

TOWNSHIP HISTORIES.

1873, it was a prosperous institution, and a source of profit to its proprietors, and gave employment to about one hundred men; but, when that...

The Perceon Flouring Mills.—This building was erected in 1862, by Michael Murray, at a cost of \$18,000. The main building is 40x50 feet, 3 1/2 stories high, the first story built entirely of stone.

New and Planing Mill.—In 1865, Eli and Philip Fluke erected a planing mill in the northwest portion of town, near the P. R. W. & C. R. R., 50 feet square, two stories high.

Chair Factory.—This establishment was erected in 1872 by B. W. Kirkland, by whom it is now owned and conducted. The main building is of frame, 30x40 feet, two stories high.

Rustic Chair Factory.—Shumaker & Humphreys began the business of manufacturing rustic work in January, 1878, and have succeeded in establishing a good trade in this and adjoining counties.

Wagon and Carriage Factories.—P. Cornell began the manufacture of carriages and wagons at Perceon, in the fall of 1866. He has two frame-buildings, each 24x40 feet, two stories high.

James Aclison.—The establishment now conducted by James Aclison was first opened as a wagon manufactory by B. F. Andlauer, in the spring of 1875, at which time it was rented by Karyan & Scholl, who owned it about six months.

Shovel-Plan Factory.—In 1876, F. V. B. Minnich began the manufacture of shovel-plows, and has made this department one of the leading branches among the manufacturing establishments of the town.

Grain Dealers.—Samuel Snyder entered upon the business of buying and selling grain at Perceon in 1877, renting the elevator at Balliet & Co.'s flouring-mill. He buys the grain from neighboring farmers, and sells it in the most favorable markets.

Gibson, Horn & Co. buy grain from the home market, and rent a store-room at the P. R. W. & C. depot, where the grain is stored ready for shipment. During the year ending in August, 1878, they bought and shipped 35,000 bushels of wheat, the cargoes being divided between Baltimore and Philadelphia.

The Perceon Woollen Mills at one time occupied an important place among the manufactures of the town; but, like other manufacturing establishments, it was affected by the collapse in prices consequent upon the panic of 1873, and since that time, has not been operated with the worked vigor of its proprietor, owing to the limited demand and insufficient prices for such articles as they manufacture.

of its proprietor to resume work at an early day, and the establishment will again occupy its place as an important industry.

The building was erected in 1865 by F. G. Frary and Michael Murray. The main building is 40x50 feet, four stories high, with an engine and dye-room, and a business conducted under the firm name of Frary & Murray.

It is what is known among manufacturers as a "two-set mill," and was supplied with a full quota of the necessary machinery, at a cost of \$23,700. It has ten looms of the latest and most approved patterns, and has a manufacturing capacity of 300 yards of cloth per day.

The Citizens' Bank is an outgrowth of the enterprise of private citizens in Perceon; and whilst it has been productive of the anticipated returns to its founders, it has proved a convenience to the business men of the town, which is highly appreciated.

BUSINESS MEN OF PERCEON.

- Dry Goods, Clothing and Groceries.—Gibson, Horn & Co.; R. M. Lawrence; Broehly Bros. Merchant Tailor and Clothier.—B. F. Andlauer. Hardware and Agricultural Implements.—F. V. B. Minnich, and W. R. Schaefer.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Perceon Lodge, No. 257, I. O. O. F., received its charter May 16, 1866, and on the evening of July 17, 1866, held its first meeting in the upper story of the building owned by Dr. William Hayes. On the night of organization, fourteen candidates were initiated and admitted to fellowship in the Lodge. The charter members were six in number, viz., D. M. Shoemaker, N. B. Morland, Jacob Klingel, J. W. Shaffer, Eli Hayden and George Wats.

The present officers are as follows: The First Presbyterian Church.—Pursuant to an appointment of the Presbytery of Fort Wayne, Ind., the committee appointed to organize the First Presbyterian Church of Perceon, met on the 9th day of June, 1865, at the Crawford Schoolhouse.

THE SYNODS.

The first stated supply of the Church was Rev. W. S. Wilson, then Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Warsaw, Rev. Mr. Loring, of Fort Wayne, and Rev. Mr. Beach, also filled the pulpit at various times. Rev. W. S. Wilson was the stated supply of the Church until the close of 1865, when he was succeeded by Rev. W. H. Blair, who occupied the position until April, 1870.

Of the constituent members of the Church, only six now survive. One of this number, the venerable Mr. Minnie, is nearly ninety years of age, and in the latest years of his life, is still a devoted member of his church, and has been one of its most active workers, and is unusually well-informed in the Scriptures.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Perceon was organized in 1854 at the P. R. W. & C. Depot, Rev. Camp officiating. After the organization, meetings were held at the house of Robert McNeal, in Perceon, for one year, at the end of which time they were conducted at the Perceon Schoolhouse. The early records have been lost or mislaid, and for this reason we are compelled, however unwillingly, to present but a meager history of the Church. The present house of worship was erected in 1862 at a cost of \$9,000. It is a neat frame edifice, and was built at a cost of \$1,500. Rev. McElwee is the present Pastor.

The Perceon Public School.—In 1870, the School Trustees of Perceon erected a handsome brick school-building in the southwest part of town, at a cost of \$9,900. The main building is 40x70 feet, with an "L," and has accommodations for 550 pupils. In the fall of 1870, it was organized as a graded school by Prof. C. P. Hodge, Principal. Miss E. A. Root was placed in charge of the Intermediate Department, and Mrs. Anderson of the Primary. The following are the teachers since that date:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Principal, Grammar, First Intermediate, Second Intermediate, Primary. Lists names of teachers from 1871 to 1878.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Alert Fire Company, No. 1, was organized August 4, 1876, with forty members, and elected the following officers: F. H. Foster, Foreman; R. M. man; S. B. Albright, Secretary; Levi Snyder, Second Assistant Foreman; and L. D. Nichols, Pipeman; J. V. B. Minnich, Treasurer; Josiah Bean, patent, the authorities of Perceon purchased a hand-cranked, of the Balbock fire-extinguishers, which they consigned to the custody of the Company. The hose-carriage was manufactured at Perceon, by P. vice in the protection of property on various occasions. The officers for the year 1879 are as follows: F. H. Foster, Foreman; James M. Lawrence, First Assistant Foreman; M. Derrdorf, Second Assistant Foreman; George E. Baker, Secretary; R. M. Lawrence, Second Assistant Foreman; and L. D. Nichols, Pipeman; J. McGonigal, Foreman of Hose.