

PERSONAL SKETCHES.

At his death, Stephen E. Miller was chosen Pastor, and occupied that position during his life. He died in 1873, and was succeeded by his son, John Miller, who is the present Pastor.

In 1876 a church-building, 40x82 feet, was erected by this denomination, in the village of Gravelton, where services are held every four weeks.

The Methodist Episcopal Church.—In the summer of 1838, a Methodist Episcopal Church was organized on the south side of the marsh, by Rev. Mr. Ockerman, with the following constituent members: David McClubb, Mary McClubb, Samuel McClubb, Elizabeth McClubb, Eleanor Jane Alexander, Mary Miller and Dye Miller. They continued to hold regular class-meetings at the house of their leader, David McClubb, for many years, but were unable to maintain regular preaching.

In 1864, the membership had become so reduced by deaths and removals, that the organization was disbanded, and the few members who remained identified themselves with the United Brethren Church, then recently organized.

The Evangelical Association, or Abrights.—An organization was effected by this denomination in 1852, and regular services were conducted for several years, when their Pastor left them. The members then united with the Methodist Church, but before their term of probation expired, their Pastor returned to them, when they re-organized.

In 1875, they began the erection of a church-building on Section 27, which was completed and dedicated in 1877.

EARLY IMPROVEMENTS.

Saw-Mill.—Daniel Bowser built the first saw-mill in 1848, on the bank of Turkey Creek.

GRAVELTON.

The village of Gravelton was laid out by David Brumbaugh, in 1876, on the B., P. & C. Railroad. Mr. Brumbaugh opened the first store in the

village, the same year, and Levi Miller was appointed Postmaster. In this office he was succeeded by David Brumbaugh, the present Postmaster.

SCOTT TOWNSHIP.

Scott Township is situated in the northwest corner of Kosciusko County, and is bounded as follows: North by Elkhart County, east by Jefferson Township, south by Elm Township, west by Marshall County.

The general character of its soil is good, and so much of it as can be tilled compares favorably with other portions of the county. There are, however, some localities which are flat and marshy, and quite untenantable. The township was organized March 7, 1848.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In the fall of 1837, Casper Hepler and family, Jacob and Henry Yockey and Jacob Hepler settled on Section 11. During the following winter, they were engaged in clearing land, and, in the spring of 1838, planted crops.

James Murray was also one of the early settlers, and gave the Potawatomi Indians an "object lesson" which had a salutary effect, and insured the peace of the little community.

When the township was first entered by white settlers, the Indians manifested a disposition to annoy them, and prevent what they regarded as an encroachment upon their domain. Mr. Murray determined to teach them that they must submit to such invasion, and went to a large beech tree in the neighborhood, on whose smooth bark he carved a human profile, and within the outline of the profile he drew a heart, in the center of which he lodged a rifle-ball. Shortly afterward, he met an Indian, to whom he showed his work, explaining the lesson it taught, and told him the settlers meant to deal just so with all who molested them. It had the desired effect, as the few Indians who remained became very peaceable.

PERSONAL SKETCHES

OF SOME OF THE PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS OF KOSCIUSKO COUNTY.

P. L. RUNYAN, Sr., WARSAW.

BY COL. J. B. DONOR.

Peter L. Runyan, or "Uncle Peter," as he is familiarly called, was born August 9, 1806, in Greene County, Ohio. His parents, Abraham and Sophia (Lynch) Runyan, were natives of Harrison County, Va., and removed to Ohio shortly after their marriage, in 1801, removing to Clark County in the same State, in 1811.

Always living on the frontier, and forming a part of the advance guard of civilization, the subject of this sketch was deprived of nearly all opportunity for acquiring an education. The only school he ever attended was in a rude log schoolhouse, with a log removed on each side and the opening covered with greased paper, which admitted but a faint light, and scarcely excluded the cold.

February 26, 1829, he married Miss Mary Ervin, and has reared a large family, of which any father might justly be proud. His sons, Peter L., John N. and George E., are well and favorably known in this country for their enterprise and sterling worth. His eldest daughter is the wife of Dr. Chandler, of Leesburg; the youngest daughter is the wife of J. S. Baker, Esq., Auditor-elect of Kosciusko County.

In November, 1831, Mr. Runyan decided to move further west, and, accompanied by his family and father-in-law, Charles Ervin, with his family, they placed their household goods in wagons, drawn by oxen, and started for Indiana. After a weary journey of twenty-five days, they reached the present site of Goshen, Elkhart Co., Ind. In the following summer, the Black Hawk war occurred, and the few settlers at that place were apprehensive that the Indians in that section might join the hostile tribes, and some left for older settlements, while others armed for defense and remained. Mr. Runyan was among the latter.

In the fall of 1832, he was elected Justice of the Peace, and held that position until January 10, 1836, at which time he resigned his office. In 1834, he came from Goshen to a point near the present location of Milford, to officiate at the marriage of Henry H. Wilkinson with Miss Wright—one of the first marriages in Kosciusko County.

Early in 1836, he located at Leesburg, Kosciusko Co., Ind., and in partnership with Thomas Thomas, engaged in the sale of merchandise. At the same time he was appointed Deputy Sheriff. In 1838, he sold his interest in the store at Leesburg, and, in 1839, removed to Warsaw, where he became proprietor of the Losier House.

The county seat was located at Warsaw in June, 1836, and there was at once a desperate effort to have it removed. Leesburg and Oswego, in the north part of the county, were striving for it, and there was a strong effort made in the south part of the county, to have a new county organized from portions of Kosciusko, Wabash, Fulton and Miami. Politics were abandoned at once, and "Clippers" and "Anti-Clippers" were the only party designations known; locally alone was the test. Marshall and Kosciusko Counties then formed a Representative District. After four years hard fighting, Mr. Runyan was elected Representative to the State Legislature in 1840, which was the first substantial victory gained by either party. During that legislative session, the State was re-districted, and Kosciusko and Whitley Counties formed a Representative District. Mr. Runyan was re-nominated by the "Anti-Clippers," and, after a bitter contest, was re-elected. He was Commissioner of the "Three-Per-Cent Fund," a fund derived from the sale of public lands, and expended in the opening of roads and building of bridges, from September, 1837, to September, 1841, and superintended in person the opening of nearly all the principal roads in the county during that time, as well as the construction of the bridges across all the streams of consequence. He was also appointed Commissioner of the "Surplus Revenue Fund" in May, 1838, and held that position two years. He was Collector of Taxes for Kosciusko County in 1839; was appointed County Agent in 1843, and held that position six

years, during which time he superintended the erection of the present Court House, and former jail. From 1849 to 1853, he was engaged in selling goods; in 1853, he secured contracts for carrying the mail, and, from that time until the completion of the P., R. W. & C. R. R., he was engaged in running a daily stage from Warsaw to Ft. Wayne, and a tri-weekly stage from Warsaw to Plymouth; from Warsaw to Goshen; from Warsaw to Peru, and from Warsaw to Rochester. His contracts expired in 1857, when he again became a merchant, and so continued until January, 1861, when Warsaw was visited by her first great fire. After the conflagration, Mr. Runyan found himself, at an advanced age, almost penniless; the careful accumulations of a long and active life had vanished in flame and smoke. But he was never the man to repine or despair. In April, 1861, he was appointed Postmaster at Warsaw, and was re-appointed April 28, 1865, which position he held until December, 1866, when he was removed for purely political reasons.

On the 16th day of November, 1862, his wife, the companion of his toils, passed from earth to a better land. Mr. Runyan has been, for more than fifty years, a consistent and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He has always been earnest in all his convictions and feelings; fearlessly honest and upright in all his dealings. He has reached a ripe old age, and is honored and revered by all.

HON. JOHN B. CHAPMAN.

The following autobiography is compiled from papers now in the possession of his son, Col. C. W. Chapman:

"In the year of our Lord 1803, my father emigrated to Charlestown, Harrison Co., Va., in which he continued to reside until his death in 1822. He erected the first falling-mill, oil and grist mill west of the Alleghany Mountains. They were located on a stream known as Davidson's Run, two miles west from Charlestown."

The subject of this memoir was born in Harrison County, Va., on the 24th day of December, 1797, and worked with his father until he sold out. John B. was then twelve years old. His father subsequently re-entered the factory business, which the war of 1812 had stimulated, and the boy's labor became too important to spare him for schooling, hence his early education was neglected; in the summer of 1815, he left home for Winchester, Va., when, through the aid of Dr. Longaker, he found employment as clerk in the hotel; the following summer, the Doctor helped him to a similar position in Baltimore, Md., at good wages; he subsequently returned to Charlestown, when his father gave him a horse and clothing, and advised him to "go West;" he passed through the south part of Ohio, to Louisville, Ky., and Vincennes, Ind.; here he resolved on a trip to Texas, and engaged as a pilot to take a boat up Red River; although a new undertaking, he succeeded; his journey extended into the interior. The United States troops were on the lookout for filibusters in that region, and this, in connection with "ways that were dark and tricks that were vain," gave him a dislike for that country, and he returned to civilization; he arrived at home July 4, 1817, and indulged in the soliloquy that "there is a Providence in all things"—that the creative power had watched over and protected him amid dangers from man and beast. He studied medicine with Dr. Williams, of Charlestown; preparatory to entering upon that study, grammar, was not intelligible to him; his subsequent progress was rapid, however, so that his teacher advised his father to send him to college to perfect his education; but no—he was to study medicine with Dr. Williams, and, accordingly, he took up anatomy and pharmacy—old books, unfortunately, printed before Galen's time, and he failed to appreciate them; he was then sent to Dr. Holiday, of Parkersburg, Va., and made satisfactory progress, so that his father gave him an outfit of books and medicine, and

The township settled very slowly, and for several years after the arrival of the Heplers, they were almost without neighbors.

With the exception of nearly half of which still remains.

The first Houses were log cabins, erected by Casper Hepler and Jacob

and Henry Yockey, in the fall of 1837.

The first Death was that of Daniel, son of David Hepler. He died

August 17, 1839.

The first Marriage was solemnized in 1839, John Coil and Elizabeth

Hepler being the principal parties in the ceremony.

The first Church was erected by the Lutheran denomination, in 1844.

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