

honesty. About 1835, with a small capital, he began business in Piqua, Ohio, but the financial crisis of 1836-37 swept away every dollar he possessed. Nothing daunted, however, he soon began again in Covington, Miami county, where he prospered and became leader in the public affairs of the community. In 1847 he was elected on the Whig ticket to the general assembly of Ohio and acquitted himself with credit. In the fall of 1848 he located in Greenville and opened the first hardware store of the place. In 1856 he purchased the Dayton Paper Mills and for seven years conducted a thriving business in that city. In 1863 he returned to Greenville, resumed the hardware trade and in January, 1866, became one of the organizers of the Farmers' National Bank of Greenville and president of the same, remaining such until his decease. He was prominently active in the local enterprises of the community and his generosity was as universal as mankind, with a heart ever open and hand ever extended to relieve the necessities of the poor and unfortunate. He possessed a fine literary and scientific taste and had a very fair education; was a good conversationalist, excelled as a writer and contributed a number of timely articles to the public press of the day. The guiding principle of his life was the golden rule and he practiced its teachings in his daily business. Ever industrious and careful, he accumulated a large competency, provided well for his family and was respected by all who knew him. In his death this community suffered the loss of a good financier and a worthy citizen.

W. M. WILSON.

William Martin Wilson, lawyer, judge and legislator, was born near Mifflin, Juniata

county, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1808, and died in Greenville, Ohio, June 15, 1864. His parents were Thomas Wilson and Jane Martin and in 1811 they came to Ohio, passed about a year in Fairfield county, and in 1812 settled in Butler county, where Mr. Wilson was raised. He was educated in Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, studied law with the late Hon. Jesse Corwin, of Hamilton, Ohio, was admitted to the bar in 1832 and then began practice in that place. In the fall of 1835 he located in Greenville and at once took a leading position as a lawyer. For a number of years he served as prosecuting attorney of Darke county. On September 19, 1837, he married Miss Louise Dosey, of Greenville, Ohio. She was born in Butler county April 23, 1815, and died August 2, 1856. In December, 1837, he started the Darke County Advocate, which, with a change of name, is now the Greenville Journal. In October, 1840, he was elected auditor of Darke county and was twice re-elected, thus serving six years. In the fall of 1846 he was elected to the Ohio senate, from the district composed of the counties of Darke, Miami and Shelby, and held the seat two years, during which time he rose to a very prominent position in that body, and came within one vote of being elected state auditor, having already gained the reputation of being one of the most efficient county auditors in the state. This one lacking vote he could have supplied by voting for himself, a thing which his manly modesty forbade. In the fall of 1856 he was appointed by Governor Chase as common pleas judge of the first subdivision of the second judicial district of Ohio to fill a vacancy. His decisions were distinguished for great research and ability. Being too old to enter the service during the war for the Union,

he was, nevertheless, as a member of the military committee of his district, an active and earnest supporter of the government. He stood for many years at the head of the Greenville bar and was regarded as one of the best jurists in Ohio, and by his moral worth gave a higher character to the profession. He was a man of unusually quiet and retiring disposition; his words were few, but well chosen, and his sarcasm and repartee were like a flash of lightning on an opponent. At the same time he bore a heart of the warmest and tenderest sympathies. For a number of years he held the office of elder in the Presbyterian church of Greenville. He lived and died an honest, upright man, in whom, as friend, neighbor and citizen, the community had the fullest confidence.

THOMAS DUNCAN STILES.

This gentleman, physician, surgeon and legislator, at Fort Jefferson, Darke county, Ohio, was born near Carlisle, Pennsylvania, August 6, 1809. His father was Edward James Stiles, and his mother, Ann Stiles, was a daughter of Thomas Duncan, who for many years was one of the supreme judges of the state. In his early days our subject attended school at Carlisle and was then admitted to Mount St. Mary's College, near Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he spent nearly three years. During this time Rev. Eagan McGeary and Rev. John B. Purcell were presidents. He subsequently entered a military school at Mount Airy, Germantown, Pennsylvania, taught by Colonel A. L. Roumfort, where he remained until he was appointed a cadet to the military academy at West Point. Remaining there for over two years, he returned to Carlisle, commenced the study of medicine under Dr. D.

N. Mahon and attended medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania. After completing his medical studies he located at Nashville, Tennessee, where he remained about eighteen months, and then went as surgeon on the whale-ship North America, of Wilmington, Delaware, which vessel, after an eight-months cruise, was lost on the coast of Australia. After the wreck of this vessel he made his way to China and engaged in the opium trade about two years, when he returned to the United States. Finding his mother dead and his home broken up, he again went on a voyage to Montivideo, in South America. On the arrival of the vessel at that port he quarreled with his captain, left the vessel and went to Buenos Ayres. Finding that country engaged in war with Montivideo he entered the army as a captain, but not having received the stipulated salary he resigned, and returning to Montivideo entered the naval service of that country. Finding the prospects of payment no better than before, he withdrew and returned to the United States in the sloop of war Decatur, under command of Captain, afterward Admiral, Farragut. After spending a few months with his friends in Philadelphia he went to the Rocky mountain country, and for more than a year was engaged in trading with the Indians. Returning to the United States he resumed the practice of medicine near the mouth of Red river, in the state of Louisiana, but finding the climate injurious to his health he remained but a short time, and in 1843 came to Ohio, settling at Fort Jefferson, Darke county, where he resided until his death, which occurred several years ago, with the exception of a few years passed in Lewisburg, Preble county. While in Lewisburg he served in the capacity of mayor, and upon his return to