

trade of a carriage-ironer in Orleans County. When about eighteen years of age, in August, 1862, he was mustered in with Company G, Twenty-third Michigan Infantry, he having come to Michigan for the purpose of enlisting in the service. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and served for three years, participating in the battles of Resaca (where he was wounded in the face), Altoona, Snake Creek, Town Creek and the Atlanta campaign. He was discharged at the close of the war as a non-commissioned officer.

After the close of the war Mr. Smith went to Pennsylvania, where for seven years he was engaged as a dealer in oil, and also did some work in the way of sinking wells. From there he came to Michigan and spent one year in Constantine; thence he went to De Witt, and from the latter place came to Gaylord, where he has since resided. In the fall of 1880 he married Miss Lizzie F. Hutchins, a native of Michigan, and they are the parents of two children, Clifton and Leon C. The family occupies a neat residence in Gaylord, and in addition to this property Mr. Smith owns a farm near the city.

Mr. Smith takes a lively interest in political matters, and his convictions have led him to ally himself with the Democratic party. He is as devoted to the Old Flag, and as loyal to the Government, now as when he periled his life to secure the preservation of the Union. While a resident of De Witt, he filled the office of Township Clerk, and since coming to Gaylord he has been President of the Village Board. Fraternally he is a Knight-Templar Mason, and for four years was High Priest of Gaylord Chapter No. 119, R. A. M.

The prosperity which Mr. Smith enjoys is worthy of especial note, when we consider the fact that from childhood he has worked his way unaided in the world. He began to work for himself at the age of eight years, and since sixteen has been wholly dependent upon his own resources. The main elements that have entered into his success are untiring energy and industry. His character has never been tarnished by any acts of dishonesty, and he bears the reputation of being a man of the utmost probity. True to his convic-

tions of right and wrong, he has lived so that the confidence of the community is accorded him, and has won the good-will of his numerous acquaintances.



CAPT. WILLIAM NUNGESSER, the present Sheriff of Manistee County. Whatever the natural resources of a country, or its business facilities, its history must nevertheless depend upon the men who reside there, and who by their energy and ability have added to the wealth and promoted the prosperity of that locality. The subject of this sketch figures prominently among such men, the seat of his labors being the city of Manistee, where he conducts a large business as a dealer in general furniture, also as undertaker and funeral director, at No. 421 River Street. In addition to the management of this business, he is also filling the responsible position of Sheriff of Manistee County.

In Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, the subject of this notice was born October 8, 1837, being the son of William and Margaret Nungesser. In childhood he accompanied his parents to the United States, and settled on a farm in Washington County, Wis., where he grew to manhood. At Madison, Wis., in 1861, he enlisted as a member of Company D, Twelfth Wisconsin Infantry, Col. George E. Bryan commanding. His regiment was assigned to the Seventeenth Corps, Army of the Tennessee, under General McPherson. Enlisting as a private, he was promoted to be Sergeant, then became Orderly-Sergeant, later was made First Lieutenant, and finally became Captain of Company D, being promoted to the last-named position in December, 1863, as the successor of Captain Price, who was made Major.

As Lieutenant, our subject had charge of the company around Atlanta and at Rome, Ga. After he was promoted to be Captain, he led his company until the close of the war, taking part in all the engagements with Sherman's army in the march to

the best advantages for its culture, for some time taking lessons from a private tutor at Grand Rapids. During the past two years she has occupied the position of first soprano in the choir of St. Mark's Episcopal Church at Grand Rapids, to which city she goes from her home in Luther each week to fill the engagement. Her voice is considered by competent judges second to none in the state, and as her parents intend to give her the best advantages afforded in this country and Europe, she undoubtedly has a brilliant future before her.

Socially Mr. Johnson is prominently connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, into which he was initiated at Lake View Lodge No. 294. He was one of the charter members of Crescent Encampment No. 69, which he represented in the Grand Encampment. He served as Grand Inside Sentinel, in 1890 was chosen Grand Junior Warden, the following year became Grand High Priest, and in 1892 was chosen Grand Patriarch. In 1893 he was chosen representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge. For many years he has been Secretary of the lodge. He is also identified with the Order of Maccabees. In religious belief he and his wife hold to the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for many years he has been chorister in the various places of his abode. Both as a private citizen and as a public official, he has been true to himself and his friends, and his honorable, upright and manly course of action throughout life has brought him the esteem and confidence of his associates.



GILBERT W. SMITH. Broad-minded and intelligent men, who can take a just view of the possibilities of their section of country, and who are intelligent enough to work from the outset for those principles which will tend to the ultimate prosperity of the state, are of great

value in any community. Such a one is the subject of this notice, an influential citizen of Gaylord, who embarked in the furniture and undertaking business at this place in July, 1880, and is therefore, in point of years of active business, the oldest furniture dealer in Otsego County.

In Orleans County, N. Y., August 25, 1844, was born Gilbert W., son of Peter L. and Cornelia A. (Embree) Smith, natives of eastern New York. His grandfather, Andrew Smith, was born in Germany, but emigrated thence to the United States in early life, and after his marriage settled near Troy, N. Y., where he engaged in farming pursuits. For some years he met with considerable success, acquiring valuable property, but afterward reverses came, leaving him in his old age with little of this world's goods. He died at the age of about sixty-five years, and was for many years survived by his wife, who passed away at the age of ninety-eight.

Among the nine children of this couple was Peter L., who was born in 1810, grew to manhood beneath the parental roof, and learned the trade of a carriage-maker, which he followed more or less through his entire life. He was an expert spring-maker, and was frequently called West for the purpose of making springs for stage coaches. From the eastern part of New York he removed to Orleans County and settled at West Kendall, where his death occurred at the age of sixty-seven. His wife, who was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, and a woman of noble character, died some time prior to his demise, being then sixty years of age. In political belief he was a Whig, and uniformly supported the tenets of that party.

There were nine children in the parental family, namely: Armenta, who resides in Orleans County; Embree, whose home is also in that county; Nelson, an oil dealer of Franklin, Pa.; Gilbert W.; Charles H., of Orleans County; Euretta, who died at the age of fifteen years; Steuben living in Orleans County; Jeannette, who died at the age of eight years; and George A. Armenta, Charles, Steuben and George are unmarried and reside together in Orleans County.

In his youthful years our subject learned the

end of his life was a member of temperance societies. In character he was generous and strictly honorable in all his dealings, and though an enterprising and shrewd business man, never overstepped the limits of right and justice. He was always regular in his attendance at the services of the Congregational Church, of which he was one of the organizers, and rarely failed to be present during the sessions of the Sunday-school and at the prayer-meetings.



EDWIN G. JOHNSON, ex-County Clerk and Commissioner of Schools of Lake County, was born in Rochester, N. Y., April 17, 1854, being a son of Samuel P. and Henrietta (Mapes) Johnson, also natives of New York State. The family removed to Michigan about 1862, and settled at Holland, Ottawa County, where the father was proprietor of a hotel. From there he removed to Saugatuck, and later went to South Haven, where he engaged in the mercantile business. Later he kept a hotel at Allegan. In 1870 he embarked in the grocery business at Reed City, and there his death occurred in 1874, when forty-seven years of age. His trade was that of a baker, which, however, he did not long follow. His wife died at Holland, February 22, 1895.

Of the family we note the following: William Henry was drowned at the age of nine years; Edwin G. and Eva G. are twins, and the latter is the wife of M. S. Marshall, of Holland, Mich.; Frank is a merchant tailor of Los Angeles, Cal.; and Clara Louise is the wife of John C. Waterman, of Grand Rapids. The father of these children was, socially, connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for many years, in the work of which he took great interest, and of which he was an officer.

In Hope College, Holland, our subject completed his education, graduating at the age of eighteen years. He began to teach school when sixteen,

and after completing his studies followed the teacher's profession for twelve years, being thus engaged in Maple Valley, Lake View, and for six years at Fillmore. Failing health forced him to abandon school work and seek an occupation less confining. He turned his attention to the lumber business, entering the employ of the firm of Wilson, Luther & Wilson, at Luther, Mich., with whom he remained for three years. He then purchased a drug store at this place, and conducted a profitable trade for two years.

The public career of Mr. Johnson began in 1886, when he was elected County Clerk, and this position he held until January 1, 1895. During this time he has also been twice chosen Commissioner of Schools, and once held the office by appointment. For twelve years he has been a member of the County Board of Education, of which he was Secretary and Examiner for six years. He has often been called upon to serve in other local positions of trust. His popularity is evinced by the fact that, though he is a Democrat, and the county has always given a large Republican party, he has never been defeated for office, but has secured the support both of his own and many of the opposite party. He has served as a delegate to the various political conventions of county, district and state.

February 14, 1873, Mr. Johnson married Miss Cora R., daughter of Thomas S. and Charlotte (Herrick) Purdy. Her parents were born, reared and married in New York, and removed thence to Michigan. In the Empire State he was engaged as traveling salesman, but after coming West he gave his attention to fruit culture. Mrs. Johnson was born near Albion, N. Y., June 24, 1854, and by her marriage has had three children, Eva Belle, Frank M. and Vernon G. The daughter is a young lady of rare musical talent, and is entitled to more than a passing notice. She was born in 1874, and when placed in the scales tipped the beam at only one and one-half pounds, and now, at the age of twenty, weighs only eighty-six. When four years old she sang in the church choir, and her voice could be heard quite plainly through the building. It soon became evident that she possessed a voice of wonderful promise, and she was therefore given

then came to this county, hanging out his shingle in Farwell, where he remained until 1885. Since coming to this place he has devoted all of his energies to building up a good practice and has been prospered in his efforts. He is a Mason of the Royal Arch degree, and is a member of the Uniformed Ranks of the Knights of Pythias.

In 1884, Mr. Cummins married Mrs. Celia E. May, *nee* Amsden, who had one son, Leo, by her previous union. She was born in Clyde, N. Y., removed to Jackson County, Mich., with her family, and at the time of her marriage with Mr. Cummins was making her home at Reed City, Mich. She presides over her home with grace and hearty hospitality, and makes friends of all with whom she comes in contact.



GEORGE LORENZO HITCHCOCK, who died March 18, 1889, at Farwell, was one of her most honored citizens. He was the first permanent settler to build a house here. With his wife and family he came to this point in January, 1871, on the first passenger train stopping here, and on the 14th of the same month they embarked in housekeeping in a log house. In the spring of 1871 he platted the village, and from that time onward he was foremost in whatever industries or local improvements were set on foot. In 1877 he built the Farwell Mills, and became manager of the business. He also built the first sawmill in this locality. Going into the timberland, he picked out the wood to be used in the construction of his home.

James Hitchcock, the father of G. L., was a native of New England, but in 1828 removed with his family to Columbia, Tenn., where he died, leaving three children, of whom our subject was the eldest. Nancy E., the only daughter, is now Mrs. Chapman, a resident of Huntington, Ohio. The youngest, John S., is now living in Manhattan, Kan. The family were left in very straitened

circumstances. As the mother had near relatives in Ohio, she removed with her children to Lorain County in 1834. She bore the maiden name of Lorinda Foot, and, like her husband, was a native of New England.

The birth of George L. Hitchcock occurred in Watertown, Conn., January 28, 1825. He was only three years old when taken to Tennessee, and was nine years old when his family removed to Ohio. He was early obliged to go out in the world and make his own living. He earned his first \$15 by working for five months at \$3 per month, at an employment which was very distasteful to him. He learned the carpenter's trade, and when only in his eighteenth year planed the lumber and built a house therewith at Huntington, Ohio. Though his educational privileges were meager, he made the most of his opportunities, and attended Oberlin College to some extent.

Mr. Hitchcock became interested in railroading about 1849, and was engineer on the Baltimore & Ohio Road for two years. As he did not believe in working on Sunday, he left that company and took a position on the Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati Railroad. He had charge of the construction train which built the Cleveland, Norwalk & Toledo Railroad, and in recognition of his ability he was made engineer on the first train which went between Cleveland and Toledo, and was presented with a Bible by the citizens of Oberlin, Ohio, on that occasion.

In 1857 Mr. Hitchcock first came to Michigan, and, in company with his brother, ran a drug and book store at Owosso for eleven years. In 1868 he went to Isabella County, and three years later, with his family, came to Farwell, as previously stated. In 1851 he had married Martha, daughter of Edmund F. and Martha (Smith) Hall, who with her family removed to the territory of Michigan in 1833. She was born in Waterloo, N. Y., August 25, 1826, and was married in Wayne County, Mich., May 21, 1851. A Republican in politics, Mr. Hitchcock was the first Treasurer of Clare County, and served as such for two terms, besides holding many local, yet more or less important, public positions. He was an enthusiastic worker in the temperance cause, and from 1847 until the

Milo French she had one daughter, Linda V., who married and died, leaving one child.

The first marriage of Mr. Mitchell took place in Lansing, Mich., where he afterward followed his trade, and among other buildings assisted in the erection of the first State House. Later he worked in the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad for one year, then settled at Yankee Springs, where he engaged in farming, and also operated a saw-mill. Three years were spent there, and then he went to Newaygo, from there in 1861, to Kent County, and ten years later to Olivet. In 1874 he established his home in Otsego County. To some extent he has dealt in real estate, and now carries on agricultural pursuits. In religious belief he is a Congregationalist. Interested in educational matters, he has been School Director for nine years, and as such assisted in the erection of the handsome public school building of Gaylord.

During the progress of the Civil War, in December, 1863, Mr. Mitchell became a member of Company B, First Michigan Engineers, with whom he served until September, 1865. He joined the regiment at Chattanooga, and from there accompanied Sherman in the memorable march to the sea. When peace was declared, he went to Washington, D. C., and took part in the Grand Review. He takes an active interest in Grand Army affairs, and is a member of C. F. Doore Post, of Gaylord.



GEORGE J. CUMMINS has the honor of being the oldest member of the Clare County Bar in point of years of practice. Since 1885 he has been an inhabitant of Harrison, and for over six years was a member of the law firm of Browne & Cummins. Since 1892 he has been engaged in practice alone. He is a local leader among the Republicans, is active in campaign work, and has sometimes served as a delegate to conventions. Besides holding minor offices he was Prosecuting Attorney of Clare County for one term and was

highly commended by his constituency for his fidelity to their interests.

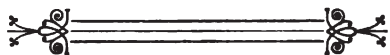
The paternal grandfather of our subject, George Cummins, was a native of New Jersey. During his active years he was a minister in the Methodist Church. He also owned a distillery, which fact in no wise interfered with his influence for good in those days, for it was a matter of very common occurrence, and no outcry had been made against the liquor traffic. His death occurred at the age of fifty years. Of his five or six children, our subject's father, Opdyke H., was probably the youngest. He was a farmer by occupation and came to Michigan in 1864, settling on a homestead in Oakland County. From 1870 to 1881 he resided at Ann Arbor, that his children might obtain better school advantages. While there he was in the marble business for a time. In 1881 he returned to his farm in Oakland County, and in 1894, with his wife, went to New Jersey, where he now resides. The latter, a native of that state, was in her girlhood Miss Ellen D. Axford.

In his early manhood, Opdyke H. Cummins was a Whig and when the Republican party was organized joined its ranks. He steadfastly refused public office, but took an active part in whatever concerned the public good. Religiously he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years and leads an earnest Christian life. In the Odd Fellows' society near his old Michigan home he was a leading member. To himself and wife were born six children. Rebecca, who died at Rochester, Mich., was the wife of George Flummerfelt; Mary is the wife of Wesley Main, of New Stillwater, N. J.; Susan is the wife of Raus Cooper, of Oquawka, Ill.; Leona is Mrs. Edgar J. Wiley, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; Allie is the wife of Herman Osthause, of Scranton, Pa.; and George J. is the only son.

Born in Vienna, Warren County, N. J., November 4, 1853, George J. Cummins was a lad of eleven years when he left his native state and settled in Oakland County, Mich. Six years later he went to Ann Arbor and attended the University of Michigan, having graduated from the law department in the Class of '75. For over a year he was in the office of Judge E. D. Kinne, of Ann Arbor, and

tional Church. In the Order of Maccabees he has been Commander of Tent No. 161 for four years, and is a leader in that organization.

Summing up the life and character of Mr. Russell, it may be said that he is one of the best known men in the county. The people have signified their appreciation of his worth by electing him to a number of responsible offices, which fact sufficiently attests his popularity and qualifications. In deportment he is a courteous and affable gentleman, which, united with industrious habits and honesty in business transactions, has secured for him the confidence of the people of the county.



CHESTER C. MITCHELL, one of Gaylord's pioneer citizens, settled at this place in September, 1874, having previously located a homestead five miles from the present site of the town. For some time he followed the trade of a carpenter, and many of the first buildings here were erected under his supervision. The county was organized in 1875, and he was appointed by the Board of Supervisors the first Sheriff. The county seat was then at Otsego Lake, where he remained one year, meantime erecting at that place suitable buildings for the transaction of official business. It was largely through his influence that the county seat was removed to Gaylord, and this action on his part, being against the wishes of many property holders in the vicinity of Otsego Lake, gained him their dislike and secured his defeat when he was again nominated as Sheriff.

Intending to resume work at his trade, Mr. Mitchell built a house in Gaylord, making it large enough so that some of the county business could be transacted in it, and the Board of Supervisors held meetings there until they built a court house. Instead, however, of using the building for a carpenter shop, he put in a stock of groceries, and conducted an increasing and profitable trade until

December 1, 1890, when he disposed of the business. He served again as Sheriff in 1885-86, and in the fall of 1892 was elected Register of Deeds. At other times he has served as Township Treasurer, Supervisor and Justice of the Peace. In the ranks of the Democratic party he is an active worker, and takes a lively interest in local politics.

Mr. Mitchell was born in Orleans County, N. Y., August 15, 1826, and is the son of Dexter and Malancy (Kingman) Mitchell, natives of Massachusetts and New York, respectively. His grandfather engaged in whale-fishing in the Bay State. Dexter Mitchell followed the trade of a carpenter in early life, but later engaged in farming. In 1831 he came to Michigan and settled at Farmington, Oakland County, improving a farm in the vicinity of that place. Thence he went to Northville, Wayne County, where he worked as a carpenter for eighteen years. Returning to Oakland County, he spent some ten years there, and then removed to Eaton County, locating near Olivet, where he died at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife passed from earth in 1851, in Lansing, Mich., where the family lived a short time.

The family of Dexter Mitchell consisted of five children, who attained years of maturity. Maria, the eldest, married Asa Whitaker, and died near De Witt, January 11, 1895; Dexter, a physician, died in Laddonia, Mo.; Chester C. was the next in order of birth; Julia, widow of Ezra Willis, lives in Gaylord, Mich.; and Lucy, deceased, was formerly the wife of Jonah Austin. The parents of this family were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. After the death of his first wife, the father married again, but had no children by his second union.

After completing the studies of the common schools, our subject learned the carpenter's trade. March 29, 1849, he married Miss Adaline Hotchkiss, who died twenty years later. Seven children were born to them, of whom five are living, namely: Elizabeth, wife of Winfield Smith, of St. Joseph, Mich.; Dexter, of Gaylord; Albert, also of Gaylord; Fred, who is in Palouse, Wash.; and Ida. The second wife of Mr. Mitchell was Mrs. Eunice R. French, whom he married April 8, 1871, and by whom he has a son, Harry. By her marriage with