

The Republican:

A. B. SMITH & CO., Proprietors.

WAUSEON, JULY 9, 1874

A Brief Sketch of Fulton County and Wauseon, and Notices of Some of Her Prominent Business Houses and Professional Citizens.

The writer's severe sickness last week, and his prostration consequent upon it, will preclude an extended sketch of Fulton County and its county seat.

Shakspeare says "brevity is the soul of wit," but whether this aphorism is true or not, *brevity* will be one of the chief characteristics of this preface, if not its chief excellence. We shall endeavor to say much in a few words. *Multum in parvo.*

Fulton was detached from the counties of Lucas, Williams and Henry, and possesses a soil equal in fertility to any in Northwestern Ohio, and was organized in 1849. It has no points of ancient historical interest, but its progress in population and wealth has been very satisfactory. In 1850 its population was 7,781, and in 1870 it reached 17,789. Its population now will probably reach 19,000. The number of acres on the tax duplicate at this time, and outside of Wauseon, is 258,617, and its value is \$3,833,315. The chattel property, outside of Wauseon, is valued at \$1,075,580, and the value of chattel, in our place is \$88,820, and its realty at 153,896.

Wauseon was laid out in the spring of 1854, but the writer has been unable to procure the exact date of its incorporation. The town took its name from a celebrated In-

dian Chief of the same name and pronunciation its orthography being slightly different. The Hon. D. W. H. Howard contributed quite an intelligent and interesting article regarding this Chief and his half-brother Ottokee to this paper on the 12th of last March, and we refer our readers to it.

Wauseon is, in several respects, one of the most desirable inland towns in the Valley of the Maumee for residence. It is a healthy place, and its moral tone and the intelligence of its people take a high standard. It has four churches, which are well supported.

Nature has done much toward preparing the place for the enjoyment of its citizens; in fact, taking the whole surroundings into consideration, she has been lavish in the distribution of her beauties at this point. The scenery of our village is in many respects superb. The building sites are truly superior when we take into consideration clear, pure air and beauty of landscape.

The municipal officers of our village are: W. C. Kelley, Mayor; J. H. Brigham, Marshal; A. S. Bloomer, Clerk; H. B. Williams, O. B. Lyon, M. T. Palmer, A. J. Benedict, A. H. Smith and Cyrus Arnold, Councilmen. C. C. Greenleaf, Corporation Treasurer.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

A. H. Smith, Treasurer; Thomas Turney, M. H. Hayes and William Tedrow, Trustees.

Since the close of the Rebellion the writer has traveled considerably as a correspondent, often sojourning at a place for a fortnight at a time with a view to becoming acquainted with its commercial and manufacturing industries and financial standing—its educational facilities and church privileges—its moral status and the characteristics of its people—its thrift and enterprise—and sending to the Press for publication an account of what he witnessed and the impressions

made upon him. He has fully informed himself in regard to Wauseon, and he accords to it a superiority—all the elements of an inland town of 2,000 inhabitants taken into consideration—over many places of equal size he has visited. This is no, please flattery; and in a communication which he expects soon to publish in regard to this beautiful and flourishing place, he will give reasons confirming this statement. He will further add that the merchants and business men, generally and as a whole, of Wauseon, are favorably reported upon the books of Mercantile Agencies.

Now, a word in regard to the following notices of business men, and others, of Wauseon, and our prologue is finished—then the curtain may rise and the *dramatis personæ* appear.

One of the most glorious characteristics of America is, that it is a country that affords to industry and genius their speediest reward. Fame and fortune are here open to all who are willing to work. Neither class, distinctions nor social prejudices, neither differences of birth, religion nor ideas, can prevent the man of true merit from winning the just reward of his labors in this favored land. We are emphatically a nation of self-made men, and it is to the labors of this worthy class that our marvelous national prosperity is due.

This being the case, it is but natural that there should be manifested by our people a very decided desire to know the history of those who have risen to the front rank of their respective callings. Men are naturally cheered by the successes of others, and those who are worthy of a similar reward will not fail to learn lessons from the examples of the men who have preceded them, and who possibly bore in mind the language of the

poet:

"To thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as night the day—
Thou can'st not then be false to any man."

With the hope of gratifying this laudable desire for information, and encouraging those who may now be struggling with the stern realities of a business life and the vicissitudes of trade, the writer has occasionally given sketches of those merchants, mechanics, bankers, professional men, inventors and manufacturers, and their different callings, who have been the architects of their own success, including those who have just entered upon careers of prosperity and usefulness. These sketches have been generally embraced in his letters to the Daily Press, but they have occasionally appeared in papers where the subjects of them resided, and where they were well known.

In closing these hasty sketches preparatory to going to press, we will state that it would have given us pleasure to notice other houses and professional gentlemen in this issue, but we have already devoted a large space to them and must stop. Other and important notices will appear in our next issue.

Disciples of Blackstone.

The following gentlemen compose the legal profession of Fulton County residing in our place: W. C. Kelley, Naman Merrill, Amos Hill, W. W. Touvelle, H. H. & T. F. Ham, M. & W. H. Handy, C. F. Greenough, E. F. Greenough, E. P. Smith, and S. Shaffer.

Mr. W. C. Kelley, (at this time our respected Mayor) came to Wauseon, March 16, 1864, from Findlay, Hancock County, this State, where he commenced the study of law with a Mr. Brown, an eminent lawyer, bringing with him testimonials of the highest character as to talents, indomitable energy, pluck, and moral status. Mr. K. is an off-hand independent thinker and speaker, and his success here has fully sustained those most flattering endorsements referred to above. He has been remarkably successful professionally and pecuniarily, and is highly esteemed as a just and upright citizen. His extensive collection business has been with him a speciality and eminently successful.

H. H. AND T. F. HAM.

These attorneys and counsellors-at-law became residents of our town in 1870. They commenced reading law in Honesville, Wayne County, Pa., on the 6th of April, 1866. Immediately upon locating here they opened a law office, and in conjunction with the legal profession, they operated (and continue to do so) in real estate. They have built up an excellent reputation, and are successful lawyers. Elsewhere they have been spoken of, and at this juncture we will not enlarge this notice, though they are worthy of it. Success to you, gentlemen.

W. W. TOUVELLE,

commenced reading law at Celina, Ohio,

December, 1866, and was duly admitted at the Bar after the required course of study, and pursued his readings a year longer after his admission, before entering upon the regular practice of his chosen profession.

He came to Fulton County in 1869, and was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1872. He read law in the office of Hon. F. C. Le Blond, member of Congress from the 5th District, from 1862 to 1866. Mr. T. is a young gentleman of fine culture, genial manners, polite and affable, and is regarded here as a lawyer of more than ordinary ability. He is still a close student at law, and his readings have a wide range in literature and the sciences. He will yet distinguish himself.

HON. AMOS HILL,

This old and successful practitioner studied law with the Hon. S. E. Blakeslee of Bryan, locating in Fulton county over twenty years ago. In 1843 he was elected to the Legislature, and re-elected in 1870. He made a good record as Representative. He is an affable gentleman and good lawyer.

NAMAN MERRILL,

commenced the practice of law in 1860, moving to our place in 1863, and continuing the practice of law till 1869, when he entered into the Banking business with Maj. E. L. Barber. He still gives some attention to the legal profession. He could have achieved more distinction even, had he given his whole time and talents to the profession. He has filled several official positions with credit and honor. He is a successful financier.

We sincerely regret our inability to speak of the remaining members of the profession for want of the proper data. On a future occasion we shall take great pleasure in referring to these worthy gentlemen.

J. Q. Riddle,

HARDWARE AND AGRICULTURAL MERCHANT.

—One of the largest, most extensive and popular Hardware and Agricultural stores in Northwestern Ohio is now owned and conducted by the gentleman whose name heads this brief and imperfect notice.

This business man, whose success has been most signal and gratifying, embarked in business in Wauseon, in 1861, with W. W. Bowers, under the firm name of Bowers & Riddle. In 1863 he bought Mr. B's interests in the store, and since then has prosecuted the business "alone and by himself," meeting with a degree of success that has not been achieved or excelled by any competitor.

No one can hope to succeed in life merely by the force of his own genius, any more than he can hope to live without creating some influence for good or evil in the community in which his lot is cast. Success in life is not the effect of accident or of chance: it is the result of the intelligent application of certain fixed principles to the affairs of every day. Each man must make this application according to the circumstances by which he is surrounded. No one could have understood these principles which underlie the success of any undertaking more thoroughly than did Mr. Riddle at the very outset of his business career; and hence his marked success from the beginning, outstripping the eight different competitors who have appeared in the contest. The writer has been credibly informed that this house has always been the leading one in Wauseon, if not in the Northwest; and its success has been so signal that in 1866 the proprietor had to build an addition to his store building. Its prosperity continuing, in just five years

thereafter—1871—the old quarters becoming too small, the proprietor concluded to erect a fine business block with an area of sufficient magnitude, and having the requisite modern conveniences, to accommodate his rapidly increasing trade. This building he still occupies with a large stock of hardware and agricultural implements.

In conjunction with the regular hardware business Mr. R. has had constantly the agency of several kinds of Reapers and Mowers, but finding that the farmers generally preferred the celebrated "Champion," manufactured by Messrs. Warder, Mitchell & Co., of Springfield, Ohio, and believing it to be better made, more durable, and better adapted to the wants of the farming community, than any other machine of its kind in use or manufactured, he has made it his leading machine; and the result has confirmed his judgement, for he has probably sold more of these Champion Reapers and Mowers in Fulton County than have the agents of any two other machines. Mr. R. also sells the far-famed Taylor Horse Rake, as well as other kinds of rakes. He is agent, too, of the "Bryan Plow" and of other plows. In the course of a half hour's pleasant conversation with Mr. Riddle, the writer learned

that his whole aim was to keep the *best* goods in the market and to sell them at figures that realize him but a small margin of profit. He manufactures from tin, sheet iron and copperware, and keeps a large variety of stoves, including the "Fearless Cooking Stove" which has become famous, for it probably has no superior, if an equal. To enumerate the different lines of Mr. R.'s goods would not only be superfluous but foreign to our purpose when we set out to write a notice of this prosperous and justly popular house. Suffice it to say, that the proprietor keeps a full and general assortment of hardware and agricultural implements of the first quality, and which can be relied upon by his customers, and makes a speciality of heavy machinery, such as Threshing Machines, Shingle Machines, Boilers, Engines and Saw Mills.

Mr. Riddle is a good illustration of the general principle that effort, persistent and well directed, is sure to make its mark, and that success is quite as likely to come from good common sense, honestly and faithfully employed in a legitimate pursuit, though that pursuit be surrounded by difficulties and obstacles, as it is to be the result of genius, great talent, or some brilliant specific act of heroism or daring. In this country, though full of sharp competition and organized selfishness clamoring for triumph, there is room and opportunity for high achievement and permanent success, and these are vouchsafed to honest endeavor, temperate living, consistency and unwavering directness of labor, as they have been to the worthy subject of this hasty sketch.

His career is a perfect exemplification of Poor Richard's maxim: "Honesty is the best policy," and of the poet's declaration: "Nothing can need a lie." His interest consorted with his inclination, his policy with his

principles, and his business with the man, when he determined that the truth should be told over his counter, and that no misrepresentations should be made of his goods. He never asked, he would never suffer, clerks to misrepresent the quality of his merchandise: thus it is he has won the confidence of the public and gained for himself his brilliant success. We wish him continued prosperity.

N. B. We omitted to say that Mr. Riddle is the agent of several sterling insurance companies, including the following: Phoenix of Hartford, Hartford of Hartford, Home of New York, and other companies. He is doing a large business and is carrying a line of good risks. There are no better or safer companies in the United States than those he represents.

Hollister & Newcomer.

THE OLDEST AND ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE DRUG HOUSES IN WAUSEON.—This old and popular Drug House has run a successful career since its establishment in 1853, by Dr. D. W. Hollister, the present senior member of the firm, and one of the most successful practitioners in Ohio.

For sixteen years this house has done business in Wauseon—a long period, and though our country has, during this time, passed through several severe financial crises forcing into hopeless bankruptcy, business houses all over the land, this establishment has always held its own, though the very elements have conspired against it, until now it occupies a proud position, second to none in the Northwest.

The store is most eligibly located on Fulton Street, in a large brick building that has an area of 100x22 feet, and two stories in

height, and as you pass into it you are at once most favorably impressed. This firm is carrying a fine stock of drugs, fancy articles, toiles, perfumeries, and everything that the trade demands. These goods are as tastefully arranged that they give the store even an elegant appearance. Dr. Hollister's long experience as a physician has enabled him to properly appreciate the importance of pure medicines in the prescription department, and none others will this firm buy. The management of the business of the house devolves upon Mr. Newcomer, the junior partner, assisted by an efficient and gentlemanly clerk. Under Mr. N.'s regime the business from day to day goes on with the utmost regularity, order and precision, which fact characterizes him as a young gentleman of sterling business qualities and eminently qualified for this important position.

Dr. Hollister is giving his whole attention to the practice of medicine, assisted by Dr. Jones, who has recently become associated as a partner, and whose attainments and thorough culture as a physician Dr. H. well understood. Though Dr. Jones is comparatively a new resident of our town he has by his gentlemanly deportment and close attention to his profession, won the respect and confidence of our citizens.

Twenty-two years ago, before there existed a dwelling house in in Wau-seon, Dr. Hollister commenced the practice of his profession visiting his patients on horseback, and following simply trails through the woods. The Doctor assured the writer that he would often find all the members of a family prostrated and wholly helpless by malarious fevers. On such occasions he would have to be nurse as well as be physician. The farmers had a pretty hard time of it in those days. "Some of the

most pleasant days of my life," remarked the Doctor, "were experienced in those early days of my professional career, for I became accustomed to hardships, and my health was always remarkably good." We were much interested in the Dr's narratives of the many thrilling incidents which he has experienced since coming to this section of Ohio nearly a quarter of a century ago, and would like to lay them before our readers if we had permission to do so. Success to the Drug House of Hollister & Newcomer!

Barber & Merrill.

BANKERS.—Mr. S. L. Barber is one of the original proprietors of this place. He came here from Cleveland, Ohio, about twenty years ago. He is an independent thinker and prompt, and a thoroughly reliable business man and courteous gentleman.

Plaining Mill, Sash, Door & Blind Factory.

WALTER SCOTT, Proprietor. These popular mills were erected in 1866, by Messrs. Outshaw & Woodward, who had them in operation four or five years; but they were

subsequently purchased by Mr. Walter Scott, who has very satisfactorily, to the citizens of this place, built them up, and put them in first-class repairs. They are located on the south side of Elm street, and a little west of Brunell. They contain an engine of twenty-five horse power, and are doing under their present efficient management, an extensive trade. They contain much fine machinery and the owner, Mr. Scott, with a corps of from twelve to fourteen men, are constantly engaged in manufacturing sash, window-blinds, lath, doors, and other building material. He keeps constantly on hand the various kinds and qualities of building material and purchases lumber of the different kinds, in the log and board for which he pays the highest market prices. Last year these mills effected a trade by putting their productions into market, which aggregated twenty-four thousand dollars, and this year will equal thirty thousand dollars in sales. In these mills may be found the different grades of flooring, siding and shingles, for roofing, as well as a turning lathe. Their business is on the constant increase, and are becoming exceedingly popular, under the good management and fair dealing of their proprietor.

Boat Oar Factory,

Mr. M. Barron, Proprietor. The subject of this notice first came to Wauseon, in the month of January, 1858, from Bryan, Ohio, locating his factory on the southwest corner of Leggett and Branell streets, and in part of the same building occupied by Messrs. H. H. & H. B. Williams. He first began manufacturing oars in Ashtabula County, this State, sometime during the year 1858, having been in the business for a period of some fourteen years.

The material from which these oars are made, is in every instance, ash, and of the best quality, and the perfection with which they are turned out, make a demand for them far beyond the capacity of the mill to furnish. These oars are of such an excellent quality that the manufacturer receives orders from, and ships them to San Francisco, Sacramento, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, New Orleans, Boston, and very many other points, and informs the writer that he will turn out not less than two hundred thousand feet of them this year. He employs six men the year round, and pays out for material and hands not less than ten thousand dollars per annum. The machinery employed by this gentleman is of his own invention, the like construction of which is not to be found in any other oar factory on the continent, if in the world. It consists of one cut off saw, a machine for fitting the but of looms for laths, by the use of which one man easily fits one thousand pieces for lathe per day. Next is an improved cat-head lathe, with vibrating centers and knives, capable of turning out two thousand feet of sculls, (short oars) per day, the work being done by one man, whereas it takes two men on all other machines to accomplish the same amount of work. The little giant blade dressing machine, (which must be seen in order to be understood), is exceedingly novel and unlike anything we ever saw in use, doing its work rapidly and in a high degree of perfection, one man easily keeping up with the lathe. The peculiarity of this piece of mechanism, is the vibrating cutter-heads which dresses the blade of the oar, while it is hanging upon the same centers as when being turned, thereby making it in line with the loom and of uniform thickness, shape and width. As we above remarked, this ma-

chinery is Mr. Britton's invention, and an exhibition of his inventive mind. He is both inventing and adding new articles of mechanism to his factory, and as in course of construction a machine that will, when completed, add greatly to the interests of his business, and accelerate the velocity of manufacturing and preparing his wares for the market.

Mr. Britton is an upright man, an honest dealer, and we are happy to learn that he is reaping the benefits of a healthy business, and an extensive trade.

Livery and Sale Stable.

A. F. HOWE & SON, PROPRIETORS.—It is difficult to find these days a first-class turnout at many livery stables. If a traveler desires to employ one to go into the country, the rig he gets, is many times of the most ordinary character. Many times when men open a business of this kind, and go to the expense of buying good horses, fine carriages and first-class equipage, it soon runs down and becomes a third or even a fourth rate affair, but this is not the case with the livery establishment referred to above. Mr. Howe & Son have pursued their business for a period of seventeen years, their livery becoming better and better, as the establishment grows older.

They have fine steeds, elegant carriages, and costly and beautiful equipage. One of their teams is estimated to be worth a thousand dollars, and one that travels a mile in three minutes and twenty seconds. Their harnesses are of the best material and decorated with elegant and costly trimmings. Their robes are not excelled, and consist of coon, fox, wolf, cat and other costly furs. Their barn is finely located on the east side of Ful-

ton street, in rear of the bank, and is 70x40 feet, and the beauty of it is, it is thoroughly aired, swept and cleaned, and kept in the best order. These gentlemen are deeply interested in their business and pride themselves in its interests, and take every precaution to send out their rigs in the safest and most stylish manner. They have carriages and buggies, open and with top, and suitable for the accommodation of one person or more. They have one of the best and most thoroughly furnished establishments of the kind in this part of the country. They are doing an extensive business and are clever accommodating men.

Millinery Store.

MISSSES TRACY & GRAY, Proprietors. These ladies are eligibly located in the fine brick, Cheadle's block on the south side of Elm Street, directly opposite the M. E. Church, and their fine and well selected stock of millinery and fancy goods deserves especial mention. They are various and of the best and most fashionable quality, among which may be enumerated a large assortment of

fancy goods, ladies' hats, ribbons, niches, cuffs, collars, handkerchiefs, water falls, and a variety of the different grades and qualities of such merchandise, as is usually kept in well conducted establishments.

These ladies called the writers especial attention to their large stock of kid gloves, of which they make a specialty and which they dispose of at a very small profit. Their goods are all carefully selected, and are purchased at the best business houses in New York, Toledo and Terre Haute. Their patronage is regularly increasing, and with their well selected corps of help they find themselves unable at all times to accommodate their customers. Their sales are also encouraging and their business in a very healthy state. These ladies are not only experienced in their trade, but all their work is accomplished in the most modern styles, and finished with an elegance that meets with the approbation of their customers, and are seeking to excel in workmanship and are well worthy of liberal patronage.