

he was no longer regarded as a "dull boy," and was not thereafter excelled by any of his schoolmates.

In the Presidential campaign of 1840 (although too young, by two weeks, to be a voter) he took an active part, and surprised his friends by the ability with which he handled the subject of politics. He was a warm advocate of Gen. Harrison, and his labors were not barren of results which told in that election.

He was united in marriage, August 29, 1841, with Miss Nancy Freed, of Stark County, Ohio, and, in the following spring, removed with his wife to Hancock County, Ohio, but, on account of the unhealthiness of the locality, returned to Stark County in the spring of 1843, and there remained until 1854. In the spring of that year, he came to Kosciusko County, Ind., and purchased a tract of timbered land in Monroe Township, containing 188 acres. Much of this was valuable timber, and it occurred to him that, while clearing a farm, he could, at the same time, utilize this very income-brance to his own profit.

His means were limited, and he involved himself heavily by the erection of a steam saw-mill, which, however, proved a fortunate investment. About one year after this purchase, the first debt became due, and the promptness with which he met it permanently established his credit, and he was enabled thereafter to meet each obligation, and, within four years, his former creditor was largely his debtor.

In 1864, he entered the Commissary Department of the United States Service, and started for the headquarters of Gen. Sherman, then in Georgia. He reached his destination May 3, 1864, and, on the following day, advanced with the regiment to Kenasaw Mountain, but disease had taken hold upon him, and, upon the day of the evacuation of Kenasaw, he was sent to the hospital, and thence home. He was confined to his room nearly a year, and has never fully recovered from the effects of the malady.

His political record is one of earnest labor for the cause he has espoused, and although he has never sought personal aggrandizement through political channels, he has been one of the most interested and effective laborers in the Republican ranks. He has ever been a friend to public improvement, and, during the early part of his residence in this county, he was one of the warmest friends and advocates of the ditching law, then pending before the State Legislature. His fine farm of 245 acres has been principally cleared and improved by himself, and he is regarded as a successful, enterprising farmer. For his success, he is indebted alone to the great energy and industry which have distinguished him throughout his life.

His wedded life was blessed by seven children, viz, Margaret, Clara I., Eva, Adam, Benton, Della and Emmet, of whom Margaret, Clara I. and Eva are deceased.

#### AARON STUMPF, WARSAW.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Aaron Stumpf was born March 18, 1835, near Adamsburg, Union Co., Penn. His parents were honest, industrious, sturdy Germans, and he was early educated to follow in their footsteps. He remained at home working on the farm during the summer, and attending school in the winter, until seventeen years of age, when he and an older brother left home and came West. They first located at Liberty Mills, Wabash Co., Ind., and Aaron lived in that neighborhood until April 10, 1855, when he removed to Kosciusko County, and settled in Jackson Township.

October 28, 1855, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Mary Ann Stephens, widow of a wealthy and prominent citizen of that township. From that time, Mr. Stumpf has been noted as one of the most enterprising and thrifty farmers in the county. In addition to managing the large farm belonging to his wife, he was, for a number of years, engaged in the business of buying and shipping stock of all kinds, in which business he was very successful and acquired a comfortable fortune.

In October, 1868, he was elected Trustee of Jackson Township, and remained in that office until October, 1876. That the affairs of the township were well managed it is needless to say. He exercised the same economy and used the same discretion in the management of public affairs that he did in private business; and the fine brick schoolhouses which now adorn that township are monuments of his fidelity to the trust reposed in him.

In October, 1876, he was elected Treasurer of Kosciusko County, and at the expiration of his term was re-elected, in October, 1878. He became a member of the Presbyterian Church in 1858, which relation he still maintains. He is a pleasant, good-hearted gentleman, kind and agreeable to all; powerfully built, of vigorous constitution and excellent health, he will, without doubt, live many years to enjoy the fruits of his industry and labor.

#### A. WOOLLEY, M. D., WARSAW.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Amos Woolley was born in Philadelphia, Penn., March 1, 1829. His parents removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, when he was about four years of age, and subsequently to Lebanon, Warren Co., Ohio. He attended school regularly until seventeen years of age, when he came to Miami County, Ind., with two older brothers. They at once engaged in the business of wagon and carriage making, the subject of this sketch working in the blacksmithing department.

In 1846, his health having failed to such an extent as to prohibit further labor at his trade, he adopted the occupation of teaching school, and reading medicine in his leisure hours, under the supervision of B. Henton, M. D., one of the first physicians of Peru, Ind. In a short time, he abandoned school-teaching, and studied in Dr. Henton's office for two years, when he began the practice of medicine with C. Hector, M. D., of Gilead, Miami Co., Ind. Success attended his efforts from the very beginning.

In 1857, he came to Kosciusko County, and located in the village of Palestine. In 1869, he removed to Warsaw, where he now resides.

October 19, 1865, he was united in marriage with Miss Martha Bunker. In 1866, he assisted in the organization of the Medical College at Fort Wayne, Ind., and afterward graduated with honor from that institution. He is a successful practitioner, and for many years has enjoyed an extensive practice. Being a self-made man, and having early learned the lesson, that patience and care are essentials of success, he has devoted his entire attention to his profession since he began the practice, and for many years has enjoyed as large a practice as any other physician in the county, which he still maintains.

He is a remarkably pleasant and affable gentleman, and inspires confidence in his ability wherever he goes, and is highly esteemed as a citizen by all who know his worth.

#### SAMUEL W. HAVENS, JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

Samuel W., son of Clayton Havens, was born in the year 1830, in Montgomery County, Ohio. In 1858, he came to Kosciusko County, Ind., and nine years later (1867), was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Leggett, a native of Ohio. He purchased the Abbott farm, in Jackson

Township, to which he subsequently added 160 acres, making 320 acres in all. By the training of his youth he was eminently qualified to occupy the station of a successful farmer, and in this relation he has stood since he first began life for himself. His farm is one of the finest in the township, and is conducted in a manner which proves the skill of its proprietor.

During his youth, he attended the common school, where he acquired a good English education, and, in later years, sought to add to his store of knowledge by extensive travel, visiting, among other places, California and the West Indies.

During the late war, he was among the first who responded to the call for volunteers, and served three years, and was wounded at the battle of Shiloh. Returning from the field, he resumed the pursuit of farming, in which he is still engaged. His business transactions have been almost uniformly crowned with success, and he has acquired a competence which places him beyond the possibility of want.

Although not identified with any religious denomination, he has always been a liberal contributor to the building and maintenance of churches; and public enterprises of all kinds receive his hearty encouragement and support.

His social standing is high, and he is universally respected in the community.

His wedded life was blessed by five children, named, respectively—Alexander, Annabel, Violetta, Celesta and William Harvey, all of whom are now residing at home.

#### WILLIAM O. KILLE, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

Jacob Kile, father of the gentleman for whom this biography is written, was born in Lancaster County, Penn., in 1802, and, in 1820, removed with his parents to Stark Co., Ohio, locating two miles south of Massillon. In 1833, he married Susan Kaber, a native of Stark County, and shortly thereafter, purchased 126 acres of land in Noble County, Ind. In the spring of 1840, he removed to Van Wert County, Ohio, and improved a farm, and in 1843, removed to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he conducted a cooper-shop for a large flouring-mill. In the fall of 1846, he removed to Noble County, Ind., and settled upon the land purchased prior to his departure from Ohio.

His son, William O., was born in Summit County, Ohio, in the year 1834, and removed with his parents to the various places heretofore mentioned. His boyhood and youth were passed in the performance of farm work during the summer, and attending school in the winter. In 1856, he left home and visited various portions of the United States, but finally decided to return and make his home in Indiana. In 1858, he was united in marriage with Miss Rachel Wagner; and later in the same year, settled in Kosciusko County, on the farm where he still resides. Only a heavy growth of timber marked the site of his future home; there were no fences, no cleared ground, and not even a cabin offered its friendly shelter. He has 100 acres, of which 75 acres have been cleared by himself, and are in a fine state of cultivation. His farm is beautifully situated, and, throughout its various belongings, attests the enterprise and skill of its proprietor.

He has scarcely reached the meridian of life; yet, by industry and prudent management, has accomplished one great purpose of life, and possesses a competence in worldly goods; yet his energy knows no bounds, and day by day he toils on, as in the days when he was struggling against poverty.

He is a prominent citizen in his township, and his assistance is always solicited and obtained in support of enterprises for the advancement of the public good; and no commendable enterprise or deserving charity asks in vain for his assistance.

#### JOHN N. REED.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

John N. Reed was born in the town of Ellisburg, Jefferson Co., N. Y., on the 31st day of March, 1823, and consequently is now in his fifty-seventh year. His ancestors were of English origin, and came to this country about 1630. His father was born near Brattleboro, Vt., December 10, 1790, and was married to Miss Susannah Nutting July 8, 1810.

His father was a very enterprising, energetic and industrious man—in good circumstances—and his son was early trained to habits of thrift and economy. His education was confined to what could be acquired at the common schools; and, in those days, a three months district school each winter, was considered sufficient to give the rising generation all the knowledge of books that would be necessary for the ordinary walks of life, and consequently his education was somewhat rudimentary, compared to that to be acquired at the schools of to-day. His boyhood and early manhood were occupied, alternately, on his father's farm and saw-mill, he being a large manufacturer of lumber, until he was twenty-one years old. He concluded, then, to see something of the world, and shipped for one season as a sailor on the lakes.

His parents had, at an early day, removed to Cleveland, Ohio, and not long afterward to Lorain County, Ohio. John not becoming sufficiently enamored of a seafaring life, to follow it as a business, returned to his former avocations, and the next five years were spent alternating between the States of Ohio, New York and Indiana, until the 7th day of May, 1849, when he was united in marriage with Miss Samantha R. Nutting, of Jefferson County, N. Y., and he commenced life in earnest. They immediately removed to Ohio, and stayed there until in October next ensuing, when they removed to Abbot Township, Allen County, in this State, where he purchased 107 acres of land in the thick woods, and went to work to clear it up. Ten long years passed away, during which time he cleared up a fine farm, cheered on in his labors, by his excellent wife, and passing through all the vicissitudes and toils of a backwoods life. During this time, this entire country had made rapid strides of advancement, and in the summer of 1859 he sold his farm, and removed with his family to Clay Township, in this county, and purchased the farm of Zadok McCoy, consisting of 228 acres, about six miles south of Warsaw, where he still resides. He has since added to his farm, until he now owns 300 acres of excellent land, under first-rate cultivation, and, as the accompanying view shows, with first-rate farm buildings, and is now situated so that he can enjoy the remainder of his days in comfort. He and his wife have five children living: Theodore N., born April 17, 1850; Mary S., February 12, 1854; Harriet, December 27, 1857; Rosetta, May 24, 1863; and Ida M., October 18, 1867. Mr. Reed is an energetic, drive-ahead, skillful farmer; a good citizen and a kind-hearted man. May he live long and prosper.

#### AARON J. MERSHON.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Aaron J. Mershon was born near Princeton, in Middlesex County, N. J., on the 26th of November, 1811. His father, William Mershon, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, entering the army when only sixteen years old, and serving nearly three years, until its close. Three of his brothers were in the army at the same time.

The Mershons are descended from those sturdy defenders of the right to worship God in their own way, the Huguenots—a race that suffered martyrdom in its most terrible forms, rather than give up their religious belief. The first Mershon that came to this country was a Huguenot, who had managed to escape from the persecutions of his race. Mr. Mershon was brought up on a farm, living with his father until he was sixteen years old, when he was apprenticed to a mason to learn that trade. His opportunities for attending school while young, were somewhat limited, but having an excellent memory, and being a close observer, his mind is more than ordinarily well stored with information. As soon as his apprenticeship was finished, he went to work at his trade, and was intrusted with work of great responsibility, as foreman in the erection of a large addition to the Nassau College and the Chapel of the Theological Seminary, both at Princeton.

On the 8th day of April, 1835, he was married to Miss Lydia Duryee, of Blawenburgh, Middlesex Co., N. J., and about one year after, they moved to Mt. Clemens, Mich. While there, Mr. Mershon was actively engaged in business as a contractor and builder. In 1841, he wanted to get in some place where a more extended field would be before him, and he removed to Fort Wayne, in this State, where he remained until the spring of 1859. Many of the most substantial blocks and buildings that were erected during those eighteen years, in Fort Wayne, were built by Mr. Mershon.

In 1856, he had become connected with the marble business, and the result was that, in 1859, in order to save himself from loss, he was obliged to come to Warsaw to live, in order to look after his interests. About that time, his wife died, leaving her husband and three children, one son and two daughters, to mourn their loss. Mr. Mershon at once added to his business, by embarking in the sale of lime, plaster, shingles, cement, etc., which business he is still engaged in. He sold out the marble business a number of years ago. His extensive warehouses and convenient arrangements attest the care, industry, economy and general business capacity of Mr. Mershon better than any mere words can.

Mr. Mershon married Mrs. Sarah J. Stewart, of Philadelphia, Sept. 23, 1863, and she died Oct. 13, 1866, leaving no children. He was again married, to Mrs. L. R. McSherry, a sister of Messrs. Henry, Titus and Hiram Berst, May 30, 1867. Mr. Mershon has been a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church for over forty years, and a meeting at that church in Warsaw, without his being on hand to either lead or assist in the music, would be pronounced almost a failure, as far as the music was concerned.

Mr. Mershon instructed the first class in vocal music ever taught in Fort Wayne, in the winter of 1841 and 1842, and for over forty years has been connected with some church choir, in the capacity of chorister the most of the time. He is a great worker in the Sabbath-school cause, so much so in fact, that he is almost an enthusiast on the subject.

#### JACKSON GLESSNER.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Jackson Glessner was born in Waynesburg, Stark Co., Ohio, on the 15th day of December, 1832. His early boyhood passed away in the same manner that the lives of thousands of others do in small towns, with scarcely a ripple upon its surface. After acquiring a rudimentary education at the village school, he decided to become a follower of St. Crispin, and he learned the trade of boot and shoe making. As soon as he had fairly mastered the details of his trade, true to the instincts of the average American, he concluded to "go West and grow up with the country." Accordingly, July 8, 1859, found him in Warsaw, where he found employment at once, and formed associations, in a short time, that have held him there until this time, and, without doubt, will continue to do so during his life. June, 1860, he formed a partnership with Joseph A. Wright for the purpose of manufacturing and the sale of boots and shoes, which continued for three years. He then sold out and went into the dry goods store of Daniel Shoup, his father-in-law, where he remained until the latter part of 1866. In March, 1867, he returned to his old business, this time in partnership with Caleb Hendee. They were very successful in business and built up a large and profitable trade. After continuing together for ten years, the long-existing partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Glessner became sole proprietor of the extensive business he had been so long assisting to build up. To say that he has succeeded in retaining the old business, gives but a faint idea of the truth. Always on the alert in business matters, gentlemanly and affable in his intercourse with all, he is to-day at the head of the business in his line in this county, and, it is safe to say, will remain so as long as he continues in business. He was married to Miss Caroline Shoup, youngest daughter of Daniel Shoup, Esq., one of our oldest and most respected citizens, on the 5th day of June, 1862. She departed this life, mourned by all who knew her, December 11, 1872, leaving her husband and two children, both girls. On the 15th of October, 1874, he married Miss Mattie E. Mung, of Massillon, Ohio. They have one child, a boy.

That many years of peace and happiness may be theirs is the wish of their hosts of friends.

#### JAMES H. CISNEY, WARSAW.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

James H. Cisney was born in Richland County, Ohio, August 19, 1841. He was sent to school by his parents, but he was dissatisfied with the restrictions there imposed upon him, and regarded them as persecutions. He was of a restless, energetic temperament, and preferred to work rather than be confined in the schoolroom. Accordingly, he left the school at an early age, and entered upon an apprenticeship in the establishment of a harness-maker, with whom he learned the trade.

He came to Warsaw June 15, 1860, and was employed at his trade until August 20, 1861. At that time he enlisted in Company B, Thirtieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, and went at once to the field and served three years, the term for which he enlisted. Always prompt, soldierly, quiet and brave, he was always held in the highest esteem by his comrades and superiors. He was mustered out of service September 29, 1864, and, upon his return, engaged in the harness business at Leesburg, Kosciusko Co., Ind., at which he was very successful.

May 4, 1865, he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy A. Parks, daughter of Dr. William Parks, of Leesburg, now deceased, one of the kindest of men and one of the best of physicians.

With his positive characteristics and outspoken principles, Mr. Cisney soon became prominent in politics, and in October, 1867, was elected Sheriff of Kosciusko County. He was re-elected in October, 1870, and retired from the office in 1872, universally respected for his fearless discharge of the duties devolving upon him. In May, 1877, he was elected a member of the City Council of Warsaw, from the Second Ward, and was the originator of a project, which was ultimately successful, for funding the debt of the city at a reduced rate of interest, which resulted in a net saving to the tax-payers of more than \$1,200 per annum.