858 has given an impetus to the growth of the town and its businesses, evidenced by the construction of new business buildings and dwellings, which gives bright promise of future prosperity.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

Mr. Maclow was born in England, February 17, 1812, and came to this country with his parents in the year 1830, landing at Baltimore, Maryland. When thirteen years of age he came to 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 Putnam county, March 8, 1837, and settled on the farm where he resided at the time of his death, which occurred December 8, 1886.

He was strictly honest in his dealings and generous to those to whose personal 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 devoted friends were present. Among the guests who delivered addresses on the occasion were Judge J. J. Moore, Cortes Elving, James S. H. Smith, Dr. Tupper and S. F. Weaver. There were present eleven children, thirty-eight grand children and one great grandchild.

Mrs. Maclow was born in Knox county, Ohio, February 11, 1816. Her children are James A., born in Knox county, September 12, 1835; James A., born January 18, 1840, married to Dr. E. S. Sallie; C. Edmond, born July 21, 1842, married to Sarah E. Kline; C. Edmond, born July 21, 1842, married to Belle Hille; C. Edmond, born July 21, 1842, married to Bessie Hille; C. Edmond, born July 21, 1842, married to Clarissa Rogers, deceased; William Franklin, April 29, 1844, died December 5, 1861, married to Miranda Conine; Rebecca Jane, July 10, 1846, married to E. H. Buckland; Alonzo Paulin, April 10, 1848, died April 28, 1888, married to Thomas Wolford; Alice, March 27, 1850, married to R. L. Brooks; Laura, March 9, 1850, married to Martha Maria, February 20, 1854, married to Herman McDougle; Alfred Spencer, February 20, 1855, married to Emma Carpenter; Putnam, November 29, 1855, married to Mary Cartwright.

Mr. Maclow was a member of the Masonic order, and when he received the h Quincy of the Great Master to appear in his eternal presence, it is 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 Ninisville, St. Clair 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, children. Alva C. and Everett H. are druggists in Gilboa, O.; Mary M. wife of Dr. M. A. Darbyshire, McCob, Os., 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. E. Examining Surgeons, was re-appointed to the same in 1884 and is its president. He is president of the Gilboa Building and Loan Company; is a member of Ottawa Lodge, Chapter and Council, P. and A. M.; Gilboa Lodge, I. O. O. F., of which he has been Recording Secretary ten years; of Lindsay Post, No. 78, 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 State 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 CRAWFORD.

Mr. Crawford was one of the earliest of the pioneer settlers of this county. He was the son of Nicholas and Polly (McIlroy) Crawford and was born in Berks township, Fairfield county, Ohio, August 1, 1809, coming to Putnam county when he was twenty-four years old. He with his brothers, Lewis, Ohio and Henry M., with Samuel Hall, the Harmones, Eldman, Mower and the Popees constituted the first settlers of that part of the county now known as Blanchard township, and formed the nucleus 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 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 grained while yet soft or pounded in stone mortars or ground in a primitive 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 those hardy settlers was John Crawford, the subject of this sketch. A keen hunter, a sure shot with his rifle and cunning in decoying the fainty 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 1836, at which time it formed a part of Williams county and

MRS. JOHN MAIDLOW.

Mr. and Mrs. Maclow lived in a home surrounded by a loving family, and they were blessed with many children. Their lives were marked by happiness and contentment, and they were always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. Their home was a place of refuge and comfort for many who sought solace and advice.

He and his devoted wife, who are now (1968) living at the old homestead, celebrated their golden wedding on February 18, 1896, upon which event a very large number of relatives and friends assembled to pay tribute to their love and devotion.

Daniel Matthias, Jr., and grandmother (see Sauer) emigrated from Fayette county, Pennsylvania, to Stark county, Ohio, in 1806, where they resided until they died. His father and mother, Jacob and Mary (Schaumburg) Matthias, were married in Stark county, Ohio, and moved to Monroe county, Ohio, in 1808, where they lived until 1820, when they moved to Holliday county, Michigan, where they lived until death took them to their reward. His grandfather Matthias and grandfather Schaumburg were both ministers in the United Brethren church.

He served from 1861 to 1865 in the War of the Rebellion, in Company K, 68th O. V. V. I., enlisting at the age of seventeen.

He was educated in the common schools. Studied medicine and graduated at Cleveland Medical College, February 6, 1869. In 1868 he was married to Elizabeth Harris, who was born November 29, 1854. In 1874 they moved to St. Albans, England. They have four

JOHN CRAWFORD.
included in its limits the present townships of Van Buren, Riley, Blanchard and Richland, (now in Allen county.)

Mr. Crawford 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 notwith standing 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) Crawford having proved unfruitful, 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 establishment of a high school in each of the townships for the higher education of the children of such townships. The "Crawford College" in Blanchard township in this county and a similar institution in Berne township, Fairfield county, were the result of that donation. Mr. Crawford died at his home in Blanchard township, in the fall of 1858, and his wife survived him but a short time.

P. G. STATLER, V. S.

The subject of this sketch was born in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1855. 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. Statler moved to Gilmour, 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.

In 1884, he began to handle real estate in connection with veterinary surgery and medicine 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 1888, 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, 1853, 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, 1871; George C., September 28, 1870; Sarah V., March 28, 1873, died September 15, 1875.

Clementine Dumont, whom he married February 6, 1877, was born in Paris, France, and came to this country in 1856. Two children were born to them: Sarah J., born December 4, 1878; James C., December 5, 1881.

Previous to coming to Putnam county, Mr. Kober was engaged in ditching, constructing one ditch nine miles long. Through exposures 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 (Baten) Harris. He received his education at the home district, now known as the Infirmary school.

On March 11, 1889, he was united in marriage to Miss Corline Wilkins, by Samuel Bacon, then Justice of the Peace of Blanchard township, Putnam county. She is a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Kreutzinger) Wilkins. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have adopted as their child, Anna Gertrude Gehet, 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. Though industry and economy are features to be enjoyed in 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 Portunes, 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

GEORGE KÖBER.

GEORGE KÖBER.

PROF. BERNARD J. BEACH.
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 public 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 school; during the following year, 1880, 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. C. Bisbee 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. Harrison, from 1880 to 1891; Prof. Job Hill, from 1891 to 1892; Prof. L. S. LaForre, from 1892 to 1894; prof. B. J. Beach, from 1894 to 1897.

S. P. Weaver.

S. P. Weaver was born near Lancaster, Ohio, January 30, 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 Greensfield Academy 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 Serena 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 covered with water during the greater portion of the year. The nuisances arising from the stagnated water and decomposition of vegetable matter caused much sickness. For want of sufficient

CRAWFIS COLLEGE.

The following teachers have assisted: O. C. Wright, commercial department; Florence B. McClure, language; Mrs. O. C. Wright, elocution, with Charles Hubergaugh, assistant; R. F. Finley, mathematics; May Banfield, shorthand and typewriting; J. E. Krich, penmanship; Charlotte Rice, common branches; A. V. Miller, German; C. C. Miller, assisted in Normal Institute; Estelle Compton, pianist; Blanche Adams, Olive Todd and Emma Everett, assistants in common branches; L. D. Hook, penmanship; G. R. Miller, J. C. Light, common branches; Besse Ashbaugh, elocution; Flora McCray, pianist; — Wicky, telegraphy; N. O. Harmon, violin; Mrs. LaFerriere, Katharine Orem, Capetola Orem, Ida Borto, Phoebe Orem, common branches; and Mrs. Block, penmanship.

Under the able management of the above superintendent and teachers, the school has flourished and is on the way to meet the ambition of its promoter.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

In 1890 R. N. McAdams laid out and dedicated McAdams’ Addition to Pandora, and S. F. 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 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 Xenonites, whose faith forbade quarreling and litigation, and served his country in that struggle nearly five years. At the close of the war he came to Putnam county and in 1868 purchased the farm on which he now lives. On May 34, 1860, he was married to Miss Margaret Koh, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Weaver) Krohn, who came to this country in 1844. Mrs. Riser was born in Butler county, January 5, 1844. This marriage was attended by George W., October 30, 1858; William M., March 20, 1871—married to Miss Lisie Lemley; Minnie A., April 27, 1874—married to William Ringer; Elizabeth, July 15, 1878; Lena, August 13, 1888; Ollie, September 11, 1883; Lewis, October 19, 1884; Edwin, May 28, 1897.

Mr. Riser is one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of the county, and was the principal promoter of the splendid system of macadam roads of Riley township, being one of the township trustees at the time these roads were constructed, and as evidence of the appreciation of his able directed energies in these permanent public improvements, the tax payers of the township have ever since kept him in that official capacity.

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 1802 by Deputty County Surveyor John Shackleby 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 1858; Krohn & Speer, in 1868; John H. George, in 1874, and Alexander Williamson in 1874.


David Riser.

Mr. Riser was born in Germany, April 5, 1840, and came to this country in 1855. When our country became involved in the Civil War he responded to the call of the President for volunteers to preserve the Union, by enlisting in Third New York Cavalry. In 1862 he was promoted to the rank of Major and served as such during the remainder of the war. After the close of the war, he returned to the village of Belmore, and engaged in the mercantile business, which he still pursues, and is also a prominent farmer, owning a fine farm in Maitland Township. Mr. Riser is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and is a prominent citizen of his community, and a true friend to the advancement of all public improvements.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY

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 Martha A. Spencer, moved to Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, living on a farm one-half mile south of Belmont and attended school at Belmont.

After the death of his father, May 2, 1886, he worked for the Eagle State & Heading Co. until December 17, 1886, on which date he entered the Belmont 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; also representing numerous fire and life insurance companies and associations, among them being the Aetna, of Hartford; Insurance Company of North America, of Philadelphia; Phoenix 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 1896 and is now filling that office with marked ability and satisfaction. He was married June 15, 1890, to Miss Sadie Moutan even, of Belmont, 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 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 environment, in his home and in the world, to gain the respect and esteem of his neighbors and causes 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 desist to and recommend that the subject of this sketch be titled "The Duke of Belmont." Nimrod Speaker, one of the foremost citizens, business men and politicians of Putnam county, was born in Likkinson, 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 Belmont.

He resided with his father on the farm until 1851, when he came to Belmont and engaged in contracting and furnishing cost wood to the Dayton & Michigan Railroad Company. This occupation he continued until 1886, 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 Belmont 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 15, 1866, to Miss Ettie Ward, of Licking county, with whom he had two children—George, born July 15, 1866, and Mary Catherine (now Mrs. Alvin Hook), August 16, 1869. In 1875 his wife died, and in 1874 he was married to Miss Matilda Paden, of Ottawa, Ohio. To this union two children were born—John, born November 10, 1876, now assisting his father in the store, and Harvey, born August 15, 1878. In 1878 Mrs. Speaker (see Paden) died, and on November 20, 1878, Mr. Speaker was united in marriage to Ellen Bihlerburger, 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 his name is familiar to the farmers of the county, and no matter what their business, he can be seen at his desk, keeping a record of their transactions.

N. SPEAKER'S BUSINESS HOUSE.

So famed has become his fairness of dealing that it has enabled him to make Belmont one of the leading grain markets of the county. He is also largely interested in farming, and in this capacity he has pro-ven 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 1800 John W. Peckenhaurgh 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 1855 by Peckenhaurgh's second survey and first addition. A third survey and second addition was made by Mr. Peckenhaurgh in about the year 1856, 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 Shubley house and is in the extreme western part of the village, facing south on Main street. It was built by John Shubley 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 Dehart, first blacksmith; Joseph Fisher, first wagonmaker, 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 Lucina M. Lowry, daughter of J. J. Lowry, born September 20, 1855, now Mrs. Dr. Emery, one of the leading physicians of the county.

The town was incorporated in 1852, 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 800 busy people. A. J. Nichols is mayor; David White, marshal; W. J. White, clerk; M. L. Pritchard, treasurer; James E. Sackett, J. F. Arnold, George Burbank, George Close, W. R. Baker and J. B. Under, 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 moved onto the farm which he now owns and which 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. P. KOST.

Among Putnam county's self-made men the name and personage of L. P. Kost holds a leading rank. He was born in Holland on the 8th of August, 1837, and is the son of Frank and Phoebe Kost. 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 1853, in which last named year he came with his parents to Ottawa township, Putnam county, and attended school there until 1856, when he commenced learning the carpenter trade, which he followed with satisfaction and success until 1872.

He lived in Ottawa township until 1861, 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 county, where he remained until 1878 and then moved to the Theodore Kanneke farm in Allen county. He lived on this farm until 1892, 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 1896 he sold his milling interests to his eldest son. In 1899 he was elected Township Trustee, and re-elected in 1894.

Mr. Konst was married November 7, 1831, to Miss Caroline Burkhart, who was born in Ottawa township, April 25, 1834, and is the daughter of Adam and Frances Burkhart. The following children have been born to this union: Frank Adam, October 8, 1832; Charles, August 28, 1844; 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, 1883; William Edward, September 17, 1885; Mathias, July 14, 1887.

History of Spitzer.

The village of Spitzer is situated on the Nickel Plate Railroad, about four miles east of Lepsic. It was platted in 1836 by Aaron Oberback, 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.

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 Van skeile 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 Byel, in Putnam county, one year, and in 1876 he purchased forty acres near Shawtown, where he lived two years, when he purchased his present home in Section 2b, 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. Broom was born August 15, 1868. 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 14, 1892; Myrl E., June 24, 1884; Roy G., March 23, 1887; Chloie L., February 16, 1889; летис C., May 7, 1891; Blanche, June 8, 1893.

**ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.**

It is located in one of the best farming districts in the country, 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.

**MICHAELE BROOM.**

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 handsomest farms.

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**SPEITZER (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.
History of Marice City.

When the Nickel Plate Railroad was constructed through Putnam county to its junction with the railroad now known as the Clover Leaf, it was necessary for the 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 Bucyea State Company employed James Bellford, surveyor, to lay out and plat their first addition to the town. That company, in the same year, erected their state factory on their addition. Dr. B. D. Spargarling also in that year employed A. Oberback, surveyor, to lay out and plat his first addition. In 1887 D. W. Seita 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. Spargarling. The Bucyea State Company, in 1890, had D. W. Seita, surveyor, plat their second addition, and the same surveyor sub-divided option No. 1, of Rice's addition, for the District Assessor, H. B. Pierce. In 1895 D. W. Seita, surveyor, platted a subdivision for W. H. Miller.

James Sullivan was the first merchant that opened up a store in the town. The Bucyea State 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 Beberg as mayor; C. G. Ballman, clerk; James Bell, treasurer; C. S. Parsh, marshal; W. B. Miller, John Hitchcock, James Doninger, George Hahn, Silas Colvin and John Shambarger, councilmen. The present (1895) officers are, R. B. McClung, mayor; L. C. Rosenberger, clerk; James E. Robison, treasurer; I. C. Wallace, marshal; Ash Jackson, H. A. Neff, E. Benton, G. J. Maeder, W. B. Miller and E. Bryan, councilmen. Water Works Trustees—A. B. Lowden, O. W. Longworth 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.

The first school building 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 Gallap and Mrs. Powell, teachers.

The present Board is C. Wallace, president; George H. Seita, L. L. Ackley, E. O. Benton, John Ernst, A. Moritz, clerk, clerk, L. E. Huston is superintendent; Mrs. Baxter, Nettie Harmon, Mrs. Powell and Harriet Campbell are the teachers.

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. 3988, Revised Statutes of Ohio.) The territory included a mile and a half north 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 1898 by Jacob Spiker. The building is provided with the most approved modern conveniences for lighting and ventilation, and is heated by the floor heating system. It stands on the corner of Fifth and Aash 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 $85,000 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.
Dr. B. D. Sparling, who was born in Harrison county, Ohio, May 19, 1845, 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 beginnings 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 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 Keawanee, Illinois, July 11, 1851, and is the son of Ira 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 on 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, 1888, to Miss Ellen M. Kerr, of Syrac- more, 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 Wilmington, N. C., May 20, 1865.

He was married August 18, 1868, to Mary A., daughter of George and Fanny Pope, of Pleasant township. He served one term as Clerk of Monroe township in 1860, was Census Enumerator for Monroe township, and has served as Inferior 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 30, 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.
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 his 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. L., serving in General Burnside's division in east Tennessee.

ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

James was 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 manufacture all kinds of draining tile, from 3 inch to 18 inch; also tile floor stands, building brick, paving brick, and square paving tile.

They carry in their business a well equipped factory, experience, responsibility and an indelible energy.

Charles was married to Miss Anna L. Yenney 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 Yenney, July 17, 1896.

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 these 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 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 a complete 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 his trusts as having been placed in safe hands.

JAMES BELL

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 Casad, 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 13, 1886, to Miss Mary Ann Walls, of this county, and to this union have been born the following children: Johnnie M., born September 24, 1887; Willie N., June 13, 1889; Winstonia Melville, August 9, 1871; Jennie May, January 9, 1874; Albert W., June 1, 1876; Orpha Leona, January 25, 1879; Ors Amandra, April 8, 1892; Loyd Leroy, July 4, 1884; Zwo Vernon, October 6, 1886; Goldman M., December 25, 1888.

He established himself in the general mercantile business on the southwest corner of Main and Rice streets, and here, since 1896, 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 esteemed to play an important part in the future growth and development of Continental.

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 Clas Konst were born near Ottawa, Ohio, the former on October 8, 1842, and the latter, August 22, 1844. 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.

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KONST BROS.

KONST BROS: TILE WORKS.

KONST BROS: BRICK WORKS.

L. C. ROSENBERGER.

Continental affords no better citizen or business man than the one represented by this sketch. L. C. Rosenberger, son of Michael 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 returned 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. SEALS.

The subject of this sketch, who was born in Monroe County, Indiana, June 28, 1860, is a son of Henry and Margaret (Butler) Seals, of Milletsville, Indiana. They were pioneers of that town. Here in the Milletsville schools Mr. Seals received his education.

At the early age of nineteen he began contracting. His first contract was on the construction of the Indianapolis & Vin-

PAXLE HOUSE, CONTINENTAL, OHIO.

nings 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 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 "ship," but young Seals 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 1893 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 Maple 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 travelling men who make it a point to stop with "George," as he is familiarly called by the "hustlers of the grip."

Mr. Seals 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 Slesner, of Jeffersonville, Indiana.

ALFRED MORRIS.

The subject of this sketch was born on a farm in the northern part of Allen county, October 1, 1863. 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 grand-

through the solicitation of his father, he resigned his position and took charge of the employees of a contract for the reclamation 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 Morris, Missouri, where he remained one year, and then sold out and returned to Putnam county in July, 1888, and immediately became the assistant of his father in filling a contract for the building of a mill 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 saw 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 discernible 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 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 1892 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 its 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 Maggie 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 living 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 husband's business 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 B., September 29, 1888; Iva May, September 23, 1891.
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 future.

Arthur E. Lowden, son of William and Eve Lowden, was born in Michigan Town, Indiana, May 26, 1887. 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 1898. 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 held 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 1895, 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 Ellsworth, September 18, 1894, and died in infancy.

Mr. Lowden served as Corporation Clerk from 1893 to 1895, occupies two large rooms; its shelves, counters, and floors are filled with as complete and fine a line of hardware, stores, 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 worth in his industry. These qualifications have made him an important factor in the Continental of the past, and will make him one of the most distinguished personalities in her future.

GUY P. LONG.

Mr. Long was born at Ottawa, this county, February 8, 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.

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
the United Brethren church and who foresaw the prospects of the town and the possibility of a good religious organization, and had the patience to await their time. In 1811 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. P. 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 Wisteman, M. James, and others, a permanent organization was affected, the membership began to grow, and in the spring of 1812 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 construction 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, 1813, five aid-de-camps. On January 1, 1888, 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 college, but country schools. In 1889 he was united in marriage to Miss Della Fox, and to this union two sons have been born respectively on June 28, 1891, and December 2, 1893. We present a picture of his happy and interesting family to our readers. April 10, 1889, he received a license from Rev. W. A. Keeny, 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. Converse, 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 successive. Early in the spring of 1890, it was decided to repair the church at Fondor, 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 $1,550 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 19, 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 successive and repaired the church at Mt. Pisgah. At the annual conference held at Tastoria, 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 a 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.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

He is public spirited and is liberal with his energy, influenced and means toward the progress of his adopted town.

In 1878 he united with the Reformed church of which he was a member until 1889, 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. PLATTNER.

Merrit wins success, and in a review of the life of the subject of this sketch this fact is most discernable. Otto L. Plattner was born at Swanton, Fulton county, Ohio, July 7, 1862. He attended school at the village of Al, in his native county, during his youth, and in 1885 began learning the trade of a blacksmith and waggonmaker with Eugene Wales, of Al. 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 is 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, 1883, at Waterman, Indiana, to Miss Minnie V. Holmes, of that place. To them have been born two children: Mildred E., born November 20, 1910, and a son, November 6, 1914—died in infancy.

Mr. Plattner is a young man of good character, unflinching energy, and a will of progress. 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. Sears, Jr., F. Havemeyer, W. H. Thrall, W. E. Thrall, W. H. Thrall, President; J. E. Sears, 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 vast 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 1892 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 4,800,000 hoops, furnishing employment to one hundred men.

In 1883 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, 1883, and by the energy of its founder 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 free 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 employees and others on very liberal terms.

In 1901 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 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-
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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 than has the subject of this sketch.

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.

Mr. Detrow was married August 2, 1893, to Miss Laura 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, 1855, laid out and platted by Aaron Oberbeck, surveyor, and dedicated under the name of St. Nicholas, by Nicholas Norlot 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 unequalled 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 20th day of November, 1886, 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 Brewer was the first postmaster, and Dr. Lewis Daulbe 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 musk oil 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 origi-
A.T. STEINER.

Andrew T. Steiner, son of Rev. Isaac and Nancy (Thet) Steiner, was born April 1, 1839, and was married by Rev. J. W. Updeke, V. D., to Isabella Crow, born July 21, 1850, daughter of William R. and Beersheba (Brower) Crow. They have four children—Angelia Ottelo, born in Union township, Van Wert county, Ohio, January 27, 1874; Isaac Richardson, born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, O., October 22, 1882; James Alba, born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, O., May 6, 1885; Benjamin Harrison, born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, October 8, 1888.

W. Dimock and others, as the proprietors, the survey being made by E. W. Dimock. The town plot 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 Charlevoix—twenty-six miles once a week. In 1877 the Toledo, Delphos & Indianapolis narrow gauge railroad was built through the village, and about 1898 the entire route was changed to a standard gauge and known as the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad.

Dupont was incorporated in 1888 and E. W. Dimock chosen 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 hardware store, one harness and buggy dealer, two agricultural implement dealers, one grain and feed store, one

He attended the Northwestern Ohio Normal School at Ada, and taught seven terms of school with success. He was appointed postmaster at Shelby, Ohio, under President Harri son's administration, in 1891, but refused the honor. Soon after he was employed to carry the mail from Shelby to Ottawa until August 30, 1892. In July, 1892, he petitioned to Postmaster-General Wasmann 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 Thet, was a bishop in the Mennonite denomination, and his father, Elder Isaac Steiner, a minister in the Church of God. His occupation is farming.

Postoffice address, Hector, Ohio.

DUPTONT.

Dupont, an incorporated village in Perry township, was laid out in the year 1877 by Dr. M. M. Hixon, Joseph Wollman, W. W. Dimock and others, as the proprietors, the survey being made by E. W. Dimock. The town plot includes a portion of sections eight and nine in that township.

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ELIAS W. DIMOCK.

Elias W. Dimock was born in Otsego county N. Y., November 24, 1851; was educated at Gilbertville 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 Ridgway, of which union was born six children, four of whom are now living.

In 1854 he superintended the opening of five miles of the then Toftin & Fl. Wayne railroad (now the Nickel Plate), and in 1870 engaged in surveying and civil engineering. In 1874 he projected the Toledo, Delphos & Indianapolis railroad, and through the efforts of himself and many more of the people of Dupont

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, 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, 1884.

He was married to Miss Lois Marriott, daughter of W. P. and Salena Marriott, December 26, 1889. They have one child—Mary Salena, born November 12, 1890.

Cascade.

This town lies on the west bank of the Ashtabula river and on the north side of 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 Stock, in 1898, and lies on the T., St. L. & S. R. R., 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. Mosier, E. M. Mosier, Tom Trux, Nora Trux, 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 Sikner, surveyor, for George H. Colkins, proprietor, in 1891.

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 1888, for W. S. Daly, E. R. Eastman and Charles James, the proprietors.
History of Ottoville.

In 1845 Elias Everett, County Surveyor, plotted for Rev. John Otto Federick a parcel of land in the northeast corner of Sec. 39, T. 1, S. R. 5, E., Putnam county, Ohio; but this survey was abandoned and the same lands resurveyed by Charles Wannemacher in 1879.

In 1882 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 1886 F. J. Lyle laid out an addition west of the canal in Section 20; 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 Gilmore, bishop of Cleveland, Ohio, resurveyed all that part of Ottoville originally laid out in Section 19. The same surveyor plotted an addition in Section 19 for Max Winkelman during the year 1892.

In 1894 D. W. Selts, surveyor, plotted an addition in Section 25 for Peter Wannemacher, and later in the same year the same surveyor plotted a sub-division of part of lots numbers 4 and 6 for Messrs. Schullen and Wannemacher.

The town was incorporated in 1890, with Joseph Wannemacher, Mayor; J. C. Wannemacher, Clerk; John Brandenhorst, Marshal; Matt Schullen, Treasurer; V. H. Otte, Peter Wannemacher, B. Wannemacher, J. B. Mersman, J. Miller, and William Gassar, Councilmen. The present officers are J. J., Miller, Mayor; J. C. Wannemacher, Clerk; Frank Micek, Marshal; Matt Schullen, Treasurer; Max Winkelman, S. V. Vinks, Ben. Wannemacher, J. B. Mersman, and William Gassar, 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, a grill 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 class of business men as the county affords.

OTTOVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

On March 20, 1890, 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 Rekurt, Mathias Winderman, Joseph C. Fournier, Gerhard H. Otte, Joseph Rekurt, Mathias Winklage, Peter Wannemacher, John Freyburger and Christopher Kurth, and was created on April 8, 1888. The special district includes all of Sections 30, 31, 36, 38, 39 and parts of 18, 19 and 24, in Monterey township. The first school house for the special district was built in 1886, on lot number 116, in Peter Wannemacher's addition. The first board of directors consisted of Mathias Winklage, president; William Rekurt, secretary, and Charles Wannemacher, treasurer. Barney Helkamp was contractor for building the first school house, which cost $480. John D. Reischl was the first teacher, at a salary of forty dollars per month, and one hundred scholars to teach.

On April 1, 1886, 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. Rekurt, 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, 1886, and work began on the first of the same month, and the building was completed January 1, 1887. 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 30' x 34 feet each, and those above, 30' x 30 feet each. The building is of modern architecture, very substantially built, contains the latest system of heating and ventilating, and is finished with the best of seasoned lumber from the famous mill of J. B. Mersman. There are 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 1886, and purchased July 1, 1894, by Messrs. Mathias Wannemacher and W. T. Ramminger, the latter gentleman having charge and management of the business.

W. T. Ramminger was born March 23, 1873, in Pleasant Valley, Putnam county, and is the son of Andrew and Mary Ramminger, highly esteemed residents of Jackson township. When one year old his parents moved to a farm two and one-half miles northeast of Port Jennings, and our subject attended school at the Hartwick 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 28, 1890, 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 subscribes for him a leading place in his chosen calling. The stock has recently been moved into the handsome brick building room constructed by Mathias Wannemacher. In 1895, and here can be found a choice stock of drugs, as well as one of the noblest and most satisfactory dispensers in the county.

WILLIAM GASSAR.

Occupying an exalted position in the business progress of southwestern Putnam county and indebted to his own energies for the position, the subject of this sketch is worthy of prominent notice.

He was born December 23, 1869, in Tyrol, Austria, and is the son of Ferdinand and Rosa Gassar. 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 & Gassar 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. Gassar was married October 25, 1887, to Miss Theresa Gruher, daughter of Joseph and Mary Gruher, highly respected farmers of Jackson township, Van Wert county, Ohio. They have six children—Joseph F., born October 15, 1888; Theresa
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 lots 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 Halls, 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, Harney Helmkamp, contractor.

Rev. Abel was succeeded in 1866 by Rev. Dominick H. Best, who in turn was succeeded in 1868 by Rev. Michael Muller, 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 held his congregation grow 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 Ottoville, 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 80 feet high. Its exterior presents the appearance of modern architecture, its greatest attainment 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 fictitious taste. The highest part of the room is sixty feet, and it has a seating capacity of nearly one thousand people. The construction cost $50,000.

Rev. Michael Muller, Charles Wannemacher, Wilhelm Rekaart, John Kalt and G. H. Otto formed the building committee, and the church was dedicated September 28, 1885, 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.

PHANK 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.

Sanford 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 oldest son was only fourteen years of age, but assumed the duties of the boy-hold in such a manly manner as to elicit the highest eulogy, and at the age of five years, through the efforts of Frank and his sisters, the brothers and sisters were educated, and at this time they mutually divided the estate and surrendered.

For the next three years Frank was engaged in farming and threshing, and then, in 1885, in partnership with J. J. Miller and A. Keiber, 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, 1892, to Miss Mary Mullikofsky, 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, and has been re-elected for many years. In 1892 he was elected postmaster of the town, which he has filled with ability and zeal, and in 1892 he was elected a member of the Board of Education, which he has served with great efficiency.

REV. MICHAEL MULLER.

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 pastoral duties, but as well for the extraordinary progress his congregation has made under his administration.

He was born January 21, 1831, 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 Westmorland county, Pennsylvania, going 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 20, 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 time, and during these years has given to the world a triumphant example of christian duty.
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

FERDINAND F. VINCKE.

In Gretchens, 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 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, Ohio, and he proceeded at once from Baltimore to this place, stopping a few days at Cincinnati and Dayton, and reaching Ottoville September 29, 1879.

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 Winkelmann, 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. Winkelmann's mother in 1891, when Mr. Winkelmann purchased his mother's interest and the business was continued under the old firm name of Winkelmann & Vincke until August 15, 1891, 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 20, 1883; Anna M., November 10, 1886; George O., March 15, 1889; died August 15, 1898; George J., February 17, 1892; Ferdinand N., October 28, 1895.

J. J. MILLER.

The prosperous village of Ottoville is represented by no more able business men 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 in 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 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 Jansen, of Ottoville, and they now have a happy family of six children: Elizabeth, born August 2, 1880; Alexander, September 21, 1881; Mary, August 2, 1881; Edward, July 31, 1883; Kate, August 2, 1885; Maggie, May 5, 1889.

After his marriage he continued farming until 1882, when, in
partnered with Frank Gmeliner and Andrew Kehres, he engaged in the manufacture of tile under the firm name of Frank Gmeliner & Co. He remained in this position until 1893, 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 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 1885 he was appointed postmaster of Ottoville.

Rey. John Otto Bredeick

Father John Otto Bredeick, a native of Westphalia, was born at Verl, January 25, 1829. After the collegiate and theological course of studies he was ordained at Onalaska, Hanover, in 1852.

For twenty-two years he held various ecclesiastical positions in his native country, notably that of the Cathedral Chapter at Onalaska. On August 16, 1844, with a view to devoting 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 1845 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 but six families; these he called together at the house of Mr. Fournier and sold 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 15, 1868, 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 furnish no more able or popular landlord than the subject of this sketch. Andrew Kehres was born at Bloomville, Seneca county, Ohio, November 30, 1835, and is a son of Sebastian and Barbara Kehres.

When one year old his parents moved to New Riegel, in the same county, and at this place he attended school until 1850, 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 1863, 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, 1851, 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, 1853; Elizabeth J., September 16, 1855; Barbara J., August 1, 1855, died March 27, 1886; Barbara K., July 20, 1858, died in 1911; Clara B., August 9, 1864; Amelia R., August 10, 1869; Ada A., October 5, 1871.

After his marriage he lived on a farm and followed threshing until 1885, when he in partnership with J. J. Miller and Frank Gmeliner, he engaged in the manufacture of tile under the firm name of Frank Gmeliner & 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 in that position until 1901, when he sold out and moved to Ottoville, where in 1903 he purchased the Beckman Hotel and bus 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 a highly esteemed landlord of the popular and well patronized Beckman hotel, a cast of which appears with this biography.

Charles 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 1850, who sold a one-half interest to his son, Joseph C., in 1867, and since that date the store has been under the manage-
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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 Glandorf, 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 1888 he moved to La-grange, Ind., and engaged in the planing mill business and for six years he operated the same with great success.

In 1899 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 men and manufacturing millions of feet of first class lumber every year.

Mr. Mersman has connected with him still 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.

The work of his kiln and the advantages of the numerous public improvements in the town and district are all apparent in the lumber he produces through his experience and business capacity.

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 cares weighty 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 Postierwalt, 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
of St. Paul's church, of Ft. Wayne, to Miss Mary Megg, 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. MEREDIAN.

ably assisted in his work by his two younger brothers, Walter,
aged nineteen years and Albert, fourteen.

John Bernard Meredian may justly be placed in the leading
ranks of Putnam county's most successful and progressive busi-
ness men and the illustrations which we here present of his busi-
ness and improvements will commend this assertion.

VIEW OF STREET PARADE AT THE GERMAN PIONEER MEETING OF 1880, AT OTTOVILLE.
**ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.**

It was laid out in 1837 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 surveyed 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 Cloverleaf railroad, the survey being made by George Skinner, surveyor, and in 1888 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 Allmendier laid out an addition in 1804 which included lots 114 to 121 inclusive, John Cowen surveyor. The town is located in Sec. 83 and 84 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 1846 and later in the same year Ferdinand Vondernhome 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 1846, Mr. Boehmer having donated the ground on which it was built. The Lutheran congregation was organized in 1848 by Rev. Wm. Fohrman, 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 Cloverleaf Railroad was built through the town in 1876.

P. Jennings has one of the oldest and most respectable general stores in the county, it being founded in 1852 by Christian Rashe 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, 1837, in the City of Vechna, 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 Stadeauf until the year 1859, 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 1868, 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 1856 the people of the counties of Putnam and Henry elected him to represent them in the House of Representatives during the years 1855-57. In 1856 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 1864-65, 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.

**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.

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 Edinboro and Cincinnati. After he was eighteen years old he, for a short time, attended St. Xavier College at Cincinnati.

Mr. Boehmer was admitted to the bar about 1863, and practiced his profession in the courts of Putnam, Allen and Van Wert counties, all of which, directing near Ft. Jennings, where he resided, gave him clients in each of those counties. In 1866 Mr. Boehmer was married to Miss Mary Klepasky.

Assisting his father in his large and complicated business interests, practicing law and filling many positions of trust, both public and private, Mr. Boehmer 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 1883 to 1887, where he was, though not noted for much speaking, one of the most useful and influential working members of that body.

**THE P. 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 1901 by C. F. Rashe and William Sweezer, but four years later Mr. Raabe purchased the interest of Mr. Sweezer and conducted
ATLAS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

CHRISTIAN RASBE.

Christian Rasbe was born in the German Empire, July 28, 1833. His parents, Conrad and Eva Elizabeth [Stemler] Rasbe, settled in Putnam county in 1833, and died in 1852 and 1804, respectively. His wife, Arnold, daughter of Cornelius and Arnoldi (Havenhia) Kiestler, was born in Holland, November 2, 1837. Her parents came to this county in 1848.

JOHN C. RASBE.

John C. Rasbe was born at Ft. Jennings, Ohio, November 7, 1864. He is the third son of Christian and Arnold Rasbe 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 and the rapid progress of the fertile country of which it is the most noted mercantile figure.

CHRISTIAN 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 became one of the foremost citizens of his county. The business was conducted by him, under the firm name of C. Raabe & Son the business was conducted until October 1, 1882, 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 greatest 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 excelled even at Lebanon, Ohio, where he remained until 1880, afterwards attending the business department of the Normal School at Valparaiso, Ind.

Upon leaving school in 1880 he entered 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 Dolphos, 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 Rasbe will not deteriorate while the store, where he made it, is in the hands of his sons.

John C. Rasbe was married April 29, 1881, to Miss Fredericka Kiemmer, of Jackson township, this county. They have one child, Aaron Carlisle, born April 1, 1882.

Charles C. Raabe.

Our subject was born at Ft. Jennings, Ohio, August 18, 1868, and is the fourth son of Christian and Arnold Rasbe. He attended school at his native town until 1885, when he entered the Normal School at Middlepoint, Ohio, where he remained until 1889 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 1890, 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 was married October 11, 1892, to Miss Edith H. Jamison, who was born August 24, 1875. As a result of this union three children have been born—Florence A., May 11, 1892; 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 Cowan, who served in Co. F, 18th O. V. I. His mother was Watsenue (Kestler) 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 parents which occurred in 1877, he was taken to Jennings township, Putnam county, and there worked on a farm until the age of twenty years. In 1884 he attended the Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, and during this period studied 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, being the youngest guard then in that institution.

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, 1886, to Jennie Dunlap. Four children bless their union—Trena M., Chois 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 1898 he was nominated for County Recorder on the Democratic ticket, and in the following November was elected almost without opposition.