

PROGRESSIVE MEN AND WOMEN
OF
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY, INDIANA

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

A COMPREHENSIVE COMPENDIUM OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY—MEMOIRS OF EMINENT MEN
AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES, WHOSE DEEDS OF VALOR OR WORKS
OF MERIT HAVE MADE THEIR NAMES IMPERISHABLE.

ILLUSTRATED

EMBELLISHED WITH PORTRAITS OF MANY NATIONAL CHARACTERS AND WELL KNOWN
RESIDENTS OF KOSCIUSKO COUNTY, INDIANA.

LOGANSPORT, INDIANA.

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deceased. Mr. Michaels took for his second wife Miss Lavina Speglemyer and one child was born to this marriage, Delia M., who died when nine months old. On April 17, 1870, Mr. Michaels married his third wife, Mrs. Martha J. (Wells) Keesey, the widow of Benjamin F. Keesey. No issue resulted from this marriage. Mrs. Michaels had by her first husband five children: Florence J., Harriet, Mary A., deceased, William A., deceased, and Effie J. On January 13, 1889, Mr. Michaels moved on his present place, which was known as the old Wells farm, and since coming here has built a house, barn, outbuildings, and has cleared twenty acres. In his early life he worked very hard, but the last few years he has taken life easier. He is engaged in raising fine stock, particularly horses, besides the general operations of the farm. He is a Republican and has been supervisor for thirteen years and also served as constable of Jackson township. He has represented the township in county conventions many times, and is a leading politician. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren church, of which he has been steward and trustee.

JAMES H. BLUE.

This gentleman is a representative of another of the families that came here when this part of the country was a howling wilderness filled with wild animals and with roving bands of Indians. The subject of this memoir, when he was a boy, played with the little Indians many times, and before their removal became familiar with their

games and methods of hunting. The family came here in the year 1835, and it is said were the first white people to locate permanently in Franklin township. When they first came they had nothing but the wild tract of land, and at first were obliged to live in a small Indian hut. This answered the purpose until a substantial log cabin could be built. It was typical of the times, built of round logs, with a huge fireplace in one end, with puncheon floors and clapboard roof, set down in the midst of a little clearing in the dense woods. With this rude beginning in this county and with these wild and primitive surroundings, the Blues became Hoosiers in the correct meaning of the term and their cabin was a veritable "Hoosier's Nest."

• James H. Blue was born in Fayette county, Ohio, November 16, 1830, and is the child of Benjamin and Margaret (Riley) Blue. The Blues were originally from Scotland, thence went to Holland owing to religious persecution, and finally to America, as the only country where they could conduct their affairs as they desired. Peter Blue, grandfather of subject, was born in Virginia, and upon attaining manhood married Miss Susan Kelch and emigrated to Jefferson county, Ohio, where the latter owned a farm of over two hundred acres and followed farming as well as coopering, the latter being his trade. To him and wife eleven children were born, eight sons and three daughters. Benjamin, the ninth child and the father of subject, was born in December, 1802. While he was yet a lad his father moved to Fayette county, of that state, and there Benjamin was reared to man's estate. He attended the rude subscription schools of his neighborhood and managed to secure a fair

education in the primary branches, the three Rs being the leading studies of that time. His summers were spent at hard work on the farm. Peter Blue at the time of his death was possessed of a considerable estate, consisting mostly of land. This afforded some assistance to his family in getting a start in life. Benjamin, upon attaining manhood, sought the hand of Miss Margaret Riley in marriage and in 1823 their wedding occurred in Fayette county. Subject was unable at this time to buy land, and accordingly for twelve years he rented tracts and farmed same and managed to get a little ahead. But it was uphill business at best, and he thereupon determined to go farther west where land was cheaper and where his small savings would go as far as possible toward buying a farm. He made the trip to Indiana in 1834, traveling on horseback the most of the distance out and back, and while there learned that he could greatly better his condition. In the fall of 1835 he placed his family in covered wagons and came through as fast as possible to Kosciusko county, landing near Cunette, in Prairie township, where he and family spent the first winter. During this time he entered from the government a half-section of the best land he could find in what is now Franklin and Harrison townships, the entry being made February 16, 1836. This was during President Jackson's administration, though the deed was signed by Van Buren. He moved his family on this land and occupied the Indian hut, as before narrated. He was probably the first permanent settler in what is now Franklin township. A few scattering families were in the surrounding townships, but all else was wholly wild, unsettled and largely unexplored. They here be-

gan pioneer life in earnest. Mr. Blue was a man of great force of character and prodigious energy, and he and his family went to work in dead earnest to carve a home from the wilds. Wild and savage animals were often seen in the surrounding woods, and deer occasionally came into the clearings to steal the roasting ears. There was plenty to do for all members of the family. There was at all times the big trees to fell, heap and burn, the brush to get rid of, the stumps to dig out or burn out, the crops to sow and reap among the stumps and brush which came up again and again to annoy the settler. The boys were not permitted to become lonesome for want of work. And when they did occasionally have a frolic, such as a shooting contest, or a husking match, or a hunt of the neighborhood,—one of the circular sort, where a great many men would surround a large section of the forest and then slowly approach a common center, shooting all the animals that tried to break through the line,—they did not fail to enjoy themselves as well as some of the youths of the present day do. The old settlers declare to a man that they had better times than do the youth of today. From the sportsman's standpoint they certainly did, but perhaps not from the standpoint of the dress party. Ere long the family moved into a better and more commodious cabin than the old Indian hut. Every house was a log cabin in those days, and when a settler got able to build a double hewed-log house he was regarded as having made a marvelous advance. It was customary for the settlers, whenever a new one appeared, to gather in from many miles around and assist him in raising his log cabin. All the men would start in, cut down the trees of

about the proper size, cut them into suitable lengths, roll or haul them with oxen to the site of the proposed structure, where ax-men would notch them, whip off the bark and another gang would then hoist them to their places on the walls. Subject's father, and even himself, often participated in these "raisings." The father became familiar with all the best tracts of land in this vicinity by showing new settlers the desirable tracts as they came on for purposes of investigation. To Benjamin and wife the following children were born: Two that died in infancy; William, who married Miss Temperance Meredith; Sarah, who wedded John VanTreese; Peter, who married Miss Minerva Milburn, and has been married once since; James H.

James H. Blue was educated in the old log schoolhouse, with its greased paper windows and its puncheon floor. He applied himself diligently to his studies and was educated better than the average boy of that period. He remained hard at work on his father's farm until he attained his majority. In October, 1852, he went to Ohio where he found employment on a farm in tilling the soil, chopping wood and splitting rails. While thus engaged he became acquainted with Miss Phœbe, daughter of Elijah and Nancy Bloomer, and on July 19, 1855, they were married. The following January they came to this county and rented land of his father, and a little later bought eighty acres. This was in the woods, but he went to work to clear off the timber, and kept adding to his farm until at one time he owned three hundred and twenty acres. To himself and wife ten children were born: Elijah A., born May 26, 1856; John, born July 14, 1858; Charles, born September 13, 1860;

Margaret, born January 20, 1863; William J., born October 15, 1864; Benjamin F., born October 15, 1866; Marion E., born in November, 1868, and died January 30, 1877.

James H. Blue, like his father, is a member of the Democratic party. The father served this county in the state legislature about the year 1851 and was a man of unusual natural ability. The son has all of the father's good and strong qualities. He has served as supervisor and in other ways has made himself useful to the people of this vicinity. His name is above reproach and his life is blameless. He is one of the leaders of this portion of the county in all matters that tend to the upbuilding of the community. The county has no better farmer nor representative citizen.

PETER B. BLUE.

Among those who first braved the wilds of Kosciusko county, when the Indians were still here and the wild animals were everyday sights in the dense woods, is the subject of this sketch. He was born August 29, 1829, and was brought here by his father in 1835. At that time all of northern Indiana was an almost unbroken wilderness, with a general covering of heavy timber, but here and there interspersed with small open tracts or prairies. When they arrived here the Pottawattomie Indians were as thick as birds' nests, their wigwams dotting the banks of every little stream in the county. They fished and hunted and always brought in many skins of the game they killed. From them the subject learned to talk their

language so well that he had no trouble in making himself understood. He ran races with the little redskins and wrestled with them. They were generally friendly, but were ready at any suitable moment to take up the hatchet and strike terror into the homes of the pioneers. He learned from them their methods of hunting, and soon in all things was as expert as they were. He took part in the neighboring hunts when attempts were made on a large scale to kill off the wolves that infested the dense forest. His father, Benjamin Blue, was the first settler in this section of the county. Their land was wholly in the deep woods and the trees and brush had to be cleared off before a crop could be raised. He was set to work at an early age and soon learned from practical experience to know what was the meaning of the words "hard work." But there were many pleasures in the woods for all that. There were the shooting matches, where the young men would try their skill, and the racing, the hunting, the fishing, the reaping and the harvesting, the meetings under the big trees, where the old-fashioned circuit riders sang their wonderful sermons for hours at a time, the subscription schools and the three Rs and the master with his rod about ten feet or more in length (which they believed in, as did their parents). With them it was "spare the rod and spoil the child," and as they did not wish to do the latter, they administered allopathic doses of the rod, and the youngsters thrived under their administrations. Subject passed through all of this, but it seems almost incredible that such sweeping changes have been made in the comparatively short space of two or three generations. When subject was twenty years old his father gave him

his time and he began to do for himself. He went back to Ohio and worked there for one year in farming and cutting wood, and then returned to this county. He joined with his brother James and together they farmed their father's place for two years. He then made some changes, but remained with his father until he was twenty-six years old. On August 6, 1855, he was united in marriage with Miss Minerva Milburn, a sister of Austin Milburn. One child was born to this union, Elizabeth M., who became the wife of William Mollenhour, and died January 19, 1899. Mr. Blue's first wife died May 20, 1857, and after a time he wedded Elizabeth Grubbs, who bore him seven children, as follows: William F., born September 23, 1860, died in 1873; Austin born in February, 1863, married Miss Sarber and lives in Franklin township; Alonzo, born in May, 1865, wedded Miss Ollie Mollenhour and resides in Franklin township; Benjamin, born 1868, married Miss Amanda Whetstone and lives in Franklin township; James H. married Miss Ida Brewer and lives in Harrison township; John, who married Miss Pearl Rouch, lives with his father; Etta became the wife of Edward Halterman and lives in Athens, Fulton county. The subject's last wife died September 20, 1893, since which time he has resided with his son John. When the subject was first married he owned one hundred and twenty acres, all in the woods, and of this he cleared before he was married about twenty acres. He added to this farm from time to time until he at one time owned a total of four hundred and twenty acres. He has been a hard worker, and is so yet, despite his age. He is a Democrat and has filled several local positions

much to his own credit and to the satisfaction of his neighbors. He is widely known and has the respect and confidence of a large circle of friends. His long and busy life is rapidly drawing to a close, but when he finally passes over the river it will be with the knowledge that his life has been well and honorably spent.

G. W. WORLEY.

George W. Worley, county superintendent of schools of Kosciusko county, Indiana, and now residing in the city of Warsaw, is a native of the Buckeye state and was born in Ashland county, December 19, 1855, but has lived in Kosciusko county, Indiana, since his tenth year, his parents, Elisha R. and Mary J. Worley, having come to the county in 1865. The father for six years was engaged in the drug business at Silver Lake and then settled on a farm in Lake township, where his wife died in 1884, and where he still lives, at the age of seventy-five years. He is a Republican in politics and a Lutheran in religion and aided in founding the First Lutheran society at Silver Lake and financially in erecting the church edifice. The children born to Elisha R. and Mary J. Worley are two in number, namely: Dora, wife of Benjamin F. Van Camp, of Warsaw, and G. W., whose name opens this biographical memoir.

George W. Worley was educated fundamentally in the common schools at Silver Lake, but was so well instructed that he was able at the youthful age of sixteen years to enter upon the vocation of teacher. His first school was known as No. 2, of Seward

township, and his pupils were nearly all older than himself. But he proved to be fully adequate for the position, and his great success led him to decide upon teaching as his future pursuit in life. Many of his earlier pupils have also become teachers or members of other professions, some of them being quite prominent in their various callings. Mr. Worley's plan as an instructor was to mingle freely with his pupils and thus become familiar with their individual dispositions and win their confidence, a plan that proved to be fraught with satisfactory results and which he still adheres to. During vacations Mr. Worley attended the North Indiana Normal Institute at Valparaiso and resumed teaching when the summer season had passed. With the exception of six years when engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile at Silver Lake, Mr. Worley has taught school continuously. For three years he was principal of the school at Brookston, White county, but the remainder of the time has been devoted to the schools of Kosciusko county, six years of this time as principal at Silver Lake. He has always taken much interest in the educational work of the county and attends all teachers' meetings and society gatherings.

In December, 1895, Mr. Worley was elected county superintendent of schools and assumed the duties of the position at once, succeeding Prof. E. J. McAlpine, who died in office. Since entering upon his official duties Mr. Worley has been an enthusiastic friend of high schools and within the past seven years has encouraged their organization, six of which have been organized under his instrumentality, making fourteen in all, five being township high schools at Os-

of the wilder sport. He was born in Franklin township, this county, January 6, 1860, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Hartman) Mollenhour. (For sketch of the parents see the biography of Amos T. Mollenhour in this volume.) The old Mollenhour farm in part is now occupied by the thriving town of Sevastopol. It is hard to realize that this place so short a time ago was a wilderness, but such is the fact which actual observers can substantiate. The subject of this memoir was reared in this township on his father's farm. His father dying when he was five years old, he was put to work early to assist his mother, and thus at a tender age became familiar with hard work. As he became older he worked out and applied his wages to assist his mother. He was sent to school during the winters and managed to secure a fair education, his summers being spent at work in farming. Upon reaching manhood he met and married Miss Mary J. Morgan, daughter of John and Catherine (Sarber) Morgan, her parents being pioneers of this section of the county. Griffith Morgan was born in Australia and came to this country at a very early day, settling in Franklin township, on sections 10 and 11. There he lived until the day of his death. His son John, the father of Mrs. Mollenhour, was reared and married here. To him and wife were born thirteen children, as follows: Henry, Tilden, Sarah, William, George, Mary J. (subject's wife), Hiram, Rosella, Griffith, Humphrey L., Jennie, Isadora and Charles. These children were reared in this county in the woods, where they helped to clear off the trees. To subject and wife were born these children: Rosa P., born June 14, 1882, became the wife of Vernon Jones and lives

in Seward township; Minnie M., born January 7, 1884; George E., born February 18, 1886; Wilbur O., born December 19, 1887; Chancy O., born November 9, 1889; Harvey H., born January 12, 1892; Lydia C., born October 30, 1896. When subject was married he and his wife put together their little hoard and bought twenty-four acres of the old farm. He later became interested in the saw-mill at Sevastopol in partnership with his brothers, John and Isaac, continuing for seven years. He then bought his brothers' interests and continued in that business for a total of fifteen years. He then bought the farm of one hundred and sixty acres he now owns, of Sol Ansberger, and moved there in the spring of 1899. He made enough money in the mill business to pay for his farm and is now known as one of the substantial citizens of the county. Mrs. Mollenhour is a member of the Methodist Protestant church. He is a member of the Red Men's lodge at Burket. He cast his first and last vote for the Republican party and stands for its principles. He is respected by everybody.

WILLIAM J. BLUE.

This young and enterprising farmer and stock raiser is the son of the old settler and distinguished citizen, James H. Blue, and was born in Harrison township, this county, October 15, 1864. His mother was formerly Miss Phoebe Bloomer. His people are among the oldest settlers in this part of the state and are among the most prominent citizens. Many years ago his grandfather represented this county in the state legis-

per week and board, which was much better than he had done at home. He worked thus for two years, and then came to Sevastopol in the spring of 1883 and found employment in a grist-mill at thirty dollars per month and board. In September, 1884, he secured employment in the grist-mill at Mentone, the one now standing, which he assisted in equipping. There he remained until October, 1887, when he bought a one-third interest in the mill, the firm name being Mentzer, Tucker & Company. In February, 1890, Mentzer sold out to John W. Nichols and the firm name became Eddinger, Tucker & Company. February 20, 1892, Mr. Eddinger sold his interest in the mill and June 21, 1892, opened the Farmers' Bank of Mentone, the officers of which were as follows: A. C. Manwaring, president; M. E. Hise, vice-president; E. M. Eddinger, cashier; L. D. Manwaring, assistant cashier. In 1894 this bank bought out the Citizens' Bank, and then the officers became L. D. Manwaring, president; M. E. Hise, vice-president; E. M. Eddinger, cashier; Allen Bybee, assistant cashier. The bank has a paid-up capital of twenty thousand dollars and is in first-class shape. In his responsible position of cashier, much of the burden of the success of the bank falls on Mr. Eddinger's shoulders, but the responsibility could not be better placed.

On June 19, 1886, Mr. Eddinger was united in marriage with Miss Rosa V., daughter of Milton E. Hise, of Sevastopol, and to this union three daughters were born, as follows: Tural, born June 17, 1888; Oral C., born September 18, 1889; and Helen C., born February 14, 1895. In politics Mr. Eddinger is a Democrat, but does not take much interest in party affairs. He

is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having been past master and has also been representative in the grand lodge three times. He is the present treasurer of the local lodge. Mrs. Eddinger is a member of the Baptist church of Mentone. Mr. Eddinger is very highly respected and his good name is never called in question.

LYMAN L. MOLLENHOUR.

This well-known farmer and stock raiser is a descendant of one of the oldest families in the county. They came from Hancock county, Ohio, in 1828, or about that time, and settled in the wilderness when there were not more than half a dozen families in what is now this county. It would be difficult to describe the country at that time. Dense forests covered the land and stretched away in every direction, untouched by the hand of man. The Indians were still here and were usually friendly enough, but sometimes were just the reverse, and there was no telling when they might take it into their heads to dig up the hatchet and go on the war path. All species of game known to this latitude abounded, such as bear, deer, wolves, panthers, etc., and it required constant vigilance to save the stock from their depredations. It was not safe for people to be in the woods at night without fire. While all of the family were required to work hard in clearing off the big trees and the brush, yet the boys found plenty of time to hunt and the wild animals afforded excellent sport. The father of the subject passed through these experiences, but the subject came at a little later date and missed some

lature, and his father, a man of robust and intellectual manhood, is one of the strongest characters of this county. The grandfather came here when this county was nothing but a wilderness, and in the wilds reared his family to lives of usefulness and honor. His son, the father of subject, distinguished himself in all the walks of life and is today a splendid specimen of the American farmer of the twentieth century. Subject grew up on his father's farm near Mentone and received a good education and excellent moral training. The home life was pure and enlightened and he became a man with boundless possibilities. Desiring to see something of the West before settling down in life, he went to Kansas in 1884 and remained there about eighteen months, working at farming mainly and inspecting the country generally. Upon his return from that state he married Miss Anna R. Sarber, daughter of Christian and Susan (Hartman) Sarber, her mother being the widow of the old settler, Lyman Latimer. Mrs. Blue was born March 8, 1870. In her girlhood she received a fair education. She has borne her husband these children: Zelda H., born August 31, 1888; Tressa Fay, born April 4, 1890; Helen R., born December 19, 1893; Ralph W., born July 14, 1899. Mr. Blue moved upon the farm where he now resides, one-fourth of a mile east of Mentone, in Harrison township, and in 1895 he bought eighty acres of the old Sarber farm and moved upon it. He is now conducting general farming operations and has been very successful. He is a Democrat in politics, as was his father and grandfather before him, and is one of the most efficient workers of his party in this portion of the county. He has represented his township in county

conventions and in other ways has shown his regard for pure civic administration. In the fall of 1900 he was elected assessor of Harrison township by a majority of twenty-four in a township whose normal Republican majority is from twenty to twenty-five. This shows the respect in which he is held and the confidence of his fellow citizens in his honesty and ability.

MATHIAS W. LUTES.

This well known citizen is another of the gallant boys who, about forty years ago, enlisted to save the Union. He was little more than a boy when he went out to fight his country's battles and during that ever memorable struggle he was found ready for action. He did not enter the service as some did, from motives of sport and frolic, but saw beneath the surface and realized that the South was determined to break up the Union for the purpose of establishing a confederacy of slave-holding states. From his earliest years he had been taught to hate slavery and to do all he could to obliterate in from this country's escutcheon. He regarded it as a foul blot on the old flag, so that when the rebels precipitated the conflict he was ready to take up arms to preserve the Union. Mr. Lutes was born in Fulton county, Ohio, November 23, 1843, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Donut) Lutes. The Lutes family are of German descent and natives of Pennsylvania, and when Henry was seven years old he was brought to Wayne county, Ohio, and there grew to manhood on his father's farm. He attended the pioneer schools and received a