

He obtained the office of Commissioner of Indian Reserves, of Postmaster for a new office, which he located at his own house, then included in the bounds of Elkhardt County, and a contract for a mail route, the time of which he qualifies by saying: "I then held three commissions, one as United States Attorney, signed by the Governor, and two under the United States. This was prior to 1834." He was a member of the Legislature when Kosciusko County was organized, and gave it its name. He laid out the town of Warsaw, gave it the name, and secured to it the county seat.

With a mind in many respects eccentric and peculiar, he was a man of remarkable foresight. He foresaw the necessity, and predicted the route, of our most important trunk lines of railroad, more than forty years ago—the Lake Shore and Fort Wayne. To use his own language, he "projected" "railroads were a novelty, and a delicate subject to present to the people, who had no knowledge of the subject. He had fixed on his map two railroads, confident that a railway would, in twenty years, be adopted for public travel. There was but one railroad then in the United States. He had traveled on it the winter previous, from Frederick to Baltimore, Md., and had examined the improvement well, although it was only a horse railroad. His programme was, one railroad from the lake at Buffalo, N. Y., via Toledo, La Grange and Elkhardt, and via Chicago to Rock Island, on the Mississippi River. The other road was to begin at Fort Wayne, and run west through the center of the counties not yet laid out, to Michigan City." He prepared and secured the charter of the Buffalo & Mississippi Railroad Company, under which the Lake Shore was built. The liberal provisions of that charter tempted capitalists to make the necessary investment. After retiring from the bar in 1849, which he did on account of his defective hearing, he, on his visit to the Pacific Slope, visited also Puget's Sound, and attempted to locate a land claim there, failing in which, he predicted that it would be the western terminus of a transcontinental railroad. The Northern Pacific Road did make that point its western terminus! During his western tour, he pioneered in Kansas, and took an active part in settling the question whether that State should be slave or free, espousing the free State cause. He there took an active part in projecting the railroad from Leavenworth, Kan., to Galveston, Tex.; obtained a charter, and was the first President of the company, and lived to see that great work accomplished. During the latter years of his life, he became poor, and was a clerk in the United States Treasury Department until, by reason of advanced age, he was incapacitated, when he returned to Warsaw, where he died at his residence, October 20, 1877. Age did not paralyze his tireless energy, nor seem to affect the acuteness of his mind, but the body yielded. Mr. Chapman was distinguished for his generous hospitality and the real grace with which he entertained his friends, of whom he had many.

"OUR FIRST SHERIFF."

The following sketch by Metcalfe Beck portrays a remarkable character, widely known for his eccentricities, whose blunt manner often concealed the genial nature within.

"Isaac Kirkendall was born in Culpeper County, Va., January 15, 1787, and, strange as it may seem, never boasted of the grand old State which gave him birth, neither claimed honor from the place of his nativity. He served as Sheriff from 1836 to 1840; at the time of his election he was about 49 years old, stood six feet high, had one crooked eye, and was entirely bald except a thin fringe of gray hair around the lower and back part of his head. His voice, when exercised, was a loud-sounding, asthmatic treble, and when he called he was generally heard, for he was always in earnest. His home was on the farm with his brother Jacob, on the east side of Little Turkey Creek Prairie, and from thence, passing through Leesburg, on a large dapple gray horse, and might often be seen our first Sheriff on his way to Warsaw, the county seat.

Once upon a time Ike made a speech at Leesburg, prior to his first election, which ran thus:

"GENTLEMEN: I am a candidate for Sheriff, and if you elect me, and any of you need hanging while I am in office, I will hang you dead as h—l." He was elected, and, although some of his voters may have deserved it, yet none of them were ever hanged during his term of office.

The first Sheriff was not of a literary cast of mind; had a great dislike for letter-writings, and when he did write was very laconic; he used to relate the following: "Some time after his settlement in this county, his folks in Ohio used to write to him often, "and tease him like h—l," to write them a letter; he delayed a long time; at length, finding Jake's folks abroad one Sunday, and the noisy children out of the way, he was alone; he drew out the kitchen table, got paper, ink and quill pen, and seated himself to begin. He wrote the name of the county and State, and the year and the month and the day, and then began his letter.

"Dear Brother, I am well." Here he came to a stop, and scratched his head to think what next, and recollecting that he lived at Jake's, he put down, "Jake's folks are well." Here he came to another stop, and a longer stop than before; still no words came to his relief, and he ended his letter by saying, "and if you are well, then, by G—d, all's well. I. K."

The brevity of Grant and the profanity of Greeley are both apparent in the Sheriff's letter. In politics, he was an Old-Line Whig, and afterward a Republican, but never quarreled with men for difference of opinion. He was an efficient officer, faithful friend and kind neighbor; he died of lung disease March 17, 1863, aged 76.

JOHN POWELL—PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

One of the very first settlers in, and one of the most respected citizens of this county, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, on the 17th day of June, 1801. His parents, Moses Powell, and Rebecca, his wife, nee Meredith, were originally from Virginia, and they were among the pioneers of Fairfield County. The duties of pioneer life interfere sadly with the acquirement of knowledge from books, but lead to an intimate acquaintance with the works of the Creator, and the study of Nature pursued under circumstances that compel the closest attention to all its lessons, gives a breadth of mind, a clearness of insight and a quickness of perception that, perhaps, can be acquired in no other way. The subject of this sketch was an excellent illustration of the truth of this, and was one of the best specimens of that hardy race of pioneers that have caused what was a howling wilderness, when they first penetrated its wilds, to literally blossom as the rose. On the 22d of March, 1829, he was united in marriage with Miss Dorothy Morris, a native of Virginia, at Lancaster, in Fairfield Co., Ohio. They have three living children—Isaac M., who resides on the old home-stead; John C., who lives in Iowa, and Cassa A., who is the wife of Hiram Hall, Esq., of this county. On the 20th of March, 1832, he started, with his ox-team, to explore the then almost unknown "St. Joseph country," as this entire part of this State was then called. Fourteen days were

consumed in making a trip that can now be made in as many hours, and Mr. Powell found himself on Elkhardt Prairie, near where Goshen is now. There was a small settlement there, and he at once secured a tract of land and, as soon as possible, got it planted with corn.

After making two or three exploring expeditions, he made up his mind that Big Turkey Creek Prairie, was about as good a country as he could find, and he went back to Ohio after his family, and started to return with them on the 15th of September, 1832. When near the crossing of Blue River, in the eastern part of Whitley County, he had the misfortune to break his wagon. He was compelled to leave his wife and little ones in the woods, without a white person within ten miles that they knew of, Indians and wild beasts roaming everywhere, while he went on to Goshen and procured another wagon and returned for them, which he accomplished safely.

On the 31st of March, 1833, he moved his family into a cabin on the farm one mile north of Galveston, this county, where he afterward died. His family was the first white family to move on to Big Turkey Creek Prairie.

On the 8th of November, 1874, Mr. Powell departed this life full of years, respected and honored by all who knew him. Mrs. Powell, now over seventy-three years of age, still lives on the same piece of land that she and her husband moved on to in 1833, in good health and spirits, still retaining all her faculties, more so than usual by those of her years. Mr. and Mrs. Powell both became members of the Baptist Church after they came to this county, and have always lived consistent, Christian lives. Mr. Powell was never an aspirant for any political position, but was always a man of positive convictions, and fearless in asserting them. He was very successful in the management of his affairs, and left a splendid farm of about three hundred acres of very fine land to his widow and children.

ISAAC M. POWELL, PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

Isaac M. Powell was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in the year 1829. His father, John Powell, was born in 1801 in the same county, and married Miss Dorothea Morris (a native of Virginia) in 1825. The subject of this sketch enjoyed such educational advantages as were afforded by the common schools of early days, and was remarkable for the assiduity with which he pursued his studies. Throughout his school life his conduct was such that he never received chastisement or rebuke from his teacher. He was reared a farmer boy, and early conceived a desire to adopt that pursuit as his vocation in life. In 1832, he removed with his parents to the prairies of Elkhardt County, Indiana, and in March, 1833, located with them in Kosciusko County, on the farm which he now owns and occupies. In 1854, he was united in marriage with Miss Adeline Summy, a native of Kosciusko County, and the daughter of Frederick Summy, Esq., who was born in Union County, Ind., in 1809. For nearly half a century, Mr. Powell has been a resident of Kosciusko County, and has taken an active part in the cultivation of its soil and the development of its resources. He has never felt an ambition to figure in political life, and, beyond filling local offices in his township, has never served in a public capacity. He devotes his time and attention to farming, with an energy that has brought forth rich fruit, and placed him among the best farmers of the county. In the support of public enterprises and private charities, none are more generous than he. He is recognized throughout the community as a man of integrity and sterling worth. He lives at peace with all men, and was never involved in litigation or a personal quarrel. To bless his wedded life, there were six children, viz., Nelson W., Warren J., Mary A., John, Dorothea and Fred, of whom John and Dorothea are deceased.

ELIJAH HARLAN.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Elijah Harlan was born in Marion County, Ohio, on the 13th of April, 1806. His father was a soldier in the war of 1812, and died in the army, leaving his wife and nine children, of whom Elijah was next to the youngest. About the close of the war, she was defrauded out of her farm, that had been left her by her husband, and she, with her family, came to Wayne County, in this State, to make a new start in life. Elijah, before he died, knew that the son of the man who had defrauded his mother out of her home, died in the Poorhouse in St. Joseph County, in this State. The subject of this sketch, at a very early age, became almost the sole dependence on which his mother could rely, and it caused him to redouble his exertions, and he was so successful that, when he was eighteen years old, he purchased a tract of land in Henry County, in this State, and at once moved on to it with his mother, and went to work to improve it. On the 21st of June, 1827, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Rumbley, of Henry County. They had nine children, but two of whom, Mrs. B. Thomas and Mrs. H. B. Stanley, both of Leesburg, are now living. Mrs. Harlan is the daughter of Thomas and Tabitha Rumbley, and was born in Hamilton County, Tenn., May 1, 1810. She is still living, in the enjoyment of good health, a plentiful supply of this world's goods, and the heartfelt respect of all who know her. In October, 1832, her husband, with his family, moved to Elkhardt County, near Goshen, where there was a small settlement. At that time, it is not known that there was a single white person living in all of what is now Kosciusko County, with the possible exception of Dominique Rousseau, an Indian trader, who may possibly have been here. During the succeeding winter, Mr. Harlan "prospected" the country, and concluded to pre-empt the tract of land in Little Turkey Creek Prairie, a couple of miles northeast of Leesburg, on which he lived at the time of his death, and which now belongs to his widow. Having partly built a small cabin, of logs, on the land, he moved into it on the 6th day of March, 1833, and his was the first white family that lived in this county. Before they could get into the cabin, they had to shovel out a large quantity of snow that had blown into it, so that an idea can be had of the kind of a building it was; and there, without a white neighbor nearer than ten miles (except Thomas and Isaac Moore and their families, who moved into the same vicinity on the same day), surrounded by a multitude of Indians, who, at that time, were far from friendly, it being at the time the Black Hawk war was in progress, this hardy pioneer commenced a new home. In a short time, other families moved in, and the country rapidly developed. He was a man of untiring industry, and great energy, and of excellent business qualifications. His wife was a helpmeet worthy of such a man, and success crowned their efforts. Soon as fine a farm as lies out of doors was improved, fenced and cultivated. Fine buildings took the place of the log cabins, and prosperity smiled upon them and crowned their labors with plenty.

Mr. Harlan departed this life on the 27th of November, 1856, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was one of the very best citizens in this county. A man of unbending integrity, of a kind heart, and a true Christian, his death was a public loss. A short time after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan united with the Christian Church, and were baptized by the Rev. Elijah Martindale. Mr. Harlan continued his membership

during his life, and Mrs. Harlan is still a member. He was a man of strong feelings and impulses. Such men are always decided in their political views, and Mr. Harlan was no exception to the rule; but he never would consent to take an office, preferring to see the principles of his party carried out by others.

WILLIAM C. GRAVES

was born at Clarksburg, Va., now within the limits of the State of West Virginia, October 16, 1817. His father, Francis T. Graves, was born in the State of Maryland, to which his ancestors emigrated from England among the first colonists brought over by Lord Baltimore, about the year 1656.

He was brought up in the city of Washington, and emigrated to Virginia in 1814, and there married Elizabeth Chapman, a native of Loudon County, Va.

William C. was the elder of seven children, five boys and two girls. From early boyhood to his sixteenth year, he had the educational advantages of the academy of his native town, and established there an excellent character for scholarship. He was especially noted for his good penmanship. One of his early schoolmates informed the writer that "Graves always had the neatest copy-book of any boy in the Academy." This habit of neatness and accuracy has been through life a prominent characteristic.

On the death of his father, in December, 1833, he was thrown upon his own resources, and, from that date forward, he had but little opportunity for literary culture. The foundation had been laid, however, upon which, later, a most excellent business character was erected.

Feeling that the West afforded better opportunities for a young man without a fortune to back him up, he emigrated to this county in November, 1834, when it was yet an unorganized territory, and at once entered upon the task of establishing a character, and gathering together a fortune. With all the hindrances in so new a country, this required nerve, resolution, perseverance and the most untiring industry. The country was not only destitute of railroads and canals, but there were not even roads or bridges. The aborigines still lingered, reluctant to give up this beautiful country—a country as highly prized by them as Kentucky had been—to the insatiable greed for land of the pale-faced settlers.

By the autumn of 1835, a village had grown up on the small isthmus of timber-land that connects the Big and Little Turkey Creek Prairies, a most beautiful location for a town, to which the name of Leesburg had been given. Mr. Graves was selected by the citizens to teach the school, he being the first teacher of the first school, and in the first schoolhouse erected in the county. He taught this school for nine months, when receiving an offer of employment from John D. Defrees, then a merchant of Goshen, Ind., but now Government Printer at Washington, D. C., which being satisfactory, he went to Goshen, and soon after entered the Clerk's office of that county, as the Deputy of Thomas Thomas, Esq., the then Clerk of Elkhardt Circuit Court. During the time he was serving in this capacity, he made the personal acquaintance of Hon. Jonathan A. Liston, of South Bend, then one of the most able and widely-known lawyers in the State; and Mr. Liston being highly pleased with the excellent business qualifications of Mr. Graves, offered him the position of clerk in his office, with every facility and aid that his personal attention could give, and his office afforded, to study law.

This offer he accepted, and remained with Mr. Liston one year, it affording him the very best opportunities to make rapid progress in the profession he had chosen. He then returned to Kosciusko County, and opened an office, and engaged in the practice of law. His success was most encouraging, business coming to him in a most satisfactory manner. In 1840, contrary to his own convictions and against his own judgment, he consented with much reluctance, to be a candidate for Clerk of the Circuit Court. He was elected, and left the profession. This Mr. Graves deems to have been a very great mistake, in fact, the most serious of his life. His tastes and inclinations made the law desirable to him, and without doubt, had he remained in the profession, he would now be one of our most able lawyers.

In 1842, he was re-elected Clerk, this time for a full term of seven years, and without opposition. He gave his constant personal attention to the office until 1847. During that year, there was a good opening to engage in the mercantile business in Warsaw, of which he took advantage, and, desiring to give his whole attention to the business, he resigned the office of Clerk during the next year. It is only necessary to refer to the records of the Clerk's office from 1840 to 1847, to determine that probably no county ever had a better Clerk.

In 1849, he was elected by his fellow-citizens as Representative in the State Legislature. In 1862, he was elected as the Senator for the counties of Wabash and Kosciusko, serving in that body one term. As a legislator he was an industrious and most useful member, seldom speaking, but listened to most attentively, when he did take a part in discussions.

In 1863, in connection with Samuel H. Chipman and others, he organized the First National Bank of Warsaw, of which corporation Mr. Graves was elected Cashier, which position he still holds. On accepting this trust, he resigned his seat in the Senate of Indiana, and the bank has had, during the years since his elevation to its cashiership, his entire attention and best talent. No institution of the kind has been better managed, or enjoys the confidence of the public to a greater extent.

Mr. Graves has been three times married, living now with his third wife, having three children living in Warsaw, the eldest of whom—Charles W. Graves—is with his father in the bank. He has one son in the Far West, if living. Mr. Graves has never been a member of any church, but attends quite regularly the services of the Methodist Church, and contributes to its support quite liberally. For more than thirty years, he has been prominently connected with the Masonic Order, having taken all the highest offices in the different Masonic Orders, and being well-informed and familiar with Masonic literature.

In politics, Mr. Graves is identified with the Republican party, but has never been an extreme partisan, being conservative in his views, and believing that all the intelligence and virtue are not to be found in any one political party.

During near half a century, Mr. Graves has taken part in the struggles that have been incident to the settlement of a new country, and witnessed with satisfaction the exchange of many a rude cabin for a comfortable home. He has seen a handful of hardy pioneers within the county increase and attract, until the then wilderness has been dotted with schoolhouses and churches, and the ox-wagon gave way to the railroad, and now has the satisfaction to number near 30,000 inhabitants of energy and integrity that will compare favorably with any other locality. He has had such intimate relations, in all these years, with the affairs pertaining to the people at large, that it may be truly said their interests have become blended. His industry, perseverance, integrity and methodical habits have not only had their reward in ample means, but have won for him the esteem and confidence of every one acquainted with him.