

him the energy and sagacity necessary to a successful business career. His parents, being in moderate circumstances, could only give their children a common-school education, which, as all settlers in a new country know well, was obtained by attending school about four months during the winter season, in the good old-fashioned log schoolhouses of those halcyon days of "ferules and birch whips." It was here, and under such surroundings, that he acquired a sufficient education to enable him to become a teacher in the common schools, which he followed for four terms of about five months each, and, as a matter of "recreation," as well as profit, attended a saw-mill at night, while teaching school in the daytime. At the age of twenty years, he determined to launch out for himself, and, with that end in view, he rented a farm of 240 acres, of his uncle, Mr. Samuel Bussard, which he tilled for two seasons very successfully, and which resulted in giving a modest balance in his favor. In the fall of this same year (1865), in anticipation of making sale of his crop, raised that season, he came to Warsaw to negotiate with some dealer in grain and seeds, and it was during this visit that he formed the acquaintance of Mr. Allen Saine, a very prominent business man of Warsaw at that time, who appeared to be so much pleased with the young man that he desired and proposed that he should come to town, and enter into a partnership with him, for the purpose of handling produce, buying and shipping grain, seeds, wool, etc.; but the idea of leaving a quiet home life on the farm and launching out on the great bustling commercial deep had never entered his head, or disturbed the quiet of his country home, and, as a matter of fact, with all the inducements held out to him, he refused to accept the proposition at this time, but, after repeated offers and extra inducements by Mr. Saine for him to come and join with him in business, he finally consented, and, on the 10th day of September, 1866, the firm of Saine & Oldfather was formed, for the purposes above indicated, and continued agreeably and successfully until the death of Mr. Saine, which occurred in the fall of 1867. The business, however, was carried on some six months longer under the firm name, Mrs. Saine, the widow, retaining her deceased husband's interest. At the close of this time, he purchased the entire business interests, and commenced the foundation of a substantial and successful business career, such as it is the good fortune of a very few to attain; but, by strict attention to business and unwavering integrity to dare to do right, added to his natural abilities, of a kind disposition, a warm heart, always ready to lend a helping hand and to encourage and help those who manifested a desire to do right, he has endeared himself to all with whom he associated, either in the social circle or in the busy life of trade.

Of course, a young man possessing all these qualities of mind and heart could not avoid the gentle whisperings of Cupid, and, as a result, he was united in marriage, on the 28th of April, 1868, to Miss Annie E. Loeffel, a very highly esteemed lady, the youngest daughter of William Loeffel, a well-to-do farmer living in the south part of the county.

It had been apparent to Mr. Oldfather, from his own observation and experience in the grain business, that Warsaw was losing a very considerable part of the grain trade by the inconvenient and dangerous place for the farmers to unload their grain, as the only place then that answered the purpose of storing grain was the old depot warehouse, which was not only inconvenient, but very dangerous of access for the farmers who sold their grain in this market. But Mr. O. saw that something must be done to hold the trade, and, after giving the matter much thought, and looking around how to make it better, he concluded to build an elevator that would not only accommodate all, but would also be a substantial improvement to the city and a credit to the county. With this in view, in the summer of 1871, he purchased a lot on the corner of Lake and Jefferson streets, directly on the line of the P., Ft. W. & C. R. R., and erected thereon a large, brick, steam elevator, with a storage capacity of over 30,000 bushels of grain and seeds, and, thus far, it has proved a profitable undertaking to him, as well as supplying a long-felt want of the county. By his close attention to business, and a determination to excel in his line, he has the pleasure of seeing his hopes realized in a business which is improving each year.

In the year 1876, he formed a partnership with Mr. Oliver P. Jaques, ex-Sheriff of Kosciusko County, for the purpose of developing the whole-sale ice trade at Warsaw, Ind., which has resulted in their having built eight very large ice-houses, all of which are now filled with ice, which, in quality, is seldom equaled and never excelled. The business of this firm (Jaques & Oldfather) has been profitable thus far, and bids fair for still further improvements and developments of the ice trade at this point. Mr. Oldfather, while doing so much for himself, has also been one of the most public-spirited and enterprising men of the city, and has done very much toward its building up and improvement, some of the finest buildings in the city having been built by him. Socially, he is one of those genial, clever, warm-hearted men, of whom we find so few, and yet they are the sunny spots in life's voyage. As an illustration of his kindness, we have never heard of any one of the many men employed by him to complain of receiving a cross word or an unkind answer. One person—Thomas C. Stuart—who has been in his employ for eight years, says no kinder man lives, as he has never received an unkind word from him. Mr. O. is fully satisfied that he can afford to pay fair wages to good men rather than low wages to men not capable of filling positions of trust; hence he has always advocated good wages to all employees, as those who are not worth good wages are not the kind he wishes to employ.

CAPT. D. W. HAMLIN, WARSAW.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Daniel W. Hamlin was born in Stark County, Ohio, April 10, 1836. He was the eldest of a large family, and his services were required in assisting his father to clear a tract of land and support the family; hence his educational advantages were limited. In May, 1849, he removed with his father's family to Marshall County, Ind., and, boy though he was, he performed a man's share of labor in clearing a large farm.

When the civil war came, he was among the first to respond to the call for volunteers from this county. He enlisted as a private in Company E, Twelfth Indiana Volunteers, and remained with that company until they were mustered out, May 19, 1862. From that time until February 1, 1864, he was constantly employed by the Government in the Secret Service Department—a position which demanded a cool head, unflinching courage and a vast amount of endurance, and it may safely be said that few in that department possessed these qualities in a more marked degree than the subject of this sketch. Through ill health, he was compelled to relinquish this position, and shortly after returning to his home, he began to recruit a company (Company E) for the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, and returned to the field as Captain of that Company. During the greater portion of his second term in the service, he was on detached duty, part of the time as a member of a general court martial at Tullahoma, Tenn., and part of the time in command of a blockhouse and fort, protecting an important railroad bridge across Elk River, Tenn. While there, he was severely injured in a railroad accident. At the expiration of

his term of service, he was mustered out with his regiment, and came to Evana Green, Kosciusko Co., Ind., where he engaged in the sale of dry goods and groceries, and the purchase and sale of lumber. In a short time thereafter, he was appointed Purchasing Agent by the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad Company, to supply the western division of that road with timber, ties and wood. This involved a great amount of labor and responsibility on his part, but he performed the duties intrusted to him with fidelity and dispatch.

March 29, 1869, he married Miss Mary Lee, and went to California on a bridal tour. He was inclined to make that State his future home, but finally decided adversely to that idea, and Kosciusko County was spared the loss of one of its best citizens.

One of his peculiarly active dispositions could not long remain out of politics, and, at the solicitation of his friends, he became the candidate of his party for the office of Sheriff of Kosciusko County in 1876, to which office he was elected in October of the same year. In October, 1878, he was re-elected, running ahead of the State ticket 250 votes—a well-merited compliment, which was conferred on him as a tribute to his unwavering impartiality in the discharge of the oftentimes disagreeable duties of his office.

The Captain is a fine specimen of manhood; is outspoken and plain in his manner and conversation, but is one of the kindest-hearted of men. Long may he live to enjoy the honors yet in store for him.

RICHARD CHRISTIAN, HARRISON TOWNSHIP.

Richard Christian was born in Putnam County, N. Y., where he acquired his education and grew to manhood. In 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Adams, in his native county, and in 1865, removed with his wife and two children to Kosciusko County, Ind.

During his younger days he learned the *modus operandi* of the saw-mill business, and has since been engaged in that enterprise, varied, occasionally, by farming. He purchased, in Kosciusko County, 370 acres, nearly all of which was covered with timber; and whilst clearing his farm for cultivation, turned that commodity to practical account. He now saws and ships to market from 500,000 to 2,000,000 feet of lumber annually, his principal markets being Chicago and New York. He has gained a thorough knowledge of commercial forms and usages, and is a competent business man. He has always been a prudent manager, and, by this means has accumulated a comfortable fortune. His business career has been characterized by the strictest integrity, and he was never known to take an unfair advantage in any of his transactions with his fellow-men. This trait has gained him many friends, and he is respected and honored by all who know him.

He has never been a politician, and has never served in a public capacity; but is a cordial supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and is outspoken and candid in all his convictions of right, and fearless in the exercise of manly principles.

His wedded life was blessed by five children, named respectively—Wesley, William, Richard, Abraham and Henry.

DR. D. J. DICK, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

The paternal ancestors of this gentleman were natives of Sweden. His great-grandfather, Philip Dick, was born in that kingdom in 1720, and emigrated to America, and settled in Delaware in 1741. He bore a glib part in the great Revolutionary struggle of 1776.

Frederick Dick, son of Philip, was born in Trenton, N. J., in 1749, and served as a private soldier in the same war. He was wounded in an engagement, and never fully recovered from the effects of the wound. He died in 1805, leaving fourteen children.

Daniel, son of Frederick Dick, was born December 7, 1802. He married Mary Paynter, daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth Paynter. In May, 1833, he settled upon a tract of land in Seneca County, Ohio, in a heavily-timbered region, and passed through the experiences incidental to pioneer life. He enjoyed, in later years, a fair degree of prosperity, but never acquired a large estate. He led an honest life, and was marked as a man of strict integrity. He died in the year 1859, respected by all. His wife survived him seven years, and died in 1866.

DANIEL J. DICK.

Daniel and Mary Dick, was born April 1, 1827, in Baltimore County, Md.; at the age of six years, he removed with his parents to Seneca County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. His early education was necessarily quite limited, in view of the fact that there were no schools in the neighborhood of his home. At the age of twelve years, his school days began, and, even then, he was only permitted to attend on days when he could not successfully perform farm labor; he studied diligently, and acquired as good an education as was possible under the imperfect system of teaching then in vogue. At the age of eighteen, his father presented to him the necessity of learning to depend upon his own resources, acquiring the knowledge of a trade, and thus preparing for an honorable and useful manhood; he realized his inability to occupy a mercantile or professional station, and, under the spur of present necessity, chose the carpenter's trade. April 2, 1845, he started on foot to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, where he was fortunate in finding employment with a Mr. Thomas O'Neal, who was a fine scholar as well as an expert carpenter, and whose instructions to his apprentice were peculiarly valuable, not being confined alone to the trade. Within six months after his apprenticeship began, his employer died, and he was again thrown upon the world friendless. In October following, he went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was engaged, with others, in the construction of a public building. Soon after this date, he entered the Allopathic Medical Institute, then in session at Cleveland, Ohio, and kept his place among other students of the Institute. At the close of the college term, he went to Tiffin, Ohio, and resumed work at his trade; he was thus engaged until the following August, at which time, he became a volunteer in the United States army, in the war with Mexico; before the close of the campaign, he sustained an injury in the hip, by which he was crippled for life; with the aid of a friend, he reached Cincinnati, Ohio, where he placed himself under treatment in the Physio-Medical College. Since he was incapacitated for active labor, he realized the necessity of seeking another vocation, and finally decided to study the science of medicine, and entered the class of 1848, in the Physio-Medical College, at Cincinnati. May 7, 1849, he was united in marriage with Miss Catharine McCormick, daughter of William and Elizabeth McCormick, of Seneca County, Ohio. By a reverse of fortune, he lost a large amount of money, and his misfortune seemed to reach a climax in the death of his wife, which occurred February 20, 1861. August 18, 1863, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary M. Sheely, daughter of George and Eve C. Sheely, of Seneca County, Ohio. March 22, 1865, he came to Kosciusko County, Ind., with but \$10

in cash, and heavily burdened with debts. He gained a good practice in this county, and discharged all his debts in due time; since his arrival in Kosciusko County, his practice has steadily increased, and he has enjoyed a fair degree of success; he has retired from the practice, and has been succeeded therein by his son, Dr. M. L. Dick. In religion, he has always acted independently, and is not a member of any denomination. Politically, he is a cordial supporter of the principles embraced and advocated by the Democratic party. He is a man of upright character, and possesses the confidence and respect of his neighbors.

JOHN C. PACKER,

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

John C. Packer was born near North Georgetown, Columbiana Co., Ohio, on the 21st of June, 1836. His parents were Quakers, and early instilled into the mind of their son those principles of industry and thrift for which that denomination is famous. John remained at home, working on the farm and acquiring a rudimentary education at the common schools of the vicinity, until he was eighteen years of age, at which time he commenced to learn the carpenter's trade. He soon mastered the details of that business; and, with that spirit of energy that has always characterized him, commenced taking contracts for the erection of churches, schoolhouses, and public and private buildings of all kinds. He, at the same time, was running a large lumber-yard, a planing-mill, and other wood-working machinery, in all of which he was tolerably successful. He sold out his business in Ohio and removed to Indiana, arriving in this county on the 4th day of April, 1866, and at once embarked in the lumber trade, locating at what is known as "Packerstown," in Clay Township. From that day to this, he has been continuously engaged in the same business, running, sometimes, as many as four large mills at one time. To do this successfully, as he has, has required a strain upon the physical and mental faculties, such as but few men could stand up under. His mills were necessarily located at some distance from each other, it being over twenty miles between the two farthest apart, by the usually traveled road, and for years he was absolutely compelled to work and travel almost incessantly at night as well as day, to keep everything going as it should; but he is now reaping the reward of his labors, having accumulated a sufficient amount of this world's goods, to be able to take the world somewhat easier. He, however, is one of the kind that would rather wear out than rust out, and still displays his old energy in everything he undertakes. He was fortunate in the selection of a partner for life. On the 5th day of March, 1859, he was married to Miss Elizabeth S. Shaffer, of Mount Union, Stark Co., Ohio—an amiable and estimable lady, who has been a helpmeet indeed to him. They have six children living—two daughters, young ladies—and four sons.

Mr. Packer is just in the prime of life; and there are, without doubt, many years before him. It is to be hoped they will be as full of pleasure and profit to him as those that have passed over him.

CALVIN W. BURKET, M. D., WARSAW.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Calvin W. Burket was born in Hagerstown, Wayne Co., Ind., December 13, 1838. His ancestors were among the earliest settlers of the central portion of Indiana, and his paternal grandfather erected the first mill in Wayne County.

The subject of this sketch is a gentleman of keen intellect, studious habits and retentive memory, and at an early age had acquired a good common-school education. In 1859, he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Calvin West, an old and esteemed physician at Hagerstown, Ind.; but, at the firing of the first gun on Fort Sumter, he laid his books aside and enlisted in the Eleventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, under Col. Lew Wallace. At the expiration of his term of service, three months later, he returned to the field as Captain of Company I, Fifty-Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteers. He was severely wounded at the battle of Stone River January 1, 1863, but remained with his regiment until June, 1864, when he was forced, on account of his wound, to resign.

Returning to his home, he resumed the study of medicine, and attended two courses of lectures at Michigan University, Ann Arbor, Mich., and one course at the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio. From the latter institution he graduated in March, 1866. On the first day of April, 1866, he came to Warsaw and began the practice of medicine.

March 12, 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Mattie Elmer, of Centerville, Ind. This union was blessed by four fine, promising children—three sons and one daughter.

Dr. Burket is an active, energetic business man, and, in addition to the duties consequent upon an extensive and lucrative practice, he is actively interested in other enterprises which demand a large share of his attention.

He is in the prime of life, vigorous in constitution, and of good habits. As a physician, he possesses the confidence of all, and it is the wish of his many friends that his useful life may be prolonged in the community. His social qualities are of the highest order, and in private and public gatherings the Doctor and his amiable wife are recognized as leading spirits, lending, by their presence and conversation, a charm which none fail to notice.

IRWIN W. WEBBER, M. D.

BY COL. J. B. DODGE.

Irwin B. Webber was born March 31, 1846, in Deerfield, Portage Co., Ohio. His parents, John and Lucinda Webber, are old residents of the vicinity in which they reside. He was engaged in the usual vocation of farm life until he was fifteen years of age, varied by attending the public school during the winter season each year. At that time, he made up his mind to acquire a profession, and that, in order to do so, he must educate himself for it. Accordingly, he commenced working and saving, and studying to fit himself for teaching. This he succeeded in, a comparatively short time, in doing, and on the 10th of September, 1865, he entered Oberlin College. When he was only seventeen years of age, he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Eighty-Fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served nearly one year, when he was discharged. On his return home, he at once resumed his studies, and in 1867 and 1868, he was Principal of the Union School at Canal Fulton, Stark Co., Ohio. His leisure time was now engaged in the study of medicine and surgery, and he entered the office of Joseph Waggoner, M. D., of Ravenna, Ohio, in order to pursue his studies more methodically. After reading for nearly four years from the time that he first commenced, and having attended one course of lectures at the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, he graduated at the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery. On April 1, 1870, he commenced the practice of his profession in Warsaw.

On May 22, 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Jennie M. Wilson, of Owatonna, Minn., a daughter of Rev. W. S. Wilson, who was, for years, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Warsaw. They have one child, a son.