

the common schools, but were well improved. He remained at home, assisting his father in the labors of the farm until the death of the latter, which occurred on the 27th day of May, 1859, when he at once took control of the farm, and has managed it since.

On the 23d of December, 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca S. Funk, daughter of Samuel P. Funk, Esq., of Monroe Township, in this county. They have two children living—Iona C. was born August 23, 1868, and Luana B., who was born November 19, 1877. Mr. Tibbitts, although always taking an active part in politics, has never aspired to any public position, being content to see the principles of his party—the Republican—carried out by others. He is an energetic, drive-ahead, thrifty farmer, as his well-tilled fields and fine herd of cattle demonstrate, to all that see them. He is affiliated with no religious sect or denomination, but is exemplary in his moral deportment and life. The accompanying view well illustrates his comfortable home and surroundings. May he and his estimable wife live long to enjoy them.

Mr. S. P. Funk, father of Mrs. Tibbitts, was born January 10, 1806, in Meadville, Penn., and moved to Urbana, Ohio, with his father, in 1818. Was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Allen, of Piqua, Ohio, on the 19th of August, 1832. Mr. Funk, with his family, removed to this county in 1857, and purchased at once the farm on which he still resides, about seven miles southeast of Warsaw, in Monroe Township. They have had nine children—seven daughters and two sons. The living are Elizabeth, Margaret A., Martha T., Rebecca S., Isabella K., Susan F. and Samuel C.; Mary Ellen and William H. H. are dead. The latter was killed in a neighborhood quarrel, at what was known as the "Splatler Duck Meeting-house," in the southeast corner of Wayne Township, on the 25th of August, 1867. At the close of the meeting, in the evening, he was set upon by a party that had evidently congregated for that purpose; and, during the melee that ensued, he was struck on the head with a stone, that caused his death in a short time.

HON. GEORGE MOON, WARSAW.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

George Moon was born near Coleraine, County Derry, Ireland, July 11, 1816. His parents were in comfortable circumstances, and gave to their son the advantages of a good common-school education. As he grew to manhood, visions of a land over the sea were continually in his mind, and, at the age of twenty years, he bade adieu to the romantic shores of his native land and came to seek his fortune in America. After residing one year near Mauch Chunk, Penn., he came to Kosciusko County, arriving April 1, 1837. He first engaged in the service of Metcalfe Beck, Esq., with whom he remained until 1840. In that year, he entered into partnership with George R. Thralls in the grocery trade. This relation was dissolved in 1843, and, shortly after, Mr. Moon formed a copartnership with William Cosgrove, Esq., with whom he was associated until 1850. They conducted an extensive trade, and Moon & Cosgrove's store was regarded at the time, by the people of this county, as the emporium for everything in the line of general merchandise.

Up to that time, Mr. Moon had not been active in political life, and had taken no part in politics, other than to vote his sentiments at the polls, and express them when called upon; but one of his strong opinions and sound judgment could not be suffered to remain long in the background, and he was prevailed upon by his party friends to accept the nomination for Treasurer of Kosciusko County in 1852, an office to which he was elected, and, at the expiration of his first term, was re-elected in 1854. In 1856, he was, against his wishes, elected Representative in the Legislature of Indiana, and, whilst in that capacity, was a member of the Committee of Ways and Means. Here his good sense and sound reasoning wielded an influence in the financial legislation of the State, which was felt and appreciated by every taxpayer in the State. In 1860, he was a delegate to the National Convention at Chicago that nominated Abraham Lincoln for President. He was an original Lincoln man, and, without doubt, did more than any one man to bring the Indiana Delegation to the unanimous support of Mr. Lincoln. July 1, 1869, he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the Tenth Collection District of Indiana, and in this position, as in others which he has been called to fill, he proves himself a gentleman of eminent ability and integrity. He is a clear-headed, quick, honest business man; a man of decided convictions; a hater of sham and deceit; and, while firm in his own opinions, is ever ready to acknowledge the honesty and sincerity of those who differ with him. Strong in his attachment for his friends, and courteous to all, he is highly esteemed by all with whom he is associated.

TITUS G. BERST.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Titus G. Berst was born December 11, 1823, in Lancaster County, Penn. His father, Conrad Berst, was a substantial, thrifty German farmer, who came to the United States when a boy only twelve years of age. He early instilled into the minds of his children lessons of industry and economy, and they have borne good fruit. Titus had but poor facilities for acquiring an education while young, but such as they were he well improved. In 1837, he, with his father's family, came to this county and settled on Big Turkey Creek Prairie, about three miles southwest of Leesburg, where he still resides. On the 23d of April, 1846, he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Tennis. She died in 1861, leaving her husband and three children to mourn their loss. Two of the children—William and Catherine—have since died; Mary J. is still living. On the 10th of October, 1853, he was again united in marriage with Miss Matilda Long. They have had five children—Wilbur H., born August 23, 1854; Sarah M., born January 29, 1857; Rose, born April 9, 1860; Frank E., born April 3, 1866, and Frederick W., born February 3, 1869. All of them are living. Mr. and Mrs. Berst have for many years been consistent members of the M. E. Church—he since 1843; she since 1840. Mr. Berst, although active and decided in expressing his views on political questions, and always ready to assist his party in any honorable way, has never sought political preferment, but the people of his township demanded that he should serve them in the capacity of trustee, which office he filled with credit to himself and profit to the taxpayers for two terms of two years each. He has been a member of Leesburg Lodge No. 432, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, for a number of years, and he has received the highest honors in the gift of his Lodge. He has been prominent in the management of the Kosciusko County Agricultural Society since its first organization, and has been President of the Society two terms. Mr. Berst came to this county with but little of this world's goods, and his magnificent farm of 320 acres, lying partly in Big Turkey Creek Prairie and partly in the timber adjoining, is an enduring monument to his industry and perseverance of business management. The improvements and general appearance of his farm and home can be judged of by reference to the accompanying illustration.

BEZIN WINSHIP.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Bezin Winship was born on the 9th day of January, 1814, in Worth-ington Township, Richland Co., Ohio. At that time, and for years after, the advantages of school were almost unknown, and the services of all that were able to perform any labor, however slight, in subdividing the forest and reducing the land to a state of cultivation, were brought at once into requisition. Of course, under such circumstances, his education was confined entirely to the rudimentary branches. His boyhood and early manhood, until he was twenty-three years old, were occupied in farming and driving a team on the road. In 1837, he left home, and came West to explore the country, and, in October, of that year, made his first appearance in this county. He stayed here some time, but returned to his old home again, and, on the 7th of January, 1839, married Miss Mary McMichael. The time until June, 1842, was occupied by him in following his old occupation of tanning, and then he removed to this county, bringing his little family of wife and one child with him, and purchased forty acres of land near Palestine, and he went to work to make a home for them. In November, of that year, his wife fell a prey to the disease and exposure incident to those unaccustomed to a backwoods life, and, in a short time, their child followed her. Nothing daunted, Mr. Winship went ahead with his work, and, on the 14th of August, 1844, was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Tusing, daughter of "Uncle John Tusing," as he was universally known, who died, a few years since, at the age of 104 years. By this marriage, he has one son—Nelson, born July 28, 1845, who still remains at home, and assists his father in managing his extensive farm. As soon as there was an opportunity, almost, after the commencement of the war, he volunteered as a private soldier in Co. B. Thirtieth Indiana Volunteers. He was so severely injured, after having been in the service only about three months, by a horse that he was riding falling upon him, that he was discharged, and he returned home, where he stayed, occupied in labor upon his farm, until the organization of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteers. In March, 1864, having partially recovered from his old injuries, he again enlisted, this time in Company "G," of that regiment, and he served with his company until it was mustered out of the service at the close of the war. He, on his return home, secured possession of the old farm that had formerly belonged to his father-in-law, lying about two miles west of Warsaw, and went to work to improve it and fix it up. As a result, he to-day is the owner of one of the very best farms in this county, and there is certainly no farm under a higher state of cultivation. The accompanying illustration is an excellent representation of his dwelling and out-buildings, but his broad fields and well-kept fences could not be shown, and must be seen to be appreciated.

SAMUEL FIRESTONE, JR., WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

Samuel Firestone, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Martin Firestone, was born in Logan County, Ohio, June 3, 1827. His opportunities for acquiring an education were quite limited, and he grew to manhood depending upon his keen perceptions to gain, by observation and experience, that knowledge which it was not his privilege to acquire in the ordinary way; and his education, though not of a scholastic order, is nevertheless practical, and has enabled him to participate successfully in the duties of an active, useful life.

At the age of ten years (in 1837), he came to Kosciusko County, and although but a child, proved himself of valuable service in the routine of labor necessitated by the unsettled condition of the country, performing his part with a strength and alacrity beyond his years. The arduous labors incident to his position gave him little time for recreation, and thus his life from childhood has been one of toil.

In 1853, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Fashbaugh, in Noble County, Ind.

Miss Fashbaugh was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and moved to Kosciusko County, Ind., with her parents in 1848.

Their wedded life has been blessed by ten children, named respectively, Malinda Jane, Austin H., Mary C., Nelson L., Roselma F., Martha E., O-Leann T., Albert D., Francis A. and Edith L.

Mr. Firestone is not identified with any religious denomination, but throughout his life has proven himself a man of irrepugnable morality.

His political views are in accord with the principles of the Democratic party, but he does not take an active part in political life, and has never sought public office.

He is one whose social relations are exceptionally high, and all who know him are drawn to him by a tie of friendship. None speak of him but with the warmest words of honor and respect.

He is the possessor of 332 acres of land, nearly all of which is in cultivation, and his fine farm exhibits many evidences of his skillful management. His industrious life has been crowned with success, and he has gained a rich competence in worldly goods.

He was made a Mason in Pierceston Lodge, No. 377, in 1869, and has ever since been an active worker in his Lodge; but owing to the remoteness of his home from the place of meeting, and his preoccupation with other business matters, he has never served the Lodge in an official position.

JOHN BOTKIN.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

John Botkin was born August 8, 1828, in Clark County, Ohio. His parents were descendants of that hardy race of North Carolina mountaineers whose sons first settled West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, and included in their Western march Southern Ohio and Indiana.

He was early inured to the labor which is the inevitable lot of the frontiersman, and, when he came to Kosciusko County with his parents, in 1838, and settled on a farm in Clay Township, although only ten years of age, he was able and willing to perform almost a man's proportion of work. From that time until 1850 he was occupied at almost unremitting labor in clearing up a farm.

In 1849, the discovery of gold in California set almost every adventurous mind to thinking whether there was not an easier or faster method of accumulating money than that of ordinary labor. Golden visions floated before his eyes by day, and dreams of gold haunted him by night, until he could resist the temptation no longer, and, in 1850, he started for "the land of gold," at a time when a trip to California was as serious a matter as is now a trip around the world. He went to New York and took passage on a sailing vessel, and at the end of three months and four days they reached their destination—a very rapid trip at that time. During his residence in California, his health was very poor, and his visions rapidly faded away. But he is not the man to give up easily; he resolutely worked away when-aver he was able to get around, and accumulated sufficient "dust" to pay his expenses and compensate him liberally for his time, and, in 1852, returned to his home.

December 26, 1852, he made the happiest venture of his life, by uniting in marriage with Miss Magdalena Crider, formerly of Lancaster County, Penn. She has been to him a helpmeet indeed, and the foundation of his prosperity. They have two sons and three daughters living.

Mr. Botkin is one of the best farmers we have in a county of good farmers. His splendid buildings, excellent fences and broad fields, all attest the careful supervision he gives everything he has control of. It is to be hoped that he and his excellent wife may yet live many years to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

HIRAM S. BIGGS.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Hiram S. Biggs was born in Prairie Township, Kosciusko County, on the 15th day of January, 1838. His parents, John and Caroline Biggs, were among the earliest settlers of this county, having located in Prairie Township in 1836. His father died in 1847, and, at an early age, he was obliged to assist in maintaining his widowed mother and younger brother. School privileges were limited at the time he had an opportunity to avail himself of them. At a comparatively recent date as that time, the old-fashioned log schoolhouse, with a log cut out part of the way on each side, and the opening either covered with a paper that had been well oiled, so as to admit a few straggling rays of light; or, as the people become more extravagant in their tastes, a few panes of glass, and with a capacious fireplace extending across one end; the chimney built on the outside of sticks and the interstices filled with clay, and furnished with narrow hewed pieces of timber, two or three inches thick, set on legs for seats, occupied the places now filled by the beautiful and well-furnished schoolhouses that thickly dot the surface of our county. It is easy to understand that the education acquired with such surroundings would be almost as primitive as the surroundings, but he did the best he could. Attending school in the winter time for three or four months and working on the farm in the summer until he was about twenty years of age, he succeeded in preparing himself for higher attainments, and he entered the college at Valparaiso. The next five years, he attended that college and the Northern Indiana College at South Bend, in this State, his studies being interrupted by his teaching school three months each winter in order to pay the necessary expenses for the rest of the year. On the 23d day of June, 1863, he entered the office of Frazer & Frasier in Warsaw and commenced the study of law. He was admitted to the bar January 15, 1865, and at once entered into partnership with one of his preceptors—the late Hon. George W. Frasier—which was only terminated by the death of Mr. Frasier April 2, 1872. He was admitted to practice at the bar of the Supreme Court of this State in 1869, and at the bar of the United States Circuit and District Courts in 1875.

On the 1st day of May, 1866, he was united in marriage to Miss Alice M. Frasier, the eldest daughter of George W. and M. H. Frasier, a lady who is respected by all and is well known for her active benevolence and work in the cause of temperance. They have two children living—Arthur F., born August 3, 1867, and Mabel F., born July 4, 1876—a Centennial young lady.

Mr. Biggs became a member of Kosciusko Lodge, No. 62, I. O. O. F., in December, 1863. He has filled all the elective offices in his Lodge and has represented it in the Grand Lodge of the State, of which Lodge he is also a member.

He was elected to represent this county in the Legislature in October, 1870, and, at the ensuing session, he performed the duties devolving upon him with credit to himself and his party and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. At the first election held in the city of Warsaw after its organization in May, 1875, he was elected Mayor, to which position he was re-elected in May, 1877. His second term will expire in May, 1879.

Mr. Biggs is a man of strong convictions and feelings and is fearless and outspoken in defense of his opinions when they are called in question. He has always been one of our most public-spirited men, never missing an opportunity to advance the interests of the people of his town and county by every means in his power. He has a large and lucrative practice, and has always been very successful in taking care of the interests of his clients. He is still a comparatively young man, and, without doubt, a long and honorable career is before him.

HUDSON BECK, WARSAW.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

The subject of this sketch, familiarly known as "Hud Beck," was born December 28, 1839, in a log cabin on Lot No. 24, in Leesburg, this county, and is one of our oldest living native citizens. His early boyhood was spent after the manner of the times, and his earliest recollections are of Indians and sturdy backwoodsmen. In 1847, he went with his mother and two sisters into the interior of Iowa, then almost a terra incognita, making the trip in a covered wagon. There he remained until he was thirteen years old, living on a farm. During his stay in Iowa, he performed the work of a pioneer, cleared land, drove a breaking team of oxen on the prairie, built fences, and performed general farm labor. At the age of eleven years, he prepared twenty acres of land in Skunk River Bottom for corn, which a neighbor boy of about his own age helped him to plant, and which he attended alone, and from which he harvested 1,600 bushels of corn. During his residence in that State, he went one and a half miles to school, which was taught about four months each year. At the age of thirteen, he had mastered Smith's arithmetic, and stood at the head of his class in English grammar and geography. In 1852, he returned to his native county, and for the next three years his time was divided between clerking in his father's store at Leesburg and attending school, including two terms at Warsaw. His father then apprenticed him to Charles Knight, of Leesburg, to learn the trade of carriage and wagon making, for which he received \$25 for the first year, \$36 for the second, and \$45 for the third, with which he clothed himself and supplied his pocket-money. Few boys with wealthy parents, as he had, would do as he did. He soon became a good and fast workman. In 1857, he made the wagon, and, in 1858, the carriage that took the first premium at the county fair. After learning the trade, he assisted his father in the store for a short time, and, in April, 1859, went to Philadelphia to finish his education. He graduated at a business college, his course including commercial law. He then sought employment, which, owing to the universal stagnation in business at that time, was very difficult to obtain. There were hundreds of young men, backed by influential friends, ready to take any situation that offered, while he was alone and known only by the Faculty of the college from which he had graduated. He exhausted all ordinary expedients; was willing to do anything honorable; took a trip through New Jersey to find work at his trade; offered to take a position on board a vessel and go to sea; but all of no avail. At length he found a firm on Third street, Philadelphia, who wanted an entry clerk, for which position he was taken on trial. His wages