

menced the study of law in Xenia. He completed his preparatory legal studies at Dayton, and was admitted to the bar on the 29th of March, 1849. The following spring he settled in Hamilton, and was in very poor circumstances. Up to this time he had worked at his trade to pay expenses. Before the expiration of his first year's practice, in Hamilton, he had business enough to support him. He married the daughter of Robert Beckett in 1852. In 1855 he was elected an Elder in the United Presbyterian Church of Hamilton. He gave up the practice of law for awhile on account of impaired health, but has recently resumed it. He was elected President of the Second National Bank of Hamilton in 1870. Under his able management this institution has nearly trebled its business. It was, in a great measure, through his advice and direction that the handsome building of this bank (a view of which is found in the Atlas) was recently built. It will be in taste to say that the Second National Bank of Hamilton is one of the safest and most conservative banks in the country. A portrait of the Hon. William E. Brown is found in the Atlas. His features are well marked, and indicate coolness, amiability, and integrity of character.

HON. JOHN W. BENNINGHOFFEN,

a prominent woolen manufacturer and public-spirited citizen of Hamilton, was born on the 12th of March, 1812, in Wuelfrath, in Prussia. He was the oldest of six children, whose parents were John P. Benninghofen and Wilhelmina Reffeltrath. His parents were natives of Prussia, and followed through life the occupation of weavers of silk. At the age of fifteen Mr. Benninghofen had finished his education, and was apprenticed to learn the mercantile business. He remained at this employment in Germany for about fourteen years. He continued at the dry-goods business for about eight years. In 1848 he came to America, and landed in New Orleans. He remained in New Orleans long enough to change ship, and then came direct to Hamilton. On arriving in Hamilton, he turned his attention to peddling goods for about three years. He now began clerking for the Hon. John W. Sohn in his leather and brewery business, which confined his attention for about seven years. He then went into the woolen business as manufacturer with Asa Shuler, and has remained at this business ever since. The firm of Shuler & Benninghofen are among the first manufacturers of the West, and the first in Hamilton.

Politically, Mr. Benninghofen is liberal in his views, voted first for Franklin Pierce. Religiously, he has always been liberal. It will be proper to remark that his religious views are not circumscribed by the doctrines of any particular church. In appearance Mr. Benninghofen is above the medium size, and somewhat inclined to rotundity of figure. His head is large and his forehead very prominent. He is one of the leading public-spirited citizens of Hamilton, and his name will continue to be identified with the prosperity of Butler County.

CYRUS FALCONER, M.D.,

a prominent physician of Hamilton, was born on the 21st day of January, 1810, in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He was the oldest of six children, whose parents were Isaac Falconer and Nancy Wilkins. His parents were natives of Washington County, Pennsylvania, and were farmers by occupation. In 1812 his father came to Butler County and settled in Hamilton, his first occupation being the running of the ferry on the Miami. He died in 1840, having been through life a public-spirited man, and one whose name became identified with some of the public enterprises of the County.

The mother of the subject of this sketch died in November, 1854. The Falconer family figure in the history of the Miami Valley; and Captain Falconer, who fought in St. Clair's defeat by the Indians, was a member of this family; and Abraham Falconer, who was in Crawford's defeat, was an uncle of the Doctor. The early literary education of the Doctor was liberal, and completed at Miami University in 1827. He then made a trip on a flat-boat to New Orleans, from which place he returned in 1828, and commenced the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. R. B. Millikin, then a prominent physician of Rossville, and the father of the Hon. Thomas Millikin, of Hamilton. He continued his studies under Dr. Millikin for about three and a half years. In 1830 and 1831 he attended a course of lectures at the Ohio Medical College. In 1832 he was licensed to practice medicine by the Butler County Medical Society, and practiced till the autumn of 1838, when he attended a course of medical lectures at the Cincinnati Medical College, and graduated with honor in 1839. He now resumed his practice in Hamilton, and has continued to practice there ever since. He has been considered one of the prominent surgeons of the County. In addition to the responsibilities of his large practice, he has found time to more or less contribute literary articles on medical subjects to leading medical journals. Among the first of his articles was a treatise on cholera in 1833 and 1834. On the 8th of October, 1839, he was united in marriage to Mary Woods, the oldest daughter of the Hon. John Woods. She died September 18, 1870, having been the mother of eight children, two of whom were killed on the field of battle during the civil war. On the 1st day of February, 1872, the Doctor was married to Margaret McKee, a daughter of James McKee, a merchant of Wheeling, Virginia. Politically, he is a Republican, voted first for Andrew Jackson. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and has been for twenty-four years an elder in that church. The Doctor is a man whose life stands out as one of usefulness and influence for good.

HON. NEHEMIAH WADE,

of Ross Township, was born on the 19th day of August, 1795, at Fort Washington (now Cincinnati). He was the fifth of fourteen children, whose parents were David E. Wade and Mary Jones. His parents were natives of New Jersey, and passed through life devout members of the Presbyterian Church. His father came to Ohio and landed in Cincinnati in 1790, where he lived till his death in July, 1842. His mother died in April, 1811, and her remains lie under the First Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati.

The early education of Mr. Wade was obtained by his own exertions, and at the age of fourteen he began industrious pursuits. In 1815 he left Cincinnati and settled in Ross Township on a farm of four hundred acres. He has done a great deal to advance the interests of his Township. He was elected Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1840, and

held the office for twelve years. He was married on the 9th of October, 1813, to Margaret Wallace, a native of Delaware, by whom he had eight children. She died April, 1833. He was married in April, 1834, to Jane Anderson, by whom he has had one child. His second wife died in November, 1866. The judge is a Republican; voted first for Monroe. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and has been Elder in that church since 1828. The judge has always led a life of peace and influence for the good.

J. G. LONG.

This gentleman, who was the son of Arnel Long, was born December 15, 1815, in this Township. He received a good education at both the common and graded schools. He was reared to the pursuit of a farmer, which has been his chief occupation through life.

Mr. Long, at present, is the possessor of two hundred and sixty-four acres of good land, situated in this County, upon which he now resides; he also owns, in its natural state, four hundred and eighty acres of fine land near the city of Omaha.

The present location of Mr. Long's residence is very desirable. From almost every point of the compass the eye, unassisted by a glass, may scan views pleasant to behold; by the aid of a "field-glass," objects sixteen miles distant towards the south can be distinctly seen; fire-rockets, thrown in mid-air at Cincinnati on a favorable night, may be seen from Mr. Long's residence with the naked eye. Among the beautiful and interesting illustrations interspersed through this work may be seen a sketch of this gentleman's picturesque home. The gentleman of whom we now write is a good financier, and is assisted in his temporal affairs by an amiable and economical companion, who has acquitted herself nobly in not allowing "to run to waste" the accumulation of property acquired and under the control of her worthy mate.

On the 14th day of January, A.D. 1841, he being then twenty-five years of age, the nuptials were performed which made him the husband of Miss Hannah Squier. Four children have been born to them to make their home a happy one, and to more strongly cement the sacred union of their lives.

A son and daughter of this amiable couple are married, and both have families of their own. Hampton H. married the daughter of Mr. Henry Snively, of Wayne Township; Josephine P. married Philip H. Kumler, also of Wayne Township. The former is farming now in Wayne Township, and the latter is practicing law in the firm of Snow & Kumler at No. 7 Masonic Temple, Cincinnati. Mr. Long is a successful speculator, and is, besides, a stockholder in the Second National Bank at Hamilton. He holds the highest rank as a Mason, has a very large acquaintance, and is highly respected by all. He and his lady were among the "Knights Templars" who spent three weeks so pleasantly on an excursion to New Orleans, to meet an association of the "Grand Commanderies" of the United States appointed December 4, 1874. An epoch in Mr. Long's life occurred when at the age of ten years; he was one of those who witnessed at Middletown, this County, the breaking of the sod for the Miami Canal.

JOHN AUGSPURGER,

the fourth son of Christian Augspurger, was born July 31, 1819, on a keel-boat on the Ohio River, near Steubenville, at a time when his parents were on their journey from near Strasburg, France, to Butler County, Ohio. His parents had, however, been in this country previous to 1819. It was in the year 1817 when they first emigrated to Pennsylvania with their family, consisting of six children. The old pioneer located his family in Pennsylvania, and, in company with others, went farther west, and took a view of the beautiful Great Miami Valley, in Butler County, Ohio. Having satisfied himself that it would be much better for his children here than in Europe, he concluded to settle here. But as he was a great friend of society, and being in a strange country, with no friends or acquaintances, he again, in 1818, returned to Europe with his family. In 1819 he left Europe with his family and a colony of thirty-six families, among whom were his brother Joseph and family, and his second cousin Jacob with his family. After arriving in Butler County, the old pioneer bought a farm in Milford Township, near Collinsville, and settled there with his friends. Times then were quite different from now. Cincinnati was only a small town, and Hamilton a small village. There were no turnpikes, no canals, and no railroads, and no money to be gotten for anything outside of Cincinnati. Whisky was fifty cents a gallon, wheat twenty-five cents per bushel, corn ten cents per bushel, pork one dollar and fifty cents per one hundred pounds, and butter three cents per pound. Times, however, finally changed for the better, and with industry, frugality, and zeal he worked his way along. He was a practical farmer, and desired his children also to be farmers. He consequently kept buying land until he had a fraction less than two thousand acres, all in this County, the most of which his children and grandchildren now own. His children were six sons and six daughters. The names of his sons were, Joseph, Christian, Jacob, John, Samuel, and Frederic; the names of the daughters were, Catherine, Magdalena, Barbara, Mary, Anna, and Jasabene. The number of the descendants of the Augspurgers now living are about one hundred and sixteen, of whom there are about one hundred living in Butler County. A fine view of the residence of John Augspurger is found in this Atlas. The Augspurgers are remarkable for integrity, hospitality, and unity, domestic, social, and religious. In deal their promise is steadfast. The neighbor or stranger is alike greeted with open-hearted cordiality. In their families kindness and affection prevail. As relatives they are a band of brotherhood. Religiously, they are of one church and one belief, that of their fathers,—Mennonites.

JAMES C. BECKETT.

Butler County is remarkable for the many old inhabitants, the many pioneers, the many silvery old but active and reliable men that reside within her boundaries and aid in the material advancement of the County. Prominent among the names of such citizens is that of James C. Beckett, of Union Township, a brief sketch of whose life we present here. Mr. Beckett is in his seventy-sixth year of his age, having been born December 24, 1799, on Mill Creek, Hamilton County, Ohio. The father of James C. was John Beckett, who was an American officer in the Revolutionary

War, and after the close of the war was engaged in the transporting of goods, etc., between Cincinnati and old Fort Hamilton. In 1810 John Beckett settled in what is now known as Union Township, and from which time dates the residence of James C. Beckett in this County.

May 18, 1842, Mr. Beckett married Eliza Jane Baxter, who died December 16, 1871. Mr. Beckett has four sons, viz.: James M., William F., Charles K., and John B. James resides with his father on the home-farm in Union; while William, Charles, and John are managing a farm, consisting of eight hundred acres of land, which Mr. Beckett owns, in Macon County, Illinois. Five hundred acres of this land is this year planted to corn. Where Mr. B. resides he has five hundred acres of well-cultivated and improved land; it is well situated, and the buildings and surroundings are an ornament to the locality. Mr. Beckett has spent a great portion of his life in live-stock dealing and in real estate transactions, during the course of which he invariably exhibited a keen foresight, and a masterly business judgment which has honorably redounded to his pecuniary benefit.

HENRY H. WALLACE,

present County Auditor of Butler County, was born on the 30th day of September, 1824, in Milford Township, in this County. He was the son of John and Priscilla Wallace. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and his father followed through life agricultural and mechanical pursuits. His father was one of the first settlers of Milford Township. At the age of eighteen the subject of this memoir began life as a school-teacher, an occupation that confined his attention more or less for eight years. In 1853 he was elected County Recorder, holding this office for six years. In 1859 he was elected County Auditor, which office he held for two years. In 1862 he accompanied the 93d Regiment as Captain of Company C. On account of impaired health he left the service at the expiration of a year. In 1865 he went into the carpet and wall-paper business in Hamilton. This business engrossed his attention up to the present, when he sold out, the duties of County Auditor demanding his whole attention. He was elected County Auditor in 1874. He was married, in 1857, to Sarah J. Bacon, a native of this County, and a daughter of Edmund Bacon, an early settler of Butler County. Mr. Wallace is eminently adapted for the arduous duties of County Auditor, by reason particularly of his extensive business and official experience. Politically, he is a Conservative Republican. Religiously, his views are not circumscribed by the doctrines of any particular church. A fine engraving of him is found in the Atlas.

JAMES KYLE,

of Kyle Station, Liberty Township, was born in Pennsylvania, on the 17th day of September, 1791, and came with his father to Butler County in 1803, where he has since resided, and is now enjoying perfect mental and tolerable physical health, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. Mr. Kyle married Esther Clark in 1816. This, the first wife of Mr. Kyle, departed this life in 1832. She was the mother of six children,—four boys and two girls,—only one of which children is now living, a daughter. In 1834 Mrs. Elizabeth Conover was united in marriage to Mr. Kyle, and the results of this union are three children,—two sons and one daughter. Mr. Kyle's second wife died in 1865.

Through the many years of continuous residence of this pioneer in the Township of Liberty, what wonderful changes have taken place! What astonishing progress in civilization—in the sciences and arts—has not occurred during the busy and eventful life of this man! Here has Mr. Kyle resided during the time that the wild forests were giving way to settlements, settlements to villages and cities, all the country to the brand of the husbandman; trails to wagon roads, these to pikes, and all to the supremacy of railroads and canals. In a rich and thickly-populated country, and surrounded by comfort and all the conveniences of life, Mr. Kyle is enjoying the fruits of a life of usefulness and well-deserved prosperity.

WILLIAM R. COCHRAN,

Judge of the Probate Court of Butler County, was born on the 17th day of March, 1811, in Adams County, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest of three children, whose parents were William Cochran and Rebecca Morrow. His parents were natives of Adams County, Pennsylvania, were farmers by occupation, and passed through life as members of the Associate Reformed Church. His father came to Ohio in 1814, and settled near Glendale, in Hamilton County, where he lived till 1825, and then moved to Butler County, settling near Millville, where he died in 1828. The mother of the subject of this memoir died in 1839, near Millville. The early education of Mr. Cochran was very liberal, and in 1831 he graduated from Miami University. He now began the study of law in Hamilton, under the Hon. John Woods, and finally attended a course of lectures at Transylvania University. In 1834 he began to practice law in Hamilton. In 1840 he abandoned the practice of law in Hamilton, and resumed farming near Millville. In 1872 he was elected Probate Judge of Butler County. Politically, the Judge is a strong Democrat. Religiously, his views are not circumscribed by the doctrine of any particular church. A handsome engraving of the Judge is found in the Atlas.

JERVIS HARGITT,

present Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, was born on the 24th day of April, 1833, in Dearborn County, Indiana. He was the fourth child of Robert Hargitt and Jane Palmer. His parents were farmers by occupation, and his father was Mayor of Hamilton from 1854 to 1856. His grandfather, Thomas Palmer, was a native of Ireland, and was for twenty years Recorder of Dearborn County, Indiana. At the age of seventeen, Jervis entered a mercantile life as salesman and book-keeper for a dry goods firm in Hamilton. In 1856 he became a partner. This occupation engrossed his attention till 1861. He then went to farming near Middletown, in this County. In 1872 he gave up farming to attend to the duties of Clerk of Common Pleas Court of Butler County. He was married in October, 1855, to Martha A. Waldron, a native of this County, and a daughter of John Waldron, an early settler. In politics Mr. Hargitt is a Democrat. He is eminently adapted, by a lifetime of active business pursuits, for the responsible office he now holds.