

John Everett.

A man of business tact and judgment, John Everett, of Decatur, holds a position among the successful merchants of Adams County, and as head of the firm of Everett & Hite is carrying on an extensive wholesale business, dealing in fruit and groceries. A son of the late Dr. "William Everett, he was born, November 12, 1855, in Van Wert County, Ohio, of Scotch and English ancestry.

Dr. William Everett was born, about 1812, in Pennsylvania, and there grew to man's estate. As a young man, he turned his attention to the study of medicine, and after obtaining his degree he located in Columbiana County, Ohio, where he built up a fine practice. Later in life, Doctor Everett bought 160 acres of land in Harrison Township, Van Wert County, Ohio, and in addition to farming continued his professional labors, having a large medical practice in that and surrounding counties. He died at the age of sixty-five years, in 1877. Doctor Everett married a Miss McDonnell, who was born in Scotland, and when eighteen years old came to the United States with her parents, Gavern and Mary McDonnell, who settled as farmers in Columbiana County, Ohio, from there settling permanently in Van Wert County.

The doctor's wife preceded him to the better world, dying when but forty-five years old. Of the ten children born of their marriage, nine grew to years of maturity, and married, and seven are still living.

Brought up in his native county, John Everett acquired a practical education in the public schools, and was subsequently variously employed until entering upon a mercantile career. In 1890, he formed a partnership with Henry Hite, with whom he has been associated for twenty-seven years, the firm name being Everett & Hite. Locating first on the corner of Second and Madison streets, Decatur, these enterprising gentlemen put in a stock of groceries, and in addition to managing the store were for five years also engaged in the manufacture of hoops and staves. They carried on a retail business until 1914, when they moved to their present commodious building on Monroe Street, at the corner of Third Street, since which time they have confined themselves entirely to the wholesale trade, dealing in fruit and groceries. The firm, which has an extensive trade in both Indiana and Ohio, employs several clerks in their store, and keep a representative on the road.

Mr. Everett married Eliza Roop, who was born in Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1856, and there grew to womanhood. Her parents, Amos and Rachel (Croninger) Roop, life-long residents of Ohio, spent their last days in Willshire Township, Van Wert County, his death occurring about middle age, while she lived until 1880, dying at an advanced age, in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Roop reared seven children, of whom four survive. They were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and brought up their children in the same religious faith. Mr. and Mrs. Everett have one child, Ina, who was graduated from the Decatur High School, and is now the wife of Calvin Petterson, a prosperous clothing merchant in Decatur. Politically Mr. Everett is identified with the republican party, and though not an office seeker he has served for three years on the local board of education. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In religion he and his family are Baptists.