

HISTORY
OF
BARRY
COUNTY

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HISTORY
OF
BARRY COUNTY

BY
HON. W. W. POTTER

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ILLUSTRATED
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With Biographical Sketches of
Prominent Men

BY
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PREFACE

IT is not claimed that the following is a complete history of Barry County. It is only intended to sketch the most prominent points of county history as distinguished from the history of the several townships and individual biography. The biographical sketches of prominent men which follow, fill out and amplify the outline of county history which is here presented, and when these are considered in connection with the brief history which follows, they give a fairly accurate account of Barry county.

WILLIAM W. POTTER.

Dated November 1st, 1912.

History of Barry County

Introduction

It is difficult to segregate local events from those of wider influence. The history of Barry County, though replete with happenings of special interest to her people, is intimately interwoven with that of the state and nation.

Michigan, in common with all the region of the lakes, has been the scene of events of mighty significance in the fate of nations. It was here that the current of English colonization, flowing from Jamestown and Plymouth Rock, met that of France starting from Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa. The region of the lakes was at once the Keystone in the arch of French influence radiating from Louisiana and Quebec, and the link sought to be forged to connect the chain of British posts along the Atlantic seaboard, with those of the Hudson's Bay Company. For a hundred years through Indian feuds and colonial wars the struggle for control continued; but it was not until after Montcalm surrendered to Wolfe that the British exercised a dominant influence on the affairs of the two peninsulas.

Geology

The surface of Barry County is covered with glacial drift of varying depth, so that while many fossils are found but few of them are where they were formed. As the icy masses of the glacial period moved southward the moraines left their traces behind in the lines of granite boulders. It is due, perhaps, to the fact that these great masses were breaking up when they reached this region that the surface of the county is so broken. Post glacial evidences of great antiquity are abundant in the bogs and marshes, and in the beds of peat and marl may be read the open book of later geological periods. Here roamed the elk, the moose, the mastodon, and with them primeval man with rude implements of stone struggled for the mastery.

Cut from east to west by the Thornapple river, which drains perhaps more than one-half the county, the southern portion be-

longs to the valley of the Kalamazoo. Its undulating surface of hills and dales is dotted by more than a hundred small lakes of varying sizes. The southern portion was originally covered with oak openings, for centuries kept clear of underbrush by the forest fires of the natives; the northern, central and eastern portions were covered with beech and maple, plentifully besprinkled with ash and basswood and giant elms, while here and there a lonely pine raised its head above the surrounding forest. Swamps and marshes abounded, and from their stagnant waters arose swarms of mosquitoes now unknown. No other portion of Michigan of like size is more diversified in soil. Alexander Winchell called the height of land between the Kalamazoo and the Thornapple, "Barry Summit." It reaches an elevation of more than two hundred and fifty feet above Lake Michigan. Its highest elevation is said to be just south of Pine lake in Hope township, at a point designated on the early maps as "Mt. Hope."

The First White Men

When the region now known as Barry County was first visited by white men is not certainly known. No sooner was New France settled than the fur trade excited the cupidity of the sons of sunny France, and hundreds of young men, tired of the tales of undiscovered Eldorados, which still lured on Spanish chivalry, embarked in the fur trade. Through their influence the savages were first prevailed upon to bring their furs to market on the St. Lawrence. Competition, born of greed, drove them on relentlessly. Soon they were not content to wait the action of the shiftless savages. They plunged into the wilderness and visited the Indian in his native haunts. Every river in the whole northwest echoed with the wild chansons of these runners of the woods, as bending with each glittering paddle stroke, they drove forward their frail crafts, upon the water highways of the north. They learned the Indian language, courted the dusky maidens beneath the forest's shade, formed with their family, ties which bound the tribes to them, and shared the rude life and reckless abandon of the savages, but plied industriously their avocation with their friends. The French fur trader left no records. It is probable that the streams and Indian villages of Barry County were familiar to fur traders nearly, if not quite, a century before the American revolution.

Soon after the fleur de lis of France was supplanted by the Cross of St. George we find authentic records showing a familiar knowledge with the interior of Michigan. In 1772 the Indian department of the British at Detroit made a record of the estimated distance to various places in the Indian country toward the Mississippi, and in it is given the distance "to one of the branches of the Grand River or Washtanong that falls into Lake Michigan," the distance "to Reccanamazoo river," and the distance "to the Prairie Ronde," showing a familiarity with the location of the Thornapple.

In 1778 Louis Chabollier, one of the proprietors of the general store at Mackinac, was granted a license to trade with two canoes on the Grand river. Barthe, Lefevre and Bouropa are also named as traders on the Grand.

In 1779 Charles Langlade, who is frequently mentioned in Henry's travels, was sent by Major DePeyster, then in command at Mackinac, as an emissary to incite the Grand River Indians to assist Capt. Hamilton in his expedition against Vincennes. After this place had been recaptured by Col. Clark in the spring of 1779, in a manner so graphically depicted by Maurice Thompson in "Alice of Old Vincennes," DePeyster speaks of the Virginians having sent belts to the Ottawas and Chippeways of the Grand River inviting them to stay at home, and of the Grand River traders being on their way to Mackinac. Lieutenant Bennett, sent from Mackinac to St. Joseph to intercept an expedition from Colonel Clark's army, expected to pass that way, on its route to Detroit, was at the mouth of the Kekalamazoo river fifteen leagues north of St. Joseph.

In 1795, when General Wayne was in command of the forces of the United States sent against the Indians of the Northwest, Alexander McKenzie, employed by the Indian department of the British at Detroit, reported that starting from Detroit to St. Joseph on February fifth, 1795, he arrived on the ninth at the house of "a trader named Pepan on the Kekalamazoo river who is furnished goods by George McDougall, merch't of Detroit," and February eleventh, of arriving at Kekalamazoo and going to the house of Mr. Burrill, where he ascertained that persons whom he met there were on their way to Muskegon to invite the Indians there to a council to be held at Fort Wayne the following spring.

During the War of 1812, Messrs. Joseph Bailey, E. Lamorandie, McBurnett, Bourasse and Coursalle were all traders on the Grand and vicinity. In March, 1815, Joseph Cadotte, probably a relative of the family of the same name mentioned by Henry and made by Mrs. Catherwood to play an important part in "The White Islander," was sent to the Grand River to bring in from eighty to one hundred Indian warriors to be used in the defense of Fort Mackinac. The Grand River Indians, under the leadership of the British, played an important part in the War of 1812.

Trading Posts

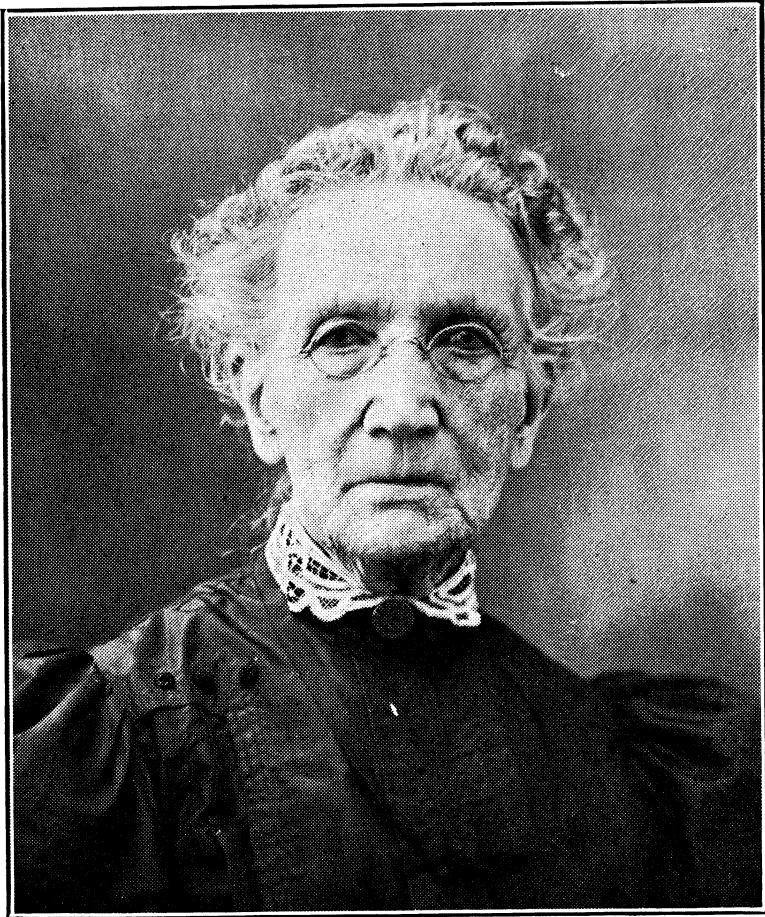
Competition in the fur trade, after the organization of the American Fur Company, of which John Jacob Astor was the moving spirit and financial head, grew more keen. That institution sought to stifle individual initiative in the fur trade, to bring under the control of its posts all of the fur business not only of Michigan but of what is now the neighboring states, to stretch its line of influence even to the Pacific, to establish and perpetuate a great monopoly, in what was then the source of the forests' greatest wealth, much as the Hudson's Bay Company did for two hundred years in Canada. To that end trading posts were established on all of the important streams which flowed from the interior of the state, at such points as would be most sure to intercept trade with the Indians in that vicinity.

In 1796 one LaFramboise established a post at the junction of the Grand and the Thornapple rivers. He was killed by the Indians in 1809, and from his death until 1821 the post was continued under the control of Madame LaFramboise, his widow. In 1821 Rix Robinson assumed control of this important post together with those of the American Fur Company on the Kalamazoo.

The United States acquired title to the territory of which Michigan forms a part by the treaty of Paris in 1783, but the British did not surrender the military posts in Michigan until after the Western Indians beaten by "Mad Anthony" Wayne concluded the treaty of Greenville in 1795 and the British had ratified Jay's treaty in 1796. When these were surrendered, the British surrendered little else, for they still controlled to a great extent the savage denizens of the wilds.

The Chippeways transferred their title to the southeastern

portion of Barry County to the United States by the treaty of Saginaw in 1819, and the combined tribes of the Chippeways, Pottawatamies and Ottawas gave up their claims to the north-



*Mrs. Willard Hayes, One of the First White Women to Come to Hastings.
She Arrived There in October, 1837*

western part of the county by the treaty of Chicago in 1821. As soon as the Indian title was extinguished active preparations were made to open it to settlement. Barry County was surveyed in

1826 and 1827, and it was not long before the tide of emigration reached its confines.

In 1827 James Moreau established, and for nearly a decade maintained, a trading post on the Thornapple, near what was later known as Bull's Prairie. Close at hand were the wigwams of the savages, and not far away the burying-ground where the deceased members of the tribe were buried. Near this place the first government surveyors designated upon their plats "Indian Cornfields." Another enterprising trader, tradition points to Chabollier, at a time believed to have been considerable earlier than that at which Moreau's post was established, erected a block house on Scales Prairie in Thornapple township. This post was near "to one of the branches of the Grand river" mentioned in the British Narrative of 1772, where "there is another village of Pottawatamies of eight large cabins," and this village was the middle village, the Pottawatamie village midway between that on the Kekalamazoo and that upon the Washtanong or Grand. When Grand Rapids was first settled the fruit trees, then in bearing, from Scales Prairie were removed to the banks of the Grand. We may ask who built this block house, and seek the date which saw it raised. The only answer from the forest's gloom of long ago is, we do not know.

Barry Ideal Indian Ground

Barry County was ideal Indian ground. Here the red man held sway in barbarous majesty, or crouched cold and shivering in his rude bark wigwam drenched with rain and sleet. Here he danced the weird dance, recounted his valorous deeds in war and performed that sacred rite of sacrifice, the burning of a snow white dog to appease the Manitou. The dense timber sheltered his wigwam, generally put up near some bubbling spring, from the severity of nature's storms. Wild grapes, plums, berries and pawpaws in season were abundant. The walnut, the hickory and the beech furnished nuts in profusion. Maize and potatoes were native on this continent. Harriet Martineau after a visit to Michigan declared her belief that Milton must have been familiar with this region before he penned the garden scenes of Paradise Lost. The broad sheets of bark from the massive elm seemed designed for wigwam covering; the whitewood, tall, soft and light, seemed to grow especially to be fashioned into pirogues,

adapted to navigate the rocky rapids of the inland streams. The myriad small lakes, scintillating like diamonds against a background of forest green, teemed with all varieties of fresh water fish, and even now at the call of "back to nature" these self same lakes are peopled in the summer time by cottagers who on their verdant shores seek respite from the heated city's throng. Deer were plentiful, and here also lived the black bear, the plague of settlers' pig pens, and an object of totemism among the Ottawas. When the early white settlers came to occupy with homes the lands of Barry County, the beaver had already disappeared before the fierce onslaughts of the fur traders, who for more than a century had plied their trade assiduously in all the forest wilds of Michigan. The otter, mink, raccoon, and fox, have either disappeared like the wild pigeons which once darkened the skies, or their number have been decimated by the keen rapacity of modern industrialism. Wild turkeys roamed the timbered lands and oak openings, and ducks and geese sought homes in all the lakes and streams. In a region possessing such a wealth of resources it was but natural that the Indian should live in great numbers.

In 1835 when Joseph S. Blaisdell, the first settler of Assyria, located there, he found Indian villages on both sections twenty-four and twenty-five of that township, the one of about thirty lodges and the other of twenty or slightly fewer. Rude fences of brush protected their patches of corn from the nightly visits of the deer. Close by was the graveyard and a part of the Indian council house was still standing, until 1850 Capt. C. D. Morris built his residence upon its site.

During the winter season many of these villagers left the Wanondaga and encamped near the head waters of the Basquon. On the shores of Bristol lake there was a village of about twenty wigwams presided over by a chief whose very name has been forgotten.

There were many red men near Thornapple lake, the home of fish and fur, and not far from what is now known as Indian Landing were Indian cornfields, and at an early day there was erected near the bubbling spring, a short distance from the lake, a lodge, used as a school house and church by the Indians, many of whom when the Federal government ordered the removal of the

Pottawatamies west of the Mississippi in 1840 took title to small parcels of land in the vicinity.

The late Mrs. Willard Hayes, who with her father, Daniel McLellan, came to Hastings township in 1837, speaks of there being about a hundred Indian families encamped along the north side of the river near the Michigan avenue bridge in Hastings, and tells of an Indian medicine dance near their home, probably at the village near Indian Landing, at which two thousand Indians were present. As late as 1855 school district number five of Hastings township was organized on the petition of seven Indians who held lands on section twenty-five in that township.

Gun lake was near the border line between the Pottawatamies, the Chippeways and the Ottawas, all however branches of the Algonquin family. Under the provisional treaty of Washington in 1836, it was agreed that at a council to be held for that purpose, the chiefs of the tribes should designate three classes of half breeds, or persons of partial Indian origin, who should be entitled to share in the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars set apart by the treaty, "as a fund for said half breeds." The classes of persons entitled to share in this fund were determined by their relative influence in the tribe. Classes one and two were made up of chiefs; class three was not made up of chiefs, but included in class three is Penasee or Gun Lake. Perhaps the most prominent and most important band of Indians in Barry County was the mixed band of Ottawas, Chippeways and Pottawatamies, who in 1838 numbered about one hundred fifty souls, and who then lived upon the peninsula jutting far into Gun Lake from the eastern shore and now occupied by the Hastings Gun Lake Association, and who also lived and raised their corn near the land now platted as the "Wigwams." Sagimaw, said by the early historians to have been a man of strict integrity, noble bearing, of great good sense and a distinguished gentleman, was the acknowledged chieftain. This band was removed by Rev. James Selkirk in 1838 to Wayland township, Allegan county. Many of their descendants now live near Bradley. Sagimaw was killed, distinguished gentleman though he may have been, in 1845 by his son-in-law, in a drunken brawl. Penasee, Gun Lake, or the "Bird," the half breed mentioned in connection with the treaty of 1836, followed him as chief, and upon his death he was succeeded by She-pe-quonk, or Big Thunder, more commonly known

among the whites as Moses Foster. One McKnight, who in 1836 or 1837 lived upon section nine in Orangeville township, and Joseph Coffin, who prior to 1840 lived upon section three of the same township, kept up a brisk trade with the Gun Lake Indians in furs and "fire water." The Indians of the Middle village on Scales Prairie, as long as they lived in Michigan, returned each year. In the summer of 1840 more than one hundred families of Indians encamped about this, the home of their fathers. There were many families among the oak openings on the south bank of the Coldwater; and in the northeastern part of the county, in the vicinity of Jordan and Sobby lakes dwelt many tribesmen under the leadership of Chief Sawba, who was regarded by the early pioneers as a bad Indian and who had the disagreeable habit of going to the shanties of the early settlers, intimidating the women and children, ransacking the cupboards and carrying off whatever pleased his fancy.

Slater's Mission and Noonday

Rev. Leonard Slater, who in 1826 had founded a mission at the rapids of the Grand, fearful that the degrading influences of civilization would counteract his efforts to Christianize these worshippers of Pagan deities, resolved in 1836 to remove his mission to Prairieville, and in 1836 and 1837 he brought to sections twenty-six and twenty-seven of that township perhaps three hundred Indians. Here he erected a church and a school house and here the Indians dwelt until 1852, when they were removed beyond the "Father of Waters." Easily the most distinguished of the Slater Indians were Chief Noonday, a man over six feet in height, broad shouldered and well proportioned; a man of wonderful muscular power, he easily maintained his leadership among the savage tribes of the Grand River valley, whose legions he had led against the Americans during the War of 1812. It is claimed that he was present at the burning of Buffalo, took part in the battle of the Thames, and personally witnessed the death of Tecumseh, then a brigadier general in the British army. He became attached to Rev. Slater and when the mission was removed from Grand Rapids to Prairieville, Noonday came to this county, where he died and is buried. The late Henry Little of Richland thus describes Mrs. Noonday:

"Her ladyship, Mrs. Noonday, was a short, dumpy, unassum-

ing lady of the old school. Nature had not seen fit to make her very attractive by the bewitching fascinating charms of personal beauty, but what little there might have been of feminine comeliness in her features had been sadly marred by an ugly scar on the left side of her face."

Whatever may be said of the treatment of the settlers elsewhere by the Indians, there was never any serious cause for complaint here. The two races intermarried to some extent and in



Cornelius Mason on the Site of Noonday's Cabin Near Cressey

many families there runs the blood of the native Americans who once could call this country their native land.

The Indians throughout the west were invited to join the uprising of Black-hawk. A grand council of the savages was held at Gull Lake to determine whether the savages of this locality would join the insurrection or not. This council is thus described by Mr. Frank Little in the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society collections:

"A few days after this I attended a grand council of the Indian chiefs held in a mammoth wigwam near the shore of West

Gull Lake. This was to ascertain the temper of the Indians of the locality in reference to the Black-Hawk insurrection. The chiefs in full dress were seated in a great circle upon valuable robes, mats and skins of animals spread upon the ground. A more grave, imposing body of men I never saw. The calumet or pipe of peace, of elaborate workmanship, was slowly passed around the circle and each took a whiff in silence. Then speeches began in regular order of age and rank. It was found that the young men were for war but the older, experienced sachems counselled peace."

In any event the Michigan Indians remained neutral.

Indian Traits and Habits

The Indian seldom had a permanent residence. He generally lived where he could live the easiest, prompted but slightly by a desire to provide for the future. During the spring he went where the fishing was best; during the summer he raised his tee-pee near some swamp or berry patch. In the later winter and early spring many of them went to the timbered lands to make maple sugar. After making an incision in the tree they fixed under it a wooden spile along which the sap flowed to drop in a birch bark bucket, constructed by binding together the four corners of a piece of birch bark. The sap thus collected at the time the early settlers came to this country was boiled down in brass kettles, procured by the savages from Mackinac traders. When the sugar season was over the sugar was packed in mococks or birch bark hampers for convenience in carrying, and the birch bark buckets were unlaced and stretched out and dried and then piled one on top of the other; after being well dried the buckets and kettles were cached until the following spring, when they were dug up again and used for sugar making.

Formation of Barry County

Barry County was formed by act of the Territorial legislature of April 29, 1829, along with a number of other counties in the state, taking their names from men prominent in national affairs at the time,—Jackson, Berrien, Cass, Calhoun, Van Buren, Barry, Eaton, Ingham and Livingston. Barry County taking its name from William T. Barry, Postmaster General of the United States under President Jackson.

By act of November 4, 1829, the counties of Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Branch, Barry and Eaton, and much of the country north of the base line and west of the principal meridian south of the county of Michillmackinac, was attached to and formed a part of St. Joseph County. The next day, November 5, 1829, an act was passed which provided that the counties of Kalamazoo and Barry and all of the country lying north of the same which was attached to and formed a part of St. Joseph County by the previous act, should form the township of Brady, and that the first township meeting was to be held at the house of Abram J. Shaver in said township. This house was on the west side of Prairie Ronde. When Kalamazoo County was organized, July 30th, 1830, Calhoun, Barry and Eaton counties were attached to it for judicial purposes. The first court was held at the house of Abraham J. Shaver on Prairie Ronde. Over this court presided as one of the county Associate Judges, Bazil Harrison, said to have been the hero of Cooper's "Bee Hunter."

Early Settlers

Barry County was not on the direct line of travel toward the west, but in 1831 Amasa S. Parker, a native of Connecticut, and the first white settler who took title to land in Barry County, built a house in Prairieville township. Orville Barnes, in 1833, settled in the same township. In 1834 Rev. Moses Lawrence, a local Methodist preacher, came into what is known as Barry township and located lands on sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight. His nearest neighbor was Amasa S. Parker, mentioned above. The same year Charles W. Spaulding located lands on section twenty-three in Prairieville township. Calvin G. Hill settled in Thornapple township in 1834, and the next year Henry Leonard came to the same township. Joseph Blaisdell came to Assyria in 1836, and the same year Samuel Wickham settled in Carlton township; Slocum H. Bunker in Hastings township; George Brown in Orangeville; Lorenzo Cooley and Estes Rich in Rutland; Calvin Lewis in Yankee Springs; Albert E. Bull in Irving, and Harlow Merrill and William P. Bristol in Johnstown.

The Township of Barry

It was provided by the Ordinance of 1787 that as soon as any of the states to be formed out of the Northwest Territory should

have a population of sixty thousand free inhabitants, it should be admitted by its delegates into the Congress of the United States. In 1832 the people of Michigan voted in favor of statehood, but the Black Hawk war and the ravages of the cholera compelled postponement of action. According to a census of the state taken in 1834 the state had a population of eighty-seven thousand two hundred seventy-eight. A constitutional convention was convened, the constitution of 1835 prepared, submitted to the people, and ratified by them at an election held for its adoption or rejection. A general election was held and a governor and state legislature chosen, and a complete state government organized, although the state was not recognized by Congress as being admitted into the Union until 1837. In the meantime the state Legislature was busy. March 23, 1836, it passed an act providing for the organization of the township of Barry, with boundaries co-extensive with the County of Barry, and the first township meeting of the township so organized was to be held at the house of Nicholas Campbell in said township (in what is now Prairieville township) on April 4, 1836.

At this, the first township meeting in the new township of Barry, it was necessary to organize the voters before holding a township meeting, and Charles W. Spaulding was chosen Moderator and Orville Barnes was chosen Clerk of the meeting. After the organization of the township meeting the voters proceeded to an election of township officers. At this, the first township election, there seems to have been plenty of offices in Barry township. Calvin G. Hill, who then lived in what is now Thornapple, was chosen Supervisor; Orville Barnes, who had come from Gull Prairie to what is now the township of Prairieville, was chosen Township Clerk; Benjamin Hoff, who resided in the township of Barry and who died of cholera in 1838; Henry Leonard, who resided in what is now the township of Thornapple, and Charles W. Spaulding, were elected Assessors. Amasa S. Parker, the first settler in Barry County; Nicholas Campbell, at whose house the first township meeting was held, and Calvin G. Hill, were elected Commissioners of Highways. Orville Barnes, Charles W. Spaulding, Benjamin Hoff and Calvin Hill were elected Justices of the Peace. William Campbell, a brother of Nicholas Campbell, was elected Collector; Charles W. Spaulding, Benjamin Hoff,

and Luther Hill, a brother of Calvin G. Hill, were elected School Commissioners. Linus Ellison, who was one of the first settlers in what is now Prairieville township and who sold his farm to Isaac Otis and removed to what is now Barry township, and Moses Lawrence, the pioneer preacher of Barry township, were elected Commissioners of the Poor. Lewis Moreau and William Campbell were elected Constables. It seems that Calvin G. Hill must have discovered that he had too many offices, because he resigned the office of Supervisor, and at a special township meeting held later, Isaac Otis was elected Supervisor to fill the vacancy. At this time Barry County was attached for governmental purposes to Kalamazoo County, and the Supervisors of the township of Barry were members of the Board of Supervisors of Kalamazoo County. The tide of emigration toward the west was now in full swing and during the years 1836 and 1837 the population of Barry County rapidly increased. It reached 512 in 1837. Internal improvements, wildcat banks and paper cities everywhere sprang up during this period of reckless speculation; then came the financial panic of 1837; the collapse of these inflated schemes, and most of those who came west to find homes in Barry County were too poor to get away, even had they been so inclined.

At the second annual township meeting of the township of Barry held at the house of Charles W. Spaulding in 1837, Isaac Otis was elected Supervisor of the township of Barry and Ambrose Mills was chosen as County Clerk; Duty Benson, who lived in what is now Thornapple township; Thomas Bunker, who lived in what is now the city of Hastings, and Charles W. Spaulding, were chosen Assessors; Ephraim Block, Eli Waite, and William Lewis, afterward famous as the proprietor of the Mansion House of Yankee Springs and prominent in the early political history of this county, were chosen as Commissioners of Highways. George Brown, who then lived in what is now the township of Orangeville, near Pine Lake; Henry Leonard, and Isaac Otis were elected as Justices of the Peace. Ambrose Mills, who died of cholera in 1838, was elected Collector, and Benjamin S. Dibble, who kept the first postoffice at Middleville near what is now Gates Corners, was elected School Commissioner; and Timothy G. Johnson, Isaac Messer and Ambrose G. Mills were chosen as Constables.

Early Settlements

In the Michigan Gazetteer, published under date of 1837, speaking of Barry County it is said: "The county is new and not yet extensively settled, though it is said to be rapidly increasing in population. The principal settlements are Middle Village, Bulls Prairie, Hastings upon the Thornapple, Yankee Springs upon the road leading from Grand Rapids in Kent to Gull Prairie in Kalamazoo."

In 1838 Barry County was divided by an act of the Legislature into four townships; the northeast quarter of the county was called Hastings township; the northwest quarter of the county was called Thornapple; the southeast quarter of the county was called Johnstown and the southwest quarter of the county was called Barry. The first township meeting in Hastings township as then organized, was held at the house of Slocum H. Bunker; the first meeting in the township of Thornapple was held at the house of Benjamin E. Dibble; the first township meeting in the township of Johnstown was held at the house of William P. Bristol, and the first township meeting after this division in the township of Barry, was held at the house of John Mills. After these townships in Barry County were organized it continued to be for all government purposes a part of Kalamazoo County until after the passage of the act of March 15, 1839.

Barry Still Attached to Kalamazoo

At the first township meeting of the township of Barry, after the division of the county into four townships, held in the spring of 1838, Ambrose Mills was chosen Supervisor and Peter Falk was chosen Township Clerk. At the first township meeting in the township of Thornapple, Calvin G. Hill was chosen Supervisor and Henry Leonard, Clerk. At the first township meeting held in the township of Hastings, after the township of Barry was subdivided into four townships, Thomas H. Bunker was chosen as Supervisor; Willard Hayes, Clerk, and Slocum H. Bunker, Commissioner of Highways.

At the first township meeting held in the township of Johnstown, S. V. R. Rork was chosen Supervisor; Harlow Merrill, Clerk, and Cleveland Ellis, who lived in what is now the township of Assyria, was chosen as Treasurer.

The several townships in Barry County were still attached to

Kalamazoo County for all governmental purposes and the several Supervisors above named were members of the Board of Supervisors of Kalamazoo County until the provision was made for the organization of Barry County in 1839.

The "Sickly Season"

Among the early settlers of Barry County the "sickly season" of 1838 was long referred to as the distinct epoch from which they marked time, just as in later years they marked it from the "cold New Year's" and the "smoky fall." Physicians disagree as to what the disease then prevalent was. It is doubtful whether it was cholera or not. At any event the epidemic swept over the northern states, and it was particularly fatal in this county, where notwithstanding the sparse population during the summer of 1838, in the township of Barry alone more than twenty people died. Among them were Ambrose Mills, then the Supervisor of the township of Barry, and Benjamin Hoff, one of the early pioneers, who had been prominent in local affairs. The visitation of the disease was looked upon by the superstitious as the curse of God, but with the coming of the cold weather the disease subsided, but not until many families had been wiped out.

Organization of Barry County

After the passage of the act of March 15, 1839, entitled "An act to organize the County of Barry," and on the first Monday in April, 1839, a general election was held in Barry County to elect all the several county officers to which by law the county was entitled.

The following were the first county officers of Barry County after its organization in April, 1839: Probate Judge, Stephen V. R. Rork; Associate Judges, Nathan Barlow and Isaac Otis; Sheriff, Willard Hayes; County Clerk, Thomas B. Bunker; Register of Deeds, Abner C. Parmelee; Treasurer, Charles W. Spaulding, and the three County Commissioners hereinafter named.

On April 13, 1839, the County Commissioners of Barry County, three in number, in whom was then vested powers substantially similar to those vested in the Board of Supervisors at the present time, met in the village of Hastings and organized. Calvin G. Hill of Thornapple, John Bowne of Barry (afterward

Prairieville), and Nelson Barnum of Hastings, were the three Commissioners. Calvin G. Hill was chosen Chairman of the Board. At this meeting John J. Nichols of Barry, John W. Bradley of Yankee Springs and William P. Bristol of Johnstown were chosen Superintendents of the Poor, and after authorizing the payment of a few bounties for wolves the board adjourned.

In the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners for July 17, 1839, there is an abstract of the first assessment rolls of the various townships in Barry County then organized, as follows:

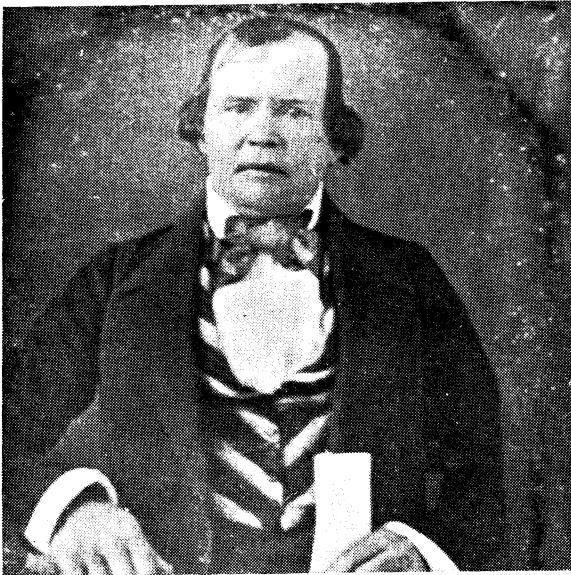
Township	Acres	Value		Total
		Real Estate	Per. Prop.	
Hastings	69,451	\$241,246	\$ 2,398	\$243,644
Johnstown	63,092	189,829	2,097	191,926
Barry	50,581	151,743	9,768	161,511
Yankee Springs	31,813	96,888	4,826	101,714
Thornapple	28,281	88,884	2,395	87,239
Total	243,318	\$768,550	\$21,484	\$786,034

The total taxes spread according to the report of the County Commissioners at their meeting of October 15, 1839, was as follows:

Township	State Tax	County Tax	Township Tax	Highway Tax	Poor Tax	Total
Yankee Springs...\$	203.43	\$ 152.57	\$ 212.21	\$ 558.09	.....	\$1,126.30
Barry	323.03	242.27	392.24	.....	\$15.00	972.54
Thornapple	174.48	130.86	170.38	66.679	.....	1,142.51
Johnstown	383.86	287.89	272.72	1,347.86	.....	2,292.33
Hastings	487.29	365.46	203.49	1,842.64	.....	2,898.88
Total	\$1,572.09	\$1,179.05	\$1,251.04	\$4,415.38	\$15.00	\$8,432.56

The south half of Thornapple township, as originally organized, now forming the townships of Rutland and Yankee Springs was, by act of the Legislature of March 22, 1839, set off from the township of Thornapple and organized as the township of Yankee Springs; the first township meeting was held at the "Mansion House" of "Yankee Bill" Lewis. Rutland did not long remain a part of Yankee Springs, for on April 17, 1839, the east half of the township of Thornapple, as originally organized, including what is now the townships of Rutland and Irving, was by an act of the Legislature, set off and organized into the township of Irving; the first township meeting in the new township so created was held at the house of Albert E. Bull. In 1841 the township

of Barry was divided and the two west townships, which are now Prairieville and Orangeville, were organized as the township of Spaulding, and the place for the first township meeting of the new township was the house of Hiram Lewis, and the place of meeting of the next annual township meeting of the township was fixed at the "white school house" in district number thirteen of the present township of Barry, at Hickory Corners.



"Yankee" Lewis, from a Daguerreotype Taken in Detroit in 1846, When he Represented Barry and Allegan Counties in the State Legislature

Townships Organized

In 1842 Hastings township, as originally organized, was divided by act of the Legislature into the present townships of Carlton, Castleton, Woodland and Hastings. The first township meeting in Woodland was held at the house of Alonzo Barnum, the first township meeting in the township of Castleton was held at the house of William A. Ware, and the first township meeting in the township of Carlton was held at the house of William McCauley. The name of the township of Yankee Springs was un-

doubtedly changed to Gates, but when this was done we have been unable to find; but, in any event, in 1848 the Legislature passed an act changing the name of the township again from Gates to Yankee Springs, and by that name the township is still known. In 1843 the name of the township of Spaulding was changed to that of Prairieville. By act of the Legislature of February 29, 1844, the two eastern townships of Johnstown, as originally organized, were set off and organized as the township of Assyria, and the first township meeting in that township was held at the house of Cleveland Ellis. In 1846 the township of Maple Grove was set off from Assyria and the first township meeting was held at the house of Henry Deens. In 1847 the township of Rutland was set off from Irving and the first township meeting was held at the house of David Rork. The present township of Baltimore was set off from Johnstown, as originally organized, by act of the Legislature of March 15, 1849, and the first township meeting was held at the house of Bardsley S. Blanchard in said township. And finally in 1850 the township of Hope was set off from Barry and the first township meeting was held in the house of Alvah Mott.

With the admission of the state into the Union the Legislature under the constitutional power to encourage internal improvements, began laying out and establishing state roads.

Early Road Making

Long before Michigan became a state it was apparent that better roads were necessary to accommodate the incoming settlers seeking homes in Michigan. Prairie Ronde in Kalamazoo County was settled in 1828; Gull Prairie in 1830. Many of the settlers from both of these places afterward came over the line into Barry County. In 1833 the Territorial Legislature established a road beginning at the Middlevillage (so-called) in Barry County and running through Gun river plain to the territorial road near the forks of the Pawpaw (so-called). William Duncan of Prairie Ronde, Cornelius Northrup and Carlos Barnes, better known as Captain Barnes of Black Hawk war fame, from the same place, were named as commissioners to lay out this road. The same year another highway, leading from Marshall to the rapids of the Grand River, was established. Lewis Campbell, Jr., Joseph W. Brown, founder of the village of Tecumseh, and Brigadier

General in the Toledo War, and O. Wilder, one of the founders of the village of Allegan, were appointed as commissioners to lay out this road.

After the admission of the state into the Union, and with the rapid settlement of this section of the state, roads were still more essential. In 1837 the state road was established from Kalamazoo to the county seat of Barry County, and Lloyd Jones, Sherman Cummings of Comstock, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, and Mumford Eldred, who was one of the original settlers of Gull Prairie, were named as commissioners. During the same session of the Legislature another state road was established to run from Marshall via Verona, now absorbed as a part of the city of Battle Creek, and Gun Plains to Allegan, and Charles W. Spaulding, Silas F. Littlejohn, who located in Allegan in 1836, and Cephas A. Smith, the first Prosecuting Attorney of Calhoun County, elected in 1833, were named as commissioners.

Another road was established, leading from Bellevue to Hastings, and Andrew L. Hayes, who came to Calhoun County in 1831; Reuben Fitzgerald, who had come to Bellevue in 1833, and was one of its influential business men, and Levi P. Woodbury, were chosen as commissioners to lay out this road.

Another state highway was to be laid out from Allegan to Howell. Guy C. Lee and Flavius J. B. Crane, who the same year was elected Representative in the State Legislature from Oakland County, were appointed commissioners for that purpose.

In 1838 a state road was established to run from Battle Creek via Hutchinson's Mills to Hastings, and Stephen V. R. Rork of Johnstown, Rustin Angel of Battle Creek and John Meachem of Bedford were named as commissioners for that purpose.

Another state road was established from Battle Creek via Gull Prairie to Grand Rapids, and Isaac Barnes; George Torrey, afterward editor of the Kalamazoo Telegraph, and Roswell Britain, were named as commissioners. Another road was established from Kalamazoo to Hastings. Mumford Eldred, Isaac Otis and John Mills were named as commissioners to lay it out. Another was established from Galesburg to Hastings and Nathaniel Cathern, Hugh Shafter, father of the late General Wm. Shafter, prominent in the Spanish War, and Reuben H. Sutton were chosen as commissioners.

In 1840 a state road was established from Vermontville to Grand Rapids, and William Stoddard, one of the first settlers of Charlotte; Levi Wheaton, of Chester, Eaton County, at whose home it is claimed the first county convention in Eaton County was held; Wait J. Squire, of Eaton County; Abner C. Parmelee, who was the first Register of Deeds in Barry County, and afterward County Treasurer, and William G. Henry, who formerly operated a store in Grand Rapids on the present site of the Morton House, were named as commissioners.

Another road was established from Hastings to Grand Rapids, and Wait J. Squire, William G. Henry and Abner C. Parmelee were named as commissioners; another from Battle Creek to Grand Rapids, of which George Torrey, Isaac Barnes and Roswell Britian were commissioners.

In 1841 new commissioners were appointed to establish the highway from the county seat of Eaton County, through Vermontville to Hastings, and from Hastings to continue said road to Grand Rapids. In 1841 William B. Thorne, Calvin Hill of Yankee Springs township and Henry H. Broth of the township of Allegan were appointed commissioners to lay out a road commencing on the Thornapple river road in Yankee Springs, thence via. Long Lake to Allegan.

In 1844 Aaron Ellis of Hastings, Isaac Barnes of Gull Prairie, and James Pelton, one of the pioneers of the Grand River Valley, and for many years Supervisor of the township of Gaines in Kent County, were named as commissioners to lay out and establish a road from where the road from Gull Prairie, via. Yankee Springs to Grand Rapids crosses the base line, thence in the most eligible route near the foot of Gun Lake and Lake Alone to the county line in Kent County.

In 1845 John Ball, who was prominent in the early history of Grand Rapids; Albert E. Bull, first settler in Irving, and Calvin G. Hill, were appointed as commissioners to lay out the highway from the village of Middleville to Grand Rapids.

In 1848, Willard Davis of Eaton County, Nathan Barlow, Jr., of Barry County, and Ezra Southworth of Grand Rapids, were appointed as commissioners to establish and lay out a highway commencing at the township of Michigan in Ingham County,

thence through the counties of Eaton and Barry to the village of Allegan.

In 1849, Nicholas Campbell, Hiram Tillotson and Seth Demic were appointed as commissioners to lay out and establish a state road from Richland, in Kalamazoo County, to the village of Hastings.

In 1850 a state road was established from Hastings to Ionia, and J. W. T. Orr, who was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1850 from Barry County; John B. Welch of Ionia County and George Richmond of the same county, were appointed as commissioners to lay out and open it.

And as late as 1859 Cyprian L. Hooper and N. G. Chase of Ionia County, and John W. Stebbins of Hastings were appointed as commissioners to lay out and establish a road commencing on section 34, township 9 north, range 8 west, and running thence by way of Cook's Corners, Smyrna, Fallasburg and Lowell, to the village of Hastings, in Barry County.

All of these roads which were actually laid out and opened were made passable when conditions were favorable. Bridges were crude log affairs and frequently washed out during freshets. The roads were generally ungraded and the yielding soil in rainy seasons and in the spring became a quagmire through which the settlers were compelled to wallow with their ox teams and old linch pin wagons. The marshes and swampy places were covered with corduroy and this was fully exposed on top, being for the most part free from dirt. These roads followed the line of easiest travel, veering around lakes, hills and marshes, so as to reach their destination with the least resistance. Many of them have been relaid on section lines; some have been discontinued altogether, but many of them are still in actual use as thoroughfares.

Early Agriculture

In the early settlement of the county the pioneers in the selection of land for settlement took that which was easiest available. They first picked that which would yield most quickly and abundantly with the least labor. There were various small prairies in the county. In Assyria, where Cleveland Ellis in 1837 selected one as the nucleus of his extensive farming operations; Bull's Prairie in Irving, where A. E. Bull settled in 1836; Scales Prairie

in Thornapple, the location of what was probably the first white occupation of the county. Next to these bits of prairie land, wholly or partially cleared, the oak openings of the western and southern part of the county where the timber was without underbrush, and the soil a sandy and gravelly loam, easily broken up and subdued and capable of producing all varieties of cereal crops, attracted the incoming settlers, and we find that Prairieville, Barry, Orangeville and Yankee Springs were, in the early history of the county, much more rapidly settled and developed than the more heavily timbered lands of Woodland, Maple Grove and Baltimore, where the dense underbrush in many places kept the soil damp and cold during nearly the entire season. These timbered lands were very much more difficult to subdue, more difficult to clear.

As the settlers came into the oak openings they at once proceeded to break the soil and put in crops without stopping to clear the lands of timber, and then through the fall and winter months they put in the spare time girdling the forest giants, to destroy the foliage, and frequently these girdlings were not removed from the land for years, though in the meantime the soil was cultivated and produced bountiful crops with little labor. This system of farming could not be carried on in the timbered lands, where the settler had to fell the timber before he could successfully break up the soil. The prairies and oak openings developed much more early and were settled more extensively than the timbered lands.

In 1840, when the county contained nearly twelve hundred inhabitants, the township of Yankee Springs contained more inhabitants than Hastings, Baltimore, Hope, Rutland and Irving combined. Gradually the settlers grew to realize that although it required increased labor to subdue, the timbered lands were rich and productive, and during the thirty years from 1840 to 1870 the timber of this county which was practically worthless as a merchantable commodity was windrowed and burned in order that the settlers might get it out of the way and clear the land for cultivation. During all this time in the slashings the high brush piles, log heaps and giant bull thistles were matters of course, and through the autumn months the light of the fire in the burnings reflected in every direction from the sky. Many times the smoke was so thick it was difficult to see the highway fence, and the set-

tlers were frequently called to protect their buildings and fences from forest fires.

Homes of the Pioneers

The settlers' houses for the most part were log cabins, one story high, with two doors set opposite each other, with a shake roof, with either a puncheon floor, or one made of sawed lumber, which was regarded as an advance and a mark of aristocracy. The furniture was of the crudest sort, generally hand made, and the bed-steads rough wooden bunks with split pole bottoms and marsh hay ticks. Corded bed-steads were regarded as a great advance over this earlier furniture, and a first step toward modern luxury. Tables and chairs were hand made; oil lamps were yet undiscovered; gasoline an unheard of product, and their cabins were lighted by the blazing embers of the open fire-place. Later some of the more prosperous and progressive settlers essayed the luxury of the tallow candle. Cook stoves were not yet in use. There never was a practical one until the old fashioned elevated oven stoves came on the market. Cooking was done over the open fire-place in kettles swinging on a crane, and the family baking was taken care of in a bake kettle which seemed to produce as satisfactory results as a modern electric oven. Sanitary precautions were laughed at and were generally unnecessary on account of the absence of many people, and the fact that many of them lived out of doors. Sleeping accommodations were meagre and generally in the loft beneath the rafters, from which was hung the season's seed corn and a variety of medicinal herbs for winter use. This was generally reached by hand made ladders or a crude wooden stairway; doors were hand made and in the winter time the settlers as they sat before the fire frequently complained that they toasted their shins while they froze their backs.

The First School

The pioneers brought to the new county the ideas of their former home, and among those most quickly acted upon was that of a primary school. Probably the first school taught in Barry County was taught by Sarah Paul, at Middleville in 1835.

A school was kept by Theoda Spaulding in a room in her father's house in what was afterward the township of Prairieville, in 1836. It was, however, prior to 1837, for in that year the

“white school house,” the first frame building in Hickory Corners, mentioned in the statute as the place of the first township meeting in Barry township after Spaulding was set off and organized, was erected ;and Theoda Spaulding was the first school teacher in it and in the township of Barry, as now organized. There was a mission school at the Slater mission in Prairieville in 1836. In 1837 Mrs. Isaac Messer taught the first school in the Brown neighborhood in the township of Orangeville, at her house on section thirty-two, and during the same year Harriet Hoyt held school in Prairieville township. In 1839 Elizabeth Carpenter opened a school in George Fuller’s house in Carlton, and in 1840 Emma and Marie Mott opened a private school at their home in the township of Maple Grove. Mary, a daughter of Judge Nathan Barlow, taught the first school in the township of Yankee Springs, in a house built for a dwelling near the “Mansion House” of William Lewis at Yankee Springs. Prior to that time Sarah Curtis had kept school in the township of Johnstown in the house of W. P. Bristol, receiving therefor the sum of one dollar and fifty cents a week, and in that year the first school house in the township was erected. Hattie Bidwell of Battle Creek was the first “wielder of the birch” in the township of Woodland, having taught there in 1841. There was a school taught in Hastings at the house of Slocum H. Bunker by Miss McArthur in 1839, at which there were four pupils. In 1841 the first school house in Hastings was made ready and Sophia Spaulding, a daughter of C. W. Spaulding of Prairieville, was the first teacher. A school was taught in Castleton in the Mudge district in 1842, but before that time Mrs. Olive Racey had taught school at her house on section thirteen. In 1843 Lydia Warren of Verona taught the first school in Assyria township, at the house of Cleveland Ellis, and there was also a school held in the township of Rutland by Chloe Benson in 1844, at Bull’s Prairie. The Mott school in Hope township was first opened in 1848 and Julia Woodward was the first teacher. The pioneer school teacher of Baltimore was Sarah Blanchard, daughter of the pioneer, Bardsley S. Blanchard. She afterward married George Sheffield, whom she outlived, and she is now the last of the pioneer school teachers of the townships of Barry County.

Free Schools

With the increase in population the townships were rapidly

broken up into small school district organizations. From the first the state seemed destined to have free schools. The constitution of 1850 provided for them. Free schools were not established until 1869. Prior to that time they were maintained by a rate bill and unless the parents or guardian paid the child could not attend school. Compulsory attendance was unknown; high-schools had not yet been thought of. Academies, embryo colleges, and seminaries, generally private institutions, but some of them endowed by religious denominations; rural primary schools, and the branches of the University of Michigan, and different select schools, that is, private schools maintained by individual teachers, satisfied as best they could the craving of the youthful mind for broader learning. The primitive primary school houses with their hand made benches; small blackboards; floors, of course, of unplanned lumber; open fire-places, or high box stoves generally set upon a brick foundation, and the pupil was lucky if he had a piece of slate and a pencil, instead of a tablet and pencil, as a part of his equipment. Thirty years ago the child in the rural schools who had during the entire winter half a dozen sheets of paper for the practice of penmanship was looked upon as getting much more than he was entitled to by the other pupils. Goose quill pens were the principal implements for penmanship and these had to be sharpened each day by the teacher or the bigger boys. Examinations and grades were then unknown. A pupil who possessed push, quick perception and energy was not cast into a system of grades and his pace measured by that of the slower pupils, but he could go forward as rapidly as his ability warranted, but on the other hand those who were duller in many cases under the primitive school system in force in Michigan, obtained no education worthy of consideration. Under the rate bill system the opportunities of the children of poor men were not equal to those of the better class and many children grew disgusted with the schools and quit them early for the more immediate productive fields of agricultural development. Music was no part of the school curriculum. Discipline was severe and physical strength was fully as important as educational qualifications to the teacher. Singing schools, spelling schools and writing schools were frequently held in the various district school houses, evenings, but these were quite generally considered as much places of amuse-

ment and as affording a place of sparking rather than as a part of the educational system. They were patronized and tolerated not as educational institutions, but as social meeting places.

Ague or Malarial Fever

Among the early settlers malarial fever or ague was a common complaint, and prior to 1870 very few of the inhabitants escaped its ravages, especially during the summer months. Ague cures were favorite quack nostrums, but with the clearing up of the country, the drainage of stagnant pools and cat-holes and the disappearance of the swamps, both ague and the omnipresent mosquito of pioneer days have to a great extent disappeared.

Plank Road Companies

There was then as now a demand for better transportation facilities, and through a heavily wooded country, where standing timber was valueless, plank roads seemed the best temporary solution of the highway problem, and we find not only in Barry County, but throughout the state many plank road companies organized for the construction of plank toll roads. In 1848 forty-six companies were chartered. In 1849 thirty-nine companies were chartered and in 1850 more than sixty plank road companies were chartered, so that the period from 1845 to 1855 may well be called the plank road era in the state of Michigan.

In 1849 the Legislature incorporated the Battle Creek & Hastings Plank Road Company with an authorized capital of forty thousand dollars, to build a plank road from Battle Creek to Hastings. Alonzo Noble, Jonathan Hart, Reuben Pew and E. K. Ward of Battle Creek and Henry A. Goodyear, Nathan Barlow, Jr., Alvin W. Bailey, Salmon C. Hall and William P. Bristol of Barry County, were named as the directors. A part of this road was constructed and for many years it was the main thoroughfare between Battle Creek and Hastings.

In 1850 the Legislature chartered the Hastings & Yankee Springs Plank Road Company to construct a plank road from Hastings, through the township of Yankee Springs, with the privilege of connecting with the plank road of any other plank road company. Philip Leonard, who had come to Thornapple in 1836; David Rork, at whose house the first township meeting in the township of Rutland was held; Heman I. Knappen, prominent in

the early history not only of Gull Prairie, but of Hastings, were the directors. This road had an authorized capital of thirty thousand dollars, but I cannot find that the plank were ever laid upon any part of it. The same year the charter of the Battle Creek & Hastings Plank Road Company was amended so as to authorize that company to continue their road from Hastings to the mouth of the Thornapple river and thence to the village of Grand Rapids, and the authorized capital was increased from forty thousand dollars to sixty thousand dollars.

The Grand River Valley Railroad

In the meantime progressive men were looking forward to the development of railroad facilities in this state, and the Grand River Valley Railroad Company was incorporated as early as 1846 to build a railroad from Jackson to Grand Rapids, although construction was not commenced until after the Civil War.

Court House and Jail

The first Circuit Court ever held in Barry County was said to have been held in a building which then stood where the Hastings City Bank now stands, May 6, 1840. The first jail is said to have been back of where Isaac Hendershott's residence now is, and this jail has been described as a square log house, set in a hole in the ground, without windows and doors, the logs being hewn smooth on the inside; the prisoners were lowered into this jail from the top by ladder and then the ladder was withdrawn and there was no way that the prisoner could get out. This jail was used but a short time and most of the prisoners who were incarcerated therein were let out each day by the Sheriff on their "parole of honor." The grand jury room which was the first used in the city of Hastings is said to have been in the log tavern of Levi Chase, situated just west of the south end of the Michigan Avenue bridge. At a meeting of the County Commissioners, who then exercised the duties now performed by the Board of Supervisors, on January 13, 1842, the building of a jail was considered. Drafts and estimates seem to have been already furnished to the Board of Commissioners and these were taken up for action. The first action of the Board of Commissioners was the passage of a resolution declaring that it was expedient for the county to erect a jail together with a room suitable for holding courts, and there-

upon it was further resolved that the Board of Commissioners adopt a plan as soon as may be and receive proposals and let the job for erecting the building to the lowest bidder. At a meeting of the Commissioners held on July 4, 1842, they allowed Hiram J. Kenfield of Hastings two hundred dollars toward compensating him for building the courthouse and jail. This courthouse was built upon substantially the same site that the present one occupies. These were strenuous times on the Board of Supervisors, which about this time succeeded the Board of Commissioners. On October 14, 1844, we find the Board of Supervisors adjourning to meet at five o'clock the following morning, and there are many adjournments of record in the Supervisors' proceedings during the period from 1840 to 1850, to six o'clock in the morning. This courthouse and jail which was erected by Hiram J. Kenfield was undoubtedly completed by 1844, because at the October session of 1844 Frederick Ingram was appointed as the agent of the county to procure stoves for the courthouse. This, the first courthouse in Barry County, was burned in 1846. Abner C. Parmelee, who had been the Treasurer of the county from 1839 to 1845, undoubtedly did not account satisfactorily for the county funds, because in 1844 he together with the sureties upon his bond were requested to confess judgment in the Circuit Court for the County of Barry for the amount of his alleged defalcation as Treasurer, and in 1845 the county procured a judgment against both Parmelee and the sureties upon his bond as Treasurer. At the October session of the Board of Supervisors of 1846 the issuance of an execution against Parmelee and the sureties on his bond was postponed pending negotiations to rebuild the courthouse then recently burned, for the reason that the Board of Supervisors of the county contemplated swapping the judgment which they obtained against Parmelee and the sureties upon his bond toward the contract price of rebuilding the courthouse.

The County Well

The county well was a source of much annoyance to the early residents of Hastings. When Hiram J. Kenfield built the first court house and jail it was claimed that he was to put down a county well and that he failed to do so. At the September meeting of the Board of Supervisors in 1845 the Prosecuting Attorney of the county was directed to proceed against Mr. Kenfield for his

failure to dig the county well at the court house. We do not find any record that proceedings were actually commenced. We think that Kenfield dug the well, but just how deep he sunk it is conjectural; in any event, at the October session of the Board in 1845 we find that Mr. Hayes was authorized to employ Peter Cobb to take up and sink the county well of sufficient depth so that three feet or over of water could be obtained, and the proceedings show that Cobb later received his pay for so doing.

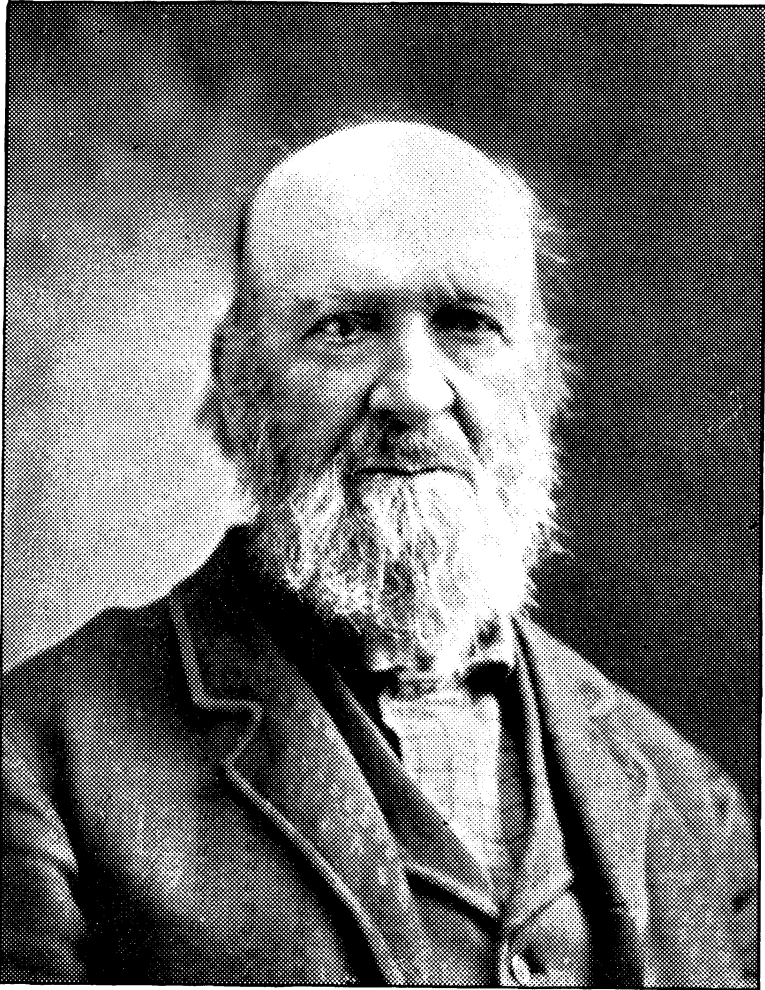
Rebuilding the Court House

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors on January 6, 1847, it was resolved to let the job of rebuilding the court house, and the plans of John Lewis prepared for the same, were accepted and the contract for its erection awarded to Alvin W. Bailey of Hastings, who was to receive therefor as the first payment of fifteen hundred dollars upon the contract price of the court house, the judgment which had been rendered in favor of the county against Abner C. Parmelee and the sureties upon his bond, Cleveland Ellis of Assyria, George Brown of Orangeville, and Calvin G. Hill of Thornapple. Bailey was undoubtedly slow in fulfilling his contract, for on March 16, 1848, he was asked by the Board of Supervisors to show cause why he had not carried out and fulfilled his contract for the erection of the building. He undoubtedly came before the Board and explained the situation to their satisfaction, for on the next day a new contract was made with him for the completion of the job and he then went on and finished the building. On October 9th, 1848, the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors showed that it was resolved that E. D. Alden of Hastings be employed to furnish seven sets of Windsor chairs for the Court House, said chairs to be made of two inch stuff in bottoms and proportioned accordingly, otherwise well painted, and lettered on the back with the word "County," and that he receive twenty-four dollars in county orders therefor.

A New Jail

After the first jail and court house was burned in 1846 nothing was done for several years toward the erection of a new jail; the prisoners of Barry County being in the meantime confined in the county jail at Kalamazoo. At the October session of the Board in 1853 Cleveland Ellis, John Miles and E. R. Carpenter were appointed by the Board as a committee to investigate the

practicability of erecting a new jail, and they reported that the county should build a jail of the dimensions of the upright build-



Dr. Charles S. Burton, Pioneer Physician of Hastings, Whose Biography Appears in the Biographical Section of This Book

ing of the Calhoun County jail at Marshall, and recommended that a committee of three be appointed to make an estimate of the probable cost and report at the next session of the Board of Super-

visors. They also recommended that the county purchase lots 583 and 584 of the city of Hastings as a site. The report made by the committee to the Board of Supervisors was adopted and it was voted to raise one thousand dollars for the construction of a new jail. Nathan Barlow, Jr., George K. Beamer and E. R. Carpenter were appointed as a committee to take over the title to the land and provide for the construction of the jail. This committee was discharged at the January session of 1854 and Nathan Barlow, Jr., Cleveland Ellis and George K. Beamer were appointed as a committee to purchase the site and to supervise the erection of the building. This jail was built by Ferris & Edgcomb, contractors, and was on the site now occupied by the residence of Philo A. Sheldon.

The Present Court House and Jail

The county buildings erected in 1847 were repaired from time to time, but after forty years of use they were somewhat antiquated. There was considerable agitation in Barry County in favor of the erection of more modern county buildings. At the January, 1889, session of the Board of Supervisors a committee, consisting of Albert G. Kent, Supervisor of Assyria; Edward F. Nye, Supervisor of the township of Johnstown, and Charles A. Brown, Supervisor of Rutland, was appointed, to visit the court house at Charlotte with a view of gaining information in order to submit to the qualified voters of Barry County the question of building a new court house. They reported at the same session and a resolution was passed submitting the question of raising the sum of sixty thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a new court house to the voters of the county at the April, 1889, township meeting. This proposal was opposed somewhat strongly by many of the Supervisors who believed that the county should get along with the old court house and erect some sort of a safety vault for the protection of the county records, and the proposition was decisively defeated at the polls. Things went along for a number of years. The county needed a jail. On January 20, 1891, Circuit Judge Frank A. Hooker sent a communication to the Board of Supervisors of Barry County in which he stated that after a personal examination he had found that the jail was not a secure one, that the Sheriff's duties were rendered exceedingly hazardous by reason of the construction of the jail; that its sani-

tary condition rendered it unfit for habitation; that it was a fire trap; that should a fire occur the prisoners therein would almost certainly perish; that it was unsafe for the detention of prisoners and that it was an outrage upon justice to confine prisoners therein, and directed that the Board of Supervisors designate some other place for the detention of prisoners. At the same session the Board of Supervisors made arrangements to detain prisoners thereafter in the jail of Eaton County. At the January, 1892, session of the Board of Supervisors the question of submitting to the qualified voters of the county at the spring election of 1892 the question of raising fifty-four thousand dollars for building a court house was passed and the Clerk authorized to give notice of the submission of the question. At the spring election of 1892 the proposition to build a new court house and jail was carried by a vote of 2,772 for and 1,667 against the proposition. At the April, 1892, session of the Board of Supervisors a building committee was appointed to have charge of the erection of the county buildings, consisting of John G. Nagler, Supervisor of Irving; Orson Swift, Supervisor of Maple Grove, and Oscar Matthews, the Supervisor of Hastings. A committee was also appointed to investigate the plans adopted by different counties for their court houses and this committee consisted of Orson Swift, James H. McKeivitt, Supervisor of Thornapple; John G. Nagler and Thomas S. Brice, the County Clerk. This committee after visiting and examining the court houses in Allegan, Muskegon, Mecosta, Isabella, Livingston, Branch and Ionia counties, reported that they were unanimous in the opinion that the court house at Howell, in Livingston county, was the best, considering the cost of construction, of any that they had visited, and they recommended that the building committee adopt a plan for a court house in the city of Hastings substantially similar to that of the court house in Livingston county. This was done and the present buildings were erected and completed ready for occupancy on the first of January, 1894.

The Court Yard

The Court House square in Hastings is regarded as one of the most beautiful in the state of Michigan. After the first court house was burned in 1846 and before the second court house was erected the Board of Supervisors let Nathan Barlow, Jr., occupy

the court house square during the spring and summer of 1847 for the purpose of sowing said ground to oats and seeding it down with clover seed, and the resolution of the Board of Supervisors provided that Barlow was to have the avails of said crop in consideration of his sowing and seeding the same in a good and workmanlike manner, and as late as October 10, 1849, the Board of Supervisors voted that Nathan Barlow, Jr., be allowed to go on agreeable to the old contract and grub the stumps out of the court house yard; and on January 4, 1855, the Sheriff of the county was instructed to keep the fence around the court house square in repair and to keep the gate locked except when court was in session, so as to exclude therefrom all cattle, hogs and other domestic animals which in those days roamed not only over the county but the city as well.

County Agricultural Society

The Barry County Agricultural Society was organized December 29th, 1851. The second annual fair of the society was held at the Court House in the city of Hastings, the Court House square being used for the purpose of exhibiting stock, the lower part of the court house being used as a place for exhibiting different products, the upper part of the court house being used for speaking. The county fair was held for two years at Prairieville. In 1859 it was decided to hold the fair on Market Square, the same being now a part of the fair ground claimed by the Barry County Agricultural Society, and the fair has been held on substantially the same site continuously since. At this, the second annual meeting of the society, Hiram Lewis of Prairieville was elected President, and James W. Bradley of Yankee Springs was elected Secretary. An executive committee was appointed consisting of seven members of the society. At the election of the society on July 12, 1858, it was decided that in addition to the president, secretary and treasurer, there should be a vice-president elected from each township, and the following were the first vice-presidents of the Barry County Agricultural Society under this arrangement:

Cleveland Ellis, Assyria.

Gilbert Striker, Baltimore.

Irvin Hewitt, Barry.

Isaac Messer, Carlton.

Lorenzo Mudge, Castleton.
Nathan Barlow, Hastings.
J. E. Hall, Hope.
C. Hannah, Irving.
William P. Bristol, Johnstown.
Leander Lapham, Maple Grove.
Henry Brown, Orangeville.
Hiram Lewis, Prairieville.
Asa D. Rork, Rutland.
Alonzo Barnum, Woodland.
Timothy Johnson, Yankee Springs.

Since that time substantially the same sort of an organization has been maintained and fairs have been held each year at the Market Square, which now constitutes a part of the fair ground of the Agricultural Society and which has been enlarged from time to time by the purchase of additional grounds.

The County Farm

Superintendents of the Poor were elected by the County Commissioners at the first meeting in 1839. The poor had generally been supported by contract. There were no insane asylums in the state and during the early forties insane patients of this county were cared for at the insane asylum in Chicago, Ill., until after the opening of the Michigan Asylum for the Insane at Kalamazoo, Michigan. In December, 1849, the Board of Supervisors resolved that the Superintendents of the Poor should be instructed to solicit terms of purchase and gather information preparatory to purchasing a county farm and building a building for the care of the poor, and this committee so appointed seems to have made a report. In 1853 the Superintendents of the Poor earnestly recommended to the Board of Supervisors that steps be taken for the purchase of a proper poor farm and the erection of county poor buildings, and W. W. Ralph was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as agent to open correspondence and elicit information in regard to the cost and advisability of so doing. At the October session of the Board of Supervisors in 1854 a tax of eight hundred dollars was directed to be levied upon the taxable property of the county and this sum when raised was to be applied toward the purchase of a poor farm and erection of county buildings. R. W.

Hanna of Irving, D. G. Robinson of Hastings, and Hiram Lewis were appointed as a committee to select a proper location for the poor farm. On January 22, 1855, this committee reported to the Board of Supervisors. Much opposition to the purchase of the present poor farm was apparent, and the Board of Supervisors voted not to purchase the farm recommended by the committee. On the next day, however, they rescinded that resolution and appointed a committee consisting of John Miles, O. B. Sheldon and Silas Bowker, who were to purchase a poor farm as soon as practicable and who were to use their own judgment as they might think proper in the situation in its purchase, and to draw the money from the county treasury for the payment of the same. Shortly afterward this committee purchased for thirty-five hundred dollars the west half of the southeast quarter and the east twenty acres of the southwest quarter of section 27 in the township of Hastings, now constituting the Poor Farm. There were already buildings upon this farm, but a frame building near the site of the present county poor house was erected for the care of the poor, and this was repaired from time to time until 1877, when a committee of the Board of Supervisors reported that the county poor house was entirely unfit for the comfortable keeping of the inmates and recommended that the county build a new brick poor house containing at least one room for the care of insane patients. David G. Robinson, Samuel J. Bidelman of Hastings, and Lewis Durkee of Castleton were named as a building committee to look after the erection of the same, and the present poor house was constructed and turned over by the committee to the Superintendents of the Poor as completed in January, 1879. In 1898 a brick hospital building was erected by the Superintendents of the Poor and later a building for the care of tubercular patients was established.

Barry in the War

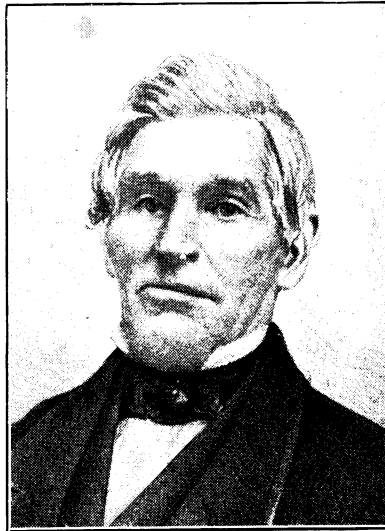
No other county in the state of Michigan contributed more liberally to the Civil War than did Barry County. During the Civil War the population of Barry County was at all times less than fifteen thousand inhabitants, yet the county furnished 1,632 men for the Union army, an average of 102 from each township in the county. More than forty of these became commissioned

officers; eleven per cent of the entire population of the county was enrolled as soldiers in the Union army. Not only did the county contribute liberally in men but it contributed liberally in money. At no time during the Civil War did the assessed valuation of Barry County reach two million dollars, yet from 1861 to 1867 Barry County raised and paid out for the support of the families of volunteers who were at the front in the Civil War \$86,598.00, and the expenses to the several townships occasioned by the war aggregated \$186,641.00, a total expense to the people of the county of \$267,239.00, or more than fifteen per cent of the total assessed valuation of all of the real and personal property in the county when the war broke out.

Early Churches

Joseph S. Blaisdell, who came to what is now the township of Assyria as the first pioneer in 1836, was a Freewill Baptist minister and it is said that he held public worship in that township shortly after he came there. Whether he did so or not it is certain that he organized a Freewill Baptist church in the township of Assyria, which after his death in 1848 was dissolved. Perhaps the mission church, established by the Rev. Leonard Slater in the township of Prairieville, was the first church in Barry County. It is claimed that religious services were held at the "Mansion House" of William Lewis in Yankee Springs by Rev. Calvin Clark in 1837. Rev. William Daubney, who seems to have been familiarly known to the early pioneers as "Father Daubney," in 1839 held religious services in the house of Charles W. Bassett in the township of Yankee Springs. In 1839 or early in 1840, a Methodist class was organized at North Pine Lake in the townships of Prairieville and Orangeville. Father Daubney was an itinerant minister and he travelled horseback, visiting all of the settlers. As early as 1840, it is said he held services in Woodland. In Hastings undoubtedly the first religious service of any kind was at the funeral of Mr. DeGroat, one of the pioneers in Rutland who died in 1836, and he was the first person buried in the newly laid out cemetery in Hastings then immediately south of the public school buildings in the Fourth ward. Rev. Calvin Clark preached this funeral sermon. In 1839 Father Daubney held services at the house of Slocum H. Bunker, located near where the Hotel Barry

is situated at the present time. It is said in 1840 Isaac Messer came to Hastings, and stopping at the tavern of Levi Chase, situated immediately west of the south end of the Michigan Avenue bridge, across the river, held religious services there. In the fall of 1840 or in the spring of 1841 Rev. John Ercanbrach, who was then the Presiding Elder of the Kalamazoo district, held a quarterly meeting in Hastings. As early as 1838 Elder Emory Cherry and Elder York held services in the township of Johnstown. The Congregational disciples of Thornapple, now maintaining a church



Leonard Slater, Founder of the Famous Slater Mission

at Middleville, claimed to have held services as early as 1835. In any event, Calvin G. Hill and Henry Leonard, who came to that township from Monroe, New York, in 1835, belonged to the Congregational denomination. In 1843 the Congregational church of Middleville was organized; in 1840 the Carlton Methodist class was organized, and the same year the Rev. Daniel Bush came to Hastings as a missionary, and was the first resident preacher who had regular charge of any church in Barry County.

From this time the churches grew apace. The institutions above named, and many others that have since come into exist-

ence, were Protestant. There was in the community about Yankee Springs a large number of Catholics and about 1850 they bought the Lewis McCloud house in the township and converted it into a church or place of public worship, and for a considerable period after that time they had occasional religious services there.

A cemetery was laid out by this denomination in the township of Yankee Springs, and this cemetery still remains. With the removal of the families from the neighborhood the organization fell apart and Catholic services have long since been discontinued at that place, though there are prosperous churches of this denomination in both Hastings and Nashville.

Barry County Newspapers

The Barry County Pioneer, a weekly Democratic paper, was the first newspaper printed or published in Barry County. It was first issued January 24, 1851, Mr. G. A. Smith being the editor and proprietor. In the fall of 1851 he sold this paper to A. A. Knappen, who for some time continued to publish the same weekly except when circumstances were such that he was unable to get the print paper in time for publication. In 1853 Mr. Smith again embarked in the newspaper business in Hastings, publishing the Barry County Review. In June, 1854, Smith bought out the Pioneer of Mr. Knappen and consolidated the two papers under the name of the Barry County Pioneer; Henry A. Goodyear of the city of Hastings became associate editor of the same. The Republican Banner was the first published in 1856 by a syndicate of men interested in Barry County politics, Norman E. Bailey being the first editor. In the fall of 1856 George W. Mills became the editor of the Republican Banner and remained so until the paper was sold to James M. Nevins in July, 1857. About this time the Barry County Pioneer suspended publication, but during the political campaign of 1860 the Pioneer was resurrected and it strongly supported the election of Stephen A. Douglas as President of the United States and opposed the election of Lincoln. Throughout the Civil War it was most bitter in its attacks upon the administration. It supported McClellan for President in 1864, and the issue of the Pioneer that announced the assassination of President Lincoln also gave notice of the suspension of the publication of the Barry County Pioneer. In the spring of 1867 W. Roscoe Young

took over the material in the printing office of the Pioneer and started the Independent. In 1868 Young's printing office burned and a subscription was circulated and a fund raised for the establishment of a newspaper, of which Mr. Young was the editor. This paper was called the Democrat, a name which was afterward changed to the Hastings Home Journal and later to the Journal. This paper after a publication of about forty years was consolidated in 1911 with the Hastings Herald under the name of the Journal-Herald. Since the establishment of these papers there have been many newspapers published in the county; at the present time there being weekly papers published in Nashville, Freeport, Woodland, Prairieville, Middleville and Delton, in addition to those published in Hastings.

Postoffices and the Mails

When Amasa S. Parker first came to what is now the township of Prairieville in 1831 there had already been established a postoffice at Gull Prairie. The postoffice at Bronson or Kalamazoo was not established until 1832. For some time the postoffice at Kalamazoo and the one at Gull Prairie were the places from which most of the pioneer residents of Barry County received their mail. There was no postoffice within the county until 1837, when the first postoffice was established at Yankee Springs, and William Lewis, the proprietor of the Mansion House, was the first postmaster. Prior to 1839 the residents of Hastings received their mail at Yankee Springs, Gull Prairie, or Kalamazoo, but in that year a postoffice was established in Hastings on a mail route running from Coldwater to Grand Rapids, and Willard Hayes was appointed the first Postmaster. The same year another postoffice was opened called Middleville, on the stage route running from Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids, and Benjamin S. Dibble was appointed the first Postmaster. This postoffice was erected at what is now known as Gates Corners, about two and one-half or three miles from the present village of Middleville. In 1841 or 1842 a postoffice was established in the township of Assyria at the house of Cleveland Ellis, who was the first Postmaster. The postoffice at Carlton was established in 1844 and J. S. Rogers was appointed as the first Postmaster. A postoffice was established at Irving, on the stage route from Battle Creek via Hastings to Grand Rapids, in 1846. Albert E. Bull, from whom Bull's Prairie was named,

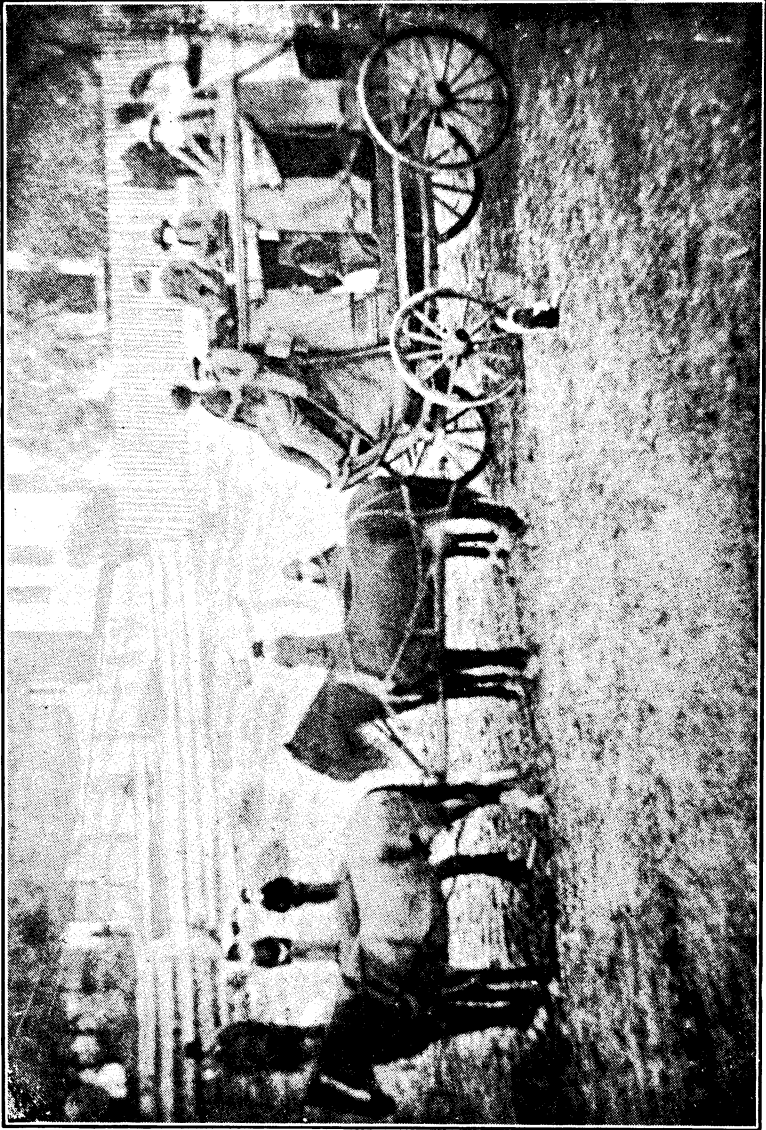
was the first Postmaster. No postoffice was established in Woodland until in 1849, when Nehemiah Lovewell was named as Postmaster. With the steady increase in population in the county the postoffices increased in great number, and twenty years ago, and immediately before the establishment of rural free delivery, there was in the county probably three times as many postoffices as exist today. This system of rural free delivery has dispensed with the necessity of these local offices and a great number of minor offices have been discontinued.

The early mail carriers who came to Hastings generally travelled on horseback, carrying the mails in saddlebags. There was only rarely published in this country a magazine in those days; newspapers were few and the correspondence of the early settlers was not very extensive.

Travelling in Early Days

Prior to 1869 there was no railroad in operation that reached the city of Hastings; there was a stage line established in 1846 running from Battle Creek via Hastings to Grand Rapids and which afforded fairly rapid transit, making the trip in one day either way. Another stage line was operated from Hastings via Yankee Springs to Kalamazoo. Another stage line left the Rathbone House in Grand Rapids and ran via Yankee Springs, Hastings, Charlotte and Eaton Rapids to Jackson. There was also another stage line running from Kalamazoo via Yankee Springs to Grand Rapids. These stage lines were the only means for passenger travel outside of private conveyances, until the opening of the Grand River Valley Railroad in 1869.

Freight to all of the interior of the county was handled by tote teams. The main line of the Michigan Central had been in operation for many years and freight was hauled into the interior from Grand Rapids, to which point it was shipped by boat; and from Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Jackson and Marshall on the Michigan Central Railroad. Marketing was an important item in farming. It meant to all of the people living in the county a trip covering one day and most of two nights. Many of the roads were unsafe and ungraded. Frequently the pioneers had to unload in order to get their wagons out of the mud. Halfway houses, local stopping places on the stage roads for the accommodation of passengers and those hauling freight to the interior, were common. It is now



Stage Coach which ran between Hastings and Battle Creek. View taken in Hastings in 1852. Wm. Burroughs, the driver, holds the reins.

difficult to conceive that until 1869 all of the merchandise distributed at Hastings came overland from Battle Creek, Kalamazoo and Jackson, or from Grand Rapids, and that a large number of men were engaged in the freight business alone. Stages and freighters were steady patrons of these early taverns and they flourished at Assyria, where the Tamarack was celebrated; at Bristol's in Johnstown, and at Yankee Springs, where the Mansion House of William Lewis was probably the best known of any hotel west of Detroit. With the coming of the railroads, the discontinuance of the stage lines and freighters, these early taverns gradually disappeared.

Grand River Valley Road Completed

After the original organization of the Grand River Valley Railroad there was considerable agitation periodically for many years for the establishment of a railroad running through Hastings. These various projects received considerable check during the Civil War, but immediately after the Civil War the Battle Creek & Grand Rapids Railroad Company was organized, Henry Willis of Battle Creek being its principal promotor; Henry A. Goodyear of the city of Hastings was one of its directors. During the agitation for the building of this road frequent meetings were held by the promoters in various parts of the state, and the township of Hastings at one time voted bonds for the aid of the construction of such railroad. In 1866 agitation was taken up for the construction of the Grand River Valley Railroad. Meetings were held in Hastings and at other places along the line and funds were solicited from various individuals and the several townships in Barry County, as well as in the adjoining counties, were asked to vote funds under the Railway Aid Acts. This road was surveyed in 1866 and construction work was commenced in 1867. The road was completed from Jackson to Nashville so that regular service was established January 26, 1869. Regular railway service was established from Jackson to Hastings on February 22 of the same year, and in 1870 the road was completed to Grand Rapids. Afterward the Grand River Valley Railroad Company leased the same on a long term lease to the Michigan Central Railroad Company, who completed its equipment and who have since operated it. The Cincinnati, Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad was built from Dundee to Allegan, crossing the southwestern part of the

county, and opened November 29, 1883. The Chicago, Kalamazoo & Saginaw Railroad was built from Kalamazoo to Hastings in 1888, and the Grand Rapids, Lansing & Northern, afterward the Detroit, Lansing & Northern, and later consolidated with the Pere Marquette, which runs across the northern part of the county, was open for use between Grand Ledge and Grand Rapids in August, 1881.

History of Local Option

The people of Barry County have quite generally been opposed to the liquor traffic. In 1853, when the vote was first taken upon the old local option law, 642 votes were cast in favor of the law and 348 against it. In 1887, when the amendment to the constitution of the state prohibiting the liquor traffic was submitted to the people for approval, the vote in Barry County stood 3,099 for the amendment and 1,933 against it. In 1908, when the present local option law was submitted to the people for a vote it resulted in 3,498 for the prohibitory law and 2,093 against it, and in 1910, when it was resubmitted the vote stood 3,280 for continuing the law in force and 2,316 against it.

Barry and the Constitution

In the Constitutional Convention of 1835 Barry County, not then being separately organized, had no representative but was represented by the delegate from Kalamazoo County. In 1850, when the question was submitted as to whether or not we should have a general revision of the constitution of the state, the vote in Barry County was unanimous for a revision, standing 745 yeas and no nays.

J. W. T. Orr, who for some time was Supervisor of Irving township, was elected the delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1850, and this constitution when submitted to the people was ratified and approved and continued in force until 1909, although in 1867 the people voted for a constitutional revision and a Constitutional Convention was held, Harvey Wright of Middleville and Adam Elliott of Hickory Corners being delegates, but upon the constitution of 1867 being submitted to the people for approval it was rejected, and therefore the constitution of 1850 continued in force.

In 1908 the people again voted for a general revision of the

constitution and Charles H. Thomas represented Barry County in the convention, and this constitution was adopted by a majority when it was submitted and is now in force.

Census Figures

The population of Barry County, which was 512 in 1837, had more than doubled by 1840; according to the Federal census it was 1,078. In the next ten years it increased from 1,078 to 5,072, and in the ten years from 1850 to 1860 it increased from 5,072 in 1850 to 13,858 in 1860. Notwithstanding the enormous drain upon the county in men during the Civil War the population from 1860 to 1864 increased from 13,858 to 14,441. By 1870 the population had reached 22,199, and 25,317 in 1880, since which time the population has varied somewhat from 22,000 upward, but has never reached at any Federal census so high a point in numbers as in 1880.

Sketch of City of Hastings

The land occupied by the original plat of the city of Hastings was sold by Eurotas P. Hastings to a syndicate of men in Marshall on July 26, 1836, and the purchasers immediately began the organization of the Hastings Village Company and the surveying and platting of the land. The original founders of Hastings saw at once that it would be necessary to erect a saw mill in order to furnish lumber for the proposed town on what was called the "County Seat Purchased" of Barry County. Slocum H. Bunker came to Hastings probably not as the first white person who came here, but as the first to build a home in the future city. This family did not come here with the intention of permanently residing in Hastings, but only for the purpose of boarding the hands who were sent forward by the Hastings Company to erect their saw mill on Fall Creek. The Hastings Company started out pretentiously and platted the entire of the original village, but with the financial stringency of 1837 and the years immediately succeeding it went upon the rocks; was in the hands of a receiver and its affairs were wound up by the Chancellor of Michigan through the Court of Chancery at Ann Arbor. Practically all of the deeds in the city of Hastings trace title back to the trustee of the Hastings Company, appointed by the Michigan Chancery Court for the purpose of winding up its affairs and disposing of its assets.

In 1840 Henry A. Goodyear came to Hastings as its pioneer merchant and at once engaged in business. In 1841 Alvin W. Bailey opened a store here and the next year William Upjohn engaged in the mercantile business in Hastings, and in 1843 Will-



Gen. Eurotas P. Hastings, After Whom the City of Hastings Was Named

iam S. Goodyear came here; and in 1844 Vespasian Young located in Hastings and engaged in business and thenceforward merchants have come and gone substantially in the same manner as they have in the other cities and villages of similar size in this state.

The first hotel was occupied by Levi Chase, south of Thornapple river and west of the Michigan Avenue bridge. Chase died in service during the Mexican War. Nathan Barlow, Jr., who had come to Hastings from Yankee Springs as County Clerk of the county in 1843, built a hotel on the present site of the Hastings House.

David M. Dake, who located here in 1838, was the first resident physician. Dr. Upjohn came in 1841 and Dr. John Roberts in 1845, and they were followed in 1851 by Dr. Charles S. Burton and A. P. Drake. Probably the first lawyer to take up his residence in Hastings was Marsh Giddings, who came here from Kalamazoo in 1842. He was afterward elected Representative in the State Legislature, was Judge of Probate of Kalamazoo County, member of the Constitutional Convention in 1867 and at the time of his death the governor of the Territory of New Mexico. In 1843 Isaac A. Holbrook located here and for nearly half a century he was prominently identified with the progress of the city.

Hastings was incorporated as a village by act of the legislature February 13, 1855. Alvin W. Bailey was elected as its first President. On March 11, 1871, it was incorporated as a city; Henry A. Goodyear being the first Mayor.

Hastings is the county seat of Barry County; its population is in the neighborhood of five thousand.

Other Municipalities

Second to Hastings in size and importance is Nashville, located on the eastern border of the county, on the Thornapple river and the Grand River Valley Railroad. It lies partly in Maple Grove township, but mostly in Castleton. It was platted by Robert Gregg in 1865 and was incorporated March 26, 1869, Lemuel Smith being the first President.

Calvin G. Hill was the first white proprietor of the land on which the present village of Middleville stands. It was probably surveyed and platted before 1850, but the work was so imperfectly done that it is impossible to tell its date. The plat was not recorded until 1859. The name Middleville was transferred to the village after it was platted, it being a survival of the Indian village known as the Middle village which was located on Scales Prairie, and the name given to the first postoffice established at Gates Corners and named by Lucius Lyon, then a member of Congress,

as Middleville. The name Middleville in reality was first attached to the old French block house on the prairie used as a hotel and stopping place on the Battle Creek and Grand Rapids road.

Isaac N. Keeler was the pioneer merchant of Middleville. This village was incorporated in 1867. Isaac N. Keeler was the first President and William L. Cobb, still a resident of Middleville, was the first village Clerk.

The first location near the present village of Woodland was in 1847 by John McArthur. In 1849 one Snyder set up a blacksmith shop there; Jacob Strauss opened a store at Woodland Center in 1853. In 1861 J. S. Goodyear started to open a store at Woodland, but he thought the prospects there were too poor and hauled the goods back to Hastings without unloading them. Lawrence Hilbert engaged in trade here and about 1865 lots began to be set off and sold. The place was known as Woodland Center until 1892, when it was incorporated under the name of the village of Woodland under the general village law by the Board of Supervisors of Barry County.

Elated at the prospects of securing a railroad at an early date at Freeport, Samuel Roush in 1874 platted the village. Eventually it secured railroad facilities, being on one of the branches of the Pere Marquette Railroad. It was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature in 1907.

Special Articles

WHEN THE CIRCUS CAME TO YANKEE SPRINGS

By Chas. A. Weissert

The man who has lived longest in Hastings is Oscar Young, a well-known citizen. He has lived here 70 years. Born in Battle Creek on July 1, 1840, he was brought to Hastings by his father, Vespasian Young, who conducted a store here until he died in 1848. While Mr. Young resided in Battle Creek he bought furs which he sold to the firm of Godfrey & Campau, of Detroit. In Hastings his place of business was in a building which stood where John Robert's news room now is. Henry Goodyear had a store on the corner occupied by the National Bank building. There was a hotel kept by Nathan Barlow and another kept by George Fuller. Hastings was accessible by roads leading from Battle Creek, and Yankee Springs. Mr. Young's father bought furs, and sold blankets, bars of lead for bullets and other necessities which the Indians required. He also made buckskin gloves and mittens. He spent his spare time in studying law. There was a number of pettifoggers in Hastings at that time. When Mr. Fuller had an Indian arrested for not returning a kettle which he had borrowed, Dr. Upjohn pettifogged the case for the Indian and won it. At another time James Darling, a Mexican War veteran, was bitten by a dog owned by O. N. Henry. Trouble ensued, and Hemen I. Knappen, who drove the stage between Hastings and Battle Creek, appeared as attorney for Henry. These trials and cases were held in a little office in a building which stood on the corner now occupied by Loppentien's store. Indian trails and the river made the settlement accessible to Indians. Mr. Young, though only a boy, recalls the visits to his father's store of Chief Sobby, a heavy-set red man, who combined with his Indian costume of skins a unique head-piece, which was nothing but a plug hat with a tin band about it. Chapultepec was another well-known Indian. Sundago, another Indian whose name is familiar to many today, adopted the white man's habits so far that he wore a small beard. Askasaw was the last Indian chief in this vicinity. When he died,

says Mr. Young, the Pioneer Society, then headed by Daniel Striker, took up a subscription and purchased a head stone for the chief's grave in Barryville cemetery. This is the only existing memorial to any of the red men who used to live here.

Probably the most noted man who penetrated to the remote settlement called Hastings was Lewis Cass, candidate for President. In the presence of a great crowd of Democrats he spoke in the grove on the east side of the old court house. There was a great deal of political spirit in those days, and the Democrats here wanted to honor the distinguished visitor in every way they could. They placed a cannon on Grant's hill, and whenever Cass said something which delighted his audience, William Goodyear standing in the court yard, waved a signal flag to the men at the cannon and it was at once fired. This delighted the audience more than it did Cass, for he stopped speaking long enough to inform his guests that he wished they would stop firing that pop gun as it annoyed him. Cass is described by Mr. Young as a stern looking man with a very large head, and a wart on his chin. Cass came and went by stage.

There was considerable excitement here at the outbreak of the Mexican War, and John VanArman opened a recruiting office here. Among those who enlisted were Levi Chase, proprietor of Chase's tavern, and his brother Charles; William Boorum, who died in the Soldiers' Home several months ago; William Seavey, who died a year ago, and a man named Tabor. Tabor and the Chases died either of spotted fever at Detroit or in the service. Tabor's clothes were sent back packed in a bee hive. In addition to these men was Harvey Horton. When the load of recruits passed Fuller's hotel on their way to Battle Creek, a man came out of the hotel with a decanter of whiskey and treated them to a farewell drink.

Shortly after they left Mr. Horton regretted enlisting, and returned, and there was excitement in town soon after. The men here were thoroughly in sympathy with his decision not to go to Mexico. When an officer arrested and took him away, a number of Hastings men made their way through the woods, and headed them off. They seized Mr. Horton and brought him back. Later when another officer came for him Mr. Horton happened to be in a room in Barlow's hotel. Word of the officer's arrival spread

rapidly, and again Mr. Horton's friends came to his assistance. They crowded into the room and about the officer, until Mr. Horton was able to escape into the woods. After these two experiences in trying to take him into custody the officers gave up trying to get him.

Amusements during the early days were few and far between. Occasionally some enterprising manager would bring to the settlement a puppet show, and dancing images, Punch and Judy, and Babes in the Woods. The residents were fond of dancing and the shows would be followed with dances in Barlow's hotel. In this hotel there was an excellent floor for dancing. It was called a "swinging floor" and the joints rested on tamarack poles.

One particularly well known entertainer who came to Hastings was named Carey. In those days they were boosting the western country just as they are doing today. Carey had a show here, and one of the songs with which he made a hit ran thus:

Come all you that are not faint hearted and are bound for the west
In search of the country that you would like best.
Come and go along with me after those that have gone
And we'll settle on the banks of the pleasant Oregon.

A big event happened in Hastings in 1850 and many of the folks were looking forward to it with great pleasure, and so were the boys who could afford to go--Van Amberg's Circus and Menagerie was coming to Yankee Springs, then the principal settlement in the county. Flaming posters in Hastings announced the wonders that were to be seen. Oscar Young was then ten years old, and he gazed in wonder at the posters but had no idea that he could go. But there was one kind-hearted man in the settlement who knew the longings in a boy's heart. Early on show day Henry Hoyt saw Oscar and William Hitchcock and his brother standing near his store. Mr. Hoyt, who was afterward County Clerk and afterward well-known resident of Kalamazoo, married the daughter of William Lewis, proprietor of the Yankee Springs hotel. Mrs. Hoyt is still living in Kalamazoo. Mr. Hoyt and his brother were engaged in dry goods business in part of Barlow's hotel.

"Well, Oscar," said Mr. Hoyt, "aren't you going to the show?"

"No. I haven't anything to go with," replied Oscar.

"Well, run home and have mother put on your shoes and wash

your face and comb your hair. Come back and then we'll see what we can do for you."

Manning Doud, still a resident of Hastings, was preparing to take a load to the show for 25 cents per head for the round trip. Into this wagon Mr. Hoyt placed Oscar. With the kind heart of a man who knows what a boy needs when he starts out for a good time, Mr. Hoyt said, "You'll want something to eat. Hold on! a boy never goes to a circus without a glass of lemonade. You'll need money for that."

Provided with funds by Mr. Hoyt, Oscar took his place in the wagon, and eagerly waited until the big tent west of the Yankee Springs tavern came into sight. He immediately jumped out of the wagon and joined the crowd. About the first thing he heard was a barker presiding over a lemonade stand. He was at once attracted to the "barker" in charge of the stand. What he said Mr. Young has always vividly remembered, and he says that he has never since heard a man in this business repeat a lingo anything like it. This is what he heard:

"Right this way for your cool ice lemonade. Cool as the ice from a frozen ocean. Made by the light of a diamond 75 feet under the ground and sweetened by the kisses of Jenny Lind."

Oscar could not withstand such an appeal and he at once invested in his first glass of lemonade. He had never before imagined anything which tasted as good. After drinking his lemonade he strolled about the hotel with its "seven stories all on the ground." Here he saw "Yankee Bill," the famous landlord, whom he remembers as a red-faced, portly man. Here were gathered a great crowd of people gathered from all directions. Some came with horse and ox teams, and others came on horses. As often happens, there was a brawl between some of the persons present and the show men. When the fight took place, Constable Edgecomb attempted to arrest one of the show men. The men connected with the circus rallied to the support of their companion. They seized the constable, lifted up a rail fence, placed him under it, and let the fence down upon him. While he was engaged in the difficult task of extricating himself, the man whom he attempted to arrest galloped away over the hill on a white horse en route to Grand Rapids. After a fine dinner on gingerbread sold on the grounds, Oscar was ready for the sights.

He enjoyed the circus, its acrobats and animals. Many of the young ladies present had the privilege of riding on an elephant. A ladder was provided, and they took turns in climbing upon the back of the animal and taking a turn about the ring. If the name of one of these ladies, now a well-known resident of this city, were published there would be a great deal of amusement. He returned late in the evening to Hastings, very happy over his day of pleasure, and during the life of Mr. Hoyt he never forgot the kindly feeling for the man to whom he was indebted for one of the most pleasant experiences of his boyhood days.



One of the Springs that gave Yankee Springs its Name. Two Great Grandsons of "Yankee" Lewis in the Foreground

YANKEE SPRINGS

(An article on this famous half-way house, written by Mrs. Mary Hoyt of Kalamazoo, in 1894.)

On the afternoon of a summer's day, August 26, 1836, nearly fifty-eight years ago, there might have been seen a covered wagon containing a stalwart man of thirty-five years and five children, between the ages of eleven and two years, driving through the then unbroken wilderness of Barry County, in the Territory of Michigan.

Accompanying this wagon was a woman on horseback, carefully guiding her gray saddle-horse over the rough roads of the new country. She had in this way performed nearly the whole of the journey, we having started from Weathersfield, Wyoming County, New York, three weeks before, taking in Canada on our route, and expecting to settle in South Bend, Indiana, where my father had bought a tract of land of 160 acres.

This party consisted of my father, William Lewis, and Mary Goodwin, his wife, three daughters and a son, also an adopted daughter, Flavia Stone. We were at this time about to spend the night with an older brother, Calvin Lewis, who came to Michigan a few weeks in advance of us, and settled at Yankee Springs, but the result was that we settled there also. I was a child of four years at the time, so the words of my mother will best describe our coming into Michigan:

“After leaving Detroit the road was mostly through dense woods, Marshall, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo being marked by little clusters of houses surrounded by forests. After leaving Battle Creek we passed through Gull Prairie, now Richland, and there met Leonard Slater, located on the Indian Reservation as a missionary to the Pottawatamie tribe of Indians. Leaving this place we plunged into the wilderness and, the road having disappeared, we followed an Indian trail marked by blazed trees and journeyed eighteen miles farther through the woods without seeing a single habitation. Tired and travel-worn, weary and hungry, we halted at nightfall in a lovely valley in the wilderness, where a log house was in process of erection. Living springs of clear cold water were gushing from a bank, and on a nearby poplar tree someone had fastened a shingle marked Yankee Springs.

“In 1835 a young man by the name of Chas. Paul, in company with the family of Henry Leonard, were eating their luncheon under the trees beside one of the springs. A stranger joined them and it came out in conversation that they were all from New England States, and one of the party said, ‘We are all Yankees.’ At this suggestion Charles Paul hewed the bark off the side of an oak tree and cut the words ‘Yankee Springs’ on it. The name clung to the place and was finally adopted by the township.”

A welcome was given us by our relatives, and the log cabin of two rooms was shared together. A quilt was hung over the

door space and the windows were boarded. A supper was served and we settled down for the night. Dismal tales have come to me of those first nights in the forest; that the barking of wolves broke the stillness of the hours and that the glittering eye-balls of the panther looked down upon us with no friendly gaze.

My father located 1,000 acres of land there and it soon grew to be an attractive place. We endured in common with all the early settlers the trials and privations of pioneer and frontier life, and lived to see the wilderness subdued, and surrounded by all that pertains to a later civilization. Here in this thick forest, the land entirely unclaimed, we settled. The woods were filled with Indians, and our nearest white neighbor, Calvin G. Hill, was eight miles distant from us. From Middleville to Ada, the direct route to Grand Rapids, was a dense forest, an unbroken wilderness without an inhabitant. We were on the direct line of the great Indian trail running from Detroit to Grand Rapids, which passed directly through Barry County. But we were not long alone. The fur trader and the speculator were abroad in the land, and to fill the increasing demands of the weary traveler, our little cottage of two rooms was extended, building after building, until we occupied "nine stories on the ground," seven distinct buildings in a row in the front and two additional in the back. They presented neither an imposing nor a graceful appearance, but were the hurried creation of backwoods life, when there was no time to waste on architecture, symmetry or beauty.

The fame of the place spread throughout the country and so brisk was business at the old "Mansion House," as it was called, that it was no uncommon thing for one hundred people to tarry there for a night, while sixty teams were often stabled there between sunset and sunrise.

The extreme ends of the old house were named. The one farthest north was "Grand Rapids," and the extreme south was "Kalamazoo." The Kalamazoo was considered the "best room" and was furnished rather better than the others and the better class of people occupied it generally, bridal parties, etc. All the other buildings have tumbled to ruin. This building alone stands out all by itself. It is close to the road down in the hollow, seemingly proud of the fact that it has survived all of the changes of the last century and inviting admiration and respect because of it. If the

old building could speak what stories it could tell, what historical information it could impart that would be of interest and benefit to future generations.

Together this husband and wife labored and toiled, their chief desire seeming to be to give happiness to those about them. With a hospitality that was proverbial and a generosity that can not be measured by ordinary methods, they greeted all who came. The man without money was treated as well as the man whose pocket bulged with the currency of that day. Ministers of all denominations, irrespective of creed, were entertained free of charge, but were expected to hold an evening service in our large dining room, and men were sent out to notify the neighbors to that effect. The first Episcopal service I ever heard was rendered there by Dr. Francis Cuming, who was journeying to Grand Rapids to settle over St. Mark's church in that city.

We were in very close touch with the people at Grand Rapids in the early days and visited often in their families. Much of our trading was done there and, although thirty-eight miles distant from us, we made frequent journeys there. I remember seeing Louis Campau and Rix Robinson—those grand pioneers—the earliest. Their names should never be forgotten by us. They were here in the early 20's and none who came after exceeded them in powers of endurance, or the cheerfulness with which they bore the hardships and toil of that period. The name of Louis Campau is revered by older Grand Rapids people, for he came there first. He once owned the whole village of Grand Rapids. In the old days all knew of his tender heart—all who met him received some kindness at his hands. We used to hear how, when his bank failed, he brought home armfuls of wildcat money and papered his cupola with it, saying, "If you won't circulate, you shall stay still." I recall the Withey family, the Moreaus, the Godfreys, Morrisons, Richmonds, Whites, Henry R. Williams, the Almys, P. R. L. Pierce, Canton Smith, an early hotel keeper of that city; the Rathbones, early settlers there, who built a large hotel and opened it with a big dance. I was there and danced all night. Mrs. T. B. Church, that noble pioneer woman, who played the organ of St. Mark's church for fifty years and is still living in that city, her gifted son, Frederick Church, then a babe whom I often carried in my arms, now celebrated world-wide as an artist—

all these and many more were household names with us and went to make up a part of our family life in a time when there were few social barriers and man felt and needed the sympathy and encouragement of his brother man.

Lewis Cass was twice our guest. Ex-Governor Felch, ex-Governor Ransom, United States Senator Zach Chandler, Senator Chas. E. Stuart, Judge Pratt—and, indeed, all men of note who traveled in those days were at some time or other entertained there in the primitive style of the day. Royalty was once entertained



Mrs. Mary Lewis, Wife of "Yankee" Lewis

at the Mansion House, and this occasion was memorable as being the first time that the table was set with napkins for each guest, word having been sent in advance of his coming. Almost the first guest I can remember was Douglas Houghton, then a young man. He was first appointed State Surveyor and later, as we all know, filled the office of State Geologist for many years.

Thefts and robberies were unknown, although large quantities of money were carried by travelers and it would have been an easy matter for it to change hands had there been the desire for it by designing persons. For example, every year large quan-

tities of money were carried through from Detroit to Grand Rapids to pay the Indians at their annual payments. This money, \$15,000, was conveyed through in an extra stage by a man named Lee, accompanied by an Indian interpreter named Provonsool. The money was all in specie and was carried in boxes about a foot square, very heavy, as I remember hearing. These boxes were all set in the room at the south end of the old house. There was an outside door with an old lock and key to it. Two old guns they had were set up in one corner of the room and those men probably slept without a care or thought of being robbed and went safely through from Detroit to Grand Rapids in this simple and easy way.

My father was a man of indomitable courage and perseverance—never discouraged—always happy and with a fund of humor, wit and story-telling rarely excelled. He was just the one to lead in settling and establishing a new country. He planned largely and liberally, and was able with his perseverance and strong health to carry out his plans, and by his personal magnetism encouraged others to work and persevere also. He was the first to contract for carrying the United States mail through that portion of the country. In the first contract he was assisted by General Withey, of Grand Rapids. This route was from Battle Creek to Grand Rapids. Later a contract was taken to carry the mail from Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids. Lines of stages were put on and several coaches a day were started from these points, all meeting at Yankee Springs—the “half way house”—for refreshment of passengers and change of horses. For many years this was the only route through the woods from Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids, and until other roads were opened up it made very lively times at the old house. The Yankee Springs postoffice for a long time supplied the adjacent country. Letters were luxuries in those days, rare and costly. Envelopes and postage stamps were unknown. We wrote on three pages of the paper, folding it so the name could be written in the middle of the fourth, and sealing with a wafer, directed it and then paid our 25 cents postage on it or left it to be collected by the person to whom it was addressed, just as we chose. Sometimes it was difficult for the old settler to produce the 25 cents to pay postage and he had to earn it before he could claim his letter.

My father and Rix Robinson built the first bridge across the Thornapple River in 1838. The road then ran on the old Indian trail, across Scales Prairie. In 1838 my father also built the first bridge across the Coldwater Stream on Section 35, in Caledonia. Split logs were used for flooring, pinned down by wooden pins. He, in company with some others, started in 1849 to build a plank road that was to run from Galesburg to Grand Rapids. A good deal of time, energy and capital was expended on this scheme, but it was finally abandoned.

There was a period when the Yankee Springs property was considered very valuable, and the Rathbones, in Grand Rapids, wished to exchange their hotel property for our own, we to retain the farm lands. This Grand Rapids property is now worth several hundred thousand dollars, and is the present location of the Widdicomb building, corner of Monroe and Market streets. The other, deserted and forsaken, requires a stretch of the imagination to believe that it was ever of great importance.

Wheat and potatoes at this early date brought fabulous prices, but the table was always well supplied with the essentials and with many delicacies. Great care and attention were given to the large garden of several acres that lay across the road from the old house. No vegetable or flower then heard of but was grown there. The light soil, highly enriched by muck taken from the marsh, was calculated to bring them forward to speedy perfection. The most luscious fruits, melons and vegetables were grown in abundance, all luxuriating in the new, warm soil of the valley. Arbors were filled with choice grapes, peaches ripened in the sun, and flowers, the good old-fashioned flowers of that day, grew in abundance. Celery—the first grown in Barry County and perhaps in the State—was raised there. Tomatoes were raised. They were first called “love apples,” and we grew them for their beauty, but soon learned to eat them. Men were constantly employed in caring for the ground. Water was supplied for use by wells dug on the grounds. My father was a skillful caterer. Each guest who came was made to feel at home under that hospitable roof. The first Thanksgiving celebrated at Yankee Springs tavern was in the fall of 1838. My father sent out invitations to all the new settlers for miles around and later sent men and teams to gather them in. My mother meanwhile was superintending the first Thanksgiving

dinner in the new country, which consisted of wild turkeys brought by the Indians from Gun Lake woods, two immense spare ribs cooked to a turn before the great open fireplace, as were also the turkeys. Mince pies such as only my mother could make, also pumpkin pies and puddings, were baked in the large brick oven by the side of the kitchen fireplace. Cook stoves there were none. The turkeys and ribs were suspended by stout tow strings and slowly turned before the open fire and some one had to burn their face while continually basting the meats with their rich gravies, brought out by the heat of the fire. Cranberries were brought by the Indians and was about the only fall berry. Not a fruit tree or berry bush had yet been planted.

The tables were spread and the guests came from their homes in the woods to enjoy this banquet prepared for them in so hospitable a manner and, while all must have remembered the parents and homes so recently left by them, it was not their way to mourn for what they had not, but to enjoy fully what they had, which they did in a way that would astonish the dyspeptic of today.

It began to snow, the first of the season, but the harder it snowed the livelier grew the party. An old violin was pulled out of some corner and all began dancing and kept it up until morning, when breakfast was prepared for them, after which they were conveyed back to their homes, and so passed our first Thanksgiving in the old Mansion House at Yankee Springs.

The political campaign of 1840 made a hot time in the old house, as I well remember. Pole and flag raising and stump speaking were the order of the day, but the doings on the Fourth of July, 1846, beat everything on record before or since, so far as I can remember. A tamarack pole was spliced until it was of the desired length and a flag was flung from it to the breeze with much hurraing from the crowd that had collected from everywhere and filled the road-front before the old house from hill to hill. Twenty-six girls, all in white, representing the states—then twenty-six in number—and a Goddess of Liberty in red, white and blue were loaded into a monster wagon drawn by twenty-six yoke of oxen. A girl for each state and a yoke of oxen for each girl! We went above the hill to form the procession and came down into the crowd in fine style.

We were ten years in advance of the Michigan Central Rail-

way. We heard rumors of its approach, but so slow was it in coming that the old stage coach kept right along its undisputed way for many years. The road started from Detroit in 1836, when Michigan was a territory. It reached Kalamazoo February 21, 1846, and six years later, May, 1852, the road reached Chicago.

It has been said "there is no good Indian but a dead Indian," but in our experience we did not find in them the treachery and deceit they are usually credited with. They had great respect for my father and we lived in peace and harmony. The woods were full of them, but we did not fear them and I believe they were our friends. They were strict in their deals and if they made a promise they kept it. They brought us berries of all kinds from the woods and constantly supplied us with fresh venison, never bringing any part of the carcass but the hams, which were always twenty-five cents, no more nor less. They brought us fresh fish from the lakes, and the muskallonge from Gun Lake were enormous. They made a great deal of maple sugar. In 1840 these Pottawatamies were removed by the United States Government beyond the Mississippi, and very reluctantly they left their homes among the lakes and oak openings and the silver streams of Michigan. Noonday, the chief of the Pottawatamies, greatly impressed me by his dignified bearing. Six feet tall and well proportioned, he was at that time nearly 100 years old. His face was painted and a great circlet of eagle feathers was around his head. He looked kind and he laid his hand on my head. He died soon after and was buried in Richland cemetery by the side of his wife. He, Noonday, assisted in the War of 1812 and witnessed the burning of the city of Buffalo.

Ye say they all have passed away,
That noble race and brave;
That their light canoes have vanished
From off the crystal wave;
That in the grand old forests
There rings no hunter's shout,
But their name is on your waters
And ye may not wash them out.

There were poets in those days and frequently the old place was sounded in story and song, and occasionally one was found whose "feelings" overflowed to the extent that he published his production. Such an one was George Torrey, Sr., who, coming

from Boston at an early day, settled in Kalamazoo County and was associated with the Kalamazoo Telegraph at its birth in 1844. He traveled through Barry County at that date and a poem published in the Telegraph soon after reached us in this form. He had not the world-wide fame of a Kipling, but this poem has survived perhaps longer than some of Kipling's will, which, having been carefully preserved for sixty years, I have the pleasure of presenting to you:

Did you ever go out to Grand River
 From Detroit to Kalamazoo,
 In a wagon without any kiver,
 Through a country that looks very new?
 If you are hungry and wish for a dinner,
 Breakfast, supper and lodging to boot,
 If you're a Turk, a Christian or sinner
 Yankee Springs is the place that will suit.
 The landlord's a prince of his order—
 Yankee Lewis—whose fame and renown
 Far and near throughout Michigan's border
 Are noised about country and town.

It finished by enumerating the bill of fare, which seemed to afford him great satisfaction.

Personally, I knew little of the hardships of pioneer life, for I was protected and sheltered by my parents. There was so much of life and activity about us that it was akin to life in a city, and we had no time for loneliness. Being the almost constant companion of my father and visiting with him all the towns within a large radius, I saw life in all its forms in the new country, traveling in stage coach, wagon or on horseback. There was no underbrush in those days, the annual fires consumed it, leaving the forests free from obstruction, and one could walk, ride or drive anywhere as freely as in a beautiful park. Nature was liberal in the diffusion of fruits, nuts and flowers, and from the little violet in the early spring there was a successive gradation of flowers of all kinds and colors until the frost came in the fall. We lived only two and one-half miles from Gun Lake—that inland gem of Barry County. My first view of it will never be forgotten. Scouring through the woods one day on my little pony—born of the gray mare ridden by my mother when we came into the country—we came suddenly out on the shore of this lake and I gazed in silent wonder on that broad sheet of water, flashing and dimpling in the

sunlight where no white man's boat had ever been, and only the Indian's canoe had disturbed the calm serenity of its waters. Not a tree had been disturbed and the dark forest clear around was reflected on the glistening surface of the water. As I silently gazed a feeling of awe stole over me. The solemn stillness of lake and forest frightened me. I turned my pony and fled and never drew rein until my home was reached.

In the new country you sometimes looked around for your neighbors and they were not there, and so it was that some of the birds we had known—the robin, the wren and the swallow—were not there, but blue-jays and whip-poor-wills were not lacking. The crows had not come, neither the flies, but fleas and mosquitoes were plenty. We heard of a neighbor who opened her Bible one day and found a fly pressed between its leaves. "Now, children," she said, "don't you touch that fly, let it remain right here in this book, just as it is, because that fly once lived in our old home in York State." There were no rats or mice, neither were there any house cats. The country had no need for the latter, but I had, and so pleaded that one day a box came from Grand Rapids, upon opening which out jumped two lovely maltese kittens. The prettiest, irrespective of sex, was immediately christened Tommy and nursed and petted to a great extent. One day Tommy was missing, and there was a great outcry. Finally, when found, he was nursing a lot of little kittens of his own. From this small beginning many came and, no doubt, the descendants of this same cat are racing around on the sand hills of Barry County today.

My father represented the counties of Allegan and Barry in the State Legislature in Detroit in 1846. He came home for a short time during the winter and when he returned was accompanied by his two youngest daughters, who took their first ride on the new railroad and indulged in the gayeties of the Capital City for two weeks.

I have been asked to give my girlhood recollections of this trip to the then Capital City.

The ride to Battle Creek was duly performed by stage coach and four horses and from there we took our first and never-to-be-forgotten ride on that new railroad we had heard so much about. We were nearly frightened to death with the almost constant scream of the engine whistle and the clanking of the cars over the

rough road, which was about equal to that of cattle cars at the present time. We wished ourselves back in the old stage coach many times before the journey ended.

The Wales Hotel, on Jefferson avenue, East, just thrown open to the public January 1, 1846, we thought very fine. It was kept by Austin Wales and his two sons. It was very crowded, as many members of the Legislature and their wives were staying there. The dining room was large and nearly square and was frequently used for entertainments in the evening, balls, fancy-dress parties and concerts, all of which we attended. About January 24 a Scottish ball was given. Perhaps it was a Burns' reunion and seemed to us a grand affair. There was fine music, with bag-pipes included (the first I ever heard), the gay costumes with kilted skirts, plaid hose and scarfs and jaunty caps quite charmed us, and the Scottish dances and hornpipes altogether made it a veritable fairyland entertainment, the impression of which I have never forgotten.

We visited a daguerrean gallery and had our pictures taken. This room had just been opened in Detroit and the art was considered something wonderful and had but recently come into practice on this side of the water. We thought it very tiresome, as we had to sit still five minutes to get a picture. My father had a number taken and presented one to each of his seven brothers then living.

That was the last winter the Legislature convened in Detroit. Some feared that the frivolities of the gay city might affect the manners and morals of the members of that day, and so voted that Lansing, forty miles from any railroad, in the heart of the forest of Ingham County, should henceforth witness the assembling together of that august body. My father lived for six years after this event, dying in September, 1853, at the age of fifty-one. His last request was that he might be buried on the hill overlooking the old place. I have twice removed his remains—once, after the old place passed from our hands, to the nearby cemetery, and again to lay them by the side of my mother in Kent County. She outlived him by thirty-five years, dying March 1, 1888, at Alaska, Kent County, at the age of eighty-three years. My mother descended from old Revolutionary stock, on the Norton-Goodwin side, and will ever be remembered as a faithful friend and worthy

type of womanhood. In the afflictions of life, from which she was far from being exempt, she displayed that true Christian fortitude which commends her example to us.

The solid forests have vanished and we sometimes feel that the solid man has vanished, too. The type of character they represented may not be needed now, but they are worth remembering for their courage in opening up this country and reclaiming it from brush and bramble trees and stone, and placing Michigan in the front rank she holds today among the states of the Union.

The men have done much to make this a grand and noble State, but the women have not been idle. If "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" ours have certainly been kept busy. In all ways pioneer women gladly did their share in bearing the heavy burdens of that period, and today can pride themselves upon being "the first ladies of the land," and by right, because we got here first!

Mrs. Mary Hoyt, the author of the above sketch and the daughter of "Yankee Bill" Lewis, was born at Weathersfield, Wyoming County, New York, October 1, 1832. She came to the then Territory of Michigan in August, 1836, and is now living in Kalamazoo. She is greatly interested in Barry County and is thoroughly in sympathy with every movement to advance the cause of preserving the records of pioneer days.

BIOGRAPHIES

NATHAN BARLOW

In presenting the biography of Hon. Nathan Barlow we feel that we can do no better than to give in full the following paper read before a meeting of the Barry County Pioneer Society by Hon. Chas. Mack:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I have been called upon to give a sketch of the life and character of one of the early pioneers, one, who in his lifetime, was well and personally known to every person in Barry County. I refer to the Hon. Nathan Barlow. He was, indeed, one of the early pioneers. Coming to this county with his parents from the state of New York, in the year 1840, the family settled on a new farm in the township of Yankee Springs. In the year 1842 he was elected County Clerk of this county. The whole number of votes cast in the county that year was 315. There are today more legal voters in any one township in Barry County, than there were in the entire county at that time. The population of this city at that time was about 100. In the year 1844, Mr. Barlow was elected to the office of County Treasurer.

After finishing his duties as a county official he launched into business for himself, by renting and operating the old flouring mill owned by Messrs. Dibble and Hayes.

He built his first residence on the ground where now stands the Parker Hotel. He soon opened this residence as a hotel and operated it as such for several years.

Later on he associated himself with the late Wm. S. Goodyear. The firm Barlow & Goodyear proved to be one of the strongest and most reliable that ever did business in this county. The firm was engaged in the mercantile business; they were also the owners and operators of the large flouring mill that was located on South Hanover street, which in its time was a great boon to the farmers of this county. They also operated the old woolen mill located on Fall Creek, which will be remembered by the surviving pioneers of this county.

Mr. Barlow's push, enterprise, and business sagacity were perhaps best shown in his connection with the building of the Grand River Valley railroad. The project lay dormant for more than twenty years after the act had been passed by the Legislature authorizing the construction of this road. Mr. Barlow was a

member of the Board of Directors of this company, and with that spirit of enterprise that marked his whole career, resolved to put an end to the hauling of all merchandise used by more than one-half of the population of this county. This hauling was done over the long and tedious wagon road from Battle Creek to this city. There are some here today, who well remember the sand hills and the mud holes they had to contend with, while teaming over this road. As I said before, Mr. Barlow resolved to put an end to this hauling of goods by wagon, and in the fall of 1863, and during the dark days of the War of the Rebellion, when it was no easy task to arouse men, and raise money for a project of this kind, he was instrumental in getting the directors together in the city of Jackson, and at that meeting it was resolved to build the Grand River Valley railroad, or perish in the effort. The labors performed, and the trials endured by this Board of Directors during the construction of this road, will never be fully known by us. Reward finally came to them, and in April, 1869, the cars rolled into Hastings for the first time; and in March of the following year the road was completed to the city of Grand Rapids.

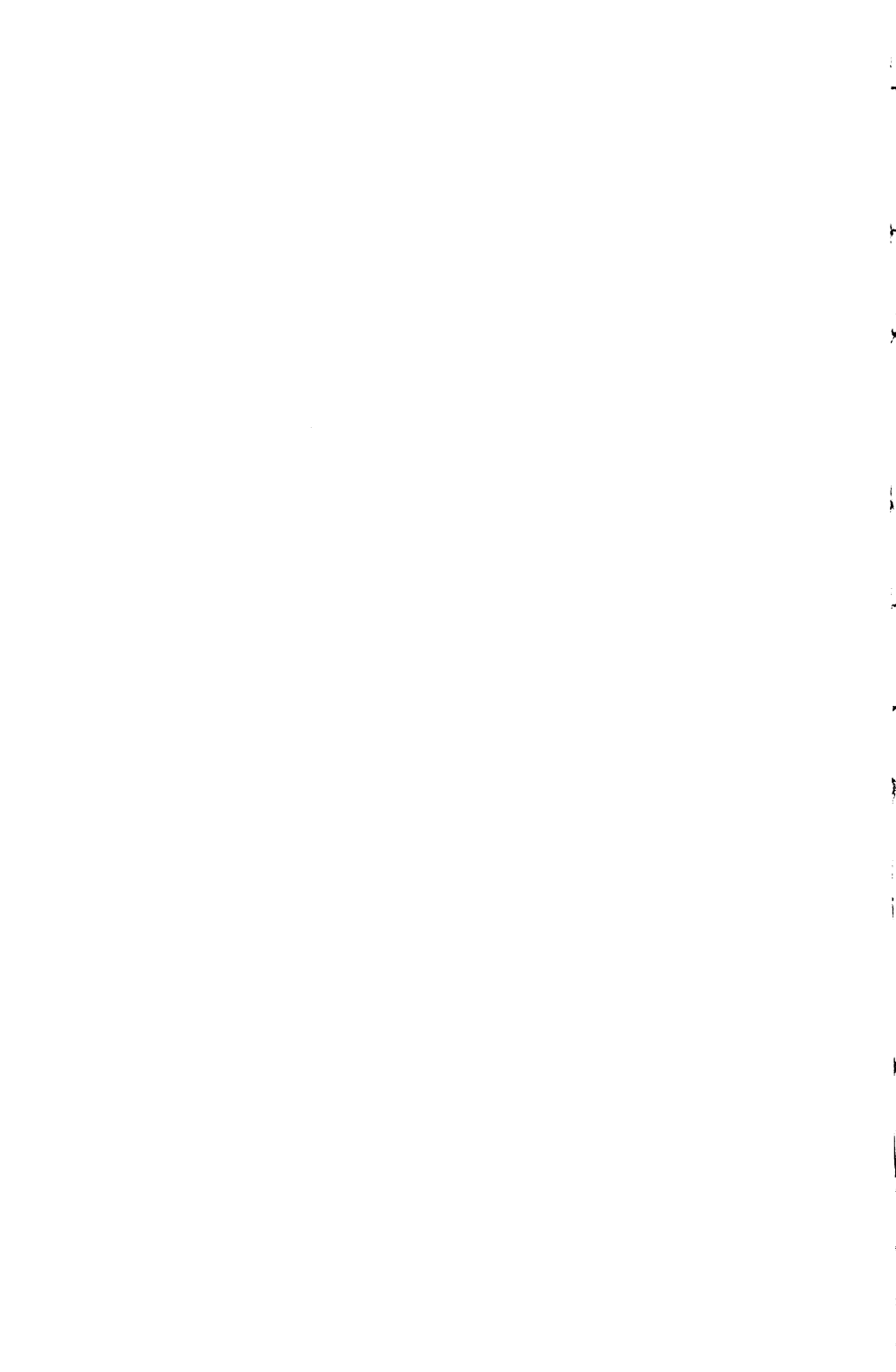
In politics, Mr. Barlow was a lifelong Democrat and took an active part in political affairs.

That he was held in high esteem by the people of this city and county is shown by the honors showered upon him by calling him to fill so many positions of public trust, having filled with marked ability the offices of County Clerk, County Treasurer, Representative in the State Legislature, Postmaster at this place, and member of the Board of Education of this city. He was a member of the School Board in 1872, when our present high school building was erected. This building stands today as a monument to the enterprise and good judgment of the members of the board at that time.

The agricultural interests of the county were near and dear to him, and perhaps no class of people could say more kind things of him today than the pioneer farmers of Barry County. They remember him as their friend, and their benefactor in their early struggles, when the county was new, and when money and favors were hard to get. In truth, and in conclusion I will say that Mr. Barlow was one of those men who do things, and say little about



NATHAN BARLOW



it. He belonged to that noble stock of pioneers who are fast passing away, and whose good works live after them.

In addition to the above excellent and well written sketch by Judge Mack, it might be well to recite something of the home life of Mr. Barlow. On February 2, 1843, he married Melissa B. Tyler. To them were born four children—Chas. E., Fred H., Henry H. and Sarah L., of whom two, Sarah L. and Henry H., are still living, Sarah L. being Mrs. Chas. Huffman of Hastings. Mrs. Barlow died March 28, 1869, and on May 31, 1870, Mr. Barlow married Hannah M. McNair, who survives him, as does also their son, Royce E. Barlow of Chicago.

Another subject which perhaps should be commented upon more fully is the connection of Mr. Barlow with the organization of the Grand River Valley railroad and in dealing with his efforts in this direction we believe an account written by Edward W. Barber of Jackson will be read with interest. The sketch is as follows:

In the fall of 1863 it was determined by the directors of the Grand River Valley Railroad Company to organize for the purpose of building the road from Jackson to Grand Rapids. Prior to that time the idea had been to construct the road by way of Lansing, but this was given up on account of the proposed construction of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw. Pursuant to the plan to build by way of Eaton Rapids, Charlotte, Vermontville and Hastings to Grand Rapids, a meeting of the stockholders of the Grand River Valley Company was held in Jackson on the 20th day of October, 1863. Before the meeting was held the question of who should be chosen was fully talked over, and the result of the election was that all of the shares represented, were cast for the following persons, namely: Nathan Barlow, Edward W. Barber, Henry A. Shaw, Amos Root, Joseph E. Beebe, William H. Withington and Moses A. McNaughton. This is the order in which the names are given in the official minutes of the meeting. Of the persons then elected Mr. Barber is the only one now living.

As soon as notified of the action of the stockholders, Mr. Barlow filed the oath of office required by law with the Secretary of the company, which bears the date of November 21st, 1863, and on that day a meeting of the new board was held in Jackson, and the purpose to proceed at once to build the road was evidenced by

its action in adopting a resolution that Director Barlow of Barry County, Director Shaw of Eaton County and Director Root of Jackson County, be authorized and directed to procure on behalf of the company the right of way through their respective counties for the track of the road.

At every subsequent annual meeting of the stockholders of the company until the year of his death, Mr. Barlow was chosen a director, and from the outset took an active part in the construction of the road, and as to every detail with reference to building the line in Barry County he was consulted and his advice accepted.

Matters with reference to the road in Barry County were placed formally in his hands. At a meeting of the directors, held in Jackson, August 3, 1865, at which Mr. Barlow was present and the contract was let for its construction, the board authorized him to make such arrangements with Mr. Hiram J. Kenfield, or some other person, as he should deem for the best interest of the company, to procure subscriptions to the stock and rights of way in Barry County. Later in the same year, at a meeting held November 9th, Mr. Barlow was authorized to negotiate for rights of way in the County of Barry.

At a meeting of the directors held in the village of Hastings on the 24th day of June, 1868, the matter of locating depot grounds was considered, and it was determined, after remarks by Messrs. Mills, Holbrook and others, that plats of the lands which would be needed either east or west of the village, should be made and sent to Hastings to be viewed by the public, and that written propositions sent to the President and Secretary of the company would be considered by the board. Mr. Barlow was specially anxious for an open and square deal in this matter.

This subject came up again at a meeting of the Board of Directors held in Jackson, October 7, 1868, when the proposition of Mr. Barlow and H. J. Kenfield to donate ten acres of land east of the village of Hastings for depot purposes was formally accepted. This action was unanimous on the part of the board.

During all the years that Mr. Barlow was a member of the board there was entire harmony, and in regard to every important action the determination was unanimous. In attending meetings the members paid their own expenses. Building the road was a hard financial struggle. About four years after his first



JOHN BESSMER

election as a director, in the fall of 1867, the road was completed and cars commenced running to Onondaga in Ingham County; in July, 1868, to Eaton Rapids, and in October, 1868, to Charlotte; in April, 1869, to Hastings, and in March, 1870, to Grand Rapids. With all the details of the work during its slow progress Mr. Barlow was familiar and his advice and counsel in regard to the work in Barry County were regarded by the other members of the board as of great value. He seldom, if ever, seemed to be in doubt as to the best policy to pursue.

JOHN BESSMER

In the death of John Bessmer, February 5, 1912, Hastings lost a substantial citizen and an active business man. A resident of that city for forty-eight years, he built up a splendid reputation for integrity and rectitude and made a large circle of friends. Every one who knew John Bessmer, knew him for a man who merited the respect and admiration of all.

Mr. Bessmer was the last of the prominent German residents of Hastings. He came to this country a poor lad, but equipped with an excellent education. He mastered the language, worked industriously, and made good in every sense of the word. He was interested in movements for the advancement of education and culture in this community. His influence as a member of the board of education was strongly felt, for he always wanted the youth of this city to have the advantages of excellent schools. He was a charter member of the German Arbeiter Verein, a society organized by the German residents of Hastings, years ago. Mr. Bessmer had a strong sense of humor, and to listen to his recollections of amusing incidents in the early days in this city was a pleasure.

Mr. Bessmer was survived by the following children: Mrs. Anna McOmer, Miss Olga, Louis V., of Hastings; Mrs. E. A. Clarke, of Los Angeles, California; Mrs. J. C. Rock, of Goldfield, Nevada. He also left his sister, Mrs. Eckardt, brother Gottlieb of Hastings, and a sister in Germany. Mrs. Bessmer died in December, 1903.

Mr. Bessmer was a resident of Hastings since 1864. When he came to Hastings, then a settlement of 800 persons, he started the first good barber shop, and made a success of the venture.

When he rented from Mrs. Knappen a building for fifty cents weekly it was predicted by many that he would be unable to make enough money to pay his rent. Mr. Bessmer arrived here via stage from Battle Creek in February, 1864. The only barber shop in the settlement was conducted by the late James Hewes, who did carpenter and cabinet work in the same building. When any one wanted a shave or a hair cut, Mr. Hewes laid aside the plane and draw shave and took up razor or scissors. Mr. Bessmer bought Mr. Hewes' tonsorial outfit, paying \$25 for the good will.

Mr. Bessmer's shop became very popular, much to the wonderment of those who had told him he was crazy for starting a barber shop in the village. Two and a half years later he erected the building in which W. L. Hogue's store now is, and continued his business until March, 1876, when he moved into his present store building, which he had purchased the previous November. He had concluded to retire from the barber business when he became fifty years old. In 1888, at the age of 49 years, he sold his barbering outfit and purchased a stock of jewelry, the foundation of his present business.

Mr. Bessmer was born on August 27, 1834, in the village of Nabern, kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany. He went to school until he was fourteen years old, when he was apprenticed to a ladies' tailor for whom he worked three years without any pay. When he had mastered his trade he went on a walking tour in search of work, as was required of every young man in Germany at that time. This was known as the "Handwerksbusch", and Mr. Bessmer spent two months in wandering through the southern part of Germany and in Switzerland. He returned to Wurtemberg and obtained a position in the town of Bachnang, where he worked one year. Hearing of the fortunes to be made in America, he determined to take his chances with many of his countrymen who were emigrating to this country at that time. Together with his sister, Mrs. Fred Eckardt, of Woodland, he embarked from the port of Havre in a sailing vessel for New York in April, 1853, landing in New York thirty-four days later. He went to Philadelphia and from there to Reading, where he expected to meet a German friend. Then he faced the darkest time of his life. At the railway station, a German baggage master told him that the friend for whom he was looking had gone to Philadelphia. Alone,

unable to speak a word of English, with nine cents in his pocket, Mr. Bessmer stood on the platform to think things over. He decided to walk to the home of his friend's relatives a few miles distant. They kept him for some time, during which he did truck gardening long enough to earn enough money to pay his fare to Philadelphia, where he finally joined his friend. These people who helped him were named Blessing, which Mr. Bessmer considered a very appropriate name. After working in Philadelphia for two months, Mr. Bessmer went to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he worked a year at his trade for a ladies' tailor. The firm failed and Mr. Bessmer returned to Philadelphia, where he learned the barber's trade in Camden.

Three years later his health began to fail and he went to Washtenaw County, Michigan, to see his sister, Mrs. Eckardt. In 1857 he returned to Philadelphia and purchased the shop in which he had previously worked. Two months later he was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Brauch.

Mr. Bessmer left several brothers in Germany. In 1857 he sent a passage ticket to John M. Bessmer, who died some time ago, who arrived in June and went to Waukegan and the following March to Woodland, where Mr. and Mrs. Eckardt had taken up land. He got there in time to finish the log house which they were building. After doing this he went to Hastings to work for Mr. Stebbins.

His work in Philadelphia being successful, Mr. Bessmer decided to go back to Nabern and see his mother, and to Switzerland to see his brothers. He made the journey in 1863.

A year later he and Mrs. Bessmer came to Hastings to make their permanent home. They saw the city grow from a back woods village to a city. Mr. Bessmer was well thought of by the residents from the start. He was elected treasurer of Hastings Township in 1869 and 1870. In 1871 Hastings became incorporated as a city. The late Henry Goodyear was the first mayor, Mr. Bessmer the first treasurer. Later on Mr. Bessmer served as a member of the Board of Education nine years and during that time he had the enviable record of missing only one meeting, and this when he was out of the city. He was for many years a member of the Riverside Cemetery Association, and through his

efforts the place, in the course of years, evolved from a wilderness into one of the finest cemeteries in the state.

He was one of the city's substantial business men. When he bought his jewelry business, he mortgaged the building in order to go into business on a cash basis, which he maintained ever since.

DR. CHARLES S. BURTON

In the death of Dr. Charles S. Burton, December 5, 1902, Barry County lost a real pioneer and a man who in the course of his long life of seventy-eight years had experienced much and accomplished much.

Charles Seymour Burton was born at Waterloo, New York, on September 13, 1824, his ancestors on his father's side coming from near Manchester, England.

Charles Burton received his primary education in the Village of Waterloo and was assisted by his father in the higher studies at home. In order to pursue his studies at night, for he was a great student, he was compelled to read by the light furnished by pine knots burning in the fireplace of the little home. The family was large and money scarce, but by diligent work Charles managed to accumulate a little money with which he pursued his studies in the City of Albany after he arrived at the age of 21.

Leaving Albany, he again went to work to accumulate more money and with this he went to New York City to study medicine, devoting his time as much as possible to Bellevue hospital. He did not graduate from any medical institution, but after studying in this hospital for some time he started out to practice as an allopath, at that time there being no homeopath school of medicine in the United States. He practiced allopathy but a short time when he concluded that homeopathy was the proper process to combat disease and started out under that school. Like all new theories, this practice did not take readily with the people and it was hard work to obtain sufficient practice to maintain himself. But he was always equal to the emergency and when he failed in one direction to accomplish his object he turned in another way toward the same end. In the winter of 1847-8 he taught school in Romulus, New York, and among his pupils was a Miss Anna Eliza Monroe, the daughter of Ward Barnabas Monroe and his wife, Emmeline Janes Monroe.

The relationship of student and teacher soon changed to that

of lovers and Miss Monroe became the wife of Mr. Burton on the 13th day of February, 1848. They still continued to live in Romulus until after the birth of their first son, Charles F., in November, 1849.

It was at this time that the California gold fever sprung up and swept over our country, and Dr. Burton concluded that he could make a ready fortune by going to California. With this end in view, he went to New York City and tried to engage passage either across the isthmus or around the Horn to the new Eldorado. He was much disappointed at finding that every available space on all of the boats that were leaving New York which could carry passengers for this new country, was engaged for more than six months in advance, and that he would certainly be compelled to wait at least that length of time before he could make a start, and even then, after waiting so long, he could not be absolutely certain that he would obtain passage.

In consequence of this state of affairs he returned to Romulus and from that place, taking his wife and young son, he came to Michigan. During the latter part of this journey he was accompanied by two homeopathic physicians who entered the state with him, and the three were the first homeopathic physicians in Michigan.

He looked around the City of Detroit but concluded it was not a good place for him to locate in, so he again went westward on the Michigan Central railroad to Battle Creek, which was as far as this railroad extended at that time. Here he took up his residence in 1850.

His practice as a physician not occupying his entire time, he formed a partnership with a man named Gant and purchased the type and press and started the Battle Creek Journal, Mr. Gant, Dr. Burton and his wife setting all the type and doing all the work connected with the paper. His medical practice was now quite lucrative and he managed to lay by a considerable sum of money.

He had not been fully cured of the gold fever and during the winter of 1852-3 he made arrangements with some other people similarly afflicted to start for California in the early spring of 1853. All of his accumulations were invested in material necessary for this journey. Early in 1853 they started westward on a

journey, the difficulties of which cannot be fully expressed to the people of today by comparison with any hardships that we know. It was a journey of six months' duration, through the wilderness and across trackless prairies where the footsteps of the white man had never passed, where only at long intervals was a human being to be seen, and where the wild beasts and the wilder Indians put the traveler constantly on his guard for the preservation of his life and of his property. They were six months in reaching their final destination in the gold region near Father River, sixty-five miles northeast of Maryville in a little settlement called Whiskey Diggings.

Here commenced his miner's life and here on the 18th of November, 1853, their second son, Clarence M., was born. While he was quite successful in his mining operations, he did not make the fortune anticipated, and in the year 1854 he went with his family to San Francisco and engaged passage to New York City across the isthmus, taking the steamer Yankee Blade, which belonged to the Vanderbilt line, as far as the isthmus.

They set out on this vessel in October and had proceeded southward along the coast only about two hundred miles when the vessel, which had on board a goodly supply of gold, was taken in charge by a gang of ruffians who were called stowaway pirates. These men attempted to run the vessel ashore for the purpose of plundering it, but unfortunately ran the vessel upon a rock which split it asunder and she soon went down. Many of the passengers were drowned, but the larger portion succeeded in reaching the main land, some two miles distant, where they lived upon such food as was washed up from the vessel and such as they could obtain from the salt water, for about ten days, when they were taken off; part of them south to the Isthmus and the remainder back to San Francisco.

Dr. Burton and his family were all saved and all returned to San Francisco. They went back to their old mining camp and remained one year until the following October, when they undertook the same trip they had set out upon before. This time, after the usual delays of travel in that early age, they reached New York City safely.

From here they went to Seneca Falls, New York, where Mrs. Burton's parents were residing. Leaving Mrs. Burton here, her

husband proceeded to the State of Michigan and settled in Hastings in 1855. He had been in Hastings but a short time when his wife and children came to make their home with him, which was from this time on their future home and where were born three more children, William, Ellen and Edward.

Dr. Burton took an active part in the campaign of John C. Fremont, the first Republican candidate for the presidency, and stumped the county for him.

After the defeat of Fremont and for the purpose of commencing then the work of the new presidential campaign, which resulted four years later in the election of Lincoln, Dr. Burton and some others purchased type, presses and paper and started the Hastings Banner. The doctor was an incessant worker and in addition to his political work he carried on the work of the newspaper, his work as a physician, which was constantly growing, and cleared and cultivated the farm which he had purchased when he first visited the village and where he resided so many years.

His medical practice grew so large that he was obliged to give up his paper, so he sold it out, but he never lost interest politically in the Republican party and always had time to spare to convert to his way of thinking any person who had been misled into any other belief. His accumulations brought him other property, both real and personal, the attending to which occupied all his time.

During the War of the Rebellion, he was one of the foremost in the accumulating of sufficient funds to fill the quota of the Township of Hastings, and it is well known that Hastings was one of the few places in which there was no draft. Those who lived in Hastings during these exciting times will remember the congregation that assembled every day in Dr. Burton's store to hear him read to the crowd the latest news from the battle ground and from the capital.

He carried his love for hard work through life and devoted as many hours to hard labor the last year as he did when he was young. His idea of thrift was carried to an extreme, but those who would impute this to him as a wrong would not do so if they could pass through all the walks of life that he passed through and see the absolute need of economy in order to have the necessities of life and the positive good that comes from affluence. He

was an enthusiastic advocate of popular education and the maintenance of schools. His own children were put to school at an early age and kept there until they had passed through the highest branches which the state afforded.

He constantly used his efforts to persuade young men and women to obtain an education in order to better their situation in life and maintained that money thus spent was a better investment than any other.

CHARLES F. COCK

Charles F. Cock was born at Charleston, Kalamazoo County, about a mile and a half east of Augusta, March 11, 1839. He comes from one of the oldest families in this country, certain of his ancestors having come to this continent in the seventeenth century by way of the Bermudas, settling first in Virginia and then on Long Island.

Charles Cock's father was Andrew Cock and his mother was Maria Reeves Cock. In 1836 they left their home in Wayne County, New York, and came to the then territory of Michigan. Arriving at Buffalo, they came down Lake Erie to Detroit and then made the journey to Charleston, which they made their destination, by train. The country in which they found themselves was perfectly new territory and the land had to be cleared before it could be tilled at all. The two pioneers wrested a farm for themselves from the all-encompassing wilderness and lived on the same until their death, the mother dying in 1869 and the father in the next year.

Charles Cock had three brothers and one sister, and of this family of five, three are still living. Charles was the next to the oldest, the oldest brother being James Edward, who was killed at the battle of Shiloh. He had enlisted in the First Nebraska Regiment and was the first Nebraska man to be killed.

Young Charles' education was received first in the rural schools of Kalamazoo County and then in Olivet Institute, now Olivet College, which he attended in 1857 and 1858. At that time Olivet had about 250 students and was a co-educational institution, being peculiar because of this feature, women students not being generally admitted to higher educational advantages as they are today. President Bartlett was the head of the institute and on



CHAS. COCK

the faculty was Prof. Ormel Hosford. He was one of the strong pillars of the school and a man of great influence among the students. Later he became one of the state's first Superintendents of Public Instruction.

After studying at Olivet, Mr. Cock returned to Kalamazoo and went to farming, which has been his vocation all his life. It was not long, however, before the war of the rebellion broke out, and in September, 1861, Charles Cock enlisted in the Eighth Michigan Volunteers, Company F. This company was largely recruited from Hastings, although a few like Mr. Cock came up from Kalamazoo County and joined the regiment at Hastings. In the battle of James Island, June 16, 1862, Mr. Cock was wounded and was discharged because of his wounds. It might be well to note here that his regiment was styled the "Wandering Eighth", being said to have travelled more miles than any other in the service.

In August, 1870, Mr. Cock, at Ashtabula, Ohio, married Miss Ella King of Erie, Pennsylvania, and soon after came to Barry County, locating in Hope township on the same farm where he now lives.

In Hope Mr. Cock has prospered and has made many friends, while his absolute rectitude of character has led his neighbors and friends to place him in many offices of trust in the township. As a matter of fact he has held almost every office in the township, having been Justice of the Peace, Township Treasurer, Highway Commissioner, School Commissioner, School Inspector and Supervisor. This latter office he has held for nine terms, his first term being in 1879. An interesting fact is that at this time George Abbey, Charles Mack, Charles Polley and Edward Nye were also all new men and broke into service as supervisors at the same session.

In 1906 Mr. Cock was elected County Treasurer and in 1908 he was again returned to the same office. As a county official Mr. Cock was painstaking and scrupulously careful and made a most enviable record. In politics he has always been a Republican, casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

Mr. Cock has one son, Maurice, who lives on his father's farm in Hope, and one daughter, Jessie, who is Mrs. Alonzo McCarthy of Shultz.

Charles Cock is known as a man of integrity and absolute

rectitude. He is square in all his dealings and merits and possesses the confidence of all who know him. He is a progressive citizen of whom his community may well be proud.

GEORGE E. COLEMAN

There is no county in the State of Michigan where more young men have made good than in Barry County, and among Barry County's successful young men we are glad to record the name of George E. Coleman as a young man who, by hustling and honest progressive methods, has earned the respect of all.

George E. Coleman is the son of Hiram and Julia Coleman, early pioneers of Barry County, they having come to Johnstown township in 1852 from Orange County, New York. They made this trip through Michigan as far west as Battle Creek by rail, but there they had to adopt other methods and proceed by stage, their drivers on the stage trip being the well known stage drivers, Hiram Merrill and William Burroughs.

Arriving in Johnstown, the pioneer couple located on the farm still owned by George E. Coleman. All was wilderness at that time and the land had all to be cleared before cultivation was possible. Those were days when men met nature with naked hands and wrested from her the stern necessities of life, and the then young Coleman was always sturdy and strong in the hard fight.

An interesting story of these pioneer days is that of the first election in Johnstown township. In this first election Hiram Coleman cast the very first ballot, walking six miles through the woods to register his vote. Twelve ballots were cast altogether at this first election, the polling place being at the home of William P. Bristol.

It was on this farm in Johnstown township that George E. Coleman was born, May 24, 1868, he being the next to youngest of six children, three girls and three boys.

Mr. Coleman's youth and young manhood were all spent on the farm and his start in life was secured through the hard work necessary to farm life.

At the age of 23 Mr. Coleman married Carrie C. Fry, daughter of Henry and Anna Fry of Johnstown township, and from this marriage two children have been born, Annawave and



GEO. E. COLEMAN

Earle H., the former being a graduate and the latter a student of the Hastings High School.

Mr. Coleman has been entrusted frequently with public office and by careful attention to his duties has always justified the confidence of his fellow citizens. For nine years he was clerk of Johnstown township and for four years he was county treasurer.

After completing his two terms as treasurer, Mr. Coleman entered the City Bank of Hastings as assistant to cashier and then, after three years of banking work, he became treasurer of the Michigan Mutual Insurance Company, which insures against loss by wind and tornado. Mr. Coleman also conducts a fire insurance agency, having a strong and reliable list of companies.

Mr. Coleman has always been interested in the things which make for the advancement of his county and city and has been secretary of the Barry County Agricultural Society, giving the county excellent service in this respect. He is also treasurer of the Barry County Chautauqua Association. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is treasurer of Hastings Lodge, F. and A. M. He is also a member of the Woodmen and is a staunch Presbyterian.

Mr. Coleman has a firm and unyielding belief that allegiance to one's word and perfectly square dealing with every one alike are bound to succeed in business and he has squared his actions to these ideas with the most excellent results.

George E. Coleman is known in Barry County as a man of absolute integrity who can be trusted fully in any capacity in which his services may be required. He is still a young man, but he has achieved enough to make his record an enviable one. Still Mr. Coleman is not content to rest on the past, but is ever on the lookout for other opportunities of service.

PHILIP T. COLGROVE

Mr. Colgrove is a native of the State of Indiana, having been born at Winchester in that state, April 17, 1858. His first American ancestry is traced in the person of Francis Colgrove, born in 1667, who settled in Warwick, Rhode Island. Philip T. Colgrove's father was Charles H., who came from Steuben county, New York, and his mother was Catherine Van Zile, a sister of Judge Philip T. Van Zile of Detroit.

Good educational advantages in his early youth, at Olivet College, coupled with a commendable energy and application, placed him some years in advance of the average student. He read law concurrently with his literary studies and was admitted to the bar before the Supreme Court of Michigan, on his twenty-first birthday, one of three out of a class of fourteen.

Mr. Colgrove's first practice was at Reed City, but in 1880 he removed to Hastings and formed a law partnership with Clement Smith, now Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit. The partnership was terminated upon the appointment of Mr. Smith to the judgeship in 1893 and Mr. Colgrove is now the senior member of the firm of Colgrove & Potter.

In 1882 Mr. Colgrove was elected prosecuting attorney of Barry County and was re-elected for two additional terms, in 1884 and 1886. In 1888 he was elected to the State Senate, and although nominated for re-election in 1890, declined the honor. During his term in the senate Mr. Colgrove was a member of the Judiciary committee and chairman of the Committee on Insurance. He has also been city attorney at Hastings for several years. He is a Republican in politics and during many campaigns has been an eloquent and effective speaker in the behalf of his party's principles and candidates, not only in Michigan, but in the nation at large.

Of recent years Mr. Colgrove has been actively interested in the cause of good roads. As president of the Michigan Good Roads Association he has done much to increase the efficiency of Michigan's highways and much of the present widespread interest in better thoroughfares must be directly attributed to the enthusiasm and organized effort which Mr. Colgrove has given to the duties of his office as executive of the State association. During Mr. Colgrove's administration the membership of the association has grown almost unbelievably and he is always ready to preach the cause of good roads at public gatherings everywhere. Mr. Colgrove is without doubt the great apostle of good roads in Michigan.

Mr. Colgrove's business interests are many and varied. He is director and stockholder in numerous enterprises and is also the owner of a considerable number of successful farms. In the management of these farms he has shown conclusively that modern

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business methods pay well when applied to agriculture.

Mr. Colgrove is a Knight Templar Mason and a member of the Hastings lodge of the Knights of Pythias. In this latter fraternity Mr. Colgrove has been especially prominent. In 1886 he was a member of the Grand Lodge and was elected Grand Master-at-Arms of that body. In 1887 he was elected Grand Chancellor, and in 1889 and 1890 he was the representative of the Grand Lodge to the Supreme Grand Lodge. In 1894 he was elected Supreme Vice Chancellor. But the highest honors of the order awaited him in 1896 when, at the session of the Supreme Grand Lodge held at Cleveland in August of that year, he was elected Supreme Chancellor of the Supreme Lodge of Knights of Pythias of the world.

Mr. Colgrove has two children, Mabel, who is Mrs. William M. Stebbins of Hastings, and Lawrence, of Pontiac, Michigan. Two years ago Lawrence Colgrove married Miss Grace Grant of Hastings and to them has been born a son, Philip Grant Colgrove.

In church relations Mr. Colgrove is a vestryman of Emmanuel Episcopal church and has always been ready to put his shoulder to the wheel and help the church through all difficulties.

Mr. Colgrove is a lawyer of ability and learning. He is a convincing and eloquent pleader and speaker and an energetic citizen who is always to be found on the side of progress.

DAVID R. COOK

Scarcely another name in Barry County has been better known than that of David R. Cook. One of that group of hardy pioneers who have now nearly all gone to their rest, he will ever be remembered as one of the men who were foremost in the making of Barry County.

David Randolph Cook was born of sturdy German stock (the original name was Koch) in Mapletown, Steuben County, New York, September 1, 1830, and died in Hastings February 6, 1907. In the spring of 1854 he left his home in the Empire State and started for Michigan, arriving in Prairieville, where his sister already lived, May 24. The next year he and his brother, Sylvanus Cook, bought a farm where the two brothers lived until Sylvanus was elected register of deeds in 1860. October 13, 1857, he married Martha M. Marshall of Prairieville.

November 17, 1863, he moved with his family to Hastings and went into the office of his brother as deputy register of deeds, holding the position until his brother's term expired in 1868. While the two brothers were in this office they prepared the abstract of Barry County, which Philo A. Sheldon now owns.

Upon leaving the register of deeds' office the brothers formed a partnership in the abstract, real estate and loan business, but the following year this arrangement was broken by the death of Sylvanus. About a year later, or in 1870, Mr. Cook took into partnership with him Philo A. Sheldon, and for nineteen years the firm of Cook & Sheldon continued in business. Then Mr. Cook sold out to Mr. Sheldon and retired from active business, with the exception of being associated, at times, with Major G. M. Anderson in soliciting for railroad projects. After Major Anderson's death, Mr. Cook entirely refrained from active business, spending his later years pleasantly and quietly in his comfortable home on West Green street. This home, which he built in 1868, is now the home of Kellar Stem.

Politically, Mr. Cook was in early life a Whig. When the Republican party was formed he joined it and was an active member thereof to the close of his life. He was treasurer of Prairieville township in 1858 and supervisor in 1860 and 1862. He was a trustee of the village of Hastings in 1868 and 1870 and supervisor of Hastings township, including the village, in 1871 and 1877. He was a member of the school board in Hastings from 1870 to 1872, and mayor of Hastings in 1872, having been the city's second mayor.

In 1876 Mr. Cook was elected to the State Senate, serving through the twenty-ninth session of the legislature. His health failing him at this time, he retired from public life, but five years later he was again elected to the senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Lewis Durkee. In 1880 he was one of the presidential electors on the Republican ticket. After the death of the late Henry A. Goodyear, Mr. Cook became president of the county pioneer society in whose proceedings he always took a deep interest.

Such is the brief resume of an active, successful and honorable life. Without the advantages of early schooling, he became by reading, observation and experience, an exceptionally intelligent

HISTORY OF BARRY COUNTY



D. R. COOK

and well informed man. Possessed of strong will and intrinsic good sense, he won his way to success in business life and earned and deserved the confidence of his fellow citizens, the esteem of his neighbors and the affection of his family and friends. He was public spirited and generous, charitable and kindly of heart. He fought the battle of life bravely and well, and he came to its end with the calmness and peace that follows a work well and faithfully done.

Mr. Cook is survived by his widow and two sons, Marshall L. and William R., proprietors of the Hastings Banner.

Mrs. D. R. Cook is the daughter of William and Ellen Marshall, who were among the earliest pioneers of Prairieville township. She was born in Ontario County, New York, June 29, 1839. Her father moved to this county in 1842, his brother, John Marshall, having located the farm on which William settled in 1839. Mrs. Cook, full of years, and with the gracious sweetness of a happy and mellow old age, is living with her son, William R., in Hastings.

OSCAR L. CROOK

A man who comes from pioneer stock and whose career it is a pleasure to set forth in this volume is Oscar L. Crook. He is known to his community as a man of irreproachable integrity, of impeccable habits, and one who gives to his vocation the utmost attention and care.

Mr. Crook was born in Monroe County, Michigan, July 8, 1854, and in the following year was brought to this county by his parents, Elam and Catherine Crook, who located on a farm just north of the present County Farm. The story of their first years in Barry County is a vivid chapter from real pioneer life. It was in March when they first arrived and the family stayed at the home of D. McDonald while the father cut logs for a house. There was no bridge over the Thornapple and this stream had to be crossed in order to permit the pioneer father to reach his property from Mr. McDonald's. Accordingly, taking off his boots, he would wade through the icy waters to get to his place of work. Snow was still on the ground and this had to be shovelled away to make it possible to build a house. Finally the home was completed and when the family were finally ensconced

in their new log habitation Father Crook found that he had just half a dollar in money.

During the summer he cleared some land for corn and potatoes and thus supplied his family with the necessaries of life. Mr. Crook, senior, had his corn ground in Hastings, taking it to mill down the river in a boat and in returning home he would push the boat up the stream.

At that time Indians were numerous in the vicinity of the Crook farm and Oscar L. Crook remembers watching the redskins as they camped in the woods on the banks of the Thornapple. At this time there were all kinds of wild game and hunting was widely indulged in. All these conditions Oscar Crook has seen changed. From a real wilderness he has seen come forth the present cultivated and fertile fields.

For the past thirty years he has been connected with the railway mail service, receiving his appointment under President Arthur. In this connection he has been a faithful and competent employe. In his earlier years Mr. Crook taught school for five terms and among his best friends today are some of his former pupils.

Mr. Crook was at one time the owner of Indian Landing, where the first corn in Barry County was raised.

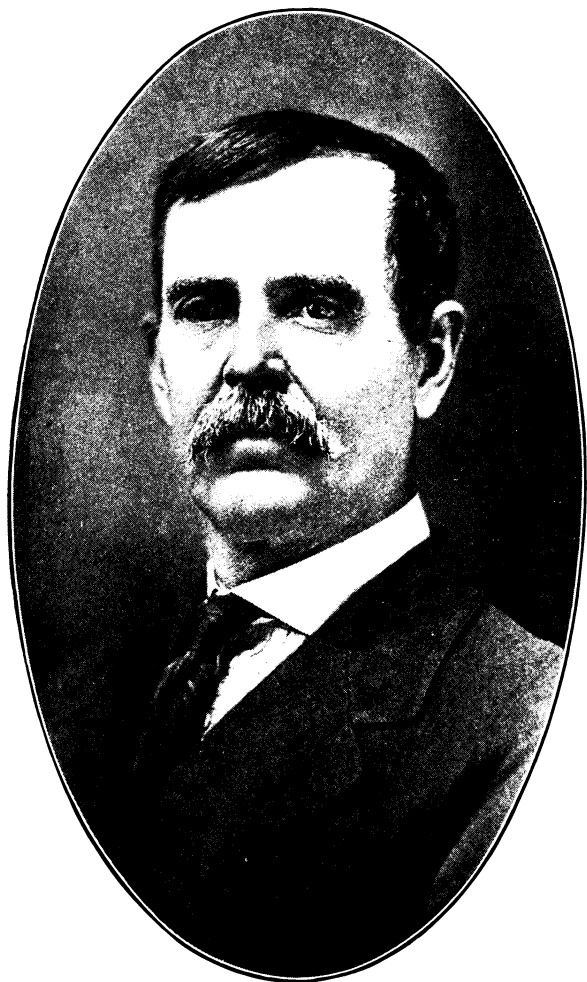
Fraternally Mr. Crook is a Knight of Pythias and a member of Hastings Lodge, F. & A. M.

October 13, 1875, Mr. Crook married Miss Anna Green, who also had taught in the rural schools. Mr. and Mrs. Crook are the parents of three sons, Guy E., a real estate and insurance broker in Hastings; Don E., who is engaged in the plumbing business in Vicksburg; and Shirley B., who is cashier of the Thornapple Gas and Electric Company at Hastings.

LEN W. FEIGNER

One of the hustling and progressive men of Barry County is Len W. Feighner of Nashville, editor and owner of the Nashville News and postmaster of that village. He is a man who is always to be found pushing any project which will be of advantage to the community and he is distinctly a citizen who is worth while.

Len W. Feighner was born in Canton, Ohio, June 5, 1862. His father was William F. Feighner and his mother Henrietta



OSCAR CROOK

Stauffer Feighner, both being of German descent. The Feighners came to Ohio from Pennsylvania and the Stauffers from Maryland.

In September, 1862, when Len W. was only four months old, his parents moved from Ohio to Castleton, whither the father's two brothers, Henry and John, had preceded him and had become the owners of a saw mill. He had acquired an interest in this mill while yet living in Ohio and on his arrival in Castleton he became actively engaged in the mill business.

In this same year, 1862, David and Elizabeth Stauffer, the parents of Mrs. William Feighner, also moved with their family from their home in Ohio to Castleton and located on a farm in that township on which Mr. Stauffer lived until his death in 1878, this being occasioned by a tree falling upon him while chopping in the woods.

Mr. and Mrs. William Feighner, on their arrival in Castleton, at first located upon a farm, but soon afterwards moved to where Nashville now is. Here Mr. Feighner, with his brother-in-law, the late S. E. Stauffer, started, in 1863, the first store in Nashville, this store being located at the north end of what is now Main street on the south bank of the Thornapple. A short time later Mr. Stauffer bought Mr. Feighner's interest in the business and the latter then started the second store in Nashville. This was located opposite where the postoffice now is and here Mr. Feighner continued in business until his death, December 12, 1869. Mrs. Feighner, who survived him, is still living, being a resident of Hastings.

Young Feighner's first education was secured in a slab school-house in Nashville, not only the building but also the seats being made of slabs. Holes served for windows, glass not being obtainable. His first teacher was Miss Agnes Smith, now Mrs. C. M. Putnam of Nashville.

On the death of his father, when he was only seven years old, Len W. went to live with his uncle, L. E. Stauffer, the family of four children being too great a burden for the widowed mother. In the next year, 1870, Mr. Stauffer moved to Grand Rapids and young Len attended school in that city. A short time later Mr. Stauffer moved to Hastings and here young Feighner completed his formal education.

In December, 1878, he engaged to learn the printer's trade in the office of the Hastings Journal. In 1879 and 1880 he worked in Nashville for Arno Strong of the News. He then returned to Hastings, where he worked on the Banner for George M. Dewey and later for Cook & Bowers. He left the Banner in 1881 and for three years was a journeyman printer, being employed in Muskegon, Indianapolis, Greencastle, Ind., and Chicago. He remained in Chicago until 1884, when he returned to Nashville and became foreman and local editor of the News.

In 1885 Mr. Feighner married Stella L. Wilson of Nashville, daughter of Lyman J. and Ladosca Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. Feighner have one daughter, Vada M., born March 1, 1895.

October 1, 1888, Mr. Feighner bought the Nashville News from Arno Strong and has remained its proprietor and editor since that time, now nearly a quarter of a century. The News has the well founded reputation of being the best paper in the best shop in any town of equal size in the state.

In politics Mr. Feighner is a Republican and has always been an enthusiastic worker for his party. He has been postmaster of Nashville since 1899, receiving his first appointment from President McKinley.

Besides his newspaper, Mr. Feighner is interested in manufacturing and various other business affairs, both in Nashville and elsewhere. He is president of the Grand Rapids Textile Machinery Company and is active in advancing the company's interests.

He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Masons, Odd Fellows, Maccabees and the Foresters.

One institution in which Mr. Feighner is particularly interested is the Nashville Club, whose organization eight years ago was due, to a great extent, to his efforts. He was its first president and has continued to hold this office ever since. The club is a social organization and has splendid rooms in the Griffin block, the second story of which is owned by and devoted almost entirely to its uses.

Len W. Feighner is pre-eminently a progressive and forceful citizen. He is a man who has made his own way to success and one who has made his success of benefit to his fellow citizens. It is most fitting that he should be a representative of Nashville in this History.



LEN FEIGNER

CHARLES F. FIELD

Charles F. Field was born in Manchester, Michigan, September 23, 1851. His parents were John and Alcey J. Field, natives of Wayne County, New York. His boyhood was spent in his native town, where he attended the village school, and when the new High School building was finished in 1867 he became a member of the first class, which graduated in 1871. In the fall of that year he was one of four young men that entered the State University from the Manchester High School, graduating from the literary department in 1875 with the degree of A. B.

For several years following graduation Mr. Field taught school, one year in Clinton and four years in the Manchester High School. He then purchased the Clinton News, which he conducted until the spring of 1884, when he moved his plant to Tecumseh and founded the Tecumseh News. In 1896 he sold the News and shortly afterwards became an editorial writer on the Detroit Free Press. After three years in this work he was elected to a position in the Detroit Central High School, where he taught Latin and Rhetoric for a year, when he again yielded to his journalistic proclivities, resigning his position in Detroit to purchase the Hastings Herald, which he conducted until the fall of 1911, when the Herald and Journal were merged into one paper, called the Hastings Journal-Herald. He is one of the editors of this paper and vice president of the Hastings Printing Company, the corporation which owns the aforesaid journal.

During all the years of his active life Mr. Field has been connected at various times with the work of the public schools. While living in Manchester he was township superintendent of schools. During his Clinton residence he was for a time a member of the school board. In 1891 he was elected by the Lenawee County Board of Supervisors, county commissioner of schools, and in 1893 was re-elected by the people. Soon after locating in Hastings he was the candidate on the Democratic ticket for school commissioner of Barry County, but was defeated. In December, 1901, he was unanimously chosen by the Board of Education of the City of Hastings, Superintendent of the City Schools, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the superintendent. He entered upon the duties of superintendent January 1st, 1902, and held the position until June, 1904, when he retired from school

work to devote all his attention to his newspaper. In the fall of 1892 he was the Democratic candidate for member of the state board of education, but, his party being in a hopeless minority, he of course was not elected. A similar honor was accorded him in 1910, when he was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for state senator.

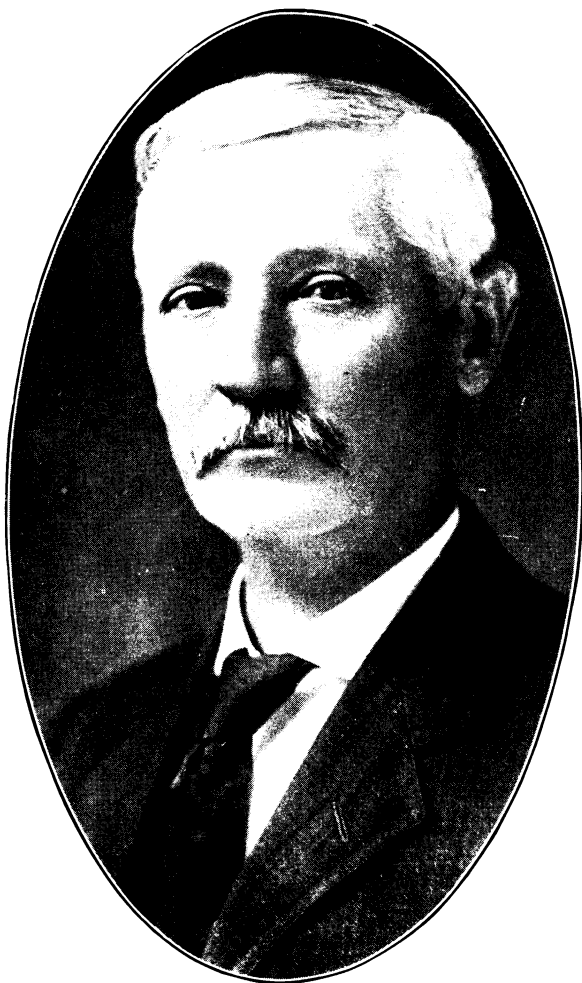
On December 31, 1878, Mr. Field married Miss Kate Kies, daughter of Joseph S. and Elizabeth Kies, of Clinton. They have two children, Will J. Field, editor of Electric Traction, of Chicago, and Elizabeth Louise, wife of Adelbert M. Hall, a prominent merchant of Belding, Michigan.

In religion Mr. Field has been actively identified with the Episcopal church for most of his adult life, having been a member of the vestry while at Clinton, Tecumseh and Hastings. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, in which order he has held the secretaryship of Tecumseh Lodge and Chapter, and for the past eight years he has been secretary of Hastings Chapter No. 68, R. A. M. He is at present Worthy Patron of Hastings Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star.

HENRY A. GOODYEAR

There is no name in the county more closely associated with its advancement than that of Hon. Henry A. Goodyear. He came to the State of Michigan at a time when it was nothing but a still unsettled wilderness, inhabited principally by Indians and widely scattered white settlers, and offering little in the way of opportunity to any one not possessed of that hardy and indomitable spirit of conquest that actuated the minds and bodies of our early pioneers. He witnessed the evolution of Barry County and the City of Hastings from their rough inception to finished maturity. He saw comfortable homes and thriving interests supplant the log shacks and itinerant enterprises of the '30's and heard the whistles of the factories and locomotives where the axe of the woodman had sounded before—all this in a lifetime of industry and progress that has left its lasting impress on the community in which he lived.

Mr. Goodyear was born in York, Pennsylvania, June 30, 1818. He secured an academic education at home, remaining there until he was sixteen years of age, when he embarked in



C. F. FIELD

his first business experience, entering the employ of a druggist in Philadelphia, working in the drug store and learning the rudiments of pharmacy.

Young Goodyear remained in Philadelphia two years and then, in 1838, he came to Michigan, locating in Detroit. Here he continued working at his profession until 1840, when he came to Hastings, arriving there, for the first time, in the month of November.

Hastings, at that time, was a cluster of rudely constructed houses, built in the woods, and Mr. Goodyear spent his first night in the village at Chase's Tavern, situated on the bank of the Thornapple, near the present Michigan Avenue bridge. He brought with him a stock of general merchandise and drugs and subsequently opened the first store in Barry County on the corner of what is now Creek and Main streets.

It has been written that the young store proprietor, when standing in his own doorway, was unable to see the nearest house, a distance of 100 feet away, on account of the density of the trees that intervened. At this time, Mr. Goodyear, who is described as a man of rather bashful and retiring disposition, earned for himself the sobriquet of "doctor", which title clung to him during many years and was bestowed, probably, as a result of the fact that he kept a stock of drugs in his store. No records show that he was ever educated in, or practiced the profession of medicine.

Mr. Goodyear continued alone in his first mercantile adventure for several years, but eventually formed a partnership with his brother, W. S. Goodyear. In 1854 he sold his interest in the business to Nathan Barlow, but resumed it one year later, being associated this time with William Barlow. In 1859 he again disposed of his share in the store, his brother, J. S. Goodyear, being the purchaser. In this same year he started in the hardware business in a one-story wooden building which he built on the present site of Pearson's grocery store. This business has continued to the present day and is now conducted by Mr. Goodyear's sons, John F. and David S., under the firm name of Goodyear Brothers. At the time when he established the hardware business, Mr. Goodyear resided a short distance east of his newly built store, on the present location of the National Bank, and in

a wing of his residence, which extended west and opened into his store, he conducted a private bank which later became the Hastings National Bank.

Mr. Goodyear retired from business in 1882 after an active mercantile career, covering a period of forty-two years, during which time he worked tirelessly, furthering his business success with a standard of honesty and square dealing from which he never deviated.

In 1843 he married Miss Mary Barlow, daughter of Nathan Barlow of Hastings. From this union three children were born: William H., George E., and Nathan B. Mrs. Goodyear died in 1848 and in 1850 Mr. Goodyear married the sister of his first wife, Miss Ermina Barlow. The children of his second marriage were: Rosella, Anna, David S. and John F. Anna, now Mrs. Haff, resides in Grand Rapids. Miss Rose, David and John, all reside in Hastings. No children of the first marriage are now living.

In politics Mr. Goodyear was a firm believer in the principles of Democracy and in 1845 he was elected on the Democratic ticket as a member of the state House of Representatives, its sessions being then held in Detroit, as Lansing was still in the wilderness. In 1854 he was elected to the state Senate and in 1874 he was again elected to the House, serving on the Ways and Means Committee. In 1852 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention that nominated Franklin Pierce for the presidency.

Mr. Goodyear was closely affiliated with the Grand River Valley railway project and witnessed its successful completion, for several years acting as treasurer of that organization. He was financially back of the first newspaper ever published in Hastings, "The Pioneer", and contributed to its columns throughout its existence. He was the first President, the first Mayor, the first banker, and, as has been previously shown, the first merchant of Hastings.

Mr. Goodyear's personal character was a rare combination of those traits that rendered him a considerate and lovable father and husband, a conscientious business man and a loyal and public spirited citizen. He was thoughtful and solicitous in his family, honest and painstaking in his financial dealings, and was possessed of a generous, but always conservative, spirit of philanthropy. There are few schools, churches, or other public institutions in



H. A. GOODYEAR

Hastings and vicinity which have not in some measure been benefited by the aid of this influential citizen.

During his life Mr. Goodyear was an active member of the Episcopal church and was senior warden of the local parish for many years.

His death, which occurred May 5, 1901, caused deep and sincere grief in his home city, the county and the state. The legislature of Michigan sent resolutions of sympathy to Mr. Goodyear's immediate family and as an additional mark of respect, the flags on the capitol at Lansing were placed at half-mast on the day of the funeral.

ROBERT J. GRANT

A man who stands out distinctly as one of the representative pioneers of Hastings was Robert J. Grant. For almost half a century he was one of the foremost figures in all of the city's commercial, political and religious activities and had an almost incalculable influence in making Hastings the thriving community it has become.

Robert James Grant was born in Yates County, New York, February 17, 1822, and died in Hastings, August 12, 1894. When only fifteen years of age he moved from the Empire State with his parents and settled in the then wilderness of Michigan, locating near Bellevue. Though young, he knew what it was to labor and upon settling in Michigan, his father and he opened a shoemaker's shop.

By industry and economy young Grant accumulated a little means and in 1849, when he was 27 years of age, he moved to Hastings and opened a general store. His ability and close application to business brought him success in his first venture and in the various other enterprises in which he later engaged, among these being the milling and grain business. He was always ambitious and industrious, not for the accumulation of wealth but that he might be the means of helping the weak and less fortunate ones of life. With the Indians, who were in the locality of Hastings in those days, Mr. Grant was very friendly and among them was recognized as their friend so that in time of trouble they always came to him for advice.

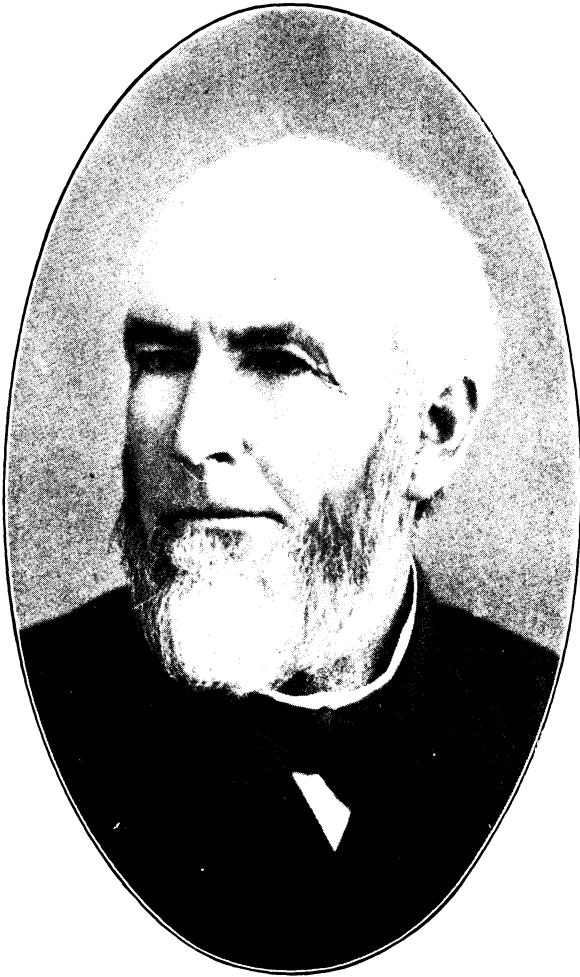
Several years before his death he retired from the dry goods

and clothing business in which he was then engaged and went into the elevator business, his son, R. K. Grant, succeeding him in the mercantile business. Mr. Grant conducted the elevator business until the time of his death.

During his long life in Hastings Mr. Grant was entrusted with many offices of importance. He was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1868 and on the expiration of his term of office in 1870, he was chosen for another two-year term. Three times he was Mayor of Hastings, his first term being in 1878. He was re-elected the following year and then in 1882 was again chosen for the same office. Because of his active interest in educational work he was made a member of the Board of Education and made a very efficient official. In all of his public offices he made a very clean and honorable record and was ever a vigilant and trusted public servant.

Mr. Grant was of a religious turn of mind and soon after attaining his majority joined the Methodist church. He was made a member of the official board of the M. E. church in 1850, the year after he arrived in Hastings, and continued to serve in this capacity until his death. For 23 years he was Superintendent of the M. E. Sunday school, resigning in 1877. In connection with Mr. Grant's relations with the Hastings M. E. church the following extract from Daniel Striker's historical sketch of the church, read by him on the occasion of the semi-centennial anniversary of the church's foundation, will be of considerable interest: "December 2, 1852," says Mr. Striker, "R. J. Grant, with D. G. Robinson and Lorenzo Mudge, for the Methodist society purchased from the village school district, lot No. 589, paying \$150, with the old school house thereon, each paying the sum of \$50. Brothers Grant and Robinson seated and arranged the inside of the building so it answered the purpose for holding religious services for quite a while. The society afterwards paid back what they advanced for fixing the inside, but the purchase money was never refunded."

In 1867 Mr. Grant, with Daniel Striker, bought a tract of 160 acres, north of the State Road and east of Broadway, the same being the southwest quarter of Section 8, Township of Hastings. Later Mr. Grant and Mr. Striker divided their interest in the tract, Mr. Grant taking the land west of Michigan avenue and Mr. Striker the portion east of the same avenue. In 1867



R. J. GRANT

Mr. Grant formed what is known as Grant's first addition from the land which he had retained, and in 1870 he formed Grant's second addition, lying north of the first addition and being also a part of the tract which Mr. Grant had retained from the original purchase. It was on a portion of the first addition that Mr. Grant built the home which has always continued in the family and which is now owned by his granddaughter, Miss Mary Grant.

In 1844 Mr. Grant married Miss Lucelia Jordan, and to them three children were born. Of the three, two died in childhood, one son, R. K. Grant, alone surviving the father. Mrs. Grant died in 1875. The blow was a severe one for Mr. Grant and he sorely felt the affliction, but in the hour of trial he put his implicit faith in God and received comfort.

R. J. Grant was a man who, first of all, was not selfish. He delighted in doing kindly and charitable acts for his fellows and was ever sympathetic in his relations with mankind. The mere acquisition of wealth had no charm for him, for although he was prospered in this world's goods he always looked upon his property as a stewardship for which he must give a good accounting. Hastings and Barry County are better because R. J. Grant dwelt so long in their confines.

It is also most fitting to chronicle the life of R. K. Grant, the only child of Robert J. Grant to survive him. R. K. Grant was born in Hastings October 8, 1861, and died in Battle Creek, following an operation, February 13, 1912, having been a resident of Hastings all his life. He was educated in the Hastings schools and also attended business college. On October 25, 1886, he was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Baitinger of Woodland. To them were born two daughters, Miss Mary, who lives in the family home in Hastings, and Miss Grace, who is Mrs. Lawrence Colgrove, of Pontiac. Mrs. Colgrove has one son, Philip Grant Colgrove.

Mrs. Grant died in Rochester, Minn., where she had gone to be operated upon, in 1907. On October 26, 1909, Mr. Grant married Mrs. Anna Curtis of this city, who survives him.

Mr. Grant was of a retiring nature. He had many friends and his many deeds of charity were never known unless those who were benefitted by them told of his aid. He was for many

years engaged in the clothing business which he sold to G. F. Chidester. He afterwards conducted the elevator business which was established by his father and which he sold to Edmonds Bros. Later he became associated with Guy E. Crook in the importation and sale of foreign products.

Though engaged in business, he found time to serve his city as Mayor, member of the City Council and Board of Education. He was a member of the Hastings Pythian lodge and of the three Masonic bodies of Hastings. He, like his father, was a member of the official board of the M. E. church, of Hastings, and he was also a director of the Riverside Cemetery Association. Kirk Grant was one of the most substantial citizens of Hastings and his memory will always be cherished by his friends.

CHARLES M. HENDERSHOTT

It is indeed with pleasure that we here present a biographical sketch of Charles M. Hendershott, of Baltimore, better known as "Mike" Hendershott. Mr. Hendershott has had an interesting career as a pioneer, soldier, and prosperous upright citizen, and it is most fitting that he should represent his township in this history. It is such men as C. M. Hendershott whom a younger generation should be pleased to honor.

Mr. Hendershott was born in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, May 7, 1839. His parents were Isaiah and Maria Johnson Hendershott, the father being of German and the mother of Scotch-Irish descent. In 1854 the mother and father left the Quaker State for Michigan, making the entire journey by team. It was a long journey and nearly six weeks were required to make it. Finally, however, they reached their destination, which was the still new village of Hastings, and there met their son Charles, who had come by train with his grandmother to Battle Creek and then had walked to Hastings.

From Hastings the family, which included besides Charles two brothers and four sisters, went to Blivens' Corners and there spent their first winter in Michigan. Early in the spring the father bought of Lorenzo Mudge the farm on Section 8, Baltimore, at what is now Hendershott Corners. Here Charles M. Hendershott lives today, having greatly increased the acreage of the original homestead.



CHAS. M. HENDERSHOTT

A small log house was the first habitation of the family and before crops could be put in it was necessary to clear away the trees which grew on all sides. The first crops put in on the new farm were corn, potatoes, bagas and turnips, and all these products came in very handily for the pioneer family. Hunting was good in those days, so meat was not hard to find. Deer were thick, as were also wild turkeys, and Charles M. Hendershott tells of shooting sixteen squirrels in two hours.

The Hendershott boys, however, did not stay at home much of the time. They had to work out by the month to help pay for the farm. Clad in the costume which every one wore, blue denim and leather boots, they went to work on neighboring farms to help their father.

It was when Charles M. Hendershott was working near Galesburg in 1857 that he met young William Shafter, known always to him as "Bill" Shafter. William Shafter, as is well known, later gained fame as a general of the United States army in the Spanish war, but in those days, too, he was considerable of a fighter. Wrestling was his forte and Mr. Hendershott tells that Bill Shafter could throw any man in Kalamazoo County twice out of three times. Saturday at Galesbury was a big day. There was always a fight, a horse race or a wrestling match. Wagers were placed and when it came to wrestling, Bill Shafter always drew down the money.

Mr. Hendershott worked at Galesburg until 1859, when he returned to Barry County. He continued, however, to work out until the beginning of the Civil war. On April 23, 1861, he enlisted for three months in the Third Michigan Infantry, and then on January 9, 1862, he enlisted in Illinois Artillery, Waterhouse Battery E, being mustered out April 29, 1862, on account of sickness. On August 25, 1864, he again enlisted, this time in the Eighth Michigan Cavalry, Company L. With this regiment he was in the fight at Henryville, Tenn.; also on the Lewisburg Pike on Duck River in the same state. He also was in the fighting at Nashville and Columbia. He was mustered out at Pulaski, Tenn., June 10, 1865, and came back to the farm in Baltimore on which he now resides.

Politically, Mr. Hendershott is a Republican. His first presidential ballot was cast for Abraham Lincoln, and he has

voted for every Republican presidential candidate since. He takes a strong interest in civic affairs and is always on the side of right. He is one of those most desirable of men, a good citizen.

During war time, on January 28, 1863, Mr. Hendershott married Jane E. Garrison, who died August 23, 1894. To them were born five children, four of whom grew to maturity. Of the four there was one son, Charles I., and three daughters, Laura E., now Mrs. Albert Williams; Adella M., now Mrs. Ernest Haynes, and Eola, who was Mrs. John Lechleitner but is not now living. Charles I. lives with his father on the old homestead and has two children. His wife was formerly Miss Altha Hammond. Mr. Hendershott's father died in 1875 and his mother in 1885.

Since the war Mr. Hendershott has worked hard and industriously. Prosperity has attended his efforts and he is now enjoying the fruits of his labors. All through his life he has been known as a man of honesty and honor. His word has been as good as his bond and he has always been fearless in the expression of his convictions. He is a man who is ever ready to extend help to the needy and his heart and sympathies are big and large.

HICKS

A family which has been represented in Hastings since the early '70's is the Hicks family, the living male members of which in Hastings are Charles H., William F., Melancthon W. and Ford Hicks, son of the latter and Mary Van Arman Hicks.

The Hicks family are of New England stock and are descended from Zebabiah Hicks, one of the first settlers of Cambridge, Mass., his wife being Elizabeth Sill. The Hicks family had two representatives, at least, in the revolution, John Hicks, born in 1725, losing his life on the first day of that struggle. On April 19, 1775, he invited his neighbor, Moses Richardson, of Cambridge, to join him against the British. They both mounted their horses and stationed themselves where they might shoot at the enemy and were themselves both shot on the same day. They were buried without shroud or ceremony in the harness of war in the graveyard of old Cambridge.

John Hicks, a son of the above mentioned John Hicks, was a captain of Dragoons in the revolution and quartermaster.

Judge Samuel Hicks, son of Captain John Hicks, and descended in the fifth generation from Zebabiah Hicks, was born in Cambridge, in 1771. He resided in Bennington, Vermont, in early life, and after 1798 at Champlain, New York. Here he kept public house until 1810. After this date he filled various public offices, such as postmaster, justice of the peace, judge, and custom house officer. In the war of 1812 he was commissary and operated so ardently against the British that they offered a reward for his head. He died July 26, 1825, at the age of 64.

Samuel Hicks, in 1786, married Charity Corbin, who died in 1802. For his second wife he married Polly Woodard, by whom he had six children: George, Melancthon W., Henry, James A., Edward J., and a daughter who died when young. Polly Hicks died June 12, 1835.

The second of the above named children, Melancthon W. Hicks, was the father of Charles H., William F. and M. W. Hicks, of this city, also of Emily Hicks Allen, of Bay City, and of George Hicks, who died in California in the gold fever days. Melancthon W. Hicks was born at Champlain, New York, July 14, 1805, and on March 10, 1831, married Sarah Fox, who was born January 24, 1809, and died in 1891.

Melancthon W. Hicks came to Michigan in 1844, settling in Oakland County. Before coming to Michigan he served for some time as custom house officer at Whitehall, New York. He was an ardent Democrat and was elected in 1850 as a member of the State House of Representatives for Oakland County on the Democratic ticket, defeating the father of ex-Governor Warner, who was a candidate for the Whigs.

In Barry County the Hicks family have been active in business and have also been interested in politics. They are all thorough-going Democrats and at present William F. Hicks is a member of the Democratic State Central Committee.

The Hicks family have been strongly marked as consisting of temperate, long lived, energetic, brave, generous men, full of decision of character. Three of them have graduated at Harvard and three at Yale.

CHRIS. A. HOUGH

Chris. A. Hough, of Nashville, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, January 25, 1846. His father was Joseph Hough, who was descended from German stock, his grandparents coming to this country from Germany and settling in Pennsylvania in 1721. The mother was Nancy A. Evans Hough and was of German and French extraction. In 1671 ancestors of Nancy Evans came to the United States and settled at Philadelphia.

At the age of 23, in 1867, Christopher Hough came to Michigan and for one year was a resident of Morenci. For another year he lived at Ionia and then in 1869 he went to Woodland and went into business as a carriage maker and merchant.

At Woodland Mr. Hough prospered and became a man whom his fellow citizens were pleased to entrust with many public offices. Repeatedly and for long periods he was village clerk, justice of the peace, and president of the school board. In fact, he took a leading part not only in the business, political and social life of Woodland, but also in its religious life, Mr. Hough being a member of the M. E. church.

Mr. Hough has been a life long Republican and in 1886 he was elected to the office of county treasurer on the Republican ticket. In order to fulfill the duties of this office Mr. Hough moved to the county seat. In 1888 he was again elected treasurer, but in 1889 he turned the active management of this office over to his deputy, Charles Jordan, and went to Nashville as cashier of the newly organized Farmers' and Merchants' Bank. He has resided in Nashville ever since.

The new bank of which Mr. Hough became cashier has been a strong institution from the very start and now stands the second bank in the county in point of deposits. The last statement of the bank shows total deposits of \$534,537.30. This being a statement covering the summer period, the deposits are shown when they are lower than at any other time in the year. The bank has had deposits of over \$548,000 and this coming winter these figures will probably be passed as there has always been a steady growth in deposits, those of every year being greater than those of any preceding year.

At Nashville, as at Woodland, Mr. Hough has been a prominent and progressive citizen. He has been school trustee for six-



CHRIS HOUGH



M. F. JORDAN

teen years and is now president of the school board. Four times he has been president of the village, besides being a church trustee.

On July 3, 1871, at Woodland, Mr. Hough married Miss Minerva J. Rowlander, Miss Rowlander's father being one of the early German settlers of Woodland, and her mother a native of New York State. To Mr. and Mrs. Hough five children have been born: Claude F., now a successful banker at Mulvane, Kansas; Maude M., who married Duvernois P. Holly and who died at Paducah, Kentucky, in 1895; Elsie L., now Mrs. Glenn H. Young of Pellston, Michigan; Marie M., who died in infancy, and Madeline B., now Mrs. N. E. Trautman of Nashville.

Mr. Hough is a Mason of long standing, having been a member of that order forty-three years. For many years at Woodland he was master of his lodge. Mr. Hough has also been a Knight of Pythias for twenty-six years.

Mr. Hough is a member of the local G. A. R. post, having been a private in Company C, 198th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was honorably discharged May 8, 1865.

Although Mr. Hough has held many offices he has never been an office seeker, but rather the people have been the ones to ask him to accept offices of trust and responsibility. These offices he has always filled conscientiously and with scrupulous care for the people's interest. Mr. Hough is a man whom any community might be proud to own.

MILTON F. JORDAN

Milton Fillmore Jordan was born on the 13th day of November, 1850, on the south half of Section Nineteen, Irving Township, Barry County, Michigan, in that portion of the frame house which stood on the west side of the line between the southwest quarter and the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter, of Section Nineteen, the frame house being one and one-half stories high, and some seven or eight feet of it extending over the east side of the line.

He attended his first school when past seven years of age, in the old brick school house at Middleville, Michigan, in the summer of 1858, his teachers being Adelia Stone and Francis Brannan. In 1859 he attended the school on Powers Plains, Irving Township, taught by Hannah McNair now Mrs. Nathan Barlow, and

who is still living, afterwards attending school there and at Middleville and Irving Station till 1867. He later studied in the Grand Rapids High School, and afterwards at the Ann Arbor, Michigan, High School. Then he entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in the year 1876. A portion of the time, previous to his graduation, he spent working his father's farm on shares, running a threshing machine, and teaching school, to assist in qualifying for his profession, spending many months of the time each year in the law office of Wright & Ellis at Middleville, Michigan, each member of this firm being among the ablest lawyers of Western Michigan, A. H. Ellis later becoming one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Kansas. Mr. Jordan also spent nearly one year in the law offices of Thompson, Reeves & Pratt, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Mr. Jordan immediately after his graduation in 1876 purchased with Will M. Watkins the "Middleville Republican," which they published for two years. In 1878 he sold his interest in the paper and accepted the nomination for County Clerk. Being defeated, he began the practice of law at Middleville, Michigan, where he has practiced since 1879. He has held the office of Township Clerk of Irving Township one year, and Justice of the Peace of Thornapple Township from 1880 to 1884.

In 1884 Mr. Jordan was appointed Postmaster at Middleville, Michigan, by Cleveland's Postmaster General, and held the office four years. He was nominated twice for Prosecuting Attorney of Barry County, and each time defeated. He was nominated for Representative in the State Legislature in 1884 and defeated, but was elected State Senator of the Fifteenth district in 1894. He was nominated for Lieutenant Governor on the ticket with S. O. Fisher in 1896, but withdrew from the nomination and the Democratic party later and has since affiliated with the Republicans. He has held the office of President of Middleville for two terms, and was for fifteen years Village Attorney, and for nine years member and Secretary of the School Board at Middleville.

He has one daughter, Bertha M., wife of Harry McQueen of Detroit, Michigan, and one grandson, the infant son of said daughter.

Mr. Jordan's parents were pioneers of Barry County. His



A. E. KENASTON

father, Jacob Jordan, was born April 23, 1808, at Cherry Valley, Otsego County, N. Y., of Scotch-Irish paternity and Dutch maternity. He removed with his father, William Jordan, to Tyrone Township, now Schuyler County, N. Y., near Dundee, about 1816. On February 6th, 1834, he was married to Mary Coldren, mother of Milton F., at West Bloomfield, by Elder David Millard. There were three other sons, Lewis H., Wellington H. and Myron N. Mary Jordan, mother of Milton F., died in August, 1882, and the father died in March, 1895. They are both buried in the South Irving cemetery. They were of the pioneers. They came to the farm in Irving in 1848, and no better or more honorable and respected pioneers ever came to Michigan.

Mrs. Hannah Williams, wife of Daniel Williams, who first settled upon Section 19, Irving Township, in 1837, and Mrs. Cornelia S. Hills, whose husband, Luther S. Hills, first settled and established Irving Station, were sisters of Mary Coldren Jordan.

Milton F. Jordan is now, October 4th, 1912, practicing law at Middleville, Michigan.

ALONZO E. KENASTON

Alonzo E. Kenaston was born in East Calais, Vermont, in 1856. He had as his inheritance, not a goodly fortune, but something infinitely more valuable, kind, good, God-fearing parents, who early began to instil into his mind that he must be trained, disciplined and cultured if he were to do efficient work in the world. It was a poor New England farm on the hillside of the old Green Mountain State, that returned but a meager living for the hard work required in its tilling, and Alonzo's father was a frail man. Hence, very early in life, he was compelled to take upon his young shoulders heavy burdens. He and his brother bravely and manfully performed their task of caring for the dear ones of the home. But the difficulties of his boyhood did not prevent him from attending the country school and afterwards, with persistent struggle, paying his way through Dartmouth College, and at the same time helping his brother to support the family at home. Likewise he paid his own way through the law department of the University of Michigan, helping support the family and the home while doing so.

Mr. Kenaston located in Hastings in 1882, where in various

useful capacities he lived an active professional and business life, ever concerned in the development and advancement of Hastings, and always instrumental in his quiet, unostentatious way, in every movement for the betterment of its citizens. He held at various times the offices of justice of the peace, city attorney, circuit court commissioner and mayor. For many years he devoted most of his attention to the real estate and building business. In the last named respect, Mr. Kenaston was remarkably active, and he has left as a concrete and beneficent result of this activity over one hundred houses in the city of Hastings.

He was married on May 18, 1887, to Miss Eva Nevins. Two sons were born to them, Edwin Nevins, who died in infancy, and Leland R., who is pursuing his studies in High School. Although not formally a member of the M. E. church, he was a regular attendant and a member of the board of trustees. At heart he was a Christian, and a man of pure life and exemplary habits. His gentle, cheerful ways, his consideration for the poor, whom he was ever ready to help and accommodate, his uniform courtesy and good nature, his integrity as a business man, his interest in the uplift of the community, all these qualities made him a highly respected, influential and lovable man.

Mr. Kenaston was a member of the Knights of Pythias, belonging to Barry Lodge No. 13 for twenty-seven years. He was also a member of the famous Hastings Division No. 10, Uniform Rank, which won so many prizes and held a national reputation for its wonderful proficiency in drilling.

His death occurred May 9, 1910. During the obsequies the business places of the city were closed as a mark of respect to the memory of a man who had interwoven his useful and upright life so intimately into that of the city. The K. of P. and the Barry County Bar Association attended in a body, the former organization conducting the services at the grave.

This sketch cannot be more appropriately closed than by quoting from the memorial resolutions adopted by the Barry County Bar Association:

"In the death of Alonzo E. Kenaston this bar has lost one of its best and most respected members, who in life was an honor to the profession, and one who in all his relations to mankind, as friend, husband, father, public official and citizen, exemplified

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in his daily life and conduct the highest type of American manhood, the memory of whose life will serve as an example and inspiration to us who are left to mourn his loss."

JOHN C. KETCHAM

John C. Ketcham was born in Toledo, Ohio, January 1, 1873. His parents, John C. and Mary Ketcham, were of hardy English-American descent, and both were former residents of the Buckeye State.

Six months after the birth of John Ketcham, Jr., the family moved to the State of Michigan, settling on a farm in Maple Grove Township. Here Mr. Ketcham spent his boyhood up to the time that he was fifteen years of age, acquiring during this period that spirit of self-reliance and physical and mental health, that result from some of the vicissitudes and much of the hard work that fall to the lot of the average country boy.

He secured an elementary education in the Branch school at Maple Grove, entering the Hastings High School as a student in the fall of 1888, but was able to attend for only seven months, owing to the necessity of employing himself in a business way. He resumed the completion of his education in the fall of 1889, at which time he entered the Nashville High School, but was again obliged to shorten the term of his studies.

In the spring of 1890, Mr. Ketcham passed the teacher's examination and taught school for one year in the Moore district at Maple Grove. He also taught for the spring and fall terms in the Mayo district school at Maple Grove, thus beginning his successful career as an educator while he, himself, was yet a student.

In November, 1891, he re-entered the high school at Hastings, graduating with the class of 1892 and delivering the class oration.

Mr. Ketcham was elected Principal of the Nashville High School in 1893, and served in this capacity until 1897. In this same year, he married Miss Cora E. Rowlander of Woodland and moved to Hastings, where he had been chosen to fill the position of Instructor of English in the Hastings High School. Since this time, Mr. and Mrs. Ketcham have made Hastings their permanent home. They are the parents of three children, Mildred, John C. III., and Ruth, all living.

In Hastings, Mr. Ketcham has served ably in many offices of

educational and government trust, to which he has been elected or appointed. These include the office of County Commissioner of Schools, to which he was first elected in 1899, continuing in this capacity for three consecutive terms. He has served as Conductor and Instructor in State Teachers' Institutes for a period of four years, and has acted as Secretary of the Teachers' Reading Circle Board.

In 1907 he was appointed Postmaster of Hastings and received the appointment for a second time in 1911.

As Postmaster of Hastings, Mr. Ketcham has more than met the requirements of his position, growing with the added responsibilities of the task of handling an ever increasing volume of mail, that has necessitated the late removal of the City Postoffice to larger and more adequate quarters.

That Mr. Ketcham is interested in the work of religious and fraternal orders, is indicated by the fact that he is a member of the M. E. church, the Masons, and Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the State Grange and will probably be the next Master.

Mr. Ketcham is pre-eminently a progressive and public-spirited citizen. He is always to be found back of any enterprise which has for its purpose the furtherance of right and opportunity. His influence in the community is widely felt.

LOYAL E. KNAPPEN

A Barry County man who has gone out into other fields and attained success, but who still cherishes a lively and sympathetic interest in the county of his nativity, is Loyal E. Knappen, of Grand Rapids, United States Circuit Judge for the sixth circuit.

Loyal E. Knappen was born at Hastings, January 27, 1854. His father, Edwin Knappen, was a merchant at Hastings and a member of the mercantile firm of H. I. & E. Knappen, both members of which firm died of typhoid in the epidemic of 1854, Edwin Knappen dying only a few months after the birth of his son, Loyal. The mother was Sarah M. (Nevins) Knappen and is now the wife of Marcus W. Riker. She now lives at Grand Rapids. Both of Mr. Knappen's parents were born in Vermont, his paternal grandfather having moved to the Green Mountain state from Connecticut.

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Young Knappen attended the Hastings public schools until he was fifteen years of age, when he entered the University of Michigan, graduating in 1873 with the degree of B. A. and receiving his M. A. three years later.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Mr. Knappen was assistant principal of the Hastings High School for six months. He then re-entered the law office of Hon. James A. Sweezey at Hastings as a law student, having previously spent some time in this same office. He was admitted to practice in 1875 and became at once the law partner of Mr. Sweezey, continuing in this connection until 1878, when he formed a partnership with his brother, Charles M. Knappen.

In 1883 Mr. Knappen became associated in practice with Christopher H. Van Arman. Five years later he removed to Grand Rapids, associating himself with William J. Stuart, now Judge of the Superior Court of that city. The firm of Stuart, Knappen & Van Arman was thus formed with offices at both Grand Rapids and Hastings. Mr. Van Arman died in 1890 and for about a year thereafter Charles M. Weaver was a member of the firm and had charge of the Hastings office. Upon Mr. Weaver's retirement from the firm in 1891, the office at Hastings was closed and Mr. Knappen's direct connection with Barry County affairs was, of course, materially lessened, although he has always, as mentioned above, been greatly interested in his old home.

While in Hastings, Mr. Knappen held a number of public offices. From 1879 to 1883 he was prosecuting attorney for Barry County, and from 1880 to 1888 he was United States Commissioner. He was also a member of the Hastings Board of Education for three years, being president one year.

After the closing of the Hastings office, Mr. Knappen continued as a partner of Mr. Stuart until 1893, the firm name being Stuart & Knappen. In 1893 Mr. Knappen became associated with Messrs. Taggart & Dennison under the style of Taggart, Knappen & Dennison. This firm continued six years.

In 1899 Mr. Knappen entered into partnership with George P. Wanty and continued in this relation until his partner was elevated to the federal bench. He then became associated with Jacob Kleinhans in the firm of Knappen & Kleinhans. Later Mr.

Knappen's son, Stuart E., was taken into the firm, which was then styled Knappen, Kleinhans & Knappen. It was while Mr. Knappen was still a member of this firm that there came to him, in 1906, an honor for which he was universally held to be splendidly equipped. This was his appointment as United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan. That this appointment was a fitting one was well shown when a little more than three years later Mr. Knappen was made United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth District, which position he still holds.

Besides his judicial offices Mr. Knappen was a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Education for two years, 1898 to 1900. For seven years, from 1904 to 1911, he was regent of his alma mater, the University of Michigan, and in 1905-6 he was president of the Grand Rapids Bar Association.

Mr. Knappen is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias.

In 1876 Mr. Knappen married Amelia I. Kenyon, of Hastings. There are three children, all living in Grand Rapids, Stuart E., Fred M., and Florence, who is Mrs. Arthur D. Perry.

ARCHIE McCOY

A man who has done much to help Hastings to become a real city by his enthusiastic interest in progressive public movements is Archie McCoy, now established in business in Grand Rapids, but always at heart a citizen of Hastings.

Archie McCoy was born at Brockport, New York, July 11, 1853. He was the son of George B. and Ellen Barke McCoy and is of Scotch-Irish extraction. In 1854, when only an infant, young Archie was brought from his birthplace to Hastings by his parents. They stopped for a while with his grandfather, John Burke, who lived north of the Gardner farm. During this time his father built a house on the Cale Garwood farm. Mr. McCoy remembers guarding cattle while his father felled trees for them to browse upon.

At the age of 17 Mr. McCoy entered the employ of Harvey Wright of Middleville as clerk in that gentleman's general store. Here he received his first experience in the furniture business. Two years later he went to Hastings, where for a time he engaged in the draying business. Later he found employment as tool boy on the Grand River Valley Railroad, now the M. C., and worked



ARCHIE McCOY

his way up until he became conductor on a mixed train, but he had other ambitions and gave up railroad work.

In 1875 he became interested in the furniture business with John M. Bessmer. The venture flourished and from an original stock valued at \$324, a large and thriving business resulted. In 1881 Mr. McCoy bought Mr. Bessmer's interest, although Mr. Bessmer remained with Mr. McCoy for many years.

In 1908 Mr. McCoy sold his stock to Stebbins & Glasgow. Mr. McCoy, however, did not go out of the furniture business by any means after this sale, for he is now Assistant Manager of the Furniture Exchange in Grand Rapids, where he has a very pleasant and profitable vocation. The Furniture Exchange is one of the large furniture show buildings in the Furniture City and in it are displayed the lines of many large furniture manufacturing concerns who desire in this way to get into connection with the retail merchant.

Mr. McCoy is certainly a pioneer of Hastings. While on the railroad Mr. McCoy was greatly impressed with the beauty of other cities. With a genuine loyalty for Hastings, he looked forward to the day when it, too, should become as beautiful as other cities. With the ambition to fulfill this wish he worked during his entire business life in Hastings. Instead of being selfishly wrapped up in his own pursuits he has always found time to devote to public improvements.

In 1880 Hastings was a backwoods town. Cows ran its streets at large and citizens were forced to put fences about their property. The streets were lanes, there were no sidewalk grades, no street parkings, no lawns, no water system. There was a mill pond which extended along the present course of Fall Creek from State street dam to beyond Grand street. Its stagnant waters filled with the refuse of years, was a dreadful menace to public health. All these things Archie McCoy tried to remedy, and that conditions were changed was greatly due to his efforts.

The matter of a water works system is something with which Mr. McCoy was especially active. After the fire of 1885 progressive citizens were convinced that the city needed fire protection if factories were to locate in it. This was aside from the element of safety in a pure drinking supply. The people voted to have a water works system, but the council refused to carry out the

wishes of the citizens. At the next election citizens, irrespective of politics, elected men as Aldermen whom they knew would carry out their wishes. They elected Mr. McCoy, W. H. Stebbins, John M. Bessmer and E. Y. Hogle, who were the committee who constructed the system, assisted by J. W. Bentley and W. C. Kelley. The work covered a period of two years. Their results are evident today.

Following this work Mr. McCoy was elected Mayor, serving two years, being elected in 1890 and re-elected in 1891. He saw the possibility of beautifying Riverside cemetery and in his executive position succeeded in having a water main extended to the cemetery.

At this time Mr. McCoy was engaged in other public movements. He used his influence in helping the sale of stock for the construction of the C., K. & S. Ry. He also helped to organize a Building and Loan Association and also assisted in forming the Hastings Electric Light Company, of both of which concerns he was treasurer. Mr. McCoy was also largely instrumental in having the Soldiers' monument erected in its present location. He has also always liberally supported the churches of Hastings and there is not a church in the city which he has not been glad to aid financially in its construction.

There was in the early nineties a general movement among the business men to build up the town by inviting factories to locate in it. This has resulted in doubling the population. The first factory to be organized was the Hastings Furniture Company, of which Mr. McCoy was president and a large stockholder. This factory is now the Grand Rapids Bookcase Company. A little later the whip factory was organized and Mr. McCoy was one of the principal stockholders. Later, the putting of this factory building at the disposal of Emil Tyden brought that gentleman and his interests to Hastings. The Hastings Chair Company, now the Table Factory, was next organized and Mr. McCoy's stock in this company was also heavy.

Then, when Mr. McCoy was holding all of this stock, came the panic of '93, in which Mr. McCoy's factory stock became worthless. In settlement for these stocks, which had so depreciated in value that he was forced to sell six dollars worth to pay one, Mr. McCoy sacrificed his entire business and property, including



JUDGE J. B. MILLS

his exemptions, mortgaging his home. He began his business life anew and paid up all his debts.

In 1906, with the beauty of the city still foremost in mind, Mr. McCoy built the McCoy Block on Main street. This up-to-date building is a fitting memorial to its builder.

In fraternal circles Mr. McCoy is a Knight of Pythias and a Mason. He was left guide of the famous Pythian drill corps which won three times the world's championship. Mr. McCoy had a record in this connection of never missing a practice drill.

July 16, 1876, Mr. McCoy married Miss Myrtie D. Buckle, who died March 16, 1891, at the age of 34 years. April 23, 1899, he married Miss Ida Fitzsimmons. Mrs. McCoy is intensely interested in music and is a leader in Hastings musical circles. She studied five years at the Chicago College of Music, graduating in 1890. She also graduated from the New School of Methods in Chicago in 1898 and from the Thomas Normal Training School of Detroit in 1903. She now conducts a school of musical and dramatic art in Hastings. This school was organized in 1897 and was then styled the Hastings Musical Club. It was through Mrs. McCoy's efforts that music was first taught in the public schools of Hastings. It took five years' good hard work to do this.

Mrs. McCoy was the daughter of Warren Fitzsimmons, a pioneer miller of Ionia.

JUDGE JAMES B. MILLS

A man whose death removed from Barry County a highly respected and substantial citizen was Judge James Betty Mills, and it is to do honor to his memory that this sketch is written here.

James B. Mills was born in Washington County, Maryland, February 8, 1836, and died in Hastings April 24, 1903. His father was a clergyman of the Methodist Protestant church and in the discharge of his duties moved with his family to Monroe County, Michigan, in 1846. After living in different parts of the State for some time, in 1854, at the age of 18, young Mills went to Kansas and took up a government claim. He lived in the Sunflower State until the opening of 1859, when he returned to Michigan, this time going to Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County,

where on October 2 of the same year he was married to Miss Louisa M. Smith, who died May 21, 1911.

Shortly after their marriage the young couple went to Kansas and there lived until 1861, when, on account of Indian troubles they were obliged to return to Michigan, locating at Pennfield, near Battle Creek. It was about this time that the Civil war broke out, and although a Southerner by birth, Mr. Mills hastened to enlist to fight for the Union, but he was twice rejected for failure to pass the physical examination.

In 1868 Mr. and Mrs. Mills moved to Assyria, where they resided until 1884. During most of this time Mr. Mills held the office of Justice of the Peace and gained such a knowledge of law that on February 5, 1883, he was admitted to the bar. Previous to this he had studied law in the office of Walter Webster, of Nashville, whose practice he bought when that gentleman located in Manistee in 1884. Later Mr. Webster returned to Nashville and became associated with Mr. Mills in the firm of Webster & Mills.

In 1896 Mr. Mills was elected Judge of Probate on the Republican ticket, and four years later, in recognition of his good, clean administration, he was again elected to the same office, which he held at the time of his death.

Judge Mills was pre-eminently a man who loved his home. He was a devoted husband and a loving father. He was a man whose career was without spot or blemish and he left behind him a record for integrity and rectitude of which not only his family, but the entire county, may well be proud.

Judge Mills was the father of five children, all of whom are now living. They are Mrs. Helen L. Durham, of Lacey; Albert E., of Nashville; John L., of Tacoma, Wash.; Mrs. Jennie M. Warren, of Sunfield; and Mrs. Ella Eggleston, of Hastings.

EZRA MOREHOUSE

Ezra Morehouse is the son of Daniel Morehouse and Emma Shepherd, both, originally, from Steuben County, New York.

They came to Michigan in 1864, making a long and hazardous journey across the country in a covered wagon, and settled in Orangeville.

The date of their arrival in the vicinity is a memorable one, as they embarked on their struggle with the still crude conditions of



EZRA MOREHOUSE

their new home, on the eve of the new year, 1865, a day that still lingers in the memory of many old settlers as one of intense cold.

The family located on a farm, comprising for the most part acres of uncleared land. The buildings, were of logs and the task of preparing the soil for the raising of crops was a strenuous one.

Ezra Morehouse was born June 30, 1868, and was the youngest of eleven children. His father died when he was four years old, and up to the time that he was fourteen, young Morehouse continued to live at home, living the active outdoor life of the country boy of the period, working hard and learning early to meet and shoulder the many responsibilities that confronted him as one of a large and fatherless family.

When he was fourteen his mother died and the home was broken up. The family scattered and Mr. Morehouse entered the employ of Joseph Kelly, a well known and prosperous farmer of the neighborhood. His salary was twelve dollars a month and board, and his duties comprised all of the tasks that usually fall to the lot of a full grown man.

At this time he was securing a desultory education in the district schools, being able to attend only a few months out of the year. For five years he worked for the farmers in his community, making the best of the opportunities for advancement that presented themselves.

In 1887 he moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and here, as assistant to Stephen Doster, then overseer of a large estate belonging to his sister, from fourteen to twenty-one, saved the sum of one thousand dollars. This he resolved to devote to the finishing of his education, and with this object in view he entered Oberlin College in 1889. During the two years of his stay in Cleveland, Mr. Morehouse attended night school, taking a course in law and business. He remained at Oberlin four years, partly in preparatory, and partly in college work.

In 1893 he went to Chicago and entered the Moody Institute, a theological training school, where he prepared to enter the ministry. One year was spent in this manner, part of which time he attended a branch of the Moody Institute in Kalamazoo.

In conjunction with his work as a student, Mr. Morehouse also acted as pastor of the Congregational church at Doster, Mich., during this time. He superintended the erection of a new place

of worship there and did much good work in the interest of the church.

This same year (1893) he married Miss Lucinda Doster and assumed active charge of the Congregational churches at Hopkins, Hilliard and Allegan, Mich. He continued his duties as pastor of these churches for two and one-half years, at the expiration of which time, owing to a severe nervous breakdown, he retired from the ministry.

In 1896 he moved to Prairieville and settled upon a farm. He combined the handling of a lumber business with his agricultural pursuits, and remained there until 1901, at this time removing to Delton, where he built and opened the first bank in that community.

He maintained this bank as a savings institution under the name of E. S. & L. S. Morehouse. Four years later he organized the Delton State Bank, of which he became cashier. Mr. Morehouse witnessed the growth of his banking enterprise, from the first dollar deposited to a sound financial basis, aggregating assets of \$140,000, this increase being due to the sound integrity and business sagacity of its promoter. He was connected with the Delton State Bank for two years.

Mr. Morehouse is widely known throughout Barry, Eaton and Allegan Counties as an active and conscientious worker in the cause of local option. He instituted and won the first damage suit brought against liquor dealers in Barry County. Following his lead, seventeen similar cases were tried and the verdict in each instance was disastrous to the interests of the saloons.

In his ably conducted fight to eliminate the saloon from his own and other counties in the State, Mr. Morehouse met with all the opposition that such a cause would necessarily entail, from those interested in its defeat. That his policy of local option has won recognition in the field of his endeavors is a gratifying reward of his efforts in the cause of right.

He is at present a resident of Delton, where he conducts a real estate, loan and insurance business.

In 1910 he married Miss Nora Fox, daughter of S. S. Fox of Allegan. Two children were born of the first union, Floy and Pauline, both of whom are living.

He has been justice of the peace for sixteen years, was director



J. W. MUNTON

of the Prairieville School from 1898 to 1901, and was director of the Delton Schools from 1903 to 1906.

Mr. Morehouse is at present candidate of the Progressive party in Barry County for the office of Probate Judge, being nominated unanimously by his constituents.

He is a member of the Yeomen lodge and still retains his connections with the ministry of the Congregational church.

Mr. Morehouse is essentially a man of broad and progressive ideas and is a valuable citizen in his community and in the county.

J. W. MUNTON

John W. Munton is a man who is well and favorably known in Barry County because of his absolute integrity of character and rectitude of life. He is an efficient and successful business man and is the father of a family of whom any citizen might well be proud.

Mr. Munton is a native of England, being born in Lincolnshire in 1849. His parents came to the United States in 1853, locating in Marshall, this state.

Young Munton grew to manhood in Marshall. He attended the public schools there and learned the carpenter's trade, later having charge of a sash and door factory. In 1872 he located at Big Rapids in the same business and was united in marriage to Miss Alice L. McClure, daughter of David G. McClure of Marshall, in the fall of the same year.

In the spring of 1873 the young couple moved to Greenville, where Mr. Munton had charge of a sash and door factory for Hall & Dodge. In 1876 he engaged in the building business for himself, continuing in this business intermittently until 1895, when business matters called him to Morgan, this county, where he engaged in the saw mill and elevator business. Here by square dealing and diligence he has built up a good, successful business.

Mr. Munton is a member of the Baptist denomination, having united with the church of that denomination at Marshall. He was honored by the church at Marshall by being elected superintendent of the Sunday school, and the church at Greenville elected him to the same office. In the latter church he was also made a deacon.

Mr. Munton is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He is

actively connected with Hastings Lodge No. 52, F. and A. M., and is Past High Priest of Hastings Chapter No. 68, R. A. M. He is a member of Giblum Council No. 49, Hastings, and Charlotte Commandery No. 37. He is also Past Worthy Patron of the Hastings Chapter No. 7, Order of Eastern Star. He is a man who tries to set forth in his daily life the excellent precepts of these institutions, and his efforts in this direction have indeed borne splendid fruit.

Mr. and Mrs. Munton have been the parents of six children, Clarence J., Charles H., Herbert I., Harry B., Alice, Beatrice, and Cecil G. Of these, all are living except Charles, who died in 1900, just as he was entering upon his promising young manhood.

Of Charles H. Munton it is very fitting that there should be a memorial written here. In 1894 he received an appointment to West Point, ranking at that time forty-fifth in his class. He graduated in 1898, eleventh in his class, with the rank of second lieutenant, and became a member of the Twenty-third infantry.

While with this command he was detailed to take charge of a transport from the Philippines to San Francisco. In the latter city he was offered leave of absence to visit his parents, but learning that hostilities had broken out in the Philippines he decided not to avail himself of the opportunity and returned to his command. Soon after his return he was transferred to the Twelfth Infantry with the rank of first lieutenant, and while with this regiment he contracted typhoid fever. He was taken to the hospital and on becoming convalescent was given sick leave to return home. On board transport he suffered a relapse and died at sea. Funeral services were held at Greenville and he was buried at Marshall with military honors. Special memorial services were held for him at West Point and many were the letters which poured in upon his parents from his superior and brother officers, who had known him at West Point and on the field, attesting to his courage and fine manly characteristics.

The oldest son, Clarence J. Munton, is now a resident of Kendallville, Indiana, where he is superintendent of an interurban railway. Herbert I. lives in Pontiac and is assistant superintendent of the Pontiac Division of the Detroit United Railways. Harry B. is engaged in the railway mail service and lives in Grand Rapids. Miss Beatrice Munton recently married Raymond



JOHN MORSE NEVINS

W. Knapp of Detroit. She is a graduate of the Hastings High School and of the State Normal School of Ypsilanti. Cecil G. Munton has just left home for Detroit, where he entered the passenger department of the Detroit United Railways.

Mr. and Mrs. Munton certainly have the right to that feeling of satisfaction which must arise in the hearts of all parents whose children have acquitted themselves well and successfully in the world.

JOHN MORSE NEVINS

Hon. John M. Nevins, pioneer business man and politician, of Barry County, was born in Braintree, Vt., April 26, 1826, and was raised on a rugged farm on the eastern side of the Green mountains. In May, 1844, with his father's family, he removed to Richland, Kalamazoo County, Mich., where he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed during the summer months, teaching school during the winter.

September 27, 1849, he married Maria Mason, eldest daughter of Edwin Mason. April 13, 1853, he removed to Hastings, Barry County, where he resided till his death, January 8, 1890.

His home was at the corner of Jefferson and Walnut streets. The upright was built in 1855, much of the carpenter work being done by himself. Here his two sons, Morse E. and Mason C., and his two daughters, Eva C. and Anna C., were born. Morse E. Nevins still resides in Hastings and has business interests there. Mason C. Nevins resides at Wichita, Kan., where he has real estate interests. Eva C. Kenaston, widow of the late Hon. A. E. Kenaston, resides on the lots formerly occupied by the old Nevins homestead. Anna C. Campbell, wife of Attorney T. D. Campbell, has long been a resident of West Bay City, Mich.

Mr. Nevins clerked for Edwin and Heman Knappen his first year in Hastings and then, in 1854, when both Edwin and Heman Knappen died of typhoid in the epidemic which then visited the village and removed many of its citizens, young Nevins formed the partnership of Nevins & Knappen with Ashman Knappen, brother of Edwin and Heman, and continued in the mercantile business, their location being on the north side of State street.

Having left the mercantile business, in the summer of 1857

Mr. Nevins became editor and publisher of the Hastings Republican Banner, and continued as such till April 1, 1866.

In politics, a Whig until 1854, he in that year joined his political fortunes with the Republican party upon its organization, and to this party he ever afterward strongly adhered.

He represented Barry County in the lower branch of the Legislature in 1857-8 and in 1865-6 he represented the Barry and Eaton district in the state Senate. In politics his sterling qualities and fealty to party brought him into prominence. He was elected a member of the State Republican Committee and served as such in 1860-2 and again in 1870-2, and a greater portion of the time from 1858 to 1876 he held the position of Chairman of the Barry County Republican Committee. For seventeen years he served almost continuously as one of the County Superintendents of the Poor, and for twelve years he was Secretary of the Barry County Agricultural Society, and from 1875 to 1883 he was Postmaster of Hastings and also for eighteen years was a member of the Board of Education of the City of Hastings.

A matter which is of much interest in connection with Mr. Nevins' political career is that at the State Republican convention in 1870 it was an unexpected and felicitous speech by Mr. Nevins that secured for Daniel Striker the nomination for Secretary of State, to which office he was duly elected. In this speech Mr. Nevins stated that Barry County in her modesty had never asked nor had a state official, but with a candidate like Daniel Striker she now cast this modesty aside and asked, and expected, Mr. Striker's nomination.

Perhaps it was as a Christian that Mr. Nevins was especially well known. For years he was a faithful and consistent follower of the Master and was one of the leading members of the Presbyterian church.

John Morse Nevins was known for his kindly traits of character and as a man who filled his niche of life for the betterment of his fellow man, a man of earnest and strong conviction, and one who would say No in no uncertain manner when a doubtful proposition was put before him, faithfully performing all the duties of the several official positions he held, standing firm for the right as he saw it, and may it be truthfully said his friends were legion, his enemies none.



A. J. BOWNE

OLNEY-BOWNE

A family which came early to this county and settled in Rutland is the Olney family—the name being also spelled Olnier by some of the family, although the former spelling is the correct one—and it is a representative of this family, William Olney, whose biography we wish to present here.

Those who know William Olney, and his name is well known throughout the county, know him as a man of sterling integrity and honesty, a good citizen and a man of action. He is the son of Joseph Olney and Mary Kelley Olney. The father was born in Warwickshire, England, February 3, 1820, and at the age of 24 came to the United States. For six years he lived at Rochester, N. Y., and there on October 20, 1850, he married Mary Kelley.

In the same year the newly married couple came to Rutland and settled on the farm on which they lived until death claimed them, the father dying in 1903 and the mother five years later, both having lived to see the original homestead of 85 acres grow to a farm of 400 acres.

Like his father, William Olney is a farmer, and although for the past thirty years he has been actively engaged in stock buying, he still owns two farms, both in Irving township. As a stock buyer Mr. Olney is known and admired for his honorable methods and the square treatment which he always extends to those with whom he comes into contact.

Mr. Olney, like his father, is a staunch Democrat and is strongly interested in the welfare of his party and country. He is a member of the K. of P. and has belonged to this order for the last quarter of a century.

December 14, 1892, he married Kittie, daughter of the late A. J. Bowne, who was born in Prairieville, December 12, 1853. Her family was one of the oldest in the southwestern part of the county and her father was for many years a man of exceeding prominence in Hastings and Barry county, also in the state at large. He was recognized as having a genius for banking and business affairs and was pre-eminently successful in those lines.

Andrew Jackson Bowne was born in Cortland County, New York, January 19, 1829, and died in Grand Rapids, June 7, 1896.

He was the son of John and Sarah Bowne, Americans by birth and of English descent. They came to Prairieville in 1837, where John Bowne became a man of prominence, representing his district in the State Senate.

Young Andrew Bowne received his education in the district schools of New York and Michigan, and later, in 1849 to 1851, was a student in the branch academy of the University of Michigan at Kalamazoo. From 1851 to 1853 he studied law in the office of Marsh Giddings of Kalamazoo.

Giving up his law studies in 1853, he went to California, traveled through that state, engaging in various ventures, and returned to Michigan to visit his parents in Prairieville. Here he opened up a general store in 1858, dealing largely in real estate.

In 1868 he moved to Hastings and opened a private banking business with F. N. Galloway, this private bank becoming in 1870 the Hastings National Bank, with Mr. Bowne as its first president.

Mr. Bowne extended his banking interests into many other fields and while yet a resident of Hastings he became president of the Fourth National Bank of Grand Rapids. This with other interests led to his removal to Grand Rapids in 1883.

Mr. Bowne was a life long Democrat and in 1870 was Democratic candidate for state treasurer. In 1876 he was delegate to the National convention at St. Louis, which nominated Tilden and Hendricks. In order to further the cause of the party in Barry County he also founded the Barry County Democrat, later the Hastings Herald, now merged into the Journal-Herald.

Mr. Bowne on February 15, 1853, a few months before he left for California, married Miss Jennie Kenfield, and by this union were born three children, Kittie (Mrs. Olney), Charles and William, all residents of Hastings. In 1873 Mr. Bowne married Miss Sarah Gardner and to them were born two children, Burdette and Beatrice, both of whom are still living. One child, Nina, died at the age of ten.

Hon. Andrew J. Bowne was one of the most influential citizens Barry County has produced. He made himself felt strongly in the community and was a power in finance. He remained president of the Hastings National Bank until his death, at which time he was also president of four other National Banks.



WM. OLNEY



MR. AND MRS. E. PENNOCK

EBENEZER PENNOCK

Ebenezer Pennock, or as he is more commonly called, Eben Pennock, was born in the town of Rushford, Alleghany County, New York, January 4, 1824. His parents were of English ancestry and came to New York from near Montpelier, Vermont. Mr. Pennock was the fourth child in a family of eleven. He had five own brothers, two own sisters, two half-brothers and one half-sister.

Mr. Pennock's boyhood days were spent in much the same manner as those of most sons of the pioneers of Western New York. His parents were very poor and his opportunities for getting an education were very limited. The public schools of his time were supported on the rate bill plan and his parents were too poor to pay their share of the bill. Mr. Pennock says that even when he did go to school he often took his dianer basket and went apart from the rest of the pupils to eat his dinner, being ashamed of his meager lunch. At the early age of 12 he was bound out by his parents to work during the summer season at \$4 per month.

On the 14th of October, 1843, he was happily married to Miss Elvira Farwell, of Rushford. As showing that neither Mr. Pennock nor his bride were very far along the road to wealth and prosperity, it is related that Mrs. Pennock's bridal costume was of calico and that Mr. Pennock had to borrow \$1 to get his license and pay the magistrate.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Pennock resolved to join the general movement which was at that time being made toward settling the newly admitted state of Michigan, and after saving up money for the enterprise, on July 14, 1844, they started overland for Michigan. Their outfit consisted of two decrepit old horses, a democrat wagon, \$10.50 in cash, and the few goods, provisions and cooking utensils necessary to the journey. The entire trip consumed fifteen days.

Their final destination was the home of Mr. Pennock's brother in what is now Richland, Kalamazoo County. Here they found a hearty welcome and almost immediately began to plan to set up housekeeping for themselves. They first lived in a rented house containing one room, for which they paid an annual rental of \$8. Both worked out to secure money and goods to furnish the house

and to get the necessaries of life. During their first winter in Michigan Mr. Pennock cut four-foot wood at 31 cents per cord and later in the same winter he cut eight cords of four-foot wood at 25 cents a cord to buy himself a new axe.

After looking over the country a bit Mr. Pennock pre-empted 40 acres of land on Section 17 in Barry Township, and to this place they removed in December, 1845, and began the work of carving out their fortunes in real earnest. There was no house upon the land they had purchased and so they found shelter in the house of a neighbor until they could build upon their own land.

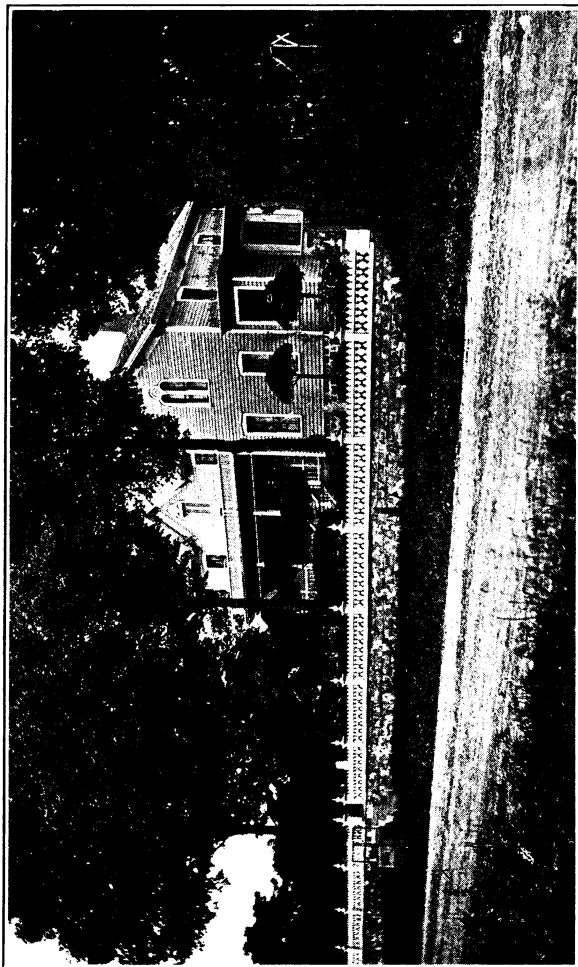
While this record as it now reads would lead one to suppose that not many misfortunes came to Mr. and Mrs. Pennock during these early days, yet such was not the case. Sickness and accidents befell them frequently but could not quench their ambition and determination to succeed.

Wild animals gave Mr. and Mrs. Pennock much trouble in their efforts to get together the necessary equipment of live stock. Wolves and bears were especially troublesome. During the summer of 1846 Mr. Pennock worked out most of the time, receiving as pay for his summer's work a cow, ten sheep and a pair of steer calves. These were kept during the winter without accident, but one day in the following spring, Mr. Pennock upon return from exchanging work with a neighbor, found the sheep missing. The next morning he found that nine of the sheep had been killed by the wolves. An inventory of his losses would make the farmer of today absolutely disheartened.

In 1847 Mr. Pennock put out 17 acres of wheat on his new farm and upon the prospects for a crop he borrowed \$50, with which he made the overland trip to Kalamazoo and paid for his land at the government land office there at the rate of \$1.25 per acre.

Mr. Pennock remained on this piece of land for a few years until he had cleared it up, and then he purchased the first 80 acres of the farm near Hickory Corners now owned by his nephew, Alvah Pennock.

Here Mr. and Mrs. Pennock lived for 33 years, and here they fought out the stern battle of life, earning that substantial competence which is enabling them to pass their last days amid the



E. PENNOCK'S RESIDENCE



W. W. POTTER

comforts that old age so much appreciates, and which enables them to contribute to the support of the church and its affiliated organizations.

The first place owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pennock in the vicinity of Hastings, was the house just north of their present home. Here they lived for three years, but Mr. Pennock became very much dissatisfied owing to the complete change in his mode of life. He had always been accustomed to hard work and could not accommodate himself to the change. So he disposed of this property and purchased the farm in South Hastings, now occupied by W. L. Pennock. Here they lived but one year when they purchased the place upon which they now live and immediately removed to it. There they have lived for the past 36 years.

No children of their own have come to Mr. and Mrs. Pennock, but they have given a home to other children who tenderly venerate and respect the dear old foster mother and father who so kindly took them in and cared for them in days gone by. Mrs. Maria Tolles, deceased; Mrs. Etta Barnaby, of Hastings; Mrs. Ella Rolfe, of Michigan City; W. L. Pennock, of South Hastings, also Mrs. Iva Bedford, of Seattle, Wash., make up the list of those who have been reared under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Pennock.

To write the religious history of Mr. and Mrs. Pennock would require a careful review of practically their whole lives. In 1850 they became members of the Wesleyan Methodist church of Barry Township, and have ever since been identified with this denomination except for a space of three years when they were members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Hastings City. The church of their choice has always had their most hearty support and their most loyal service. Even at their present advanced age each returning Sabbath morning sees them at their place of worship four miles distant. As had been truly said of them, "They have ever been true defenders of the gospel of Christ and liberal supporters of His church."

WILLIAM W. POTTER

William W. Potter was born August 1st, 1869, in Maple Grove township, Barry County, Michigan. He attended district

school in that township and graduated from the Nashville High School in 1891. He taught district school in Assyria township and was three years superintendent of schools at Harrison, Michigan. He was admitted to the bar in 1894 and graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1895, and in August of that year opened an office in Hastings. In the fall of 1895 he entered partnership with J. Edmund Barrell, and in August, 1896, became associated with P. T. Colgrove. He has been a member of the board of education, chairman of the Republican county committee, city attorney of Hastings, prosecuting attorney of Barry County, and a member of the State senate. He was married in 1894 and has six children.

LEE H. PRYOR

Among the younger professional men of the county, whose early prominence bespeaks a long and useful career, must be placed Lee H. Pryor of Hastings.

Mr. Pryor is the son of Leander B. and Cordelia A. Pryor, both natives of New York State, but who have lived in Michigan since 1858. Leander Pryor was of Quaker stock, his father having been excommunicated for marrying outside the church.

Mr. Pryor located on a farm in Yankee Springs. He was one of those who went to the front in the perilous days of 1861-65. On March 13, 1864, he married Cordelia A. Snow, and on March 16 of that same year he re-enlisted.

The subject of this sketch was born August 22, 1881, at Yankee Springs. His young boyhood was spent on the farm. In 1897 the family removed to Middleville, where Lee entered the High School and graduated in 1898. He took a post-graduate course in school, intending to enter college in 1899, but was prevented by sickness from carrying his plans into effect.

In 1899 Mr. Pryor came to Hastings and entered a law office and pursued his legal studies for two years. He then entered the law department of the University of Michigan, where he remained one year, and on October 23, 1902, he took the state bar examination and passed. He then took a position in the office of Secretary of State, F. M. Warner, at Lansing, remaining at this work fourteen months.



LEE PRYOR



SAMUEL C. RITCHIE

On the first of December, 1903, he formed a law partnership in Hastings and began the practice of his profession.

In 1904 he was nominated by the Republican party for prosecuting attorney and was elected. At the time he assumed the duties of his office he was only 23 years old, probably the youngest prosecuting attorney in the state. He was re-elected in 1896.

In 1907 he married Miss Winifred Harper, daughter of John S. Harper of Hastings. They have two children. He was president of the Barry County Bar Association in 1906 and 1907. He is a member of the Masonic order, being at the time this is written (1912) High Priest of Hastings Chapter No. 68, R. A. M. He is also an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias, and a member of the Grange. In religious faith he is a Unitarian.

Mr. Pryor possesses marked forensic talent and is in frequent demand as a public speaker. He is at present engaged in the pursuit of his profession.

Mr. Pryor, whose own remarkable career illustrates the truth of his words, thinks that the most essential condition of success is first, thorough preparation and study, and then steady application and honest work in putting into practice the principle and theories acquired.

SAMUEL C. AND HARRY S. RITCHIE

The names here grouped together are those of father and son, and besides the fact that they are both men of sterling character and unquestioned integrity they are also distinguished as having been the only father and son who have both been honored by being elected to the office of Sheriff of Barry County. In this office both father and son served two terms each.

The father, Samuel C. Ritchie, was born at Messenger's Hollow, Livingston County, New York, July 20, 1841. His father was William Ritchie, who was born in Londonderry, Ireland, May 15, 1815, and his mother was Margaret Caruthers, also a native of Londonderry, her natal day having been December 16, 1820.

In the summer of 1840 the young couple emigrated to America, landing in New York City in July and at once locating in the southern part of Livingston County. The first work done in this country by William Ritchie was on the Genesee Valley Canal,

he being a stone mason. It was here in Livingston County that Samuel Ritchie was born, as noted above, in 1841.

In 1862, when young Samuel was 21, the Ritchies moved to Michigan, locating in Yankee Springs Township. In Ireland William Ritchie had done farming and now in Michigan he again turned his attention to agriculture, buying and clearing a farm of 92 acres of wild land and turning it into a productive property.

Young Ritchie received a good common-school education, although at the early age of ten years he began working for wages, receiving eighteen cents a day. He continued to labor by day and month until he was twenty-seven years old when, six years after he had come to Michigan, he bought the farm in Yankee Springs which was his home for the greater part of his mature years.

Samuel Ritchie was married February 17, 1870, to Miss Anna Doyle, daughter of Darby and Ann Doran Doyle, that couple having come from County Wexford, Ireland, to the United States in 1832. They first settled in Rochester, N. Y., and then seven years later they came to Yankee Springs Township, where the future Mrs. Ritchie was born.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie four children were born—George M., Harry S., Lizzie A. and Maggie J. Three of the four are living, Lizzie A. having passed beyond. Maggie J. Ritchie is now Mrs. Bert McKibbin and lives in Orangeville, Mich. George Ritchie lives a short distance south of Hastings and of Harry S. more will be told later.

Samuel C. Ritchie has been repeatedly honored by his fellow citizens with public office and he has always been found faithful to his trust. He has repeatedly been Highway Commissioner and Supervisor in his township. He has also been a census enumerator and for many years from the very foundation of the school district, he was a school officer.

In 1896 he was elected Sheriff of Barry County and two years later he was accorded a re-election. No man could have been more faithful in executing the duties of this office, and his record was most enviable.

Four years ago Mr. Ritchie sold his farm in Yankee Springs and removed to Hastings, where for the most part he has since resided.



H. S. RITCHIE



MR. AND MRS. J. P. ROBERTS

From a daguerreotype

Mr. Ritchie is a Mason and is honored as a man whose life is ordered on the square.

Harry S. Ritchie, son of Samuel and Anna Ritchie, and like his father also Sheriff of Barry County for two terms, was born in Yankee Springs Township. His early years were spent on the farm there until January, 1897, when he came to Hastings and for four years was under-sheriff for his father.

In November, 1901, Harry Ritchie married Lena M. Sylvester, of Hastings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Sylvester. Mrs. Ritchie died December 29, 1909, leaving besides her husband three children, Mary Josephine, Harry Francis, and Robert S., to mourn her loss. The children are all living.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Ritchie was living in Yankee Springs Township and there in 1904 he was elected to the office of Supervisor. During the next four years Mr. Ritchie was Deputy Sheriff for Sheriff Furness and then in 1908 he was himself elected Sheriff. In 1910 he was accorded another term, which is not expired.

Mr. Ritchie has made a good Sheriff. He has found that the office requires a lot of energy, perseverance and courage and he has never been found lacking in any of these qualities. In the pursuit of his duties Mr. Ritchie has been in some particularly trying positions but he has never flinched and has never failed yet to do his duty. Several times his escape from death has been almost miraculous, but be that as it may he has always executed his trust.

Mr. Ritchie thinks that success in political life comes from devotion to the duties of the office to which one has been called and he has always measured up to this test.

Mr. Ritchie is a member of the Knights of Pythias and fully believes in the fraternal idea.

MR. AND MRS. J. P. ROBERTS

Coming to Hastings in the '40's, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Roberts were of that coterie of early settlers who took their part in laying the foundation for the present prosperous and beautiful city it has come to be. Mr. Roberts was born June 23, 1825, in Buck's County, Pennsylvania, of Welsh-Quaker parentage and

naturally inherited from these his quiet, unostentatious, peace-loving nature and upright moral qualities. He came first to Hastings in 1844 to visit his brother, Dr. J. B. Roberts, one of its pioneer physicians. He returned in 1849 to open the first drug store in Barry County, and followed this occupation for many years, and was associated with Daniel Striker and later with W. H. Goodyear. He had considerable dealings with the Indians and was much revered by them. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Masonic order. He was a life long Presbyterian, serving as elder in the Hastings church for over fifty years. In the chase he found his greatest diversion and was one of the best known hunters in the county and a famous shot. His love of nature, of birds and animals was one of his strongest characteristics. "A man who read a great deal, thought much and talked little," he never had an enemy. What he did, like many another good man, will not be found in the annals of the state or country's best known, but rather in those unwritten volumes which human hearts love to treasure up.

He was married on July 6, 1854, to Anna M. Robinson, who was born in Vassalboro, Maine, October 7, 1834, and came to Hastings with her parents, Judge and Mrs. David G. Robinson, in 1848. She was a student at Albion College in the early '50's and taught in the old Hastings schoolhouse before her marriage. She joined the Presbyterian church by letter in 1852.

In the home, the church and the community where Mrs. Roberts lived and lovingly ministered for over fifty years, "her light still shines on and on." As a friend wrote lovingly at her death, "There is no death for such as she! The fragrance of her blessed life on earth will live on in the lives of those whom it cheered and comforted."

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts' married life lacked but a few months of fifty years, she dying February 26, 1904, he December 17, 1907. Four children were born to their union: Mary, who died in early childhood; Mrs. Anna D. Mason, Mrs. William A. Chidester, and Mrs. William R. Cook.

JULIUS RUSSELL

A long time resident and a highly respected citizen was lost to Barry County by the death of Julius Russell February 11, 1901, and this article is written as a memorial to him.



JULIUS RUSSELL

Julius Russell was born at Byron, near Rockford, Ill., March 18, 1836. In 1855 his father, Dr. Jeremiah Russell, came from Byron to Hastings and went into partnership with his brother-in-law, John W. Stebbins, in the dry goods business. Julius, then a young man of twenty, came soon afterwards, entering his father's store and devoting himself to the mercantile business, which he followed constantly till 1899, when failing health compelled him to retire from active life.

After a time the young man became a partner of his father, and later Mr. John M. Nevins was associated with him in business. From 1870, however, Mr. Russell conducted the business alone.

In 1862 Mr. Russell married Miss Charlotte Lawhead Barlow. One child came to bless this union, Harry, who was born in 1866 and died in 1886, just as he was entering upon a promising manhood. Mrs. Russell is still living.

Such is the brief chronicle of an honorable citizen, whose quiet, unostentatious and yet useful life gained the respect and won the friendship of the whole community. His business career was marked by honorable dealing and his excellent habits of life stamped him as a good man, a kind neighbor and an exemplary citizen.

Mrs. Charlotte Russell, who survives her husband, is one of the well known ladies of Hastings. While her husband was in business Mrs. Russell was his able assistant and showed much ability as a business woman. She resides at the Russell home in Hastings, at the corner of Jefferson and Center streets, and has a host of friends in the community.

PHILO A. AND HENRY S. SHELDON

For many years in Barry County the Sheldon family has been prominently known. Three generations of this family have lived in the county and in each generation the family has been recognized as being interested in public affairs and as consisting of men of practical and progressive tendencies.

The Sheldons are an old New England family, the first representative of the family in this country being Isaac Sheldon, who was born in Essex County, England, in 1629, and in 1651, at the

age of 22, came to Windsor, Connecticut. In 1653 he married Mary Woodford of Hartford, and the next year removed to Northampton, Massachusetts, of which he was one of the first settlers, and where he lived until he died. He was the father of thirteen children.

Johnathan Sheldon, the youngest of the thirteen, was born at Northampton, May 29, 1687, and December 30, 1708, married Mary Southwell. In 1723 he moved to Suffield, Connecticut, and built a house which is still standing. He died April 11, 1769, having been the father of ten children.

It was the eldest of these, Johnathan, second, who was a direct ancestor of Philo A. and Henry S. Sheldon. Johnathan, second, was born at Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1711, and came to Connecticut with his father in 1723. On September 17, 1734, he married Sarah Kent and settled on a farm given him by his father. He died February 3, 1761, having been the father of a family of ten.

Rufus, a son of Johnathan, second, was born in Suffield, Connecticut, July 10, 1744, and married Rachel Harmon of the same place. He died in Suffield, August 3, 1787, and was the father of seven children.

With Ira, the son of Rufus, the family began a movement to the westward. He was born in Suffield in 1786, but moved to Brutus, New York. He married Mary Sheldon, daughter of Jacob Sheldon, a descendant of Johnathan Sheldon, first, who was born January 25, 1788, and to them were born six children. Ira Sheldon died October 11, 1827.

Harvey N. Sheldon, son of Ira Sheldon, and father of Philo A. Sheldon, is the first of the family to come within the confines of Barry County. He was born at Brutus, New York, September 14, 1819, and came to Barry County in 1840, locating on a farm of 80 acres in section one of the Township of Castleton, in 1843. In 1854 he was elected County Treasurer and held that office twelve years, residing for the most part at Hastings. At the end of that period he moved to Hagar, Berrien County, and engaged in fruit raising. After his removal to Hagar he was Treasurer of the Township and served several terms as Supervisor. He died March 5, 1892.

September 14, 1842, he married Lydia Miller, who was born



P. A. SHELDON

November 22, 1826, and who died September 17, 1846. To them were born three sons, Ira, born March 29, 1844, and Philo A. and Milo, who were twins, their natal day being June 28, 1846. Harvey N. Sheldon married a second wife, Almira Wheeler, on July 4, 1847. She was born January 19, 1827, and was the mother of five children, Mary, Albert, Seward, Jesse and Emma.

Now having traced the ancestry of the Sheldon family from the very earliest days of New England colonization, it is very fitting to sketch the biography of a member of the family who, having been born within the county, has lived within its borders all his days and has been active in its political and business affairs for many years. We refer to Philo A. Sheldon.

Philo A. Sheldon, as was stated above, was born June 28, 1846, his birthplace being the farm of his father in Castleton township. In 1856, two years after the father's election to the office of County Treasurer, the family moved to the Township of Hastings and then in 1857 they came to live in the then Village of Hastings. Young Philo attended school in Castleton, Hastings Township, and also in the village, where school was held in the old schoolhouse on the hill. Here he continued his studies until 1864, when in the month of May he entered the office of the Register of Deeds as assistant to S. H. Cook, the register, and D. R. Cook, his deputy. He continued in this office until 1870, when he engaged in the abstract business with D. R. Cook. In 1889 he bought out Mr. Cook's interest in the business and has since continued as sole owner. From the above it will be seen that for forty-eight years Mr. Sheldon has been connected with the business of making abstracts in Barry County, and he is probably better informed on this subject than any man in the county. He is the oldest abstracter in the state in point of service.

Mr. Sheldon has always been a Republican and has held the offices of Supervisor and Alderman many times. He was Postmaster of Hastings under Harrison from 1891 to 1895 and has also made a very efficient secretary of the Barry County Agricultural Society, serving in this capacity several times. He is a public spirited, progressive citizen and is always ready to boost his city and county.

January 10, 1867, he married Mrs. Nettie Hodges, who died March 26, 1901. To them were born five children, Emma, Lydia,

Frank, Harvey S. and Henry S., of whom only Harvey S. and Henry S. are living. In 1892 Mr. Sheldon married Mrs. Johanna Campbell, who died in March, 1909. There were no children from this marriage.

Of Henry S. Sheldon, who is a present resident of this city, and is engaged with his father in the abstract business, we wish to make mention here. He was born January 29, 1876. He attended school in Hastings until he was thirteen, when he went to Grand Rapids, at first attending business college in that city and later being engaged in various employments calculated to give him a good experience for use later on.

In 1892 he returned to Hastings and went into the postoffice under his father. He continued in this connection until 1895, when his father's term as postmaster expired. During his service in the postoffice he had been engaged in equipping himself by hard study, alone, for other duties, so when he finished his work with the government he found himself ready to go into the abstract office with his father. In this occupation he has continued ever since with the exception of the period when he served in the Spanish-American war, enlisting with Company K, Thirty-fifth Michigan Volunteer Infantry in April, 1898. He was mustered out in March of the following year with the rank of corporal.

October 21, 1903, he married Miss Ella Coburn and to them have been born two children, Agnes Harriet, born July 9, 1905, and Philo Henry, who was born April 25, 1909.

Like his father, Henry S. Sheldon is a staunch Republican and is ever willing to do service for his party. For several years he has been Alderman from his ward on the Republican ticket.

Fraternally, he is a Knight of Pythias, a Mason and a Maccabee.

Henry S. Sheldon has made for himself a splendid reputation in Hastings as a careful, efficient business man and a citizen who is always interested in progress. Although still young, he has acquitted himself most creditably and there is still a fine future ahead of him.

CLEMENT M. SMITH

No man now living in Barry County is more widely known to all the people of the county or more universally esteemed than

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Clement McDonald Smith, Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit since 1893. He is the son of David W. Smith and Leonora McDonald, pioneers of Barry County, an account of whose lives is given elsewhere in this book. Born December 4, 1844, near Fort Wayne, Indiana, he was brought in infancy by his parents to the farm near Nashville where they had settled. His early years were spent on the farm, where when old enough he bore his share of the labors of the pioneer days, going to the district school in the winters and imbibing such knowledge as those primitive conditions could afford. At the age of sixteen he entered the Academy at Vermontville, where he spent one year in adding to his stock of knowledge. Then, like many another ambitious boy of those days, he taught school winters and worked on the farm summers. The scenes of these youthful labors in the school room were Coats Grove, Barryville and the Star district near Hastings. In 1865 he entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan, where he remained one year. His straightened circumstances did not permit him to go on with his class, but, with determination to realize his professional ambition, he returned home and taught school another year, reading law during spare moments and vacations. In Hastings he read law in the office of Frank Allen and while teaching in the grammar grades in Charlotte he continued his legal studies in the office of Attorney Edward A. Foote. He was admitted to the bar before Judge Woodruff of Charlotte in April, 1868. Forty-five years after his class at Ann Arbor graduated, the honorary degree of Bachelor of Laws was conferred upon Judge Smith, an honor that came to him entirely unsought, in recognition of his distinguished services in the realm of jurisprudence.

After his admission to the bar he opened a law office in Nashville, supplementing his practice by teaching in the first union school opened in that village. In 1869 he went to Middleville and formed a law partnership with Harvey Wright which was continued for about six months. In 1870 he returned to Nashville and practiced law there until 1876, when he was elected Judge of Probate and removed to Hastings. For eight years he performed the responsibilities of this office to the satisfaction of the public.

In the fall of 1880 he formed a partnership with Hon. Philip T. Colgrove of Hastings, which continued until Judge Smith was called to the bench.

In 1889 Circuit Judge Hooker appointed Judge Smith Prosecuting Attorney to fill the vacancy caused by the death of C. H. Van Arman. On January 3, 1893, Governor John T. Rich, then just entering upon his office, made his first appointment, by placing Judge Smith upon the Circuit bench of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, comprising at that time the Counties of Barry, Eaton and Calhoun, to succeed Judge Hooker, who had been elevated to the Supreme bench of the state. Ever since that time Judge Smith has occupied this responsible position. At the end of his appointive term he was elected by a majority of 1,529, and at each succeeding election his majority has been increased, until in the spring of 1911, his nomination was endorsed by all parties and he was returned to his judicial position without any opposition.

In 1903 President McKinley tendered Judge Smith the Associate Justiceship of the Supreme Court of the Territory of New Mexico. After careful consideration, Judge Smith declined this high honor.

Besides his professional and official duties Judge Smith has found time to form fraternal associations, to attend to other lines of business, to take an active part in his church, the Methodist Episcopal, in whose Sunday school he has been a faithful teacher many years. His services as a speaker are always at the command of his friends, and often are availed of, on all manner of public occasions. Fraternally Judge Smith is a Mason, member of Hastings Blue Lodge and Chapter and of Charlotte Commandery. He is President of the Masonic Temple Association of Hastings, Mich. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

He is President of the Hastings National Bank and is interested in other business enterprises. For many years he has been Historian of the County Pioneer Society.

He was married May 17, 1871, to Miss Frances M. Wheeler, daughter of Milo T. Wheeler of Woodland. Mrs. Smith has been active in women's club work and is an ex-President of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. They have three children—Shirley W., who holds the responsible position of Secretary of the University of Michigan; Donald D., a civil engineer now connected with the Southern Surety Company at St. Louis, Mo., as consulting engineer; and Gertrude J. Smith of Hastings.



MR. AND MRS. DAVID W. SMITH

MR. AND MRS. DAVID W. SMITH

This sketch is intended as a memorial to David W. and Leonora Smith, pioneer settlers of Barry County, who labored hard to transform Western Michigan into the fertile and busy territory which it has become.

Born in the State of New York, August 31, 1817, David W. Smith in 1842 came to the then new State of Michigan. He went to Indiana in 1843 and married Leonora McDonald, who also was born in the Empire State, her natal day being May 19, 1825. They were married October 12, 1843, and came at once to Michigan, settling on the farm north of Nashville, in Castleton township, on which they continued to live until the time of their death, Mrs. Smith dying in 1901 and he in 1906.

On the farm in Castleton the two pioneers fought and struggled against the difficulties of those early days, clearing the land and wresting from the soil the means of sustenance.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born four children, all of whom are living. They are: Clement Smith, of Hastings; E. V. Smith, of Nashville; Mrs. Josephine Coulter, of Chicago; and Mrs. Ida Hartzell, of Battle Creek.

Mr. Smith was a Democrat in politics and from 1860 until 1876 he held the office of supervisor of Castleton township. For many years he was secretary of the Barry and Eaton Insurance Company and helped in a great measure to make the company what it is today.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were of that company of pioneers whose number is now small, but who in the early days labored and struggled to make possible the conditions which we enjoy today.

WILLIAM H. AND FRED W. STEBBINS

William H. Stebbins, an honored resident of Hastings, Barry County, where he is engaged in the undertaking business, is the son of John W. and Eliza (Holland) Stebbins, natives of Chautauqua County, New York. Mr. Stebbins' father came West in 1843 and settled at Hastings, where he worked at his trade of carpenter, helping to build the Barry County court house. Our subject was born in Hastings, June 2, 1845. In 1846 his father moved to Rutland township and purchased a farm of wild land, cleared sixty acres of it, and there lived until 1855, when he

returned to Hastings. The farm is now known as the L. D. Gardner farm.

The return of the family to Hastings gave William H. an opportunity to attend the public school of the village, from which he was duly graduated. At the age of 16, his father being now a partner in the firm of Stebbins & Ellis, engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, he entered their employ as a clerk. A short time later the father became sole owner of the business and continued in it, being assisted by William, until 1869, when he retired from active business. He died in 1871.

In 1873 Wm. H. Stebbins resumed the business in which he had gained a long and profitable experience with his father, associating himself with Henry Belding under the firm name of Stebbins & Belding. This partnership was maintained for five years, at the end of which time Mr. Stebbins became exclusively engaged in the undertaking profession, in which he has continued ever since, building up a splendid reputation.

Mr. Stebbins was city treasurer in 1873 and for a period of ten years in succession served as alderman of the Third ward. In the fight for the installation of the city water works Mr. Stebbins was especially active and was chairman of the committee which had the building of the system in charge. For a number of years, also, he was a member of the school board. In politics Mr. Stebbins is a Democrat. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Maccabees, Odd Fellows, and Foresters.

April 25, 1872, he married Miss Julia Hoonan and to Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins four children have been born, Maud Eliza (Mrs. E. J. Huffman), Fannie Dora (Mrs. J. H. Templeton), Carrie Melissa, and Fred W. All are living and are residents of Hastings with the exception of Mrs. Templeton, whose home is in Seattle, Washington.

In continuing this sketch with the biography of Fred W. Stebbins we are presenting the record of a family whose name has always stood in the community for progress and rectitude. We are also presenting the record of a family which for three generations has been engaged in the same profession, that of undertaking. This profession has been handed down in the family from father to son until the name of Stebbins is widely known in this connection.



WILLIAM H. STEBBINS



FRED W. STEBBINS

Fred W. Stebbins was born in Hastings, July 14, 1879. He has always lived in Hastings, being educated there and making that city the field of his subsequent business endeavors. He graduated from the Hastings High School in the class of 1898 and in the fall of 1899 entered the employ of the City Bank, remaining with that institution for seven years.

After discontinuing his connection with the bank he was engaged in the insurance business for two years. He then formed a partnership with L. R. Glasgow and opened a furniture store. This was sold to Miller & Harris in 1910 and since that time Mr. Stebbins has been associated with his father, W. H. Stebbins, in the undertaking business, the undertaking rooms being located in the modern business block which the father has built just east of the Masonic temple on State street and which bears the name of the Stebbins block.

Fred W. Stebbins was married October 18, 1904, to Miss Myrtle Sullivan, daughter of Thomas Sullivan of Hastings, who is a very estimable and talented young woman, and is at present president of the Hastings Women's Club.

The Stebbins family is one of the old families of Hastings. It has been associated with the city's development from almost the very beginning and its members have always helped in every movement which would make for progress and advancement. It has been the men and women of this type who have made the Hastings of today.

WILLIAM J. STUART

The greatest crop which any community can produce is men of character. Barry County has been the birthplace of many such men, some of whom have gone forth to wider fields of usefulness and honor. Among these must be counted William James Stuart, Judge of the Superior Court, of Grand Rapids. His parents, Alexander and Martha (Noble) Stuart (many members of the family spell the name Stewart), were of Scotch-Irish descent, a mixture that has produced many strong and famous men. They came to Michigan from Ireland about 1843. John Stuart, a brother of Alexander, had preceded him in coming to this country and had located and settled upon a farm on the road leading from Yankee Springs to Orangeville on Section 37 of Yankee Springs, in 1837.

Alexander joined his brother and lived on his farm in a house near the Orangeville Township line for several years, till he located his own farm on Section 34, Yankee Springs, in 1849.

Here, on his Uncle John's farm, William J. was born, November 1, 1844, about one mile from the famous Yankee Springs tavern. Let no one think that the place was without its diversion and excitement. For in those days the tavern was known all over Western Michigan. Stage coaches used to pull up at its hospitable doors, drawn by four horses and loaded to the limit. There was a store, a blacksmith shop, a school house and the straggling roofs of the tavern, surrounded by its many barns and outbuildings and bustling with the ever changing stream of travel.

William met his first sad experience in life in the death of his mother when he was but ten years old, her death occurring September 20, 1854. He remained on the farm until 1859, when he entered the public schools at Hastings, supporting himself by working for the family of William Barlow while at Hastings. Two years later he entered the Preparatory Department of Kalamazoo College and the next year the High School at Kalamazoo, under Professor Daniel Putnam, graduating from this school in 1863, a member of the first class to graduate from that institution. While at school in Kalamazoo he supported himself by working for the family of H. G. Wells.

One term of teaching country school followed and in March, 1864, he entered the University of Michigan, where he pursued the classical course until the middle of his Junior year, March, 1866. After spending several months in Illinois he was employed in the fall as Superintendent of Schools at Hastings, filling the position for one year. He then returned to the university, graduating in 1868 with the degree of A. B.

He again filled the Superintendency of Hastings schools for two years, after which he commenced reading law with Balch, Smiley & Balch of Kalamazoo. In the fall he entered the law department of the university, completing his course in 1872, with the degree of LL. B. The money that he needed to complete the Classical Course at the university, over and above what he could earn, he borrowed from Hon. H. G. Wells of Kalamazoo, and to complete the law course at the university, he borrowed from the Hon. A. J. Bowne of Hastings, Mich. After teaching in Iowa

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three months he went back to Kalamazoo and for a short time was connected with the law firm of Balch & Son, the style of the firm being Balch, Stuart & Balch. In November, 1872, Mr. Stuart went to Grand Rapids, as affording him a wider field for his profession, and on January 1st, 1873, entered the office of E. A. Burlingame as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Kent County, soon afterwards becoming a partner under the name of Burlingame & Stuart. During this time he taught and had charge of the night school then first established in the Public Schools of Grand Rapids. This firm continued until 1876, when Mr. Stuart formed a partnership with Edwin F. Sweet, under the name of Stuart & Sweet. On April 13, 1874, Mr. Stuart married Miss Calista I. Hadley of Hastings. He was appointed City Attorney in the spring of 1880 and held the position two terms.

In May, 1888, he was appointed Prosecuting Attorney of Kent County and later was elected for a full term.

In 1888, after twelve years with Mr. Sweet, the relationship was discontinued and Mr. Stuart formed a partnership with L. E. Knappen and C. H. Van Arman, under the name of Stuart, Knappen & Van Arman, with offices for some time in both Grand Rapids and Hastings. The Hastings office was closed soon after the death of Mr. Van Arman in 1890, but the Grand Rapids office of Knappen & Stuart continued until 1893. From the latter date Mr. Stuart was in general practice alone until the spring of 1897, when he formed a partnership with Sylvester W. Barker, the arrangement terminating in 1901. In 1902 he formed a partnership with Henry T. Heald under the name of Stuart & Heald. In April, 1905, Mr. Stuart was elected Judge of the Superior Court of Grand Rapids, a position which he has faithfully and ably held ever since. His business connection with Mr. Heald was dissolved when he ascended the bench.

Judge Stuart's interest in educational matters has always been active. For two years he was a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Education, and a member ex-officio of said board during his two terms as Mayor. The degree of M. A. was conferred upon him by his alma mater in 1876. He was president of the Alumni Association of the University in 1894 and 1895. He was Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids for two terms in 1892 and 1893.

As a business man Judge Stuart helped organize the Citizens Telephone Company and has been a member of its board of directors, and its attorney and counsel ever since, having seen the business develop from a \$50,000 to a \$5,000,000 corporation. At the organization of The State Bank of Michigan, now the Kent State Bank, he was elected a director, holding the position until he went on the bench as judge.

Judge Stuart has been for many years active in the life of his church. He was long a vestryman and treasurer of St. Mark's Episcopal church and serves in the same capacity for the pro-cathedral. He is a trustee of Akeley Institute, a church school for girls at Grand Haven; a member of the standing committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan, secretary of the Board of Trustees of the same diocese, and has had the honor of representing the diocese in the general conventions of the church at Richmond and Cincinnati. He is treasurer of the Missionary Council of the Fifth Department, usually attending its business meetings.

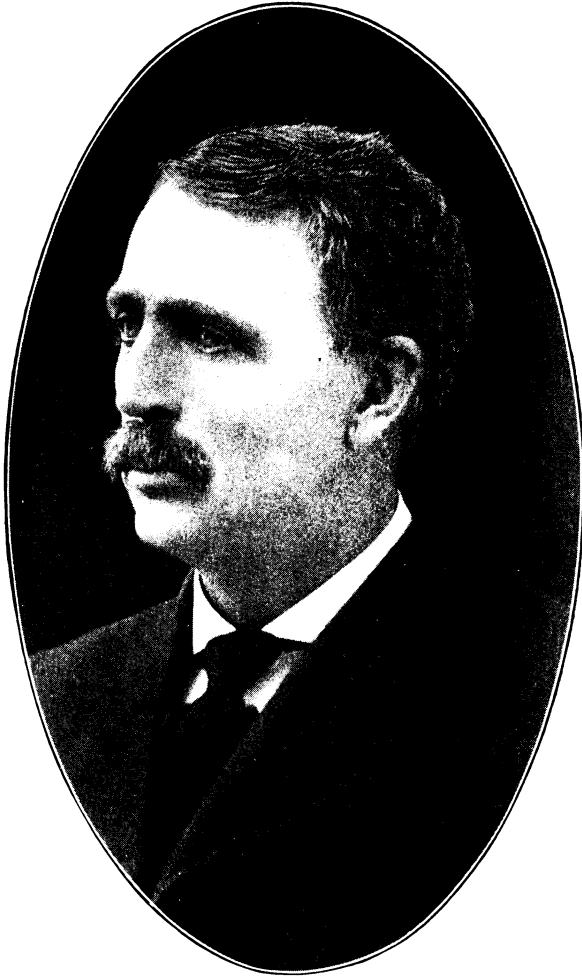
He is a member of the Masonic and Pythian orders, and in politics a Republican. He holds membership in the Kent Country Club and the Grand Rapids Historical Society.

Judge Stuart has two brothers living and one sister—John N. Stuart, on the old homestead at Yankee Springs; Mrs. Elizabeth S. Ritchie, who lives near the old home, and Thomas A. Stuart, whose home is in Gaines Township, Kent County.

Both of his parents are sleeping in the little cemetery at Yankee Springs, the father having died in Kalamazoo, July 31, 1878, 24 years after the death of the mother whose passing has been already chronicled. Mr. Stuart and his wife have no children, but a niece of his, Edith Stuart (now Mrs. Raymond V. Parsons of Detroit) has lived in the family from her childhood and has always filled the position of a daughter.

THOMAS SULLIVAN

Foremost among the legal lights of the Barry County bar stands Thomas Sullivan of Hastings. Mr. Sullivan was born in Bloomfield, Prince Edward County, Ontario, August 7th, 1856. His parents were of Irish extraction, Jeremiah Sullivan and Eileen Mahoney, who left their native county, Cork, and settled in Can-



THOS. SULLIVAN



DR. B. C. SWIFT

ada in 1834. From Canada they came to Michigan in 1867 and settled in the Township of Campbell, Ionia County.

Thomas was next to the youngest of eleven children, six boys and five girls. He attended rural school, worked on the farm and afterwards found employment for two years in a factory at Freeport. Shortly after this he was elected Justice of the Peace of Irving Township and held the office four terms. He was also Township Clerk three times.

During these years of official duties at Freeport he was devoting every moment not employed in other duties in the study of law. How well he laid the foundations for his professional life is evidenced by his successful career as an Attorney-at-law. He was admitted to the bar November 15, 1890, and began practice at Freeport. In 1896 he was nominated by the Democratic party for the office of Prosecuting Attorney and was elected. He moved to the county seat and has constantly practiced his profession in that city to the present time. He has been City Attorney three terms and holds that position at the present time.

His political convictions have always been with the Democratic party, in whose councils, both locally and in state politics, he has been useful and influential. In 1908 he was a delegate to the National Convention at Denver. At the present time (October, 1912) he is the candidate for Prosecuting Attorney.

Fraternally Mr. Sullivan is a Knight of Pythias and an Odd Fellow.

In 1877, Mr. Sullivan married Emily V. Kent. They have two children, Myrtle, now Mrs. Fred Stebbins, and Eileen.

Mr. Sullivan, familiarly and affectionately known all over Barry County as "Tom" Sullivan, has by assiduous devotion to his profession, strict honesty and square treatment, built up a lucrative business, to which he devotes his most faithful attention, while his many fine qualities of heart and mind have won for him a host of friends in whose association he finds that enjoyment which comes from the consciousness of work well done.

BIRGE C. SWIFT

Birge C. Swift is the son of John and Jennie E. Swift, both former residents of Lansing, Michigan.

He was born in Lansing, August 24, 1877. In 1881 the

family moved to Harbor Springs, and here Mr. Swift graduated from the local High School in 1894. He attended the Petoskey Normal School in 1895-1896 and was a special student at Alma College, 1897-1899. He graduated from Detroit College of Medicine in 1903, being valedictorian of his class, and moved to Middleville in the same year.

In 1905 he married Marion Grace McIntosh of Grand Rapids and one child, Birge Carlton, Jr., has been born of this union. Dr. Swift is a descendant of Colonial forefathers.

He is a member and Past Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, and Odd Fellows and K. O. T. M. He also belongs to the Kappa (Detroit) Chapter of the Phi Beta Pi fraternity.

Dr. Swift is pre-eminently a progressive citizen and a man of whom Middleville may well be proud.

W. L. THORPE

A young man who has achieved much and who has at the same time gained a wide circle of friends is W. L. Thorpe, more commonly known as Roy Thorpe.

W. L. Thorpe is the son of James L. and Lucinda Thorpe. The mother was born in Michigan, but Mr. Thorpe, senior, was born in Canada, coming to Michigan and locating in St. Claire County in 1866. It was here that W. L. Thorpe was born in 1873.

The family lived in St. Claire County until 1881, when they moved to Barry County, Prairieville Township. Young Thorpe lived at home with his parents until he was fourteen years old and then at that early age he began to teach school. Later he decided to supplement his education, which had been received principally in country schools, by taking a course in the High School at Richland, where he graduated at the age of sixteen. He then worked as a clerk and salesman in stores at Richland and Kalamazoo.

On October 2, 1895, Mr. Thorpe married Miss Ada Johnson of Milo. To Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe has been born one son, Russell, now a student in the Hastings High School.

After his marriage Mr. Thorpe farmed and shipped stock at Milo until January 1, 1909, when he came to Hastings as County Clerk. In this office Mr. Thorpe has served two terms and his conduct of the office has given universal satisfaction.



WM L. THORPE



GEO. TOMLINSON

More than that, during the four years he has been in Hastings he has made a great number of friends, all of whom will regret the fact that he is not to continue in his office another term.

Before his election to the office of County Clerk, Mr. Thorpe had been entrusted for four years with the office of Supervisor of Prairieville Township, and it was to a great extent due to the excellent record he made in this office that he was later accorded the election to the County Clerkship.

Mr. Thorpe believes in fraternity and brotherhood and is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, and the Masons. He also believes that success in business or politics is not so much reckoned in dollars as in being able to say that in all deals a man stuck by his word, misrepresented nothing, and was honorable all the time. He believes that the friends a man makes from among those who deal with him are of greater value than money.

Mr. Thorpe is still a young man and so it is probable that he will advance much farther than he has ever yet done, but it is safe to predict that however far he advances and wherever he may be, he will always have a host of friends who will believe in him and whose confidence he will entirely possess.

GEORGE S. TOMLINSON

This sketch is written as a tribute to the memory of George S. Tomlinson, one of the sterling citizens of Hastings, who on September 3, 1902, completed on earth a life full of the honor which comes from upright living and honest dealing with one's fellow men.

Born near Watertown, Connecticut, September 15, 1842, at the age of fourteen he came to Marshall, Michigan, and there lived until 1866. In April of that year he was married to Miss Jennie Selleck and in the following month moved to Hastings, where he was foreman of the Prentiss & Dickey, sash, door and blind factory. After remaining in their employ for some time Mr. Tomlinson helped to build and establish the plant of Bentley, Rider & Co., for whom he worked as a foreman until he became a member of the firm.

In 1896 he sold his interest in the firm of Bentley, Tomlinson & Rider and until he died was engaged in the retail lumber busi-

ness. This business he built up from small beginnings to large and profitable proportions. After his death it was conducted for some time by his daughter, Mrs. Mae Young, who with his widow survived him and are both present residents of this city.

As a business man Mr. Tomlinson was strictly square and honorable. His reputation for integrity was never questioned and until failing health prevented, he was tirelessly active in building up and extending his interests.

He was a progressive and public spirited citizen and took a great interest in all civic affairs. He was alderman for several terms and for many years served as City Treasurer. For twenty-one years he was a member of the Board of Education, holding the record in Hastings for length of service on the board. He retired in 1898. For many years during his service on the school board he was president of that body, but whether serving as president or merely as a member, he always had a great influence in its deliberations. Much of the excellence of our splendid system of schools can be honestly credited to George S. Tomlinson. In politics he was a staunch Democrat.

Mr. Tomlinson was a worthy Knight of Pythias and devoted much time to the upbuilding of the Hastings lodge. While physically able he was ever a faithful attendant at its sessions.

He was a loving husband and father, a genial neighbor and a true friend.

DR. WILLIAM UPJOHN

Dr. William Upjohn was born in Shaftsbury, England, March 4, 1807. His father, whose name he bore, was a man of great ability and widely known throughout the west of England. He was a devoted Christian and was the author of several religious works. In 1795 he married Mary Standard, of Tisbury, and reared a family of twelve children, three boys and nine girls, William being the eldest son. Mr. Upjohn was a wealthy English gentleman and his children all received liberal educations.

It is most fitting here to speak of William's brother Uriah. In fact, it is impossible to write a sketch of the life of William Upjohn without touching upon the life of this brother, with whom he was always most closely associated. Together they came, in 1828, to explore the wonders of the new world. They



DR. WM. UPJOHN

both graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City and together, in 1835, they both came to Michigan where they found vast fields of usefulness. They had no thought of remaining permanently in the then Territory of Michigan, but Uriah met pretty Maria Mills and after that he could not leave. They were married and lived long and useful lives. Their work and influence in Kalamazoo County, where Dr. Uriah had located, can never be forgotten. Not only was the doctor's medical skill widely sought, but he was a deep thinker and a sound adviser on all subjects. He would almost bear a part in the history of Barry County, for many a long ride did he take to Hastings from his home in Richland, and many a life was saved in Barry County by his wonderful medical skill. When Dr. William Upjohn was in the Civil war it was to his brother, Uriah that the people of Hastings turned. No decisive step was ever taken by one brother without the counsel of the other, and this wonderful brotherly friendship and love is a thing to ever cherish and remember.

Both the brothers settled first in Richland, where William spent the first four years farming. But the work of caring for the sick was more than one physician could do and so he joined Uriah in the practice of medicine.

Dr. William Upjohn's first trip to Hastings was made by the marked trees to visit Mr. Leach, after whom Leach Lake was named. He left his patient with but a few hours to live and on his way home stopped in Hastings to care for the sick. In a little store building which stood where the white brick barn now stands, at the southeast corner of Creek and State streets, he met Henry A. Goodyear and Alvin Bailey. These gentlemen prevailed upon him to settle in Hastings, inasmuch as there was no physician in the place. This was in 1841. In 1842 he married Affa Cannett, who died in the first year of her married life. In 1847 he married Lydia Amelia, sister of his first wife, who was the mother of his three daughters. Dr. and Mrs. Upjohn spent a long life together, Mrs. Upjohn surviving her husband three years.

Dr. Upjohn's first home in Hastings was on the southwest corner of Creek and Apple streets. He later built the house which is now just east of the C., K. & S. railway where it inter-

sects the Michigan Central. This place was laid out in garden beds bordered by English box and planted to shrubs and flowers. State street now passes through what was once the doctor's beautiful garden. He afterwards located on Broadway, where he made his home until his death. He owned some valuable pieces of property in Hastings.

Dr. William Upjohn was so prominently identified with the history of this county that his name can never pass from its pages. He was one of the best and grandest citizens Barry County ever had. He was loved and honored by all, not only for his medical skill, but for his work in public and among the poor.

In 1852 he was elected register of deeds and the same year he was elected a member of the first Board of Regents of the University of Michigan. At his death the University authorities paid him a very high tribute.

In 1862 Governor Blair tendered him the position of surgeon of the Seventh Michigan Cavalry, which he accepted. From the position of regimental surgeon he was promoted to Surgeon-in-Chief of the First Brigade, First Division of Cavalry, of the Army of the Potomac. The doctor was with Kilpatrick in his raid on Richmond and accompanied General Sherman in his raid up James River. He served throughout the war and at its close went with General Custer to what were then the vast unexplored plains of the West, to put down the Indian trouble. He made as fine a war record as could be desired. The doctor was a great horseback rider and he took into the army with him the horse he had ridden in his practice. This faithful animal carried his master to the Black Hills and back and died in the stable from which he was taken when the doctor entered the service.

It was in 1865 when Dr. Upjohn once more returned to Hastings and resumed his practice, for several years in the '70's having associated with him his nephew, Dr. William E. Upjohn, now of Kalamazoo. He passed many useful years beloved and honored by his fellow citizens and died August 2, 1887, mourned by all.

CHRISTOPHER H. VAN ARMAN

This sketch is dedicated to the memory of Christopher H. Van Arman, who was taken away by an untimely death January



C. H. VAN ARMAN

12, 1890, at the age of 38, just as he was in the very prime of life and had before him the brightest and most promising of futures.

Born in Falkland, Brant County, Ontario, September 11, 1851, he came, six years later, with his family, to the township of Rutland, his father, George Van Arman, buying what is now the Gardner farm in that township. Later the father bought a farm about a mile west of the Gardner farm and there lived until his death. The family was a large one, consisting of five brothers and five sisters. Of these only five are now living: Joseph Van Arman, of Detroit; Mary, now Mrs. M. W. Hicks, of Hastings; Sarah, Mrs. Thos. Kelley, of Hope; Ruth, Mrs. Orley Peake, of Kansas City, and Harriet, Mrs. Mark Childs, of Fowlerville. The mother was Elizabeth Harrison Van Arman.

Young Christopher Van Arman attended district school in Rutland until he was fourteen years of age, when he entered the employ of John M. Nevins of the Hastings Banner, with whom he worked at the printer's trade, boarding with the family. Later he taught district school and then was principal of schools at Nashville and Middleville. While teaching he studied law. He pursued his legal studies in the offices of James Sweezy and of L. E. & C. M. Knappen, and in 1881 was admitted to the bar. In 1882 he graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan, and in the following year became a partner in the firm of Knappen & Van Arman. In 1888 William J. Stuart of Grand Rapids allied himself with Mr. Knappen and Mr. Van Arman and the firm of Stuart, Knappen & Van Arman was thus formed. Mr. Knappen removed to Grand Rapids and the firm maintained offices in both that city and Hastings, with Mr. Van Arman in charge of the Hastings office.

In 1888 Mr. Van Arman was elected prosecuting attorney of Barry County on the Republican ticket by a majority of over 700 and this office he held at the time of his death.

He was a member of all the Masonic bodies in Hastings and was closely identified with the K. of P. He was a devoted and earnest churchman and was an active member of Emmanuel parish.

Mr. Van Arman was a striking example of what a young man can do unaided except by his own efforts. A deep and careful student, he made great progress in his chosen profession

and at the time of his death had reached a position of great promise. He was of a deeply sincere and honorable nature and pre-eminently merited that highest of all titles, that of Christian gentleman.

His widow, Mrs. Clara Longmaid Van Arman, is now living at Salt Lake City.

LUKE WATERS

One of the eminently successful business men of Hastings and a man who has been repeatedly placed by his fellow citizens in offices of trust and honor, is Luke Waters.

Mr. Waters was born near Canandaigua, New York, in Ontario County, May 4th, 1853. His parents were Patrick and Mary Hoonan Waters and with them he came to Michigan in 1855, arriving in the Wolverine State in October of that year and settling in the Township of Irving on Section 29. Here for ten years the family lived the life of pioneers, undergoing experiences which a younger generation can know little of. Often times in order to eke out the family income the father went to work for his neighbors. For such work he received the sum of fifty cents a day, payment being made in produce.

In 1865 the family came to the vicinity of Hastings, locating on what is now the Wellman farm north of the city. Here the land had to be cleared and the ground prepared for cultivation by any but easy processes. It was hard work but it was honest and honorable. Of course money was not over plentiful and luxuries were scarce, but still there was always enough for comfort and poverty was unknown.

In the midst of these circumstances, which were well calculated to bring out the true American qualities of endurance and perseverance, young Waters grew to manhood. Then in 1876, at the age of 22, he left the farm and entered the employment of Barlow & Goodyear in their grain elevator, and it is this business of which Mr. Waters is now today the sole owner.

In 1880 Mr. Waters formed a partnership with F. H. Barlow and bought out Nathan Barlow, who had become the entire owner of the elevator business through the dissolution of the firm of Barlow & Goodyear. The new partnership continued until March, 1912, when on the death of Mr. Barlow, Mr. Waters assumed full ownership.



LUKE WATERS

During the many years which Mr. Waters has been in business he has always enjoyed a well earned reputation for absolute integrity and square dealing. He has always given careful attention to all the details of his business and his success has been of his own making.

October 16, 1878, Mr. Waters married Adella Wickham, daughter of John Wickham of Hastings. From this marriage were born three children, James P., Sophia H. and Mary M., all of whom are still living. After a long illness Mrs. Waters died January 9, 1909.

Mr. Waters has always been a man who has been interested in the affairs of his community and he has held numerous offices in the city government. For twenty years he served on the Council as Alderman and for two terms, in 1897 and 1898, he was Mayor of the city. He is also Director in the City Bank, President of the Board of Trade, Director of the Manufacturers' Club and a member of the Knights of Pythias.

Besides having always been in the grain and elevator business Mr. Waters has always been interested in farming. He is a practical farmer and thoroughly understands the tilling of the soil.

In February, 1910, Mr. Waters married Miss Ruth Handy of Hastings, who has always fully entered into his ideas of community and civic betterment.

Mr. Waters' ideas on attaining success are interesting and well worth while. Industry, choosing a congenial occupation and then pushing that occupation without vacillation are, he believes, the essential elements of success.

Luke Waters has always been a square, straightforward citizen. He has attained success by his own efforts and by his own zeal. He has been public spirited and has the respect and good wishes of his fellow citizens.

JOHN WEISSERT

John Weissert, one of the first German residents of Hastings, was born in Freudenstadt, Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, on October 11, 1828. Left fatherless while very young, John went to work to help support himself, his mother and a young half-brother. When 14 years old, he apprenticed himself to a tinsmith

for a term of three years. In those days it was the custom in Germany for every graduate apprentice to start out and gain worldly knowledge by working his way from town to town. This was called the "handwerksbusch." As soon as he had learned his trade, John left his native town in the heart of the Black Forest and worked his way through Wurtemberg and Northern Switzerland. He battled with the world until he was 21 years old. Then he enlisted in the German army, for he came from a military family whose members had served under Napoleon in Eastern Europe, his uncle, General von Reichstadt, having won distinction in service in Austria. He gained a good knowledge of drilling and also became a sharpshooter. While stationed at the barracks in Stuttgart, the capital of the kingdom, he met and married Fredericka Handel, of the family of Handel the musician, who resided in the ancient town of Leonberg, romantically located in the hills a few miles west of the city. It was here that their son, Charles G. Weissert, was born on March 26, 1852. Times were turbulent, and the young soldier decided to try his fortunes in the United States. He arrived in New York City late in 1853, and worked at his trade until he had saved enough money to bring his family to this country. After working a year in Philadelphia, he took his family to Herkimer, N. Y. Later they joined the tide of westward emigration and arrived in Hastings in 1855. He worked at his trade until 1859, when he moved to Ohio, but he returned to Hastings six months later. The second son, John Weissert, was born on August 13, 1860.

When the war spirit preceding the rebellion broke out, some of the residents organized themselves into the "Barry County Zouaves," and John Weissert drilled them in the upper story of the old court house and on the lawn. Giving his commands in broken English that often caused amusing mistakes, which he enjoyed as much as any of his men, he drilled the volunteers after the German methods. In the fall of 1862, he enlisted in Company C, First Regiment of Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. A few weeks afterward he was slightly wounded in the battle of Perryville, Ky., a bullet striking him in the hand as he raised his musket. His true soldierly traits, strict adherence to discipline and faithful performance of duty won the regard of the officers, while his unchanging cheerfulness in the face of extreme hardship made



JOHN WEISSERT

him a great favorite with his comrades. When Governor Blair visited the camps at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Col. Innes of the First Engineers placed John on sentinel duty one night and had him challenge the party until the password was given, in order to show the governor what a faithful soldier he had. John was a companionable man and was in demand at officers' social gatherings. He was made a corporal, and afterward refused further promotion. In 1864 he returned to Hastings and enlisted a number of recruits. He was mustered out of service with his regiment in Washington, D. C., on January 18, 1865. Returning home, he worked at his trade until he established a hardware business of his own in 1870. He taught his trade to his two sons. In 1877, he and his older son, Charles, went into partnership.

After a brief illness of inflammatory rheumatism which resulted from his service in the army, John Weissert died on September 27, 1883. His son, John, then entered the business now conducted by Weissert Brothers.

John Weissert was known throughout the county as "Honest John." He was noted for his kindness, his courtesy, his clean character, his devotion to his friends, his hospitality in his home, his absolute squareness in business dealings, and his spirit of liberality which amounted almost to a fault. He was unceasingly industrious, and thought nothing of walking a dozen or a score of miles to do work. When new arrivals in the county appeared in his store without a cent with which to pay for what they wanted to purchase, John unhesitatingly "trusted" them, for he believed everyone as honest as himself. "Take it along, I know you will pay," he said. Unreliable persons seeing that honesty was unquestioned, seldom failed to pay their debts. Many who afterwards prospered, had him to thank for assistance.

John Weissert was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and he believed in that grand principle, "Do right, and fear naught." He became widely acquainted. He served with marked ability on the Board of Education. His popularity was proved by the great attendance at his funeral, which was the largest ever held in Barry County, people coming miles to pay their last respects. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, a charter member of the Hastings Arbeiter Verein and of Fitzgerald Post, Grand Army of the Republic. His widow died on March 6, 1901.

MILO THATCHER WHEELER

Milo Thatcher Wheeler was born in the township of Wheeler, Steuben County, New York, February 6th, 1821. He was the third in a family of nine sons and two daughters, children of Asa and Henrietta Wheeler, who were among the first settlers in the township of Woodland, having moved there in the year 1842. He was elected Supervisor of that township in 1849, which office he held for fifteen of the next twenty years.

In 1864 he was appointed postmaster at Woodland Center, which position he retained until December, 1870, when he moved to Hastings to assume the duties of County Treasurer. He was twice re-elected to this office, which he filled with credit to himself and the satisfaction of all. He was a member of the Board of Education for nearly all of the time of his residence in the city.

During the thirty years over which his official record extends not a stain attached to his name. In all his business relations he was characterized by an unswerving honesty and fidelity which, together with his genial good humor and obliging disposition, won him many friends among those who knew him only in this capacity. As friend and neighbor he was universally loved and respected. He was an official member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Hastings at the time of his death, December 8th, 1878. He was married October 24th, 1847, to Amanda Haight, daughter of Reuben and Sally Ann Haight, who had brought their young family to the township of Odessa, in Ionia County, in 1840. Mrs. Wheeler was born in Steuben County, New York, December 4th, 1828. After their marriage they went to live on Mr. Wheeler's farm in Woodland township, where their four children were born. The only son, Theron P., died at the age of two years.

The three daughters who survived the father and mother are: Frances, wife of Judge Clement Smith of the Fifth Judicial Circuit; Rosella Belle, wife of Marshall L. Cook, editor of the Hastings Banner, and Stella A., wife of Colonel A. D. Kniskern, at this writing stationed at Manila, P. I.

Her home during the days of the Civil War was the gathering place of those who waited for the mail to come from Hastings on horseback, bearing tidings from the front and for the "war widows" who came to her husband, as supervisor, having the disbursement of the monthly allowance paid toward their support by



MR. AND MRS. MILO T. WHEELER

From a daguerreotype

the township. Her's was the office of comforter to many a lonely wife and mother, and to many a stricken one when the news of a battle arrived.

Mrs. Wheeler was always interested in public affairs and patriotic, as only those can be who have sacrificed much for their country. She had three brothers in the war, two of whom fill unknown graves in the Southland. She was a leader in the Soldiers' Aid Societies in Woodland, and after coming to Hastings, a charter member of the Women's Relief Corps. She came of Revolutionary stock and was a member of the original society organized for the preservation of Mt. Vernon. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for over sixty years, at the time of her death, which occurred in Hastings, August 25th, 1909.

HENRY OSCAR YOUNG

The oldest resident of Hastings in point of continuous residence is Oscar Young. He has lived in Hastings over 71 years. Born in Battle Creek July 1, 1840, he was brought to Hastings in October, 1841, when his father, Vespasian Young, moved to Hastings and engaged in business as a merchant, carrying on his business until his death in 1848 in a store building which he erected west of where the National Bank now stands.

The father was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, April 7, 1807, and came to Michigan in 1833, settling in Battle Creek. With him came his wife, Agnes Bishop Smith Young, who had been born in Peebles, Scotland, November 2, 1811, and had come in 1820 with her family to Pennsylvania, where she met Vespasian Young and married him. The trip which the young couple made to Michigan was a slow one. From Pennsylvania they came by wagon to Ithaca, New York. From Ithaca they went by canal to Buffalo and from that city they took a steamboat to Detroit. The last part of the journey from Detroit to Battle Creek was by wagon.

Vespasian Young was a blacksmith by trade, but he also made gloves and mittens of buckskin. At times also he would buy up a sheep or a beef critter and kill the animal and sell the meat to his neighbors. This was before he began keeping store. Eventually he became a fur buyer, selling to the two great fur dealers, Godfrey and Campau. It is said that the Thornapple

river was at times filled with canoes of Indians carrying furs. Vespasian Young also studied law and would have been admitted to the bar at the term of court immediately following his decease.

Oscar Young was only a little over a year old when the family came to Hastings, so he has been a resident of Hastings practically all his life and his earliest recollections are of Hastings scenes. His first teacher was J. W. T. Orr and the school house was located on what is now the city market place, east of Mrs. Hannah Barlow's residence. This same building was later moved to where Emil Tyden's home now is. At the time Mr. Young attended school the total number of pupils hardly exceeded 30. Bedford and George McLellan were his schoolmates, as was also John Fuller. An interesting side light on early school affairs in Hastings is afforded by the fact that in 1845, when Vespasian Young was school Director, his report stated that there were 47 pupils enrolled in the district and that Hugh Jennings, Phoebe Hays and Mary J. West were the teachers, to whom for six months and a half of teaching an aggregate of \$18 in wages had been paid.

In 1860 Oscar Young began to learn the carpentering trade with W. I. F. Hams, and worked at that until August, 1862, when he responded to the call to arms and enlisted in the cause of his country in Company C, First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, for three years. He was mustered September 8, 1862, and on the first day of the following year was made a corporal. February 1, 1864, he was made a sergeant. He was discharged at Washington June 6, 1865, having been in the battles of Perryville, Ky., Lavergne, Tenn., Brown's Ferry, Tenn., and Bentonville, N. C. Mr. Young was with Sherman on his march to the sea and endured with his company the hardships of that long and bloody march.

After the war Mr. Young returned to Hastings and went again to work at his trade, and in 1866 married Miss Annie Elizabeth Hams, daughter of W. I. F. Hams, from whom he learned his trade.

To Mr. and Mrs. Young were born four children, Agnes, Clarence, William and Ralph, of whom William and Clarence are still living. Clarence is living at Allegan, and is now serving his third term as Mayor of that city. He is a dentist by profession



H. O. YOUNG

but is also interested in numerous business and manufacturing interests. William is the proprietor of a grocery store at Bellevue and has one daughter, Dagmar, who is now studying music in Paris. Mrs. William Young was Miss Belle Stanley of Hastings.

In 1867 Mr. Young built his present residence on West Green street, moving in in November. At that time there were no other houses near by but those of W. I. F. Hams and James Dunning. In 1869 D. R. Cook built what is now the Stem residence at the west end of Green street.

Mr. Young has always been a man who has merited and received the respect of his fellow citizens. He has been industrious, honest and honorable and has been ever ready to do his duty as he has seen it.

Mr. Young has one sister and two brothers still living. They are Mrs. Mary Geer of Hastings, Andrew Young of Claremont, South Dakota, and W. R. Young of Grand Rapids. These with Mr. Young are the survivors of a family of nine brothers and sisters, six of whom lived to maturity. The mother died in 1882.

In concluding this article we wish to call attention to the article by Chas. Weissert, Jr., which has been incorporated into the narrative portion of this volume. This article is entitled, "When the Circus Came to Yankee Springs", and was written from facts furnished by Mr. Young. This article will give much interesting information that a formal biography could not hope to tell.

THE HASTINGS NATIONAL BANK

The oldest banking institution in Barry County is the Hastings National Bank. It is also the only National Bank in the county and ranks first in point of deposits. The Hastings National Bank has never failed to meet every single demand upon it no matter what may have been the financial conditions in the country at large, and in consequence of this long record of absolute reliability it is universally recognized as a splendid example of what a substantial, conservative bank should be.

The present bank had its origin in 1856 when William H. Skinner, of Battle Creek, opened a private bank in Hastings in the Alvin W. Bailey building, where Herman Bessmer's meat market now is. Soon after, Mr. Skinner sold his bank to Henry

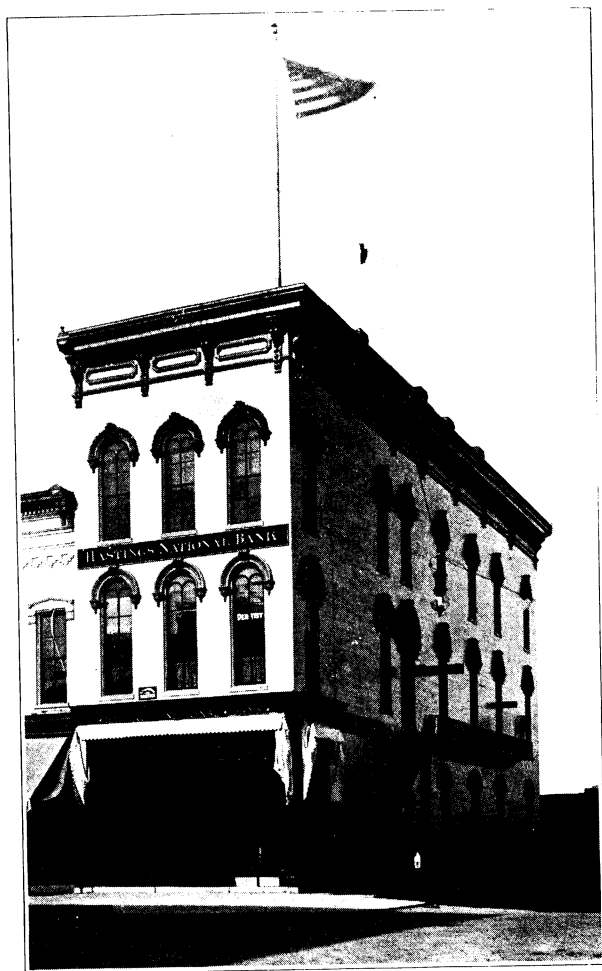
A. Goodyear, who moved it with his dry goods business, to where the Grigsby shoe store is at present located. Mr. Goodyear utilized the west window of his business place for the bank and employed John S. Van Brunt to help him in the banking business.

In the fall of 1859, J. S. Goodyear bought the dry goods business of Henry A. Goodyear, who then built a one-story wooden store building where Pearson's grocery store is now and started in the hardware business, also continuing in the banking business and installing the bank in a wing running west from his residence, which stood on the site of the present bank building. This wing, which was about 23 feet long, was about 25 feet back from the street and opened by a door into the hardware store. George Goodyear acted as his father's cashier.

In 1867 the bank was purchased by A. J. Bowne and F. N. Galloway, who conducted it under the firm name of Bowne & Galloway. For some time previous to this purchase, Bowne and Galloway had conducted a bank in Hastings, their bank having been started by Mr. Galloway, who was soon after joined in the enterprise by Mr. Bowne. Mr. Galloway had started his bank in the building now occupied by the Bessmer jewelry store, and here Bowne & Galloway continued their banking business after buying Mr. Goodyear's bank. In 1870, Bowne & Galloway erected the present splendid bank building on the northwest corner of Main and Jefferson streets.

It was in this same year that the Bowne & Galloway bank was organized as a National Bank. At the organization, November 11, 1870, the first stockholders and organizers were A. J. Bowne, R. B. Wightman, George E. Goodyear, L. D. Gardner, Daniel B. Pratt, David R. Cook, Timothy P. Johnson, James A. Sweezey and Fred N. Galloway. The first officers were A. J. Bowne, President; L. D. Gardner, Vice-President; F. N. Galloway, Cashier; George E. Goodyear, Teller. The first Board of Directors was composed as follows: A. J. Bowne, D. R. Cook, James A. Sweezey, D. B. Pratt, R. B. Wightman, F. N. Galloway and L. D. Gardner. Not one of the above named gentlemen is now living.

A. J. Bowne served as President of the bank until his death June 7, 1896. Daniel Striker, who had been a Director since March 29, 1873, and Vice-President since January 8, 1878, then



HASTINGS NATIONAL BANK

succeeded to the Presidency and continued in that position until his death, April 12, 1898. J. T. Lombard was then elected President and served until January, 1911, when he was succeeded by Judge Clement Smith, the present incumbent.

There have been certain changes in other of the bank officials which should also be noted. J. F. Goodyear was elected a Director January 12, 1886, and Vice-President, April 20, 1898, both of which offices he still fills. George E. Goodyear was elected Cashier when F. N. Galloway resigned, November 10, 1871, and served until his death August 11, 1884, when W. D. Hayes was elected Director and Cashier to succeed him and has served continuously since. Harry G. Hayes has been in the employ of the bank since 1886 and has been Assistant Cashier since January, 1899.

The first charter, which was issued for twenty years in November, 1870, was renewed for twenty years in November, 1890, and again renewed for twenty years in November, 1910. The bank's capital is \$50,000 and it has a surplus of the same amount, with undivided profits of \$26,000. The institution has deposits of \$565,000 and resources of \$750,000.

The present directors are Clement Smith, John F. Goodyear, W. D. Hayes, J. T. Lombard, F. D. Pratt and W. H. Chase. The present officers are Clement Smith, President; John F. Goodyear, Vice-President; W. D. Hayes, Cashier, and Harry G. Hayes, Assistant Cashier.

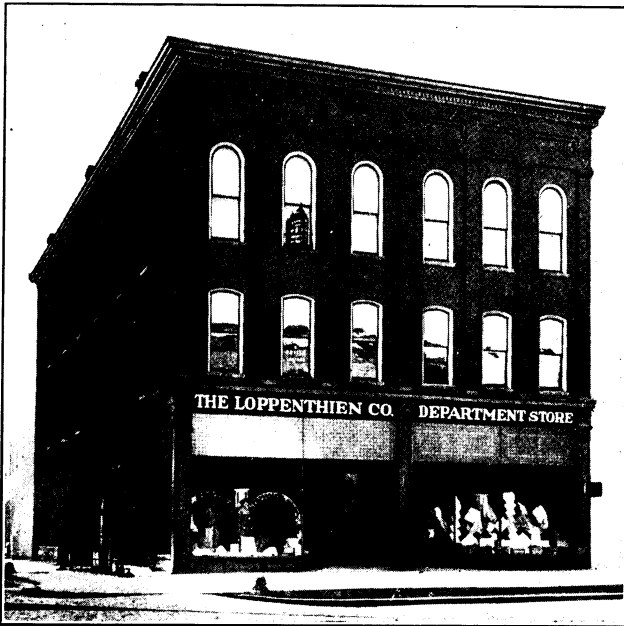
Besides commercial and savings departments which are patronized widely by a public which gives its entire confidence to this solid institution, the Hastings National Bank is also the United States government depository for postal savings in this city.

The banking offices are handsome, modern and up-to-date in every respect and the bank is in a splendid position to take care of its large and growing business.

The Hastings National Bank is an institution of which not only its officers, directors and stockholders should be proud, but also the entire county should share in this same feeling. Its unbroken record of over 56 years in this community certainly warrants and secures the most implicit confidence.

THE UNION BLOCK AND LOPPENTHIEN'S

In 1866 a three-story brick building was erected in Hastings at the southwest corner of Main and Jefferson streets. It was the first brick business building in Hastings, if not in the entire county, and was called the Union Block because there was a union of effort to erect it, three different business interests uniting in building the block. The men who were behind the erection of the block were W. S. Goodyear and Nathan Barlow, of the firm



THE UNION BLOCK

of Goodyear & Barlow; D. G. Robinson and R. B. Wightman, of the firm of Robinson & Wightman; and I. A. Holbrook, attorney. The building extended for three fronts along Main street, making three fine store buildings on the ground floor. Goodyear and Barlow owned the east third of the building and utilized the store on the ground floor for their stock of dry goods. The middle third fell to Robinson & Wightman, who used it for a hardware store, while the west portion of the block was Mr. Holbrook's share.

The greater part of the second floor was used for offices, while the east two-thirds of the third floor was given up to what was known as Union Hall, and here for many years theatrical entertainments, social gatherings and dances were held. On the third floor in Mr. Holbrook's part of the building was located the Masonic lodge room. January 13, 1893, the scenery on the stage of Union Hall caught fire, and the result was that the building was badly damaged. It was soon rebuilt, but since then the west third has hardly been considered as a part of the Union Block.

Today the first story and the rear half of the second floor of the rebuilt Union Block is occupied by the Loppenthien Company, of which Richard Loppenthien is president and general manager and James Harrison Race is secretary-treasurer. Mr. Loppenthien came to Hastings in 1910 when his company bought out Wright Brothers, who had previously conducted the same sort of a business at the same location. Mr. Race came to Hastings in February, 1912, associating himself with Mr. Loppenthien at that time.

The Loppenthien Company conduct a general department store, carrying the different lines generally displayed by an up-to-date store of this sort, including a splendid grocery department. Since taking possession of the store the Loppenthien Company have more than doubled their stock and it is no longer necessary to go to larger centers to secure anything desired in the lines handled by this company. Consequently the business has grown steadily and there is every reason to believe that the company's ambition to occupy the entire building will eventually be realized.

The store as it is today is equipped in a most modern manner. Everything has been done to make it possible to give the very best of service to the company's steadily growing trade and the entire community should be proud to have such an enterprising firm in its midst.

GRAND RAPIDS BOOKCASE AND CHAIR COMPANY

Located in the City of Hastings are a number of manufacturing enterprises which contribute largely to the city's industrial reputation. Foremost among these is the Grand Rapids Bookcase and Chair Company, which manufactures a very comprehensive

line of furniture for the dining room, living room, library, den and bedroom.

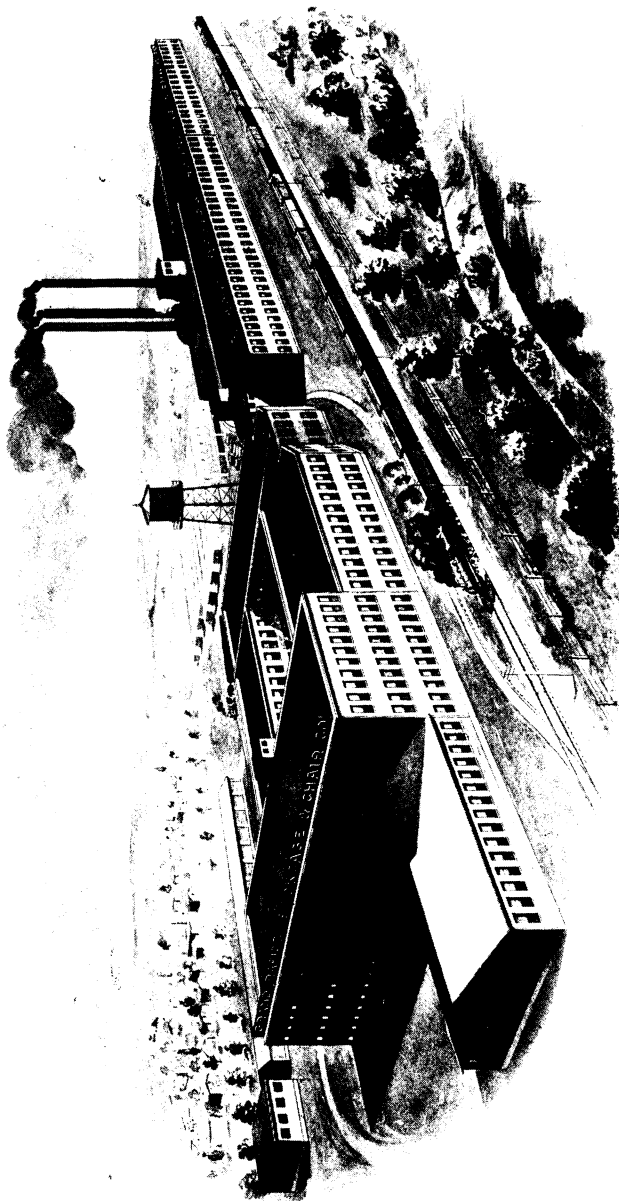
This concern is a consolidation of the Grand Rapids Bookcase Company and the Barber Bros.' Chair Company. The Grand Rapids Bookcase Company was organized in 1901 and the first officers were John Sehler of Grand Rapids, president; A. A. Barber of Grand Rapids, vice president; Kellar Stem of Hastings, secretary; and F. E. Brown of Grand Rapids, treasurer. The Barber Bros.' Chair Company was organized in 1903, the factory being built just east of the Grand Rapids Bookcase Company's plant. The original officers of this concern were A. A. Barber of Grand Rapids, president and treasurer; John W. Shank of Grand Rapids, vice president; and J. C. Barber of Hastings, secretary.

The interests of these two concerns were very closely allied and in 1910 it was considered expedient to form a consolidation under the name of Grand Rapids Bookcase and Chair Company. Mr. A. A. Barber of Grand Rapids became president of the new concern; the late Henry J. Heystek of Grand Rapids, vice president; and Kellar Stem of Hastings, secretary and treasurer.

Since its organization in 1901 the Grand Rapids Bookcase and Chair Company has enjoyed a steady growth, increasing from a floor space of seventy-five thousand square feet and an output of seventy-five thousand dollars per year to a concern having a floor space of four acres and an output of one-half million. Their furniture is recognized all over the United States under the copyrighted trade-mark, "Lifetime Furniture", and the City of Hastings should be proud of the fact that there is no better nor more favorably known line in the country.

The factory is equipped with the most modern and up-to-date woodworking machinery and each machine is run by an individual electric motor. All power used is manufactured by the company's own power plant maintained on the premises, as is also the electric current for lighting. The company also pumps its own water and has installed for its immediate use an improved underwriter's fire pump capable of pumping 90,000 gallons of water per hour, or over 2,000,000 gallons per day.

The plant is equipped with the most improved system of fire protection, namely, a sprinkler system which consists of a network of pipes arranged at the ceiling of each floor in such a man-



Grand Rapids Bookcase and Chair Co.

ner that there is a head or valve every ten feet each way capable of throwing fifteen gallons of water per minute. In other words, every 100 square feet of floor space in the immediate vicinity of a fire would receive sixty gallons of water per minute.

The Grand Rapids Bookcase and Chair Company does a wholesale business only and is under the active management of Kellar Stem. It is on a sound financial basis and credit is due to logical, clean, progressive methods and the co-operative policy of the management for its success.

THE HASTINGS TABLE COMPANY

The history of the Hastings Table Company as a successful institution is to a great extent involved with the personality of Emil Tyden, its vice-president and manager, although, of course, many others have contributed much toward putting the company in its present enviable position.

Before Mr. Tyden became interested in the manufacture of extension tables an extension table was an extension table and nothing else. It had no distinctive character. The now very popular pedestal or single leg idea could not be applied, for when a table was extended the pedestal was divided and when the table was closed the pedestal sagged and left an unsightly gap. Mr. Tyden invented the Tyden Pedestal Lock and this difficulty was overcome. As a result of this invention the pedestal table became instantly popular.

Mr. Tyden then invented another locking device for locking in three leaves without opening the pedestal, although the feature of the pedestal lock was still retained and used when it was desired to extend the table to a greater width than the three leaves permitted.

Mr. Tyden also invented the steel dowel pin to take the place of the wooden pins which had heretofore been used in table leaves. Together with a sloping groove to guide the pin, the steel dowel pin obviated much difficulty in fitting leaves together.

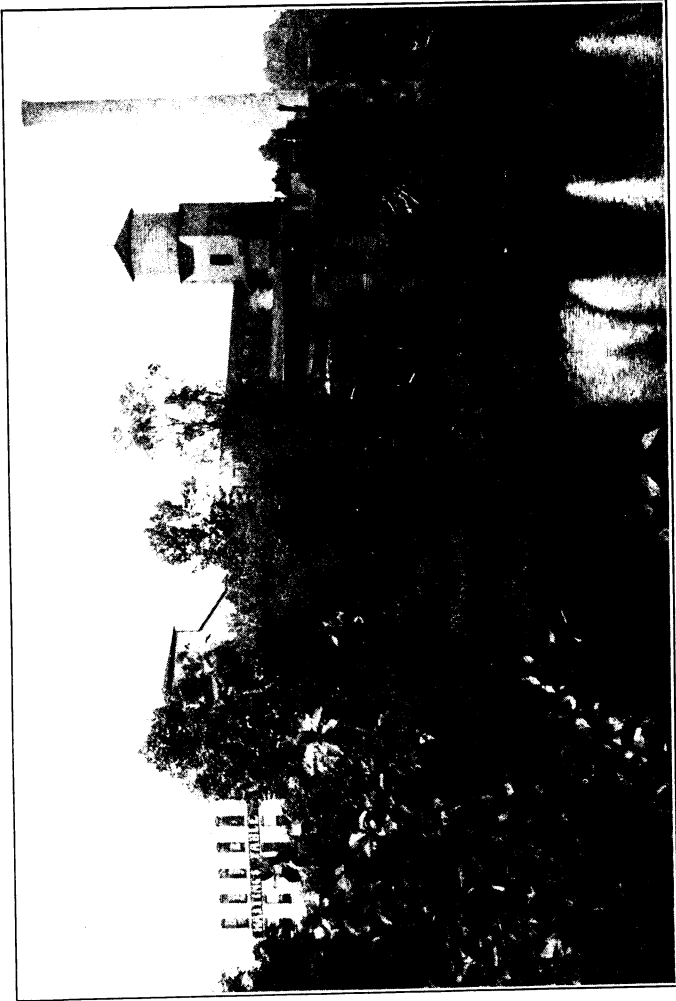
A concealed nut and bolt construction, invented by Mr. Tyden, was the next step in perfecting the mechanical construction of the extension table. But Mr. Tyden was not content with this and he has added two new features which should make the extension table almost perfect. These are the steel bearing table

slide and the removable table top. By this latter device both halves of a table can be taken off and removed if it is desired, for the purpose of getting at rugs, etc., on the floor under the table.

All these inventions have made the extension table practically perfect mechanically and now the desire of the factory management is to perfect a selling force which will sell the perfected table "From the inside out", a desire which is being rapidly and successfully realized.

Besides the Table Company, Mr. Tyden is also interested in the following Hastings manufacturing institutions: The Hastings Cabinet Company, International Seal and Lock Company and the Consolidated Press and Tool Company.

When Mr. Tyden became identified with the Table Company, it employed about 50 hands. Now it employs about 125 hands and has also trebled as to size of plant in the same period.



HASTINGS TABLE COMPANY

Conservator's Report

Bentley Historical Library

Title: History of Barry County - Potter

Received: Book bound in case-style binding. Cover was of cloth. Binding had been repaired previously. Cover was loose. Headbands were loose. Book was Smythe sewn. Sewing was broken. Paper was in good condition. Boards were of solid binder's board. Repairs had been made with gummed holland tape.

Treatment: Picked book to pieces. Added new double-folded endsheets. Sewed all along over cloth tapes. Added new machine-woven headbands. Lined the spine. Rebound in new cover of full cloth.

Materials: Jade #834-103N PVA adhesive. Barbour's linen thread. Linen tape. PRGMATCO heavy-duty endsheet paper. Machine-woven headbands. Backing flannel. Davey "Red Label" binder's board. Epyroxilin-impregnated cotton text cloth. 23K gold.

Date work completed: July 1997

Signed: James M. Craven

