

WILLIAM J. BIRELEY

was born in Frederick county, Maryland, in 1812, and died suddenly in Adams township, Darke county, Ohio, several years ago. He was the son of John and Barbara Bireley. John was born in the first county above named and Barbara was born in Hagerstown, Maryland. Her maiden name was Brindle. The grandfather, John Bireley, was born in Saxony and emigrated to this country before the Revolutionary war. The grandmother was from Wurtemberg, Germany, and also came to this country prior to the Revolutionary war. Mr. Bireley's father came to Lancaster, Ohio, in the spring of 1822 and in the fall following went to Montgomery county, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1827. Mr. Bireley, the subject of this sketch, came to Darke county, October 15, 1830, and located in Greenville. He carried on the boot and shoe business for William Martin, Sr., and continued with him about five months, when he returned to his mother, in Montgomery county, where he remained until 1833, when, on January 24th, of the same year, he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Martin, daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth Martin, Sr. They were born at Sewickley, Pennsylvania, came to Ohio in 1814, and located in Butler county in 1815, settling about five miles east of Greenville. After raising a large family of children they moved to Greenville, where they lived and died. Mr. Bireley, in May, 1833, came back to Greenville and entered upon the manufacture of earthenware, which occupation he followed for twenty-eight years, doing an extensive business. He then bought a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, one mile out of the corporation of Greenville,

and in 1851 he moved his family to this farm. In 1858 he sold this farm and bought another, five miles east of Greenville, upon which several quarries of limestone were located. He engaged in the manufacture of lime and continued at this business until January, 1880, when he rented the place to Martin Smith and Emanuel Hershey for five years, receiving four hundred dollars yearly, or two thousand dollars for the five years. In 1870 Mr. Bireley moved from the farm into Greenville, where he resided for a number of years, or until the expiration of the above lease, when he moved back on the farm, where he resided at the time of his death, and where his widow now resides with her daughter, Mary R. Mr. Bireley was the father of ten children, seven of whom are now living: Henry P., Elizabeth E., William W., Barbara C., Harry H., Wade G., all married and settled in life, and Mary R., the youngest, who remains at home with her mother. Mr. Bireley united with the Methodist Episcopal church in 1835, lived a consistent Christian life and the record he has left here upon the pages of time is surely a worthy example for all future generations to follow.

JOHN WHARRY.

John Wharry, surveyor, lawyer and judge, Greenville, Ohio, was born in what is now Juniata county, Pennsylvania, November 27, 1809. His parents were James and Margaret (Crone) Wharry, the former born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, July 30, 1780, the latter in Frederick county, Maryland, February 7, 1780. They came to Ohio in 1810, and after spending two years in Butler county, settled in Columbus, in December, 1812, at which time there were only three log cabins on

the present site of that city. In the summer of 1812 he was a member of General Findley's regiment that was sent to Detroit to assist General Hull, but he was taken sick on the march and was compelled to return home. His occupation was that of a carpenter, and he made the desks for the first state house in the city of Columbus. He died in that city March 19, 1820. His widow died in Richmond, Indiana, in May, 1848. In 1824 our subject, then a lad of fifteen years of age, came to Greenville, Ohio, and for several years was engaged as a store clerk. He obtained a very fair mathematical education, with some knowledge of Latin. By assisting at the work of surveying and by personal application he obtained sufficient knowledge to become a practical surveyor, and engaged in this business from 1831 to 1851, for most of which time he filled the position of county surveyor. In the fall of 1851 he was elected probate judge of Darke county and served three years. In the spring of 1855 he was admitted to the practice of law, having previously read under the late Judge John Beers, of Greenville, Ohio. April 21, 1838, he married Miss Eliza Duncan, of Warren county, Ohio, who bore him ten children. Mrs. Wharry died December 6, 1868. Until the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, in 1854, Judge Wharry was a Jacksonian Democrat, but from that time until his death he was a Republican. He was endowed with a remarkable memory and at the time of his death had, doubtless, the best recollection of early events of any man in Darke county. He was a member of the County Pioneer Association. For thirty years he had been connected with the Presbyterian denomination. He was one of the best draftsmen in the county, and an excellent penman, his records in the depart-

ment of the interior, in Washington city, being pronounced unexcelled. He was a fine surveyor, a good legal counselor, a superior business man, and a much respected citizen. Two of his sons served through the late war—James Wharry as captain and Kenneth as assistant surgeon.

D. H. R. JOBES.

D. H. R. Jobes, lawyer, judge of probate and teacher, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, September 14, 1829, and died in Greenville, Ohio, January 13, 1877. He was a man of noble traits of character. His parents being poor he was early thrown upon his own resources, but by a faithful improvement of limited privileges obtained a good English education, and for a number of years followed the occupation of a teacher. In October, 1857, he was elected probate judge of Darke county and served nine years, during which time he devoted his spare time to reading law under the direction of D. L. Meeker, of Greenville, Ohio, and was admitted to practice in January, 1867. He formed a partnership with his preceptor and so continued until 1872. On January 1, 1875, he formed a law partnership with C. M. Anderson, of Greenville, which was dissolved by the death of Mr. Jobes. He was cut down in the meridian of life, and in the height of the practice of his profession. His death was the occasion of an unusually cordial action on the part of the members of the Greenville bar, in resolutions and speeches expressive of deep regret at his demise, tender sympathy for his bereaved family, and exalted appreciation of his moral worth. On this occasion, among other remarks, J. R. Knox, Esquire, said: "During the nine years of service as probate judge, I had frequent occasion to ap-