

in motion on the Hamilton Hydraulic Canal. In company with James McGuire and George Kline he erected the first paper-mill in Hamilton, being the wrapping-mill now owned by John C. Skinner and William Tweedale, and this was the second mill erected in the County. On the completion of the Middletown Hydraulic Works, in company with his brothers, he erected a print and wrapping-mill,—the mills now owned by Oglesby, Barnitz & Co. All the mills named are still in successful operation. In 1842 he was appointed a resident engineer on the Miami and Erie Canal by the Board of Public Works, and for many years acted in that capacity. In 1873 was reappointed, and is now (1875) occupying the same position, and has charge of Division No. 3, embracing the entire line of canal from Cincinnati to Toledo, which includes its reservoirs and feeders.

SAMUEL AUGSPURGER.

The subject of this memoir was born on the 10th day of March, 1825, in Milford Township, Butler County, Ohio. His father, Christian Augspurger, with his family, moved from Milford Township, on the 1st day of April, 1830, to Madison Township, and settled on a farm of two hundred and fifty acres. Here he erected a distillery, and carried on farming with his six sons and six daughters. By good management and industry he acquired about three sections of land and a large personal estate. He died on the 4th day of October, 1848, and his property was equally divided among eleven heirs, and to the satisfaction of them all. He was born, in 1782, at St. Maria, France; he married, in 1805, Catherine Hunter. His occupation was farming a large tract of land near Strasburg, France. He conducted himself to the satisfaction of the government, and was presented with the medal of honor,—*Flower de Luce*,—dated October 1, 1814. This medal and document are now in the possession of his son Samuel. In 1817 he came to the conclusion to emigrate to America, to seek a permanent home for himself and his children. After crossing the Atlantic and the Alleghany Mountains three times, he settled in the Great Miami Valley in 1819. Samuel Augspurger was married, on the 20th day of March, 1855, to Eliza Holly (who was born, July 31, 1830, in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and came with her parents to America in 1832). Mr. and Mrs. Augspurger are the parents of seven children: Edward H., Otelia C., Frederic, Mary (dead), Albert, William B., and Otto. He now has possession of the homestead farm, also saw- and flouring-mills. He caused the erection of three turnpike roads, and a bridge across the Miami River. He is one of the largest stockholders of the Beckett Paper Company Works. The Augspurger family is one of the most numerous, wealthy, and conspicuous in this portion of Ohio. One hundred at least bear the name within the limits of this County, and all or nearly all live within the circuit of a few miles. Thousands of acres of the best lands of the Miami Bottom can be seen accredited to them upon the maps of Madison, St. Clair, and adjacent townships. Health, industry, frugality, and clear-sighted financiering are their predominating traits.

JAMES GIFFEN,

a prominent merchant of Hamilton, was born on the 1st day of July, 1812, in Milford County, Pennsylvania (now known as Juniata County). He was the fifth of six children, whose parents were Stephen Giffen and Mary Wiley. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania, were of Scotch-Irish extraction, and their ancestry were participants in the Revolutionary struggle. His parents were farmers by occupation, and passed through life as devout members of the Associate Reformed Church. His father died in Pennsylvania when James was about four years old, as he was about migrating to Ohio. His mother, with her family (her oldest son being about fifteen years old), soon after the death of her husband, started for Ohio, and settled in Fayette County in 1816, where, with her family, she remained about ten years. In 1826 she moved with her family to Butler County, settling in Hamilton, where she lived till her death, in 1850. She was a woman of great determination, energy, and courage, and a devout Christian. The subject of this memoir was early taught to labor, and his education was obtained under disadvantages and by his own exertions. At the age of twenty-one he began the trade of carpenter, which confined his attention for thirty-five years in Hamilton. On starting in life he was poor, but possessed a good constitution and healthy morals, due to the instruction of his pious mother. His progress in life has been steady, and he now ranks as one of the influential and public-spirited citizens of Hamilton. He was united in marriage, in December, 1835, to Margaret Stone, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Stone, who were early settlers of Butler County, and her father an active participant in the war of 1812, under General Harrison. Mr. Giffen joined the Associate Reformed Church at the age of eighteen, and is now a member of the United Presbyterian Church; and as a member of Dr. Davidson's Congregation, of Hamilton, has performed the duties of Elder for twenty-eight years. Politically, he is a Democrat of the Jackson kind, his first vote having been given for Andrew Jackson. In appearance Mr. Giffen is large and commanding, possessing a powerful constitution that no doubt is due, in a great measure, to his life of temperance and industry. He was County Commissioner from 1853 to 1861. He was at an early date member of the City Council of Hamilton, and again later. He is at present largely identified with some of the public enterprises of the County. He is eminently connected with the management of the Hamilton Cemetery, and Butler County Agricultural Society.

HENRY P. DEUSCHER,

a prominent manufacturer of Hamilton, was born, on the 24th of May, 1829, in Baden, Germany. He was the oldest of four children, whose parents were Michael Deuscher and Christina Scheurer. The father of Henry came with his family to America in 1832, landing first in New York, where he remained for one year. He then went to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he lived one year. He then, in 1834, came to Butler County, Ohio, and settled in Madison Township. He was at this time very poor, but lived till his death in Madison Township, in 1844, respected by all for his integrity and industry. His wife, the venerable mother of the subject of this memoir, is yet living at a good old age in Madison Township. Mr. Deuscher, whose life is here briefly expressed, was early taught to labor, and his education was obtained by his own exertions. About the year 1847 he initiated the business of butcher in

connection with a store in Trenton. This avocation employed his main attention till 1854. From 1854 till 1864 he was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He then leased his farm and returned to Trenton, where he resumed the occupation of store-keeper, under the firm title of Deuscher & Wannenwetsch. This partnership continued for about one year and a half, when a new firm was started with the title of Deuscher & Borgor, which was continued for two years. At this time Mr. Deuscher abandoned store-keeping and returned to his farm. In 1868 he bought out a distillery in Hamilton, and run it in connection with his farm for about three months, when he relinquished it and purchased a distillery in Collinsville, which he superintended till 1874. In this year he assumed a partnership in the well-known manufacturing firm of H. P. Deuscher & Co., of Hamilton, which at present with agricultural pursuits absorbs his attention. He was married in 1854 to Ellen Ball, a native of Butler County, Ohio. Politically, Mr. Deuscher is a Democrat, voted first for Franklin Pierce. In religion, he is in sympathy with the German Reformed Church. In the fall of 1862 he entered the army as Captain of Company G, 83d Regiment O. V. I., and remained with this regiment till the spring of 1864. A handsome engraving of Mr. Deuscher is found in this Atlas, and also fine lithographic views of his farm residence and malt-house, in Hamilton. He ranks high as a public-spirited citizen of Butler County, Ohio.

WILLIAM BECKETT,

son of Robert and Mary Crawford Beckett, was born in Hanover Township, in this County, on the 17th of March, 1821. He graduated at Miami University in 1844. In 1845 he came to reside in Hamilton, and began the study of law in the office of Hon. John Woods, whose second daughter he married in September, 1846. On his admission to the bar he commenced the law practice with Mr. Woods. It is a fact pretty well known in the Miami Valley that Mr. Beckett is possessed of a tongue, which, when engaged in conversation, works very smoothly and quite effectively; but he soon ascertained that when he rose to address a jury or a public audience that member utterly refused to perform its proper function, but rather "clove to the roof of his mouth;" thereupon he promptly abandoned the idea of practicing law, and took the position of a general business operator,—buying and selling real estate, manufacturing, assisting in the management of our hydraulic works, etc., etc. After the death of Mr. Woods, in 1855, Mr. Beckett, his executor, took his place as director in the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad, and also in the Cincinnati and Indianapolis road, known as the Junction. From that day to the present time, he has been an active and liberal supporter of every effort and movement to advance the interests and promote the prosperity of our city and County. He is largely interested in our manufacturing industry, and any event which would deprive our city of his efficient capacity and energy would be severely felt by the whole community. A fine engraving of Mr. Beckett, in the group of which his distinguished father-in-law is the centre, adds more interest to this sketch and also the Atlas.

LOUIS SOHNEN.

The subject of this brief biographical sketch, Louis Sohngen, a prominent manufacturer of Hamilton, was born on the 9th of February, 1824, near Frankfort, Germany. He was the youngest of six children, whose parents were Christian Sohngen and Margaret Erle. His parents were both natives of Germany, and followed through life agricultural and mechanical pursuits, and were always remarkable as devout members of the Lutheran Church. His father died in 1825; his mother died in 1847, in Germany. The early education of Louis was of a liberal nature; and at the age of fifteen he was apprenticed to learn the trade of cabinet-making. In 1848 he came to America, and landed first in New York, where he remained for about two weeks, and then came to Cincinnati. He remained in Cincinnati, working at his trade, for a period of about six months. At this time he took a desire to go to California, but got no farther than Louisville, Kentucky, from which place, in a month's time, he came to Butler County, and located at Bethany, where he worked at his trade for six months. He then came to Hamilton, and went into business for himself as a cabinet-maker. At the expiration of a year, he renounced cabinet-making and initiated the grocery business, at which, as a leading and successful merchant, he remained for about eight years. He now began buying grain and manufacturing malt. He has steadily pursued this occupation from an humble beginning until now he ranks as one of the first manufacturers in the Miami Valley. When he started in life he was poor in purse, but possessed ambition, morality, and a vigorous constitution. It will be in taste to observe that his wealth now is in the thousands. His life certainly stands out as one of success, and a bright example for the aspiring young man of morality and energy. In 1856, he was united in marriage to Elisa Schmitt, a native of Germany, by whom he is the father of ten children, eight of whom are living. Politically, he is liberal in his views. Voted first for General Fremont. He was enthusiastic in his admiration for Abraham Lincoln, and voted twice for the lamented President. In religion he is a Lutheran. Prominent offices in that body of Christians he has always more or less held. Socially, Mr. Sohngen is pleasant and affable. He is a man of intense energy and great determination, and has always, as a leading citizen of Hamilton, favored all public enterprises having for their object the benefit of the people of the whole County.

COLONEL THOMAS MOORE,

a prominent attorney of Hamilton, was born on the 28th day of July, 1821, in the city of Quebec, Canada. He was the youngest of four children, whose parents were Thomas Moore and Elizabeth Johnson. His parents were of Scotch-Irish extraction, were Covenanters in religion, and his father passed through life as a mechanic. His father died in 1828, in Erie, Pennsylvania, where he had been living for about one year. His mother is living now (1875) in Hamilton, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. The early education of Colonel Moore was liberal, and obtained by his own exertions at Miami University, from which institution he left in 1843. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a tailor in the town of Fairhaven, Preble County, Ohio, where he remained for about six years, following his trade. It was at the expiration of this apprenticeship that he went to Miami University. On leaving the Univer-

sity, in 1843, he began the reading of law under Governor Bebb, of Hamilton, and then for a short time under Hon. L. D. Campbell. He finished his studies under the Hon. A. J. Hawkins, at Eaton, Ohio, during the year 1846. Having at this time been admitted to the bar, he came with Judge Gilmore to Hamilton, and began the practice of law. This partnership continued for one year. From that time to the date of our writing this sketch (1875) the Colonel has, with but little intermission, continued the practice of law in Hamilton. He was elected to the State Senate in 1859, and was the first Republican elected to that office from the Butler and Warren district. In 1864 he was elected Colonel of the 167th O. V. I., and continued with the regiment during its term of enlistment. He was united in marriage, on the 16th day of April, 1844, to Mary C. Caldwell, a native of Preble County, Ohio, by whom he is the father of seven children. Politically, the Colonel is a Republican; voted first for General Harrison. Religiously, he is a Presbyterian. He has been a member of the United Presbyterian Church for twenty-eight years, and has been a deacon in that church for a number of years. The Colonel is a self-made man of the kind that our country's institutions are so well adapted to develop. He has always been a citizen of integrity of character and public spirit. His portrait is found in this Atlas.

WILLIAM W. CALDWELL, M.D.,

a prominent physician of Hamilton, was born on the first day of November, 1812, in Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He was the fifth of six children. His parents were of Scotch-Irish extraction, and passed through life devout members of the Presbyterian Church. The early literary education of the Doctor was liberal, and partially obtained at Dickinson College, Pennsylvania, from which institution he left in 1833. He at this time came to Ohio, and attended Lane Seminary (at that time a manual labor literary institution), whose course of study interested him for about two years. In 1837 he attended a course of medical lectures at the Ohio Medical College, having previously pursued a course of reading under Dr. Andrew Campbell, of Middletown, from which institution he graduated with honor in 1840. He immediately began the practice of medicine at Monroe, in this County, where he remained for about eighteen years. In 1858 he left a lucrative practice in Monroe and came to Hamilton, where he has since resided, practicing his profession. In 1838 he was united in marriage to Isabella H. Parks, a native of Warren County, by whom he is the father of nine children. The Doctor is a Democrat; voted first for Harrison in 1836. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Socially, he is pleasant and affable; is a man who has through life been a close reader and keen observer. He has always taken a great interest in education and our common schools as one of the great institutions of the land. It will be in taste to observe that society possesses in Dr. Caldwell a very useful member, and the general public an interested friend. He was elected County Commissioner in 1865, and served for three years. In 1872 he was re-elected County Commissioner, which office (1875) he holds.

JOHN WEIDENBORNER,

a prominent manufacturer of Hamilton, was born on the 18th day of September, 1830, in the Dukedom of Darmstadt, Germany. He was the seventh of nine children, whose parents were Lawrence Weidenborner and Mary B. Stanback. His parents were natives of the Dukedom of Darmstadt. His father passed through life as a farmer and mechanic, and died on the 1st day of December, 1839. His mother died in August, 1865. His parents passed through life as devout members of the Catholic Church. At the age of fourteen the subject of this sketch began life as a farmer, working for about nine cents per day. He was poor in purse; but during these early working years acquired, by his own exertion, through studying at night and leisure hours, a thorough education, which embraced a knowledge of the Latin classics. His occupation as a farmer in Germany continued till 1849, when he came to America, and landed first in New York. He stayed a few days in New York and then came to Cincinnati, coming by way of Hudson River, the New York Canal, and Lake Erie to Cleveland, thence by rail to Cincinnati.

In August, 1849, he arrived in Cincinnati without a penny. He now got work first as a cooper for a week, and then one week in a foundry. These pursuits were unsatisfactory, and he apprenticed himself to a shoemaker for two years. He remained, however, but six months, and left Cincinnati with just five cents in his pocket, and through a friend's charity found his way to Hamilton in 1850. He now succeeded in getting work as a shoemaker at two dollars per week,—his board costing one dollar and a half per week. His talents, however, could command higher wages, and it was not long till his salary was more than enough to support him. In the fall of 1852 he left Hamilton, and worked through Indiana and Illinois till the spring of 1855, when he returned to Hamilton and bought out his old employer for whom he had worked for two dollars per week. From 1855 till 1868 he manufactured and bought and sold in the retail way. From 1868 to present date (1875) he has been in the wholesale business entirely. As a wholesale manufacturer he carries on a large and lucrative business. He is now one of the solid men of Hamilton. The life of such a man as John Weidenborner carries with it a moral that should educate the youth of our land.

On the 5th of February, 1857, he was united in marriage to Annie M. Schneider, a native of Bavaria, Germany, by whom he is the father of ten children. Politically, Mr. Weidenborner is a conservative Democrat; voted first for James Buchanan. Religiously, he is an earnest member of the Catholic Church.

Mr. Weidenborner is a man of liberal views, and ranks high as a citizen of integrity of character and public spirit. A fine engraving of him is found in the Atlas, also a view of his business-block, one of the handsomest in Hamilton.

HON. WILLIAM E. BROWN,

a prominent banker of Hamilton, was born in Xenia, Ohio, on the 13th day of November, 1825. His father was a mechanic of moderate means, and his son had to obtain his education by his own exertions. He was early taught to labor, and at the age of seventeen was in Northern Mississippi as a tramping journeyman shoemaker. He subsequently passed eighteen months in New York City. At the age of twenty-one he com-