

HISTORY
OF
INDIANAPOLIS
AND
MARION COUNTY,
INDIANA.

BY
B. R. SULGROVE.

ILLUSTRATED.

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1884.



E. Howland

ELISHA J. HOWLAND.

Mr. Howland is of English extraction, and the grandson of Elisha Howland, who was a native of Rhode Island, and when seventeen years of age emigrated to Saratoga County, N. Y. He married a Miss Powell and had six children, all of whom survive, with the exception of Powell, who was born Oct. 16, 1799, in Saratoga County, and removed to Indiana in 1839. He married, in 1818, Miss Tamma Morris, of Saratoga County, and in 1823, Miss Mahala Thurber. To the first marriage were born two children, and to the second five, among whom was Elisha J., whose birth occurred in Saratoga County, Nov. 30, 1826, where he remained until thirteen years of age. He then with his father removed to Indiana, and was until eighteen years of age a pupil of the public school, after which for two years he enjoyed the advantages of the Marion County Seminary, in Indianapolis. His attention was then turned to the cultivation of the homestead farm, a part of which became his by division on attaining his majority. He has since that time continued farming of a general character, combined with stock-raising, and has met with success in his vocation. He shares his father's love of horticultural pursuits, and has devoted much time and attention to the subject. He is a member of both the State and County Horticultural Societies. In politics Mr. Howland is an ardent Democrat, and was in 1882 elected to the State Legislature, where he served on the committees on Reformatory Institutions and Fees and Salaries, and was chairman of the former. He has ever manifested much public spirit, been active in the furtherance of all public improvements, and the promoter of various schemes for the welfare of the county of his residence and the good of the public. Mr. Howland was married, in 1851, to Miss Margaret E., daughter of Nineveh Berry, one of the earliest settlers in the State, who was born in Clark County, and removed to Anderson, Madison Co., before the government survey was made. He held many prominent offices, and was one of the original surveyors who laid out the lands of the State in behalf of the government. His death occurred Aug. 17, 1883, in his eightieth year. Mr. and Mrs. Howland

have children,—Charles B., Elizabeth M., James E., Margaret M., Julia H., and one who died in childhood. He was a member of the Ebenezer English Lutheran Church, in which he has been both an elder and a deacon. Mrs. Howland is also a member of the same church.

JOHN G. BROWN.

John G. Brown, who was of Scotch-Irish descent, was born in Charleston, S. C., June 23, 1785. He received in youth a fair English education, and in early manhood emigrated to Kentucky. He was, on the 17th of October, 1810, married to Eliza M. Barnett, to whom were born four children,—Juliet D., Eliza Jane (Mrs. L. W. Monson), Emeline A. (Mrs. J. L. Mothershead), and Alexander M. Mrs. Brown died in September, 1820, and he was again married in October, 1821, to Mrs. Mary C. Todd, *née* Winston, who was of English lineage and the daughter of James Winston, a soldier of the Revolution, and his wife, Sarah. Mrs. Brown was born in Louisa County, Va., in 1791, and was a lady of much refinement and culture. On her marriage to Mr. Brown she was the widow of Dr. Henry Todd, of Bourbon County, Ky. Her death occurred in May, 1859. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Brown are Mary T. (Mrs. Stephen D. Tomlinson), James Winston, Margaret M. (Mrs. W. T. Sprole), and Caroline S. James W. and Margaret M. are the only survivors of all Mr. Brown's children, the former having come, when but eighteen months old, with his father to Indianapolis. He is consequently among its earliest settlers.

Mr. Brown, while a resident of Kentucky, engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods, which business was continued until his removal to Indiana in the fall of 1825. His strong convictions on the slavery question induced his removal from Kentucky. Believing that all men were created free and equal and entitled to the blessings that freedom confers, both he and Mrs. Brown liberated their slaves and removed to a free State. About the year 1830 he formed a copartnership with W. H. Morrison for the purpose of conducting a general mercantile business, which was continued until his death, with the addi-



Morris Howland

and one and a quarter miles from any settler's cabin, he suddenly came upon a pack of wolves snarling over a wounded deer that they had just caught. It was an unpleasant situation for a boy of twelve years to find his only pathway blocked by fifteen or twenty hungry wolves; but he kept his presence of mind, and, passing around through the brushwood on one side as rapidly and silently as possible, escaped from the beasts, and reached his father's house in safety. Many a night in his boyhood he spent at the old Bayou, and Patterson's, and Bacon's mills, waiting for his grist to be ground. His educational advantages were very limited, attending only the winter schools of the pioneer days, taught by teachers of very meagre capacity and attainments. The spring and summer seasons were spent in attending to the crops and helping to clear land.

Having passed the early years of his life in this manner, he, at the age of twenty-two years, commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Benjamin S. Noble, of Greenwood, Johnson Co., and entered into partnership with him in the spring of 1840, which partnership continued for ten years. He was married to Harriet N. Moreland, daughter of the Rev. John R. Moreland, the second pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis. They had nine children born to them,—four sons and five daughters. The first four, one son and three daughters, died in infancy and childhood. The others are living, viz.: Dr. William N., of the City Hospital of Indianapolis; Albert W., an attorney of the city; Dr. George W., of Indianapolis; Harriet J.; and Elizabeth.

During the war of 1861-65, Dr. Wishard served two years as a volunteer surgeon, after which he commenced the practice of medicine in the neighborhood where his early years were passed, and where from the first he had a large practice. In October, 1876, he was elected coroner of the county and removed from Southport to Indianapolis, where he has remained ever since. After serving four years as coroner he returned to the practice of medicine, which, however, he had not entirely relinquished. He is now in the sixty-ninth year of his age, and in full vigor for one of his years. He has practiced medicine in Morgan, Johnson, and Marion Counties

longer than any man now living in the county, and still holds a large practice, after forty-four years of service as a physician.

MORRIS HOWLAND.

Mr. Howland, who is the grandson of Elisha Howland, and the son of Powell Howland, was born on the 30th of January, 1823, in Saratoga County, N. Y., where he resided until sixteen years of age, and received such advantages of education as the neighboring schools afforded. His father having determined to leave the Empire State for the unsettled West, his son Morris started on the 25th of September, 1839, with a pair of horses and a wagon for Indianapolis, reaching his destination after a journey of forty-two days. The family on their arrival located in Centre township, where Morris remained four years, after which he engaged in flat-boating at points between Cincinnati and New Orleans. In 1844 he embarked in business near Evansville, Ind., and on abandoning this enterprise made an extensive tour by steamboat and on horseback through many of the States of the Union, with a view to pleasure and an intelligent comprehension of the extent and resources of the country. On returning in 1845, he, on the 22d of January of that year, married Miss Susan Marquis, of Perry township, Marion Co., and settled in the last-named township, where he became a farmer. The children of this marriage are Sarah (Mrs. F. S. Turk) and Mary (Mrs. John Epler). Mrs. Howland died in August, 1852, and he was again married on the 22d of February, 1854, to Miss Jane Gentle, who was of Scotch descent, and a resident of the same township. Their children are Powell, Lida, and Minnie. Mr. Howland has principally engaged in farming and stock dealing, in which he has been signally successful. He has been actively interested in developing the resources of his county and township, and constructed the first gravel road in the county, of which he is still president. He is a member of the Wool-Growers' Association, and of the Short-Horn Breeders' Association, and actively interested in the subject of horticulture. He was in

politics a Democrat until the introduction of the Kansas-Nebraska bill in 1854, when a disapproval of the measures adopted by the party induced him to cast his vote with the Republicans. He has been actively interested in the success of his party, and participated in various local campaigns, though not an aspirant for the honors which it confers. Though repeatedly declining official positions of importance, he has held various offices in the township, among which may be mentioned that of justice of the peace. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and connected with Southport Lodge, No. 270, of that order. Mr. Howland is an active member and one of the founders of the Southport Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has been successively steward, class-leader, and trustee. His influence and active labor in the cause of temperance have accomplished a salutary work in Perry township, and given it a decided moral strength in the county.

GEORGE TOMLINSON.

John Tomlinson, the great-grandfather of the subject of this biographical sketch, was a native of Yorkshire, England, and having emigrated to America about the middle of the last century settled in Maryland. His son, Joseph Tomlinson, the grandfather of George, was the first settler of Elizabethtown, Va., having laid out the town and named it in honor of his wife, Elizabeth Tomlinson. George Tomlinson was the son of Isaac and Anna Tomlinson (whose maiden name was De Mint). In childhood he removed with his parents to Bourbon County, Ky., from which point, after a residence of a few years, he repaired with the family to Trimble County, in the same State, and a few miles above Madison, Ind., where his father died soon after the close of the war of 1812. In 1821 he became an inmate of the house of his guardian, Rev. Henry Brenton, in Trimble County, Ky., and in 1823 accompanied him to Indiana, when he became a resident of Perry township, Marion Co. He was married on the 2d of August, 1827, to Miss Lucy E. Dawson, and about October of the same year removed to the homestead

on the Madison road, four miles south of the city, where he resided until his death. Mrs. Tomlinson was born April 20, 1811, in Oldham County, Ky., and was the daughter of Daniel and Keziah Dawson, and granddaughter of Josiah Tanner, a captain in the American army during the Revolutionary war. Her parents both died during her childhood, when a home was found with her grandmother, Martha Tanner, until her marriage. The married life of Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson continued over a period of fifty-three years, their golden wedding having been celebrated on the 2d of August, 1877. Their children are three sons and four daughters, all of whom survive them. Mr. Tomlinson did not enjoy superior advantages of education, but was a student all his life, and devoted much of his leisure time to reading. He was in politics a Whig, a Republican at the organization of that party, and pronounced in his anti-slavery sentiments. He was strong in his political convictions, an ardent supporter of measures for the conduct of the late war, and willingly promised to protect from want the families of soldiers who enlisted in the cause of the Union. He was in 1832 elected justice of the peace, and held the office for twenty consecutive years. He was a member of the Tippecanoe Club of Marion County, and voted for Gen. Harrison in 1836 and 1840. About 1847, Mr. Tomlinson began a general merchandising business at Southport, Ind., and continued it for twenty years, after which he retired from commercial pursuits and devoted the remainder of his life to farming. His death occurred May 11, 1881, and that of his wife in the same year.

CHAPTER XXV.

PIKE TOWNSHIP.

PIKE TOWNSHIP lies in the northwest corner of Marion County, and is bounded on the north by Hamilton and Boone Counties, on the east by Washington township, on the south by Wayne township, and on the west by Hendricks County. The township contains forty-four sections, or twenty-eight



Oliver Johnson

— Grubbs, and the present minister, the Rev. S. F. Tincher, of Mapleton. The present membership is thirty.

The first trustees were Jacob C. Coil and John Burk. The present trustees are Jacob C. Wright, Wm. M. Dawson, Hamilton Thompson, Swartz Mustard, and Isaac Morris. A Sabbath-school is held during the summer months only, with an average attendance of fifty. Wm. M. Dawson is superintendent.

The Crooked Creek Baptist Church was organized in 1837, with fourteen original members, viz.: Madison Hume, Joseph Watts, Patrick Hume, Jane Hume, Esther Hume, David and Eliza Stoops, John Kinsley, Achsah Kinsley, John and Rachel Dunn, Samuel Hutchinson, Martha Hutchinson, and Morley Stewart. Their first meetings were held in the old log school-house near the location of the present church. Their first church edifice was built in 1842, which, having become insufficient for the use of the congregation, was replaced by the present church building, which was erected on the same site in 1856.

The first pastor of this church was the Rev. Madison Hume, whose successors have been Revs. — Poin, A. Hume, — Stewart, — Craig, A. J. Martin, A. J. Riley, R. N. Harvey, T. J. Conner, and Lewis. The present membership is ninety-eight. Connected with the church is a Sunday-school, with an attendance of sixty-three pupils, under the superintendency of T. F. Wakeland.

The Union Church at Nora was built in 1864. A church organization had been previously formed (in 1861), with the following-named members, viz.: Isaiah Applegate, James Gray, Margarette Gray, Theodosia Gray, Elizabeth Gray, James McShane and wife, Franklin Hall and wife, Samuel Tooley and wife, Allan Stewart and wife, Henry Whiting, Susan Whiting, Abraham Bowen, Ruth Bowen, Peter Lawson, Catharine Lawson, Sarah Somers, Nancy Ray, William McCoy, Jane McCoy, Louisa Dawson, Samuel Whiting, Ann Whiting, Rachel Smith, Mary J. Dodd, Sally Whitesell, William Shields, Charles Huffman, and Susan Wright. Meetings for worship were held in the school-house until the erection of the church edifice, three years after

the organization. The first minister to this congregation was John McCarty, who was followed by Isaac Hardin, Henry Cottingham, and a number of other preachers. At present there is no church organization, but a flourishing Sunday-school is kept up, with an attendance of fifty-five scholars, under the superintendence of Mary Barr.

Schools.—There are fifteen public schools in this township, including the graded and high school at Broad Ripple. The school-houses are all common frame, except the school-house at Millersville, No. 2, and No. 12, in the northwest corner of the township, which is a new brick house, built in 1881; also the new graded school-house at Broad Ripple is a substantial brick, with rubble limestone foundation, four rooms finished in modern style, and is the best public-school building in Marion County outside the city of Indianapolis. The cost of the building, including out-building, furniture, etc., was about seven thousand five hundred dollars. This graded, or high school, as it is commonly termed, was built to accommodate the advance pupils for the entire township, and is, therefore, a township graded school. It is located at Broad Ripple, the geographical centre of the township, and was built in 1883. The schools of Washington township are taught seven months in the year, a term which should be increased to nine months.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

OLIVER JOHNSON.

The lineage of the Johnson family is distinctively Irish. Jeremiah Johnson, Sr., the grandfather of Oliver, early resided in Virginia, and subsequently removed to Kentucky, the Territory of Indiana ultimately becoming his home. His children were Samuel, Jeremiah, Thomas, John, Milton, Nancy, Jane, Mary, and Sarah. Of these sons, John was born Jan. 1, 1798, in Kentucky, and removed to Franklin County, Ind. In 1821, Marion County became his home. He married Miss Sarah Pursel, daughter of Peter Pursel, Esq., formerly of New Jersey, and one

of the early residents of Franklin County, Ind. Their twelve children were Oliver, Luther, Volney, Newton, John V., Charles P., Louisa, Elizabeth, Mary Ann, Nancy Jane, Lucinda, and Sarah. Oliver was born Nov. 22, 1821, in Franklin County, Ind., and brought with his parents while an infant to Marion County. His youth was passed at the home of his father in the various employments of the farm, interspersed with periods at the neighboring school. At the age of twenty-two he was married to Miss Pamela Howland, daughter of Powell Howland, Esq., of Marion County. Their children are Mary E. (Mrs. Wm. A. Lowe), of Terre Haute; James P., of Terre Haute, who married Miss Rebecca Shoemaker, of the same place; Silas H., of Washington township, married to Miss Laura Wright, of the same township; and Franklin P., also of Washington township, married to Miss Georgie Ann Pursel, of Tuscola, Ill. Mr. Johnson for several years after his marriage rented a farm, but desiring to be independent of landlords, purchased a tract of land in Washington township, which was soon after sold and his present home secured. He has during his active career been engaged in farming of a general character, and is regarded as one of the most practical and successful farmers of the county. He has in politics been a lifetime Democrat, but not a working partisan. He is in religion a supporter of the Lutheran Church, of which his wife is a member.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

WAYNE TOWNSHIP.

THE township of Wayne is the central one in the western range of townships of Marion County. On the north it is bounded by the township of Pike; on the east by Centre; on the south by Decatur township, and on the west by Hendricks County.

The only streams of any importance in the township are White River, and Eagle and Little Eagle Creeks. The former barely touches the township on its eastern border, where, in its meanderings, it enters from Centre, and immediately afterwards returns to the same township. Eagle Creek, flowing in a south-

erly direction from Pike township, enters Wayne in the northwest, traverses the township diagonally in a very meandering course to the southeast corner, touching the southwest corner of Centre and then entering the northeast point of Decatur township, where it joins its waters with those of the White River. Little Eagle Creek, coming from the north, crosses the boundary between Pike and Wayne, and flows southwardly across the eastern part of the latter township, to a point near its southeastern corner, where the stream enters Eagle Creek.

Several of the railway lines diverging from Indianapolis cross the territory of Wayne. The Indianapolis and Vincennes road is the most southern of these, traversing the township only a short distance across its southeastern corner. Next, north, is the Vandalia line, which crosses the southern half of the township in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction. The Indianapolis and St. Louis Railroad crosses Wayne in nearly an east and west direction, near the centre of the township. The Indiana, Bloomington and Western Railway runs across the north part of the township to a point near its northwest corner, where it passes into Hendricks County.

Three small towns or villages lie within the territory of Wayne township. Of these, Bridgeport is located in the southwest part of the township, on the old National road, and also on the line of the Vandalia Railroad. The village of Clermont is in the northwest corner of the township, on the line of the Indiana, Bloomington and Western Railway; and on the south line of the township, near its southeast corner, is the village of Maywood, located on the line of the Vincennes Railroad. The population of the township by the United States census of 1880 was four thousand seven hundred and seventy-two.

Wayne, with the other townships of Marion County, was set off, and its boundaries defined, by order of the board of county commissioners, on the 16th of April, 1822, and on the same date the board ordered that Wayne and Pike be temporarily joined together in one township organization, and for judicial purposes, the union to continue until each township should become sufficiently populous for a separate organization. They remained joined in this