

is a resident of Columbus, Ohio; and Franklin, who resides in Dayton, this state, being a successful carpenter and builder. Mrs. Larimer has been reared and educated in this county and is a woman of high character and ideals, presiding with grace and dignity over her pleasant home. At the beginning of their married life our subject and his wife rented land in Greenville township, where they remained about a year, when they took up their abode on the old homestead of Mrs. Larimer's father, the same comprising two hundred acres, where our subject associated himself with his brother-in-law in renting the place for one year, after which he decided to purchase eighty acres of the homestead, assuming an indebtedness of one thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. By industry and good management, and aided by the efforts and counsel of his devoted wife, Mr. Larimer has not only met all financial obligations but has also made many fine improvements upon his homestead, erecting a beautiful brick residence in 1879. All the barns and other outbuildings have been built by our subject and 2,500 rods of tiling have been put in. In addition to the home place Mr. and Mrs. Larimer have purchased another farm of seventy-three acres, which is likewise free from encumbrance. Their success has been notable and has been worthily achieved and in the community no family enjoys a more marked popularity and esteem. Mrs. Larimer has in her possession the original deed of the farm, executed August 14, 1834, and signed by President Andrew Jackson.

Mr. Larimer has always given his support to the Republican party and its principles, casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. He was a delegate to the state convention of his party in 1896, and has also

been a delegate to county and district conventions at various times. In 1890 he was census enumerator for Richland township and also served in that capacity for the census of 1900. Fraternaly he is identified with Lodge No. 742, I. O. O. F., at Greenville, in which he has passed all the chairs; and also with Jobes Post, G. A. R., at Greenville, thus keeping alive his interest in his old comrades in arms, whose ranks are so rapidly being decimated by the ravages of time.

#### HARRISON A. KEPNER.

It is always of interest to study the history of a self-made man, to examine into the secret of his success and to determine the qualities which have led to his prosperity. It is this understanding of the methods which have been followed and which have "led on to fortune" that have made biography, as Carlyle expresses it, "the most universally profitable and the most universally pleasant of all studies." Mr. Kepner, after long and honorable connection with business affairs, is now living retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned. For many years he was identified with the business interests of Arcanum, and his activity proved an important element in the commercial prosperity and progress of the community.

Harrison Augustus Kepner is a representative of one of the old families of Pennsylvania. His grandfather, Jacob Kepner, was born near Port Royal in Juniata county, and was twice married. He first wedded a Miss Gross and after her death married Sarah, Eliza Dupes, who survived him for some years. He died upon his farm in Pennsylvania about 1848. By his first marriage he had three children: John; Catherine,



*H. A. Kepner*

who became the wife of David Suloff and died in Patterson, Pennsylvania; and Jacob. The children of the second marriage were Elizabeth, who married Samuel Aughey and died in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, in February, 1900; Henry, who married Catherine Rice and died at Sandy Hill, Perry county, Pennsylvania; Sarah, who married Samuel Rice and died in Port Royal, Pennsylvania, where her husband also departed this life; Christina, a resident of the Keystone state, who married Jacob Hertzler, but is now the widow of George Heikes; Benjamin, who wedded Margaret Frankhauser and died in July, 1900; Polly, who became the wife of George Boyer and died in May, 1900; and Samuel, who died in July, 1900. He married Barbara Kohler and after her death wedded Carrie Dukeman, who also is now deceased.

Jacob Kepner, Jr., the father of our subject, was born on the old homestead in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, in 1806, and received a common-school education. In his native county he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Knawel, who was born near McAllisterville, Juniata county, in 1808. Some time after his marriage he located between Millerstown and Newport, in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and thence removed across the river to the Mitchell farm. Subsequently he purchased one hundred acres of land near Milford, Perry county, and there engaged in farming for a number of years. Upon that farm his wife died in 1880. Some time afterward he visited his son, Harrison, in Ohio, and upon his return wedded Mary Reisinger, of Ickesburg, Perry county. He spent his last years in Milford, in retirement from active labor, and died June 16, 1888. He was a staunch Democrat in politics, and in his religious

views was a Lutheran. Of his eleven children, Wilhelmina, the eldest, died in infancy; Edward died at the age of eighteen years; William T., who married a Miss Mayer, and after her death wedded Mary Clark, of New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania, and died at his home in Lima, Ohio, in December, 1899; Harrison A. is the next in order of birth; Margaret became the wife of James Hostetter and died in Juniata county, Pennsylvania; Martha died in childhood; Catherine is the wife of Howard Andrews, of Newport, Pennsylvania; John is a resident of Greenville, Ohio; Theodore makes his home in Lima, Ohio; Samuel died at the age of ten years; and Lloyd L. is also deceased.

Harrison A. Kepner, whose name introduces this review, was born May 14, 1836, in the old stone house which was the home of his parents at the time they resided in Perry county, Pennsylvania, between Newport and Millerstown. He was reared to manhood on his father's farm near Milford, acquired a good practical education in the public schools and at the age of sixteen began teaching in the Thompson Lock school. During the summer he attended the high school at Markleville and completed his education in the Port Royal Academy. He taught the Thompson Lock school for one term and then accepted a position as teacher in the Gilfillen school at Pfout's valley, in Perry county, where he received forty-five dollars per month,—a much larger salary than it was customary to pay at that time, but his ability to teach both English and German gained for him the larger compensation. He afterward continued his educational labors near Loysville, Perry county, and at Center, Juniata county.

Having acquired some capital as the re-

sult of his energy and economy, Mr. Kepner traveled west and visited Chicago, Iowa City and other points. He then went to the home of his uncle, Joseph Roush, in Lima, Ohio, where he was employed in a saw-mill for a few months. During those years, through practical experience, he had gained a good knowledge of the carpenter's trade, which he subsequently followed in Darke county through the summer months for a number of years, while in the winter season he engaged in teaching for eight years. It was in the spring of 1859 that he located in Neave township, Darke county, where he owned and operated a farm for three years. In 1867 he removed to Arcanum, where he engaged in hardware business with marked success for seventeen years. He also assisted in organizing the First National Bank of Arcanum and served as its vice-president until October 10, 1898, when he resigned, since which time he has lived retired, enjoying a well earned rest. He is a director and vice-president of the Troy Wagon Works, located at Troy, Ohio, and was one of the original incorporators.

In Neave township, on the 4th of September, 1859, Mr. Kepner was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Brumbaugh, a daughter of George Brumbaugh. She died in 1893, and on the 20th of February, 1895, Mr. Kepner wedded Miss Josephine Ivester, of Arcanum, who died in 1896, leaving one child, Helen Beatrice. There were three children born of the first marriage, but Willamina Alverda died in infancy. Clara C. is now the wife of Nathan W. Bloom, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Harry V. was graduated in the Arcanum high school and later entered Delaware College, in which he was graduated with the class of 1890. He afterward engaged in teaching for two terms in

the high school at Sidney, Ohio, was the principal of the high school at Pueblo, Colorado, for two terms, and resigned the latter position to become a teacher in the high school at Denver, where he is at present located; he married Miss May Fritz, of Holmes county, Ohio; and Bertha, who died in 1891, at the age of fourteen years.

Mr. Kepner, of this review, has always been a loyal and devoted American citizen, true to the best interests of the nation and unfaltering in support of its policy and its institutions. During the civil war, when one dollar in gold was worth two dollars and seventy-five cents in paper money, he converted one hundred dollars into greenbacks and also the amount he had received on his farm, having received payment for the property in gold. During these turbulent times he never lost faith in the government or its ability to redeem its pledges. In early life he took an active part in political affairs and during the campaign of 1856 supported Buchanan, delivering many campaign addresses through Perry county. He has always been a staunch Democrat. For several years he served as mayor of Arcanum, was a justice of the peace in Neave township for six years, and in Arcanum was elected to the same office in 1869, serving twenty-four years. In the early '70s he became identified with the Masonic fraternity, has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and is one of the active and exemplary members of the craft in this locality. He attended the triennial conclave at New Orleans in 1877; Chicago in 1880; San Francisco in 1883; St. Louis in 1886; Washington, D. C., in 1889; Denver in 1892; Boston in 1895, and Pittsburg in 1898. At the last named place he met with an accident. While attempting to board a street car or just after

he had stepped on, he was thrown violently to the pavement and suffered severe injuries, from which he has never recovered. Mr. Kepner has a beautiful home in Arcanum, which was built in 1887 and is of red brick. Amid pleasant surroundings he is spending his days quietly, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned. Through an active business career, as the results of capable management and straightforward dealing, he acquired a handsome competence, which supplies him with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. His record has ever been honorable and worthy of emulation, and he belongs to that class of straightforward, industrious and highly respected citizens who constitute the best portion of the community.

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#### GEORGE W. HILL.

A representative of one of the old families of Darke county, Ohio, and a leading figure in the business enterprise of the little town of Glen Karn, is found in the subject of this sketch, George W. Hill, the proprietor of Glen Karn Hotel.

Mr. Hill was born in Harrison township, Darke county, Ohio, November 2, 1852, the seventh of the family of nine children of Hugh L. and Elizabeth (Kunkle) Hill. Hugh L. Hill has passed eighty-three continuous years in this county, he having been brought to Harrison township when he was two years old. When his son, George W., was two years old the family removed from Harrison to German township, and on a farm in this township the subject of our sketch was reared. He was engaged in agricultural pursuits for a number of years. He then turned his attention to the merchandising business, which he followed for about

five years. In 1895 he built the Glen Karn Hotel, which he has since conducted, and in connection with which he is also running a grocery and livery and feed business.

November 7, 1877, Mr. Hill married Miss Ella Thomas. Mrs. Hill is a native of German township, and a daughter of S. S. and Caroline (Berry) Thomas, the former a native of Greene county, Ohio, and the latter of Jay county, Indiana. She was the second born in their family of ten children, six of whom are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Hill are the parents of six children, namely: Caroline, the wife of Harry H. T. Jones, a farmer of this county, and they have one daughter, Emel; Lulu May, who died at the age of three months; Herschel Thomas and Grace W., at home; and two died in infancy.

Mrs. Hill is the postmistress at Glen Karn, and is assisted in the duties of the office by her husband. Both are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hollansburg, in which he is a deacon and an active worker. Politically he gives his support to the Republican party.

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#### FREDERICK COPPESS.

While great credit is justly due to those who have aided in the progress and magnificent development of these latter days, it was upon the pioneers that the greater responsibility was placed; theirs the greater obstacles to overcome; theirs to lay the foundations and to initiate the work whose results have been cumulative and have conserved the material prosperity of our nation. One of the honored pioneers of historic old Darke county is he whose name forms the caption of this article, and it is with much satisfaction that we direct attention to his career in this con-