

## METCALFE BECK

was born in the Parish of Thornthwaite, West Riding of Yorkshire, England, March 17, 1812. His father, Aaron Beck, was born in the neighboring Parish of Pannel, September 27, 1783, and was by trade a weaver. His mother's maiden name was Sarah Metcalf, daughter of Thomas and Ann Metcalf, well-to-do farmers of the parish first named. She died when her son was three years old. Metcalf then lived with his grandparents, and was placed at school, during weak days, and attended the Episcopal Chapel on Sundays, until he was nine years old, when his father brought him to America; they left Liverpool June 12, 1821, in the *Ann Maria*, an American ship, 300 tons burden, Capt. Wilkinson, and landed in New York July 11, 1821. From New York they started westward, remaining a short time in Philadelphia; visited parts of Pennsylvania, and sojourned near Kennett Square. In the latter part of March, 1825, his father married Maria Stern, a handsome and amiable young Quakeress, and they decided on moving to Ohio. Mr. Beck informs us that he "felt for the stepmother the real affection due to a mother." His father subsequently purchased a horse and cart, with bows covered with canvas, and they started for the then West, and his young heart swelled with joy at the prospect before them—at the thought of crossing the Allegheny Mountains; once west of the mountains they soon arrived at Pittsburgh, but did not remain, passing over to Wayne County, Ohio, near Wooster; his father engaged to weave broadcloth, here, also, his stepmother gave birth to their son Alfred, in 1825, and here she died, of consumption, in December, 1827. During the years 1825, 1826 and 1827, Metcalf had one year's schooling on hemorrhage and he was forced to quit; accordingly we find him in other business—first clerking for John W. Morris, of Wooster, from December, 1827, to June, 1828; subsequently for Z. T. Moore, where he acquired a sufficient knowledge of German from the customers to wait on them in their own language. His father subsequently engaged in the grocery trade, and Metcalf joined to help him. This business was sold out early in 1834. His father married his third wife, and moved onto his farm near Mount Eaton, in Wayne County, Ohio, in 1836, and died there May 16, 1841. During the year 1834, Metcalf kept grocery in Wooster, and on the 8th of Cleveland, then at Toledo and Fort Wayne, and, on the 29th of June, 1835, proceeded to Kosciusko County, Ind., where he engaged to clerk for James Comstock, whose store was on the northeast quarter of Section 29, Township 32, Range 6 east. The first article sold was a half-pound of Cavendish tobacco, to Benjamin Bennett, July 2, 1835. The trade was not sufficient to keep open store, and he did any work needed, according to his ability—part of the time mowing grass on the wet prairie, standing in the water; and at times chopped wood. In November, 1835, it was deemed best to remove the goods to Leesburg, and there he continued to clerk until November 16, 1836, at which time, the stock being low, Mr. Comstock sold it to him in trade. He did business in Leesburg from that time until March, 1835, when he sold out to his half-brother Alfred, and bought back in June, 1837. In April, 1863, he sold his store, goods and real estate in and about Leesburg, to Edward Moon, and May 1, 1863, removed to Warsaw, his present home. During his merchant life, he was always industrious and economical; at one time, during January, 1838, a very cold winter, he proceeded to Cincinnati on foot to buy goods; for this he was jected by a rival, whose practice was to idle; the laugh proved brief, however; in a few years the rival failed in business and subsided, while Mr. Beck bought goods where he pleased. His first trip to New York was about the last of September, 1838, from where his goods were shipped to Michigan City per brig Agnes Barton, care of J. & C. Hitchcock; he afterward bought at Toledo and Chicago also.

December 22, 1836, he was married by Judge Comstock to his eldest daughter, Eunice M., who was born in Butler County, Ohio, July 29, 1819. They were divorced May 4, 1848.

His three children (all now living) were born in Leesburg; by his wife already named. They are Mary E. (now the wife of William Binns), born in 1837; Hudson Beck (now President of the Lake City Bank), born in 1839, and married Mary A., daughter of Prof. D. T. Johnson, March 11, 1863; and the youngest, Victoria (now wife of Edward Moon), born in 1842. He was married to his second wife (born Catherine Lewis, of Columbiana County, Ohio), April 18, 1857; she died at the "Home on the Hillside," Danville, N. Y., May 22, 1867, and was brought to Warsaw for burial.

His third and present wife was the youngest daughter of J. P. Stryker, and born near Treanton, N. J., April 10, 1837. She was carefully raised by the most exemplary Christian parents. Their ancestors were Huguenots of France, who fled to the caves and mountains to escape massacre, August 24, 1572. A considerable number of Huguenots emigrated to America, and settled principally in Delaware and the Carolinas. Yet, notwithstanding such persecutions, the inherited missionary spirit is unabated in ardor; for her chief desire is to do good in ministering to the poor, and inculcating truth. Her desire for knowledge has always been insatiable, and yet, while contending for the truth with uncompromising tenacity, she is exceedingly tolerant, and ready to use the language of the poet, saying:

"Teach me to feel another's woe,  
To hide the fault I see;  
The mercy I to others show,  
That mercy show to me."

As might be expected from such traits, she is a wise counselor and valuable friend. Her early life was spent in teaching, beginning at fifteen, and ending with her first marriage, when eighteen. This event had been anticipated with unusual delight, but it proved infelicitous, inasmuch that the cup of promise, after a few short years, fell to the ground, bearing with it her fond and cherished hopes; left alone by choice, childless, and almost a wreck, she was, like her ancestors, sustained and "saved by grace alone." With early hopes blasted, in the loss of a companion who might have strewn roses where he scattered thorns; and in the loss of a dear, loving child, and worn with painful vigils by the dying bed of an only son, it would not seem strange if affection thus blighted, should withdraw never more to revive, but, happily for her, Mr. Beck was permitted to see the blushing rose

"Wasting its sweetness on the desert air!"

and a change came over the spirit of their dream, when they two were married. The ceremony was performed by Rev. C. F. Beach, in Warsaw, Kosciusko Co., Ind., March 18, 1869. A son was born to them March 17, 1874, and died when eighteen months old. For many years, Mr. Beck had cherished a desire to visit England, his native land, and on May 17, 1869, accompanied by his son Hudson, left Warsaw on the noon train East, for Cambria, "Anchor Line," and landed in Glasgow, Scotland, June 10, thence proceeded by rail to Edinburgh, the metropolis of Scotland, and thence to Carlisle, England, thence to Leeds, and then to Thornthwaite Parish, the place of his nativity, saying:

"And ever as my homeward path is trod,  
The Ocean, Earth and Air  
Around me grow more fair,  
All radiant with the signet of our God;  
And as Creation's plan  
Is to my eldier sense unsealed,  
And to a purer intellect revealed,  
Youth's joys become the rapture of the man."

The logic of his life is simple, and fraught with filial appreciation of little things, which aggregate in great pleasures, when such a retrospect as he now made is granted. Accordingly, we find him giving a minute account of the accomplishment of this long-cherished desire—a visit to his native land. Leaving Oley, England, he keeps on the alert for the old landmarks, and his own graphic pen best describes the scenery and friends now doubly dear after the lapse of nearly half a century: "Our host, James Dale, of Oley, in his own one-horse carriage, at 10 A. M., started with H. (his son Hudson) and myself for Thornthwaite. On our way, we passed Weston Hall, Weston Moor, Snowdon Moor and Blubber House, passing through the moor. He was interested in looking at the moor game, a species of bird very much like the American grouse or prairie-chicken. Arriving near Thornthwaite Chapel, we found a man who pointed out to us the residence of John Metcalf, a one-story stone house, on the side of a hill overlooking the valley of the River Nid. I found, on inquiry, that he was the son of my mother's brother John, and my cousin. I then learned that my cousin, Sarah Steele, lived near by, in my grandfather's old homestead—*my birthplace*, and where I lived when I left England. Hudson and I went there, and made ourselves known, and she was overjoyed to see us. I looked about for objects of memory, and first above the doorway of the old house on the wall is a stone engraved, '1774, Thomas and Ann Metcalf,' which I recollected, and which assured me I was not in a dream. We then went to the chapel where I had often gone when a little boy, and where my grandparents, my mother, my uncles and my aunts are buried. I saw my grandfather, which I remembered, and which my grandfather told me he had planted. I also remembered, and the little brook through back of the house, and the hill sloping to it. Hook Stone between the house and the school, and the hill sloping to it. 'The Schoolhouse; the stone slab in the wall over the door reads thus: 'The Rev. Francis Day built and endowed this school in the year of our Lord 1794.' Here I went to school, and here I am again after an absence of forty-eight years. The little brook I knew in childhood still bubbles onward over its rocky course; its little cascades are still the same, but, since I last saw them, I have seen Niagara, and I now look at them with an altered apprehension. The little vale remains unchanged, and the gently-swelling but eternal hills, which hem in the valley of the River Nid, still look as they did when I last beheld them. \* \* \* \* We were wrapped as in the soft drapery of a tranquil dream. We took supper of gooseberry pie and new milk with my cousin Sarah; and Hudson and I slept in the old house of my grandfather and his great-grandfather, and had a good night's rest; took breakfast with cousin John Metcalf, and went with him to take a farewell look at the old schoolhouse; thence with him on Darley Road as far as Darley Station. This morning, we heard the oxcow for the first time. At Darley we took train for Harrowgate, a fashionable watering-place, and famous for its spa. My exploration into the country has thus far been successful. I have found all the old landmarks, and will now, in all likelihood, have bid them forever adieu." Doubtless, a sensitive nature like his could not longer contemplate the scenes of childhood, now only known to a few descendants, and therefore they passed on—through York, Wakefield, Sheffield, Tunstall, Birmingham, Oxford and London. From here they visited Paris, France, and returned to London, and landed in Liverpool, and sailed in the *Alpena*, of the Cunard line, July 29, and landed in Boston August 8, 1869. From Boston, their route led to New York, and thence back to Warsaw via the Pennsylvania Railroad. Sketches of this trip were published in the *Northern Indianian*, Vol. XV, No. 1 to 20, commencing December 30, 1869, and "were attentively read by his many acquaintances all over the country."

He was made a Master Mason in Lake City Lodge, No. 371, Warsaw, Feb. 15, 1869; served as Junior Warden for the year 1870; was elected Treasurer in 1871, and is still serving in that office. He joined the First Presbyterian Church, Warsaw (of which his wife is also a member), G. W. Wilson, Pastor, February 22, 1872. He was appointed Notary Public by Gov. Samuel Bigger, July 22, 1841, and has served all the time under commission of the different Governments since then, except one year six months and eighteen days. His last appointment was by His Excellency James D. Williams, for four years from February 8, 1878. He is the oldest known merchant now living in the county, who sold goods in it at as early a date as July, 1835. His life demonstrates his strict integrity and high sense of honor. It is said of him, and is no doubt true, that no man ever lost a minute by his not keeping his engagements. September 3, 1873, he delivered an address on the fair ground in Warsaw to the old settlers. It was replete with instruction, reviewing the past in an able manner. The old settlers praised the effort, and, to-day, the facts are highly prized. Those who know him best love him most. Honesty, industry and benevolence characterize him.

## COL. JOSEPH B. DODGE

was born June 3, 1830, in Yates County, N. Y. His father was an eminent minister of the M. E. Church. His paternal great-grandfather and four brothers were soldiers of the Revolutionary war, and his paternal and maternal grandfathers were both soldiers of the war of 1812. The family on his father's side came to this country in 1638. Joseph B. received a good education. At sixteen, he left the High School for Geneva College, at Lima, New York. He only remained there one term, however, as he "got tired of Greek roots and algebraic signs, and started off. We next hear of him in Warsaw, Kosciusko Co., Ind., September 11, 1848. He found employment in clerking and teaching school during the next six years.

He was married to Miss Lydia L. Cook, of this county, September 17, 1852. They have had two children—daughters. In 1854, he commenced a general collection business, in which he continued with good success until October, 1856, when he was elected Treasurer of Kosciusko County. He was re-elected in October, 1858.

He recruited the first company (B), Twelfth Indiana Volunteer Infantry; April 20, 1861, raised in this county for the war of the rebellion, but did not go into the service until August 20, 1861, shortly after which he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Thirtieth Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and, in April, 1862, was promoted to the position of Colonel of the same regiment. He was subsequently placed in command of the famous "Second Brigade," Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, in which position he continued nearly two years, during which the troops under his command saw hard service and won many glorious victories, whereby they became famous. That Corps and the Twenty-first were

consolidated and formed into the Fourth Corps, in October, 1862, which was engaged in a large number of pitched battles and skirmishes, commencing at Mission Ridge, and ending in Texas at the close of the war. "The Colonel was never wounded, and never captured but once, and that during a battle after night, and then he captured the two guards who were placed over him, and made them conduct him into the lines of the Union army, and he turned them over to his Provost Marshal as prisoners of war! He was always in exposed positions, and during his service had seven horses shot under him. For his daring and gallantry, he was highly complimented and recommended for promotion by Gen. Buell after the battle of Shiloh, and by Gen. Rosecrans, after the battles of Stone River and Chickamauga. We learn that he had doubts as to his ability to learn the duties of a soldier, but his career shows that he not only learned to obey, which is the first duty of a soldier, whether in the ranks or among the commissioned, and he became a thorough disciplinarian, which, with his quick perception of the duty expressed by the commands under which he moved, or those implied by the situation, gave him rank among those who worthy bore the name of gallant soldiers.

During his term of service in Tennessee, he was for some time President of the General Court Martial for that district. He was mustered out at the expiration of his term of service, September 29, 1864. In 1865, he was elected one of the Directors of the Northern Prison at Michigan City, and served two years, during which time a large amount of work was done on the prison buildings. After returning from the war, he sought the quiet alone found in rural pursuits; accordingly, we find him engaged in farming and the nursery business. He subsequently consented to serve as a Trustee for Wayne Township, which position he filled acceptably from 1868 to 1872. He has been connected with the Kosciusko County Agricultural Society from its organization, and is President of the Society at this time. He has for years been a member of Kosciusko Lodge No. 62, and of Hackleman Encampment No. 37, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has been honored with the highest positions in their gift. He is a man of generous impulses, and a favorite among his acquaintances, and manifests his loyalty to the Government and devotion to friends both living and dead in the most decided manner.

## JAMES WOODDEN,

one of the very earliest settlers in the county, was born in Greenbrier County, Va., March 2, 1805; his parents were John and Elizabeth Woodden, who moved from Virginia to Ohio and settled in Darke County in 1816. The subject of this memoir was married to Catharine Swearer, of Prable County, Ohio, in March, 1826, and moved to Wayne County, Ind., where he remained three years, working at his trade, making hats, and when he removed to Kosciusko County and settled on Section 18, in Harrison Township, where he remained until his death, which occurred December 9, 1868. He was eminently fitted for pioneer life, being a powerful man; he stood six feet three inches in his stockings; and as will be seen in the list of county officers in another part of this work, he was a County Commissioner, and as such highly esteemed.

His wife died August 29, 1850; by her he had five children; he married his second wife, Catharine C. Linn, of Marshall County, Ind., in December, 1852; by her he had one child.

He became a member of the Methodist Church in September, 1841, and remained a consistent and zealous member up to the time of his death. The first post office in Harrison Township was at his house and he was the Postmaster.

The first election in that township was held at Woodden's. It may be well to state that in those days, the Indians, chiefly Potawatomies, were numerous thereabouts. Mr. Woodden had acquired their language, and, when disputes arose, so great was his influence among them that he was chosen the arbiter, and they accepted his decision as final.

He became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Kosciusko Lodge, No. 62, at Warsaw, in 1831; was often in attendance, although having to travel fourteen miles for the pleasure and benefit of meeting with his brethren. In June, 1862, he was elected Secretary of the Lodge, and filled successively the chairs of V. G. and N. G., and was elected and served as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, at the May session, 1864.

He was made a member of the Order of Free and Accepted Masons, Warsaw Lodge, No. 73, on the 17th of December, 1858, and was advanced to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

He died a highly respected member of society and an honored member of the Orders of Odd Fellows and Masons.

## HON. DAVID RIPPET.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Hon. David Rippey was born in Warren County, Ohio, on the 23d of September, 1807. The next year, his parents moved to Franklin County, in what was then the Territory of Indiana. Mr. Rippey's father was a farmer, and he was early trained to habits of industry. In those days, the only school privileges attainable to the majority of the rising generation consisted of short terms of "subscription schools," as they were called. The length of the term, the acquisitions of the teacher and the improvement of the scholar were all alike unknown quantities, so that David had but slender opportunities for acquiring lore from books; but what he was able to acquire, in connection with the hard, solid common sense, of which he had a surprising amount, enabled him to succeed, where persons of more learning but less sense would have ignominiously failed.

United in marriage with Miss Rebecca Ann Catey, of Wayne County, Ind., on the 1st day of November, 1827. She departed this life October 19, 1851, lamented by all who knew her. She was the mother of ten children, seven of whom are still living: Henry C. is Judge of the County Court of Leon County, Fla.; Mary J. is the wife of Robert B. Long, of this county; William J., who is a wealthy farmer in Iowa; Charles D., who is the owner of the splendid farm and homestead his father formerly owned, adjoining the town of Leesburg; Samuel E., who is in the cattle business in Idaho; Louisa M., who is the wife of William Zimmerman, Esq., of Leesburg; and John M., who owns a fine farm a couple of miles east of Leesburg, and is one of our most energetic farmers. It will be seen from this statement that the family, although widely scattered, must have had early lessons that have produced good fruit. Mr. Rippey was again married on the 2d day of September, 1853, to Mrs. Emily Hodges, who survived. Mr. Rippey was among the very first settlers of this county, and his strong common sense and sterling honesty carried him at once to the front. At the first election held in this county, in 1836, he was one of the County Commissioners, and he was re-elected to the same office in 1839, in 1842 and in 1861, each time for a term of three years, and was elected as Representative of this county in the State Legislature in