

History and Biography

Thomas Harbaugh

1909

Connections to Newton Township and Pleasant Hill

PROF. JESSE BEERY, whose skill and reputation as a horse, breaker and trainer is recognized all over this and many other counties, and whose School of Correspondence in Horsemanship, together with a number of appliances of his own invention, have made his name familiar all over the United States, was born June 13 1861, at Pleasant Hill, Miami County Ohio. His parents were Enoch and Mary (Hatfield) Beery, and his maternal grandparents were George and Mary (Kneighley) Hatfield. The father of Prof. Beery was a substantial farmer and resided on a farm east of Pleasant Hill, where he died in 1905, at the age of eighty-two years, and his burial was in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. His wife had passed away in 1868 and she was laid to rest in the Sugar Grove, Cemetery. They had six children: Minnie Leleue, Levi, Cassie, Jesse and Martha. Enoch Beery was a deacon in the German Baptist Church for fifty years.

Jesse Beery attended school at Pleasant Hill and Covington. He assisted his father on the home farm, but from boyhood took a greater amount of interest in the horses on the place than in the work of cultivating the land, seeming to have a natural gift for controlling animals. This gift he recognized, and by exercising it, increased his power, and when little more than a boy, commenced to travel, exhibiting his powers as a trainer at fairs and expositions all over the country. For sixteen years he was on the road, visiting cities, towns and private grounds, and at all these places he found people who not only acknowledged and admired his remarkable powers, but were anxious to learn his methods, and it was about 1905 when he had more business than he could handle, wherever he went, that he decided to return to Pleasant Hill and found a school to teach others the art which came to him naturally. His course of instruction covers every point of this great subject, and he has satisfied students all over the country. In fact, Professor Beery is one of the few men who have presented the art and science of horse training to pupils in a practical manner, and this superiority has been recognized.

Not only has Professor Beery given men and women the opportunity of learning how to train, rear and manage their own horses, but he has invented a number of appliances which he makes use of himself and offers to the public, at most reasonable rates, which are almost a necessity for perfect success in controlling the spirited animals and desirable to use with the most gentle.

These appliances have cost Professor Beery much capital and years of experimenting, but they have reached perfection, and as they are protected by patents, they can only be procured from him. Among these may be mentioned: The surgical, the knee pads, the foot straps, the safety rope, the throwing halter, the double backhand and crupper, the guy line and throwing strap, the free shaft carriers, the bellyband, the breaching and hip straps, all of these being arranged in groups numbered Nos. 1, 2 and 3, at prices most reasonable, while the whole set of appliances can be procured together for the very small sum of eighteen dollars. In addition to the appliances mentioned, several others have later been put on the market, which have met with ready sale, being recognized as almost indispensable to those who desire perfect safety with horses and at the same time do not wish to cause discomfort to spirited animals. These are the Four- in-one Beery Bit and the Pulley Breaking Bridle. Should Prof. Beery preserve all the letters he receives

in praise of his inventions and system of teaching, he would be compelled to erect a warehouse to contain them. He is president of the Jesse Beery Company, of Pleasant Hill, a co-operative organization, the other officers of which are: A. J. Lanver, of Detroit, Michigan, vice-president; Charles F. Perkins, treasurer; C. Roy Coppock, secretary, and Prof. S. C. Morton. He is also president of the Dayton Agency Supply Company, of Dayton, in which he is a stockholder, and also owns stock in the Pleasant Hill Banking Company.

On December 25, 1889, Prof. Beery was married to Miss Meda Coppock, daughter of Hon. D. M. Coppock, mayor of Pleasant Hill, and they have four children, Ray, Ruth, Beecher and Lura. The two older children are students in the Pleasant Hill High School, Miss Ruth also having her musical talent developed. Prof. Beery is a deacon in the Pleasant Hill Christian Church. In politics he is a Republican and he has served in the Town Council and on the School Board.

ALLEN COPPOCK, farmer; P. O. Pleasant Hill, Prominent among the farmers of Newton Township is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch; he is a descendant of a worthy family of early pioneers of this county, and son of Joseph C. Coppock, whose sketch appears in another part of this work; he was born in 1938, on the place where he now resides, and which has always been his place of abode, with the exception of about six years; his life has always been that of a farmer, which, by industry and good business habits, he has made an eminent success. His nuptials with Miss Maria Furnas were celebrated in 1865; she is the daughter of Joseph Furnas; after marriage of Mr. C., he located in the northeast quarter of Sec.29, where he remained a period of six years and then moved to his present farm; he operates a farm of 300 acres, two-thirds of which is arable and under a good state of improvement; Mr. & Mrs. C. were parents of six children, four sons and two daughters; two children are dead.

C. ROY COPPOCK is a well-known-citizen of Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, and has charge of the correspondence of the Jesse Beery Company, of that place. He was born in Bradford, Newberry Township, Miami, County, Ohio, September 4, 1874, and is a son of Elwood and Sarah (Younce) Coppock, and a grandson of Benjamin Coppock. Benjamin Coppock, the grandfather, was one of the early settlers of Miami County, and was located on a farm east of Ludlow Falls, in Union Township. He lived there until his death in 1890, and was buried at Union Cemetery, as was his wife, who survived him some years. Her maiden name was Ester Mills and they had three children, two of whom are living, David M. and Elwood. Religiously they were members of the Society of Friends. He was a Whig in politics. Elwood Coppock was born at Ludlow Falls, Miami County, where he lived until after his marriage, when he moved to Bradford and conducted a shoe store. He remained there four years and then carried on the same business in the state of Arkansas. Returning north, he became a traveling salesman, at which he has since continued, being first located at Goshen Indiana, and then at Logansport Indiana, where he now lives. He is a Republican in politics. He was married to Sarah Younce, a daughter of David Younce, and they became parents of six children, as follows: Minnie Lue, Roy, Frank (deceased), Cado (deceased), and Ester (deceased). C. Roy Coppock first attended school in Arkansas, then at Goshen Indiana; Webster Indiana; Fountain City Indiana; Pleasant Hill Ohio; Richmond Indiana. In the meanwhile he learned sign painting and the trade of a baker, which he followed for a time, and he also followed the insurance business. He engaged in selling sewing machines prior to accepting his present position with the Jesse Beery Company, of Pleasant Hill. He served four years as city clerk at Pleasant Hill and proved a most efficient officer. He is a Republican in politics. October 29,

1903, Mr. Coppock was united in marriage with Miss Effie Whitmer, a daughter of John W. and Frances Bell Whitmer, and they have a pleasant home in Pleasant Hill. Fraternaly he is a member of The Masonic Lodge, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Junior Order United American Mechanics.

JOE F. COPPOCK, who, in partnership with W. O. Pattey, operates the largest grain elevator between Pittsburg and Indianapolis, at Fletcher, Ohio, was born in Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, in 1868, and is a son of Allen and Maria E. (Furnace) Coppock.

Allen Coppock, now a most highly esteemed retired citizen of Pleasant Hill, is a veteran of the Civil War, in which he served with honor. The greater part of his life was spent on his property in in Newton Township, where he still owns a farm of 120 acres. He married Maria E. Furnace, who is a sister of B. E. Furnace, county auditor, and they reared a family of nine children.

Joe F. Coppock was reared on the home farm and educated in the public schools. He engaged in farming until 1896 and then started into the grain business at Ludlow Falls, with Myers, Pattey & Company, and continued there until 1900, when, in partnership with W. O. Pattey, the present elevator business was started. In April, 1903, the first elevator at Fletcher was burned, but in the same year the present fine structure was put up, which is practically fire-proof, the walls being covered with galvanized iron. It is the most modern and best equipped elevator in this section of the country and is located on the Panhandle Railroad, on the border of Fletcher. Its capacity is 80,000 bushels. The property is the possession of Joe F. Coppock and W. O. Pattey and Mr. Coppock is general manager of the business.

Mr. Coppock married Miss Ida Mohler and they have one daughter, Josephine. He is a member of the Society of Friends. In politics he is a Republican but never has been willing to accept office. Fraternaly he is associated with the Masons and the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Coppock is one of the county's most enterprising and active business men.

WILLIAM M. DeBRA, one of Newberry Township's best known educators, residing on his improved farm of eighteen acres, which is situated on the Covington Polo turnpike road, about one and one-half miles north of Covington, was born on a farm near Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, September 30, 1859, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Burns) DeBra.

The DeBra family is of French extraction. The great-grandfather, Jacob DeBra, was born in Alsace-Lorraine, came to America, located in Maryland, where he died. He had married a thrifty German and when she was left a widow she came to Miami County with her children and entered a large tract of land in the vicinity of Pleasant Hill. Samuel DeBra, grandfather, was born in Maryland, and after coming to Miami County lived in Newton Township. He was a carpenter by trade and his son David, father of William M. DeBra, learned the same trade. David DeBra married Elizabeth Burns, who was born near Pleasant Hill, Miami County, and was a daughter of William Burns, a native of Wales. William Burns was a sailor in his early life, but later became a farmer in Miami County. David DeBra and his wife had four children Margaret, who is the wife of Stephen Benning, of Piqua, Ohio; Angeline, who is the wife of James Shoe, of Piqua; Ina, and William M., the last named being the eldest. David DeBra and wife are among the venerable residents of Newberry Township, to which they moved in 1866.

William M. DeBra attended the Newberry Township schools, the Covington High School and the Ohio Normal University, at Ada, attending the latter institution's summer terms. In 1883 Mr. DeBra began to teach school and he has taught continuously in Newberry Township up to the present time, with the exception of the year 1901, when he taught in Staunton Township. He now has charge of District School No. 13, at Polo. In devoting himself to this work for so many years,

Mr. DeBra has done a great service to his section, raising the standard of education and inspiring a feeling of emulation among his pupils that has borne rich fruit. Many of the young people who have been under his care during the past quarter of a century are proving, in responsible positions, that the instruction he has imparted has been thoroughly practical. It is said of Mr. DeBra that he takes an individual interest in every pupil and understands each so well that he is thus able to arouse each mind to its fullest capacity. Many teachers are never able to do this. On July 4 1887, Mr. De Bra was married to Miss Nellie Printz, a daughter of James K. Polk and Lavina (Babylon) Printz. Mrs. DeBra was born in Darke County, Ohio, but was reared in Miami County. Her parents now reside in Shelby County. Mr. and Mrs. DeBra have three children: Dorothy, Ruth and Paul. The family belong to the Christian Church. Fraternally, he is identified with the Odd Fellows. He has never been active in politics, but has always been ready to perform his whole duty as a public-spirited citizen.

WILLIAM F. DEETER, superintendent of schools for Newton Township, is a well-to-do farmer and has a fine farm of eighty acres located in Section 2 of that township. He was born in Pleasant Hill, January 30, 1863, and is a son of Samuel R. and Susan (Freshour) Deeter, and a grandson of Jacob Deeter.

Jacob Deeter was born in Pennsylvania, and at an early age settled at Pleasant Hill, in Miami County, Ohio, which he farmed until his death in 1865. He and his wife were buried at Sugar Grove Cemetery. Her maiden name was Reed. Religiously they were members of the German Baptist Church.

Samuel R. Deeter, father of the subject of this record, was born in Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, December 28, 1829, and is now a venerated and respected citizen of Covington. He is living in retirement after a long and useful business career. He was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade, and in addition followed house moving and undertaking for many years. Religiously he is a member of the Brethren Church, as is his wife. He was married to Susan Freshour, a daughter of George Freshour, and they became parents of the following: Elizabeth, wife of George Mohler, of Circle Hill; Ella, wife of J. W. Pearson, of Covington; Malinda, deceased wife of Samuel McBride; William F.; Jacob E., who married Mary Patty, a daughter of Finley and Lucinda Patty; Callie, wife of W. H. Cassell, of Dayton; Charles S., who married Alice Thayer and resides in Indianapolis, Indiana; Lillian, wife of M. B. Ullery, of Covington; one who died in infancy; and Emma, who died young.

William F. Deeter attended the schools of Newton Township, and then taught for seven years. In 1889 he rented a farm of his father and followed farming for five years. He then took up teaching for eight years, six years of which were spent in the Covington schools. In 1903 he went to farming for himself, locating on his present farm of eighty acres, where he has continued with unvarying success. The buildings were all standing at the time of its purchase by him, but he has made many other important improvements. He was elected superintendent of the township schools in September, 1905, and in that capacity has done much to bring the schools to a higher plane of efficiency. He also served for a time as a member of the Board of Education.

September 18, 1887, Mr. Deeter was united in marriage with Miss Emma Fox, a daughter of John and Hannah (Mohler) Fox, and the following was the offspring of their union: one who died in infancy; Calla, who is a teacher in the schools; Pearl, who is in attendance at Covington High School; and Clarence, who attends the public schools. Religiously they are members of the Brethren Church at Pleasant Hill. Politically Mr. Deeter is a Republican, as have been his father and grandfather before him.

WILLIAM H. DRIVER, residing on his well-improved farm of eighty acres, situated on the Gettysburg turnpike road, in Newberry Township, two and one-half miles west of Covington and one and three quarters miles east of Bradford, was born in York County, Pennsylvania, January 29, 1857. His parents were Moses and Angeline (Ginter) Driver.

In 1862 the parents of Mr. Driver came to Miami County and stopped first at Covington and soon after the father bought what was known as the Two-Mile House, a popular public house at one time. Although he owned this property, he never conducted it, but devoted himself to farming, owning some sixty-five acres of land. He lived for about a year at the Two-Mile House, then bought a farm on the Iddings turnpike road, which became the family home. After some years he moved with his wife to Covington, where he lived retired until his death, October 31, 1898. His widow then went to live with a daughter, Mrs. Mina Dunham, at Greenville, Ohio, and died there in August, 1905.

William H. Driver was reared to manhood in Newberry Township, being aged five and one-half years when his parents came here. For some fourteen years Mr. Driver engaged in a dairy business, but for the past seven years he has confined himself to general farming. For nine years after his marriage he operated his farm of eighty acres in Newton Township. It is a historic place, the old Dorman farm, east of Circle Hill, and Mr. Driver resided there for nine years, coming to his present place on April 9, 1891. The comfortable residence is a fine old brick mansion.

Mr. Driver was married September 13, 1877, to Miss Mary E. Dohner, who was born and reared in Union Township. Her parents were Moses and Anna Dohner. Mr. and Mrs. Driver have seven children, namely: Harry, who resides at Bradford, where he is employed as inspector of repairs for the Pan Handle Railroad, married Hattie Thompson, and they have two children: Lawson and Robert; Warren, who is employed in the Pan Handle shops at Bradford, married Mabel DeWeese and they have one child, Grace; Moses, who resides in the Dominion of Canada, married Letha Enyart; Sylvia, who resides in Canada; Ella, who is a graduate of the Covington High School; Bertie, who like her sister, is a graduate of the High School; and Caris, who is still pursuing his studies in the Covington High School. Mr. Driver and family are members of the Brethren in Christ Church.

SOLOMON B. FRESHOUR, vice-president of the Citizens' National Bank of Covington, Ohio, has spent all but five years of a long and useful life in Miami County, but his birth took place in Shelby County, Ohio, September 27, 1834. His parents were George and Mary (Byrnett) Freshour.

From the pioneer farm in the then uncleared wilderness of Shelby County, the parents of Mr. Freshour moved to Miami County in 1839, settling four miles west of Pleasant Hill, on a farm which the father purchased at that time and which remained the family home. On that farm Solomon B. Freshour grew to manhood, helping his father and preparing for an agricultural life for himself. His education was obtained in the country schools. When the Civil War broke out, Mr. Freshour was one of the first to respond to the call for troops, in his neighborhood, enlisting in April, 1861, in Company E, Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for three months, later serving for 100 days as a member of the 147th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. During this time he was taken sick and lay ill in the hospital at Fort Marcy, on the Potomac River, for a long time. After the close of his army service he returned to his father's farm, and as soon as strength came back he resumed farming and continued to live there until 1866. In the meanwhile he had married, and moved then to the vicinity of Greenville Creek Falls, where he purchased a

farm of eighty acres, which he still owns and continues to manage. He made the farm his place of residence until 1906, when he retired to Covington, of which city he is a respected and valued citizen. Mr. Freshour was one of the incorporators of the Citizen's National Bank of Covington, of which he has been a director since its organization and vice president since January 1, 1909. In 1862 Mr. Freshour was married to Miss Hannah E. Langston, who was born and reared in Miami County, her parents, Leonard and Frances (Krise) Langston being farming people residing not far from Kessler. To Mr. and Mrs. Freshour were born seven children, three of whom died in infancy. The eldest son, John William, whose death occurred in 1898, at the age of thirty-five years, a victim of typhoid fever, was a young man of brilliant promise, a graduate of the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati. After years of training he was just ready to enter upon the practice of medicine, when he was stricken in his prime. He was survived by his widow, formerly Miss Lillian Martindale. The three surviving children of Mr. Freshour are: Mary, who married J. W. Dowler and has two sons: Leonard and James; Maud, who married Vernor B. Grabill of Delaware, Indiana; and Thomas, who resides with his parents. Mr. Freshour and family are members of the Christian Church, in which he is a trustee. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, to the Masons, and for many years has been identified with the Grange movement.

JOHN CLARK HARSHBARGER, who comes of an old and respected family of Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, is engaged in general farming and lives upon and owns a farm of forty acres in Section 12. He will also be the owner of ninety-two acres at his mother's death, willed that way by his father. He pays his mother a dowry of one-third, which formed a part of the old homestead. He was born in this township, December 15, 1861, and is a son of George K. and Mary Ann (Sipes) Harshbarger.

George K. Harshbarger was born in Union Township, Miami County, Ohio, where his father was among the pioneer settlers. He engaged in farming throughout his active life, and became the owner of a valuable property in Newton Township. He died at Atwood, Illinois, in 1902 and is survived by his widow, who resides at Pleasant Hill. They were parents of two children: Mina, and John Clark Harshbarger.

John C. Harshbarger attended the public schools in Newton Township and assisted his father in the work on the farm, a part of which he helped to clear. After his marriage he set up housekeeping on the ninety-two acres of the home place his mother now owns and lived there for twenty-one years, at the end of which time he over his present farm. He is engaged in general farming and tobacco raising, having about three acres in the latter project. He is a Republican in politics, and served one year as road supervisor. February 5, 1887, Mr. Harshbarger was united in marriage with Effie Carey, a daughter of Stewart Carey, of Newton Township, and they have two sons, Ira and Alonzo. Religiously they are members of the Christian Church of Pleasant Hill.

ANSON HILDEBRAN, a representative citizen of Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, has a farm of eighty acres, in Section 26 of this township and a tract of twenty acres lying south of that location, but is now retired from business activity. He was born in Newton Township, August 16, 1848, and is a son of John, Jr., and Rachel (Tucker) Hildebran, and a grandson of John Hildebran Sr.

John Hildebran, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania, where he lived until after his marriage and then moved west to Montgomery County, Ohio. He later located in Newton Township, Miami County, and many years later removed to White County, Ohio, where he was living at the time of

his death in 1881, at the age of eighty-four years. He was born in 1797. He was united in marriage with Esther Long, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1791, and they had the following children: Michael; Solomon, who died in infancy; Solomon (second); Labeman; John, Jr.; Mary; Anna; Sarah; Elmira; and Harriet. Mrs. Hildebran died in March, 1864, at the age of seventy-three years. Religiously they were members of the Christian Church.

John Hildebran, Jr., was born in Miami County, Ohio, about the year 1826, and always lived in Newton Township. He was a successful farmer and at the time of his death was the owner of 160 acres of good land. He was a man of high standing in the community, and his death, which occurred March 5, 1909, was mourned as a loss to the community. He was buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Mr. Hildebran was united in marriage with Miss Rachel Tucker, a daughter of Nicholas and Charity Tucker, and they became parents of two children, Anson and Esther. Mrs. Hildebran is living and passes the time at the home of her son in Newton Township and that of her daughter at Laura. Religiously, she is a member of the Society of Friends, to which her husband also belonged. He was a Republican in politics.

Anson Hildebran attended school at Possum Hollow and Pattytown, after which he assisted his father on the farm. After his marriage he settled on a farm south of the home place, but later moved to the old homestead, where he has since resided. He erected all the buildings now standing on the place and set out all the trees. He follows general farming and stock raising. May 22, 1869, Mr. Hildebran married Amanda Jane Davis, a daughter of Jonathan and Nellie Davis, and they became parents of the following children: Charles E., who married Anna Street, a daughter of Joseph Street; Lulu May, wife of Eizie Coppock, who is a son of Wesley and Jane Coppock; John Walter, who married Elizabeth Trost, daughter of Joseph Trost; Clara Belle, who is the wife of Tolin Noll, son of P.S. Noll; William, who died at the age of four years; and Minnie, who died in infancy. Religiously, they are members of the Society of Friends and Mr. Hildebran has been an elder of the church for many years. He is a Republican in politics.

ISAAC N. HILL, one of Newton Township's sterling citizens, a general farmer residing on his valuable property of ninety-four acres, ten of which are still covered with timber, was born April 4, 1848, in Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio. His father was John William, his grandfather was Nathan and his great-grand-father was Thomas Hill. This is an old American family.

Nathan Hill was born March 15, 1788, near Ellicott Mills, Maryland, and from there in 1800, he came in company with Michael Williams (later his father-in-law), to Miami County, taking up a half section of land southwest of Pleasant Hill, in Newton Township. He was married to Francis Williams on June 29, 1809. On that farm was born his son, John William Hill. The latter spent his life in Newton Township and was a man who was well and favorably known. Although he seemingly enjoyed excellent health, being of robust appearance and weighing 317 pounds, he was a sufferer from Bright's disease of the kidneys and from a severe attack of this he died, after a sickness of a few days, on March 5, 1891, at the age of sixty-six years. He was twice married, (first) to Susan Weddle, a daughter of Isaac Weddle, who died January 4, 1874, and was buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. The eight children of this marriage were: Henry H., Sarah, Isaac N., John Calvin, Madison J., Eunice, Mary Elizabeth and John. He was married (second) to miss Josie Banty, a daughter of Peter Banty. She survives and resides at Pleasant Hill.

Isaac N. Hill attended school at Pleasant Hill and spent one winter in an excellent school in Illinois. After he came back to Newton Township, he assisted his father on the home farm until he married, then lived for a time on the homestead, moving from there to a farm situated on the

opposite side of the river. He cultivated that land for nine years and then came to his present farm, purchasing all but twenty-five acres, which he has since added, from the old Jacob Stichter estate. He has made many improvements here but had little clearing to do. He has two sets of buildings on the farm, some of which he has put up and all of which he has repaired. In order to ensure good drainage, Mr. Hill put down 250 rods of tile.

On January 1, 1866, Mr. Hill was married to Miss Mary E. Stichter, a daughter of Jacob and Louisa Stichter, and they have three children: Cynthia, Charles and Isaac W. Cynthia married Arthur Teage and they have three children, I. J., Mary and Echo. Charles married Mary Baldrige and they have five children, Viola, Charles, Leo, Marie and Edward. Isaac W. married Myrtle Coate, a daughter of Dorsey and Ida Coate, and they have two children, Boyd and Verne. Mr. Hill and family are members of the Christian Church at Pleasant Hill. He is a Republican in his political views but is in no sense a politician, only a good citizen.

NATHAN HILL, founder of Hopewell Christian Church. In Rerick's Atlas of Miami County, it is stated that Nathan Hill was the first settler of Newton Township. This should read: "That he came to what is now Newton Township with the first settlers," for at that time-1800-he was only a boy twelve years of age.

He was born in Maryland, near Ellicott's Mills, on the 15th day of March, 1788. His father's name was Thomas Hill, and he and Michael Williams moved west and located in Montgomery County, south of Dayton, Ohio. About 1800 these two pioneers came north seeking for lands to better their conditions, and it was natural for them to keep on the old Indian trail, as they did until they reached that part of Montgomery County best suited to their tastes, and there selected their future homes, Michael Williams taking the part next to the river, and Nathan Hill taking what is now the old homestead. They each had a half section of land. On the north side of this land they erected comfortable hewed log houses, and the next spring moved their families.

Thomas Hill's house stood a little to the north-east of the present residence. It has long since been torn down. They took part in the organization of Miami County, which was taken from Montgomery, January 16, 1807. The next spring after they moved up, Nathan and his brother returned for another load of their belongings. At Dayton the river was very much swollen and the fording dangerous. After having gone that far they did not want to turn back, and drove the team into the river; the lead horses turned around in the middle of the stream, upset the wagon and threw his brother into the water. He was clinging to the hind wheel of the wagon when last seen. Nathan hurriedly cut the hamestring of the saddle horse which he was riding to go to his brother's relief, but before he could reach him he had loosened his hold and was carried down the river. His body was afterward recovered. The return home with the dead body of his brother was the saddest mission of his life. It was the first funeral in the little colony.

Nathan Hill was married to Frances Williams, a daughter of Michael Williams, on the 29th day of June, 1809. He, with the assistance of his father and father-in-law, built a hewed log house a little southeast of the family residence, and in the same yard, moved to it themselves, and there laid the foundation of their future prosperity. They also built a hewed log house for his brother John. This was the most spacious house in the west part of the county, and many people came to see it. It came into possession of my father, who sold it to Joseph Cox, and he removed it to his farm east of town, where it is still doing good service. Thomas Hill, the father, died in 1821, aged sixty-two years, leaving these two sons Nathan and John --in comfortable homes, wherein to rear their fast-increasing families. The old homestead is still in the name of his heirs, having passed down by devise until the present time.

Nathan Hill was a Whig in politics, but he was not aggressive; always willing to accord to others the same right of thinking, that he claimed for himself. Before Newton or Pleasant Hill was organized the voting was done at his house, and the state militia met and drilled in the little field east of the house until the law was repealed.

He was of a religious turn of mind, and on the 4th day of November, 1816, in an upstairs room in his dwelling house, he organized Hopewell Church. I have no data as to the number of families at the time, but presume it was quite small, but very determined. In 1820 they erected a church of hewed logs just across the road south of the cemetery on his farm. This building was used for several years. The congregation grew beyond the capacity of the church. I have seen it packed so full of people that their legs were sticking outside at the windows. This may need a little explanation. On such occasions the windows, being long and narrow, were taken out and those coming late were glad to get their heads inside. I remember distinctly when the first meeting was held to consider the building of the new frame church, about 1848. It was well attended and they easily agreed to go ahead and put up the new structure. It was built the next summer, and the work never lagged for want of funds. It was a very large building, but I am not able to give the dimensions. It served the purpose of the congregation until about 1868, when it was blown down by a storm. The new brick church was then erected on the present site at Pleasant Hill. Mr. Hill was always present at the services, chopped the wood, made the fires and swept the house, and kept the grounds in order. He always took part in the praying, singing and exhorting, and in a great many other ways encouraged the attendance of the members and others. He was a charitable man and gave largely to the poor and needy, visited the sick and ministered to their wants. His influence went out and did good in many ways. I remember an incident that happened when I was in college at Cincinnati.

My roommate was Thomas Coppock, a most excellent boy from near Ludlow Falls long since deceased. One Sunday morning Mr. Coppock was counting his money; I had none to count. I saw a tear in his eye, and asked him what the trouble was, as he was usually of a jolly nature and cheerful disposition. He said: My mind is up at old Hopewell Church, and I would give that five dollar bill to hear Grandfather Nathan Hill sing his old hymn, "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound." At that time there were two boys there with tears in their eyes.

One winter the roads had been almost impassable and grocery supplies could not be had even in Dayton. He hitched a horse to a sled and went to Cincinnati for a barrel of salt. A very heavy snow fell and he was absent nearly two weeks.

The weather was very severe, and an old Indian, by name Amokee, came to the house with his gun reversed on his shoulder to show that he meant no harm. He wanted something to eat. Grandmother told him the situation that her husband was gone, and that they had nothing to eat in the way of meats, as there was no salt, and they had not butchered. She baked him a corn pone, and he ate heartily and left. In the evening he returned, dragging the hind part of a deer that his trusty rifle had slain, and said, it was bad that her little papposes did not have any meat. He remained with them until in the spring and then departed as he came. The Amokee Lodge of Red Men, of Covington, was named after this Indian.

Mr. Hill reared a family of ten children, and some orphan children made their home with him. All this large family are deceased, except Mary, the wife of Thomas Hill, who resides with one of her sons in Kansas City, Mo. He loved company, and on Sunday, especially, the first Sunday of each month, when the monthly services were held, large crowds would go over to his house for dinner. I know it from experience, as I have had to wait and sit at the fifth table. I thought at that time that the procedure ought to be reversed, and the "kids" allowed to eat first. His wife was

an excellent companion for him. She did not attend church as much as he did, but remained at home attending to her family cares, and made it possible for him to go. She never opened the oven to take out her bread without thanking the Lord for his bounties. She survived him about eight years, living with her youngest son Nathaniel, recently deceased. She died on the 10th day of November, 1870, aged eighty years, ten months, and twenty-one days.

A fine stream of water, clear as crystal, crept out through a rift in the rock, and emptied into a large basin, almost at the back door of the house, and from there it wandered into the springhouse among myriads of milk crocks, which made a place not equaled by the best modern refrigerators, from there on through the wash house into the meadow, where it irrigated the soil and slaked the thirst of his stock. Myriads of song birds were flitting about the farm and among the branches of the large elm trees, which he allowed to grow and cast their shadows over his barn yard; and I am informed that the old elm tree is still the roosting-place of the beautiful and noisy blackbirds, which have made that tree their home for the last hundred years or more.

It was an ideal home for him in his old days, where his grandchildren gathered around him and ministered to his wants. He was proud of it and spent most of his time there. He was good to his wife and children, raised a great deal of garden truck; was an apiarist and had large quantities of bees that gathered in the honey from the wild flowers. His cattle waded in pastures knee-high, and his table literally flowed with milk and honey.

I have seen him many times laboring in the fields. Even when he was an old man he would ride his family mare in the field with a sack of wheat on her shoulders, a handkerchief tied over her ears to keep the grain out of them, and go back and forth across the field sowing wheat, and his grandchildren harrowing it in.

It was the custom in those days for the ladies to ride horseback. They would gather in and take the family mare in the pasture back of the barn and practice while he was at church. This went on for a long time before he found it out. It was about all the old mare could do during the week to recruit up for her Sunday task. When he learned of it his sympathy for the old mare was stronger than his desire to see the girls learn to ride, so he cut it out.

He was a great horticulturist, and planted a large orchard of apple, peach, pear, and cherry trees. He also erected a large beam cider-press, that could be manipulated by a small boy so as to exert a pressure of several hundred tons, and cider was to be had from August to freezing-up time, free to all comers. His orchard produced an abundance of fruit and it was always free to the public. When apples could not be had in the orchard there were always plenty in the cellar. At one time two of his neighbor's boys went there for pears and, a little out of the ordinary, one of them went to the house and requested the privilege of picking a certain tree. Grandfather told the one that called at the house that he was saving that particular tree for his own use, that he might fill his sack from some other tree. The boy went off but soon returned and told him that his brother had the pears in the sack and was on the way home with them. Instead of being offended, he took it as a good joke and often related it.

He had the finest sugar grove in the county-some of the trees are yet standing-and in the spring of the year he would have tapped several hundred trees and make sugar by the barrel and large quantities of molasses. The young folks would gather at night, boil water, stir off the syrup, and make wax, and sometimes boil eggs and even roast chickens, after he had gone to bed. He was always so good natured that the egg shells, nor even the chicken bones, would attract his attention the next morning.

The Old Indian Trail, or Roadway, went through the east part of this section, a little west of the C. H. & D. Railroad, and just where it crossed the half-section line they erected a log school-

house. Owing to their being good mechanics, this house was better than the average schoolhouse of those days. It was built of hewed logs, had slab benches, sawed writing-desks around the wall, and glass windows, and was heated with a stove. I started to school there in 1846, together with my friend, Jacob Reiber, and some others. Uncle Nathaniel Hill was teacher, and on bad days I would ride home on his back. One night the schoolhouse was robbed of all the books. On my way to school I found them all in a neat pile on about the fifth rail from the ground, with the balance of the fence resting upon them. They were too heavy for me to carry, so I reported the fact, and teacher and all the school repaired to the spot, and the books were restored and school went on.

Whipping was required of every teacher in those days. Some teachers would call out a whole school and stand them in a row and with a long whip strike the whole bunch. If one should dodge forward to escape the lick, he was put in another line and whipped with a shorter stick, and so on until the teacher felt that he had done his duty; and that was when he was about exhausted. These improvements were not all made by the Hill Brothers. They were ably assisted by the Williams family, especially John and Henry.

At my birth my mother named me John Calvin, perhaps thinking that if I could cultivate a taste for chickens, I might become a preacher. When I was about two years of age he said to her, " I want you to call that boy Nathan; I want a grandson to bear my name, and you may not have another chance." After some deliberation as to whether or not it was bad luck to change a name after it was given, my mother consented, and my name was changed to Nathan. The name of John Calvin has been praised from one end of the country to the other, but with all that, there never was a more noble, upright, honest, charitable example to be followed than that of Nathan Hill. He was a large portly man, weighed about two hundred pounds, had a keen eye, dark brown hair, and in his declining years stooped a little forward, and walked with his hands clasped together on his back. His firm step, his elastic limbs, and his undimmed senses, were so many certificates of good conduct, or rather jewels or orders of nobility, with which nature had adorned him for fidelity to her laws. His fair complexion showed that his blood had never been corrupted; his pure breath that he had never yielded his digestive apparatus to the vintage cesspool; his exact language and keen apprehension, that his brain had never been poisoned by the distiller or tobacconist. Enjoying his appetite to the highest, he had preserved the power of enjoying it. Despite the moral of the schoolboy's story, he had eaten his cake and still kept it. As he drained the cup of life there were no lees at the bottom. His organs all reached their goal of existence together. Painless as the sun sinks below the western horizon, so did he expire on the 15th day of January, 1862, aged seventy-three Years and ten months.....by NATHAN IDDINGS.

A. J. IDDINGS, president of the Citizens Bank of West Milton and for many years a prominent citizen of Union Township, is located on a farm between West Milton and Pleasant Hill and is the owner of 440 acres of land, all located in Miami County. He was born in Newton Township, in 1842, and is a son of Benjamin and Barbara (Hill) Iddings. His grandfather was one of the pioneers of Newton Township.

Benjamin Iddings was born on the same farm as the subject of this sketch and lived in Newton Township all his life. He always farmed as a business and lived to reach the age of eighty-eight years. He married Barbara Hill, and ten children were the offspring of their union.

A. J. Iddings attended the district schools of his native township, and then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits which he has always followed. A man of great industry and foresight, he

made steady advancement and accumulated land piece by piece until he was possessed of 440 acres of valuable land. He was one of the organizers and second president of the Citizens Bank of West Milton, which was incorporated with a capital stock of \$30,000. The other officers are: A. Pifer, first vice president; C. Emerich, second vice-president; Ira Minnich, cashier; and Ada Gnagey, assistant cashier. The Citizens' Bank, backed as it is by men of substance and officered by men of demonstrated business capacity, takes high rank among the financial institutions of Miami County. At the present time there is in the course of construction on Miami Street a new building, with marble front, to be devoted entirely to the business of this institution.

Mr. Iddings was united in marriage with Miss Melinda Haskett, who prior to her marriage lived west of West Milton, in Miami County. They have one son, Esty, who lives across the road from his father and follows farming. The last named was married to Miss Lulu Coate and they have two children, John and Nellie. The subject of this record is a veteran of the Civil War, having enlisted in 1864 as a member of Company H, 147th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served until the expiration of his term of enlistment. In politics, he is independent and not bound by any party ties. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Masons, and also the Patrons of Husbandry. He and his wife are consistent members of the Christian Church.

MYRON IDDINGS comes of an old and permanent family of Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, where he is the owner of a fine farm of 18 acres, located in Sections 33 and 34. He was born on the home place in Newton Township, June 20, 1865, and is a son of Benjamin and Sarah (McDowell) Iddings, and a grandson of Joseph Iddings.

Joseph Iddings, the grandfather, was born in Tennessee, and in 1802 moved north to Miami County, Ohio, where he was among the early settlers. He settled in Section 34 in Newton Township, where Myron now lives, and there passed the remainder of his days. He married a Miss Davis and they had the following children: William, John, Davis and Benjamin.

Benjamin Iddings was born in Newton Township, July 31, 1815, and always followed farming. He owned the 183 acre farm in Sections 33 and 34 now owned by his son, and made many of the improvements on the place. He was first married to Barbara Hill, a daughter of Nathan Hill, and the following were their offspring: Delany, A. J., Elizabeth, Mary, William, Henry, Jasper, Belle and James. Mrs. Iddings died and was buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. He formed a second union with Sarah McDowell, a daughter of Samuel McDowell, and she survives him and resides at Covington. Two children blessed this union, Seymour and Myron. Mr. Iddings lived on the home farm until his death, November, 1901, and was buried at Pleasant Hill. He was a member of the Shiloh Christian Church, and in politics was a Democrat.

Myron Iddings attended school in Union Township, after which he aided his father on the farm. At the time of his marriage, in 1890, he moved upon a twenty-three acre tract, where he lived for about ten years, during that time farming the home place for his father. Upon the latter's death he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the farm and moved into the old home. In 1902 he erected a fine new frame house, in which he now lives. He has made extensive improvements on the place, including the erection of a substantial tobacco shed and the laying of 1,200 rods of tile for drainage. His father had previously laid some 1,000 feet of tile. He raises the various small grains, hay, potatoes and tobacco, having an average of from six to eight acres of the latter product each year. He also has a splendid orchard on the place.

February 2, 1890, Myron Iddings was married to Miss Bertha Ingle, a daughter of Alexander and Sarah (Kendig) Ingle, and they are parents of the following, George, a member of the class of 1909 at West Milton High School; Howard Donald, who died in infancy; Robert Forest, a

member of the class of 1913 at West Milton High School; Randall Morris; Joseph Calvin; and Margaret Elizabeth. The three last named are attending the public schools of Union Township. Religiously they are members of the Friends Church. Mr. Iddings is a Democrat, but is in no sense a politician.

NATHAN IDDINGS, familiarly known as Nate Iddings, president of the Bradford Bank, and a member of the grain firm of Arnold & Iddings, of Bradford, may well be called one of the fathers of the town of which he has been one of the most prominent and stirring citizens for a period of forty years, or since 1869.

He was born on a farm near Pleasant Hill, in Newton Township, this county, March 17, 1841, son of David and Sarah (Hill) Iddings. His paternal grandfather was Joseph Iddings, whose father (great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch) came to Ohio from South Carolina, settling on large farm situated on the boundary line between Montgomery and Miami Counties, a part of the farm lying in each county. This immigration occurred in 1796, at which time Joseph, grandfather of Nathan, was but a boy. He followed agriculture, as did also his son, Davis Iddings, who was born in the locality southeast of Pleasant Hill, and who, as has already been seen, married Sarah Hill.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm and in his boyhood attended the country schools. He afterwards taught school for four years in Miami County, in the vicinity of Troy and Pleasant Hill, and proved a successful teacher. Subsequently, in the furtherance of a laudable ambition, he took up the study of law, under the guidance of Alexander Long, and after thoroughly mastering the principles of the profession, was admitted to the bar at Cincinnati, in April, 1862. Instead of at once devoting himself to the practice of his profession, he took up the business of court reporting, which he followed thereafter, for thirty-five years, serving as court reporter in ten different counties in the western part of the state. He reported in shorthand the first trial in Miami County, at which Judge Williams presided. During all this time he made his home in Bradford, taking an active part in the improvement and development of the town, and being generally recognized as one of its foremost citizens, as he was also one of its first comers. Indeed it is said that he had but one predecessor - John S. Moore - who opened a grocery store in the place when there was scarcely anything here but primitive railway station, consisting of box car set up at the side of the track, and a woodyard, where the locomotives were accustomed to replenish their stock of fuel.

Mr. Iddings was right on the heels of Mr. Moore, opening a general store almost before the latter had had time to get his trade well started. From that day until the present he has been an active factor in the business life of the town; and not only in its business life, but in practically every part or phase of its development as a progressive community. In the early days, he, with Frank Gulich, organized the voting precincts, and in spite of opposition from the towns of Covington and Gettysburg, had the village incorporated, and the special school district of Bradford, Miami and Darke Counties established. He was one of the members of the first board of education, and was, more than any other member, responsible for the establishment of the schoolhouse on its present site, which result was secured only after a long and determined fight on his part, the question being finally settled by an appeal to the popular vote. An interesting account of this contest may be found in the historical part of this volume in the chapter devoted to Education. For over thirty years Mr. Iddings has been attorney for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. In 1893 he organized the Bradford Bank, of which he has since been the efficient president. He is the owner of a large amount of valuable agricultural property, including some ten farms in

Miami and Darke Counties, Ohio, aggregating about 1,500 acres. He also owns about 400 acres south of Pleasant Hill--the old home place--on which farm stands the largest barn in the state, 100x50 feet in dimensions and three stories in height, with mansard roof.

During his long and strenuous career, Mr. Iddings has been able to devote a few leisure moments to literary pursuits, and his interesting historical sketches, dealing with local subjects, and embodying for the most part his personal reminiscences of men and things, have appeared from time to time in the local journals to the interest and edification of our citizens. His own life is an integral part of the history of the town--and, it may be said, of the best part of it. He has never shirked his duty as a good citizen, but on more than one momentous occasion, has stood to his gains and maintained his position in spite of the resolute efforts of those who were opposed to his ideas and who were in the majority; and this he has done, not from any unreasoning spirit of obstinacy, but from the fact that he had carefully studied the situation and knew that the plan he advocated would in the long run be for the best interests of the community. He has always been a man of action, quick to seize the salient point of a position and profit by his advantage while others were still engaged in reconnoitering. As General Grant said, when he saw his opportunity at Fort Donelson, "The one who attacks first will win, and the enemy will have to be quick if he gets ahead of me," so Mr. Iddings in every important turning-point of his career, has acted on the same principle - with what success those who know him will be ready to testify.

Mr. Iddings was married in 1868 to Nancy Patty, a daughter of Charles Patty. They have had one child, a son Frank, who married Lillian Miles, and has a daughter, Mildred.

In addition to the agricultural property owned by Mr. Iddings, which has been already referred to, he is also the owner of about sixty houses in Bradford, which he rents.

He is a member of the Masonic Order, and is at once the guide, philosopher and friend of every interested enquirer into the history of the town in which he has for so many years made his home.

JAMES B. KINDELL, head of the firm of J. B. Kindell & Co., proprietors of the Sugar Grove Mills and Elevator, has met with almost phenomenal success with the enterprise mentioned.

From an humble beginning he has built up a plant whose name is a household word throughout this section of the state. He was born in Johnston County, Arkansas, April 12, 1860, and is a son of Ezekiel and Nancy (Tate) Kindell.

Ezekiel Kindell was born in Shelby County, Ohio, May 25, 1835, and there passed his boyhood days. He emigrated with his uncle, Alden Boggs, in 1855, to Arkansas to become his head miller, having learned the miller's trade with his father, Benjamin Kindel, in a waterpower mill on the Miami River between Piqua and Sidney, Ohio. During the Civil War he enlisted as a private in Company A, Second Regiment of Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, with which he continued throughout the service. He was advanced to the rank of first lieutenant and later served as acting captain of his company.

He was discharged in August, 1865, after serving in the army four years. After the war he moved north to Miami County, Ohio, where he thereafter lived, following the carpenter's trade and millwrighting until 1882.

In partnership with his son, J. B. Kindell, he was engaged in milling at Sugar Grove for many years, then moved to Covington and built an elevator, which business he conducted for five years, being succeeded by S. J. Rudy. He died in November 1907, and was buried in the Covington Cemetery.

Mr. Kindell was first married in Arkansas, to Miss Nancy Tate, a daughter of James M. and Anna (Mears) Tate. The Mears and Tate families were pioneer ones in Arkansas, removing there from Georgia at a very early period. This union was blessed with the following children: Nancy, deceased; Mary, Alice, Sarah, Dora, George Washington, and James Benjamin, whose name appears at the head of this record. Mrs. Kindell died in May, 1873, and was buried in the Covington Cemetery. Mr. Kindell formed a second marriage in the spring of 1875 with Miss Sarah Jane Fine, a daughter of David M. and Rebecca Fine, and they had four children: Clifford, Ray, Bessie, and Lulu, of whom the three first mentioned are deceased. Mr. Kindell's second wife died in 1906 and also was buried in the Covington Cemetery. Religiously he was a member of the Church of the Brethren. He was a Democrat in politics.

James B. Kindell attended the public schools of Newton, Newberry and Washington Townships, and in 1877 he went to Arkansas to reside with his grandfather, whom he assisted on the farm for three years. When he returned to Miami County he had \$300, with which he started in the milling business in Newton Township, in partnership with his father, under the firm name of E. Kindell & Co. John Reid, Sr., was also interested in the business, which was conducted as a company. At the end of ten years it was reorganized as E. Kindell & Son, and the latest improved machinery for the milling of flour and meat was installed. In 1894, through his father's retirement from the firm, the subject of this sketch became sole owner and proprietor. He thereupon remodeled the mill to the latest sifter system, and built a new residence and the other buildings on the place. He also bought a farm of 100 acres, lying directly across the river from the plant. On February 26, 1898, the mill was entirely destroyed by fire, and resulted in a serious loss to him, only about one-half, or \$3,700, being covered by insurance. Phoenix-like he arose from the ashes and built the present mill. In order to clear his indebtedness, he sold his farm of 100 acres, and on October 14, 1898, he began operating his new plant. He installed the very latest and most approved machinery known to produce the highest grade of flour from soft winter wheat. He installed the roller system, with corn scourers and steam dryers, and the very best equipment for the manufacture of corn meal. He again started up with an indebtedness of \$12,000 hanging over him, but phenomenal success cleared this away in a few years. He prospered to such an extent that he again bought land, purchasing eighty-four acres near the mill, on which he has erected tobacco sheds. In 1907 he purchased sixty-four acres in Darke County, which he has since sold (in 1909). Prior to 1895 Mr. J. N. Arendall was connected with the plant as head miller, and in recognition of his valued services he was at that time admitted to working partnership in the enterprise. Mr. Kindell owns all the real estate.

The principal brands of this mill are Invincible Patent flour, Pearl and Golden Dent corn meal, and Germ Graham flour, all of which are well known to the public. The methods of this firm in doing business are progressive and original and have brought gratifying results. Anyone wishing to call them up on business can do so at the firm's expense from the following towns: Laura, Potsdam, West Milton, Ludlow Falls, Pleasant Hill, Fidelity, Union, Englewood, Polo, Bloomer, and Covington, as the firm is flat-rated both ways with the Covington Home Telephone Company.

On September 22, 1889, Mr. Kindell was united in marriage with Miss Eva J. Graft, a daughter of David and Lavinda (Swihart) Graft. Her parents were formerly of Mexico Indiana, and then settled at Peru, Indiana; they were people that occupied a prominent position in that place. Mrs. Graft died in 1877 and was buried at Deedsville, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Kindell have a daughter, Alice Marie, who successfully passed the Boxwell examination at thirteen years of age, and graduated from the Newton Township schools in May, 1909, and will enter Covington High

School in the fall of 1909. The family are members of the Church of the Brethren. Mr. Kindell is an independent Democrat in politics.

It is seen by the foregoing that Mr. Kindell is a born miller. His grandfather, Benjamin Kindell, was a miller before his father, and came from Scotland, where his father was a miller. Benjamin Kindell, the grandfather, built the original Sugar Grove Mills and improved the waterpower in 1830, having built himself and installed the first undershot water-wheels here in western Ohio. The present owner has had set two large turbine water-wheels of the Victor pattern, which produce ample power to drive the 50-barrel flouring mill, all scourers, corn mill rollers, making fifteen bushels of fine table meal per hour, together with the wagon dump and corn elevator taking care of a fifty-bushel load of corn every twenty minutes. Mr. Kindell is so infatuated with milling that he expects always to remain in the business at Sugar Grove, as he thoroughly believes in the community, from the support which he has received in the past.

GEORGE E. KINNISON, a well-known farmer and representative citizen of Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, is the owner of sixty acres of land in Section 26, Range 4, of that township. He was born in Washington Township, Miami County, Ohio, April 5, 1864, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Halderman) Kinnison. George Kinnison was born in Virginia, December 9, 1831, and was five years of age when he moved with his parents to Jackson County, Ohio. There he grew to maturity and lived until he was twenty-eight years of age, then moved to the vicinity of Covington, in Miami County, Ohio. He had a farm lying partly in Newberry and partly in Washington Township, on which he lived until, 1877, when he bought a sixty-acre tract in Newton Township. He continued on the latter until 1900, then moved to the place where his widow now lives, about one-half mile south of Covington. He died there on May 9, 1909, and was buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Religiously, he was a member of the Christian Church. He was a Democrat in politics, and took an earnest interest in public affairs, but never dabbled in politics. Mr. Kinnison was married in Jackson County, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Halderman, and they were parents of the following children: Clara, Mary F., Laura, George E., Emma, Rosa, Wesley, Myrtle, Ella, and one who died unnamed.

George E. Kinnison first attended what was known as White's schoolhouse, one mile east of Covington; after six terms in that school, his parents having moved to Newton Township, he attended the Buckeye school in that township. He next engaged in farming, working out by the month, until his marriage in 1884, when he moved onto a twenty-acre farm in Newton Township. He moved from that place in 1895 to the sixty acres on which he now lives, in the same township. He first lived in the old log house, which was built on the place by John Sloan at an early date, but more recently has occupied a fine new frame house which he erected. He also put up the other buildings on the place, and has made many other important improvements, including the laying of 1,000 rods of tile for drainage. He is a Prohibitionist in politics, and served three years as township trustee, as well as member of the school board at different times.

In February, 1884, George E. Kinnison was married to Mary J. Awker, a daughter of James and Malvina Awker, and they became parents of five children, namely: Elmer, who married Blanche Niswonger, daughter of David and Nellie Niswonger, and has a daughter named Ruth; James; Clyde F.; Wilbert D., and Stephen. Religiously, they are members of the Christian Church, and Mr. Kinnison serves as financial secretary of the church organization.

HENRY LANDIS, one of Newton Township's most progressive citizens and farmers, is the owner of 120 acres of well improved land, and follows diversified farming. He was born near

Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, September 26, 1855, and is a son of Daniel and Susan Ann (Deeter) Landis, the father being a native of Greene County, Ohio, and the mother of Miami County.

Daniel Landis was a prominent farmer and well-to-do citizen of Newton Township, and at his death was the owner of 180 acres of land in Miami and Darke Counties. In 1874 he purchased 210 acres, but of this he subsequently sold 110 acres. He died in 1899, at the age of seventy years; his wife died in her sixty-seventh year, and both lie buried in Sugar Grove Cemetery. She was a daughter of Abraham and Barbara Deeter. Mr. and Mrs. Landis were parents of the following children: Hannah, Barbara, Henry, David, Lydia, Kate, Susan, Tina, Sarah, Abraham (deceased), John, Myra, and one who died in infancy.

Henry Landis, subject of this biography, first attended the common schools of Darke County, and later those of Miami County. He turned his attention to farming in his youthful days, and continued to live with his father until three years after his marriage; then, in 1887, he moved upon the farm on which he now lives. He was for a period of seventeen years engaged in the butchering business, and during that time made two trips each week to market. In the meantime he carried on farming operations in a most active manner, raising the various small grains, hay and potatoes. During the past eight years he has raised tobacco quite extensively, each year devoting twenty-five acres to the growing of that product. The improvements on his farm are exceptional; he has laid 3,500 feet of tile for drainage, and set out 500 cement posts for fencing. He has a wind pump, with gasoline engine attached, with which facilities he is enabled to irrigate ten acres of ground. He is enterprising and progressive in his ideas and farms along modern and approved methods.

January 12, 1884, Mr. Landis was united in marriage with Miss Katherine Bashore, a daughter of W. H. and Hetty Bashore., The following children were born to them: John, deceased; Emma, who married Walter W. Jones, of near Covington, and has three children: Helen, Mary and Harriet; Grace, who is deceased; Albert, who is a member of the class of 1912 in Ohio State University at Columbus; and Fred, deceased. Religiously they are members of the German Baptist Church, of which he is a deacon. Politically he is a Republican.

MORGAN LEONARD, a retired farmer living on his valuable farm of fifty acres, which is situated in Section 13, Range 4, Newton Township, is one of the representative citizens of this section, having served in the most important township offices and for the last eight years been a member of the Board of Trustees. He is also an honored veteran of the Civil War. He was born March 30, 1845, in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Reuben and Elizabeth (Airgood) Leonard.

The parents of Mr. Leonard spent their lives in Pennsylvania. They had ten children: Thomas, Milo, Morgan, Elizabeth, Scott, John, Samuel, Alva, Jersey and Jane. Reuben Leonard and wife attended the Dunkard Church. He was a strong Republican and his son remembers that he frequently sent his boys out on election day to remind voters of their duty to come to the polls. Morgan Leonard attended schools at Oakland Mills, Juniata County and then went into the railroad shops. He later went on the road as a brakeman, became a fireman and later was an engineer and was serving in that capacity when he entered the army as a member of Company A, Eighth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. He was in the service for eighteen months, and during this time was wounded seriously three times and was so incapacitated that he was obliged to retire from the service. It was a long time before he regained his health, and for three years he worked as a silversmith, with his father-in-law at Covington, where he continued to live after his marriage

until he came to his present farm. Of this he cleared forty acres and drained 850 rods, putting down tile. He also put up all the substantial buildings and made all other improvements and carried on a general line of agricultural work until he retired. He is a leading Republican in this section and has taken an active part in public matters. For eight years he served as supervisor of Newton Township and has been a trustee for the same length of time. At times he has served in other capacities, always with good judgment and a fit recognition of responsibility. On one occasion he was kept away from home for six weeks while serving on a United States jury, at Cincinnati, and on several other times has served on the grand jury at Troy.

Mr. Leonard was married March 4, 1864, to Miss Matilda Varner, a daughter of Daniel G. and Mary Varner, and they had eight children, namely: Daniel G., deceased; Reuben, who resides at home; Elizabeth, deceased; Alva, who married Jessie Hoffman; Belle, who married John Marshall, of Darke County, and has two children-Ray and Ira; Annie who married Irwin Shell, and has one son, Harley; Irwin, who lives at home; and Minnie who is the wife of Silas Silvers. Mr. Leonard and family attend the Dunkard Church. He is a valued member of the Dan W. Williams Post, G. A. R. No. 369, at Pleasant Hill of which he has been vice-commander for several years.

HON. FRANK M. LONGNAKER, one of Pleasant Hill's most prominent citizens, who filled the mayor's chair for eight years and for eight years was postmaster, is identified with many of the important business concerns of this section. He was born at Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, May 8, 1869, and is a son of Ephraim and Eunice (Hill) Longnaker.

Ephraim Longnaker was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, and he came to Ohio in 1859. He enlisted for service in the Civil War, early in the days of the Rebellion, and was a member of the Ninety fourth Regiment, O. Vol Inf., and was not mustered out until the close of hostilities sent the surviving soldiers back to their homes. At one time he was captured by the enemy, and was confined in Libby Prison. He is a highly respected resident of Pleasant Hill, where he has been employed as a carpenter, and also has conducted a boot and shoe store for a number of years. He is a Republican in politics, and one of the leading members of the Christian Church.. He married Eunice Hill, a daughter of John W. Hill, and they have three children, Frank M., Jennie and Milton.

Frank M. Longnaker spent all his school days at Pleasant Hill, and after completing the high school course learned telegraphing. He was then employed for five years as agent and operator for the C.H.& D. Railroad, settling at Celina after his marriage and spending four years as agent there. He then became interested in the handling of sand and gravel, and in September, 1894, went into the business in Newton Township with Martin Himes, under the firm name of the Longnaker & Himes Company, of which is president. After his long term as mayor terminated, he became manager of this company, and a large measure of his time is taken up in directing its affairs, the enterprise being one of considerable importance and giving employment to a large number of workmen. He is also a stockholder and a director in the Pleasant Hill Banking Company. In politics he is an ardent Republican. He has served one term as justice of the peace, and at present is president of the School Board.

Mr. Longnaker's business success has been phenomenal, and to his own industry, foresight and good judgment must a large part of it be attributed. When he went into business it was without one dollar of capital. With his partner he now owns a concrete manufacturing plant, and gives steady employment to twelve workmen, who handle from twenty-five to fifty cars of sand and gravel a day, shipments being made to all points on the C.R. & D. Railroad. Together with his

other business interests, which have been acquired through the same channels of industry, Mr. Longnaker finds himself a very busy man, and in a fair way to become one of the most substantial men of this section.

On August 13, 1891, Mr. Longnaker was married to Miss Avis Ely, a daughter of George W. and Annie Ely, and they have one daughter, Miriam, who is a student in the Pleasant Hill High School. The family are members of the Christian Church at Pleasant Hill, Mr. Longnaker being one of the trustees. He is identified with the Masons, belonging to the Chapter at West Milton, and is also an Odd Fellow.

A. F. MIKESSELL, one of Newberry Township's well known citizens, who is now living in his handsome brick residence situated on a small farm of twelve and one-half acres on the Shelby County Turnpike, one mile north of Covington, was born on a farm one mile north of Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, July 3, 1842, is a son of John and Susan (Friedly) Mikesell, of Covington.

A. F. Mikesell, who is better known as Fridly Mikesell, remained on the farm on which he was born until six years of age, when his parents moved to Clayton, Newberry Township, shortly thereafter, however, removing to Covington, where Mr. Mikesell obtained his education. When a young man he secured a tract of 133 acres of land situated two and one-half miles west of Covington, on Greenville Creek, and while living there he was married. For about five years after this event Mr. Mikesell continued on this farm, and then sold out to purchase a property of 100 acres, located across the road from that which he now occupies, and he was here engaged in agricultural pursuits for a period covering thirty-five years. He became one of the best known farmers in Newberry Township, and after a long and active agricultural life retired to his present property, on which, in 1907, he erected a beautiful brick residence. He is also the owner of considerable property in New Mexico and Oklahoma.

In 1867 Mr. Mikesell was united in marriage with Jane Beery, who was born in Bremen, Fairfield County, Ohio, a daughter of Levi and Margaret (Short) Beery, who removed to Iowa when Mrs. Mikesell was about three and one-half years old. There Levi Beery was engaged in farming and milling. To Mr. and Mrs. Mikesell there were born eight children, as follows: Arthur L., who graduated from Covington High School, studied medicine at the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, spent eighteen months in the County Hospital, Chicago, and is now engaged in the practice of his profession at Fort Wayne, Indiana, married Harriet Isabelle Kimball, and they have one child, Helen B. Alma, who married Charles L. Trump, died October 7, 1905, leaving one child, Florence Janice; Nora, the wife of Ira J. Gump, has four children, Lucile, Luther, Joseph and Rosella, and lives in Covington; Vinnie, the wife of J. S. Flory, lives at Bridgewater, Virginia, Mr. Flory being a teacher in the Bridgewater College; Maurice, general manager of the Miami Ranch, in New Mexico, married Elizabeth Rosenberger, and has two children, Margaret and Andrew Frank; John Levi, is a farmer and real estate dealer of Oklahoma; Margaret, the wife of Dr. Bernard J. Kendell, of Tippecanoe City, has two children, Sarah Jane and John Jacob; Wilbur B., is attending the Ohio State University, at Columbus.

Mr. Mikesell was a school director in Newberry Township for many years, and was president of the School Board of Covington at the time the new school building was erected. He is a member and a deacon of the Brethren Church.

JACOB MUSSELMAN, township trustee of Newton Township, and a stockholder in the Pleasant Hill Banking Company and the Stillwater Bank of Covington, now lives retired on his

excellent farm of eighty acres, which is situated in Section 22, Range 5, near the Troy and Pleasant Hill Turnpike Road. He was born in Washington Township, Montgomery County, Ohio, December 3, 1852, and is a son of John and Sarah (Smith) Musselman.

John Musselman was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and came from there to Ohio in early manhood. He settled nine miles south of Dayton in Montgomery County, and from there came to Miami County in 1871, buying a farm of 142 acres on the Troy and Covington Turnpike, of the Williams heirs. He cleared a part of this farm and repaired the buildings and did a large amount of draining, putting his land in good condition, and with other products, grew about four acres of tobacco a year. He was a large, robust man, weighing about 250 pounds, and for years prior to his death had been more or less afflicted with heart trouble. His death occurred December 21, 1907 and his burial was in the Covington Cemetery. He was a member of the German Reformed Church. In Montgomery County he married Sarah Smith, a daughter of Philip Smith, and they had five children: Jacob, Eliza Ann, Ellen, Emma Idella, and John F. Of these, Ellen is deceased. The mother of these children still resides on the old homestead.

Jacob Musselman attended school near Woodburn, in Montgomery County. He helped his father after coming to Miami County and remained at home for about seven years after his own marriage. He then came to his present farm, erecting a new house, a number of other buildings, including tobacco and cattle sheds, and repaired the barn, putting everything into fine condition. He cleared about six acres of the place, and now and then has done a little draining, but his land has required a very small amount of special attention. Mr. Musselman now lives retired, having turned the active operation of the farm over to his capable son-in-law.

Mr. Musselman was married January 25, 1877, to Miss Missouri F. Whitman, a daughter of Edward and Mary Whitman, and they have one daughter, Emma Idella, who married Mack Hawn. Mr. and Mrs. Hawn have two sons, Ralph E. and Paul M. Although no longer actively working his farm, Mr. Musselman finds plenty of occupation. His fellow citizens have frequently elected him to township offices, and he gives close and careful attention to his official duties. Since 1908 he has been a trustee of the townships formerly served with the greatest efficiency as superintendent of the turnpike. A long life spent mainly in the open has given him health and vigor, and Mr. Musselman could easily pass for a man many years younger than the age he acknowledges.

JOHN G. MYERS, grain merchant and tobacco dealer, residing at Pleasant Hill, is one of the leading business men of Miami County, being a stockholder in the First National Bank at Troy, vice president of the Pleasant Hill Banking Company, president of the Myers Grain Company, and manager of the Myers & Patty Elevator Company. He was born July 1854, in Lancaster County Pennsylvania, and is a son of Michael and Susan (Groff) Myers.

Michael Myers was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1831, and is a retired resident of Pleasant Hill. He remained in his native place until after his marriage and the birth of five children when he came to Miami County, Ohio, and settled first at Pleasant Hill. Later he bought a farm of twenty-five acre, but sold it and then went to Brownsville, Nebraska, where he engaged in a butchering business for a time, after which he returned to Pleasant Hill and for twenty subsequent years was engaged in a huckstering business, purchasing twenty-six acres of land in Newton Township. He is a stockholder in the Pleasant Hill Banking Company. In politics he is a Democrat, and for a number of years he served in the Town Council, during which he advocated many of the reforms and improvements which have made the place an excellent one both for business and residence. He is a leading member of the Christian Church. He married

Susan Groff, a daughter of John Groff, and they had six children: John G.; Amos and Monroe, Mary Ann, Isaac and Henry, who is a resident of Chicago, Illinois. Amos, Monroe and Isaac are now deceased. Mary Ann married John S. Debray, lives at Dayton, and they have two children, Joe and Wanda.

John G. Myers finished his education in the Pleasant Hill schools and then helped his father both in this section and during the time the family lived at Brownsville. Later he helped his father in the huckstering business and operated a wagon for about fifteen years. In 1879 he built the elevator known as the Myers & Patty at Pleasant Hill and also bought one at Ludlow Falls, and at Maria Stein, Mercer County, and built one at Reigsville, all of these being owned by the Myers & Patty Company. In 1893 he went into the tobacco business at Pleasant Hill. His interests are numerous and important, but he has a firm grasp of all their details and has the reputation of being one of the most farseeing and able business men of this section.

In October, 1874, Mr. Myers was married to Miss Mary Belle Patty, a daughter of Dr. William and Sarah Jane Patty. They had two sons, Charles M. and William M. The former is connected with the Myers Grain Company as manager, and operates track buying at Columbus, Ohio; married Florence Favorite, and they have three children: Mary Belle, Carolyn and Ouida.

William M. is manager of the Myers grain business at Lockburn, Ohio, and is treasurer of the Myers Grain Company. The mother of these sons died June 29, 1889. Mr. Myers was married (second) August 14, 1890, to Miss Alwilda Ellis, a daughter of James and Lydia Ellis, of Clinton County, Ohio, and they have one daughter, Vesta Marie, who is in school.

ZENAS PIERCE, who for twelve years has served as justice of the peace at Pleasant Hill, is one of the substantial as well as representative men of this section, owning two improved town properties and an excellent farm of forty-six acres situated in Newton Township. He was born in Union Township, Miami County, Ohio, April 17, 1834, and is a son of Samuel and Millie (Iddings) Pierce.

Samuel Pierce was born in Pennsylvania, October 15, 1785, and lived to be seventy-eight years of age. His parents took him to Virginia when eight years old and when nineteen he came to Ohio and located in Miami County, building the third log cabin that was erected in West Milton. He was a carpenter and wagonmaker by trade. Although he acquired many farms he did little actual farm work after clearing up his first property, finding profitable employment for his time in work at his trade and also in dealing in farm lands and in stock. He had fourteen farms at one time and to each of his twelve children he gave a good property. He was a Republican in politics and served for two terms as county commissioner. On May 3, 1810, he married Millie Iddings and they had the following children: Ruth, Margaret, Malinda, Gainer A., Almira, Samuel, William, Hannah, Mary, John, Clarkson, Zenas and Benjamin, the last mentioned of whom died an infant.

Zenas Pierce attended the district school in Union Township nearest his home and then worked on the farm for his father until he reached his majority and then went to farming for himself in the same neighborhood and remained on the farm until he was about forty-five years old and then conducted a hardware store at Bradford for seven years, after which he moved his store to Pleasant Hill. He soon took so active an interest in the public affairs of the place that he was elected a member of the town council and subsequently justice of the peace, in which office he has served his fellow citizens to their entire satisfaction, dispensing justice impartially and according to legal procedure. He has been a zealous Republican ever since he cast his vote for John C. Fremont for President of the United States.

Mr. Pierce was married (first) September 6, 1864, to Elizabeth McCormick, who died May 2, 1880. Her parents were Jacob and Hannah (Hiatt) McCormick, the latter being a daughter of William and Elizabeth Hiatt. The children of Jacob McCormick and wife were: Amy, Sylvanus, Lacy, Nancy, Eliza, Robert, Elizabeth, Rohanna, Aaron, Lewis, Hannah, Jennie, Margaret and William. Jacob McCormick resided on his farm of 160 acres in Franklin County, Indiana, and also owned eighty acres in Stark County. He died in February, 1871, and his burial was at Marion, Indiana. In politics he was a Republican. He was a member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Pierce was married (second) September 27, 1880 to Hannah Jennie McCormick, a sister to his first wife. He has seven children, all born to the first union: Clarkson, John, Hannah, Samuel, Abraham S., Zenas and Roland N.

For a period of thirty-five years, Mr. Pierce has been a member of the lodge of Odd Fellows at Pleasant Hill, in which he has passed all the chairs. He is also a charter member of the local Grange. His religious connection is with the Society of Friends, in Union Township.

GEORGE W. PLEASANT is a prominent farmer and tobacco grower of Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, and is the owner of a fifty- acre farm in Section 26 of that township. He was born in Augusta County, Virginia, July 4, 1865, and is a son of William and Ellen Pleasant. William Pleasant, father of the subject of this record, was born in Virginia and lived there until his death, which occurred in 1867 while in middle life. His widow now resides in Dayton, Ohio. They became parents of the following children: William, Robert, James, George W. and Jane. George W. Pleasant was very small when his mother moved to Ohio, and he received his first schooling near Dayton, in Montgomery County. He subsequently attended the Penny Creek school in Darke County, Ohio, and after leaving school was engaged for himself in the general store business at Painter Creek, in Darke County. At the end of four years he sold out and purchased his present farm of fifty acres in Newton Township, Miami County. All of the buildings were standing on the place at the time of its purchase by him, except the tobacco shed, which he built. He has done considerable tiling and made other improvements of an important nature, and has a well-kept and attractive property. He follows general farming and tobacco raising, having an average acreage of about eight acres in tobacco each year. He is progressive in his methods and a hard worker and is meeting with deserved success.

December 24, 1891, Mr. Pleasant was joined in marriage with Miss Olive Miles, a daughter of Samuel Miles, and they have one son, Willis, who is a member of the class of 1912 in Pleasant Hill High School. Religiously they are members of the Friends Church. In fraternal affiliation Mr. Pleasant is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Laura. He is a Democrat in politics, but has no political aspirations.

JACOB REIBER, notary public and newspaper correspondent, residing at Pleasant Hill, has acceptably filled a number of the public offices in this section, and is an honored veteran of the Civil War and a member of the Dan W. Williams Post No. 369, G. A. R., at Pleasant Hill. Mr. Reiber was born in Perry County Pennsylvania, September 1, 1836 and is a son of John and Mary (Fenical) Reiber.

John Reiber was born May 26, 1811, in Perry County, Pennsylvania, and in April, 1837, came to Newton Township, Miami County, where he worked at the blacksmith trade until 1849, after which he engaged in farming until the time of his death, April 18, 1872 . His place of burial was the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. He was married (first) to Mary Fenical, June 4, 1835, a daughter of John and Susan Fenical, and there were four sons and three daughters born to this union, namely:

Jacob, the only survivor; and Peter, William F., Joseph, Susanna, Margaret I. and Sarah J. The mother of these children died February 23, 1865, and her burial was in the Sugar Grove Cemetery. John Reiber was married (second) to Sarah Katherine Cathron, a daughter of George and Julia Inman. She died in 1889, without issue. For thirty five years John Reiber was a deacon in the Christian Church.

Jacob Reiber went to school in boyhood in Newton Township and then worked on the home farm until his marriage, in 1857, after which he settled on another farm in the same township, which he operated until he entered the army for service in the terrible Civil War. Mr. Reiber enlisted in 1863 in Company G, 110th Regt., O. Vol. Inf., in which he remained, until he was honorably discharged in 1865. As evidence of the hard service he saw, Mr. Reiber has proofs on his own person. On May 5, 1864, when so many brave men fell at the battle of the Wilderness, five bullets left their cruel marks, four of these producing wounds which not only caused him months of intense suffering, but left him with a disabled foot. Honorable as these injuries may be, gained as they were in loyal defense of his country, they were no less hard to endure, and make a claim on the sympathy and gratitude of his fellow citizens which should never be forgotten.

Upon his return home, Mr. Reiber was no longer physically able to engage in agricultural pursuits as formerly, and as his fellow citizens recognized this, they sought to find some mode of life for him in which, in his crippled condition, he could take his place in the world and in a measure enjoy the peace that he had fought and suffered to establish. He was appointed to fill out the latter part of the term of the first mayor of the town, a duty he efficiently performed, and then was twice elected township clerk, and in 1878 was made postmaster at Pleasant Hill. This office he filled acceptably for six years. For the past twenty-seven years he has been a notary public, and has also been the local correspondent for a number of newspapers. Although debarred from much that would have been pleasant and profitable to him, Mr. Reiber has led a most useful and exemplary life, and no one in Pleasant Hill is held in higher esteem.

On August 27, 1857, Mr. Reiber was married to Miss Maria C. Williams, who died September 24, 1905, and was laid to rest in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. The five children born to this marriage were: William, who died May 6, 1864; Roselia J., who lives with her father; Arthur L., who is deceased; J. Warren, who lives in North Carolina; and Charles C., who resides at Marion, Indiana. He married Kittie E. Brandon, who is a daughter of Samuel H. Brandon, and they have one daughter, Treva Irene, Mr. Reiber's only grandchild.

In his political sentiments he is a staunch Republican, following in the footsteps of his father, and has never swerved in his allegiance. When seventeen years of age he united with the Christian Church, and has remained a consistent member of this religious body.

JOHN C. RUDY, who comes of an old and well known family of Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, is the owner of eighty acres of land in Section 15, Range 5. He follows general farming and tobacco raising, and in addition has for many years been engaged in the threshing business. He was born in Newton Township, May 28, 1868, and is a son of Levi and Susan (Deeter) Rudy.

Levi Rudy was born in Newton Township, Miami County, where his father was among the pioneer settlers. He attended the primitive schools of his boyhood days and at an early age began farming. He first owned a farm in Section 9, Newton Township, which he later sold to a brother, and then bought sixty acres in Section 4, which is now owned by his heirs. He died March 2, 1907, and was buried in the Covington Cemetery. He married Susan Deeter, a daughter of Abraham and Mary Deeter, and she now resides in Covington. The following were born of this

union: Charles, John, Hannah, Samuel, Theodore, who died at the age of two years, and Jesse. Religiously, Mr. Rudy was a member of the German Baptist Church. He was a Democrat in politics.

John C. Rudy first attended school in district No. 10, Newton Township, and grew to maturity on the home farm. When a young man he embarked in the threshing business for himself, and for a period of twenty-nine years has followed this business with good results. After his marriage he settled on a farm in Section 4, Newton Township, but later purchased of the M. L. Mowery heirs his present farm of eighty acres, all of which is cleared and well improved but six acres. He has made many of the improvements on the place, including the erection of a tobacco shed and a corn crib, but the main buildings were standing at the time of its purchase by him. He has from eight to twelve acres in tobacco each year, but otherwise follows mixed farming. He also farms the old home place.

July 10, 1898, Mr. Rudy was united in marriage with Miss Della Furlong, a daughter of Samuel and Christiana Furlong, and they have one son living, Harold, who is attending the public schools. Two daughters, Ivy and Elma, died in infancy. Politically, Mr. Rudy is a Democrat, but aside from the office of township supervisor has filled no official positions.

S. J. RUDY, proprietor of the Farmers' Complete Elevator, has been established in business at Covington, Ohio, for some ten years and is one of the representative citizens. Mr. Rudy was born in Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, April 18, 1868, and is a son of William and Mary (Shaffer) Rudy.

Mr. Rudy was reared on a farm and followed agricultural pursuits until he embarked in the elevator business, the family having been farmers away back to his grandfather, Samuel Rudy, who came in early manhood to Miami County and settled first in Newberry and later in Newton Township. William Rudy was a life-long resident of Miami County and during the whole of his active life engaged in farming, retiring to Covington but shortly before his death, which occurred on October 8, 1908. His widow still survives. About 1899, Mr. Rudy came to Covington and began his elevator business, in the meanwhile purchasing his farm, of 132 acres, in Newton Township, which he still retains. He met with misfortune after two years in Covington, his elevator near the hotel burning down, but he showed his business enterprise by building his present one, known as the Farmers' Complete Elevator, in 1901. He does a very satisfactory business and is one of the city's substantial business men.

Mr. Rudy married Miss Dora Kendell, a daughter of Ezekiel Kendell, and they have had twelve children, the survivors being Nellie, Ethel, William, James, Albert, Alvie and Alice (twins), and Dora. Those who died were Glenna, Bessie, Ezekiel, a twin of William, and an infant. Mr. Rudy and wife are members of the Brethren Church.

FRED SCHUESSELIN conducts the meat market of the firm of Charles F. Schuesselin & Sons at West Milton, and is a member of that firm, which also has a market at Pleasant Hill. He was born in Pleasant Hill, in 1885 and is a son of Charles F. and Louise (Staehlin) Schuesselin, both natives of Germany.

Charles F. Schuesselin was reared to maturity in his native land and learned the trade in Greenville, Ohio. He came to this country, in 1883, prior to his marriage, and located at Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, where he began butchering. He was married at Dayton, Ohio, to Miss Louise Staehlin, and they became parents of six children, as follows: Fred; Albert; Emilie, deceased; Edward; Arthur; and Hermina. Mr. and Mrs. Schuesselin reside at Pleasant Hill.

Fred Schuesselin attended the public schools at Pleasant Hill, and afterward the Dayton Commercial College, where he completed a thorough business course. He then became a partner in the firm of Charles P. Schuesselin & Sons, and in 1908 came to West Milton and opened their present shop. They have a neat and attractive place of business, and as they slaughter all the meat that goes over the counter, the trade receives none but the best. They run one wagon from West Milton, another being run from Pleasant Hill, and also attend Piqua Market every Saturday, having a stand on the corner of Wayne and Market Streets. They have a full line of fresh meats there and have a regular trade built up.

Mr. Schuesselin was united in marriage with Miss Laudie Hunt, of Dayton, Ohio, and they have a comfortable home at West Milton. Religiously, they are members of the Christian Church. He is a Republican in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

CHARLES C. SCHULTZ is a prosperous farmer of Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, and is the owner of a farm of eighty acres located in Section 3. He was born near Harrisburg, Montgomery County, Ohio, October 21, 1867, and is a son of William and Sophia (Trost) Schultz.

William Schultz lived in Montgomery County, Ohio, until some years after his marriage, then moved to Newton Township, Miami County, where his death occurred in 1882, while he was still in middle life. He was buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Religiously he was a member of the Lutheran Church. He was a Democrat in politics. He married Sophia Trost, by whom he had five children, but two of whom grew up, namely, Charles C. and William J., who married Minnie Metzger. Mrs. Schultz formed a second union with Sebastian Holfinger, of Covington, and they have a son, Harry.

Charles C. Schultz first went to school near Vandalia, and after the removal of his parents to Miami County he attended school near Pleasant Hill, in Newton Township. He worked on the home farm until he reached his majority, then worked out by the mouth, his first summer being spent on a farm near Covington, and the second on one near Troy. After his marriage he conducted operations on his mother's farm for eleven years, then moved to his present farm, which his mother purchased for him and his brother. He later purchased his brother's interest. It was part of the R. M. Kaufman farm, and Mr. Schultz erected all of the buildings now standing on the place. He cleared eight acres of the tract, laid about 350 rods of tile for drainage, and has made other important improvements. He follows general farming, and is meeting with good success.

October 30, 1892, Mr. Schultz was joined in marriage with Miss Eva Reed, a daughter of William and Lucinda Reed, and they have one son, Omer, who is attending the common schools. In religious attachment they are members of the Christian Church. He is a Democrat in politics, and served two years as church trustee.

WILLIAM E. SHELLABARGER a venerable citizen of Covington, Miami County, Ohio, who is now living in retirement, was engaged in agricultural pursuits throughout his active career. He was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, November 30, 1827, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Randels) Shellabarger.

David Shellabarger, father of the subject of this record, was a farmer in Juniata County and resided there until his death. His widow later moved to Miami County, Ohio, and there formed a second marital union with a man bearing the same name as her first husband, David Shellabarger. She continued to reside there until her death.

William E. Shellabarger preceded his mother to Miami County by several years, coming west in 1851. His first year here he worked in Covington at his trade as a millwright, then for three years worked at saw milling. He continued this until his marriage, when he became a farmer. Two years later he purchased a farm of seventy-nine acres in Newton Township, which he improved and lived upon for a period of thirty years. He was a man of great energy and keen business judgment, and he added to his property until he was possessed of 172 acres. In the fall of 1886, he moved with his wife to Covington, and there has a fine brick residence and three lots on South High Street. He retained his farm in Newton Township until April, 1909, when he sold out to good advantage.

February 9, 1854, Mr. Shellabarger united in marriage with Miss Susan Mohler, who was born in Cumberland County Pennsylvania, July 21, 1834, and is a daughter of Rudolph and Elizabeth Mohler. She was about eight years of age when she accompanied her parents on May 2, 1842, to Miami County, settling on a farm at Sugar Grove her father had previously bought. They moved in wagons, the trip taking nearly three weeks. They had three vehicles, a wagon pulled by four horses, a wagon and a carriage. Both her parents died on the farm in this county and were buried at Sugar Grove. The subject this record and his wife became parents of the following children: Mary, wife, of George Saylor; Reuben, who died at the age of five years; Elias, who died at three years; Grace, who died when one month old; Rudolph, who died at the age of forty three years; Sarah, wife of Granville Minnich, who has charge of the Old Folks Home at Greenville, Ohio; Rolind Ellis, who lives on a farm in Newton Township; Levi, a bookkeeper who was for eight years in the post office at Manila, P. I, but is now a resident of Washington, D.C.; and Anna, who is the wife of John Goodenbarger, of Akron, Ohio. Reuben and Elias were stricken with diphtheria and died within one day of each other. Rudolph Shellabarger died in 1905 of lockjaw, resulting from a fractured limb. Mr. Shellabarger has long been an active member of the Church of the Brethren, of which he is a deacon. He was for many years and until recently a member of the board of trustees of that church.

JACOB B. STICHTER, general farmer and representative citizen of Newton Township, who owns one farm of seventy six acres and has a one-half interest in a second farm, of eighty acres, both situated in Newton Township, was born in Clark County, Ohio, August 18, 1850. His parents were Jacob and Louisa (Brown) Stichter.

Jacob Stichter was born in Union County Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio in early manhood and for some years operated a distillery at Medway, Clark County, in partnership with his brother. After his marriage he settled on a rented farm near New Carlisle and in 1856 moved from there to Miami County, buying 160 acres of land in Newton Township. It was then a poor property with no improvement on it except a little log cabin. He took possession of that and went right to work to clear up his land and by 1860 was able to build a comfortable residence and good barn. He did all the draining necessary on this and his other land, constantly adding to his possessions until he had 400 acres. He was a member of the Christian Church and was a man of many sterling virtues. He died in 1880 and both he and wife were interred in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. He married Louisa Brown and they had eight children: William, Mary, Jacob B., Amelia, Sarah, Frank, Rebecca and Margaret. Jacob B. Stichter, in his boyhood, lived one and one-quarter miles from the nearest school, which was at Pattytown, but he was willing to walk that distance as he was anxious to secure an education. He worked for his father until he was twenty years old and since then has been engaged in attending to his own affairs. For six years following his marriage, he resided on his father's farm in Newton Township and then bought the

farm on which he has lived ever since. He cleared almost the whole of the seventy-six acres and has all under cultivation with the exception of five acres of second growth timber. Recognizing the value of drainage, Mr. Stichter has put down about 1,000 rods of tile, and the large returns he gets from his land proves the practical value of the early expenditure. His farm is one of the best in Newton Township. He grows tobacco, corn, wheat, oats and hay.

In February, 1877, Mr. Stichter was married to Miss Mary Mullany, a daughter of Patrick and Catherine Mullany, and they have had five children, namely: Charles, who is assistant editor of the Dayton Journal; James, who is engaged in the butchering business in Kansas; Clara and Harley, both residing at home; and Stella; who is now deceased. Mr. Stichter is a Republican in politics and has served as turnpike superintendent for twenty-five years but has refused other public offices which his friends in the township have offered him.

EDWARD L. SWITZER, who very successfully operates his father's farm of 166 acres, which is situated in Concord Township, about four and one-half miles west of Troy, on the Troy and Pleasant Hill Turnpike Road, eighty-three acres lying on each side, was born December 11, 1873, on a farm in Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio. His parents, now living retired in great comfort at No. 213 May Street, Troy, are Levi and Sarah (Zeigler) Switzer.

Levi Switzer was born in 1837, in Pennsylvania, and was a boy of fourteen years when the long trip was made from there, in a great covered wagon, to a wilderness farm in Miami County. His father, William Switzer, settled about three miles northeast of Pleasant Hill, in Newton Township, and lived there for many subsequent years. William died at Pleasant Hill, to which he had retired, at the age of eighty-six years. He had accomplished the clearing of the farm, which he sold to his son, Jacob Switzer, who still owns it. He had four daughters and two sons, namely; Mary, who is the widow of Samuel Divens; Cassie, who is the widow of John Varner; Eliza and Sarah, both deceased; and Levi and Jacob.

Levi Switzer grew to manhood on the home farm and then married Sarah Zeigler, also a native of Pennsylvania. For some years after their marriage they lived on rented farms but later Levi Switzer bought the farm in Concord Township, from Nathan Frazier and resided on it until he retired from active life. His two sons are Jesse, who resides at Dayton, and Edward L. Edward Switzer was twelve years old when his parents came to the farm under consideration and this place has always been his home. He obtained his education in the district schools, after which he worked for his father until his marriage, when he took charge. He carries on a general farming line, growing ten acres of tobacco, and feeds considerable stock.

On November 12, 1896, Mr. Switzer was married to Miss Bertha M. Wilson, a daughter of R. F. Wilson, a leading citizen of this section. Mr. Switzer and wife have many friends. They are members of the Christian Church. In politics, he is a Republican.

J. M. SWITZER, who conducts the only establishment in West Milton devoted exclusively to the sale of agricultural implements, is located on Hayes Street. He was born near Pleasant Hill, in Miami County, Ohio, May 26, 1874, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Kunkle) Switzer.

Jacob Switzer, father of the subject of this record, was eight years old when he accompanied his parents from Pennsylvania, to Miami County, locating on the farm he now owns. He engaged in farming throughout his active career and is now living in retirement at Covington.. As a result of his marriage to Mary Kunkle, they became parents of seven children.

J. M. Switzer received his educational training in the district schools of the county, and upon leaving school took up farming, which he followed successfully for eleven years. November 3,

1906 he moved to West Milton and purchased the implement store of Minnick & Miller, located on Hayes Street. He carries a full line of agricultural implements and farm tools, and the volume of business transacted is exceeding his expectations and is constantly increasing. Mr. Switzer was united in marriage with Miss Vinnie Black and they have three sons, namely. Harry, who is attending school; Wilbur; and Harrold. Politically, he is a Republican. In fraternal affiliation he is an Odd Fellow.

HENRY CLINTON WHITMER comes of an old and well known family of Miami County, Ohio, and is the owner of a farm of eighty acres located three miles southwest of Covington, in Newberry Township. He was born at Pleasant Hill, Newton Township, Miami County, December 3, 1852, and is a son of Abraham and Mary (Deeter) Whitmer, and a grandson of Abraham Whitmer, Sr.

Abraham Whitmer, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and when a young man came to Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio, where he established the first blacksmith shop. He prospered there and became the owner of two farms near Pleasant Hill, each comprising eighty acres and adjoining. His death occurred April 11, 1908, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Hudson Gartley, at Sidney, Ohio, when he had attained the advanced age of eighty-eight years. He was married at Covington to Mary Deeter, who was born in Pennsylvania and was a daughter of David Deeter, who moved west to Montgomery County, Ohio, and settled below Wolf Creek. She was a young girl when the family moved to Pleasant Hill, where she was reared to maturity. She died in middle life, in October, 1877, aged forty-seven years. Abraham and Mary Whitmer were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart; Mrs. Hattie Ginn; David, of Piqua; Henry Clinton; Mrs. Lavina Gartley, of Sidney, Ohio; Joshua, who lives in Michigan; and Mrs. Annie Flinn, who is now deceased. When but a small boy, Henry C. Whitmer was taken by his parents from Pleasant Hill to the farm, where he was reared to manhood. He attended the public schools of that district and at an early age turned his attention to farming, which he has always followed. After his marriage he and his father-in-law owned a farm of 100 acres located two miles east of Pleasant Hill, in Newton Township, and he continued to reside there until 1901, when he sold out and purchased his present farm in Newberry Township. He carries on general farming and stock raising. Mr. Whitmer was joined in marriage with Miss Nettie Bashore, a daughter of William Bashore, who lived just South of Pleasant Hill. They have the following children: Mary, who is teaching school near Tiptecanoe City, and is a graduate of the Covington High School and for a time attended Juniata College, at Huntington, Pennsylvania; Minnie, who married Raymond Anewalt, of Newton Township, and has a daughter, Marie; Frank; Robert, and Esther. Religiously the family are members of the Church of the Brethren, in which Mr. Whitmer is a deacon.

WILLIAM W. WHITMER, one of Covington's representative business men, conducting a furniture store and undertaking business, was born at Covington, Ohio January 4, 1854, and is a son of John and Sarah (Lenhart) Whitmer.

John Whitmer was born, reared and married in Pennsylvania. In 1840 he settled at Pleasant Hill, Ohio, where he established a general store, conducting it for a time and then selling out in order to locate at Covington. Here he entered into partnership with John Mikesell and Col. J. C. Ullery and conducted a general store until 1860, when he returned to Pleasant Hill, and until he retired in 1873, was interested in a general store at that point. He lived into advanced age, his death

taking place January 2, 1907, when he had almost reached his ninety-fifth birthday. He married Sarah Lenhart, who died December 1, 1905, aged eighty-six years. They had eleven children. William W. Whitmer was reared at Pleasant Hill. In 1886 he first engaged in the undertaking business, and in partnership with his brother-in-law, J. A. Yount, bought out Fred Deeter, at Pleasant Hill. The partners continued together for four years in that line and then traded for a tract of land in Mercer County, Ohio, which they later sold. In June, 1891, he embarked in the undertaking business at Covington, and in 1902 added furniture dealing, having a partner in his nephew, R. R. Whitmer, although the business style continues Whitmer Bros. The firm carries a fine line of furniture, and for its undertaking business has every necessary equipment. Mr. Whitmer married Miss Flora A. Shephard, a daughter of David C. Shephard, of Darke County, Ohio, and they have four children, namely: Cora B., who married W. B. Lyle; Gertrude, who carries on a millinery business at Covington; J.P. who is a graduate of the Ohio State University at Columbus and is in business in Oregon; and Margaret, who resides at home. Mr. Whitmer and family are members of the Christian Church, in which he is a deacon. He is one of the active members of this body and for ten years served as church clerk. His fraternal connections include the Masons, both branches of the Odd Fellows, and the Red Men.

FRED ZIMMERMAN is a prosperous farmer and tobacco grower of Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, and is the owner of a tract of forty acres located in Section 23. He was born at Dayton, Ohio December 12, 1853, and is a son of Charles and Sophia (Trost) Zimmerman. Charles Zimmerman was born in Germany and lived in that country until after his marriage. Upon coming to the United States he located at Dayton, Ohio, where his first work was in helping to clean the canal and build the railroad. He worked by the day in the vicinity of that city for three years, then bought thirty acres of land east of Little York, which he farmed some years. He sold that place and then for two years farmed near Harrisburg, at the end of which time he purchased eighty acres in Newton Township, Miami County, of which one-half is the forty acres now owned by the subject of this sketch. He cleared some twelve acres of the land and made various improvements. He also was the owner of the Trost farm, which he later sold to Z. Pierce. He was a hard worker and prospered. His wife, who also was born in Germany, died in August, 1894, and he survived her about seventeen months. He died January 23, 1896, and both were buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. They were parents of the following children: Charles, Fred, Henry, Katherine, Joseph, John, Samuel Margaret, Mary and Emma. In religious attachment they were members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Zimmerman was a Democrat in politics. Fred Zimmerman first attended the Quaker school near Chambersburg, and afterward the Harrisburg and Fall Branch schools. Upon leaving school, he worked at farming by the month, being in the employ of one man for nine years. After his marriage he settled on his father's farm in Newton Township, where he has resided continuously since. He has remodeled the buildings and in addition erected a good tobacco shed. In addition to general farming, he has in from three to five acres of tobacco each year, and has been very successful with that crop. He has put in about 800 rods of tile for drainage purposes and has a well improved place throughout. December 20, 1885, Mr. Zimmerman married Miss Mollie Jennings, a daughter of William and Sarah (Karns) Jennings, and they have one son, William, who is unmarried and lives at the home place. Religiously, they are members of the Christian Church. He is a Democrat in politics and is a member of the Fair Board.

JOHN ZIMMERMAN, who is engaged in farming in Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, is the owner of a forty-acre farm located in Section 24 of that township. He was born in Butler Township, Montgomery County, Ohio, October 28, 1858, and is a son of Charles and Sophia (Trost) Zimmerman, both natives of Wittenberg, Germany.

After his marriage, Charles Zimmerman came to the United States and first located at Dayton, Ohio, where he worked by the day for about three years. He then engaged in farming in Montgomery County for several years, after which he moved to Miami County. Here he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Newton Township, where he lived and farmed the remainder of his days. He was also the owner of forty acres northwest of the home place, which he subsequently sold. Charles and Sophia (Trost) Zimmerman became parents of the following children: Charles, Henry and Fred (twins), Katherine, Joseph, John, Samuel, Margaret, Mary and Emma.

John Zimmerman attended what was known as the Quaker School in Butler Township, later the Inglewood School, and finally the Fall Branch School in Newton Township, receiving a good common school education. He continued to work for his father until he reached the age of twenty years, when he began working by the month for William Shultz. Returning home, he worked one summer by the month, and farmed on one-third share for two years. He worked on a farm near Troy two years, and served for a similar period as helper on a thresher. After his marriage in 1887, he was for a time located on his father's farm and then went to Darke County, where he rented and farmed for eight years. At the end of that time he returned to Miami County and lived four years on the Fink farm. He then farmed the forty-acre tract owned by his father for two years, at the end of which time he purchased his present farm from his father. There were but one and a half acres of timber on the place and this he cleared, and he also put in about 500 rods of tile for drainage. He erected all the buildings on the place and has a well improved and fertile farm. He follows general farming and has about three acres out in tobacco each year. He is classed with the substantial citizens of Newton Township and is one of the stockholders of the Stillwater Valley Bank of Covington. Politically, he is a Democrat and for several years served on the School Board.

June 16, 1887, Mr. Zimmerman married Sarah Luella Jennings, a daughter of William and Sarah Ann (Kern) Jennings, and they have had two children: Franklin Ray, who lives on the home place; and one who died unnamed. Religiously, they are members of the Christian Church of Pleasant Hill.

JOSEPH ZIMMERMAN is engaged in farming operations in Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, and is the owner of fifty-four acres located in Section 14 of that township. He was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, November 3, 1856, and is a son of Charles and Sophia (Trost) Zimmerman.

Charles Zimmerman was born in Germany, February 11, 1822, and after his marriage came to the United States. He located at Dayton, Ohio, and for some three years worked out by the day. He then bought a farm of thirty acres in Montgomery County but after a couple of years sold out and farmed on shares near Harrisburg for two years. At the end of that time he moved to Newton Township, Miami County, Ohio, where he purchased an eighty-acre farm. He was subsequently the owner of a forty-acre tract in that township, which he afterward sold. He continued to live on the former place until his death on January 23, 1896. He was married in Germany to Sophia Trost, a daughter of John and Dora Trost, and they reared the following children: Charles, Fred and Henry (twins), Katherine, Joseph, John, Samuel, Margaret, Mary, and Emma. Religiously,

they were members of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Zimmerman died in the fall of 1894, and both she and her husband were buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Joseph Zimmerman attended the Quaker School and the Inglewood School in Montgomery County, and the Fall Branch School in Miami County. He worked on his father's farm until he reached the age of twenty years, after which he worked out by the month for four years. At the end of that time he farmed the home place one year for one-third of the crop. After his marriage in 1881 he settled on a farm south of the home place and there farmed for a period of twenty-two years. He then purchased his present farm of fifty-four acres from John Cox. He has added to the house and barn and has made many desirable improvements throughout the place. He follows general farming and has about two acres out in tobacco. He rents out seven acres to others for tobacco raising. Mr. Zimmerman is a wide-awake and progressive citizen and takes a deep interest in public affairs. He is a Republican in politics, and has served twelve years as school director, supervisor one year and pike superintendent eight years. He also served two terms on the Petit Jury.

January 29, 1881, the subject of this, sketch was united in marriage with Miss Annie E. Jay, a daughter of Jonathan M. and Mary Ann Jay, and they have been blessed with the following children: Edna, who married Frank Zumbrink and has two children, Glen and Herbert; Meda, who is the wife of Lewis Slegle and has a daughter, Mildred; Jud C.; and Roxie. Religiously, the family attends the Christian Church at Pleasant Hill. Mr. Zimmerman is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Pleasant Hill.